



# EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Equipping students to tackle the challenges of environmental sustainability and advance fundamental knowledge of Earth's interconnected systems

Earth and environmental sciences lie at the core of tremendous societal challenges, including climate change, natural hazards, environmental quality, and the sustainable development and stewardship of Earth's resources. At U-M-Earth, we meet these challenges by equipping students with fundamental science knowledge, practical skills, and hands-on experience. We provide experiential opportunities in labs and the field that launch students into careers in academia and the public and private sectors across a range of relevant disciplines. We prioritize accessibility and inclusivity so that students from all backgrounds and experiences can engage in these life-changing opportunities. We aim to expand the pool of future scientists and citizens of the world who will advance fundamental understanding of how our planet works and contribute to equitable and sustainable solutions to scientific and societal challenges.

We partner with donors to support life-changing experiential education that expands our students' horizons and prepares them for their paths forward. Donor funding enables us to create new and transformative experiences and removes financial barriers to make those experiences accessible—including field-based education, research opportunities, internships, and graduate fellowships. We focus particularly on the need to sustain Camp Davis infrastructure into the 21st century and build its capacity to train students in environmental field techniques.

## FIELD TRAINING FUND

Field experience is at the heart of Earth and environmental sciences, where students learn to synthesize their classroom training in complicated, real-world systems. In addition to our Camp Davis offerings, our students gain field experience throughout our curriculum. Interdisciplinary teams of field trip leaders provide unforgettable insights in an outstanding and ever-changing array of environments, which have recently included South Africa, Brazil, and the desert American Southwest, in addition to destinations closer to home. We make field science more inclusive with a gear library, outdoor skill-building workshops, and practice trips where students become more comfortable with learning and working outdoors. A gift of \$25,000 will substantially defray the cost of an international field trip for 12 students; \$1,000 provides financial aid for one student to take an international field trip that could set the course for their future.

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Our undergraduate program is growing rapidly as students recognize that Earth and environmental sciences are fundamental to meeting societal needs. Students are eager for research experience and opportunities to engage in hands-on problem solving and systems thinking that goes beyond classroom learning. Summer field classes and internship programs can be inaccessible to students in financial need, both for their up-front costs and the lack of income from jobs they would otherwise hold. Philanthropic support provides scholarships, stipends, materials, and other resources that allow students to engage in memorable and career-enhancing experiences in the field and other experiential settings. Endowed gifts of \$25,000 are needed to support our undergraduate research program. A gift of \$10,000 could provide a student access to summer professional experiences that they might not otherwise be able to afford.



As part of an international team, undergraduate Ries Plescher deploys soil moisture sensors in the Himalayas, Nepal, to better understand landslide hazards.

## GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Our graduate students work at the vanguard of research and teaching as they integrate their knowledge and experience to take their science to the next level—in the academy, the private sector, or public service. External sources of graduate support are shrinking, despite increasing student needs for wider ranging experiences that prepare them for changing career landscapes. Endowed gifts of \$50,000 will enhance our ability to continue to recruit, retain, and recognize top students from a wide range of backgrounds and prepare them to meet grand challenges in Earth and environmental sciences.



*Allison Curley, Ph.D. '24, prepares mollusk shells for isotopic analysis as part of her dissertation research on how organisms preserve environmental information in the geochemistry of their carbonate shells.*

## CAMP DAVIS CENTENNIAL VISION

Constructed nearly a century ago, Camp Davis has inspired generations of U-M students with immersive field science education in the spectacular Greater Yellowstone ecosystem near Jackson, Wyoming. Teams of experienced instructors use interdisciplinary systems approaches and problem-based learning to give students a transformative experience in real-world geology and environmental sciences. However, camp facilities have not kept pace with the needs of >120 students annually and our expanding environmental curriculum.

The aging dining hall—the heart of camp—is in dire need of replacement, and our environmental curriculum demands a modern laboratory to support analyses that will transform field study in geochemistry, hydrology, and ecosystem science. This vision—the culmination of an aggressive renovation plan that has already replaced students and faculty cabins—includes new outdoor communal and teaching spaces and unifies the campus around a central hub. Philanthropic partners are critical to building our Camp Davis Centennial Vision with expendable gifts of \$20,000 and more .



## IMPACT

**At Camp Davis, undergraduates learn from faculty, graduate students, and each other about the geology and environment of this awe-inspiring region. For most, this is a completely new kind of educational experience.**

**“My undergraduate field experience at Camp Davis was one of my most cherished memories from undergrad. Camp Davis is a welcoming learning environment for all students and provides an amazing landscape for educating. Connecting on the hikes with my professors and GSIs led to many meaningful connections and memories which I will never forget,” said 2023 graduate Sabrina Lanker.**



*To see more about camp life and learn how you can support students and faculty, visit the Camp Davis website: [lsa.umich.edu/earth/camp-davis](https://lsa.umich.edu/earth/camp-davis)*

*After a day in the field, students gather outside a cabin replaced in 2019 as part of the ongoing revitalization and upgrade vision.*

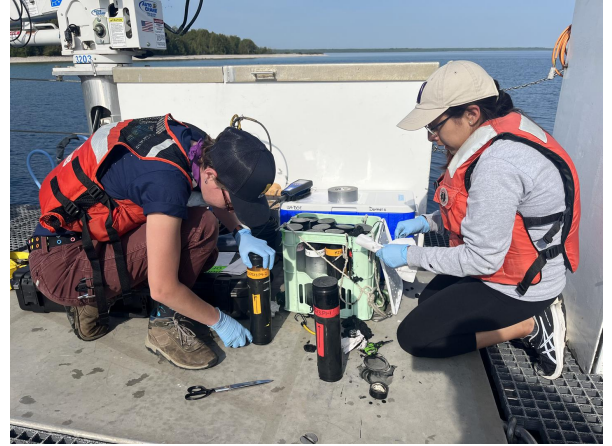


## EARTH STRATEGIC FUND

The Earth strategic fund seeds groundbreaking initiatives in interdisciplinary research, broadens the reach of faculty expertise into student and external communities, and provides state-of-the-art upgrades for multi-user facilities. We also use strategic funds to support outreach programs that introduce pre-college students to the University of Michigan and engage them in Earth and environmental sciences through experiential programs. Support for this fund enables us to meet areas of immediate need, take advantage of emerging opportunities, and explore new, potentially transformative directions across education, research, and outreach.

## WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college's rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what's next, for a better tomorrow.



*Ph.D. students Cecilia Howard and Diana Velazquez collect water samples to unravel oxygenation and nutrient dynamics of the Middle Island Sinkhole, Lake Huron. Their work provides insight into life in extreme environments and sedimentary records of change.*

for what's next ▶

**Look to Michigan**

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