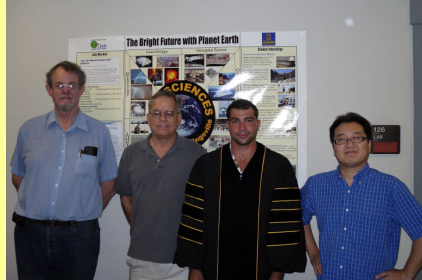




Program News

Congratulations to Jonas Ball for graduating Cum Laude in summer 2009



Jonas Ball graduated with his Bachelor's of Science Degree with honors (summa cum laude) in Geology in August 2009. Jonas started his geology career in our program in Fall, 2006. He has been involved with research, internships, and held several positions in the geology club. Jonas Ball received two scholarships (2007 and 2008) from the Corpus Christi Geological Society. Jonas held internships with Mestena Uranium and the TAMUK Geology Program.

The responsibilities Jonas held at the Uranium mine were studying borehole lithologies, reading well logs, GPS and ArcGIS work. Dr. Yu and Jonas developed an ArcGIS involving Crime analysis of hotspots for Alice, TX. 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.

Jonas held the Treasurer (2007-2008) and President (2008-2009) positions with the geology club. During his presidency the club focused on increasing attendance, reaching out to the community and sponsoring more on campus activities. He restarted the Rock shop by working with the Conner Museum in buying and cleaning new equipment for the club and museums use. The Geology club also had its first field trip in almost 5 years by going to Colorado where students studied various rock formations and structures.

Congratulations to our Geosciences Students Honored on the spring 2009 President's List, Dean's List, and Honor Roll

Texas A&M University-Kingsville released (July 23, 2009) the names of the students who made the President's List, Dean's List and Honor Roll for the spring 2009 semester. Seven Geosciences Students were honored with three students making the Presidents List, three students making the Dean's List and one student making the Honor Roll. In order to qualify for the prestigious President's List, a student must be enrolled in at least 16 semester hours and have a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the semester. To make the Dean's List, a student must earn a grade point average of 3.65 (on a 4.0 scale) on all work attempted for the semester with a minimum of 13 semester hours completed. The Honor Roll requires a grade point average of 3.5 while taking at least 12 semester hours.

PRESIDENT'S LIST



Allen:
Michael
Schneider



Alvin:
Thomas
Schuenemann



Mercedes:
Ruben Cano

DEAN'S LIST



Alice:
David Smith

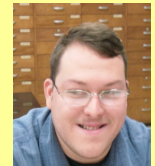


Dallas:
Richard
Hodges

HONOR ROLL



San Antonio:
Jessica
Garcia



Port Lavaca:
Jonathan
Stroup

Inside This Issue:

Program News

..... 1

Internship Report

..... 3

Faculty Summer Highlights

..... 3

Contact us / Editors

..... 3





Program News

Five Geosciences Majors Complete Summer Field Camp

Melissa Hidalgo, Jonas Ball, Ruben Cano, David Smith, and Noe Saenz completed their field camp requirement at two out of state schools. Melissa Hidalgo attended University of Nevada-Reno field camp. Melissa enjoyed the challenges of field work and learned a great deal from instructors and colleagues at the camp.



“During the field camp, I was assigned the task of performing geologic analysis of various locations throughout the western United States. In Utah, for the first 2 weeks, we went to Capitol Reef National Park where basic mapping skills were learned and applied. Next, in Nevada, we were stationed at the research station in Ruth, Nevada studying the various rock types and formations along the loneliest highway in America, Highway 50. From there we traveled to a portion of the Owyhee River in the far south-eastern corner of Oregon. We did intensive studies of Quaternary deposits of this area and on a travel day, we visited the lava fields. After a week, we headed to California and traveled from Lake Tahoe, through Donner Pass and finally the Pacific coast for the remainder of the time. Throughout the University of Nevada-Reno field camp, I endured challenges both physically (hiking up to 5 miles a day!) and academically (a heavy coursework).

This field camp not only allowed me to utilize the knowledge that I gained from the geosciences program at TAMUK, but also give me tools of self awareness and confidence in the field of geology”.

David Smith, Ruben Cano, Jonas Ball, and Noe Saenz attended the field camp with the New Mexico Tech Geology Department. The field course was conducted in the southern Colorado Plateau and Rocky Mountains area. Students learned the principles of geologic mapping and reconstruction of geologic history from field relationships. The course involved measurement, description and interpretation of textures, structures, and stratigraphic successions; structural analysis of complexly deformed rocks; and preparation of geologic reports. Emphasis was placed on interpreting rock associations in terms of tectonic settings, reconstruction of environments of sedimentation and volcanism, evaluation of rock deformation history, and mechanisms and relative timing of pluton emplacement and mineralization.

Two Incoming Freshmen Majors Receive Presidential Scholarships

Alexandra Breeding and **Elizabeth Lysinger** receive the Presidential Scholarship this Fall. Alexandra Breeding has been home schooling in the Driscoll, Texas area. Elizabeth Lysinger is from the Tuloso-Midway High School.

Eleven New Majors have joined our Geosciences Program since March, 2009

Alexandra Breeding (Freshman - Driscoll) and **Amanda Galvan** (Freshman - Kingsville) enrolled and completed classes during the summer. **Travis Ferguson** (Freshman - Corpus Christi), **Elizabeth Lysinger** (Freshman - Corpus Christi), **Karl Quade** (Freshman - Deer Park), **Jose Sanchez** (Freshman - Brownsville), and **Elias Villareal** (Freshman - Rio Grande City) and **Juan Cavasos** (Junior status transfer from Coastal Bend College – Alice) has signed up for classes in the Fall. **Jonathon Boehm** (Alice, Texas) is a sophomore internal transfer from Engineering. **Lily Alfaro** (Mathis, Texas) and **Jacob Hansen** has just joined our program from University College.



Lily



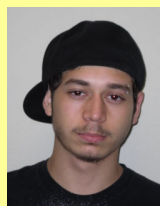
Jose



Alexandra



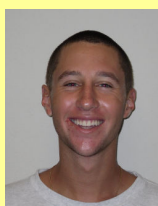
Amanda



Elias



Elizabeth



Karl



Jacob



Jonathon



Juan



Internship Report

Seven Geosciences Majors work on Internships and Research Projects during the Summer

Ruben Cano received a Ronald E. McNair Scholarship for the Summer and Fall 2009 semesters. Ruben is working with Dr. McGehee and the Army Corps of Engineers to develop “Synthetic Coastal Groundwater Models”. Alexandra Breeding prepared 40 thin-sections of lower-Cretaceous age Edwards Formation from carbonate samples collected on our Quality Enhancement Program.(QEP) fieldtrip to North Texas. Dr. Yu, Noe Saenz, and Sam Cantu continued their GIS of Antarctica by classifying blue ice using spectral and visual tools. Michael Schneider worked with Denbury Inc. John Schumann serviced wells as an oilfield pumper-guager, gaining valuable understanding of the production phase of the industry. Rebecca Roscoe worked with the Alaskan Geological and Geophysical Survey.

This summer Rebecca Roscoe worked on her second internship with the Alaska Geological and Geophysical Survey in Fairbanks, Alaska. Rebecca’s has previously interned with the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine in Colorado. This summer she helped other geologists prepare for field operations and controlled field communications. She helped digitize older reference maps and symbolized published historical data using ArcGIS. Rebecca was responsible for making field maps for the geologists while out in the field. She also went out for two weeks into the Northwestern Mentasta-Slana area for field work. During the summer Rebecca was able to establish contacts within the USGS and Alaska DGGS for the future. Rebecca had a wonderful time and gained great experience.



Faculty Summer Highlights

Dr. James Norwine was a participant in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Faculty “Environmental History” Institute at the University of Arizona between mid-June and mid-July. As part of his assignments, he competitively selected 25 professors, heard lectures on campus, did field work in Sonora, Arizona and New Mexico, and shared research ideas. Note: He was the only participant for whom summer weather in Arizona was cooler than back home! Dr. Norwine published an op-ed entitled “Liberal Education and Nihilism” in the summer issue of the *Newsletter of the Association of American Geographers*. He also had an article accepted for publication in November by the journal *Academic Questions*.

Dr. Thomas McGehee prepared for mineralogy class this fall by purchasing 2 new petrographic microscopes and cleaning the existing ten that are in the lab. The ore microscopy equipment donated by Dr. James Carter was organized into Manning 131 for use in the latter part of the class. The course was revamped to include 1 week of lecture/lab on ore minerals. Dr. McGehee also revamped his courses in hydrogeology and sedimentology/stratigraphy to include the models generated by last year’s team effort.

Dr. Jae Yu presented his research titled “Snow Zonation of Lambert Glacier – Amery Ice Shelf, Antarctica” in the international polar science symposium in Korea. In his research, he presented distribution of snow metamorphosis employing satellite remote sensing techniques, and explained possible climate change in Eastern Antarctica. Moreover, he submitted his research in Crime analysis of Alice, TX to International Journal of Geographical Systems. He is actively conducting research activities to make three more academic journal publications.

Dan Jackson prepared class notes and laboratory assignments for his new course in Geomorphology. Among the more interesting activities in this preparation were several trips locating appropriate destinations for course field trips. Dan Jackson and Dr. McGehee also worked 6 weeks this summer with Alexandra Breeding and Jared Pawlik to prepare 40 thin-sections and 10 reflected light mounts for sedimentology/stratigraphy and ore petrology classes.

Dr. John Buckley assisted the representatives from the USGS in replacing the Satellite Communications system at the KVTX Seismograph station here at TAMUK.

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