

# Geosciences



DEPARTMENT OF  
PHYSICS AND  
GEOSCIENCES

## Newsletter

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### Program News

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#### Alumnus to honor John Russell - from Martha Garcia, USGS



The TAI/TAMUK geology community lost one of its leaders, Dr. John L. Russell who passed away on September 18, 2007. John was a friend and mentor to many of us and he will be greatly missed. "Doc" Russell had an exceptional gift for teaching and his lessons were always a fun and engaging way to express and discuss ideas. Many of us continue as earth scientists because of his influence.

A scholarship fund in his memory will be established to recognize a deserving TAMUK earth science student. More on the scholarship fund and ways to contribute will be provided at a later time. I've attached John's obituary which was written by Jon Baskin and Jo Anne Russell for the Corpus Christi Geological Society Bulletin and includes a link to a loving and personal memorial of him.

The Geosciences Program at TAMUK has set up an account called the Geosciences Alumni Scholarship – In Memory of Dr. John Russell. This scholarship will be controlled by an elected panel of Geosciences Alumnus.

The loss of someone who has had an impact on both your personal life and professional career provides a natural time for reflection and thoughts of others that have made a difference. Career opportunities and life in general have made many of us lose touch with our college colleagues. Therefore, as an opportunity to reconnect and reminisce about John and our days in Kingsville several activities are being planned to coincide with the Annual Geological Society of America's (GSA) meeting in Houston, TX, October 5-9, 2008.

First, on Saturday, October 4th, a TAI/TAMUK alumnus BBQ is being planned in the Houston suburbs. The cost is still to be determined but should not exceed \$30/person. To help with planning purposes, we are trying to gauge your interest in attending. Kindly respond with an email to me on the following questions:

- Would you attend?
- Is an evening or afternoon event preferred?
- Any other comments or recommendations?

As part of the BBQ, we will be compiling old photographs and slides (with and without John) of field trips, gatherings, etc that will be shared via a PowerPoint show. Jon Baskin has volunteered to be the official scanner and converter. Kindly send your .gif or .jpeg files to Jon at kfjab02@tamuk.edu. Slides and photos should be sent to Jon at his TAMUK mailing address: Department of Biology, MSC 158; Texas A&M University-Kingsville; Kingsville, TX 78363. I would suggest writing your name and address on the back of the photos and including a self addressed stamp envelope to guarantee return of the originals.

Additionally, on Monday, October 6th, TAI/TAMUK Alumni are invited to participate in the GSA evening Group Alumni Reception that will be held at the Hilton Americas Houston. Several other universities will be at the reception and you do not need to be registered for GSA to attend.

More information on both events will be provided in upcoming emails. Thanks goes to Jon Baskin, David Perez, Tom Fett, Chuck Stelting and most importantly Jo Anne Russell for helping to get efforts going. We have done our best to try and pull email addresses together but certainly missed a few. The folks that were included with this email are listed below. If you know of other alumni and/or other interested people (e.g., Southwest Research and CCGS colleagues) kindly forward this message to them.





## Program News

### 3D Campus Model available in Google Earth and On-going



Geospatial research group Octavio Flores receives summer support from President Juarez to continue the development of a 3D GIS of TAMUK campus. Since the model for College hall is already uploaded in Google web site, the user can easily download the model from Google website. The user should have Google Earth installed in the computer. If Google earth is not installed in your computer, it can be easily downloaded from Google search engine by typing Google earth in search window.

The detail steps for 3-D model visualization are as following.

- 1) Type "google.com" in internet web browser. Google website opens.
- 2) Type "3-D warehouse" in search option. The links show in the window.
- 3) Click the first link. Google 3D warehouse opens.
- 4) Type College Hall TAMUK in search option. The link to the model shows.
- 5) Click the link. The model webpage opens.
- 6) Click "download model" icon. Scroll down menu opens.
- 7) Click Google Earth 4 (.kmz). The download begins.
- 8) Once the download is over, double click the downloaded file. Google earth launches and window brings you to TAMUK campus aquatically with the 3D model in.
- 9) Using the user interface in right upper corner, user can zoom in/out, pan, walk-around, and view angle change.

### Dr. Yu Wins 2008 Olan Kruse Science Faculty Award



Dr. Jae Yu won the 2008 Olan Kruse Award. This award is a competition among our scientists on campus to recognize one scientist each year for their research contributions. The recipient receives a stipend and a plaque. Dr. Yu attended the Association of American Geographer's (AAG) Conference (April 15-19) in Boston Massachusetts and presented "the progress on Vertically Integrating GIS into 2 local Community Colleges and five local High Schools." Dr. Yu traveled to Korea from April 23 to May 11, 2008 to present at 9 Universities in Korea.

### Dr. James Norwine presented the 2008 faculty lecture

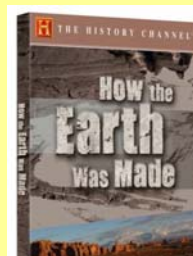


Dr. Jim Norwine, Regents Professor of Geography, presented the lecture, "Dueling Weltanschauungen? A Critical/Conservative Reading of Fugitive Values: What Being-In-The-World-Is-Truly-Like for Contemporary Undergraduates". Norwine has been with Texas A&M-Kingsville since 1972. During that time, he also has been a visiting professor at Kansas Wesleyan University, Texas A&M University and, most recently, Western State College in Gunnison, Colo. for a 2006-2007 academic school year sabbatical.

## Geosciences Club News

### Club gets new movies

The geology club purchased and presented two films in April. The History Channel Film "How the Earth was made" was shown of April 9. The controversial film "An Inconvenient Truth" on global warming narrated by former Vice President Al Gore was shown on April 23.





**The geology club elected a new slate of officers for the next academic year.**

The geology club elected a new slate of officers for the next academic year. The new officers are:

- Jonas Ball – President
- Ruben Cano – Vice-President
- Secretary – Rebecca Roscoe
- Treasurer – Melissa Hidalgo
- Historian – Noe Saenz
- Past President – Jacob Hundl
- Past Vice-President – Marshal Saenz



Jonas Ball Ruben Cano Rebecca Roscoe Melissa Hidalgo Noe Saenz

**President's letter**

The new semester is fast approaching and for the Geosciences Club at Texas A&M-Kingsville, this means change, opportunity, another chance to keep the community and the university interacting with the will to grow, to find new resources for the participation of this astounding field of study. As Geosciences Club President I will hold firm and accelerate the club and its commitment to the community with a means of recognition or a rational motive to increase campus cohesiveness between other clubs that share this generosity.

One of the main topics is realizing what the Geosciences department has stored for the on going research of future projects and knowledge generating allegiance. There is a full GIS and groundwater modeling lab, recently acquired thin section machine, additional petrographic microscopes, a very rich library of information set on creating some of the best geoscience majors in the region.

The community is of great importance to the department and has always been at the center for the club. This year I would like to see more dedication to the surrounding schools to encourage the importance and outlook for the future of this science. The faculty of Geosciences has once again gone and participated in recruitment to many of the surrounding schools and colleges, the club should do no less but support this ongoing movement into the next year. Last year one of our goals was to renovate the rock shop in the Conner Museum, but unfortunately our sights were redirected to other ongoing projects. In the Fall of 2008 it should be the focus of the department so that our students can continue their research into the use of examining samples using the rock saw and development of a thin section if necessary.

Also last year (fall 2007 to spring 2008) a significant attempt to increase participation at the external professional organizations such as CCGS and SMME was an improvement but I hope this year more students will feel the need to show their faces at these events, there is tremendous resources that can be achieved here for future geoscientists. The club looks forward to this new year and hopefully with everyone we can make a difference to the community and to ourselves.  
-Jonas Ball

**Geosciences Club Donates a GPS unit to King High School**

Geosciences club officials (Marshal Saenz, Noe Saenz, and Sam Cantu) tracked down a GPS unit that would be purchased and donated to King High School. The officers of the club are also trying to develop collaborative program between the two programs. We are trying to build a strong GIS education connection between the local high schools and us.



**Student News**

**Noe Saenz presented a research paper in an International Conference**

Noe Saenz presented a poster entitled "Hurricane Evacuation Route for Corpus Christi Texas" at the Association of American Geographer's (AAG) Conference (April 15-19) in Boston Massachusetts on April 18. Noe Saenz and Dr. Yu studied the traffic demands of the major evacuation routes in Corpus Christi during emergency situations using road capacity and the number of lanes along with the population density distribution throughout the city. This information can be further refined to help develop more efficient evacuation methods and routes.

**Billy Hales finishes a research project**

Billy Hales completed a research report with Dr. McGehee on the development of synthetic geologic models for Yuma Proving Grounds. Mr. Hales completed a Geographic Information System compiling sedimentologic data on the Gila Mountain Range from a master's thesis. He developed another GIS of part of the YPG site and interpreted the sedimentology of this site from information learned in the master's thesis.





### Students in the Internship

Eight undergraduate majors will be working as interns for government agencies, industry, and education this summer. Ruben Cano will be developing a Groundwater Model from GIS site data for the Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Norfolk, Virginia. Sam Cantu will be working on an internship as a cartographic technician for the US Forest Service in Ogden, UT. He will have to go out into the forests and get GPS readings and use them to georeference and mosaic aerial photography. He will also be tasked with digitizing maps, and investigating source material. These tasks will help the US Forest Service in Utah manage the health of the forests in the area. Thomas Schuenemann and Cathryn Pratka will be working for Global Geophysical.

Jacob Hundl and Jonas Ball will be working for Mestena Uranium Mining Company this summer. Jacob Hundl will also be attending field camp. Billy Hales will be working for ½ summer on the Vertical Integration of GIS in K-Higher Ed with Dr. Yu. Noe Saenz will be working on a research project with Dr. Yu as a Ronald McNair Scholar this summer. Rebecca Roscoe will be working for ½ summer for Dr. McGehee working on ore petrology sample preparation. Jacob Hundl, Billy Hales, Marshal Saenz, Jorge Fuentes, Ernest Okeke and Rebecca Roscoe will be attending the Sul Ross State University field camp during summer 1.

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### Alumnus Report

#### Fermin Munoz Jr.

Fermin Munoz Jr. is a Geologist and District 04 Director in the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. The Railroad Commission of Texas is the state's regulatory agency tasked with overseeing all oil & gas operations in the state to insure compliance with engineering and environmental rules and regulations. In his 27 years as District Director, he has also served as Professional Advisor to Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi geology students taking a 4-hour Geology credit course occasionally offered by the Commission's Corpus Christi Office. He has also worked as Mudlogger in the Bay of Campeche Mexico and as an Exploration Geologist – Texas Gulf Coast. He holds a Bachelor's Degree, Class of 1978, in Geology from Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas. He is licensed by the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists in Geology and is a Certified Petroleum Geologist by the AAPG. He is a member of Corpus Christi Geological Society, Coastal Bend Geophysical Society and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

#### Martha Garcia

Martha Garcia graduated from Texas A&I in 1980 with a BS in Geology and Mathematics. She has been with the U.S. Geological Survey since 1978, starting as a student in the Corpus Christi field office. She has worked at the field, regional, and headquarters level as a researcher, manager, and program coordinator directing geologic mapping, global change, and ecosystem studies. Additionally, she has represented USGS interests to other federal agencies, the White House, and Congress; served on a variety of science committees both external and internal to USGS; negotiated cooperative agreements; and participated on U.S. science delegations abroad. While a geologist by training she currently serves as the USGS Senior Advisor and Chief of Staff for Biological Resources; proving that education is an ongoing process. In her current position, she troubleshoots potential policy issues, helps to keep the management of science and scientists running smoothly, and fosters scientific partnerships with other entities. One current issue at hand is polar bears and whether or not they will be listed as an endangered species. It will be years of USGS science integrated into models and forecasts that will be used by the Secretary of the Interior to make a decision. Martha currently reside in Reston, VA with her husband Earl Brooks and two children Matt (21) & Alison (19)

#### Humberto Guzman

Humberto Guzman (B.S., 1981) lives in Loganville, Georgia, with his wife, Joyce, and their children Angela, a senior at the University of Georgia, and David, a junior in high school. Humberto works for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 in Atlanta, GA, as an Enforcement Officer for the Water Programs Enforcement Branch. He has been with EPA since 1992, and was a Superfund Remedial Project Manager before his present position in the Water Management Division. After graduating from Texas A&I University in 1981, Humberto continued his geology studies at Indiana University (Bloomington, IN) where he received his Masters degree in 1984. While he was at Texas A&I and at Indiana, he worked for five summers with Mobil Oil Exploration and Production U.S. (Mobil) in the uranium mines of South Texas and the oil fields of West Texas. He was hired by Mobil in 1983 in Dallas, TX, and then was transferred to New Orleans, LA, where he worked in the Gulf of Mexico exploration and production programs. Humberto left Mobil in 1992 to work for EPA in Atlanta. Humberto can be reached at 404-562-8942 (work) or at guzman.humberto@epa.gov.



**Andrew Scott**

Andrew Scott graduated from Texas A&I University Kingsville (now Texas A&M University Kingsville) in 1985 with a MS degree in geology. He was the first person to receive this diploma from Texas A&I. His thesis topic is titled "Structure and Stratigraphy of the Lower Wilcox Lobo Trend of Central Webb County, Texas." He earned his BS degree from Texas A&M University College Station in 1982. While in graduate school, he attended night classes while working full time at Forest Oil Corporation in Corpus Christi as a geotech/assistant geologist working in the Lobo trend. After graduating from A&I, Andy was hired by Canadian Hunter, LTD to work in their American Hunter office in Houston, Texas in 1986. The industry downturn in 1987 brought him back home to Corpus Christ where he worked as an independent geologist for several small, south Texas oil & gas companies. In 1990, Andy switched to the environmental industry for seven years as a hydrogeologist primarily with Terracon Environmental, Inc. in Dallas, Texas. From 1997 to present, he has worked for EOG Resources, Inc. in Corpus Christi as their Lobo geologist. Andy is credited for finding gross reserves of 200+ billion cubic feet of natural gas in the Lobo trend. Andy gives a great deal of credit and thanks to Texas A&M University Kingsville for their excellent and very professional education. In honor of his thesis advisor, Dr. John Russell, who passed away last year, Andy will always cherish their wonderful times together.

**Photo Gallery (Geosciences Field Trip, Spring, 2008)**



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