



Above: Jack Oliver, Bryan Isacks and Lynn Sykes—the team who, in 1968, wrote “Seismology and the New Global Tectonics,” which explained how our knowledge of seismology supports the theory of plate tectonics.

## “Subduction, Orogeny and the Surface of the Earth”

Cornell alumni and friends from around the world gathered in Ithaca from October 8-10, 2006 to attend a symposium in honor of Bryan Isacks, the William and Katherine Snee Professor of Geological Sciences. The event was a two-day workshop sponsored by the Institute for the Study of the Continents (INSTOC) and the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences on the occasion of Bryan’s 70th birthday and the beginning of his phased retirement (he will retire fully in 2008). Muawia Barazangi and Matt Pritchard co-organized the meeting with critical support from Lynda Swafford.

The symposium was titled “Subduction, Orogeny and the Surface of the Earth” and featured talks and posters by Bryan’s current and former students, colleagues and friends. Talks covered the fields that Bryan has contributed to during his professorial career: seismology,

geomorphology, and remote sensing, and it spanned the globe. The most unusual title for a talk was “Wallowing Among Erosion, Tectonics, Climate Change, Human Evolution, Chickens, Eggs, Red Herrings, Pink Elephants and Bryan Isacks,” given by Peter Molnar, an early collaborator of Bryan’s who is currently at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

About 120 people attended the symposium, including 40 alumni of the department. Twenty-three of Bryan’s 31 former and current M.S. and Ph.D. students attended.

To establish a graduate student fellowship in Bryan Isack’s name, alumni donations will be welcome.

Right: Group photo of the participants at the Bryan Isacks Symposium held October 8-10, 2006.

