Geosciences

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND **GEOSCIENCES**

Inside This Issue: Program News ···1

Photo Gallery ... 4

Contact us / Editors

Contact us:

Geosciences Program Texas A&M – Kingsville MSC 175, University Blvd Kingsville TX, 78363

Phone: 361-593-3110 Fax: 361-593-2183

URL:

geosciences.tamuk.edu

Editors:

Dr. Thomas McGehee (kftlm00@tamuk.edu)

Dr. Haibin Su (haibin.su@tamuk.edu)



Newsletter

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2



MAY2012

Program News

Jessica Garcia Graduated during the Spring Ceremonies



Jessica Garcia "walked the stage" during the Spring Graduation Ceremonies this week. Jessica has a long list of accomplishments for this program during her "degree quest" that brightened the day to day activities in our program. Jessica will be missed by her colleagues and faculty. We wish her all the best at TAMU this Fall.

Alexandra Breeding Wins the AIPG 2012 National Scholarship



Alexandra Breeding is one of Eight Students selected to receive the 2012 AIPG National Scholarship. The AIPG Education Committee awarded \$1,000 to Alexandra on the basis of a competitive essay contest. This essay will be published in an upcoming issue of the AIPG bimonthly publication.

Awards for Outstanding Students



Four graduating seniors (2011 Academic Year) receive the outstanding student awards in geosciences. Jessica Garcia is the Outstanding Lab Teaching Assistant. Paul Laraway is the Outstanding Research Assistant. Tim Scott is the Outstanding Field Student. Alexandra Breeding is the Outstanding Graduating Senior.

Advanced GIS Presentations

Dr. Martin Alcala was the professor of record for the Advanced GIS class this semester. The advanced GIS class was surprised when Dr. Yu showed up on Skype for their presentations. Faculty members and GIS classmates judged each of the presentations as part of the evaluation.

Group 1: In a State of Dishealth: GIS Analysis of Diabetes and Various Contributing Factors in Texas - Adam Elzner and Randall Simpson,

Group 2: Quantifying Material Removed as a Result of 2002 Flood at Canyon Lake, a GIS Analysis - Lisa McLaughlin, Michael Parker, Jonathan Sulaica,

Group 3: Three Year Study Of Texas Drought (February 2010-2012) - Leah Ball, Daniella Herrera, and Zachary Hull,

Group 4: Economic Analysis of a Signal Intersection - Vaibhav Pitale,

Group 5: Virtual Geology Field Trip: Llano Uplift - Tim Scott and Austin Nye,

Group 6: Correlation of U.S. Pegmatites by Age, Source, and Rare Earth Enrichment - Alexandra Breeding, Naomi Pankratz, and Michael Garza,

Group 7: Flinn Farm Cemetery: Historical Preservation - Stephannie Resendez, Lauren Rosson, and Sarah Roos,

Group 8: Potential Alligator Habitats in South Texas Utilizing GIS - Arturo Rendon, and

Group 9: Real World Application of GIS: Development of Landscaping, Master, and Watershed Inference Maps - Michael Hill, Jacob Hansen, and Talitha Costley.

Dr. Alcala did an exceptional job as teacher and mentor to so many research projects. The Department is very proud of the project presentations and all the hard work these students accomplished on these projects. Good work guys.

Geosciences Newsletter

Department of Physics and Geosciences Texas A&M University - Kingsville

Fifteen TAMUK students received the future bright GIS certificate



On May 3 fifteen students earned their GIS Certification. Vaibhav T. Pitale, Arturo G. Rendon, Leah H. Ball, Alexandra K. Breeding, Talitha Costley, Jacob T. Hansen, Michael H. Hill, Lisa A. McLaughlin, Patrick A. Nye, Naomi R. Pankratz, Michael P. Parker, Lauren E. Rosson, Timothy C. Scott, Jonathan L. Sulaica, and Adam M. Elzner completed four courses in Introduction to GIS, Remote Sensing, Field mapping Cartography and Advanced GIS.

Congratulations to the students and GIS faculty for all your efforts.

Goodbye Dr. Norwine



Dr. James Norwine, Regents Professor of Geography, has announced that he will retire from the university at the end of the summer. "I was hired in 1972 by Dr. Charles Bajza, a brilliant refugee from WWII Hungary and a fellow Indiana PhD (IU in his case, ISU in mine). The faculty in those early days was exceptional, with the likes of Charles, Lee Harvill, Ray Suhm, John Russell and Mike Miklas. Now, after four very happy decades, I leave an even more impressive Geo program, with Tom McGehee, Haibin Su, Hermann Jackson, John Buckley, Scott Hughes, and a super new-hire to be announced shortly mentoring an all-time record of about 75 majors next fall. Go Geo Hogs!" The Physics/Geosciences Department recently hosted a party for Jim and Lottie where he was presented with an engraved Bulova timepiece as a token of appreciation. Jim and his beautiful wife, Lottie, will

live on Oologah Lake near Tulsa, OK, but he will retain his departmental office and plans to return to campus periodically for research and Javelina games. He will retain his university email (kfjrn00@tamuk.edu) and asks that old friends and former student contact him to say "hi."

Elections for AAPG Student Chapter and Geosciences Club

TAMUK AAPG student membership elected Stephannie Resendez (President), Jordan Schwabe (Vice President), Sarah Roos (Secretary), and Naomi Pankratz (Treasurer). The Geosciences Club elected Michael Parker (President), Jonathan Sulaica (Vice President), Sarah Roos (Secretary), Cody Barker (Treasurer), and Jeff Elsworth (Historian). Mr. Dan Jackson will be the Faculty Advisor for the TAMUK AAPG Student Chapter. Dr. John Buckley will be the Faculty Advisor for the Geosciences Club. Both clubs were exemplary this year. Great job students!

Professors and Students from Blinn College and Del Mar College Attend our Fieldtrips



Professors (Dr. Cheryl Metz and Rebecca Harper) and two students (Elva Guttierez and Sam **Bollenbacher**) attended our March 22-24 stratigraphic section and map orienteering exercises fieldtrip. Sam Bollenbacher worked with a team led by Naomi Pankratz. Elva Guttierez worked with Michael Hill's group. Dr. Cheryl Metz (Blinn) and Casey Mibb (Del Mar College) attended our petrology and field geology exercises fieldtrip. The professors and students were of great help to our faculty gathering data for our field analysis later that evening. Thanks for all the efforts given for these successful fieldtrips.

Dr. Cheryl Metz

Winners of the 2012 Sed/Strat Fieldtrip and Amazing GIS Competition Announced





Daniel Rios

The winners of the 2012 Sedimentology and Stratigraphy Fieldtrip and Amazing GIS Competition are Jordan Schwabe, Daniel Rios, and Justin Mauck. Thirty geology majors traveled to Central Texas on March 22-24 to conduct field exercises North of Fredricksburg, and on Dr. Buckley's property. Dan Jackson, Martin Alcala, Haibin Su, John Buckley, and Thomas McGehee led the fieldtrip. Jim Chude supplied his expertise in the stratigraphy exercise. Lauren Hall and family also attended the trip. This 2.5-day field exercise (Th-Sat) covered the rudiments of measuring a sedimentary stratigraphic section, identifying contacts, and improving map reading and orienteering skills. All of our students did a great job in field work and their presentations.

Geosciences Newsletter



Department of Physics and Geosciences Texas A&M University - Kingsville

Fieldtrip: Petrology and Field Geology Exercises



Thirty-four geology majors traveled to Central Texas on April 12-14 to study igneous and metamorphic rocks in the Pre Cambrian metamorphic rocks in Central Texas. Scott Hughes, Dan Jackson, Haibin Su, John Buckley, and Thomas McGehee led the fieldtrip. Mr. Frank Roberts came along to help us with the logistics. Lauren Hall and family also attended the trip. This 3-day field trip exercise (Th-Sat) covered the rudiments of measuring and preparing cross-sections through a Precambrian sequence that has been interpreted to be an incomplete ophiolite. Also, we examined igneous plutons and dikes to understand the intrusive history of Central Texas.

Field Camp at TAMUK

We have not offered our own field camp for over two decades. Scott Hughes, Dan Jackson, and Thomas McGehee started planning the first installment of a three course series. The first course will be showcased in our TAMUK Spring Intersession from May 14-24 this year.

AAPG Student Chapter at TAMUK brings in AAPG Distinguished Lecturer Jim Bedford



Jim Bedford, an AAPG Distinguished Lecturer, spoke to our geosciences majors on Friday April The topics presented included:

- 1. A type play The Haynesville Shale Play
- 2. Changing of the Guard As the Baby Boomers Retire
- 3. The Fallacy of the Data Base the Petroleum Industry uses.
- 4. What skills do I need to succeed in getting a Petroleum Job?
- 5. How will the gas glut affect me?
- 6. How does oil exploration differ from gas?
- 7. O & A

Jim Bedford is an independent Geologist with more than 30 years in Petroleum Geology; an experienced Exploitationist/Explorationist. This special presentation capped off our Spring 2012 semester of TAMUK AAPG Student Chapter meetings. We had a great turnout!

Jonathon, Orlando, and Terry Dress give presentation on Geology Jobs in Insitu Leach Mining

Uranium Energy Corporation Geologists Jonathon Boehm (Alumnus, Summer 2011) and Orlando Garcia (Alumnus, Fall 2011) and Terry Dress (Human Resources Director, UEC) presented an overview of the Uranium Insitu Leach Mining Process and what their job tasks were at UEC. Terry Dress talked about Professional and Internship opportunities with their company.

2011 University (Mars) Rover Challenge



Vernon Kramer, Assistant Professor of Geology at Del Mar College, presented the 2011 University (Mars) Rover Challenge. Mr. Kramer is a mining engineer, a geologist, and a Professor. He has been a judge for the URC the past several summers and is proud of what college students can accomplish under their own initiative. The project challenge is to design and build the next generation of Mars rovers that will one day work alongside human explorers in the field. This contest is sponsored by the Mars Society and The Analytic Sciences Corporation (TASC) at the Mars Desert Research Station in Hanksville, UT.

Teams of students from Universities compete for bragging rights each year with the hope they can one day be invited to help on a real rover.

Lily Alfaro is working for UEC

Lily Alfaro accepted a position with Uranium Exploration Corporation (UEC). Lily Alfaro graduated last Fall 2011 with a Bachelor Degree in Geology.



Department of Physics and Geosciences Texas A&M University - Kingsville

Patrick Nye (Alumnus, 1982) Presented for the TAMUK AAPG Student Chapter



Patrick Nye, Vice President of American Shoreline, Inc. in Corpus Christi, presented a talk "Oil and Gas Exploration: the Treasure Hunt" recounting some of his experiences in petroleum exploration to 43 faculty and students on Friday, March 9. Mr. Nye is a graduate of the geology program at TAMUK, receiving his Baccalaureate Degree (Geology) in 1982. The themes running through his presentation were that an exploration geologist must above all else be an optimist, use all available data, and think always creatively. Several examples from South Texas and other areas were used to illustrate each of these themes. Following the formal presentation, Mr. Nye spoke informally with students about the future of the industry and answered their questions about how to best prepare for a career in industry and how to go about gaining experience while still working on their degrees.

Dennis Moore presented a class in Well Log Analysis for the Petroleum Geology Class



Dennis Moore gave another excellent short- course on well log analysis to our petroleum class. Dennis does a great job presenting and walking the audience through a series of great sample logs. Dennis Moore is one of our best as faculty support at TAMUK for us and the Chemical and Natural Gas Engineering Program.

5 Undergraduate Students have Internships this summer

After his geology field camp (Sul Ross) Jonathan Sulaica will be working as an intern for Dan A. Hughes CO in the Beeville Office. Lauren Oconnell will be working for Jay McGovern Oil and Gas. Aaron Storbeck has been working as a part-time geotech with Jay McGovern for a year. Naomi Pankratz and Jordan Schwabe will be working with UEC.

GSRL Workshops

The GeoSpatial Research Laboratory developed and ran free GIS workshops for faculty, staff, students and the general public. Three levels of workshops, GIS-I, II and III, were attended by over 30 participants during Spring semester. GIS level IV workshops are being developed for the next series in fall 2012. People wishing to contribute to the GSRL efforts by donating to the operating account may contact Sylvia Gatewood in the departmental main office.

Picture Gallery





























Geosciences Newsletter



Department of Physics and Geosciences Texas A&M University - Kingsville

Picture Gallery











