



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

BYRD POLAR AND CLIMATE
RESEARCH CENTER

November, 2020

Statement from Georgie Shockey and Chris Ito, co-chairs of the Advisory Board for the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at OSU.

As many of you are well aware, The Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at Ohio State is known worldwide for its scientists who extract and study ice cores from the Earth's polar and tropical regions. The cores stored at the Ice Core Facility on campus are among the most extensive and unique in the world and contain samples of ancient air, dust, pollen, and even viruses and bacteria that existed thousands of years ago. These records allow us to better predict our climate future by understanding historical conditions that resulted from varying CO₂ concentrations and temperatures.

The Ice Core Facility is over 30 years old and has reached the end of its useful life. If the facility is not replaced immediately, our Buckeye community (and the broader scientific community) is at risk of losing the ice core collection and will be prevented from adding new cores in the future. Much of the ice in this collection is irreplaceable due to glacier melt. It is critical to preserve this unique collection of ice cores for the study of climate impacts and for future generations of scientists who will continue to make discoveries and recommend solutions that make a positive difference for society as we seek to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

A multi-million dollar renovation project is underway and we need your help to maintain the facility and raise awareness of this critical need.

The opportunity to be involved with the Byrd Center brings together two causes that we are passionate to support: Climate change and Ohio State. Over the past year, we have had the good fortune to engage with the staff and scientists at Byrd, including Drs. Lonnie Thompson and Ellen Mosley-Thompson. The Thompsons are two of the world's best known glaciologists, and in many ways, the ice core collection represents their lives' work. Both have dedicated their careers to science and played a significant role in establishing Ohio State as one of the world's preeminent paleoclimate research centers. To us, this campaign is not just about preserving science, but also about preserving their legacy. Byrd is one of those "hidden gems" on our campus. If you are willing and able to support this campaign, we invite you to [click here](#) to learn more. Please help us spread the word about this critical endeavor!

Many thanks and Go Bucks!

**Byrd Polar and Climate
Research Center**

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SUPPORT THE ICE CORE FACILITY RENOVATION