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DEPARTMENT
OF GEOGRAPHY

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GeoNews

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Fall 2008

Texas State Geography Hosts 2008 SWAAG Conference

Submitted by Dr. John Tiefenbacher,
Chair of SWAAG Local Arrangements Committee

The Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers held its annual meeting at Texas State University-San Marcos on October 23-25, 2008. More than 200 individuals from the five-state region (including Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) attended this year's conference to present original research in the form of papers and posters. The meeting began on Thursday, October 23rd with a reception at Sean Patrick's Irish Pub on the Square. On the following Friday, papers and posters were presented throughout the day, beginning at 8:00am and concluding at 5:00pm. The current AAG Vice President Carol Harden, Professor of Geography at the University of Tennessee, gave a presentation entitled "Geography, Environmental Determinism, and the Bathwater." On Saturday, five field trips were (continued on page 2)

Field Excursion Explores Geography and Geology of the Southwest

Submitted by Mark L. Carter

For three and a half weeks over the summer, faculty members Richard Earl, Rene DeHon and Mark Carter led twelve students on a 4,300 mile field experience through the southwestern states of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. Traveling in two 15-passenger vans, the group explored eighteen national parks, six state parks, and a variety of notable natural and cultural features of the Southwestern United States.

Highlights of the trip included the geography and geology of Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park and the Grand Canyon. The students and leaders experienced the archeological sites at Bandolier National Monument, Chaco Culture Monument and Wupatki National Monument. They hiked into volcanic and meteor craters and "stood the corner" in Winslow, Arizona. The group toured the Desert Sky Wind Farm in West Texas, the Very Large Antenna Array on the Plains of St. Augustine, the John Wesley Powell Museum, and the Lowell Observatory.

Of course, the trip also provided memorable experiences on the road and in the great outdoors. The group slept in their tents under the stars - making and breaking camp a total of nineteen times - and cooked many of their meals along the way. Their travels led them through great variations in elevation, (continued on page 17)



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Greetings from the Chair... Dr. Philip Suckling, Professor and Chair

The new academic year promises to be a very busy one! We are in the midst of a formal Academic Program Review (APR). Such reviews of university departments typically occur every 5-7 years. Last spring, we completed an internal "self-study" report and during September, an external program review team made an on-campus visit. The review team consists of the following: Dr. Kavita Pandit, Senior Vice-Provost of the State University of New York system and former Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of Georgia; Dr. Graham Tobin, Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs and former Chair of Geography at the University of South Florida; and Dr. Kim Rossmo, University Professor of Criminal Justice at Texas State (who serves as the internal to the university, but external to our college representative). The review team's report will be submitted to the department late this semester, and the department will subsequently prepare a five-year action plan in response to the review process.

This Fall, the department welcomed a new Assistant Professor faculty member, Dr. Laura Stroup, whose specialty involves water resources. Dr. Stroup graduated with her PhD degree from the University of South Carolina in August 2008. More information about Laura can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Alumni Newsletter.

Dr. Yongmei Lu is in the midst of a one-year professional development leave, during which she is based in Beijing. With Yongmei away, Dr. Pam Showalter is serving in a full-time capacity for the year, assisting our teaching needs especially in the GIScience area. In addition to her previous part-time Research Associate Professor role as Director of the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research, Pam will be teaching courses in Remote Sensing and research design. We have also hired Brian Cooper as a temporary full-time Lecturer to teach multiple sections of introductory world regional geography, as well as upper-level undergraduate courses in political geography and the regional geography of the U.S. and Canada.

The Department is currently undertaking searches for three new tenure-track faculty members to join the department beginning Fall 2009. In Remote Sensing, we have an open rank position (Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor) available. We are also searching for an Assistant Professor with expertise involving the computational aspects of Geographic Information Science. Lastly, we are advertising for an Assistant Professor in Geographic Education.

We are please to welcome three visiting scholars and two visiting doctoral students to the Department this Fall. Dr. Nurcan Demiralp, from Gazi University in Ankara, Turkey, is visiting upon the invitation of Dr. James Petersen and will be in the Department through May 2009. Dr. Zhongliang Cai and Dr. Yaolin Liu, both from Wuhan University, China, and invited by Dr. Ben Zhan, will be in the Department through October 2009 and December 15, 2008, respectively. Mr. Dingju Zhu, Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology in the Chinese Academy of Sciences in China, and Mr. Xueheng Yao, Central South University in China, also invited by Dr. Zhan, are doctoral students visiting through December 2008.

Planning ahead, I wish to encourage our students and alumni to mark their calendars for the 15th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, which will be held on April 24-25, 2009.

Texas State Geography Hosts 2008 SWAAG Conference (continued from page 1)

offered to allow distant travelers the opportunity to enjoy the scenery of Central Texas. Following the traditional annual business meeting at 5:30pm, the conference was capped off by a banquet at the Cheatham Street Warehouse. Here the participants celebrated a successful conference with fine Mexican food and live music performances by Missoula Slim and Dr. G and the Mudcats. Student awards were presented for the paper and poster competitions, with Texas State students winning three of the seven awards. Ph.D. students Clayton Whitesides and Elaine He were awarded first and second place, respectively, for their posters. M.S. student Xingjian Liu took home second place in the paper competition. The conference was a great success for SWAAG and Texas State University and appreciation is given to all involved in its planning and execution.



Guests await presentations at the annual
2008 SWAAG Conference.

Dr. Alberto Giordano Awarded NSF Grant to Study Holocaust from Geographical Perspective

Adapted from Texas State University Press Release

Geography professor Dr. Alberto Giordano has been awarded a \$430,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to lead a multi-national team in a two-year study of the geographical phenomena surrounding the Holocaust., a study that is the first of its kind. Scholars have studied the Holocaust from historical, political and sociological perspectives, but rarely has it been looked at from a geographical perspective. The team will use Geographic Information Science technology (GIS) to conduct four mapping projects that will answer questions about the following: the Nazis' strategies for moving their Jewish captives into and out of concentration camps; the forced evacuations or "death marches" from concentration camps at the end of WWII; the accuracy of eyewitness accounts inside concentration camps; and daily life inside the Budapest ghetto. The study will be conducted in association with the Survivors Registry of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

"The Holocaust is a geographical phenomenon because it involved the movement of masses of people from one part of Europe to another and into the camps. This required the Nazis to have a logistical system for moving people around," Dr. Giordano said. In mapping the movement of more than 76,000 people whom the Germans deported from France and 10,000 whom they deported from Italy, Dr. Giordano will look for spatial patterns in where the Nazis moved these people. He hopes to answer why the Nazis moved them where they did. The team will study spatial data to understand the Nazis' strategies for capturing Jews in urban and rural areas, and they'll map and analyze data on executions of women, children, and the elderly in an effort to gain new information.

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Welcome to Geography's New Faculty Member, Dr. Laura Stroup!

Dr. Laura Stroup joins the departments this fall as the new Assistant Professor of Geography. Her specialties include water resources, physical geography and U.S. environmental policy.

Dr. Stroup received her B.A. in Environmental Management with a minor in Geosciences at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, in 2002. She went on to earn an M.S. in Geography from the University of South Carolina, continuing in their Ph.D. program under the direction of Dr. William L. Graf. Her dissertation, entitled "Climate Change Effects on U.S. Water Resources Management," examined the perspectives of over 40 water managers and stakeholders in four large U.S. river basins - the Colorado, Platte, and Delaware Rivers, as well as the Everglades. The study concerned how water decision-makers in these basins intend to adapt water management practices to their understandings of climate variability and change. This project was supported by a National Science Foundation Geography and Regional Science Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. She completed her dissertation and was officially awarded her Ph.D. in August of 2008.



Dr. Stroup has served as the Student Representative to the Association of American Geographers Water Resources Specialty Group, where she has also won two competitive Research Proposal Awards at both the Masters and Ph.D. levels. More recent research endeavors entailed assisting the National Park Service in compiling data regarding the federal relicensing of a dam upstream of Congaree National Park. Ecologically Sustainable Water Management principles were used in this project to incorporate instream flow considerations in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the upstream Saluda Dam.

Her future research directions concern water supply practices in the Austin-San Antonio corridor in light of a rapidly growing population and considering climate paradigms. She is currently teaching GEO 3434: Water Resources and will be teaching GEO 2410: Intro to Physical Geography and GEO 5395/7334: Geographic Aspects of Water during the spring semester. She is looking forward to becoming familiar with the local human and physical geography of her new home at Texas State University-San Marcos and exploring the Central Texas region.

We welcome you to the Department of Geography at Texas State University, Dr. Stroup!

Congratulations to Our Distinguished Faculty!

Several Geography faculty members have been recognized and awarded for their work over the past year. These awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication put forth by these individuals, and we are proud to call them our faculty!



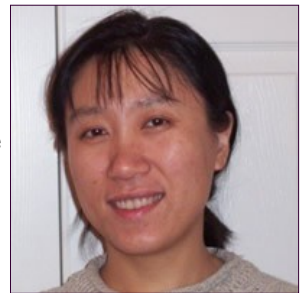
Dr. Brock Brown was awarded the Faculty Senate Teaching Award. He went on to be named the Piper Professor for 2008 by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation, recognizing his dedication and the impact he has had on his students and the community.

Dr. Alberto Giordano was awarded an NSF grant to study the Holocaust geographically. He was appointed Assistant to the Chair for Graduate Programs, where he will aid in coordination of graduate-level learning outcomes, supervision of graduate TAs, and development of a departmental colloquium series.



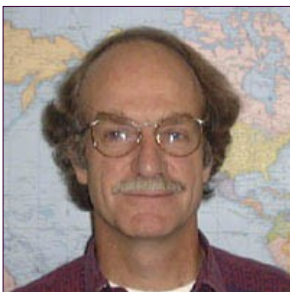
Dr. David Butler was recognized with the College of Liberal Arts Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching for August 2008. He received the Geography Department Graduate Forum's Outstanding Professor Award and was elected to the Board of Directors for AAG's Biogeography Specialty Group.

Dr. Yongmei Lu was a recipient of the Foundations of Excellence 2008 Award, honoring the Top 10 Texas State Distinguished Educators, sponsored by the Texas State Student Foundation. Dr. Lu also received a \$20,000 award from President Trauth for research purposes while on developmental leave.



Dr. Nate Currit received a grant from the Department of Agriculture through the River Systems Institute and Andy Sansom via Sul Ross University. Dr. Currit will be studying multi-temporal land cover change in the Rio Conchos watershed, which contributes 2/3 of the water flow in the lower Rio Grande.

Dr. John Tiefenbacher was named an Honorary Professor of International Studies, beginning August 2008 and remaining in effect for three years. He was a finalist for the College of Liberal Arts' Presidential Award for Excellence in February 2008. He attended the IEMS conference in Prague and received the Outstanding Paper Award.



Dr. Fred Day was awarded a National Science Foundation grant entitled "Improving Small Area Population Estimation with Remote Sensing." This grant is part of a larger collaboration with former Texas State colleague Le Wang at SUNY-Buffalo.

Dr. Ben Zhan received the Golden Apple Award for Scholarship from the College of Liberal Arts. He was granted the prestigious Chang Jiang Scholars Award from Wuhan University in China. The award invites him to serve as a guest chair professor at Wuhan University for three years and distinguishes him as being an internationally recognized scholar in his area of specialization.



Dr. Lawrence Estaville & Dr. Richard Earl's book *Texas Water Atlas* was honored as a featured book at the 2008 Texas Book Festival, which is one of the most renowned book festivals in the United States. It was held at the Texas State Capitol in Austin on November 1-2, 2008.



"These awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication put forth by these individuals..."

Dr. Kevin Romig Travels to Israel and Palestine



During the month of June, Dr. Kevin Romig traveled to the Middle East to investigate defensive urbanism and religious landscapes.

The levels of defensive urbanism were to be expected - gates, armed guards, video surveillance, and military weaponry are simply part of everyday life in this region. While staying near Masada in the Dead Sea Region, Dr. Romig observed Israeli jets buzzing over the coastline in an attempt to clearly identify their strength to neighboring Jordan. These jets were actually flying below sea level!

In terms of religious landscapes, the states of Israel and Palestine mainly see Biblical sites as important revenue generators, rather than intense religious sites. About 75% of Israeli Jews are secular and have no deep connection to the important sites of

Jewish antiquity in Jerusalem. Dr. Romig saw that most of the region's religious sites were being visited by Christian pilgrims from other parts of the world. A large majority was Eastern European. It was noted that since the fall of Communism, the Eastern Orthodox groups have been experiencing rapid growth. While speaking with the local tour guide, Dr. Romig was informed that American tourists had not been as plentiful in the Holy Land due to the current economic situation.

Dr. Romig was particularly interested in the ways in which water was distributed among the people and groups of the region. The Golan Heights was taken by Israel from Syria for military strategy purposes in 1967, but lands around Mount Hermon are critical to water supply in all of the Jordan River Valley. Israel now controls the three springs that create the Jordan River, and the Golan Heights has become more important to them in terms of resource strategy than military strategy. The boundary between Israel and Syria is so visible because of the water supply and access in this arid region. In short, Israel is green and Syria is brown.

Upon completion of his trip, Dr. Romig found that, in many ways, the Middle East may be a lens into the future of our globalizing world. It is a location with intense security and somewhat limited personal rights. The intensive land use is bringing people of divergent viewpoints and cultures closer together. And it is a place where access to water is critical and favors the wealthy of local society. Even with all its geopolitical problems, this region is so dynamic and poignant that it is impossible to ignore the fact that it is a critical cultural hearth of the earth.

Dr. Alberto Giordano Awarded NSF Grant to Study Holocaust from Geographical Perspective (continued from page 3)

The research team will examine records of the "death marches," in which hundreds of individuals were evacuated and moved to new locations before the Allies could liberate the camps. They will analyze the proximity of death march routes to population centers to assess the accuracy of bystander accounts and the degree of complicity, hostility, and care by local residents. The team will study digital models of historical maps and information about local weather and terrain conditions in order to understand the harrowing experience. They will also utilize geo-visualization to analyze eyewitness accounts of Holocaust events, in order to determine the accuracy of these accounts. Finally, the team plans to map out the Budapest ghetto, exploring its changing shape through time and interactions between Jews and non-Jews in Budapest. They will look at socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the Jews who were moved to the area, using a variety of sources, including census data and oral histories.

The grant is the first to come to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Giordano and his team plan to publish a book containing the findings of their studies.

David Butler Invited to Australia



During the month of July, Dr. David R. Butler traveled to Canberra, Australia, to participate in a workshop on Resilience in Riparian Ecosystems. He was invited to give a presentation by Professor Martin Thoms of the Riverine Landscapes Research Laboratory at the University of Canberra, and his trip was sponsored by the University of Canberra and the Australian Government Water Fund. His presentation was part of a workshop entitled "Thresholds in River and Floodplain Ecosystems - Problems and Challenges."

During his stay, Dr. Butler traveled along the coast of New South Wales, starting at the seaside resort of Merimbula and finishing in Sydney. He ended his stay in Australia by visiting the area between Sydney and Canberra.

Dr. Butler and his signature pose in front of the Sydney Opera House.

Dr. Kim Rossmo Explores Geographic Profiling at Texas State University with Assistance from Geography's Dr. Yongmei Lu

Adapted from *Research Texas, Inc.*, Spring 2008 Issue

Combine mathematics, geography, and criminology, and you get the work of the Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation (GII) at Texas State University. Here a methodology called geographic profiling, developed to help solve serial crimes, is being applied to research ranging from counterterrorism to disease control. Dr. Kim Rossmo heads the center, having developed geographic profiling while earning his doctorate in criminology in the 1990's. Rossmo is exploring the versatility of geographic profiling - a methodology that has been used by the FBI, ATF, and Scotland Yard to help solve thousands of crimes.



Geographic profiling is essentially information management. When used in a criminal investigation, geographic profiling is a way of analyzing the locations of serial crimes such as arson, rape or murder using a complex mathematical algorithm to determine and map the most likely area in which the perpetrator lives. In the 15 years since he developed geographic profiling, Rossmo has used it to work with law enforcement on more than 200 criminal cases, representing about 3,000 crimes spanning the globe.

Since coming to Texas State in 2003 and starting GII, he and the center have assisted in nearly 20 criminal cases. GII also trains law enforcement on how to use geographic profiling in serial property crime investigations and works on special projects for which it has secured more than \$2 million in grants. The center contracts with experts from across the nation, as well as some at Texas State. Dr. Yongmei Lu, Geography professor, has worked with the center since its start. She brings geographic and socio-economic information to the projects. "I look at the local transportation networks, population distribution, land use and urban activities to predict the crime locations," Lu says. "I also look at the general crime distribution patterns in a region to predict crime hot spots, and the relationship between crime hot spots and urban socio-economic activities."

GII is currently working on a variety of funded projects utilizing geographic profiling. The opportunities for applying this methodology to new areas are many. "Some of the most interesting possibilities in law enforcement exist where different academic disciplines intersect," says Rossmo. "And geographic profiling is really criminology, geography and mathematics, with maybe a little bit of forensic psychology. There is a lot of potential if scholars and practitioners can effectively talk together."

Learn more about the Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation at www.txstate.edu/gii.

2008 Summer Geography Academy

Submitted by Cheryl Frazier,
Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education

Hosted by the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education and the Texas State Department of Geography, the Geography Summer Academy brings together teams of high school teachers and students for one week of hands-on geography. Through a combination of classroom lectures, demonstrations, lab instruction, and field excursions, this in-residence summer program promotes cultural awareness, experiential learning, research methodology, real world problem-solving skills, and enhanced geographic content in a fun-filled and challenging university setting. Previous topics of study for the Geography Summer Academy have included Environmental and Sustainable Geography, as well as Planning and Urban Development.

This grant funded program is designed specifically to target students from groups that are historically underrepresented in the field of geography, including Hispanics, African-Americans, Native Americans, and women. Participating students and teachers are introduced to academic and career pathways available for those who pursue post-secondary education in geography related fields. As an in-residence program, students have the added benefit of experiencing the “college life,” as well as receiving information about university application procedures, financial aid, academic advising, and on-campus housing. The workshop also serves to enhance the content knowledge and teaching skills of participating teachers.

The 2008 Geography Summer Academy engaged participants in group research projects focused on the various cultural groups found in Texas. Participants gained an understanding of the ethnic diversity of Texas through the study of cultural traditions, language, religion, music, food, and much more. Daily field trips included visits to the UT Institute of Texas Cultures, El Mercado Mexican Market, religious sites in the Austin area, regional cemeteries, and Texas State’s Aquarena Center. The one week workshop concluded with project team presentations that highlighted the results about specific Texas cultural groups.

The theme for the 2009 Geography Summer Academy, an in-residence workshop for high school students and teachers, will be “Geography: Back to the Basics” and will be held at the rustic University Camp, an outdoor recreational facility on the banks of the Blanco River that is owned by Texas State University. For more information about next year’s Geography Summer Academy, contact Judy Behrens at jb42@txstate.edu or 512.245.1823.

From top: The 2008 Geography Summer Academy; Students learn about cultural diversity at a Jewish Synagogue in Austin; Breaking out of class and tubing the San Marcos River; Ethnic food was a staple on the Academy’s menu.



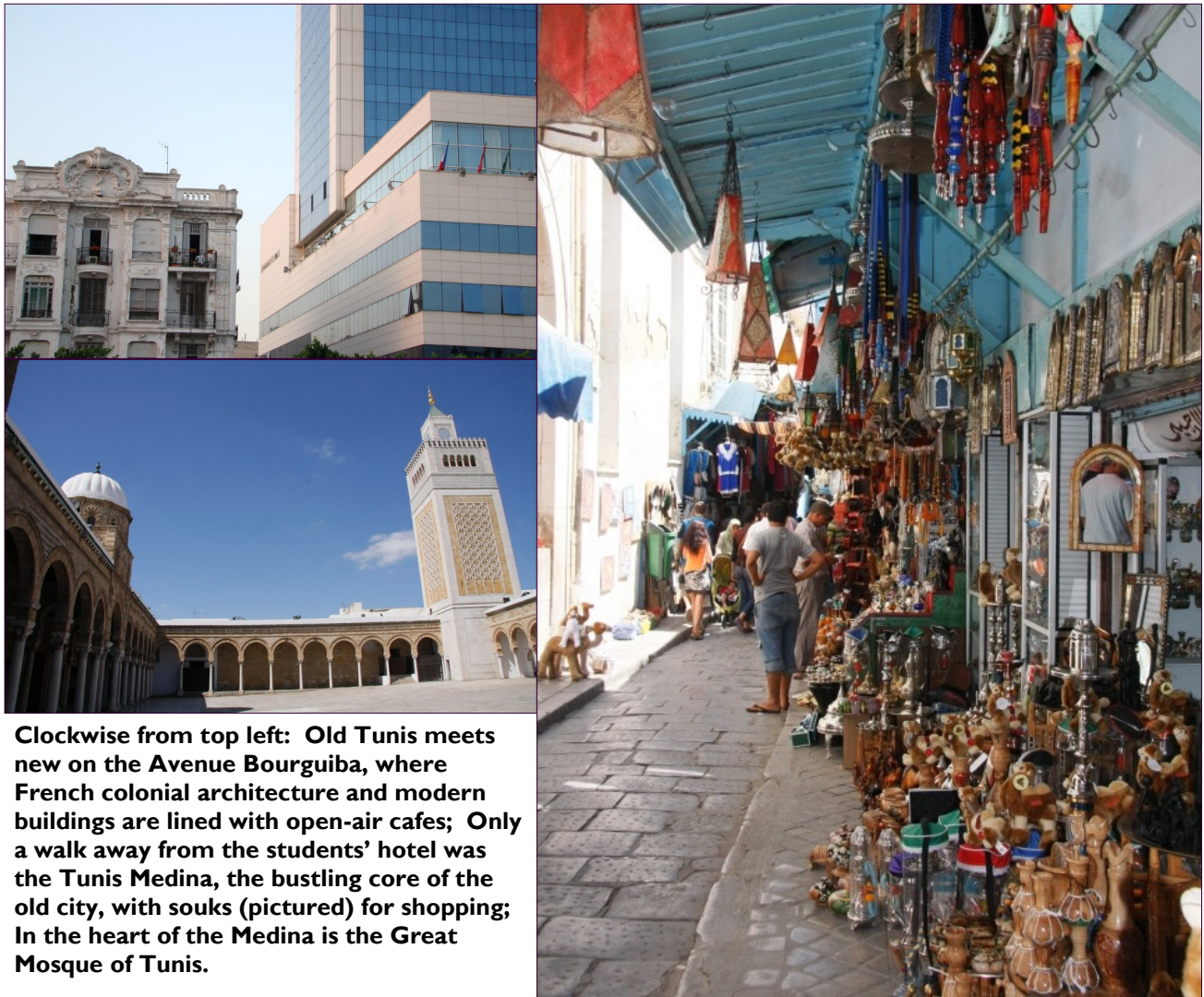
Texas State PhD Students Attend the IGU Tunis Congress

Audrey Mohan and Waverly Ray attended the International Geographical Union Congress in Tunis, Tunisia, during the month of August. The IGU is an international organization that brings together scholars from all over the world to present their research in geography and to collaborate with one another on multi-national and global issues. Their travel was funded by the Association of American Geographers-National Science Foundation Junior Scholar Travel Grant Program, with additional aid from the Department of Geography and the College of Liberal Arts at Texas State University-San Marcos.

While their main reason in attending the conference was to present their research to an international community of geographers, they did not hesitate to take advantage of sightseeing in the Tunis metro area. Tunis is a major port city along the North African coast, and it is a hub for European tourism during the summer months. There are many attractions in the Tunis area, including the ancient ruins of Carthage and the Tunis medina, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The seaside village of Sidi Bou Said is a vision, with its picturesque blue doors and views of the Mediterranean. And there is the popular strand of the Avenue Bourguiba, where tourists and Tunisians congregate at cafes for evening tea and people watching. Waverly and Audrey have provided some photographs from their week in the Maghreb in order to share their experience abroad.

“We hope you enjoy the photos and that your travels will take you to sunny

الجمهورية التونسية (Tunisia) soon.”



Clockwise from top left: Old Tunis meets new on the Avenue Bourguiba, where French colonial architecture and modern buildings are lined with open-air cafes; Only a walk away from the students' hotel was the Tunis Medina, the bustling core of the old city, with souks (pictured) for shopping; In the heart of the Medina is the Great Mosque of Tunis.

Texas State PhD Students Attend the IGU Tunis Congress Continued...

Clockwise from top right: With its picturesque blue doors and windows, Sidi Bou Said is considered by many to be the most beautiful village in Tunis; The ruins at Carthage are extensive, with major archeological sites intermingled with modern neighborhoods for several miles along the coast; Audrey and Waverly stayed on Avenue Habib Bourguiba, named for Tunisia's first president. It is flanked on one side with Tunisia's "Big Ben," seen here at sunrise; The students encountered a street named for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.





From the Graduate Coordinator... Dr. David Butler, Professor

The Geography Graduate Program at Texas State University-San Marcos continues to attract excellent students from across Texas, the United States, and from around the world. Our program houses many Texan graduate students, but we have also attracted students from states as far-reaching as California, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Florida - just to name a few. We have welcomed many international students and have created a program that includes students from England, China, Mexico, Italy, Nepal, India, Costa Rica, Ghana, and Australia. A visit with our graduate students is a diverse and exciting experience!

The size of our Graduate Program has grown exponentially. It now holds approximately 100 Masters and 63 Doctoral students, which makes us one of the largest Geography Graduate Programs in the United States. Although our department is large, we strive to maintain strong personal connections with each student. We do so by encouraging students to identify a research advisor as soon as possible in the course of their program of study. This advisor guides the student and aids their progress on a one-on-one basis throughout their academic career.

We are proud of the many achievements our graduate students have garnished this year. During 2007, a number of our students presented papers at conferences across the country, including the annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), the Southwest Association of AAG, the Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium, the Applied Geography Conference, and the National Council for Geographic Education. Several students were co-authors on papers that were published in revered journals and conference proceedings. Our students also received awards for papers presented at the Applied Geography Conference, the Water Resources Specialty Group of the AAG, and the Transportation Geography Specialty Group of the AAG.

The Geography Graduate Program at Texas State University-San Marcos is thriving, and it is with many thanks to the efforts of our fine students, faculty, and staff. I know I couldn't do this job without everyone's good wishes and cooperation - especially without the help of my trusty Radar O'Reilly, Allison Glass-Smith, the department's Graduate Staff Advisor! Please feel free to drop me a line via e-mail (db25@txstate.edu) with any suggestions you may have about how we can continue to serve our graduate students and program well. Thanks!

Ph.D. Graduates for Academic Year 2007-2008

Carol Sawyer was awarded her Ph.D. in Environmental Geography in December 2007. Her dissertation, completed under the supervision of Dr. David Butler, was entitled "Frost Heaving and Surface Clast Movement in Turf-Banked Terraces, Eastern Glacier National Park, Montana." She is currently employed by the University of South Alabama as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences.

Ionara Wilson is acting as an independent scholar, having completed her Ph.D. in Geographical Information Science in December 2007 under the supervision of Dr. Benjamin Zhan. Her dissertation was entitled "Measuring Geographic Learning Within and Between Underrepresented Groups."

Ronald Stephenson completed his Ph.D. in Environmental Geography in Spring 2008. Dr. James Kimmel acted as his supervisor and guided the completion of his dissertation entitled "An Evaluation of the Naturalist on Board Interpretive Program in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary." Ron works as a Grant Specialist for the Government Partnership Program at Texas State University.

Guangyu Wu received his Ph.D. in Geographical Information Science in Spring 2008. He completed his dissertation, entitled "Regional Climate Change and Its Impacts on Water Resources in Texas," under the supervision of Dr. Benjamin Zhan. He is currently employed as a Data Systems Programmer/Associate Analyst in the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

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Department Welcomes New Ph.D. and Masters Students!

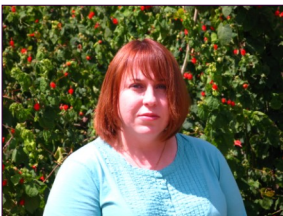
This fall Geography is proud to welcome 18 new Ph.D. and Master's students to its graduate program.



Kevin Barrett joins the department from Baylor University, where he received both his B.A. and M.A. in Earth Science. He is from Waco, TX, and enjoys mountain biking in his spare time. Kevin's current research interests include weather and climate hazards, as well as the use of GIS technology in broadcast meteorology. He is working toward his Ph.D. in Environmental Geography.



Christi Townsend received her M.A.G. from Texas State University, focusing on Environmental Resource Management and is now moving toward her Ph.D. in Environmental Geography. She received her B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin in both Geology and Geography. Christi's interests include Environmental Health Geography, Feminist Geography, and the Geography of Central America and the Caribbean. She is a native of Buda, TX.



Shelley Burleson is a native of Round Rock, TX. She received her B.A. with a double major in Geography and History at Fayetteville State University in North Carolina. She went on to receive her M.A. in History at the same university and now joins us at Texas State to work

toward her M.A.G. in Geographical Information Science. Shelley is interested in studying Historical Geography and is currently working as a Research Assistant on Dr. Alberto Giordano's GIS Holocaust grant.



Stephen Tsikalas is from Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. He attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he received his B.A. in Geography and Secondary Education Social Studies and went on to complete his M.A. in Geography. Stephen's main interest is Geography Education. It is in this field that he plans to complete his Ph.D.



Sayali Gokhale entered the program this fall with an interest in Environmental Geography. She joins us from Pune, India. She received her B.A. in Economics from the University of Pune. She went on to earn her M.A. in Economics at the University of Pune, and now joins us at Texas State University in

San Marcos. Sayali plans to complete her M.S. in Geography.



Clayton Whitesides is a native of Logan, Utah, where he attended Utah State University and earned his B.S. in Geography. Clayton went on to attend Brigham Young University and received his M.S. in Geography in 2008. He now joins us at Texas State, with the intention of completing his Ph.D. in Environmental Geography. His current research interests are Biogeography and Mountain Environments.



Kathleen Seal joins the department from Stephen F. Austin State University. She received her B.S. in Environmental Studies/Biology and went on to earn her M.S. in Outdoor Recreation Planning. Kathleen plans to complete her Ph.D. at

Texas State in Environmental Geography. Her research interests are still Outdoor Recreation Planning, but also include Heritage and Cultural Travel. Kathleen claims both Guilford, CT, and Abbot Village, Maine, as her home.

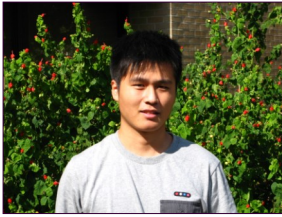


Naizhuo Zhao joins the department from Benxi, Liaoning, China. He attended Northeast Normal University in Changchun and received his B.A. in Remote Sensing/GIS and his M.S. in Remote Sensing. He plans to continue his study of Remote Sensing while working on his Ph.D. in Geographical Information Science at Texas State University.

For more information about the Graduate Program in Geography, check out <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/degrees-programs/graduate.html>.

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Department Welcomes New Ph.D. and Masters Students (continued from page 11)



Xingjian Liu is beginning his Masters work at Texas State University this fall in hopes of receiving his M.S. in Geography. He joins us from Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. He attended Wuhan University and earned a Bachelors degree in Cartography and GIS.

Liu's current interests include the relationship between the environment and health, as well as Network Science.



Tara Noah is interested in Environmental Interpretation, Geomorphology, and Physical Geography. She is a native of Austin, TX, and earned her B.S. from Texas State University with a focus on Resource and Environmental Studies. She plans to work toward her M.S. in Geography.



Clayton Hahn is a native of Lolita, TX. He is a recent graduate of Texas State University, earning his B.S. in Resource and Environmental Studies. Clayton is interested in emission reduction technologies in power producing facilities, which he plans to study as he works toward

his M.A.G. in Resource and Environmental Studies.



Kate Yow joins the graduate program with an interest in Environmental Geography and the intent to complete her M.A.G. in Geography. She received her B.S. in Resource and Environmental Studies from Texas State University in 2007. Kate is a native of San Antonio, TX.



Kaitlin Murphy is also a recent graduate of Texas State University. She moved to San Marcos from her home town of Durango, CO, and received her B.S. in Resource and Environmental Studies in the spring of 2008. She joins the department with an interest in Environmental

Law, Water Resources, and Geomorphology. Kaitlin plans to pursue her M.A.G. in Resource and Environmental Studies.



Susan Street is also from San Antonio and has an interest in Cartography, Climatology, and Geographic Education. She earned her B.A.T. from Sam Houston State University, focusing on Elementary Education with a minor in both Geography and English. Susan plans to complete her M.S. in Geography.



Barbara Grahmann earned her B.S. in Resource and Environmental Studies from Texas State University in the spring of 2008. She plans to research Environmental and Technological Hazards while working toward her M.S. in Geography. Barbara is a native of Hallettsville,

TX.



Jason Vickery joins us from Las Cruces, New Mexico. He holds a Bachelor's of Criminal Justice from New Mexico State University. Jason plans to research Hazards and Emergency Management at Texas State University, while working toward his M.A.G. in Geographical Information Science.



Leslie Giesenschlag is from Snook, TX. She graduated from Texas State University in the spring of 2008 with a B.S. in Geography and a minor in Business. She intends to focus her research on Environmental Geography, while

working toward earning her M.A.G. in Geography.

For more information about the Graduate Program in Geography and the application process, please contact Allison Glass-Smith, Graduate Staff Advisor.
am13@txstate.edu
512.245.2618

Mary Curtis Serves as 2008-2009 Grosvenor Scholar

Mary Curtis, a geography educator from Clear Brook High School and a Ph.D. candidate in the Texas State Department of Geography, is currently serving as the 2008-09 Grosvenor Center Scholar at the headquarters of the National Geographic Society. During a one-year residency in Washington, D.C., the Grosvenor Center Scholar participates in various aspects of the geographic education mission of the Society, assisting NGS Education Foundation personnel with their public advocacy campaign, grant making, the NGS public engagement initiative, and various outreach projects.

Mary earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science degree in Instructional Technology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She entered the doctoral program at Texas State University in summer 2005 and is currently working on a dissertation that addresses the use of geospatial technologies in K-12 classrooms. For several years, Mary has played an active role in the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education, serving as a Teacher Consultant for a number of Alliance sponsored and training events.



Ms. Curtis assumed her role as Grosvenor Scholar in August 2008. For additional information about the Grosvenor Scholars Program at Texas State University-San Marcos, contact Dr. Richard Boehm at 512.245.3615 or rb03@txstate.edu.



S.W.I.G. (Supporting Women in Geography) is currently hosting their annual canned food drive for the Hays-Caldwell Women's Shelter. Students and faculty are encouraged to donate canned and nonperishable food items for the cause. Plastic bins have been set up in Geography's main office - Evans Liberal Arts, 139—and will remain there until the Thursday before Thanksgiving, November 25. The Hays-Caldwell Women's Shelter depends on the generosity of Texas State students and faculty, so please show your support and help a family in need.

- submitted by Emily Davis Watson, President of S.W.I.G.

Ph.D. Graduates for Academic Year 2007-2008 (continued from page 10)

Zachary Moore has been hired as an Assistant Professor in Geography at Rowan University. He completed his dissertation under the direction of Dr. Richard Boehm and was awarded his Ph.D. in Geographic Education in Summer 2008. His dissertation was entitled "Evolution of Geography in the United States' Public School Curriculum: An Analysis of the Influence of Societal Movements and Historical Events."

Michelle Shuey was awarded her Ph.D. in Environmental Geography in Summer 2008. Her dissertation was entitled "A Spatial Analysis of the Factors Influencing Cougar-Human Encounter Hazard in Residential Areas" and was completed under the supervision of Dr. John Tiefenbacher. She is currently employed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geosciences at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

David Viertel completed his dissertation, entitled "Exploration of Linkages between Urban Form and Socio-demographic Experience in San Antonio, Texas," under the guidance of Dr. Richard Dixon. He graduated with his Ph.D. in Environmental Geography in Summer 2008 and is now employed as an Assistant Professor in Geology/Geography at Eastern Illinois University.

Graduate Student Honors and Awards 2007-2008

Lara Bryant, Ph.D. Geographic Education—2007 Texas Alliance for Geographic Education Distinguished Service Award

Catherine Cooper, Ph.D. Geographic Education—Best Content Article for her article entitled “Competing Visions, Shifting Boundaries: The Construction of Latin America as a World Region,” awarded by *Journal of Geography* at NCGE

Brian Earle, Ph.D. Geographic Education—Best Article on Teaching Geography at the High School Level for his article entitled “Internet-Based GIS in an Inductive Learning Environment: A Case Study of Ninth Grade Geography Students,” published in the 2007 *Journal of Geography* and awarded at NCGE

Elaine He, Ph.D. Environmental Geography—2nd place in 2008 SWAAG student poster competition for her poster entitled “Environmental Awareness of Chinese Youth: A Comparative Case Study of Shanghai and Gansu Province”

Sophia Hurtado, M.A.G. Geographical Information Science—Co-author of an article entitled “A Spatial Analysis of Environmental Effects of Coal Power Plants on Texas Lakes,” to be published in *The Papers of Applied Geography Conference*

Jon Kedrowski, Ph.D. Environmental Geography—Recipient of \$1,000 grant from the American Alpine Club

Xingjian Liu, M.S. Geographical Information Science—2nd place in 2008 SWAAG student paper competition for his paper entitled “Road Selection Based on Voronoi Diagrams and Strokes in Map Generalization”

Erin McAuley, M.S. Geography—Co-author of an article entitled “A Spatial Analysis of Environmental Effects of Coal Power Plants on Texas Lakes,” to be published in *The Papers of Applied Geography Conference*

Xuelian Meng, Ph.D. Geographical Information Science—2008 BAE Systems Award for Best Student Paper

David Parr, M.S. Geography—Summer Assembly Paper Award from the University Consortium of Geographic Information Science

Susan Peters, Ph.D. Environmental Geography—2008 Texas Military Retiree Scholarship

Jianhua (Nancy) Tian, Ph.D. Geographic Information Science—Awarded a scholarship from the Young Women’s Alliance Foundation for 2008-2009

Jose Silvan-Cardenas, Ph.D. Geographic Information Science—1st place in 2008 Remote Sensing Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers Student Honors Paper Competition

Clayton Whitesides, Ph.D. Environmental Geography—1st place in 2008 SWAAG student poster competition for his poster entitled “Rocky substrate and the lower treeline ecotone of Yellowstone”

Suzi Wiseman, Ph.D. Environmental Geography—Elected to be a Director in the Energy and Environmental Specialty Group

Congratulations to Our Students!

Alumni News

Darlene Occena-Gutierrez graduated from the Department of Geography in Fall 2006 with a Ph.D. in Environmental Geography. She has recently been appointed Chair of the Geography Department at the University of the Philippines.

Becky Brown has accepted a full-time one-year renewable term as Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Kent State University in Ohio. Becky is an ABD student in the Environmental Geography Ph.D. program and an advisee of Dr. Richard Dixon.

Three of the *Geographical Bulletin’s* eight board members are Ph.D. alumni of Texas State University-San Marcos. **Lisa DeChano** was one of the first two Ph.D. graduates of the Department of Geography, having graduated with her Ph.D. in Environmental Geography in 2000. **Jonathan Herbert** received his Ph.D. in Environmental Geography in 2004 and **Cathy Springer** graduated in 2007 with her Ph.D. in Geographic Education.

“It is nice to see our doctoral alumni taking on such roles!” - Dr. Philip Suckling, Department Chair



From the Undergraduate Staff Advisor... Joyce Lawson

The Geography Department has a number of programs and three minors from which you can choose. If there isn't a program that you find particularly interesting, you can create your own by seeking a degree in General Geography. The Geography Undergraduate Program consists of seven major concentrations. You can major in *Resource and Environmental Studies*, *Physical Geography*, *Urban & Regional Planning*, *Water Studies*, *Geographic Information Science (GIS)*, *General Geography*, and *Geography with a Teaching Composite*. You can also minor in Geography.

A degree in Geography gives you the chance to make a difference. When you become a Geography student, you are faced with unlimited opportunities and can have a real lasting effect on the world around you. If you have a passion for your community, you can become part of an environment that allows you to have an impact and drive results. The Department of Geography offers the benefits of up-to-date technology, hands on learning through internships, and field excursions each year. There are many social networking opportunities, including departmental support of conference participation both at Texas State University and nationally. Students in the Department of Geography have the unlimited support of the faculty to help make their goals a reality. I invite you to consider becoming a Geography Major or Minor today!

Notes to remember...

- The **Geography Learning Community**, formerly known as the Freshman Interest Group (FIG) has not only changed its name, but now allows sophomores. Prospective Geography students who are interested in participating should contact Joyce Lawson, Geography Staff Advisor. More information is available at <http://www.cs.txstate.edu/fig/>.
- **Group advising sessions**, as well as individual sessions, are available throughout each semester. Contact the Staff Advisor for dates and information.
- **IMPORTANT: In 2007, the Texas State Legislature enacted Senate Bill 1231 which states that undergraduate students entering as first time freshman at a Texas Public Institution of Higher Education in the fall of 2007 or later will be limited to a total of SIX dropped courses during their undergraduate career. The only exceptions are for specific instances of good cause.**

IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING 2009 ADVANCED REGISTRATION:

October 20 - November 7, 2008

BOBCAT DAYS:

November 11-15, 2008

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW:

November 24, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

Be sure to check the Geography bulletin boards in Evans Liberal Arts for new updates!

Joyce Lawson, Undergraduate Staff Advisor

ELA 130, (512)245-0372

Joyce.lawson@txstate.edu

"Be wise and be advised."



This year's Geography Learning Community Members: Chanell Goodright (Peer Mentor), Kelsie Leopold, Kristeen Briggs, Lindsey Carter and Jacqueline Cortez.

Department of Geography Hosts Fifth Annual Undergraduate Welcome Back Picnic

Approximately 150 students, faculty, and staff turned out for the Fall 2008 Undergraduate Welcome Back Picnic. The party was held alongside the banks of the San Marcos River in Sewell Park with Dr. Rich Earl, master chef, in charge of the hotdogs and hamburgers. The Undergraduate Welcome Back Picnic kicked off the new year and a fun time was had by all!



Geography Interns in Action

Submitted by Mark L. Carter, Internship Coordinator

The Texas State Geography Department Internship Program provides students with supervised, real-world, work experiences that are directly related to their academic studies and career goals. Interns provide assistance to public agencies, organizations, and private companies with their skill and knowledge. Geography students typically perform internships during their senior year and are therefore prepared to work independently on assigned tasks, especially in problem-solving situations.

This fall semester our geography students are performing internships in a wide variety of public and private organizations. **Beau Barela** works with Drilling Info, using his GIS skills to plot complex property descriptions using the specialized LandTrac database. **Kelley Coker** and **Jack Higginbotham** are both helping monitor water quality with the Texas Stream Team. **Erica Faulkenberry** puts her interest in environmentally-friendly bicycle transportation to use by interning with the Texas Bicycle Coalition. **Cameron Howitt** serves as an assistant to the environmental compliance officer at the Hays County/International Power natural gas electrical generation plant. **Mason McCorkle** helps keep our drinking water safe as a GIS intern with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Intern **Jan Schneider** assists the Geospatial Systems Administrator at the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District. **William Parrish** is readying himself for a private-sector planning career interning with the law firm of Brown and Carrol, who specialize in real estate planning. Nature and Heritage Tourism intern **David Neuman** researches and documents historic buildings located in New Braunfels assisting the city's Historic Preservation Officer. The McKinney Roughs Environmental Education Program employs geography intern **Ryan Untermeyer** as an interpretive recreation coordinator (Ryan leads rafting trips on the Colorado River). Finally, geography intern **Joseph Webb** performs ranchland field-mapping for Kiva Consulting.



For more information regarding internship request or questions, contact Mark L. Carter, Internship Coordinator for the Department of Geography at mc12@txstate.edu.

Field Excursion Explores Geography and Geology of the Southwest (continued from page 1)

from 600 feet, all the way up to 10,000 feet. They experienced the hot desert temperatures at Lake Powell and a near-freezing morning in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. The vans got stuck in the mud on the back roads of New Mexico and had to be pushed up the Shafer Trail in Utah. They saw snow in July and ate freshly caught trout in Colorado. In order to reach the sacred Rainbow Bridge Monument in Arizona, the group had to abandon their vans and travel by boat. There was no shortage of excitement along the way.

After nearly a month on the road, the group was ready to get back to their friends, families and their soft beds. But as the journey came to an end, it was clear to all that they had experienced the trip of a lifetime - making new friends and memories that would last forever.



For details of the adventure, check out the following link to a Google Map of the Geography and Geology of the Southwest 2008.

http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF*&hl=en&msa=0&msid=107143379677101153569.0004511592577e302d1a&z=5

NAEP Aids in Trail-Building Project at Enchanted Rock

Submitted by Leah Gibson, Co-President of NAEP



NAEP members that donated their time to the project included Leah Gibson, Cameron Howitt, Grady Hillhouse, Corina Salmon, Danny Lynch, Marc Goldsmith, Lolly Scheckter, Rebecca Whitton, and Matt Akins.



Several members of the National Association of Environmental Professionals traveled to Enchanted Rock State Natural Area on September 19, to participate in the Friends of Enchanted Rock trail-building project. The trail project, sponsored by Friends of Enchanted Rock, is focused on repairing and maintaining the park's severely eroded and impacted trails. NAEP volunteers worked to restore worn sections of the Summit Trail and other trails within the park. This included filling and hauling sacks of decomposed granite up Enchanted Rock, as well as shoveling and leveling the granite along the trails. The work was strenuous, yet rewarding. Many park patrons expressed their gratitude for NAEP's willingness to contribute to the beauty of Enchanted Rock. Trail project volunteers were allowed to camp for free, so the trip wasn't only spent on back-breaking labor. Lively campfire conversations and an early-morning hike up Enchanted Rock to watch the sunrise were just some of the trip's highlights. When their work was over and it was time to leave, everyone agreed that it was a weekend well spent.

More information regarding NAEP and its involvement in the community can be found at

<http://www.geo.txstate.edu/studentorgs/naep/index.html>.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments about NAEP projects, email them at naep@geo.txstate.edu.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world!"

Texas State Geography's Environmental Service Committee

Submitted by Hayat Qurunful, Geography/German Senior

The Environmental Service Committee is holding meetings this semester at 5:15 p.m. on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesday of each month in ELA 314. Two committee members graduated last spring - Lindsay Reed and Taylor Powell - and in their place, the committee has welcomed Nicholas Maloukis and Danielle del Castillo Shelton. Two new projects have been approved thus far, and they have enhanced ESC's involvement in the community and on-campus.

The first project comes from the Department of Biology's Dr. Tim Bonner in conjunction with the Aquarena Center and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It entails removing the Chinese Tallow tree population surrounding Spring Lake. Chinese Tallows are highly invasive and poisonous and are not native to the Central Texas region. Each mature tree produces millions of seeds. These seeds fall and are dispersed by water to locations further down river, spreading the problem. The purpose of this project is to prevent further seed distribution from taking place and to limit the growth of this non-native species around Aquarena and the San Marcos area.

ESC's second project was proposed by the Department of Horticulture's Jason Sanders, a graduate student on a mission to make composting a priority at Texas State. The project, entitled "Bobcat Blend," will ensure that receptacles are placed in all on-campus eateries in order to collect materials to be composted. Students will be able to put unfinished food and compostable wares into bins, which will be collected and transported to a location off campus where the composting will take place. This project will be beneficial to Texas State University, as it will reduce the amount of trash that needs to be hauled away and, in turn, save money. It will also educate people about composting and the recycling of food waste, which aids in the creation of more food.



The Environmental Service Committee is always accepting new applications and project proposals. More information regarding ESC, funded projects, and meeting locations/times can be found at www.txstate.edu/esc.

On September 30, the Texas State Chapters of the National Association of Environmental Professional and Gamma Theta Epsilon held a tabling session in the Quad to collect pledges for Power Vote - a national non-partisan campaign that seeks to elevate the issues of climate change, clean energy, green jobs, and sustainability. Students were asked to pledge to vote for candidates that support these issues.

Universities from around the nation are part of the campaign, each working toward their own campus goal. Texas State University's goal was to gather at least 2,000 pledges. The nationwide goal of one million pledges will help to sway the election and let Washington know that these issues are important to this generation.

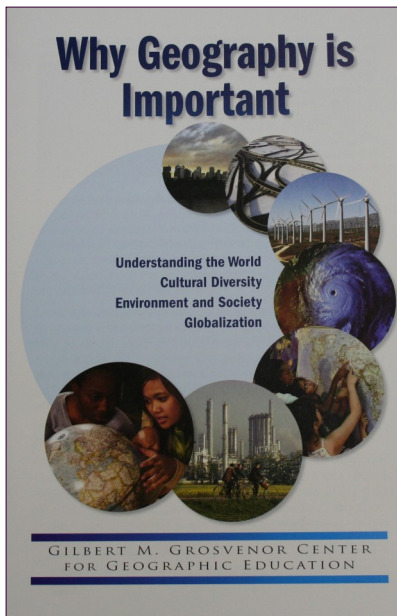
- submitted by Leah Gibson, NAEP Co-President

The Department of Geography at Texas State University provides students with the opportunity to participate in a number of student organizations. The following organizations are applauded for their outstanding work at Texas State and within the community:

- Student Planning Organization (SPO)
- Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) Geographical Honor Society
- National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP)
- Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG)
- Student Organization for Geographical Information Science (SOGIS)
- Graduate Forum
- Geology Club

More information regarding these organizations can be found at <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/people/organizations.html>.

Grosvenor Center Produces “Why Geography is Important” Publication



Submitted by Judy Behrens, Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education

In a world of complete cultural and environmental relationships, American decision makers need sound geographic knowledge to address climate change, energy dependence, war and regional conflicts, cultural diversity, technology and the Internet, globalization, natural and technological hazards, and transportation needs. With funding from the National Geographic Education Foundation, Dr. Richard Boehm gathered a group of distinguished geographic educators from across the country to develop a 12-page brochure which outlines these contemporary problems and issues that require the attention of geographically literate citizens.

A digital copy of “Why Geography is Important” is available in PDF version on the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education’s website, <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/tage/>.

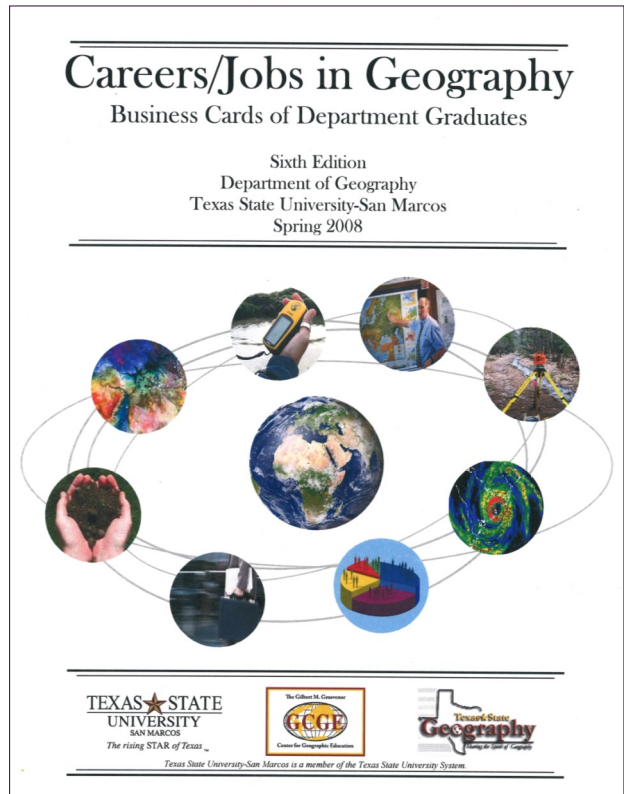
For more information about this publication, contact the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education at 512.245.1823 or jb42@txstate.edu.

Business Card Directory Highlights Alumni Employment Opportunities

The 6th edition of “Careers/Jobs in Geography: Business Cards of Department Graduates,” completed in spring 2008, features the current business cards of 394 alumni of the Texas State Department of Geography. This publication, which is updated every two years, is produced by the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, but would not exist without the assistance and support of departmental faculty, staff, alumni, and current students. The alumni business cards are classified into a number of different employment categories, including Environmental Geography, Land Use Planning, Geospatial Technologies, Geography Education, Business Geography, Real Estate & Construction, Other Jobs in Geography, and Interdisciplinary.

According to Professor Mark Carter, the internship coordinator and undergraduate career counseling advisor, “The Geography Alumni Business Card Directory” is the single most valuable tool we have to help us suggest career options to prospective and current geography majors. The publication offers an overview of the types of careers and jobs that are available to those individuals who pursue education and training in geography-related fields. In addition, the alumni business card directory is a communication tool that helps maintain and strengthen the network of former and current Texas State geography students.

For a digital copy of the 2008 “Careers/Jobs in Geography: Business Cards of Department Graduates” go to: <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/resources/internship-jobs/business-cards.html>.



For additional information about the publication, contact the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education at 512-245-1823 or jb42@txstate.edu.

Grosvenor Center to Host International Research Conference

On May 27-30, 2009, the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education in the Texas State Department of Geography will host an international research conference entitled "GeoSummit: An International Symposium on Teaching and Learning in Geography." Under the direction of Dr. Osvaldo Muniz and Dr. Richard Boehm, this academic conference has been developed as a way to bring together students, faculty, and education professionals from around the world in an environment that will promote collaborative research opportunities and professional networking. Representatives from 53 foreign countries are working closely with Grosvenor Center personnel to solicit the participation of a strong contingent of international academics and students.

Proposed conference research strands include (1) pre-service teacher preparation, (2) teacher professional development, (3) spatial learning and cognition, (4) curriculum, standards, and assessment, (5) geospatial technologies, (6) geography in higher education, (7) international perspectives on the history and philosophy of geography, (8) E-learning in geographic education, and (9) theories and methods in geographic education. Students, faculty, and alumni from all Department of Geography and other Texas State academic departments are invited to participate in the May 2009 research symposium.

For more information, please contact the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education at 512.245.1823 or jb42@txstate.edu.

Texas State Travels



The Department of Geography held a "postcard competition" to chart all the locations its faculty, staff, and students visited over the summer. Organized by Pat Hell-Jones, the response was incredible, with postcards arriving from all over the world—from Prague to Peru, Argentina to Arizona, and Israel to Indiana! Each day brought an exciting glance at a colleague's experience in another part of the world.

**TEXAS STATE
UNIVERSITY-
SAN MARCOS**

**DEPARTMENT
OF GEOGRAPHY**

Texas State University-San Marcos
Department of Geography
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San Marcos, TX 78666

Evans Liberal Arts, Room 139
Phone: 512-245-2170
Fax: 512-245-8353

Sharing the Spirit of Geography



**Don't forget about the Department of Geography's
15th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration!
The all day event will be held on
Saturday, April 25, 2009.**

Check the departmental website for additional information and updates.



We're on the Web!
<http://www.geo.txstate.edu/>