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Program News

Four TAMUK Geosciences Students Walked the Stage in August



Jeff Elsworth, Casey Mibb, Cesar Serna, and Gloria Salinas graduated in the August 8, 2014 summer TAMUK graduation ceremonies.

Jeff Elsworth is a graduate from the Honors College. Jeff presented his Honor's research entitled "Texas Cretaceous Carbonate Foraminifera: Correlating Formations using Foraminifera can be simplified" on July 28, 2014 in the Memorial Student Union Building. Jeff Elsworth has been working summers for the Gisler Brother's Logging Company out of Rung Texas for the past three years and is currently employed with the company. Mr. Jeff Elsworth presented a training course in mud-logging to our Winter Intersession Field Camp the past two years. Jeff Elsworth received a CCGS scholarship last year to help pay for his field camp costs this year. Jeff completed the TAMUK field camp and received the "Best Overall Field Performer" award for the Big Bend Field Camp.

Casey Mibb transferred from Del Mar College three years ago to complete her B. S. degree in Geology. Casey was raising her two children while working as a Karate instructor and taking a full course load in geology. She managed to find time to teach labs, mentor other lab instructors, provide assistance during field trips, provide leadership in our geology club, and work with Frank Cornish as an intern. Casey Mibb completed all three of the TAMUK field camp courses.

Cesar Serna (not pictured) came in as freshman geology major four years ago. Cesar had to work and support his family while completing his degree. Cesar completed all three of the field camp courses.

Gloria Salinas came in as a freshman major four years ago. Gloria provided many hours of service for the Geosciences Club. Gloria completed all three of the TAMUK field camp courses. The faculty and students are very proud of these four graduates.

Announcement of The New Degree Track: B.S. in Physics with Emphasis in Petrophysics

The Department of Physics and Geosciences proudly announces a new track in the B.S. in Physics with an emphasis in Petrophysics. We will be hiring a geophysicist this Spring to teach the undergraduate geophysics courses next Fall, 2015. Graduates from this degree track will start their career in the high paying field of geophysics in areas of fracking shales for oil and gas deposits. This track will provide the preferred track to get into the Master's Program in Petrophysics. Although Oklahoma has just started their Master's Program in Petrophysics this Fall, there are only three such programs in the world advertised on the web.

Harvey White President of Big Shell Oil & Gas Donates an Edwards Formation Core

We were contacted by Core Laboratories this summer with a donation of a core by Harvey White, President of Big Shell Oil & Gas. The donated core is from the Chittim Ranch 28 No. 1 well that bottomed out in the Edwards Formation. This core will be used in Honors College courses where students conduct research in their course work, as well as in the Stratigraphy and Sedimentology course.

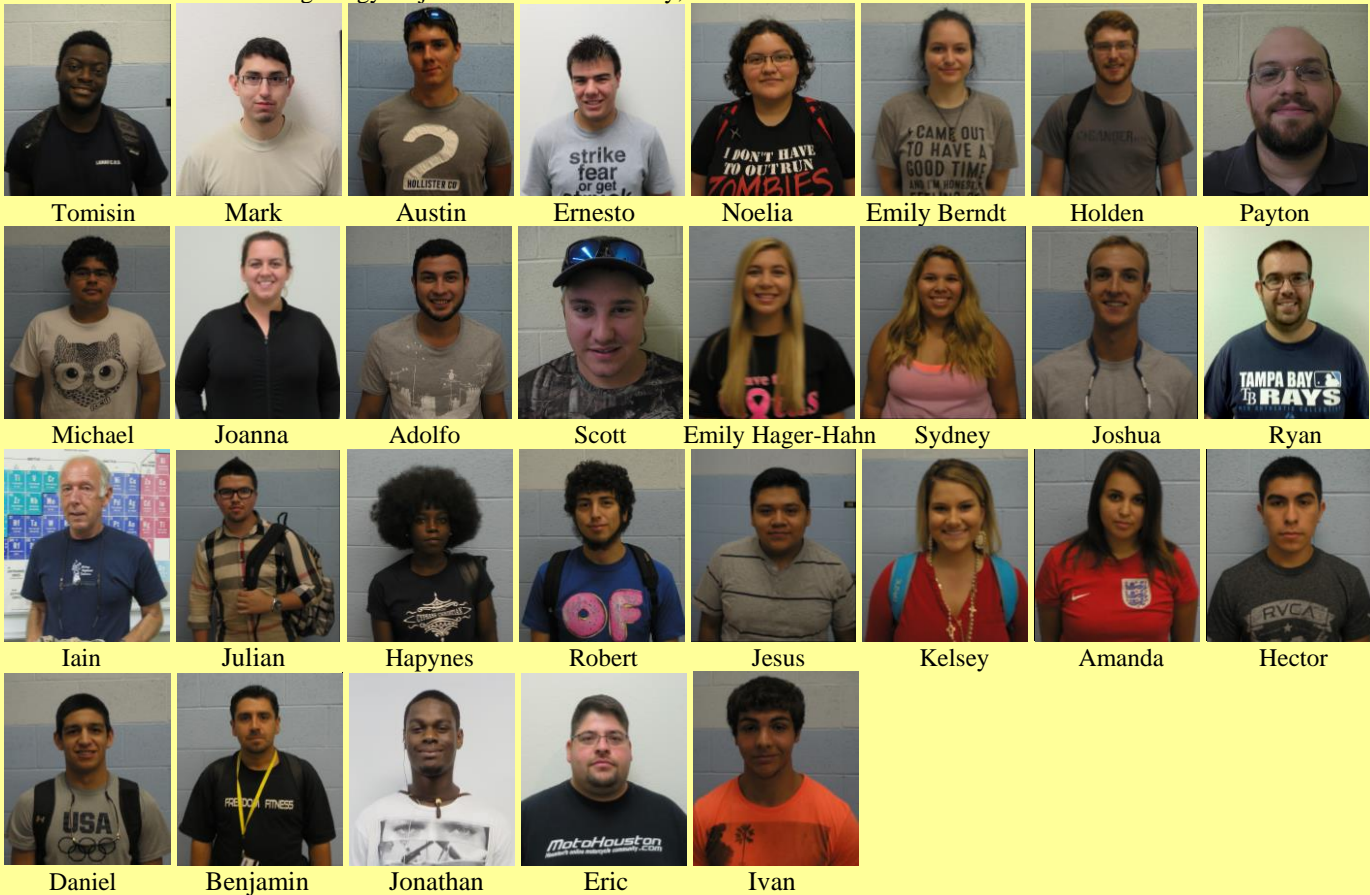
Twenty-nine New Geology Majors Have Entered the Program

We have 26 New Majors entering the program from high schools, community colleges, and other university geology departments. Additionally, there are three PSA geology majors in this list that will be transferring to College station after a year with us. We have three Honors College students in this class. Please help us welcome the new majors when you see them on campus.



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

Tomisin Alagbe is a freshman geology major from Richmond (Houston), Texas.
 Mark Alaniz is a transfer student from Texas A&M University-College Station.
 Austin Alford is a freshman geology major from Port Aransas, Texas.
 Ernesto Anciso Jr. (PSA) is a freshman geology major.
 Noelia Arredondo is a freshman geology major and Honors College student from Pharr, Texas.
 Emily Berndt is a freshman geology major from Bishop, Texas.
 Holden Butler is a transfer student from Spring (Houston), Texas.
 Payton Campbell is a transfer student from Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas.
 Michael Cortinas is freshman geology major from San Antonio, Texas.
 Joanna Delgado is a post-baccalaureate geology major from TAMUK.
 Adolfo Enciso is a transfer student from Fredericksburg, Texas.
 Scott Fenner is a transfer student from Wharton Community College in Wharton, Texas.
 Emily Hager-Hahn is a freshman geology major and Honors College student from Bay City, Texas.
 Sydney Kirk is a freshman geology major from Corpus Christi, Texas.
 Joshua Krnavek is a freshman geology major from Katy, Texas.
 Ryan Lanoy is a junior status geology major from UT Pan American.
 Iain Macey is a transfer geology major and Honors College student from Alvin, Texas.
 Julian Moncada (PSA) is a freshman geology major.
 Hapynes Odhiambo is a freshman geology major from Cypress (Houston), Texas.
 Robert Puentes is a freshman geology major from Corpus Christi, Texas.
 Jesus Ramirez (PSA) is a freshman geology major.
 Kelsey Robinette is a sophomore internal transfer student from College of Engineering.
 Amanda Rodriguez is a freshman internal transfer student from the College of Business.
 Hector Rodriguez (PSA) is a freshman geology major from Corpus Christi, Texas.
 Daniel Rojas is a freshman geology major from Fredericksburg, Texas.
 Benjamin Romo is a freshman geology major from Corpus Christi, Texas.
 Jonathan Shyngle is an internal transfer sophomore geology major from Sugarland, Texas.
 Eric Villalba is an internal transfer student from the College of Engineering.
 Ivan Villarreal is a freshman geology major from Rio Grande City, Texas.





Summer Field Camp in Central Texas



Sarah Beers, John Dabney, Adrian Dancer, Justin Kelley, and Antonio Hernandez completed their summer intersession field camp. We included a hydrogeology professional development aspect to this field camp. To set the stage for their field camp, the above students received the following letter from their employer requesting that they complete the following three projects:

Project 1: Willie Howard Investments, Inc. is planning a housing subdivision that will be constructed on the Cypress Mill Ranch property adjacent to the Pedernales River. The owner of the property wants to know what potential aquifers exist under his property to support the water needs of his community. We need you to conduct a geologic

investigation of the site, research other studies on adjacent properties, and send me your findings.

Project 2: Ron Fieseler (Manager of Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District) and Paul Tybor (Manager, Hill Country Underground Water Conservation District) will be logging the geology of a well using their geophysical logging equipment. They have type geophysical logs of the surrounding area. Ask for a copy of these type logs because you will be using them in the other projects. Ron and Paul have a number of wells in the area for you to learn how to map the subsurface aquifers. You will need to prepare a methods manual for your technical group for each of these activities.

Project 3: The Howdy Doody ranch located in Blanco County (approximately 8 miles west of Johnson City) is looking for a groundwater supply for their ranch on the northern side of the Pedernales River. We need you to conduct a geologic investigation of the site, research other studies on adjacent properties, and send me your findings.

Please submit a final report (only one please) that includes your investigations on the above project assignments. Also, send me your field book with billable hours associated with each client. Since the second project is an in-house project you will bill that to us.

Very important: the above final report must be organized in a historical geology context.

Upcoming Fall Fieldtrips

September 25-27 Folded Paleozoic Rocks near Hye, Texas: Evidence of Plate Tectonics?

Students from the GEOL 1303 (Physical Geology), GEOL 3431 (Sedimentology and Stratigraphy), and GEOL 3481 (Structural Geology) will be engaged on this fieldtrip.

October 9-11 Paleontology of Texas: One way of age dating sedimentary rocks.

We will visit the Jackson School of Paleontology and examine outcrops in Williamson Co. Students from the GEOL 1303 (Physical Geology), GEOL 3431 (Sedimentology and Stratigraphy), and GEOL 4420 (Paleontology) will be engaged in the fieldtrip.

October 23-25 Badu Hill: Economic Geology of a Rare Earth Element Pegmatite.

Students from the GEOL 3409 (Mineralogy) and GEOL 3481 (Structural Geology) classes will be engaged in the fieldtrip. Del Mar College students will be joining us on this fieldtrip.

Dr. Jim Norwine, Regents Professor at Book Signing in November

One of the Texas A&M University System (and the first TAMUK) Regents Professor Dr. Jim Norwine retired two years ago from our program. He is publishing a new book "A World after Climate Change & Culture-Shift," this year. He was recently interviewed by our media services reporter Jason Marton in August 31, 2014. The following article can be viewed online at the Corpus Christi Caller Times website: http://www.caller.com/opinion/forums/col_forumclimatechange_07314538.

Forum: Some thoughts on climate change 'solution' by Jim Norwine

'...who can the world trust to be idealistic and moral enough to help all of humanity and the environment, and at the same time, be practical enough to make extremely difficult decisions that can and will harm a great deal of people?' (www.philforhumanity.com)

Human-caused climate change is real and a significant threat. So, case closed, let's all get with the program, right? Not really. Where we go from here — "solutions", if any — turns out to be much more problematic. The first such problem is that discussions about the subject have tended to be mean-spirited, almost universally simplistic and, frequently, intentionally misleading. A few words of explanation are surely in order. Here goes: human-caused planetary heating is real and a real threat. I would respectfully ask that the next time you fly over our beloved plains and prairies, check out the checkerboard landscapes below. Observe how thoroughly transformed, "humanified," the earth has been since we arrived 10,000 years ago.

We know that each day we eat an extra chicken-fried steak with all the fixins' we ARE going to get fatter, absent a whole bunch of extra exercise. That's how it is with carbon dioxide and temperature in the atmosphere, too. Just like the gravy and my waistline, more of the one leads to more of the other



Dr. Jim Norwine is Regents Professor Emeritus of Geography at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and a longtime climatology researcher. He will give a public lecture on and sign copies of his latest book, "A World after Climate Change & Culture-Shift", at noon Tuesday, Nov. 25 at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, in room 221AB of the Memorial Student Union Building.

TAMUK Summer Intersession Central Texas Field Camp 2014

Students: Sarah Beers, John Dabney, Adrian Dancer, Justin Kelley, and Antonio Hernandez

