The Center for Global Change student research competition began 20 years ago and supports student-driven research related to global change. Currently, awards up to $10,000 per year for a maximum of two years are made to graduate students; undergraduate students are restricted to one-year awards. This competition represents a unique opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students at UAF from a wide range of research institutes, schools and departments.

Throughout the program’s history, support for the CGC student research competition has come from a variety of restricted (federal grants) and unrestricted (state funds) sources. In these difficult economic times, our primary funding sources have diminished dramatically, yet the number of proposals has steadily grown. Fortunately for the program, and due to the generosity of Judy Belous, who in 2010 established the Robert Belous Global Change Research Endowment in memory of her late husband, we now have a mechanism to secure unrestricted funds for future student awards. In the current investment environment, however, the endowment alone is unable to fund student awards in the near future. This is why we have partnered with UAF Development to highlight the Robert Belous Global Change Research Endowment during the third annual Employee Giving Initiative.

We invite you to join us in donating to the Robert Belous Global Change Research Endowment. By making a gift to the spendable portion of the endowment we can put your support to immediate use for our students. You can do this online at any time at www.uaf.edu/giving/. Under the “gift designation” part of the form please specify Robert Belous Global Change Research Endowment spendable, fund number 60970. Or, you can make a gift on the enclosed staff contribution form by checking the appropriate box.

Thank you for helping us sustain this valuable student research program!

What makes this competition unique?

Proposals must address an interdisciplinary aspect of global change in the arctic or subarctic region. Students are required to write a concise, well-justified proposal with specific hypotheses. Proposals are evaluated through rigorous review by experts within and outside the UA system. The review process promotes UA student-driven research to outside researchers.

Awardees gain valuable experience in managing funds and synthesizing their research results for publication. CGC awardees go on to be highly successful in their professional careers after graduation. Seven previous awardees have mentored students who also became awardees; many more help by reviewing proposals. Two books published by the University of Alaska Press have resulted from research funded by CGC awards.

Some of our 2011 awardees, from left: Nicole Swenson, Joshua Ream, Jordan Metzgar, Rebecca Young, Ben Gaglioti, Shiway Wang.