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Program News

In Memoriam to Dr. John Russell

Dr. John Russell passed away Tuesday, Sept. 18. Dr. Russell was a major force in the development of Department of Geosciences. The program was primarily a geography program when he was appointed in 1971. He became chair of the Department of Geosciences in 1979 until he was appointed director of the OSR, which he helped establish. He built a strong geology program through recruitment and hiring key faculty. The faculty included Dr Jon A. Baskin, Dr. William F. Thomann, Dr. Michael Jordan, and Dr. John Delamata. With the help of his faculty, Dr. Russell developed new graduate level courses, brought in National Science Foundation funding, and secured a Masters program in Geology. The large number of quality undergraduate and graduate students from this time period is a testament to their efforts. John Russell will be missed for all his contributions to this program.

Funeral will be on Sunday, Sept. 23, at 3 p.m. at the Marion Christian Church, 140 Elm, Marion, KS 66861. Zeiner Mortuary is handling the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association or the American Heart Association through the mortuary. The address is: Zeiner Mortuary / 205 Elm St. / Marion, KS 66861

Our Department has a new Chair

Dr. Dan Suson, former Chair of our Department left TAMUK in August to accept the Dean of Science and Technology position at University of Purdue at Calumet. Dr. Lionel Hewett is the new Interim Chair of Physics/Geosciences.

DR. Norwine is Back with Publications

Our longest-tenured faculty member, Regents Professor Jim Norwine, was on sabbatical during the academic year of 2006-2007. He worked on two major research projects while serving as a visiting professor at Western State College of Colorado in Gunnison. (He reports that a year in the Rockies was "tough but someone has to do it.") His latest book, "The Changing Climate of South Texas 1900-2100," was completed during that leave of absence. Dr. Norwine was recently honored to be selected to deliver the annual TAMUK faculty lecture the evening of April 17, 2008. The subject will be his other research inquiry, "geosophy"--the study of changing worldviews and values.

As of now, Jim plans to retire at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year, following which he and his wife of 42 years, Lottie, will spend part of the year in the Ozarks, where he will serve as the distinguished scholar in residence for John Brown University in Siloam Springs, AR. We hope that many of our alums, and especially



Dr. Norwine's former students, will be able to attend his talk this coming spring. He can be reached by email at kfjrn00@tamuk.edu. He would very much enjoy hearing from "the old, and even not-so-old, gang".

Geosciences Receives New Scholarship Funds

The Uranium to the Future conference organizers awarded TAMUK with \$80,000 in scholarship and recruiting monies. Geology received **\$10,000** and Environmental Engineering received \$70,000.



Program News

Dr. McGehee Wins a \$93K Grant

Dr. Tom McGehee received a grant for \$93,000 per year for five fundable years from the Engineering Research and Development Center for undergraduate research at TAMUK and Vicksburg, MS.



His grant entitled "Task order driven applied geological research at TAMUK" will support the development of a library of "synthetic geologic terrains" and "remediation efforts after a dirty bomb attack" for the military. He will be working with a team of 8 undergraduate students this semester to develop the first project.

Dr. Yu Publishes and Presented His Research

Dr. Yu has published his research paper in **International Journal of Remote Sensing**, the World's leading journal in Remote Sensing, with the title of "Least Square Approach on mosaicking and calibration of ice velocity information derived from RADAR remote sensing technique." His research paper is published in issue of Vol. 28, No. 6.



In addition, he has presented his new project "Vertical Integration of Geospatial Intelligence for South Texas" in **National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Academic Research Program Symposium 2007**. The symposium was held in Washington DC from September 11 to 14. He has met PIs from other projects and NGA strategic specialist, Kimberly Walls (Second to the right).

Dr. Buckley will Bring Paleontology Back in TAMUK



Finally, TAMUK Geosciences program will offer Paleontology class in Fall, 2008. Dr. John Buckley is organizing a Paleontology class. He will curate a large collection of purchased and donated fossils.

Brown Bag Lecture Series Scheduled for Fall, 2007 Semester

Two brown bag lectures will be given this semester. Our 1995 alumnus, **Mr. Alberto Jiminez** will be presenting on the new Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists guidelines to become licensed as a Geologist. He will be talking in October. **Mr. Earl Edris** will be presenting on "internship opportunities at ERDC." He will be talking at TAMUK in November. More information will be updated in the next newsletters.

Student News

Geosciences Majors Receive Scholarship and Assistantship Awards

The Geosciences Department announced scholarship and research awards for Fall, 2007. The Geosciences Program awarded **\$2000** to **Octavio Flores**, **\$500** to **Melissa Hidalgo**, **\$500** to **Noe Saenz**, **\$500** to **Ernest Okeke**, and **\$800** to **Joshua Dye**. **Samuel Cantu** received a **\$2,000** scholarship from STARS from and a **\$2000** scholarship from Mano a Mano.

Noe Saenz and **Orlando Gonzalez** received a research assistantship award from Drs Shad Nelson and Tom McGehee to continue their **research for the HSI Program** through the US Department of Agriculture. **Sam Cantu** received a research assistantship award for the **research project funded by National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency** under Drs. Yu and McGehee's advising. **Billy Hales** and **Joshua Dye** are the first to be awarded research monies to work with Dr. McGehee to **develop synthetic geologic terrains**.



Student News

Students Share Experiences in Internships

Joshua Dye received an internship with the Uranium Exploration Company (UEC) as a GIS specialist. He is helping to organize the company's mining activities in six states into a GIS database.

Ruben Cano received an internship with Frac-Tech to work in mud-logging. Ruben received his contact for this job through Jason Bundick (TAMUK geosciences alumnus) who is managing an office in Brian, Texas.

Matt Walker completed his field camp with the UTD program and flew out to Alaska for an internship with USDA Forest Service. Matt developed a GIS and "ground-truthed" the map for the project.

Jacob Hundl and **Jonas Ball** received internships with Mesteña Uranium this past summer. Both students worked with **Adrian Garcia** and **Neal Kunkle**, which are alumnus from our program. Jacob added the following statement about his duties with the company. "The internship with Mesteña Uranium, LLC was a fantastic experience for an aspiring geologist. Experience working in the field on classifying samples from drilling, and doing GPS surveying reinforced classes previously taken. In the office, GIS skills were highly valuable, and we had opportunities to familiarize ourselves with geophysical data, such as electric, gamma, and PFN logs. Valuable experience with drilling rigs and their operation was also acquired. I enjoyed the internship so much, I am working there one day a week during the year." Jonas Ball is also continuing his internship this semester at Mesteña Uranium.

Sam Cantu, **Billy Hales**, and **Noe Saenz** worked on their internship with Dr. Yu this summer to develop a 3-D GIS of the campus. Noe Saenz is working with Drs. Yu, McGehee, and Shad Nelson on a project to develop GIS on escape routes during major flooding in Corpus Christi. Orlando Gonzalez is working with Drs. McGehee and Shad Nelson on a research project to develop a groundwater model of a red mud facility at one of the Sherwin Alumina sites. Billy Hales is developing a first class mineral display in the Halls in Geosciences.

Geosciences Club News

New Officers met for the Fall, 2007 – Spring, 2008 academic year.



The Geosciences Club elected Darla Martinez as the new secretary of the club to record and publish weekly minutes for the club. She is pictured with Jacob Hundl (President), Marshall Saenz (Vice President), and Jonas Ball (Treasurer). Our new historian Benjamin Wright was unavailable at the time of the photograph.

Geosciences Club Moves Forward!

The membership has submitted a proposal to the campus for support to conduct the activities identified by the president (see president's page in the June newsletter). One of the key interests shown by the club is a fieldtrip to Big Bend. They would like to go to Terlingua to look at the old mercury mines during Spring Break, 2008. We would like to encourage the alumnus to help with this fieldtrip.

The Geosciences Club won first place award (\$100) at the Fiesta Javalena event on campus. The club set up two tables that displayed collected materials from Honduras in the student union area.

The Club membership will be helping the Geosciences Program develop Earth and Space Sciences at five local high schools. We are in the process of contacting the high schools that expressed interest. The club members will provide some class exercises and personal help for the new course offerings.



Alumnus Report

We would like to keep up with our alumnus during their walk through their professional careers. TAMUK geosciences program has had over 300 graduates with either a Baccalaureate or a Masters Degree. If you send us an email with your current bio-sketch we would like you to come to TAMUK, meet our faculty and students, and present a talk.

Pat Nye has twenty-five years of experience in oil and gas exploration and development throughout South Texas. He has worked as both a development and exploration geologist for Sexton Oil & Minerals, Trace Exploration and Magnum Producing & Operating Company. His focus has been working nearly every major geological producing trend in South Texas which includes the Miocene, Frio, Vicksburg, Yegua, Wilcox, Olmos, Austin Chalk and Edwards formations. He has also developed more than 15 years of experience on 3-D seismic workstations where many of his prospects are generated. Patrick has served as a chairman on numerous committees with the Corpus Christi Geological Society and has served on the board as treasurer, vice president, president-elect, councilor and president. He is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, South Texas Geological Society and the Coastal Bend Geophysical Society and has served as president for the Bahia Log Library and Scoop Scouting. Mr. Nye holds a bachelors degree in Zoology with a Chemistry minor from Texas Tech University where he played collegiate tennis. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Texas A&M Kingsville. His love for the outdoors includes golf and deep-sea fishing. Since 1983, Patrick has been involved with generating over 70 prospects along the Gulf Coast. Since teaming up with Mr. Strunk in late 1998, Nye has continued to utilize his 3-D seismic workstation experience to evaluate and generate prospects with both 3-D and 2-D seismic data.

Juan Cabasos a graduate of Texas A&I University started his professional career at Core Laboratories in 1982. His first assignment was in Carrizo Springs, Texas as a Core Chaser and is currently the South Texas Manager of Core Laboratories in Corpus Christi.

Core Laboratories provides reservoir description, production enhancement, and management services to the oil and gas industry worldwide. The company analyzes samples of reservoir rocks for their porosity that determines reservoir storage capacity, and for their permeability, which defines the ability of the fluids to flow through the rock. In addition, Core Laboratories produces data to describe a reservoir system, and reservoir description and production enhancement information, which is used to enhance oil and gas production.

Presently Juan is on the City of Corpus Christi Oil and Gas Advisory Board (www.cctexas.com), Vice President of the Corpus Christi Geological Society (www.ccgeo.org), and will Chair a Session in the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (www.gcags2007.org) to be held in Corpus Christi on October 21 – 23, 2007. He can be contacted by e-mail at juan.cabasos@corelab.com.

Alberto Jiménez is a Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Texas A&M-Kingsville in December of 1994 and his Master of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Texas at El Paso in December of 1999. His work experience includes working with state agencies in New Mexico and Texas conducting environmental compliance inspections. He has also conducted environmental assessments for the State Highway 130 toll road project in central Texas.

Mr. Jiménez has worked for the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists since October of 2005. As an Inspector for this agency, he conducts compliance inspections of reports submitted to various State agencies as well as investigations of licensees and non-licensees for violations of the Texas Geoscience Practice Act. You can contact him at his email address ajimenez@tbpg.state.tx.us or his telephone number (512) 936-4406.



Neal Kunkel graduated from TAMUK in May of 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology and is currently working as a Project Geologist for Mestefña Uranium LLC. His current duties include ore body delineation within current production areas, creating production well patterns and mapping these trends with ArcGIS software. He also has worked in shallow and deep uranium exploration drilling within the major South Texas Uranium bearing formations. Along with this he has gained much experience working with open hole logging tools measuring formation properties with gamma ray, spontaneous potential, resistivity, and Prompt Fission Neutron (PFN) measurements. He can be reached at nkunkel@mestena uranium.com

Photo Gallery

TAMUK/USGS seismograph station and 3D GIS Campus Model



USGS representative Bob Hutt and student Joe Martinez (*Photo courtesy of John Buckley*)



While the station's location is secret, Texas A&M-Kingsville will get a museum-quality display about the project. (*Photo courtesy of John Buckley*)



The station has a seismograph and deep-mounted GPS. (*Photo courtesy of John Buckley*)



3D GIS model of Manning Hall and other buildings at Texas A&M University-Kingsville created by Geosciences Research Team

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