

Dear Class of '55,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous \$300 contribution that helped fund the Cornell Geology class trip to New Zealand. The field program at Cornell gives students early exposure to critical hands on experience. Field experience is a crucial part of shaping and consolidating theoretical concepts learned in class. The uniqueness of the block plan creates the perfect atmosphere to allow special trips such as this trip to New Zealand, which is sure to be a highlight of my undergraduate Cornell experience. Not only did this trip help instill a greater wonder of the natural beauty of world but helped provide motivation for a life long career dedicated to the study of science. New Zealand quickly became my favourite place I have ever visited and several of my classmates and I hope to return upon graduation.

The class was an incredible experience – by far my favourite class at Cornell. Our days were spent exploring the geologic wonders of picturesque New Zealand. We acquired the skills to map the northern part of the south island. New Zealand is a tectonically unique area where the subduction zone switches directions between the two islands. We followed a fault mapping offsets from river deposits. We also hiked on a glacier! The Franz Josef glacier advances at 20 cm/day due to the large amount of precipitation and the steepness of the valley and yet it is also located amidst a rain forest. As we were crawling through ice caves comparing the similarities in ice morphology to hard rock geology, there were parrots flying overhead. Since Cornell is located in the tectonically dormant and flat Iowa, the opportunity to visit one of the world's highly tectonically active areas was an amazing experience as a geology student. Our class also collected a lot of igneous rocks to add to the rock collection at Cornell so future students can have better rocks to learn from.

Again, I would just like to thank you for this amazing addition to my education. This experience has verified that I truly enjoy fieldwork and I am now seriously planning a career in this area. My love of geology was augmented and solidified.

Sincerely,

Kristyn Rodzinyak





