



Department of Geography

Geography/Atmospheric Science Donation Challenge

The KU Geography and Atmospheric Sciences Alumni Board is pleased to announce a \$10,000 matching donation challenge. For each dollar that alumni donate, the alumni board members and faculty in the Department of Geography will match the donation, up to a maximum of \$10,000. Thus, we have the potential of raising a grand total of \$20,000. No amount is too small to help us reach this goal.

These funds will be used exclusively for the following:

- Scholarships to support current undergraduates
- Support for students conducting research
- Scholarships to attract new graduate students

Why do we need support in these areas? Currently, we have 176 undergraduate majors (78 in Atmospheric Sciences and 98 in Geography) and only about 5% of these students receive scholarship support. Numerous graduate students are conducting exciting field research in Latin America, Africa, Greenland, Kazakhstan, and here in the U.S. Some of these students have won prestigious Fulbright grants (e.g., Overly and Burke for their work in Greenland and Kazakhstan, respectively), but these grants are highly competitive and the department currently cannot support all students who truly need funding for their research. One of our departmental goals is to be ranked in the top ten geography departments in the country. Reaching this goal will require that we continue to attract the best graduate students in an increasingly competitive environment, and one of the ways to attract these students is to offer them scholarships as supplements to graduate teaching assistantships.

Enclosed you will find a card for your gift to the Geography and Atmospheric Sciences Donation Match Challenge. If you wish to make a contribution, please fill in the card and enclose in the provided return envelope and mail to KU Endowment. If it will be more convenient, you can also give online at <http://www.kuendowment.org/givenow>. This donation challenge is in effect until April 30, 2008. At that time, whatever donations have been received will be matched up to \$10,000.

If you haven't given recently, this is a chance to double your impact. If you recently donated through the 2007 mailing, thank you. Those funds are getting put to good use. Given this unexpected new opportunity to help students by leveraging the generosity of fellow alumni and the faculty, I hope you consider another donation.

Sincerely,

Robert Shapiro
Chair – Alumni Advisory Board

Terry A. Slocum
Chair, Department of Geography