

# Geosciences



## Newsletter

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DEPARTMENT OF  
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GEOSCIENCES

### Program News

#### Three majors are graduating and on-track for success



**Billy Hales** is graduating at the end of this spring semester with a Bachelors of Science degree in Geology with highest honors. He has also been selected as the Distinguished Student for the College of Arts and Sciences. He has been a geology student in the department of Physics/Geosciences since the spring semester of 2005. During his time as a geology student, he has been in five research projects. In terms of club/honor society affiliations, he is a member of the Geology Club and Alpha Chi. Billy Hales is expected to be attending graduate school on scholarship in the Department of Geography at Texas A&M Main Campus in Fall of 2009. When asked about what this degree means to him, "This degree means accomplishment and opportunity. I should be proud, but I am honestly humbled by the determination that I and many of my peers have demonstrated on the way to getting this degree. It is a major accomplishment for all of us, and an opportunity to do even bigger and better things."



**Jacob Hundl** is graduating May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology with a minor in Geography. He transferred as a geology major from Alvin Community College under the instruction of Dora Devery in Fall 2006. Jacob interned with Mesteña Uranium, LLC, and performed various duties both in the field and office. He also presented his research at the 2008 Texas A&M University System Pathways to the Doctorate Research Symposium. He also served as 2007-2008 President of the Geosciences Club, and has been a student

member of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration since 2007. Jacob Hundl will be attending graduate school in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Texas A&M University in Fall 2009, and is a Texas A&M University System Pathways to the Doctorate Fellow. In regards to what the degree means to him, "This degree is the culmination of my undergraduate studies, and is the product of not only my passion for the geological sciences but also support from my instructors, family, and peers. It grants me the opportunity to advance my education at the graduate level, and pursue a career in a variety of different fields"

**Marshall Saenz** is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Geology and a minor in Geography. He is a native of south Texas, residing in Aransas Pass. Marshall served as a Research Assistant for Dr. Thomas McGehee and the United States Army Corp of Engineers. He has also participated in research for Dr. Jaehyung Yu in conjunction with the CREST-RESSACA program. His accomplishments include serving two terms as Vice President of Geology club and winning two Corpus Christi Geological Society Scholarships. Marshall Saenz plans to enter industry as a practicing Geologist in either the Environmental or Energy sector. When asked what this degree means to him, "This degree has given me the knowledge and confidence needed to make a positive impact in society through my field while pursuing a promising career".

#### Words from the New Geosciences Faculty Member, Mr. Herman Jackson



I am excited about the opportunity of returning to teaching geology after a hiatus of 30 years. I left the geology classroom about 30 years ago to work in industry, always with a vague plan to eventually return – hopefully with experiences and knowledge that would make my teaching more meaningful for the students. Now I have the opportunity to bring some of my experiences in Uranium and oil & gas exploration and production into the classroom in courses such as Structural and Petroleum Geology. It is especially pleasing to be joining an exceptional faculty and student body in an environment where it is understood that learning is best accomplished by doing. Having worked with some of the geology majors this past year I have developed a profound respect for the enthusiasm and dedication they display and hope to direct some of that interest into the areas of my expertise. I am particularly interested in helping to train the next generation of petroleum explorationists for the jobs that will certainly become available as the economy recovers from the current downturn.

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## Program News

### Dr. Yu and Dr. Norwine presented their research at AAG 2009



Dr. Jaehyung Yu presented two research papers at Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers at Las Vegas, NV. One research paper entitled "**Vertical Integration of Geospatial Intelligence for South Texas**" delivers strategic and educational approach of Geospatial Intelligence. The other paper "**Blue Ice Area and Snow Zonation of the Lambert Glacier Basin, Antarctica Derived from Landsat ETM+ Data**" extracted blue ice and snow zones using remote sensing techniques.



Dr. Norwine presented his research entitled "**South Texas 2100: An Example of the Threatened Subtropics**". *The paper describes the global warming effect and its change on South Texas climate.*

### Geology major presented his research at Las Vegas, NV



Jonas Ball, Senior, presented his research at Annual Meeting of Association of American Geographers at Las Vegas, NV. His paper entitled "Crime Reduction Approach by GIS based Crime Mapping and Occurrence Analysis for City of Alice, TX" mapped crime locations and analyzed spatial and temporal characteristics of crime occurrence in GIS environment. His research was well acknowledged by many audiences.

### Geosciences program had fun in Field Trip to Central Texas



A QEP was funded to engage non-majors and new majors taking Physical and Historical Geology with field activities. Dr. John Buckley, Dr. Thomas McGehee, Dan Jackson and students traveled to Central Texas to study outcrops related each discipline. All students were taught how to collect samples, measure outcrops, and document the field experiences in GIS and field notebooks.

The first stop was to the Jackson School of Vertebrate Paleontology for a tour of the facility and a lesson on sample preparation. We also studied the Paleozoic section at Hoover Point overlook, measured dinosaur footprints and studied the geology of Barton Creek (southwest of Austin, Texas), and studied the Cretaceous section on Dr. Buckley's property.

### Stratigraphy Class on Field trip to North Texas



The University funded a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to engage our undergraduate majors in carbonate sedimentology research. After studying modern reef development in the Bahamas, Oligocene-Miocene "Het zones" (Damon Mound and offshore Gulf of Mexico), and Sligo Rudist reef environments in our laboratory our students traveled to Glen Rose to study an outcrop in the "type section" of the Edwards Formation. This study area was selected from a published Guidebook written by Dr. Henry F. Nelson. Some of the alumni may remember a Texas A&I University fieldtrip in 1989 led by Dr. Nelson to this outcrop.

Professors (Dan Jackson and Thomas McGehee) and students (Michael Schneider, Alan Hodges, Jonathan Stroup, Rebecca Roscoe, and Thomas Schuenemann) met with alumnus Juan Uribe (Masters, 1991) on HWY 67 between Hico and Glen Rose. The outcrop was measured, photographed and sampled by our students. The collected samples were catalogued and prepared for study. Students will be preparing a report and a poster presentation on these activities over the summer.

### Geosciences Program nominates Ms. Martha Garcia for Distinguished Alumnus Award



The Department of Physics/Geosciences nominated Martha Garcia for the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Distinguished Alumnus Award. Martha contacted us 9 years ago to volunteer to develop a Geology alumni directory. She organized the first alumni reception in honor of the recently deceased Dr. John Russell. Martha worked closely with John Russell in the mid-eighties to develop an Alumni Speakers Program. She has maintained contact with the Geosciences Program to mentor students in our program.





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## Geosciences Club News

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### Geosciences club moving forward

Jonas Ball and the Geosciences Club membership have been busy this semester with geology film showings, fieldtrip to Denver, and Padre Island beach cleanup. They also elected new officers for next semester. The slate of officers is Adam Pasciak (President), Michael Schneider (Vice President), Paul Laraway (Treasurer), Thomas Schuenemann (Secretary) and Alan Hodges (Historian).

Jonas Ball and club membership also made progress in helping the Conner Museum refurbish the rock-room equipment. Their goal is to help establish a lapidary facility for students that want to learn how to make jewelry in their spare time. Jonas received \$1,000 from the University Student Organization and \$400 from the Conner Museum to purchase lapidary expendables. Jacob Hundl and Paul Laraway wrote the first standard operating procedure for some of the equipment. Paul Laraway donated a significant amount of time trouble shooting what we need to do this summer and refurbishing some of the rock saws. They are organizing the facility and getting contractor bids this summer to upgrade the facility. Dr. McGehee will provide individualized training on each piece of equipment and prepare lapidary classes for the Fall.

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### Photo Gallery (Geosciences Field Trips, Spring, 2009)



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