



## **THE EAS** **2020 VISION** **ENDOWMENT**

### **RETOOLING EARTH AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

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## *Science That Matters*

The Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (EAS) at Cornell has an unprecedented opportunity to remake itself in the new millennium and we are asking you to join us! EAS, with its non-traditional homes in the College of Engineering and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is especially well positioned to become a model 21st century department. Current demographic trends mean that we will need to make this transition in the next five years. Over that time, we are anticipating eight new faculty hires.

### **2020 VISION**

We aspire to do science that matters and train students to understand why science matters. In the context of the most pressing problems confronting humanity in the 21st century—energy, climate change, fresh water, natural and man-made hazards—there is much basic science to be done. EAS is uniquely positioned to provide energy and climate literacy to the rest of the university. We seek faculty who can work at the boundaries between fundamental and applied science and at the interfaces between disciplines and earth systems where the great scientific problems remain to be solved. An unintended anthropogenic experiment gone wrong is a science opportunity waiting to be leveraged, as well as a chance to have impact on matters of public concern. We seek those agile minds who can make the connection between the mundane and the extraordinary.

To accomplish these goals means that we will be hiring new faculty who will be competitive with their peers in the top earth and atmospheric sciences programs worldwide. Those faculty members will need to be able to leverage the extraordinary range of scientific expertise and technical excellence that exists throughout Cornell. And, those new professors will need support commensurate with their standing among the best in the world in these disciplines. Our recent faculty hires have already put us on this path and so we are building from a position of strength.

### **TOP FUNDRAISING NEEDS**

Building the 21st century earth and atmospheric sciences program requires commitment from the University to hire the best faculty and to support the everyday tasks associated with teaching and research. In addition, the step function (quantum) change that we anticipate will also require investment from our generous alumni who can help us meet those needs. EAS has identified the following areas, among others, where your support through the EAS 2020 Vision Endowment will make a major difference. To meet these needs our goal is to raise an endowment of at least one million dollars.

#### **POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

An institutional postdoctoral fellowship program would bring extraordinary young scientists to Cornell to expand and strengthen our research programs. Our benchmarking of top-ranked institutions demonstrates that having a large and vibrant corps of postdoctoral fellows is a key aspect of their ranking. One of the best ways to jumpstart a new faculty member's career is to enable them to hire postdoctoral fellows and research associates.

#### **RESEARCH LAB EQUIPMENT, RENOVATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE**

Doing science that matters means having access to state-of-the-art equipment. Some of that equipment will be provided as part of the start-up packages needed to attract the best faculty and the rest will have to come from grants and contracts, industry investment, and donations. Your gift will help ensure that we can facilitate the research needs of our new faculty through modern, well-equipped laboratories and highly trained staff.

#### **UNDERGRADUATE FIELD TRAINING SUPPORT**

For many of us, a field experience as an undergraduate was the transformative and defining experience of our undergraduate careers. Today's students, many of whom attend Cornell with financial aid, find field programs to be an increasingly difficult challenge because of the double hit of expense of the field program and lost income from summer employment. If we are to maintain this transformative experience for our undergraduates, EAS will need help to subsidize students without sufficient funding.

#### **COMPUTER LAB SUPPORT**

Student access to powerful, well-staffed computing facilities is a necessity for both research and teaching. The digital revolution has provided earth and atmospheric scientists with vast amounts of data that need to be processed, modeled, and visualized tasks that require specialized software which cannot be run on a student laptop. For both atmospheric scientists and many solid earth scientists, the computer is their laboratory. New equipment must be purchased every few years as data sets continue to explode in size.