



### Program News

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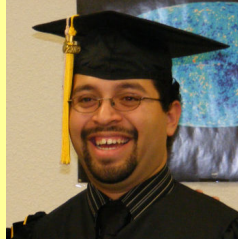
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### Seven Geosciences Majors Graduated in December, 2009

It is always tough to say goodbye to graduates. They all play a very-important role in the success and vitality of our program. We are going to miss these Geoscientists as we prepare our new majors. But we look forward to seeing them grow in our professional society. More importantly almost **100 % Geosciences graduates are employed** at this risky period.



**Noe Saenz** graduated Summa Cum Laude December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems with a minor in Philosophy. Noe assisted with research under Dr. Yu with aid from Dr. Nelson from TAMUK's Agronomy Department and the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program. He also presented the research at the 2008 and 2009 Texas A&M University System Pathways to the Doctorate Research Symposium. He is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologist. Noe is planning on attending graduate school and has applied to graduate school in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Texas A&M University in Fall 2010. "My learning experiences at TAMUK have helped to enrich my mind along with my background and with these new experiences I want to continue growing as an academian and a professional."



**Ruben Cano** graduated Summa Cum Laude December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology with a minor in Geography. He transferred as a Engineering major from South Texas College in Fall of 2007. Ruben interned with Frac Tech in Aledo his first summer (2007) where he performed various duties in the field and office. Ruben also interned with the Department of the Navy: NAVFAC Atlantic in Norfolk, VA in summer 2008. He also presented his groundwater modeling research with team members at the 2008 and 2009 Texas A&M

University System Pathways to the Doctorate Research Symposium. He was a teaching assistant in physical geology every semester and assisted in teaching the groundwater modeling lab in Fall, 2009. He also served as 2008-2009 Vice-President of the Geosciences Club, and is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologist. Ruben is planning on attending and has applied to graduate school in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Texas A&M University in Fall 2010. In regards to what the degree means to him, "This program has helped me develop into a capable professional geologist who will become an asset in the workforce."



**Joe Martinez** graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Geosciences with a minor in Art. Joe was a hard-working student that achieved his goal of earning this degree, while working on campus. He completed a research project entitled "Glacial Shrinkages in Mongolias Altai Mountain Range as a climate Indicator from 1989 to 2000 using satellite remote sensing" with David Smith and presented this research at the Pathways to the Doctorate Research Svmnosiums in 2009.



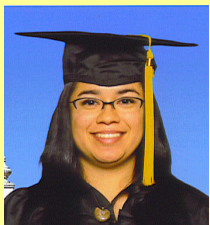


## Program News



**Rebecca Roscoe** graduated December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology with a minor in Geography. Rebecca attended Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2004 after graduating from Woodland Park High School in Colorado. She came to the University with an interest in gemology, but towards completion of her B.S., she was more interested in economic geology and glacial geology. While attending the University, Rebecca taught geoscience laboratories almost every semester. She took the position as treasurer and secretary for a couple semesters in the Geology Club. In the summer of 2007, Rebecca received an internship with the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine in Colorado.

That following summer and Fall 2008 semester Rebecca and team members participated in an Ore Microscopy Research Project (with Orlando Gonzales and Jacob Hundl) in a study of the paragenesis of veins within the Cripple Creek/Victor Diatreme. She presented her research at the Pathways to the Doctorate Research Symposium in Fall, 2008. During the 2009 spring semester, Rebecca received a scholarship from the Corpus Christi Geological Society. She was working in an open pit hard rock gold mining environment. Most of the duties involved logging rock chip samples and planning drill holes. She also had an internship in the summer of 2009 with the Alaska Geological and Geophysical Survey in Fairbanks, Alaska. There she received valuable experience in ArcGIS, and great contacts with the State Survey and USGS. Rebecca is currently employed as a Geologist at the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine. She plans on attending Graduate School in January 2011. Rebecca really enjoyed her time and experiences at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

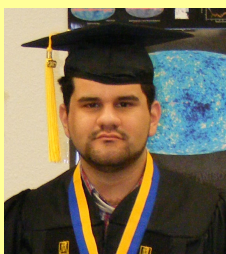


**Melissa Ann Hidalgo** received her Bachelor of Science degree in Geology with a minor in Biology from Texas A&M University-Kingsville during the 2009 December commencement. Originally from Beeville, Texas, she earned her Associate of Science degree with emphasis of Geology from Coastal Bend College-Beeville in May 2006. While attending TAMUK, Miss Hidalgo was the 2008 Treasurer of the Geoscience Club and worked an internship as an interpreter with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the summer of 2008. This past summer, Melissa fulfilled her capstone course required by her degree plan by completing a rigorous six-week field camp (this implements coursework learned

in lectures and laboratory in the field) with the University of Nevada-Reno. In her final year, she worked with Dr. John Buckley on the preparation and partial reconstruction of *Polyptchiodon Hudsoni*, a plesiosaur. She presented her research at the Pathways to the Doctorate Research Symposium in Fall, 2009. She had this to say; "First of all, I believe that TAMUK was a perfect fit for me, especially the Geoscience department and their faculty. You develop a close professional relationship with them that will serve you for years to come. Without their help, it would not have been a smooth transition from a community college to a major university. Also, those opportunities that were offered will help me with furthering my career. This is very much appreciated. Not only is this degree a symbol of my hard work and determination of an important accomplishment but it also shows the great support that was given to me by individuals, especially my close friends and even closer family. I thank God for them everyday." Miss Hidalgo is planning on pursuing a Graduate Gemologist degree through the GIA (Gemological Institute of America).



**David Smith** graduated December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology with a minor in Geography. He worked on two research projects that were presented at the Pathways to the Doctorate Research Symposium in 2008 and 2009. He is a student member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologist. He is working for Lewis Petro Properties getting valuable experience in the petroleum industry. In regards to what the degree means to him, "This program has helped me in a lot of different ways. Mainly how the Earth system works and how to use the tools like GIS and Remote Sensing to study the different subsystems of the Earth."



**Samuel Cantu**, Summa Cum Laude, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Geosciences with a minor in English. He has taught most of the GIS and Remote Sensing labs while completing his degree. He was the Coordinator for Educational Outreach on Dr. Jaeyung Yu's DoD Geospatial Technology grant for two years. He has completed four research projects that were presented at the Pathways to the Doctorate Research Symposiums in 2007, 2008, and 2009. He won a second place award in the Environmental Division in the 2008 Pathways Symposium. He presented his research poster at the AAG Conference on a post-NAFTA GIS project that analyzed the environmental impacts of growth to the Weslaco, Texas area. This meeting was held in San Francisco, CA in the Spring 2007. Sam Cantu was one of the most helpful, dedicated students in the Department.





### Geosciences Program is preparing for Big Bend Fieldtrip (QEP)



TAMUK Geosciences Program will be traveling to Big Bend National Park over Spring Break to study field relationships of igneous rocks. This is part of a Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) funded by the University. Petrology students and majors needing field experience will be camping out in the Big Bend Ranch State Park. We are developing laboratory and petrology field exercises for geologic studies in the Chisos Mountains, Burro Mesa, Tule Mountain, Goat Mountain, El Solitario, and Sierra Quemada. Students will perform a reconnaissance analysis of each area using aerial photography at TAMUK. The class will identify key areas in each location for field confirmation. During the Spring Break fieldtrip we will visit sites identified by the students.

### Six TAMUK students received the future bright GIS certificate

6 students earned their certificates the week of January 20, and helped fill a growing need for GIS analysts. “GIS analysis is one of the hottest career opportunities today,” said Yu. “GIS analysts are in demand across the nation, and for that matter, the world, as the use of GIS in government agencies, private businesses and nonprofit organizations grows dramatically. “This certificate program is to help students from various fields get enough knowledge to understand and use GIS techniques on real world problem solving and get certified as proof.” To prove the point of the variety of study fields, of the one graduate student and the 5 undergraduate students received their certificates, there are three geosciences geology majors, two animal and wildlife sciences majors, and one environmental engineering major. “I was so impressed by the students,” said Yu. “As they took the classes, they began to realize all the different ways the training can be utilized.”

The recipients are Roben J Cano (Geology), Donnie Clarke (Geosciences), Anthony Gray (Wildlife), Tracie Swetlick (Wildlife, Center in the picture), Orlando Gonzalez (Geology, Left in the picture), and Yuan Yuan (Graduate, Environmental Engineering, Right in the picture).



### Geosciences Program Welcomes Three New Majors this Spring



**Leah Ball** is a geology major that graduated from Alice High School. She has always been fascinated with how the Earth works and it’s history. Her father piqued her interest in the science by helping her understand the basic fundamentals and how that information supports your observations in the field. She is also fascinated with the formation minerals (and gemstones) of the Earth.



**Travis Ferguson** is a graduate of Mary Carroll High School in Corpus Christi Texas. He is interested in learning the science of Earth processes.



**Mitchell Drummond** attended Bishop High School in Bishop Texas. He completed his GED while working. Mr. Drummond is interested in the study of Earth Sciences.



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## CCGS Awards 5 Scholarships to TAMUK Geology Majors in December

**Amanda Galvan, Thomas Schuenemann, Michael Schneider, Alan Hodges, and Jonathon Stroup** were awarded scholarships in the Fall semester. The students were recognized by the Corpus Christi Geological Society (CCGS) at luncheons during the December and January meetings. We appreciate the CCGS Scholarship Board for supporting these high-achieving students while they are attending our University.



**Amanda Galvan**



**Thomas Schuenemann**



**Michael Schneider**



**Alan Hodges**



**Jonathon Stroup**

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## Peacock Scholarship Awarded to Alexandra Breeding



The \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Alexandra Breeding for the academic year (Fall and Spring). This endowed scholarship fund has been established in honor of John Talmer Peacock.

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## Dr. Norwine Goes to Turkey and Israel for Special Lecture



Dr. Jim Norwine is being sponsored by the university and the Association of American Geographers to give a lecture at the International Geographical Union Congress on Geographic Education in Istanbul July 8-10 and two talks, one on my current research on climate change and shifting worldviews, and the other about my new book project, which will involve both topics, in development at the Regional IGU meetings in Tel Aviv the following week.

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## Geosciences Club News

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### Geosciences Club Very Active in Community Service

Geosciences Club has been working with our local Kingsville **Boy Scout Pack 144** to help them complete their Geology Badge. R McGehee organized the materials and visited the Monday night meeting. They were greeted by Joel Gant, Scout Leader for Pack 1 half of the badge requirements the first night and will be completing their badge requirement in February.

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Dr. Buckley and 6 students (Adam Pasciak, Michael Schneider, Alan Hodges, Noe Saenz, Amanda Galvan, and Melissa Hidalgo) from the Geosciences Club talked to the **Harrell Elementary School** first graders about rocks at the request of first grade teacher, Ms Wendy Sanfilippo (Texas A&M University Kingsville alumni).

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**Photo Gallery (Geosciences Christmas Party & Memory of Graduates)**



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