Our largest-ever fundraising campaign is ambitious, visionary, purposeful — worthy of the name “Victors.” The $400 million goal is built upon the cornerstone of the liberal arts: the idea that a powerful, pragmatic education can transform hearts and minds, can solve problems in a changing world, can yield ideas and innovation across every discipline. That’s why we are focused on raising money so that the best and brightest minds can have access to the College through robust scholarship support, no matter their financial circumstances. So too are we committed to helping every student acquire not just knowledge in the classroom, but experiences outside the academy including innovative entrepreneurial efforts and internships. We strive to support our faculty on the frontlines of research, and steward our planet, our community, our campus. To do all this, and so much more, the College needs you — because the world needs Victors.

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

THE POWER

The educational and scientific mission of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences is to understand the origin, evolution and future of the Earth. This includes how it formed as a planet, how it progressed to its present state, how life originated and evolved on Earth, how the solid earth, oceans, atmosphere and biosphere all interact, and how Earth’s climate and environment have changed in the past and will continue to change as a result of human activities. We are educating students in unique areas of expertise that are needed for both the development and stewardship of Earth’s energy, mineral and water resources. The 2011 change in the department name from Geological Sciences to Earth and Environmental Sciences reflects the broadening societal relevance of our research and teaching to address the world’s current and future environmental challenges and natural resource limitations.

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THE OPPORTUNITIES

The Department offers an excellent undergraduate program and a graduate program in geology that was ranked #1 in the nation by U. S. News & World Report. Through extensive coursework, field opportunities, research, and co-curricular activities, our students explore topics as wide-ranging as global change, geochemistry, geophysics, mineralogy, paleontology, and oceanography. Our students receive a top-notch foundation that prepares them for highly adaptable and versatile careers in the energy, mining, and environmental consulting industries, as well as for employment in academia, business, and government.

THE IMPACT

The Department has been recognized for its excellence with top national ranking in a number of areas. To remain in the forefront of this rapidly expanding discipline focused on the critical natural resources that sustain a modern industrial civilization, we need to provide students with opportunities to gain field experience, to undertake research utilizing the best tools available, and to pursue advanced degrees without assuming the burden of a crippling debt. Our funding priorities reflect our needs and opportunities to sustain and expand our world-class research and teaching efforts in the 21st century.

CAMP DAVIS ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD STATION CABINS

$2.75M/$275,000 per cabin

Camp Davis, a previously abandoned Wyoming homestead, has grown from a summer surveying camp to a teaching and research facility offering a variety of courses in subjects that range from geology and environmental sciences to the humanities. For more than 80 years, the Camp Davis program has provided a unique and inspiring educational experience for thousands of undergraduate students. Recently, Camp Davis has experienced dramatic growth in both course offerings and student enrollments. In 2009, Phase I of an aggressive renovation plan was completed and, along with infrastructure improvements, 20 cabins were replaced. We have initiated Phase II of the renovation and are raising funds to replace the final 30 original cabins on the property. Ten new cabins that each sleep 12 people and have a bathroom will replace those cabins. Gifts will help us provide a safe and comfortable facility for our program participants in the decades to come.

CAMP DAVIS FIELD STATION ENDOWED SUPPORT FUND

$1M endowed

We would like to establish a Camp Davis Endowed Support Fund to provide continuing resources for future facilities improvements to enhance program growth and availability.
GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT
$1M endowed/$50,000 annually

The success of our programs depends upon recruiting and retaining the highest caliber graduate students, and providing sufficient financial support is crucial to that effort. Graduate fellowships are more highly valued than ever due to rising costs and the loss of public funding. Gifts allow our faculty to engage more students in their research programs, which both enriches students’ academic experiences and reduces their need to seek outside employment while learning to be teachers and scholars.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
$50,000 to $100,000 annually

With the increasing urgency to train a new generation of geological, Earth and environmental scientists, who will become the specialists addressing our future natural resource policies, we must attract and retain the brightest and most promising students at the undergraduate level. The Department has seen a steady increase in undergraduate majors, and we seek to enhance their academic experience by increasing scholarship support and research opportunities.

UNDERGRADUATE FIELD EXPERIENCE FUND
$50,000 to $100,000 annually

Field investigations are at the very heart of the Earth and environmental sciences. U-M’s campus offers an intellectually rich living and learning environment full of cultural diversity, but to enable our students to experience geologic and environmental diversity we must provide opportunities for field learning experiences. We depend upon generous gifts to make these experiences accessible to current and future generations of students. Funds will be used to defray the cost to our students of field experiences in the U.S. and abroad.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INITIATIVES FUND
$10,000 to $50,000 expendable

Gifts will be used to support groundbreaking research and teaching initiatives that are not funded by traditional channels. Funds could be used for “state-of-the-art” scientific equipment or technology upgrades for research and learning, seed money for faculty proposals for promising research or teaching ideas, post-doctoral training, or other opportunities to support our research and teaching mission.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

CONTACT INFO

LSA Advancement
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
101 North Main Street, Suite 850
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
P: 734.615.6333
lsa.umich.edu

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