Earth System Science at Cornell

Earth system sciences looks at the integrated whole of the planet, including the lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, cryosphere and atmosphere. Important spatial scales for earth system science range from nm to 1000's of kilometers. Advancing earth system science requires laboratory work, field work, remote sensing and modeling. There are many scientists across the university whose work contributes to an understanding of earth system science. We think that organizing ourselves under an umbrella of Earth system Science will help integrate the research at Cornell, as well as raise our profile outside of the university and recruit better graduate students. We envision earth system science at Cornell as complementary to the successful biogeochemistry initiative. Earth System Science would overlap with biogeochemistry, for example in biogeochemistry-climate interactions, but different from biogeochemistry in including a focus on the physics of the earth system. We would like to hold a brain storming session on how best to organize and leverage the earth system science work at Cornell (e.g. create web page for recruiting students, conduct joint seminars, etc).