

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - KINGSVILLE

GEOSCIENCES NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION



EXPLORATION



PROFESSIONALISM

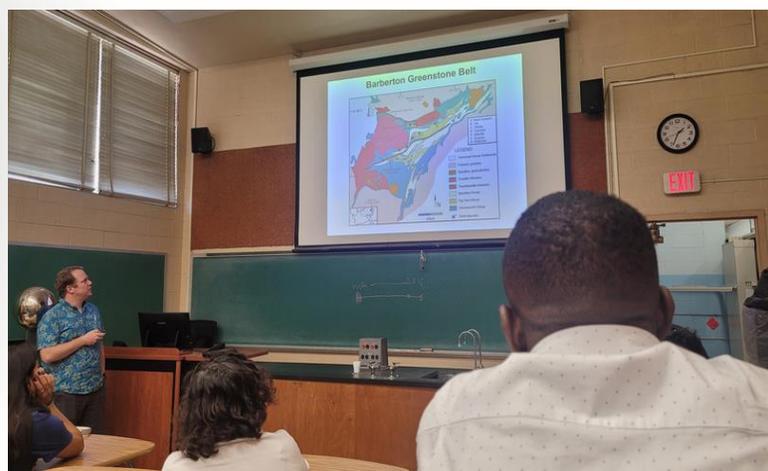


GEOSCIENCE GUEST SPEAKERS

DID YOU KNOW?

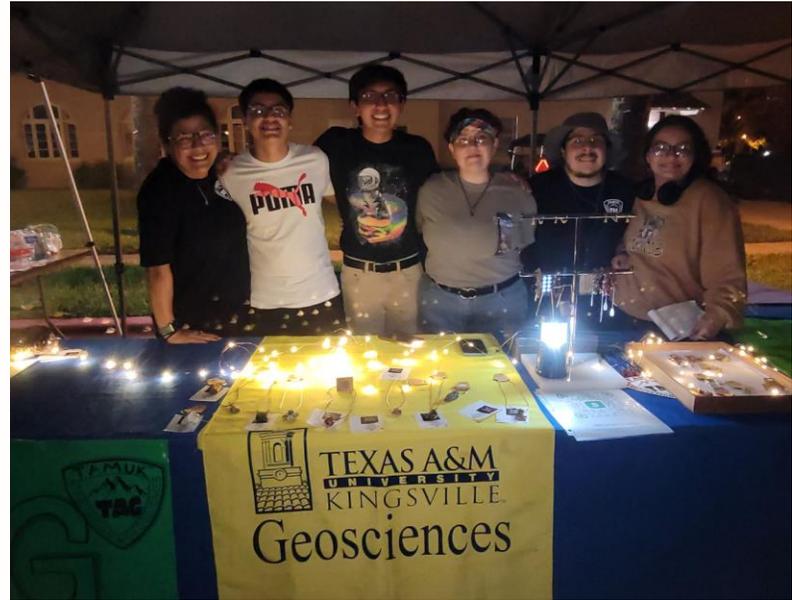
On September 15, 2023, the Department of Physics and Geosciences was pleased to host Dr. Matthew Loocke (lower right image) from Louisiana State University. Dr. Loocke captivated the audience of faculty, staff and students with a presentation on how he incorporates research in his courses.

The Department was thrilled on November 7, 2023, when Professional Geologist Randy Bissell (left image above) conducted an essential lecture about sea level changes and the impact on landscapes. He focused on how the Gulf Coast landscape has changed and the evidence that suggests it is a very dynamic environment. It was a great learning experience and a pleasure to host Mr. Bissell!



TAMUK ASSOCIATION OF GEOSCIENCES

TAG promotes student education in Geosciences, Earth Science, and Space Science in the local community. Hosts monthly seminars and interactive educational activities for the general public. (Right image TAG club members selling jewelry at TAMUK- Fall Carnival)



MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR

DR. BRENT C. HEDQUIST

“ The department seeks to prepare students who are majoring in geology or physics; minoring in geography, geology, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), geophysics, or physics to compete with graduates from other institutions for industrial and governmental positions, follow a career in science education, or pursue a higher level degree. “

“ It does this through fundamental courses in the respective disciplines and through specialized programs in GIS, energy, hydrogeology, groundwater modeling, certification in GIS, certification in Geophysics, and certification in nuclear power plant (NPP) operations. “



GADUATE CAROLINA MUNOZ

Dear Carolina,

As you prepare to transition from your role with the Geoscience Department and embark on a new chapter, we wanted to express our deepest gratitude and warmest congratulations.

For the past five years, your contributions as a student worker have been extraordinary. Your commitment to excellence and unwavering dedication have profoundly impacted our department. From organizing events with remarkable efficiency to managing daily tasks with professionalism, you have consistently demonstrated what it means to be a hardworking and dependable leader.

Your meticulous organizational skills have been a cornerstone of our success. Whether coordinating guest speakers, managing logistics for field trips, or ensuring events ran smoothly, your attention to detail and proactive approach have made a lasting impression. Your ability to juggle multiple responsibilities with grace has set a standard of excellence within our department.

As you graduate with a Major in Agriculture Business Concentration Ranch Management and a Minor in Range and Wildlife from Texas A&M Kingsville this spring(2024), we congratulate you on this significant achievement. Balancing your studies with your responsibilities here was no small feat, and your perseverance has truly paid off. Your academic success and deep understanding of your field prepare you well for the future.

While we are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead for you, we will certainly miss your presence. Your positive attitude, willingness to go above and beyond, and genuine passion for your work have made you an invaluable team member. The department will not be the same without you, but we are comforted by the knowledge that you are moving forward with the same drive and enthusiasm you brought to us every day.

Thank you once again for your hard work and dedication. We wish you all the best as you step into the next phase of your career. Congratulations, and please stay in touch. We look forward to hearing about all the incredible things you will achieve in the future.

With heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes,

— Department of Physics and Geosciences

Carolina held vice president position of TAMUK-Wildlife Society for over 2 years. She will continue her education as a graduate student at Texas A&M University - Kingsville, working on a Masters degree in the Range and Wildlife Department.

THANK YOU CARO!!!



FIND YOUR CALLING



CONNECT WITH ALUMNI ●

Connect with the Alumni Network for career advice and job opportunities!
To get connected with alumni please contact:

- Dr. Veronica Sanchez: veronica.sanchez@tamuk.edu
- Dr. Brent Hedquist: brent.hedquist@tamuk.edu

SCHOLARSHIPS:

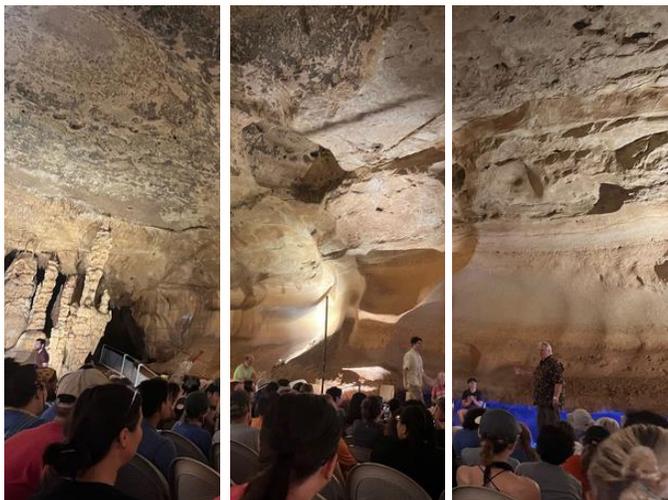
The Department strongly promotes scholarship opportunities at the Departmental and University levels, as well as from professional societies. The links below are for scholarships offered at TAMUK.

[GEDSCIENCES SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

TAMUK - FINANCIAL AID:

[JAVELINA PROMISE](#)

[TAMUK - SCHOLARSHIPS](#)



*Photo credit: Danielle Platz

MEET OUR STUDENTS



“ I am from Houston, Texas. I graduated High School from International Virtual Learning Academy, which was an online school I attended while living in Tunisia and traveling in the Mediterranean. I am a double major in Physics and Geology. I have always been passionate about learning about the universe and space, how everything came to be formed. I have always wanted to understand the why and what planets other than Earth are like. Originally, I was going to pursue only physics, however, when I was taking an introductory geology course, it clicked for me that while there are so many other types of planets out there, the foundations of Earth and its components were key to understanding other terrestrial planets and how they formed.

There is so much more to geology than simply a study of rocks, it ties together physics, chemistry, biology, and more with putting together how the world works. Outside of studying science, I am a part of Theta Phi Alpha sorority and the NASA Aerospace Scholars program, along with TA'ing for the introductory Geoscience classes here at TAMUK.”

EMMA MROZ

UNDERGRAD ●

JULIO ESTRADA

Julio Estrada joined the department in the Fall 2023. He is from Edinburg, Texas, where he graduated from high school. Julio is currently in his second semester at TAMUK. He chose to pursue Geology as a major for many reasons, including his likeness and determination for science and the love of all the aspects of Earth.

Julio enjoys playing soccer whenever time is available and also likes to collect different minerals and rocks. He also enjoys taking walks and playing video games when he has free time.

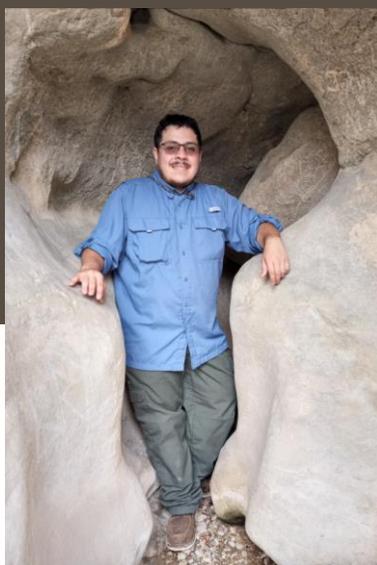
His future plans are to become a Geoscientist when he completes his bachelor's degree, collect mineral samples and maybe even study fossils.



GEOLOGY GRADUATES

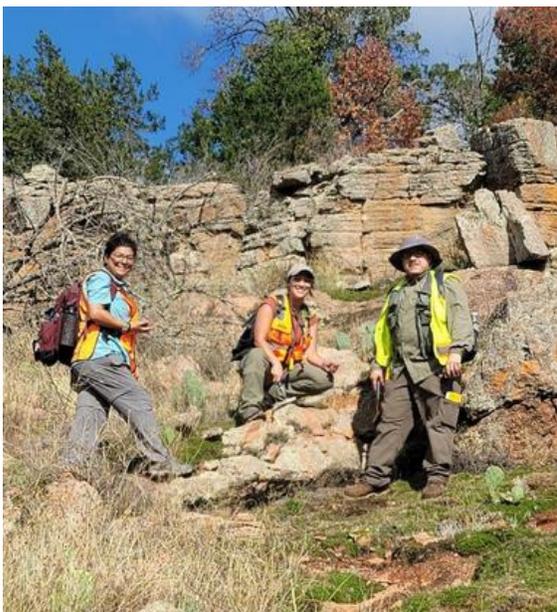
We are pleased to announce that six students graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Geology. The department is beyond proud of the hard work and dedication that these graduates have invested in their futures.

[APPLY NOW!](#)



FEATURED SCHOLARS

The Graduates above have earned a Bachelor’s of Science in Geology. *From left to right:* Danielle Platz, Tomas Liguez, Miranda Shaffer. **Danielle** completed a minor in Geography with emphasis in GIS and served as vice-president of TAG (TAMUK’s Association of Geosciences). **Tomas** earned a GIS Certification along with a BS Geology. **Miranda** completed a minor in Environmental Sciences, served as a prescient of TAG, and earned a drone pilot license.



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