THE JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES is among the most established and well regarded geoscience programs in the world, uniting one of the country’s oldest academic departments of geological sciences with two world-renowned research units: the Institute for Geophysics and the Bureau of Economic Geology. The school is home to the country’s largest academic geoscience community with 4,500 alumni, 150 research scientists and faculty members, and the largest combined graduate and undergraduate enrollment (475) of any major earth science program.

In the most recent earth science rankings from U.S. News & World Report, released in 2006, the school ranked in the top 10 in four of five areas: geology (No. 5), geophysics and seismology (No. 8), paleontology (No. 9), and earth sciences overall (No. 9). The school did not receive a ranking in geochemistry. Since 2006, the school has increased its faculty by 40 percent, recruiting a mix of established and rising stars, in an effort to improve the school’s position as a leader in earth science education and research.

For many years one of the hallmarks of the geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin has been the convergence of basic research with the pursuit of applied solutions benefiting society. The Jackson School continues this tradition today. Examples include ongoing programs in energy geoscience, carbon sequestration, sustainable water supplies, climate science, and public policy for energy and the environment. Many of these programs draw on the school’s strong industry ties. The Jackson School has especially strong links to the energy industry through its applied research programs, faculty research, and alumni, whose ranks include many prominent leaders in energy geosciences.

THE JACKSON SCHOOL VISION

The vision of the Jackson School is to become the preeminent geosciences program in the country with international prominence in geology, geophysics, energy, mineral and water resources, and the broad areas of the earth sciences, including the environment. The school aims to become a top five earth science program by 2012.
To realize its vision, the Jackson School is pursuing initiatives that place the school at the forefront of research, education, the competition for top talent, and the creation of our future workforce. At the same time, the school is actively maintaining its traditional strength as an institution that bridges theory and practice through applied research and the pursuit of projects with maximum benefit for society.

**CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES**

The school is undergoing a major expansion, with rising enrollment, increasing admissions standards, and a substantial influx of nationally recognized and rising faculty and researchers. The heart of the school’s expansion is its recruitment of new faculty and research scientists, with growth in four strategic areas related to grand challenges in the earth sciences:

- **Energy**: Advancing the quest for conventional, unconventional, and alternative sources for the 21st century and beyond; supporting science-based approaches that balance energy and the environment.

- **Water and Surface Processes**: Seeking the scientific means to create sustainable water supplies for the world’s burgeoning population; improving our understanding of critical surface processes such as coastal erosion, river dynamics, and delta formation.

- **Climate**: Improving our understanding of rates of change and variability in Earth’s climate; better anticipating changes to determine their impact on society.

- **Solid Earth Dynamics**: Working across disciplines to improve fundamental understanding of our planet from surface to core.
A DISCIPLINED CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

The campaign for the Jackson School is part of the University-wide campaign to increase resources across the campus and to create the “disciplined culture of excellence” called for by the Commission of 125, which established goals for the University for the coming 25 years. Gifts to the school will support the following areas:

**Fostering a Student-Centered Environment** ........................................................................................................ $22 million
- Permanently endowing field experiences
- Creating great student services
- Enticing the best undergraduate students to pursue the geosciences
- Encouraging excellence through undergraduate honors and research
- Improving interaction between JSG students, teachers, and researchers

**Advancing Earth Science Research for Society** .................................................................................................... $22 million
- Seed funding high-impact research
- Endowing top research scientists and outstanding postdoctoral fellows
- Leveraging endowments to recruit star faculty
- Attracting policy-oriented faculty and researchers
- Forging the convergence of basic science and applied solutions
- Developing cutting-edge laboratories for research
- Strengthening off-campus research facilities to enable long-term technical capabilities

**Creating the Workforce of the Future** .............................................................................................................. $6 million
- Attracting the country’s top graduate students
- Supporting high school programs
- Offering college scholarships for GeoFORCE students and permanently endowing GeoFORCE
- Offering the best hands-on experiences for geoscience students
- Fostering public events to improve understanding of the geosciences

**Facilities*** ........................................................................................................................................................... $30 million
- A world-class student center, hub of a close-knit community within UT Austin’s large campus
- New technical research labs and student facilities at the Pickle Research Campus, ensuring the relevance of research and education to industry
- Long-term home for invertebrate fossil archives
- Renovation of Schoch Building on main UT Austin campus, allowing expansion of faculty and research programs
- Endowment of Core Research Centers in Houston, Midland, and Austin, creating self-sustaining repositories of the geologic record

**Total** ..................................................................................................................................................................... $80 million

*These projects are subject to the approval of the UT System and Board of Regents.