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Program News

Two Geosciences Majors Graduated in Fall, 2011



Lily Alfaro and **Jonathon Stroup** graduated during the December 2011 graduation ceremonies. We had a well attended party of 33 majors to wish them the best in their search for graduate school or jobs. Jonathon Stroup will be attending graduate school in Texas State University. Lily Alfaro is employed at Special Programs with the University.

Jessica Garcia is attending Texas A&M University College Station in the Fall, 2012



Jessica Garcia is expected to be attending graduate school on a Pathways to the Doctorate Fellowship in the Department of Geology at Texas A&M University. Jessica Garcia is graduating at the end of this spring semester with her Bachelors of Science degree in Geology. She has been our geology major in the department of Physics/Geosciences since the Fall semester of 2008. She was on the Dean's List in Fall and Spring 2010. She was on the TAMUK Honor Roll in Fall 2011. During her time as a geology student, she has been in four research projects

with Dr. Jaehyung Yu. Two of these projects included his Antarctica Research. In terms of club/honor society affiliations, she is a member of the Geology Club (Vice President, 2010) and AAPG Student Chapter Clubs. She completed our introductory level lab manual last semester

Lisa McLaughlin has an EPA Internship in Alaska



Lisa McLaughlin has accepted an internship with the EPA titled: "Implications of the Proposed Watana Hydroelectric Project for the Channel Morphology and Ecology of the Susitna River, Alaska." The project office is the Aquatic Resources Unit (ARU), Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs, EPA Region 10, in Anchorage, AK.). EPA co-manages the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permitting program with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and this project will center on overseeing the permitting process for the Proposed Watana Hydroelectric Project, the largest proposed

hydroelectric project since the induction of the Clean Water Act. Work associated with the 404 program includes: the review of proposed development projects, conducting enforcement actions for unauthorized discharges of dredge or fill material into waters of the U.S., participation in stream and wetland mitigation programs, conducting outreach, and providing technical assistance to program partners. Lisa will work for 12 weeks in Alaska this summer, gaining invaluable experience with the EPA, while contributing to a substantial energy project and traveling to new places.

Dr. Su wins University Research Award



Dr. Haibin Su won a University Research Award of \$ 14,931. His research title is Optimal Estimation and Prediction of Harmful Algal Blooms for Gulf of Mexico using Sequential Assimilation of Multi-source Spatio-temporal Satellite Observations. His research will support undergraduate student research activities. Dr. McGehee will support Dr. Su as a Co-Principal Investigator.



Geosciences Majors win Scholarships



Naomi Pankratz received an award from the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. **Lisa McLaughlin, Alexandra Breeding, Michael Hill, Jacob Hansen, Jonathon Sulaica, Naomi Pankratz** and **Jessica Garcia** received CCGS scholarships in December. Congratulations majors!

Field Camp Time is coming for Majors

Seventeen of our geology majors will be completing their capstone course this summer. **Austin Nye** and **Jacob Hansen** were accepted into the **JMU Summer 2012 Ireland Geology Program** for their field camp. **Lauren Rosson** and **Sarah Roos** will be attending their field camp in Sardinia, Italy. **Tim Scott** and **Alexandra Breeding** will attend the Idaho State University field camp. **Michael Parker** is attending the Miami University in Ohio field camp. **Paul Laraway, Naomi Pankratz, Michael Garza** and **Michael Hill** have applied to the Stephen F. Austin field camp. At least eight majors hope to attend the Sul Ross field camp.

Announcements for Fieldtrips this Semester



Our five new majors will be learning how to use the field equipment. All of the other majors are expected to participate with the level of knowledge gained in each year at TAMUK.

We are looking at modern day processes/products in a fluvial environment at **Hazel Bazemore Park, Nueces River Canyon** and **coastal barrier island** processes/products at Padre Island National Seashore park. The fieldtrip is on February 25 with the Physical Geology and Sedimentology classes.

The next fieldtrip on March 22-24 will be to Central Texas to study the geology around the “**Red Granite Quarry**,” Hoover Point and conduct the challenging map reading exercise called the GIS “**Easter Egg Hunt**.” The Sedimentology, Historical Geology, Field Mapping Cartography, and Field Geology classes have exercises to complete at each location.

Our last fieldtrip on April 12-14 will be to Central Texas to study Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology. We are planning a tour of the “**Red Granite Quarry**” and will map a portion of an ophiolite. Students from the petrology and field courses have exercises at each area.

We are inviting faculty and students from community colleges to participate in our major fieldtrips on March 22-24 and April 12-14. This will give their students an opportunity to do real field work as well as an opportunity to get acquainted with our students and faculty.



Geosciences Program Welcomes 5 New Majors

We are happy to have 5 new majors enroll in classes this Spring, 2012.

Sarah Beers is a Presidential Scholar and an internal transfer student from the College of Education.

Rolando Garza is an entering freshman from Weslaco.

Mark Pittman is an internal transfer student from Engineering.

Gloria Salinas is an internal transfer student from Environmental Engineering.

Brent Winborne is a transfer student from San Antonio Texas.



Sarah



Rolando



Mark



Gloria



Brent

Dr. Buckley is teaching a Dual Credit Course at Calallen

Dr. John Buckley is continuing to teach the dual credit Earth Science classes at Calallen Northwest Center for Advanced Studies. These classes, initiated Fall 2010, allow high school students the opportunity to take university classes while still in high school. They receive dual credit for the classes. This exposes them to the university environment and at a significantly reduced tuition level. The University credits earned transfer to any university they elect to attend. The class this semester is Earth Science II, the follow-on class to Earth Science I from the fall.

2011. 100% of Dr. Buckley's students from the fall returned for the second semester course "These students are a real pleasure to teach. They are eager to learn and ask lots of questions. With a 100% return rate the course picks up essentially from where we stopped in December." Dr. Buckley said. We hope to add more schools in the area to the program in the upcoming years. The students in the photograph are from three different area high schools. Front row left to right: Itzely Vega and Karen Trevino from Mathis HS. Second Row: Chloe Mengers and Geena Diaz and then Amy Salazar and Irene Olivarez all from Mathis HS. Last Row: Jake Ray (Odem HS) Miranda Lindley (Banquete HS) then Justin Medrano (Mathis HS, Matthew Mckaughan and Krystal Martin (Odem HS).



Geosciences Program invites speakers to give a talk for Majors



Richard Parker, Manager of Geological Operations at Swift Energy, was our guest speaker on Friday February 3. Richard is the first geology major awarded the Baccalaureate Degree at Texas A&I University. He came back and completed his Master's Degree in August 2000. He spoke about "Career Opportunities in Geology" and "Horizontal Drilling Challenges in South Texas." This was a timely and exceptional talk about the current "boom" in the energy industry. He believes our majors are getting into their careers at the right time.



Randy Bissell, formally of ExxonMobil and currently a Geologist at Headington, gave an AAPG Student Chapter invited presentation on December 6th on the Geology of Barbados. This talk also provided insights into "preparing your educational background for a career in geology." Mr. Bissell was very proud of his achievements in his career and shared with the audience his secrets of success. He was very impressed with our students.

Miss **Lauren Hall** gave an invited talk to Dr. John Buckley's Historical Geology class Friday 10 February. Lauren is in the 8th grade at the School of Science and Technology in Corpus Christi. Her talk was over her current and previous science projects titled "Revealing the Past". She discussed the preparation of fossil crinoids and trilobites from their respective matrices. Her project last year took her to a national science fair/competition in Washington DC. The talk she presented to the class Friday was to help her prepare for the more advanced levels of science fair competitions and hopefully to nationals again. The talk was attended by many of the Geosciences students, faculty, her school principal and assistant principal, and Dr. Nancy Kingsanders, Associate Vice President for Student Success. Lauren is also doing preparation work on the Shoal Creek Plesiosaur under the direction of Dr. Buckley.



Update from a Graduate – Michael Schneider

I'm changing jobs. Yes, I know this is the 3rd job I have had in 2 years but I will be going back to Kinder Morgan as an **Exploitation Geologist**. Kinder Morgan was very impressed with my work that I did as an Intern and decided to create a new position that investigates exactly what I was pursuing. I'm not trying to toot my own horn but I'm very excited and proud that an engineering focused company was willing to create a science position. So to sum it up in 2 years I have managed to go from Intern to GIS Analyst to Geologist. This job will also tie directly into my thesis! As a result of leaving it has created a void that I'm trying to help fill for Cimarex as a GIS Analyst. So if yall have any GIS people that are looking for a job we have at least three positions that I know of over here in Midland between Cimarex, Pioneer, and Concho. All of these companies are great companies to start with. I don't have any job descriptions but like always I'm trying to look after my school. How is the industry activity at Corpus I imagine it has picked up significantly but are student's receiving their degree, pursuing a masters or are they going on as geologist, mudloggers, geotechs, geosteering ect. The reason why I'm asking is undergraduate students in the Permian Basin are getting sucked up by the industry (mudlogging, geosteering, geotech's but not really geologist) and which leaves several intern/mentoring positions available. Unfortunately, not very many of opportunities are published strongly enough to reach the right set of ears. The West Texas Geological Society has a committee that is focused on mentoring young geologist but cannot find any mentee's. I know its along ways to drive and I can't promise compensation but I just wanted to let yall know some of the struggles we are having if yall have someone willing and motivated to jump right in. Part of the reason that I'm pushing this so hard is I know as an undergraduate that I would have loved to have an opportunity like this and it is very frustrating to hear older geologist blame it on a generational laziness. I wanted to know if your students had any interests about something like this?

You can contact Michael at mschneider@cimarex.com.

Students Activities at TAMUK Geosciences

