

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

July 8, 2010

Dear Geological Sciences Alumni:

We write to share with you plans for the future of the Department of Geological Sciences that will enable it to have much greater impact on the field and the university. Input from alumni and especially the members of the Alumni Board played an important role in helping us shape this plan.

The principal objectives of this 5-year plan involve increased research funding and publications, increased intellectual leadership of the field, and a stronger doctoral program. The Department will also continue its central teaching role in Integrative Studies and will continue to build its strong undergraduate major.

The success of this plan requires strong commitments from the Department, the College and University administration, and the alumni. The expectations of the Department are high, and the College and University are committed to providing funding to hire additional faculty members. We believe that this is a critical step to success.

We are also pleased to announce that Professor David Hyndman has agreed to be chair of the department beginning August 16, 2010. Dave's leadership of the department will be essential to its success.



## College of Natural Science

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The Department has always enjoyed strong support from its alumni, and this support is even more important now. Alumni leadership will be a significant part of ensuring success as we move forward to implement the plan. We need your help in supporting the department and in developing significant, strategic partnerships with key industry leaders to create such opportunities as student connections and cooperative research programs.

The plan for the department has six main objectives:

- Increase external research funding, research productivity, and develop a signature multi-investigator research program.
- Hire strong mid-career faculty through the Faculty Excellence program and endowed positions that become available.
- Increase the number of invited scientific presentations, disciplinary leadership positions held by the faculty, and campus leadership positions held by the faculty.
- Continue to implement College and University faculty development programs.
- Improve graduate student quality with focus on the Ph.D. program.
- Continue the strong undergraduate major, revise and simplify the curriculum, and continue contributions to Integrative Studies.

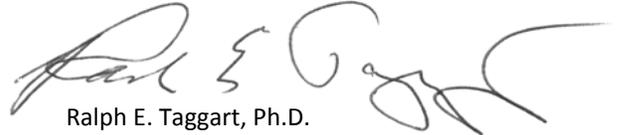
The faculty will be focusing on these as we move forward, and support and guidance from alumni will help enable us to achieve these goals. We ask you to join us in helping accomplish these objectives.

Again, thank you to everyone who helped provide feedback and guidance in the past months. We have invested many hours and much energy in building a solid plan, and we could not have accomplished this without our alumni support.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of R. James Kirkpatrick in black ink.

R. James Kirkpatrick, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Natural Science

Handwritten signature of Ralph E. Taggart in black ink.

Ralph E. Taggart, Ph.D.  
Chair, Department of Geological Sciences