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Program News

Dr. Jim Norwine's will present the Faculty lecture on April 17, 2008



The topic of Dr. Norwine's lecture will be, "Dueling *Weltanschauungen*? A Critical/Conservative Reading of Fugitive Values: What Being-In-The-World-Is-Truly-Like for Contemporary Undergraduates." The lecture looks at the overall perspective from which undergraduates see and interpret the world – an American interpretation of the German term "Weltanschauung." Data for the lecture will come from research work Norwine has been a part of since 1991, in which he and other scholars have surveyed thousands of college students from within the United States and internationally. The research surveys their opinions on subjects such as the environment and religion to learn more about how they view themselves, others and their surroundings.

Our Department has new Equipment



Our Geosciences Program recently received a transfer of 4 research grade microscopes and a full rock processing laboratory from the Department of Geosciences at the UTD. Dr. James Lee Carter (Dr. McGehee's dissertation advisor) recently retired and donated this equipment to our laboratories. The equipment includes two Zeiss Universal Photomicroscope Ultraphot reflected / transmitted light microscopes that are set up for fluid inclusion studies and reflected light microscopy. We also received a Leitz Ortholux reflected/transmitted microscope that is set up for mixed reflected light and transmitted light mineral studies. We have the capability to conduct research and teach courses in ore petrology. Dr. Carter acquired this equipment from major grants.

Come see the Hall Displays in Geosciences



Three undergraduate students from the Geosciences Program (Billy Hales and Ruben Cano) and Department of Art (Jeremy Martinez) completed the Hall Displays of Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils that was started by the Geology Club, 2006. The artistic displays are designed as an educational tool for students that are interested in geosciences. Each display includes a marquee that explains the organization of the cases. The cases contain samples from fieldtrips, master's theses, and donations to the program. The College of Arts and Sciences provided funding for the project.

Dr. Thomas McGehee and Mr. Todd Lucas supervised the project.



Student News

Geosciences Students Receive Scholarships



Congratulations to our students Ruben Cano, David Smith, Jacob Hundl, Sam Cantu, Billy Hales, and Cathryn Pratka for their hard work during the Fall, 2007. Ruben Cano and Octavio Flores received our second National Geospatial Agency Grant Scholarship for \$2000. The Corpus Christi Geological Society (CCGS) awarded David Smith, Jacob Hundl, Sam Cantu, and Billy Hales their Fall Scholarship.

Jacob Hundl also won the Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society Scholarship.

Student Internships



Joshua Dye (Uranium Energy Company) and Jacob Hundl (Mestena Uranium) are continuing their internship during this Spring semester. Several companies have expressed interest in our majors for this summer. If you have an interest to work as an intern this summer visit with the TAMUK Career Center and fill out the paperwork.

Geosciences Club News

Club Report from the President, Jacob Hundl

Our attendance to our meetings has been increasing since the beginning of the semester. If you have a friend who would like to learn more about our club and activities, please call me or bring him to the next meeting.

Juan Cabasos is opening up a competition between the Geology clubs at TAMUCC and TAMUK to test the interest of both clubs in the CCGS meetings. Core Laboratories is offering \$200 to the club with the best attendance in March or April. We want a good showing from our club so let's make plans for this event.

The South Texas Minerals Section of the SME has encouraged student participation at their Thursday evening monthly meetings. Since a large portion of the internships available to our majors are with these companies, we should try to attend their meetings.

We will be going on two fieldtrips in March with our majors and geology club members. We will be traveling to Central Texas on March 17 and 18 to collect rocks and study the geology of two mines on the Petrology Fieldtrip. Dr. McGehee will lead us through the Precambrian rocks of the area. On March 28, 29, and 30 we will travel to the Austin area to visit the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory affiliated with the Jackson School of Geological Sciences. Drs. John Buckley, Jae Yu, and Tom McGehee will lead us to several locations where dinosaur footprints can be studied.

The Geology Club purchased polished rocks from Jane Lyon, a graduate from the Department of Art in February. Ms. Lyon also donated five jars of rough materials to give away on our wheel of fortune. Mr. Nelson Lyon and Jane went on many rock hunts together to acquire this material. The club will sell these materials at our fund raisers.



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.

Barbara Beynon

Barbara Beynon graduated from Texas A&I University in 1976 with a BA in Geology. She worked as a Reservoir Geologist for Lo-Vaca Gathering Company (later Valero Pipeline Company) in Corpus Christi and Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company in Houston. She returned to Corpus Christi as a Development Geologist for Champlin Petroleum (later Union Pacific Resources). After marrying and living in Atlanta for four years, she returned to graduate school at Texas A&M University- Kingsville and graduated in 1991 with a MS in Geology. She worked as a Geologist for the Texas Water Development Board in Austin, and then joined the Texas Water Commission (now the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) in Austin in the State Groundwater Enforcement Team. In 1996 she transferred to the Corpus Christi Regional Office of the TCEQ and worked as an Environmental Investigator in the Industrial and Hazardous Waste Program. In 2000 she transferred to the Water Program where she conducts industrial wastewater and storm water investigations. In her spare time, Barbara raises, trains, shows, and loves her American Eskimo Dogs. She is licensed by the American Kennel Club as a judge and wrote a book entitled *The Complete American Eskimo: A Special Kind of Companion Dog*. She can be reached at BBEYNON@tceq.state.tx.us.

Mark Harrison

Mark Harrison possesses a B.S. Degree in Geology from Texas A&M University - Kingsville, as well as a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Tennessee. In addition, Mr. Harrison has earned his Masters of Science in Environmental Engineering from the University of Tennessee. Mark previously worked as the Branch Manager for S&ME, Inc. at their Chattanooga Branch. S&ME is a regional geotechnical and environmental engineering firm with over 800 employees. Prior to that we worked at HAZWRAP (A Division of Lockheed Martin) as a Hydrogeologist. He recently joined Aquaterra Engineering as a Senior SiteWorks Engineer for the Chattanooga, TN office. Mark is married to Mrs. Teresa Harrison, who he met at TAMUK. They live with their four boys in Chattanooga, TN. Teresa and Mark run the North River Soccer Association and teach Sunday School at Soddy Daisy First Baptist Church. Mark may be reached via e-mail at mharrison@aquaterraeng.com.

Norma Castaneda

Norma Castaneda has moved from the Rocky Flats Plant office and she is currently working in the Carlsbad Field Office with the Department of Energy. She can be reached at norma.castaneda@wipp.ws

Mathew Walker

Matt Walker is our most recent graduate (Fall, 2007). After graduating from Texas A&M Kingsville this fall, he started work with Spatial Data Technologies. His company builds software solutions for the GIS industry. This software allows the user, through the use of custom built forms, to collect field data easily and accurately and then seamlessly merge the data back into the geodatabase. He is currently in charge of taking the customers' requests and building forms and the database if needed. He builds test projects to check for accuracy in merging data and also ease of field use. He also assists customers with technical support questions and in training customers in using the suite of applications my company offers. His background in GIS systems and software through his classes at TAMU-K, as well as experience in Juno, Alaska gathering field data using GPS/GIS software and hardware has helped him. The customers he works with are in the oil and gas industry, but there are projects in the works for expanding into forest, environmental, land management, and utility & municipality fields as well.



Photo Gallery



- 1) Ms. Natali Salinas and Ms. Rebecca Pena, students in GIS class, are working on their GIS project in Geospatial Technology Laboratory with Dr. Yu's help (From left to right, Ms. Rebecca Pena, Dr. Jaehyung Yu, and Ms. Natali Salinas).
- 2) Natali and Rebecca are learning Mobile Mapping Global Positioning System and Mr. Samuel Cantu, TA for GIS class, is processing dataset for them.
- 3) Dr. Yu and students are discussing about GIS project (From left, Joshua Dye, Billy Hales, Dr. Yu, Natali Salinas, Ruben Cano, and Rebecca Pena).

4) From left to right, Dr. Thomas McGehee, Todd Lucas (Chair, Department of Arts), Billy Hales (Senior, Geology), Jeremy Martinez (Senior, Art), and Ruben Cano (Junior, Geology) were involved with organization and construction of the hall exhibits.



5) Ms. Rebecca Roscoe is working with the Buehler thin-sectioning equipment donated by the Army Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC). Some of the polishing equipment transferred from UTD is pictured in the foreground.

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