

BRIAN J. SKINNER POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP FUND

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Our beloved colleague **Brian Skinner**, passed away last year on August 21, at the age of 90. He was a member of the Yale faculty for more than fifty-three years, serving as a notable scholar in the Department of Geology & Geophysics, and as a mentor to students and faculty alike. Brian had a long, distinguished career, and for many of you, his introductory class was a key inspiration to major in the geological sciences. Moreover, his expertise in mineralogy and economic geology were invaluable to the many students and young scientists who worked with him.

Over the last year, students, colleagues, friends and family of Brian's have worked with the Department to establish a program honoring his many contributions. We have, therefore, created the **Brian J. Skinner Postdoctoral Fellowship Fund**. The purpose of the fund is to support one or more postdoctoral fellowships in the newly named Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences.

Postdoctoral scholars are vital to the scientific enterprise, and provide a bridge between students and faculty. They arrive with new ideas and approaches and foster intellectual cross fertilization between universities. Prize or Named postdoctoral fellows are prestigious and competitive fellowships, which attract outstanding candidates whose independence

offers the freedom to catalyze new research and collaborations that might not otherwise occur. Establishing a robust postdoctoral fellowship program is a top priority for our department.

Our immediate goal is to raise \$1.5M to create an endowment that will fund one postdoctoral fellow in perpetuity. We hope to grow this fund with your generous support to reach \$3M and support two postdoctoral fellows through an annual search. We invite you, as someone who benefited from Brian's mentoring, to contribute to the fund in his memory. Several of our alumni have kickstarted the Fellowship and we currently have commitments exceeding \$1M. We are close and hope you will help us reach our first milestone of \$1.5M, on our way to our ultimate target of \$3M.

We sincerely hope you will join us as a significant contributor to the *Brian J. Skinner Postdoctoral Fellowship Fund*. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions at david.bercovici@yale.edu. Contributions may also be made by sending a check or online using the instructions below.

To make a donation by check: Please send a check made out to Yale University to the following address:

David Bercovici
Yale University
PO Box 208109
New Haven CT 06520 8109

Please include in the memo line of the check: "Designation #38545" or "Brian Skinner Postdoctoral Fellowship Fund".

To make a donation online the instructions below can be followed:

1. Go to Giving.Yale.edu and click Make a Gift Now
2. Select "Support Other Areas at Yale"
3. Select "Other"
4. Enter your gift amount and other pertinent information
5. Enter the "Designation #" of 38545 or write in Brian Skinner Postdoctoral Fellowship Fund.
6. Complete the options and sharing of your personal information. Follow to payment information.