



McCausland College
of Arts and Sciences

Advancement Office

Dear Friends of Miles O. Hayes,

We are pleased to announce the **Miles O. Hayes Graduate Student Research Travel Endowment** in cooperation with the School of Earth, Ocean and Environment (SEOE) at the University of South Carolina.

On 28 March 2025, three dozen Hayes alums, spouses and friends gathered at SEOE in Columbia to share stories about the impact Miles had on our careers. We called it a “50-year” reunion because it was during the 1970s when Miles came to USC, became chair of the Department of Geology, and built up his coastal research program which he had started at the University of Massachusetts. It was clear from remarks made by everyone attending that Miles Hayes holds a special place in our hearts and minds. He gave us insights into the natural world and taught us life skills that we applied over and over again in our careers. Without question his influence remains strong even after his death on 30 March 2022.

At the instigation of attendees and with the enthusiastic support of SEOE, we have created **an endowment that we hope will continue for decades** and help fund graduate students in the department and foster the types of professional connections Miles gave each of us.

Miles loved to travel, and he brought us graduate students, employees and collaborators, to project sites around the world. He was generous with his time and quick to acknowledge his students’ research at conferences around the world. He introduced us to the leaders of our profession, who gladly welcomed us as part of Hayes’ group. We saw the respect his fellow scientists had for him—stemming not only from his keen observational and communication skills, but especially for his scientific integrity.

In 20 short years from 1965 to 1984, Miles supervised 72 Masters and PhD graduates. Research that came out of this group continues to define much of what we know about coastal geology and the processes that mold and shape the coast. Miles had a folksy way of explaining complicated shorelines in simple terms, like “Drumstick” barrier islands which perfectly describe the central South Carolina coast and many other barrier shorelines around the world. Terms he coined in the ‘70s are standard in today’s textbooks from every continent.

After his academic career, Miles taught thousands of professionals over 30 years through his one-week short courses on modern depositional environments sponsored by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Many of you who are receiving this letter can look back at something you learned from Miles and applied in your own exploration work. As AAPG

attendees have said, “..a week in the field with Miles Hayes was worth a semester in the classroom.”

We are starting this yearly fund drive for the MOH Endowment with a **goal of raising \$100,000 in 2025**. We already have pledges for over \$35,000 to jumpstart the campaign. Funds will be administered by the University of South Carolina and earmarked for the School of Earth, Ocean and Environment. Director of SEOE, Gene Yogodzinski, will head a committee of faculty members and several Hayes alums to establish the criteria and rules for travel grants and select student(s) awardees. **We expect this fund to grow each year through your contributions** to a level where it can provide truly life-changing experiences for SEOE students.

“Connections like Miles gave us are priceless when you are starting your career. And that is why we want to pay it forward so a new generation of students at SEOE can have similar experiences.”

Tim Kana

Miles Hayes in many ways was bigger than life. He had an outsized personality and instilled confidence in all of us so we could be more successful in our chosen careers. We warmly invite you to join us in this important inaugural fund drive. By contributing \$1,000 or more, you will become one of our early generous supporters, helping to make a meaningful impact on students’ lives. Every gift counts, and the best part is that your contribution is tax-deductible. Your support truly matters, and we hope you will be part of this exciting journey with us. We welcome any legacy gifts if you wish to honor Miles through your will or family trusts. **Details for contributions are given in the next page.**

Thank you for being part of the Miles O. Hayes family of alumni and friends. We hope to hear from you very soon.

Sincerely,

The MOH Endowment Committee

Jacqui Michel

Tim Kana

Al Hine

Invest in the Future of the School of Earth, Ocean and Environment (SEOE)
Support the Miles O. Hayes Graduate Student Research Travel Endowment

Your generosity can change students' lives. By contributing to Miles O. Hayes Graduate Student Research Travel Endowment, you are not only honoring academic excellence—you are empowering deserving students with the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Every gift helps create a lasting legacy and expands access to education for generations to come.

Thank you in advance for your meaningful support!

Here's how to give online:

Pledge form available on the University of South Carolina site and reference *Account Number B12744*:

https://sc.edu/giving/about_our_services/gift_planning/pledge_form.php

Give by Mail:

Make checks payable to University Foundations and reference *Account Number B12744* and mail to:

University of South Carolina
Office of Revenue & Compliance
1600 Hampton Street, Suite 736
Columbia, SC 29208

If you have any questions or would like personal assistance with your gift such as honoring Miles through your will, family trusts or a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) for an IRA, please contact Geleen Reed-Toresdahl, Senior Director of Development in the McCausland College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Carolina. She would be delighted to help you.

Email: geleen@mailbox.sc.edu

Cell: 515-490-6885: (feel free to leave a message or text)

If any of your contact information has changed, please let us know and we'll update our records.

Title: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____