



GeoNews

Southwest Texas State University Department of Geography Newsletter • Vol. 8, Issue 1, Fall 2001

2001-2002 Year of Collaboration and Recommitment

Geographic Information Science education gets \$2 million boost--The Sun Center of Excellence!

By Lisa Cruz, SWT Media Relations

Teachers trying to introduce today's high-tech geography concepts, which can help solve important real-world problems, to middle and high school students will soon have another tool to get students pumped up about modern geography. Southwest Texas State University's Geography Department and Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education — in conjunction with Sun Microsystems, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and the National Geographic Society (NGS) Geography Educational Outreach Program — have developed a \$2 million center devoted to teaching Geographic Information Science (GIScience) to middle and high school teachers.

The Sun Center of Excellence in Web-based Geographic Information Science Education is expected to officially begin in September. Geographic Information Science, used by everyone from real-estate agents and the FBI to Hollywood and environmental agencies, relies on computer applications and remote sensing imagery to obtain data and develop state-of-the-art maps and analyses. As a high-tech approach to geography, GIScience, which includes Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, cartography, and visualization, is one of the fastest growing career fields. The center is expected to give students a new look into the world of geography.

According to the project proposal, the center will develop in three phases. The first phase, to be complete by August 2002, will establish two replicable Sun GIS labs that will enhance efforts to carry the project into middle and high schools nationwide.

see *Sun Center*, page 14

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison to Deliver Grosvenor Lecture

Judy Behrens



U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Republican from Texas, will deliver the 4th Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture on Friday, November 9 titled, "America Under Attack: What will the future hold?" The presentation,

hosted by the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, will take place at 2:15 p.m. in the LBJ Student Center Teaching Theater. Senator Hutchison has indicated that she will talk about the importance of geography to the national political scene. Gilbert M. Grosvenor, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of National Geographic Society, will travel to San Marcos to introduce Senator Hutchison.

Senator Hutchison became the first woman to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate when she was elected in 1993. In 2000, she was re-elected to a second term, with the largest number of votes ever earned by a candidate in Texas. She currently serves as a member of the Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Committee on Appropriations; Committee on Rules and Administration, and; Committee on Veteran's Affairs.

For more information about the 4th Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture, contact Judy Behrens at (512) 2245-1823 or jb42@swt.edu.

8th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration

Fred Shelley

The 8th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration promises to be the best in the history of the department! Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 20, and come join us for a day of celebrating the department and its alumni, students, and achievements!

The day's activities will include speakers and presentation of scholarships and awards the Alkek Teaching Theater; workshops, lab demonstrations, and other activities in the department, and the annual barbecue at the Pecan Grove at Aquarena Springs (along with music and karaoke!). Dr. Jim Harrison, who is retiring this year after more than 30 years of outstanding service, will also be honored.



Fred Shelley and Angelika Lester

Registration for this year's Reunion will be FREE to all currently enrolled students who register in advance and to all undergraduate and graduate alumni of the department who register in advance. Watch the department Web Site, and watch your e-mail, for detailed information! We in Geography hope to see you at this year's Reunion on April 20!



Students enjoying BBQ



Hawaiian Dancer

Inside GeoNews

Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration	4
Faculty News	6
Department News	8
Upcoming Events	11
Across the U.S.	14
Around the World	16
Alumni Bits	17

The Spirit of Geography Scholarship

Please join me for a moment of prayer for those who lost their lives on 11 September and for those who now battle world terrorism.

Lawrence Estaville

SWT Geography establishes The Spirit of Geography Scholarship to honor the memory of those people who lost their lives on 11 September 2001 in the airplane that was hijacked and crashed into the Pentagon. Two of these people were National Geographic Society staff members—Joe Ferguson and Ann Judge—both dear friends to several members of our department, and three outstanding Washington, DC teachers—James Debeuneure, Sarah Clark, and Hilda Taylor—and their 11-year-old, sixth-grade students Rodney Dickens, Asia Cotton, and Bernard Brown, respectively.

We invite faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends to help us raise at least \$5,000 to initiate the process of establishing The Spirit of Geography Scholarship. SWT Vice President Gerald Hill has graciously and generously committed himself to raising another \$5,000 to match our efforts. Thus, we will be able, in perpetuity, to award a \$500 scholarship to a deserving Geography student each year.

Because the three students in the National Geographic Society group were African American, the department has decided to use The Spirit of Geography Scholarship to promote geographic education among minority students. The Geography Scholarships and Awards Committee will select each year an entering Geography student who best represents the “Spirit of Geography” from a Summer Academy for Minority High School Students sponsored by SWT Geography and its Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education.

Please help us with this important effort to establish The Spirit of Geography Scholarship to honor the memory of these people who lost their lives while on a geography field trip to California. Send your donations to the Geography Scholarships and Awards Committee, Department of Geography, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, TX 78666 or e-mail Dr. Pamela Showalter, committee chair, at ps15@swt.edu for more information. Thanks for joining us!

Greetings From The Chair

Collaboration and Recommitment

Lawrence Estaville



SWT Geography is now a Sun Microsystems Center of Excellence for Geographic Information Science! This partnership with Sun is one of only a handful of its very prestigious centers of excellence across the continent! Our Sun Center of Excellence for Geographic Information Science brings more than \$1 million worth of cutting-edge equipment into the department to establish two Sun teaching labs and two Sun research labs! We will highlight these thin-client labs at our 8th Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on 20 April 2002.

Speaking of our Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, the 7th Annual Reunion and Student Celebration last April was another huge success with more than 600 people—the largest number ever—returning to SWT from places as far away as Honduras, California, and Washington, DC! The day was filled with presentation of awards and scholarships, workshops, exhibits, tours, and the big BBQ blast at Aquarena Springs! The SWT Salsa Band and Cindy Gratz's Hawaiian GIS presentation and Sam Houston State dance troupe rocked us all! There was not a dry eye in Centennial Auditorium at the end of the presentation of 26 scholarships to our students, including William Karnau's presentation of the two Sally Karnau scholarships in honor of the memory of one of our former Ph.D. students!

Vince Nacewski and Joe Cruseturner were honored with the Geography Distinguished Alumni Award, and the department presented Dr. Ronald Abler, executive director of the Association of American Geographers, and Dr. Michael Willoughby, dean of the SWT Graduate College, with Outstanding Leadership Awards! Angelika Lester, Joan Pasquali, and Dan Hemenway received the Outstanding Service Awards for their truly wonderful work “above and beyond the call of duty” for many years! Finally, Gaye Krampitz and Micky Henry, both in the VPAA's Office, and Margo Moore of the Graduate College, received the Outstanding Staff Service Awards for their many excellent contributions to our department! So, mark your calendars for 20 April 2002 for this year's Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration because all current students and alumni—first time

see Chair, page 19

GIS Certificates!

Congratulations to the 12 students who were the first to complete our new GIS certificate! In addition, congratulations to Debbie Bryan for her outstanding work with these students in her GEO 4427 class in Summer III! Here is the news release that appeared in the San Marcos Daily Record:

On August 8, the Department of Geography at Southwest Texas State University (SWT) awarded the first certificates to 12 students who completed all of the requirements for the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Certificate Program. This event marked the first such GIS certificates to be awarded in any university in Texas. The 12 students, 11 of whom are current geography students and one a graduate from Trinity University in San Antonio, successfully completed a sequence of four GIS courses that provides them with in-depth, state-of-the-art knowledge and skills in this increasingly important technical field.

GIS, in its simplest terms, is the layering of maps in computers to understand better the spatial relationships of variables of interest. GIS has become in the past decade a principal analytical tool for geographers and is being used in a variety of other disciplines, such as archeology, biology, criminal justice, forestry, geology, history, political science, sociology, and urban studies.

Working in two groups, like consultant teams, under the direction of Dr. Deborah Bryan, the 12 first graduates of the SWT Geography's GIS Certificate Program undertook in their final GIS course two important projects that addressed real-world issues: crime in San Marcos and water resources in the newly incorporated village of Wimberley. Almost 100 people, including the police chief of San Marcos, Steve Griffith, and the mayor of Wimberley, Linda Hewlett, listened intently as the students presented their analyses and findings of their two projects within a computer graphics environment that included three-dimensional displays and “fly-bys” and video clips. The first students to be awarded the GIS Certificate at SWT are: Charles Boggess, Tyrell Fowler, John Goodwin, Bernadette Marion, Collin McCormick, William Milligan, Jennifer Minor, Herbert Moss IV, Thomas Parks, Stephanie Stiefel, David Van Camp, and Nalda Zepeda-Andrews.

Enhancing first-rate academic programs with quality student services

Brock Brown, Undergraduate Program Coordinator



All of our alumni are aware that the Department of Geography has grown substantially in both faculty and undergraduate programs such as our new GIS and Water Resources Policy certificates over the past few years. There is no doubt that this growth translates into many increased learning opportunities for students at all levels.

It also means, however, that with much more on our collective “plate” we must all work harder to preserve the “geography family” personality with regard to student customer service that has distinguished the department over the years. Your department has made great strides in advancing the quality of student services so we can better meet the needs of our students, but lets start at the beginning.

Some of you will fondly remember the “good old days” when the department’s undergraduate student services consisted primarily of Betty Williams who ran a very successful one-person student service center that provided advising, processed paperwork, and the nurtured majors. She always knew what students needed and who to contact to get the job done. She was probably the only person in the department who fully understood the various programs and opportunities available to geography students. Faculty supported her on an ad hoc basis by whomever happened to be in their offices when students had questions or problems.

As the department grew, it became apparent that the task was beyond the ability of any one person to manage. For weeks at a time around registration, student service demands completely consumed Betty’s every minute. The department recognized that Betty needed help

and decided that the responsibility for student service should be shifted and shared. Initially, Dennis Fitzsimons, the first undergraduate program coordinator, headed the transition for the undergraduate program. Over time, the department clarified, reviewed, and improved the precise nature of each of its academic programs. Next, faculty, possessing concise program information, began to assume the major responsibility for academic advising and career counseling for our undergraduates.

Today, the department has an efficient and successful infrastructure in place to ensure that it provides high quality student services to undergraduate geography majors and minors. The anchor in this process is Ms. Joan Pasquali who serves as the administrative assistant to the undergraduate program. Joan, working out of the Geography Student Advising Services Office, provides an eight to five “open for business” location where students can go to obtain information about programs and to learn which faculty are most appropriate for them to meet with based upon their specific needs. Ms. Pasquali also manages the advising facilities on the first floor of Evans Liberal Arts and coordinates the various meetings and student-support activities. She processes and files paperwork on behalf of students when they declare geography as a major or need a degree outline. She is the interface between the department and the SWT Administration when programs are changed or courses are added, modified, or deleted.

The second element of this infrastructure is the Undergraduate Committee, which is comprised of faculty who represent all of the academic concentrations in the undergraduate program. Committee members provide a primary point of contact for academic advising and career counseling, and conduct group-advising sessions for undergraduate students each semester. *see Undergraduate, page 10*

Collaboration and Recommitment*

Fred M. Shelley, Graduate Program Coordinator



As I write these words, less than four days have passed since the lives of Americans were forever altered by the horrific, cowardly, and tragic terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. No one will ever forget the horrifying images of hijacked aircraft slamming into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Nor will we forget the agony and sorrow on the faces of those who lost family members and friends. Yet we admired the courage of the thousands of brave firefighters, rescue workers, police officers, medical personnel, and other volunteers who converged on New York and Washington to help in the rescue efforts. We witnessed members of Congress—Republican and Democrat, conservative and liberal—spontaneously singing “God Bless America” on the steps of the Capitol. We stood together as one nation with a quiet determination and confidence, collaborating and recommitting ourselves to defending our freedoms and to upholding the core values of Western culture and democracy so ruthlessly trampled by the perpetrators of these cowardly terrorist acts.

Those of us glued to our television sets watching the tragic events of 11 September unfold have seen countless examples of ordinary Americans working together in the heroic rescue efforts, and countless examples of ordinary Americans acting to recommit themselves to the core

values of our society. These Americans collaborated for the larger good of their society, and recommitted themselves to the ideals and values that underlie our civilization.

How appropriate, therefore, that this year’s theme in the Geography Department is “Collaboration and Recommitment.” The dictionary defines collaboration in terms of working together. But what does working together really mean? Collaboration is more than merely a collection of people doing the same thing at the same time. It means identifying common goals and coordinating efforts to reach these goals. It means working as a team. Each member of the team must respect and recognize one another’s contributions. The unique talents and skills possessed by each must be respected and used thoughtfully in order to keep the team focused on its objectives.

Underlying this collaboration is recommitment—in other words, a renewal of our values, our responsibilities, and our energies. We in the family of the Department of Geography have come from all over the world and across this great nation, from many different economic, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, because we love people, places, and the environment. We have committed our lives to geography because we love geography.

Expression of this love has been central to faculty and students of geography at SWT since the university first opened its doors in 1903. Today, let us renew this love, remind ourselves why we chose geography as a profession, and resolve to reinforce our expression of love of our discipline through hard work, creative thought, and the production and distribution of new geographic knowledge. *see Graduate, page 7*

7TH ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION AND STUDENT CELEBRATION: A STUNNING SUCCESS!

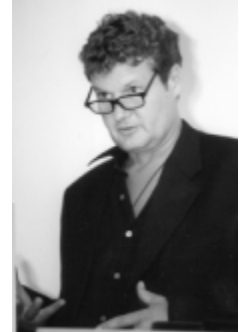
Fred M. Shelley



The 7th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, held on April 21, 2001, was the largest and best in the event's history. More than 600 alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the department along with their loved ones joined us for a day-long celebration of the department's past, present and future.

The Reunion activities kicked off with a colloquium and dinner in honor of retiring Professor Sent Visser. Featured speakers included Dr. Ron Abler, executive director of the Association of American Geographers, Dr. John Paul Jones, Professor at the University of Kentucky, and Dr. Peter Hosking, Professor at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Ron, J.P. and Peter joined us for the Reunion, making it even more special. Other alumni joined us from as far away as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Washington, D.C. The formal program included presentation of the department's scholarships and awards, including presentation of the Outstanding Alumni Award to Vince Nacewski and Joe Cruseturner (see story on page 5). Graduate student William Pugatch gave a multimedia presentation, "Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind? The Geography of George Strait," originally presented at the AAG meeting in New York. Following the formal program, participants moved to the Evans Liberal Arts Building for several fascinating workshops, lab demonstrations, and exhibits. A special feature was a workshop on GIS and hula dance presented by Dr. Cindy Gratz of Sam Houston State University. Other workshops included a workshop on the SWT environmental service fee and a discussion of environmental change in Glacier National Park.

After the workshops, everyone adjourned to Aquarena Springs for the annual barbecue. The Pecan Grove proved to be an ideal venue, and participants were treated to music by the San Marcos High School Jazz Band and the SWT Salsa Band. Joy Adams brought her karaoke machine, and those with musical aspirations (including the Department Chair and the Graduate Program Coordinator) treated a large and appreciative audience to an impressive display of their vocal talents. Let me thank committee co-chairs Mark Carter and Angelika Lester, registration chair Judy Behrens, and the many faculty, staff, and students who volunteered countless hours to make the event a success. Next year's reunion, to be held on April 20, promises to be better than ever--it's FREE!!! Mark your calendar!!! I am looking forward to seeing you there!



Vince Nacewski and Joe Cruseturner Honored as Outstanding Alumni

Emily Manderson



Vince Nacewski and Bob Larsen

At the 7th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration festivities last spring our department awarded Vince Nacewski and Joe Cruseturner the Outstanding Alumni Award. The department proudly recognized these alums for their outstanding accomplishments.

In 1996, Cruseturner and Nacewski formed BNC Environmental Services. BNC currently has offices in Houston,

Dallas, Austin, Midland, and Cushing, Oklahoma that provide environmental remediation to major oil and gas companies, with a focus on the pipeline industry. BNC also has employees located in Utah, Maryland, New Mexico, and Arizona. The mission of BNC is to provide the highest quality consulting and remedial effort while balancing the costs through efficient operations. Cruseturner states, "This was a major driver in merging the company with a civil construction firm, thereby making us more efficient in our field execution. We currently have approximately 200 ongoing projects ranging from \$10,000 to over \$2,000,000." BNC works on projects such as building landfills, remedial ground water assessments, and spill management.

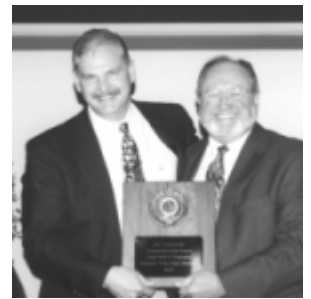
Both alumni focused on Urban and Regional Planning at SWT. Nacewski's first geography class was Dr. Byron Augustin's Geography of Texas, and, after another geography class with Bob Larsen, he was hooked. When asked how Geography has helped prepare him for his work, Cruseturner replied, "Geography has proven useful in my understanding of the various areas we work in around the United States. Also, the

cultural differences we may encounter. Geography has given me a wonderful sense of direction." Geography is important to Nacewski in his field-work. The company continuously creates maps of site plans. For every project, there are drawings and diagrams and the company frequently uses GPS and map symbols.

BNC Environmental Services frequently has positions for interns and is constantly looking to hire skilled and qualified people in a friendly working environment. In fact, BNC hired three summer interns from SWT. Cruseturner and Nacewski enjoy SWT geography graduates for a variety of reasons. As they pointed out at the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration last April, SWT geography students are not afraid to get their hands dirty and get the work done. Because of their balanced approach to life, SWT geography alumni possess strong geographic knowledge and as well as being dependable workers.

What should a current student do to prepare for this type of career? Some helpful skills to have while working with BNC are being able to identify soil types, know different water levels, identify vegetation and other biological species, work well with people, and be able to communicate and write well. Interested students should visit BNC's Web site at bncenv.com and contact them through the site.

Vince Nacewski and Joe Cruseturner are examples of SWT graduates who have excelled in applying their geographical skills to the real-world and currently provide valuable environmental services. The department is grateful for the invaluable relationship that exists between BNC and SWT Geography interns and graduates. Outstanding alumni indeed!



Joe Cruseturner and Bob Larsen

Sister Madeleine Gregg: Associate Director of Grosvenor Center

Emily Manderson



At the last AAG meeting in New York City, Southwest Texas and Sister Madeleine Gregg became further acquainted with one another. A fortunate discovery for the SWT Geography Department, Sister Madeleine Gregg is a Roman Catholic sister with abundant energy, motivation, intellect, and creativity. Geography is an integral part of Sister Madeleine's life. Her work as a daily faithful companion of Jesus deals with varieties of cultures from different areas of the world such as Calgary and Indonesia. Geography is also involved in her life on a professional level as a professor of Teacher Education at the University of Alabama. She is particularly involved in a Multiple Abilities Program (MAP) that prepares teachers to meet the needs of all children, ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade. The purpose of this program is to train students to integrate curricula. Teachers use geography to make the integration program possible.

In spring 2001, the Grosvenor Center asked Sister Madeleine to be an associate director. She is extremely enthusiastic about having the opportunity to be a part of the center and to be able to work with students. She plans to serve as a sounding board to discuss research and to help generate ideas for the center and, most important, be a

supportive cheerleader for excellent work. Additionally, Sister Madeleine is part of a group called, Encouraging Members to Belong to a Research Community (EMBARC). She wants to give visibility to geographic research and get young "newcomers" to understand the value of high quality geographic education so students will have a solid geographic foundation.

Over the summer, Sister Madeleine led a workshop for the Grosvenor International Conference on Geographic Education entitled "First Steps in Geographic Education Research."

It was a well-planned teaching lesson that she herself had used with fifth, sixth, and seventh graders and found to be successful. The purpose of this exercise was to discover what cognitive mode students are using when they are learning and, in doing so, to help teachers to understand what geographic ideas are important to teach. Sister Madeleine stressed that this was not a question of do students know more after they learn. It is more of a question about how students understand geographic information, and what is most memorable; it is about the structure and connection of knowledge. Sister Madeleine's enthusiasm in discovering what students really understand about geography as well as her passion to strengthen and multiply that understanding makes her invaluable to geographic education and to our department.

Faculty News

Making This a Thoughtful World: Frederick Day Receives Outstanding Teacher Award

Emily Manderson



Every year the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) awards a handful of professors across the nation with a Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award. Frederick Day, Professor of Geography, was one of those honored recipients at NCGE's 86th annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada. This award was not his first for his excellent teaching. In 1998, he was honored as SWT's International Programs Professor of the Year. In 2000, SWT geography students awarded Day the Graduate Mentoring Award.

Day's success as a teacher comes from his dedication to knowledge and education. He wants to make this a thoughtful world. Fred Day's goal to strengthen and inspire student's minds has made him one of the most popular and highly regarded teachers in the department. His classes are always full, and the student buzz is positive. Teaching for Day is not secondary; it is something that he prepares for and most importantly enjoys. "Teaching truly is my first priority at the university," Day said. "I put a good deal of my time into preparing insightful and interesting lectures that relate to our students' lives. I think they appreciate that." Day feels lucky that he has found his niche with Geography. "Geography is interesting, it is not esoteric or removed, rather geography is real and relates to our lives which means that it has a lot to offer to students."

Day enriches his popular regional geography classes with his extensive travel experiences. He lived abroad as a Peace Corps volunteer in Korea and lived in Thailand while working on his dissertation. Day has spent more than six years overseas and speaks French, Korean and Thai, making him the department's expert on Asia. Population study is Day's topical field of geography. He is interested in how populations migrate and change. However, Day describes himself as an eclectic geographer. His interests cover a broad part of the geographic spectrum. What he enjoys most about working with SWT students, especially on the Masters and PhD level, is the quality of the students. Students provide a high level of interaction and new ideas. Its refreshing and rewarding.

Our department is fortunate to have a professor with a rich and diverse background that is inspiring to students. Day's love for education and inherent curiosity of the world has made him an invaluable teacher. Please join the department's standing ovation to congratulate Fred Day for his excellent teaching!

Mountain Geography Specialty Group Award

Emily Manderson

At the national Association of American Geographers (AAG) meeting in New York City in March, the Mountain Geography Specialty Group presented its Outstanding Recent Accomplishment Award to Professor David R. Butler. The award recognizes Butler's work "in analyzing and interpreting the nature of biophysical processes in mountain environments." At the same meeting, Butler was elected chair of the Specialty Group for 2001-2002. The year 2002 is the United Nations-designated International Year of the Mountains. The United Nations has proclaimed 2002 as the International Year of Mountains (IYM) to increase international awareness of the global importance of mountain ecosystems. It assigned the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the role of lead agency in collaboration with governments, NGOs and other UN organizations. IYM provides a unique opportunity to move mountain issues higher on the global agenda. Rather than a period of isolated events, it should serve as a springboard and catalyst for long-term, sustained and concrete action that will extend far beyond 2002.

Communicating With Maps: Dennis Fitzsimons, *Annals* Cartography Editor

Emily Manderson



The Association of American Geographers has appointed Dr. Dennis Fitzsimons as the new cartography editor for the leading geographic journal in the United States, the *Annals*. Fitzsimons' first encounters with maps were while traveling with his family around the age of seven or eight and he started learning how to "read" road maps. In hindsight, he believes it was a tactic used by his father while traveling from San Diego to California to reduce the question of "when are we going to get there?"

Fitzsimons is a true lover of maps. When asked about his favorite maps he responds, "My favorite map is like my favorite book...often the one I have just finished reading. Because of my long involvement with cartography, over 35 years, I tend to appreciate particular facets of a map rather than everything about it. For sentimental reasons, my favorite is "Hogs, 1967 North Carolina" by George F. Jenks, one of my mentors from the University of Kansas. My favorite map that I am responsible for is the "Federal Areas Receiving Special Land Use Protection." This map, the first showing all federal lands in the Western U.S., was completed in 1980, after three years of supervising nine student assistants. The map was well received and ended up on the office walls of many senators and congressmen in Washington, D.C."

As the cartography editor, Fitzsimons decides if the submitted map reflects the same information that is in the associated article. At times, the graphics can be misleading or not even related to the article. Fitzsimons pointed out that many geographers are not trained in cartography, and therefore they do not understand that the essence of a good map is communication. Soon, after he was appointed as cartography editor, he rewrote the guidelines for map submission. With the criteria in place, he talks authors through the criteria and offers suggestions to make stronger visual statements. The guidelines provide clear ideas of what is beneficial to the quality of the maps; at the same time, he must be flexible and open to other suggestions. As well, he realizes that his role quickly makes him the bad guy; however, his main concern is for the quality of the journal. Fitzsimons compares his role to an editor of English. While the editor of written materials looks for grammar problems and content clarity, Fitzsimons makes sure that the important issues come forward and that the maps easily communicate to the reader.

see Fitzsimons, page 15

Faculty News

The Department of Geography extends a warm welcome to our newest faculty members!!!

Emily Manderson

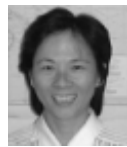


Dr. Mark Fonstad, Assistant Professor, joins our department this fall with an extensive background in fluvial geomorphology and GIS. Raised by two geographers, geography came quite naturally to him. While working on his undergraduate degree at University of Wisconsin, he worked with Jim Knox who profoundly influenced Fonstad's work and love for rivers. Ohio University then offered Fonstad a full ride to work on geomorphology with Dorothy Sack. In his research, Fonstad's aims to combine theory with practical applications. Thus, he works with policy questions that are directly related to theoretical questions. He looked for these similar attributes in a professor and ended up working at Arizona State with William Graf. Fonstad's work on fluvial geomorphology continued while he strengthened his interest in Remote Sensing and GIS. Not quite sure how the two were related, he ran into an ad for a post-doctoral position stating "wanted rivers and remote sensing at Montana State University." At Montana State, he worked on a project at Yellowstone National Park that involved remote sensing of rivers. Fonstad's goal is to be able to analyze and predict the state of streams from remote sensing. We are proud to have such a motivated and skilled professor join our family.



Arriving from SUNY Buffalo, **Dr. Yongmei Lu**, Assistant Professor, joins our department with master's and bachelor's degrees in Geography from Peking University in China. In China she studied in an assigned department that was not labeled as geography but after time she realized that she was studying geographic information. After completing her Ph.D. at Buffalo and looking at other departments, she decided that SWT was a good fit for her. Lu has extensively studied GIS's theoretical uses and its applied

applications. One topic of interest for Lu has been integrating GIS with spatial modeling of social and economic problems. She enjoys discovering the relationship between society and GIS such as analyzing crime patterns and then being able to make predictions. Lu is deeply interested in geography because of its real-world applications.



Dr. Grace Chen, Visiting Assistant Professor, joins our department with interests in GIS, science of scale, and Hydrology. Even though getting into the field of geography inadvertently, she discovered her love for geography through traveling and teaching. To seek for some unifying concepts that can help systematize geographic patterns and processes scattering around the world, she came to the United States for graduate school. At the University of Iowa, where she studied with former SWT faculty member George Malanson, she developed the interest in scaling issues. Combining theory and application, Chen aims to develop a science of scale that is applicable across disciplines.

When asked to define science of scale Dr. Chen responds, "No one really defines the science of scale yet, but it is concerned with the effects of scale on the quantification of geographic phenomena." At this point in time she finds research to be slightly chaotic, because research finding will vary with size of observation or areal extent. With the aid of GIS Chen believes that geographers are in a better position to help advance the science of scale. The combining of GIS, quantitative methods, and watershed modeling seems to be a productive venue to study scale problems. The department is enthusiastic to learn from Chen's creativity and devotion to geography.

*Visit our New Web site at
www.geo.swt.edu*

Graduate continued from page 3

Let us remember that geography research, geography teaching, and professional service are critical to our defense of the fundamental values of our society that were attacked so brutally on the 11th of September.

On 29 October 1941—more than a month before the bombing of Pearl Harbor forever ended American doubt and indecision about entering World War II—Britain stood alone against Nazi Germany. Adolf Hitler's jack-booted storm troopers represented a very different but equally terrifying enemy whose values, like those of the terrorists who attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, were fundamentally incompatible with our Western values of liberty, freedom, and cultural diversity. Pausing from his busy schedule to speak at his alma mater, Harrow School, Prime Minister Winston Churchill said, "This is the great lesson: Never give in—never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy . . . Do not let us speak of darker days; let us rather speak of sterner days."

Churchill's words are equally relevant today. Through the tragedy shines a ray of hope, and this hope is supported by the collaboration and recommitment shown by ordinary Americans of all races, colors and creeds and from all walks of life. May we in Geography take particular care to heed Churchill's thoughts. We geographers have a unique perspective on the world in which we live, and a unique responsibility to share our knowledge and talents to make the world of the twenty-first century a safer and better place.

The task will not be easy. The days ahead will be sterner days. Yet they will be hopeful days, and the hope we have in the days ahead lies in our collaboration and our recommitment—not only to our profession, but even more fundamentally to the core values of our civilization—liberty, justice, and love. Let us collaborate as geographers, as citizens, and as members of the human family, and let us recommit ourselves in everything we do to using our God-given professional talents and skills to better our world.

*I wish to thank Melissa Gray and Lydia Bean for their thoughtful and insightful comments on an earlier draft of this column.

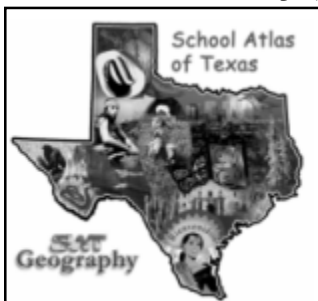
Department News

School Atlas Texas Completed!

Lynn Resler

Finally, the school children of Texas now have an atlas of their state! A *School Atlas of Texas*, produced by the Department of Geography at Southwest Texas State University (SWT), is currently in press at W. S. Benson & Company in Austin. The 48-page color atlas, the first of its kind, is aimed at the school children of Texas, particularly seventh-grade students, and includes physical, historical, cultural, political, economic, and environmental thematic maps of Texas. Examples of maps include natural regions, climate information, major aquifers, earthquakes and fault lines, the people of Texas, native cultures, major archaeological sites, Mexican land grants, Texas borders through time, railroad development, endangered species, parks and public lands, Texas cities, presidential and gubernatorial elections, major festivals, agriculture and ranching, and oil and gas production. To see a handful of sample maps, visit the SWT Geography Department Web site at www.geo.swt.edu. October 1 was the release date for the atlas that will sell for \$9.95, and the atlas was formally unveiled at the annual meeting of the Texas Council for Social Studies in Galveston on October 5-6.

Production staff for the school atlas included Lynn Resler, staff leader, Dina Marie Zamarripa, Kristine Egan, Gayla Malson, Matt Ramspott, Wade Martyn, Jamie Smelser, Marcus Ollington, Yongxia Skadberg, Brian Dopp, Michelle Shuey, and Renate Yonke. This technical team gathered data, created maps, and performed quality control. Byron Augustin, an expert on Texas and associate editor of the atlas, assisted in quality control and contributed several photographs from his personal collection for the atlas. Glynis Christine, graphic designer, advised on color and design and created the final atlas layout. Lawrence Estaville, the managing editor for the atlas, oversaw the entire project throughout the past three years. The revenue from the atlas



will help support future SWT Geography graduate students and will provide funds to the SWT Geography Department for other important projects, software, and equipment.

To purchase a copy of the *School Atlas of Texas* please email geography@swt.edu to place your order or W. S. Benson & Company's Web site at wsbenson.com. Also, a series of outline maps of Texas that accompanies the atlas for student class work will soon be available for downloading from SWT Geography's Web site at www.geo.swt.edu.

Water Resources Policy Certificate Receives Approval

Richard A. Earl

In August the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the SWT Geography proposal to offer a Water Resources Policy Certificate Program. The certificate requires three existing courses (GEO 3334, 4313, 4314), plus a new water policy course that will be offered as a section of GEO 4335, Directed Research. This final course will be taught Tuesday evenings during the Spring 2002 Semester. Persons who have already graduated may take the GEO 4335 course as a post-graduate student. Graduate students may count the graduate equivalent courses to earn the certificate. The SWT Geography Water Resources Policy Certificate provides recipients with a working knowledge of water resources in sufficient detail that they are prepared for professional positions involving water resources management and policy. To the prospective employer, the certificate is a professional endorsement that the recipient has received four university level courses on issues fundamental to water resources management and policy. Successful completion of the program will be recognized through a formal SWT certificate and a statement on the recipient's SWT transcripts.

Getting a Taste of It with the Internship Program

Emily Manderson

Students within the department have the opportunity to learn experientially through its Internship Program. While receiving three hours of credit, students are able to intern at companies, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Truly, students are able to get a taste of the geography work world. This program has been a success for everyone involved. Students become exposed to "real" world scenarios and practice their interviewing skills and the act of finding a job as well. However, students are not the only ones that have benefited from this program. The supervisors from organizations have appreciated the additional help and the skills that geography students have offered.

Most of the students that participate in the program are undergraduates; however, graduate students are also encouraged to do internships. The Internship Program requires students to work a minimum of 150 hours and maintain a daily worklog. Interns are also required to submit an internship assessment report in order to receive college credit for their efforts.

Internship sponsors assist interns with a required job description, provide guidance to students during their internship and complete an evaluation form at the end of the internship period. Potential Internship Sponsors should submit a request for Intern(s) which includes: 1) description of duties and responsibilities; 2) skills and knowledge requirements; 3) student learning opportunities; 4) physical location of internship; 5) financial compensation information; 6) contact name(s), phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

As an undergraduate geography major, Raina Tucker held an internship with the Lower Colorado River Authority. She said, "Working for the LCRA has been a wonderful experience. I was able to get hands-on experience in the things we learned about in class such as writing ESAs, doing environmental inspections in accordance with compliance and federal regulations, as well as learning more about the types of jobs available to Geography majors. The internship program is a wonderful resource for students who want the opportunity to earn while you learn (and best of all, you may even get a job offer in the end). I cannot say enough about the benefits and opportunities that my internship has given me." Her supervisor, Andrew Cooper, wrote, "...Raina performed at a high level in the office as well as in the field. I wish I had a crew of Raina-like interns." *see Internship, page 15*

A Decade of Monitoring Celebrated: Meeting of the Monitors 2001

“Stewardship Above and Beyond”

March 30 and 31, 2001

Allison Moore

The Meeting of the Monitors 2001 inspired people about stewardship, raised awareness about pressing environmental issues, connected partners and volunteers, and broadened peoples vision and skills. Over 200 monitors, teachers, students, scientists, and representatives from state and local government participated in two days of workshops, field excursions, and group discussions focused on land stewardship and conservation ethics.

Texas Watch would like to thank Jack Nelson from the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority for kicking off the event with an interesting talk on the Desalination Project on the Gulf Coast. The morning session continued with three educational interactive workshops, including “Exotic Species” by Dr. David Bowles, “Mussel Watch” by Ann Miller, Lee Ann Linam and Marsha Reimer, and “Gardening for Clean Water: Practical Applications” by Martha Latta.

Following lunch, meeting participants enjoyed field trips to a variety of destinations. This year’s field trips included: SELAH-Bamberger Ranch, Bio-monitoring and Habitat Assessment, Exotic Species, and Mussel Watch. Some of the activities involved touring a habitat restoration project, classroom and field mussel identification in the Guadalupe River, a bio-monitoring species assessment on the San Marcos River, and a look at the effects of nonindigenous species on local habitats. For many conference attendees, the field trips were a highlight of the conference, and Texas Watch hopes to bring more of these interactive field experiences to future conferences.

The day culminated with a reception and dinner honoring this year’s recipients of the Texas Watch Environmental Excellence Awards and was followed by an inspirational keynote address by J. David Bamberger, founder of SELAH-Bamberger Ranch. Mr. Bamberger’s address, focusing on stewardship and land ethics, and provided both an example of successful restoration and a model for future land preservation. The night concluded with a formal awards ceremony recognizing twenty outstanding monitors, coordinators and partners for their commitment to the Texas Watch program and their dedication to the preservation of water quality.

Texas Watch was pleased to have its new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representative, Randall Rush give a brief introduction and overview of EPA’s involvement with Texas Watch to begin the second day of the conference. Eric Mendelman, Texas Watch Program Coordinator,

and Jason Pinchback, Project Coordinator, followed Mr. Rush with a message to inspire conference participants about environmental stewardship, giving back to the earth, and taking action to make a difference.

The opening session was followed by four concurrent workshop sessions, encompassing topics of environmental stewardship, environmental education, technical issues related to water quality, and other important water matters. The environmental stewardship track examined volunteer monitoring and habitat protection, strategies in overcoming environmental challenges, and active stewardship. Sessions highlighting environmental education topics focused on principles of toxicology and current initiatives in ground and surface water education. Other workshop sessions addressed issues related to nonpoint source pollution (NPS), potential monitor funding sources, data analysis, and aquatic flora and fauna in Texas.

This year’s conference featured a panel discussion entitled “Education and Advocacy: Fact vs. Friction.” The purpose of the panel was to foster a dialogue between natural resource protection authorities, policy makers, scientists, and citizens to improve cooperation and achieve the common goal of sustainable environmental integrity. The session spawned a stimulating and informative debate and proved to be a positive forum for all stakeholders in the issue to voice their thoughts and ideas. Texas Watch would like to thank Texas Senator “Buster” Brown, Sparky Anderson of Clean Water Action, Suzanne Zarling of Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Dianne Wassenich of the San Marcos River Foundation, and Patrick Rocques from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) for their participation as panelists. We extend our gratitude also to Dr. Brock Brown from the Geography Department of Southwest Texas State University for his enthusiastic and effective moderation of the session.

The conference concluded with a closing barbeque dinner and a commemorative celebration of ten-year veteran Texas Watch monitors. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing afternoon of fun and fellowship under the pavilion and a final highlight was the drawing for door prizes.

Texas Watch would like to extend special thanks to all of the exhibitors and speakers of this year’s conference who provided a wealth of valuable resources and pertinent information for conference attendees. Finally, we would like to thank each of the MOM participants for your personal contribution in making the first SWT Texas Watch meeting such a success.

High Tech Training Program Needs Industry Mentors

Judy Behrens

Richard Boehm, Director of the, Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, and Ben Zhan, Associate Professor of Geography, have recently been awarded \$293,000 from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to initiate a high technology training program for Texas youths. The Grosvenor Center has partnered with five other organizations for this project, including the Rural Capital Area Workforce Development Board, Alamo Workforce Development Board, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Region 13 Education Service Center, and Region 20 Education Service Center. This demonstration project is designed to answer the TWC’s call for initiatives that introduce Texas youths to high technology career opportunities in the hopes that they will eventually help to fill the ever-growing demand for high technology professionals in Texas. Over the course of the next four years, 800 Texas teachers and over 49,000 high school students are expected to receive training as a result of this program.

During the next two years, this project will provide extensive training in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Information Technology (IT) to 80 high school teachers from the Greater Austin-San Antonio Corridor. ESRI will provide GIS training during two-week summer workshops here in the Department of Geography, in addition to awarding each participating teacher the software and a campus-wide site license for

see Texas Workforce, page 10

Department News

SWT Geography Students are Landing Secure GIS-Related Jobs

Emily Manderson

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has become an integral part of the Geography curriculum in the United States, allowing geography students to have more and better job opportunities than ever. Because everything happens somewhere, GIS is developing in new markets and is in strong demand. Companies use GIS for topics that vary from health issues to crime mapping, and, because the market is not saturated, GIS jobs seem to be immune to the current reduction of dot com jobs. Benjamin Zhan of the SWT Geography faculty recently conducted a labor market analysis for GIS-related jobs. The results that are presented below are promising for those of us who have hopes to be employed when we finally walk out of these doors.

Based on a survey conducted by GISJobs.com, GIS professionals in Texas account for 6.58% of all GIS professionals in the nation. This proportion suggests that there is a job market demand for 4,933 people with backgrounds in GIS technology in Texas in 2001. If this proportion holds steady for the next decade, there will be a demand for 8,628 professionals with GIS skills in 2005 and 17,354 in 2010 in the state of Texas. If the Austin-San Antonio Corridor accounts for only 15% of the demand for professionals in Texas, the demand in this area will be 740 in 2001, 1,294 in 2005, and 2,603 in 2010. These figures are because the labor force in the Austin-San Antonio Corridor accounts for 14.76% of the total Texas labor force in 2001, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. However, the market demand estimates for GIS professionals provided above are extremely conservative for the Corridor region. Many local, regional, state, and federal government entities are based in this region and large portions of these organizations now employ professionals with GIS skills. Some state agencies, including the Texas Department of Health and the Texas Department of Public Safety, are just now beginning to explore how GIS technology can be used to improve and enhance their daily operations. There is little doubt that well over 15% of all GIS professionals in Texas work in the Austin-San Antonio corridor, and the demand for people with training in GIS technology will continue to grow as businesses, government entities, and industries continue to discover the nature, scope, and utility of GIS applications.

The GIS program in the Department of Geography at SWT produced approximately 60 graduates with a specialization in GIS skills in 2000. Assuming that GIS programs at UT, ACC, and SACC are producing comparable numbers of graduates with similar specializations, these four institutions produced a total of 240 graduates with GIS skills in 2000. To meet the estimated market demand for professionals with these skills in the Austin-San Antonio Corridor, we would need to produce five times more graduates in 2005 and eleven times more graduates by 2010.

With the demand for Geographers increasing, our department is able to supply society's need for well-trained, confident, and creative workers. Look out world here we come!

Undergraduate continued from page 3

They also serve as a liaison to faculty in the various concentrations and provide input from the faculty about programs and possible warranted changes. Members of Undergraduate Committee represent the Department at outreach functions such as recruitment oriented College Days.

Today, students who take advantage of the student services offered by the Department have a high probability of graduating in a timely manner and without last minute problems. Students are also better positioned to compete for employment and graduate school positions after graduation. The Department is pleased with the progress we have made, and continue to search for ways to improve our service delivery to students.

Combining quality instruction with outstanding student services continues to be a hallmark of your department and distinguishes it on campus and among geography departments everywhere. While it is true that there are many clichés about student customer service floating around these days, we are making every effort to ensure that quality student service is a reality in our department. Next time you are in the Department, we hope you will be sure to visit our Student Advising Services Office.

Texas Workforce continued from pg. 9

ArcView and Spatial Analyst Extension. While receiving the skills needed to introduce GIS successfully into their high school classrooms, the workshop-trained teachers will also be responsible for training additional teachers in GIS through in-service training sessions. In association with this project, participating teachers will also be eligible to participate in existing internship programs to gain real-world experience with GIS applications.

Project personnel will provide continuous support for participating teachers and students through classroom visits, training materials, distance learning broadcasts, and a project Internet site. An essential element of this training program is the involvement of industry professionals serving as mentors for teachers and students. Mentors will be recruited from among those individuals who utilize GIS as an integral part of their jobs in the Greater Austin-San Antonio Corridor. Each mentor will be asked to make presentations for students and teachers during training workshops, classroom visits, or through distance learning initiatives, in addition to participating in an Internet-based "Ask an Expert" component of the program. Mentors, who will be compensated for their participation, will be asked to make a minimum time commitment of one year to the project.

Alumni of the SWT Department of Geography who use GIS in their jobs are perfect candidates to become industry mentors of this training initiative. In addition to staying closely involved in the Department's activities (and getting paid for it), it is a opportunity to pass along valuable knowledge and real-world experience and to nurture potential high tech co-workers.

For more information about this training program and how you can participate as a project mentor, contact Judy Behrens, Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, at (512) 245-1823 or jb42@swt.edu.

*Visit our New Web site at
www.geo.swt.edu*

Upcoming Events

Grosvenor Center Hosts Academy for Minority Scholars

Judy Behrens

The National Geographic Society has awarded a \$15,000 grant to the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education (Richard Boehm and Lawrence Estaville, Principle Investigators) to develop a Summer Academy for Minority Scholars. This program will provide a unique opportunity to introduce minority Texas high school students to the world of geography during a five-day, in-residence academy held in the department of geography at SWT. From July 15-19, 2002, participants will be presented with content lectures given by leaders in the discipline, will be exposed to problem solving with geography and geographic tools, and will be given training in geographic techniques, including geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, and global positioning systems (GPS). A number of local field trips and activities are planned to support geographic concepts addressed during formal sessions.

Teams selected to participate will include 1-3 Texas high school students and one teacher/counselor from each school. Participants will be housed in university facilities and provided meals at university dining facilities during their stay at SWT. There is no cost to the participants for attending the five-day academy and participating teachers/counselors will qualify for a \$400 stipend.

For more information about this program or to receive application materials, please contact Judy Behrens at the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, Department of Geography, Southwest Texas State University, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666, (512) 245-1823 (phone), (512)245-1653(fax), or j42@swt.edu.

Geography Awareness Week Jump Into *Geography Action!* with the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education

Judy Behrens

The National Geographic Society's (NGS) Geography Action! Program, now in its 14th year, challenges children and communities across the country to take an active role in protecting and preserving our nation's valuable resources. Geography Awareness Week (GAW), November 11-17, 2001, spotlights the efforts of young people as keepers of the environment and focuses national attention on the importance of geography in preparing citizens for the future in a world that is increasingly interconnected and interdependent.

For the first time, NGS has teamed up with The Coca-Cola Company, The Conservation Fund, and seven leading river conservation organizations to remind us of the important role rivers play in our lives and to make learning about and protecting rivers fun and inspiring.

The Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE), in cooperation with NGS, sponsors a number of activities across the State of Texas to celebrate Geography Action! and Geography Awareness Week. The annual TAGE Poster Contest highlights the week's activities, reaching a majority of Texas children in K-12 classrooms. Each participating school holds its own contest (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12) for posters designed around the theme protecting rivers. The winners in each category are submitted for review in the statewide contest held at Southwest Texas State University. The state winners at each level are announced during a special ceremony held at the Texas State Capitol.

This year, Ellen Foster, second year Ph.D. student, represented SWT geography and TAGE as the Geography Action! Coordinator for Texas. Ellen attended a workshop sponsored by NGS at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's National Conservation Training Center (Shepherdstown, WV) in June 2001 to learn more about the program and how to present the information to teachers across the state.

For more information on the Geography Awareness Week, visit the TAGE Web site at <http://www.geo.swt.edu/TAGE/> or the NGS Web site at www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction.

Department to Co-Sponsor International Geomorphology Symposium

David Butler



The SWT Geography Department, with the Departments of Geography at the University of North Carolina, and the University of Iowa, is co-sponsoring the 32nd Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium, to be held October 19-21, 2001, in Chapel Hill, NC. The topic of this year's symposium is Mountain Geomorphology - Integrating Earth Systems. Professor David Butler is Co-Organizer of the Symposium, with Professors Steve Walsh (UNC) and George Malanson (Iowa, and former SWT faculty member). All papers at the symposium are invited, and will be published in 2002, The International Year of the Mountains, in a special issue of the international journal *Geomorphology*, as well as in a stand-alone volume published by Elsevier. In addition to a paper to be presented by Butler on the topic of the geomorphic and lithologic control of ribbon forest distribution in mountain environments, other SWT participants include Mark Fonstad, who is presenting a paper on the spatial variation of stream power in mountain streams; Ph.D. students Forrest Wilkerson and Ginger Schmid, who are presenting a paper on debris flow geomorphology and hazards in the mountains of Glacier National Park; and Ph.D. student Lynn Resler, who is a co-author on Butler's paper, and who is presenting a poster on snow avalanche path vegetation. Former SWT student Wendy Bigler (MAG 2000) is presenting a poster on step pool geomorphology in desert mountains. For additional information about the Symposium, including a list of all speakers and poster presenters and titles, visit the meeting Web site at: www.unc.edu/depts/geog/inghamton2001/index.html.

New Ph.D. Assistants For 2001-2001



Xuwei Chen
MS Physical Geography
Nanjing University, PR China
Research Interests: GIS



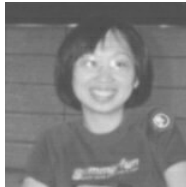
Michelle Humber
MA Geography
Wilfrid Laurier
University, Canada
Research Interests:
Geographic Education,
Cross-curricular
integration of
geography, resource,
and spatial cognition



Michael Wilder
MS Geography
SWT
Research Interests:
Pre-Columbian
Geography of
Meso America and
Southeastern US,
Geoarcheology,
GIS and geogra-
phy applications to
archaeology



Caroline Hatfield
MA Geography
Chico State, CA
Research Interests: Glacial
Geomorphology,
and Flood Hazards



Xiaomin Qiu, M.Ed. in Geographic Education
East China Normal University
Research Interests: human geography, geographic curricu-
lum, geography instruction through Internet and GIS

New Masters Assistants For 2001-2002



Cynthia Agold
BA Philosophy/Sociology
SWT
Research Interests:
Environmental Geography,
Quantitative Methods/
Statistics



Gayla Malson
BS Geography
SWT
Research Interests:
Remote Sensing, Cartography



Allison Brumfield
BS Geography
SWT
Research Interests: Nature and
Heritage Tourism, Interpreta-
tion of Natural Resources,
Environmental Education



Bernadette Marion
BA Urban Studies
Trinity University
Research Interests: Urban
Planning in the Context of the
Environment, New Urbanism,
Sustainable Development



Aaron Buck
BS Geography
SWT
Research Interests: Rainwater
Harvesting, Smart Growth,
Aquifer Research, Sustainable
Technologies



Ginger Root
BS in Geography
SWT
Research Interests: Medical
geography, Environmental
Hazards



Mindy Conyers
BS Geography
University of North Texas
Fluvial Geomorphology,
Water Resources



John Milton Schutz
BA Political Science/Geography
SWT
Research Interests: Political
geography, historical geography



Susan Dunham
BA Geography/
Environmental Studies
SUNY Geneseo
Research Interests: environ-
mental remote sensing,
climatology, water resources



Dawne Anderson Spinale
MA English
Middlebury College
Research Interests: Action
Research & Urban Planning



David Viertel
BS Geography
SWT
Research Interests: Remote
Sensing, GIS

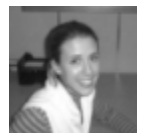
The Year of SWIG

Stephaine Stiefel

SWIG, Supporting Women In Geogra-
phy, is a fun, educational group that is open
for women and men alike. Thanks to the
leadership of Miranda Lewitsky and Mel-
issa Gray, SWT will educate students about
their field of study in school and after school,
while creating a fun atmosphere for getting
to know fellow students and teachers.

The next meeting is on October 15th,
Monday at 4:30 in ELA 311 and everyone is
welcome. The meeting will cover "How to
Get the Career You Want," with advise and
discussion on some great methods for
taking that next step in life.

Later this semester SWIG is participat-
ing in the Annual Meeting of the South-
western Division of the AAG in FT.
Worth by sponsoring a panel of graduate
students and professors to discuss their
progression through different stages of
their careers and studies. Also, on October
8th, political and environmental geogra-
pher Shannon O'Lear will
meet for lunch with students
and teachers. Throughout the
semester, several social events,
camping trips, and speakers are
scheduled. So, to find out how
to join SWIG, contact Miranda:
ml1007@swt.edu or Melissa:
mg1007@swt.edu anytime.



Graduate Student Forum

Amanda Ross



The Graduate Student Forum is an organization of geography graduate students interested in enhancing their educational experience in the SWT Geography Department. All graduate students are invited to attend any activities and provide the GSF with any input.

The forum provides a voice for students by electing representatives to serve on the departments Graduate Committee and to attend faculty meetings. To help build a community within the department, we sponsor social events including happy hours, camping trips, and we are currently organizing a new student welcome packet. To facilitate informal instruction, the forum hosts workshops, including those on Turabian (required reference style) and PowerPoint. This year we have a wide range of activities planned.

Graduate Forum Activities Fall 2001

October

Form New Student Welcome Committee
9th Graduate Forum Meeting
19th Happy Hour with other departments

November

6th Graduate Forum Meeting
12th-16th Geography Awareness Week
14th-17th SWAAG—Vans to Fort Worth

December

1st Camping at Lost Maples State Park



NAEP News

Dave Taylor

The National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) is off to another ram-bunctious semester, immersing ourselves in grassroots environmental education and activism. We continue to value our goals of bettering the campus environment by working with the department and the administration, while fostering a sense of community among our peers to heighten the university experience.

Last semester, we worked hand and hand with the upper echelons of the Associated Student Government (ASG) to pass an Environmental Service Fee for the university. The \$1 per student/per semester fee was to be applied to various environmental projects around campus including, but not limited to, recycling, composting, and rainwater collection.

NAEP members worked very hard with ASG and with the Texas Legislature to file and pass a bill activating the fee. The fee had the approval of the student government, the student body, the President's Cabinet, and the Board of Regents. In order to convince both Senator Ken Armbrister and Representative Rick Green that the students at SWT were in favor of the fee increase, NAEP set a goal of collecting 1000 signatures to show them. Over the course of three weeks, we exceeded our limit, obtaining 1400 signatures in support of our cause. We then took the signatures to the Texas Legislature Senate Education Committee hearing and presented evidence of student support, which, along with our support from ASG, eventually convinced Senator Armbrister to write a workable bill for us. Several NAEP members attended the hearing, all of whom voiced official opinions on the matter.

Unfortunately, Representative Green was not as cooperative as our senator. Green himself wrote a technically unfeasible bill, and he ignored the bill that the Senate sent to him. As author of the original bill, Green had final say over whether or not a hearing should be requested for the fee. He did not request a hearing and therefore the fee was never voted on. The Environmental Service Fee still exists as a bill in both the House and the Senate, and ASG is still actively working to make sure these are revived and passed at the next legislative session.

This semester, NAEP will break further ground with our successful recycling program and intend to team up with the department to plant native species outside of Evans. We are gearing up to attend the second annual Renewable Energy Roundup and Sustainability Fair at Fredericksburg soon, where we hope to be enlightened by local experts about responsible environmental stewardship. Afterward, we'll high tail it up to Enchanted Rock for an enchanting evening of friends, communing in the cool brisk winds that shelve on the edge of fall in beautiful Central Texas. Love to all.



GTU Plans Busy Year

Sarah Cummings, President, and Richard Earl, sponsor

GTU has kicked off a busy year with 32 present and future members in attendance for the inaugural meeting that was held on September 25. This semester, GTU will meet every second and fourth Tuesday in ELA 311 at 5:00 PM. Meetings on these second Tuesday of the month will conclude with an informal social hour at San Marcos River Pub on Cheatham Street at 6:30 PM. A major feature of all the meetings will be illustrated talks on geographic topics and travels. GTU faculty sponsor, Richard Earl, presented "Israel: One State, Two Nations" based upon his trip to Israel in 1994 during which he went swimming at the Earth's lowest point, the Dead Sea. Future talks include presentations on "California's Channel Islands," "Research at Glacier National Park," and "South Africa or Bust." The SWT GTU chapter will have a campus geography display during Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of Geography Awareness Week November 12-16. Featured on Wednesday will be National GIS Day in which demonstrations will be done to educate non-GIS majors on ESRI and other programs. GTU will continue river cleanups throughout the year.

This fall's initiation ceremony will be held on Friday, November 9. If you are a GTU alumni and have not received your GTU certificate please contact Dr. Earl and give him your current mailing address, and he will send your certificate to you.

Across the U.S.

My Summer at ESRI in Redlands CA

William Pugatch



Ever since I graduated with a degree in music from Cal State Fullerton, people have been asking me why I turned down offers from the geography departments at UC Santa Barbara and San Diego State to instead move to Texas and attend SWT. Well, there are two things I have to say in response. First, I believe that in order to be a geographer, you have to have geographic experiences. If I had stayed in California to attend graduate school a mere one or two counties away from where I grew up, that hardly compares to the geographic experience of moving halfway across the country to a land where palm trees and bagel shops do not dominate the landscape and where one can feel safe driving around town listening to country music with the windows rolled down. Second, my heart told me to move to San Marcos and attend this nurturing geography program at Southwest Texas. Everything happens for a reason, and my most recent experience this summer—working for ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.) at its corporate office in Redlands, California—was made possible by my coming to SWT.

Jack Dangermond, President of ESRI (which I should point out is pronounced E-S-R-I, not Es-ree), came to San Marcos last December to lecture on the future of GIS. ESRI is what I like to refer to as “the capital of GIS,” and, to me, ESRI has been synonymous with GIS since my first days as a geographer a few years ago. Jack (everyone at ESRI is on a first-name basis) gave what I found to be a very inspirational talk, and I had the honor of meeting him afterwards. When I told Jack about my interests and experience, along with the fact that I was born and raised in nearby Orange County, he suggested that I apply for the annual twelve-week summer internship program at ESRI. In late April, I received a phone call that informed me I had been accepted as an intern, and I would be starting three weeks later.

I was assigned to work in Educational Services, specifically the Virtual Campus. The campus is a Web-based way for students to take courses and develop their GIS skills. With over 100,000 users, the Virtual Campus is a very popular GIS community. Over the summer, I tested drafts of exercises, edited course content, and near the end of my internship, had the opportunity to write my own module of the upcoming Turning Data Into Information course. Currently enrolled Southwest Texas geography students have access to all of the Virtual Campus courses, and I encourage all of you to take advantage of these instructional materials.

In a period of twelve weeks, I worked on 21 different VC courses. I spent time putting the finishing touches on courses written by geographers such as David DiBiase of Penn State and Roger Tomlinson, the Father of GIS. I also helped authors from multiple countries put together the first section of a forthcoming GIS textbook that will be used in middle schools. I was sent down to San Diego in July for the Annual GIS User's Conference that was held at the San Diego Convention Center and attracted 12,000 users. I got to meet Lynne Thigpen, who plays the director of crime analysis on the CBS show, *The District*. ESRI wanted to make sure that I grew as a GIS user this summer, so the company paid for me to sit in on some instructor-led courses in ArcIMS in one of ESRI's training classrooms.

If I can make some suggestions to fellow geography students, I would advise them to supplement their GIS skills with some programming. The buzz that kept going around at ESRI was that the emphasis on GIS is no longer on the “G” but rather now on the “IS” part. It appears that the future in GIS is not in Avenue, but actually Visual Basic and JavaScript.

I felt great that I was able to represent our department this summer at ESRI. I would say that 90% of the employees have never heard of SWT, but that has probably dropped significantly after this summer. Many students who attended or graduated from SWT work in the Redlands corporate office (Rob Burke and Jeff Friestman) and the San Antonio regional office (Dal Hunter, Adam Pittman, and Dan Stone). I even bumped into Xinnong Zhou, my former GIS lab instructor, in the ESRI-Redlands parking lot. He has been working at the corporate office for over a year now and is an example of all the Ph.D. graduates from SWT who are out there doing well in the geography community. I would like to thank Dr. Shelley, Dr. Macey, and Dr. Bryan for all of their help in the application process and their support throughout. I also want to thank the Lovell Center for bringing Jack Dangermond to campus last fall so this experience was possible.

Sun Center of Excellence continued from page 1

Faculty and graduate students will develop GIScience curricula and support applications and conduct GIScience research. During the summer of 2002, SWT will host two-week workshops for middle and high school teacher training. Phase II in 2002-03 will be the implementation of the curriculum into Central Texas middle and high schools, and Phase III, to be completed by summer 2004, will see the curriculum go nationwide. Teacher workshops and improvements to the program will continue through all phases. “This is an example of a fantastic win/win situation,” said Van Wyatt, vice president of information technology at SWT. “We’re hoping it’s a first in a series of relationships to establish with Sun.” “This is going to be a showplace,” said Lawrence Estaville, chair of the SWT Geography Department. “We’re going to take this nationwide. This has blossomed into something special, not only for SWT, but for high school and middle school students across the country.”

San Marcos River Project

Jim Kimmel



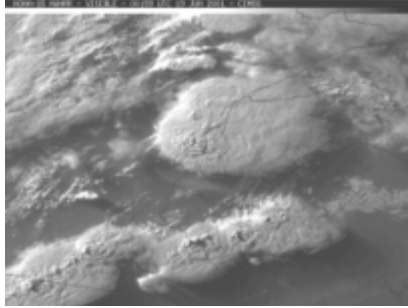
Clearsprings, cool water, a place to live, endangered species, tubing, kayaking, dams, mills, water supplies, waste disposal—those are some of the many uses of the San Marcos Springs and River over the past 14,000 years. Drs. Jim Kimmel and Britt Bousmann (Anthropology) received a \$25,000 grant from the Summerlee Foundation to do research on a geographic history of the San Marcos River. With the help of graduate assistant Julie Livingston, they have gathered boxes full of information about the springs, the river, and related events. Kimmel's wife, Jerry Touchstone Kimmel, who teaches in the SWT Art Department, is working on an artistic interpretation of the river that will be incorporated into the final book. The primary audiences for the book will include residents and visitors who want to understand more about the springs and river that are central to the character of the region. The book will be included in the interpretive programs of the Texas River Center at San Marcos Springs.

Across the U.S.

No Siren in Siren, WI

Bill Monfredo

John Tiefenbacher, Michelle Shuey, Reno Cecora, and I had a busy week in Siren, WI during the last week of June 2001. We conducted surveys by ground and air along the approximately 25-mile-long damage path of the F-3 tornado that carved out a path through trees, over lakes, and across the town of Siren during the evening of June 18, 2001. Additionally, we administered questionnaires among a number of the residences along periphery of the damage path, fulfilling expectations of a Quick-Response grant from the University of Colorado at Boulder in cooperation with the National Science Foundation.



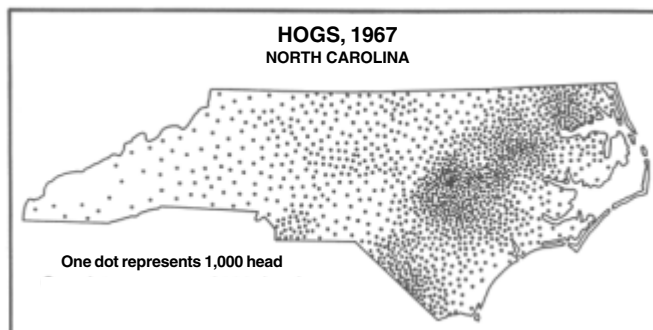
The group found that some residents felt that they had poor warning, even though the National Weather Service in Duluth, MN did an excellent job in issuing a timely warning. However, no one they talked to got their warning from NOAA weather radio; reception is weak in the affected area. Also, the electricity went off twenty minutes before the tornado, and although most people knew of a tornado watch or a severe thunderstorm warning from television, TV sets proved ineffective in disseminating the actual tornado warning. Many received warnings over the telephone, but when hearing from friends and relatives about a tornado, a large number waited for a confirmation from the town's siren, which failed to work due to a lightning strike approximately one month earlier. A large percentage of people attempted to verify the storm visually before taking shelter in a basement. Many regretted standing on their porches and watching for a tornado, not taking shelter until noticing trees starting to go down. Those on the southside of town on the edge of the damage path viewed the rotating thunderstorm and a rain-wrapped tornado blocked by numerous trees.

A more complete synopsis of the behavioral aspects of the event has been sent to the Natural Hazards Center in Boulder, CO. It will be made available on their Web site: www.colorado.edu/hazards/qr/qr.html.

Fitzsimons continued from page 6

Challenges of his editor position include making sure that the maps are in proper format and reviewing the quality of the map in terms of scanning. Another quality issue is related to maps that are created with Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Fitzsimons believes GIS to be an excellent tool to analyze layers of information rather than create stand-alone maps that are needed for professional journals. Stand-alone maps can be compared to a photograph, while GIS is more similar to a movie. Due to the growing popularity of GIS, more students are able to create GIS maps; however, they are losing basic technical information.

Fitzsimon's skills and passion for maps makes him an ideal editor for the *Annals*. The department is fortunate to have a professor that strongly believes maps are essential to Geography. Fitzsimons refers to two quotes when reflecting on the relationship between maps and geography. The first is from Carl Sauer (1956), "Show me a geographer who does not need them [maps] constantly and want them about him, and I shall have my doubts as to whether he has made the right choice in life ... The map speaks across the barriers of language; it is sometimes claimed as the language of geography." The second is by Richard Hartshorne (1939), "So important, indeed, is the use of maps in geographical work, that ... it seems fair to suggest to the geographer a ready rule of thumb to test the geographical quality of any study he is making: if his problem cannot be studied fundamentally by maps – usually by comparison of several maps – then it is questionable whether or not it is within the field of geography."



Internship continued from pg. 13

As a MAG student, Ph.D. student Mike Wilder did an internship with Prewitt and Associates, an archaeological consulting firm. He said, "The internship program is a great opportunity for students to get involved with the real-world, day-to-day realities of what they are studying. It takes you out of the "ivory tower" and puts you into a situation where you learn what works and what does not on a practical level. This program is what "applied geography" it all about. In the end, you get out of it what you put into it." His supervisor, Karl Kibler, wrote, "Mr. Wilder has done an excellent job in directing the field survey for this project..."

Another MAG student who has had a valuable and successful internship experience is Ionara de Lima. After completing an internship with NAI/CIP, Ionara wrote, "The internship was valuable for being a tremendous hands-on experience, since it made possible the application of different academic techniques in a real business environment. Since business decisions need to be done in a quick manner, the internship helped me learn how to produce a high-quality and accurate map in a matter of minutes. The contact with different types of data was also very beneficial since I made use of diverse types of software and learned different new techniques. The contact with the business people was also important, since I am able now to have a letter of recommendation from an important company like NAI/CIP." Her supervisor, Ricardo Puente, stated that, "Her expertise in GIS, computer cartography, and data processing is excellent and advanced."

Frequently, internships lead to full-time professional positions. For example, Jason Byrd completed an internship with the National Park Service. His supervisor, Alan Saperstein, said, "... Jason showed impressive initiative. The product he turned out was excellent and will be of value to the overall "Exotic Plant Program" in the future... He would be welcomed back in the future." After Ryan Mattox completed his internship with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, supervisor Patricia Reeh wrote, "We are waiting to lure Ryan into a full time position in the Edwards Aquifer program."

Many undergraduate and geography majors have launched their careers through the internship program. Some have themselves gone on to supervise interns from the department. We would love to hear from alumni for whom internships proved to be an important springboard to their present positions! If you are interested in participating in the program or sponsoring an intern, please contact Mark Carter at mc12@swt.edu.

Around the World

Geography of Europe 2001



Richard A. Earl

Fred Day and Rich Earl led 31 undergraduate and graduate students on the third biennial Geography of Europe field study during this past July. For 2001, the trip was expanded beyond previous trips to include one night in Zurich, Switzerland and three nights in Paris, France. The trip was expanded to give the participants a better perspective on Switzerland and to provide the students with a comparison to the original imperial city, Rome, with the most beautiful imperial city of the colonial era, Paris.

As on prior trips, the study tour began in Rome with the traditional sights such as the forum and St. Peters. After two nights in Florence, the trip moved on to Venice where some of the students helped Venetians celebrate the festival commemorating the survival of the Black Plague during the sixteenth century. The stay at Franklin College in Lugano, Switzerland was punctuated with day trips to Milan, Italy, St. Moritz, and Valle Verzasca that was featured in the James Bond movie "Golden Eye." An unexpected treat was the spectacular display put on by the Swiss national jet aerobatic team as they were practicing their routine over the waters of Lake Lugano. After a night in Zurich, the trip moved on to Paris.

Just by luck, during the afternoon after the class had completed their guided tour of the city, SWT students were treated with one of the highlights of the trip: the finish of the Tour d' France bicycle race. Our group watched Lance Armstrong whiz by in the yellow leader's jersey and then complete the winners lap with the Texas flag flying proudly.

The trip concluded with individuals in the class taking in their choices of Paris including the Louvre, the Moulin Rouge, and the Eiffel Tower. The next edition of the trip is scheduled for June 2003, led by Fred Day. Fred is investigating the possibility of further expanding the trip to include Mt. Vesuvius and Pompei which that are located near Naples, Italy.

Texas-Mexico Trip: Bordering on Perfection

Emily Manderson

In May, following the Grosvenor Center International Conference on Geographic Education, a group of SWT students and faculty joined with conference participants piled on a bus in the SWT parking lot. We headed towards the border into the sunset waving hands to the fading San Marcos. We were headed south in search of adventure and enlightenment across the Rio Grande. A week of discussion in the classroom had prepared us, in theory, to experience Mexico in a new way. We examined the historical relationship between Mexico and Texas and how the border cities developed. As well, we discussed issues such as using a constantly changing river system to define a border, which then led to conversations of environmental perspectives and policies.

Four hours and a few truck stops later, we arrived in Laredo, prepared to cross the border. The differences most people associate between Texas and Mexico do not exist here: language, culture, even international borders are hard to distinguish. After dinner, the group participated in the local custom of hanging out in a plaza, taking in the surroundings and, in a few cases, the more adventurous sampled the street tacos.

As we drove south and passed out of the border "chorizo," the landscape transformed into a desert ecosystem of agaves, jackrabbits, and mesquite trees. We were officially in Mexico. Our trip consisted of a week exploring different cities such as Monterrey, Ciudad Victoria, and Saltillo, while visiting factories, museums, restaurants, churches, and colleges. It was an invaluable experience.

SWT graduate student Jeff Wilson described his experiences: "When you cross the border into Mexico, the only expectation one should have is to expect to know not what to expect. I discovered bustling outdoor markets in Monterrey where you would never expect them to be; just around the corner from tourist districts, full of people from other lands focused and aware of nothing save what they saw through the viewfinder of their Canon. Our group was introduced to university students in Ciudad Victoria who worked in technology facilities and possessed skills that surpassed most of their colleges in the US. On the third night, I went to sleep in Monterrey confident that Jose, our bus driver, would be waiting outside in the morning. Allegedly, Jose decided in the very early hours that he would not be our driver, and found a replacement. No one has heard from or seen Jose since. The strict scheduling regiment and multi-tasking culture we have become so proud of in the States simply does not exist in Mexico. To tell you the truth, I did not miss the rat race in the least!"

One of the Grosvenor Conference participants, Dr. Diane Stanitski-Martin of the Department of Geography-Earth Science, Shippensburg University, said, "I certainly appreciated the opportunity to travel with nineteen talented geography faculty and students through the mountains and towns of northern Mexico. It was a fascinating experience. I learned a number of valuable Spanish words and phrases, and experienced more intimately, the poverty and richness of the Mexican landscape. The urban structure and life in Mexican cities, both old and new, was described as we traveled from ancient towns to the booming Monterrey metropolis. Industrial landscapes, architecture, art, shopping areas from markets to malls, beer brewing, baseball, and glass manufacturing were just a few highlights of our daily field excursions. We climbed into the Sierra Madre Oriental to explore the amazing geology and geography of the region. I documented this experience through journal entries, digital camera images, and slides. I am now able to incorporate these experiences into my own courses and can share stories of the history, culture, and physical landscape that I learned during the six days abroad. Thank you to Drs. Jim Petersen and David Stea for a wonderful educational experience!"



see Texas-Mexico, page 19

Alumni Bits

Compiled by Fred M. Shelley

Robin Adorno (MAG, 1999) is GIS Coordinator for the Public Drinking Water section of the Office of Water Permits & Resource Mangement Division at the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC). She coordinates, trains, provide consulting services, and develops applications and projects using GIS, in order to integrate the use of GIS into the day-to-day operations of the Public Drinking Water section.

Abdelraouf Alakras (MAG, 1990) is owner of Farash Auto in San Antonio.

Alfredo Arce (B.A., 1992) has worked for the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) for nine years. He is now Manager of Resource Development. He and his staff are responsible for the planning, budgeting, and development of new water resources for SAWS, which serves approximately 1.2 million people and manages an annual budget over \$100 million. He writes, "I cannot tell you what an asset my undergraduate work at Southwest Texas has been and how it has led to my current success." He and his wife Vicki have two sons, Alexander, 4, and Quinton, 2.

Yilmaz Ari (MAG, 1996) has completed his Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Texas at Austin. His dissertation was entitled "Visions of a Wetland: Linking Culture and Conservation at Lake Manyas, Turkey." He is now teaching at Balikesir University in Turkey.

Greg Brown (B.S., 1996) is GIS Manager for the City of Abilene, Texas.

Phil Caldwell (MAG, 1999) works as a Research Fisheries Biologist with NOAA in Galveston, Texas. He writes, "The surf is up, the fishing is good, the sun is warm and life is almost always great here on the island. I am fortunate to find a GIS related job in such a good workplace. Our laboratory is 2 blocks from the beach. Although I am employed as a "Research Fisheries Biologist," my job is utilizing G.I.S. as applied to fishery ecology."

Alberto Colino (MAG, 1998) is enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the Polytechnic University of Madrid and consulting on environmental and water projects.

Kelli Conlan (B.S., 1998) is Creative Director for AmeriPlan USA in Dallas. She and her husband reside in The Colony, Texas. Their son, Adam, was born February 16, 2001.

Lisa DeChano (Ph.D., 2000) is now Assistant Professor of Geography at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

James Dorney (MAG, 1998) is Development Manager for Milburn Homes in Austin.

Maria Durcanska (MAG, 1997), and her husband Peter welcomed their first child, Katarina Elise Durcanska. Katka was born in Dallas, April 24, 2001.

April Dzierzanowski (B.S., 2000) is a Retail Coverage Analyst for Sell-Thru Services. She writes, "Sell-Thru Services, Inc., has a sales force of over 1000 people to market and promote our clients products such as M&M, Mars, Nabisco, Ferrero & Foreign Candy, and others in convenience stores across the US. I was fortunate enough to come along with the investment in the use of GIS a year and a half ago. We have the ability to overlay such layers as our store coverage, our representative's locations, and multiple geographic layers such as cities, county boundaries, and road/water systems, etc. The value added by GIS to the company stems from the economic efficiencies created in the reduction of mileage expenses and the management tool created to use by our managers. GIS has also benefited our top executives in promoting our company, gaining new clients, and beginning special projects."

Jim Ferguson (B.A., 1988) is Vice President of Technical Resources International Corporation (TRI) in Miami Springs, Florida. TRI manufacturers representatives in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America for GE Lighting Systems who builds light fixtures for street, industrial, and stadium lighting. They also represent other manufacturers of related lighting and electrical products. He writes "I enjoyed studying geography and look back on my years at SWT and San Marcos with a lot of fondness. I especially enjoyed the classes of Doc Augustin, Dr. Visser, and Dr. Gordon." He has had the opportunity to travel to most of the countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. He and his wife, who is from Venezuela, have a two-year-old daughter.

Theresa Grahmann (B.S., 1997) works as a Planner for the City of McKinney, Texas. She writes, "I have been working for the city for three and a half years now, and I am loving every minute of it. McKinney is a rapidly growing city just north of Dallas and the Plano area. In my time here, the City has grown from about 30,000 in 1998 to over 54,000 currently."

Mark Graybill (B.S., 1995) works for Henry S. Miller Commercial, a commercial real estate group based in Dallas. He is involved in retail site selection projects utilizing MapInfo GIS.

Cornelia Hamann (MAG, 1997) is an Innovation Consultant for the Bremer Innovation Agency in Bremen, Germany. Her job involves coordinating European Union projects at the agency.

Teresa Howard (MAG, 1998) works at the University of Texas at Austin Center for Space Research as a Research Engineer/Scientist Associate. Her main function is to reach out to potential users of remote sensing data, primarily in state agencies, and to determine application, data and training needs. She also works with many types of geospatial data, using both GIS and image processing applications. Her focus is to pilot potentially useful applications and to demonstrate how state agencies can implement them in their daily work.

Stephanie Jensen (MAG, 1999) is working for the City of Austin Infrastructure Support Services in the Regional Mapping Group as a Senior GIS Analyst. She was married to Chuck Reynolds on September 15, 2001.

Stephen Jetton (B.A., 1997) works with Grande Communications in San Marcos, where he helped to develop and now maintains their new Cable Modem network.

James Kelly (B.A., 1978) is Senior Real Estate Representative for the City of Arlington, Texas, for which he has worked since 1982.

Tom Konzel (B.S., 1997) is still with the City of Arlington, Texas, working as a Senior GIS Programmer for the Technology Services Department, Geoprocessing Division. His responsibilities include designing, testing, implementing, and

Alumni Bits

Compiled by Fred M. Shelley

maintaining GIS applications using Visual Basic, ASP, AML, and Avenue for all city departments. He has gained much experience in Unix Arc/INFO and ArcView and is now learning and working with ArcIMS.

Mike Napier (B.S., 1990) is a GIS Analyst for the Pacific Disaster Center in Kihai, Hawaii. He enjoys surfing, fishing, hiking, and camping.

Marcus Ollington (MAG, 1998) is a cartographer with the Lower Colorado Authority. He produced the cartography for the Official 2001 City of Austin Parks and Recreation Map and Guide, which was published as an insert into the Austin American-Statesman on July 11, 2001.

Jill Parrish (MAG, 1998) works for a non-profit organization called Peer Assistance Network of America in Austin. The mission of PAN America is to engage youth as resources for positive change and to effect fundamental paradigm shifts in the way schools and communities systematically empower young people. They fulfill our mission by initiating, leading, and participating in coalitions and partnerships that support effective peer assistance initiatives. She works directly with PAL (Peer Assistance and Leadership) classes around Texas and assists in organizing and funding environmentally related community service projects. She writes, "The PAL program is a TEA supported class where high school kids get credit toward graduation for mentoring at-risk elementary kids and for participating in community service projects. Essentially, the students are gaining leadership skills, positively influencing the lives of troubled elementary kids and making their communities a better place in which to live."

Guy Perry (MAG, 1996) is Corporate Technology Account Manager for the Lower Colorado River Authority. He lives in Austin with his wife Nicole and son Jack, born April 7, 2000.

Cyndi Ramirez (B.A., 1998) works for Grande Communications in San Marcos in the Planning Department as an Analyst. She writes, "My primary job responsibility is monitoring the flow of traffic over our communication lines. I look for anomalies and disturbances in traffic patterns, identify traffic trends, and make predictions about future traffic growth or decline."

Fred Riethmiller (MAG, 1997) has helped to set up a new company called TransDecisions, Inc. The company specializes in Linear Referencing Systems and they have several Department of Transportation and commercial accounts. He writes, "We're leveraging Java and Oracle Spatial to provide very complex routing solutions that don't rely on any specific GIS application."

Stephanie Rollings (B.S., 1996) is Senior Planner for the City of Tyler, Texas. The City uses ArcView and ArcInfo as well as some Autocad to generate City related maps including street maps, land use maps, and zoning maps

Steve Schwelling (MAG, 2000) is a Remote Sensing/GIS Analyst for the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife in Austin.

Stefanie Coleman Sims (B.S.Ed., 1991) is an Assistant Principal in Pleasanton, Texas. She earned her M.S. in Educational Administration from Texas A&M University at Kingsville in 2000.

Michelle (Drost) Sparks (MAG, 2000) and Donovan Sparks were married in Victoria, Texas on June 2, 2001. MAG student Emily Hatcher was a bridesmaid. Michelle continues in her work as a GIS Analyst for the City of Victoria.

David Sweeten (B.S., 1988) is Senior Associate for Seifert Enterprises, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Cypress, Texas.

Randall Talbott (B.S., 1999) has been at Brown & Root Services for just over a year in the Environmental/Water Resources section. He writes, "Brown and Root is an engineering firm that primarily specializes in management and engineering of many prominent transportation and water resources projects. I served mainly in a mapping support role initially, but I am evolving my position to include hydrographic, hydrologic, and hydraulic modeling. Our water sector clients include municipal, regulatory, and government as well as private entities."

Colleen Larsen Vaclavek (BS, 1996) is GIS/Mapping Specialist for the Padre Dam Municipal Water District in Santee, California.

Bethanie White (B.S., 2000) works for Grande Communications in San Marcos. She started as Administrative Assistant in the Packet Networks Department, and now holds the Network Abuse Administrator position. Her primary focus is working with Internet equipment, such as routers and switches, which help ensure customer access to the Internet.

Alumni!

Please provide us with news of your professional activities, achievements, and personal milestones. Please submit any news for future newsletters to
Dr. Fred M. Shelley
e-mail: fs03@swt.edu

Alumni Business Card Directory Near Completion

Judy Behrens

The Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education is in the final stages of updating "Careers/Jobs in Geography," the business card directory of SWT Geography graduates. This booklet is used as both a recruiting and placement tool by the Department of Geography and the SWT Graduate School, in addition to being a great resource for alumni to share contact information with one another. For anyone who has not yet sent us a current business card, this is your last chance to get your information included in this edition. As soon as possible, please send your most recent business card to:

Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education
Department of Geography
Southwest Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666

When completed, the revised edition of the business card directory will be available on the Department of Geography's Web site at www.geo.swt.edu, in addition to being printed in hard copy. If you need additional information, please contact Judy Behrens at 512-245-1823 or jb42@swt.edu.

Texas-Mexico continued from page 17

Dr. Stea, co-director of the trip, writes: "With the exception of the border towns and Monterrey, the northeast of Mexico — the states of Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas - is an area often ignored by visitors from the USA. We, students and faculty at SWT, friends, and participants in the Grosvenor Center's International Conference on Geographic Education set out, to enhance our knowledge of the fascinating part of Mexico. We started just below the Rio Grande, as it's called in Texas, or Rio Bravo in Mexico, to learn the contrast between the borderline itself and the enhanced border



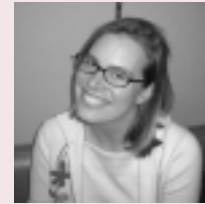
region. About an hour south of the Rio Grande, the landscape changes dramatically from flat brushland to rolling hills, to table mesas, and then to the breathtaking chain of mountains that stretches from Monterrey to Saltillo. The contrast among urban centers is striking as well —from bustling, industrialized Monterrey through cool, colonial Saltillo, to subtropical sleepy Ciudad Victoria. We'll all remember the awe-inspiring Huasteca Canyon in the morning mist, the heart-stopping cable car ride to the fantastic Garcia caves, getting wet in Horsetail Falls, and just relaxing in the picturesque plaza of little Santiago, sister city to



San Marcos, a place where those who write books dream of writing."

The trip was an invaluable learning experience. We were able to open our eyes to new perspectives and were perhaps transformed. We are still unfolding the lessons.

GeoNews is a semiannual publication of the Department of Geography Southwest Texas State University
Editor: Emily Manderson



For a free subscription to *SWT GeoNews*, please contact:
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Southwest Texas State University,
a member of the Texas State University System, is an affirmative
action, equal opportunity institution.

Greeting from the Chair continued from page 2

ever—will have free admission to SWT Geography's most important annual event!!

Also mark your calendars to attend U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's presentation as the 4th Grosvenor Lecturer on 9 November 2001 in the LBJ Student Center Theater! Dr. Dick Boehm, director of the Grosvenor Center, and his staff, led by Judy Behrens, have worked hard to prepare for this important visit. And Dr. David Butler, director of the Lovell Center, is working equally hard in pinning down a date in February 2002 for Apollo Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second human to walk on the moon, to give the 4th Lovell Lecture with Astronaut Jim Lovell of the famed Apollo 13 mission in attendance!

Your department now has 503 undergraduate, 156 master's, and 27 Ph.D. students and continues to be the largest Geography Department in North America! Our students continue to participate enthusiastically in Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the Student Planning Organization (SPO), the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), Support for Women in Geography (SWIG), and the Graduate Student Forum. Several of our students were honored once again during the past year with awards at national and state conferences or were congratulated for their publications!

Angelika Lester continues to do a simply superb job as our department office manager! Joan Pasquali and Sandra Foglia are excellent office staff who also make certain our ship stays on a steady course! And without Dan "the computer man" Hemenway we would be dead in the water with more than 425 department computers to be maintained!

You can see that I am very proud to be the chair of your department! You, too, should be very proud to be a part of your internationally recognized SWT Department of Geography! Well, I could go excitedly on and on, but more details are in this newsletter (edited by Emily Manderson), check out our new, exciting Web site at www.geo.swt.edu. For "up close and personals," be here for your 8th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 20! See you and your families at this annual department highlight joining more than 700 other people for student awards and scholarships, reminiscing, networking, workshops, vendor displays, seeing your department's new Sun equipment and facilities, and having a day of fun and food at Aquarena!

Hey you Guys!!! Please don't forget to fill out the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration registration form as well as the Alumni Information Update on pages 20 and 21!

SWT Department of Geography
8th Annual Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration
Saturday, April 20, 2002
Advance Registration Form

Name(s) of Registrant(s): _____

Address: _____

Day phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Fax: _____

1)SWT Geography Students, Staff, and Faculty

FREE registration with a donation of a canned good for the San Marcos Food Bank or a contribution to the Spirit of Geography Scholarship made by the advance registration deadline of March 31. After March 31, the normal registration fee of \$10.00 per person applies.

Number of Student, Staff, and Faculty registrations on this form: _____

Circle One: Canned Good Donation Scholarship Contribution \$10.00

2)SWT Geography Alumni

FREE registration with a donation of a canned good for the San Marcos Food Bank or a contribution to the Spirit of Geography Scholarship. Registration forms must be postmarked by the advance registration deadline of March 31 but Alumni can bring canned good donations on the day of the Reunion. After March 31, the normal registration fee of \$10.00 per person applies.

Number of Alumni registrations on this form: _____

Circle One: Canned Good Donation Scholarship Contribution \$10.00

3)Additional Friends of Geography @ \$10.00 per person

Number of Friends of Geography registrations on this form: _____

4)Children under 12 free

Number of children under 12 registrations on this form: _____

Total number of people registered on this form: _____

Method of payment: Cash ___ Check ___ Credit Card

Credit Card Number (if applicable):

Expiration Date (if applicable) :

Signature (credit cards only):

Total amount included with this registration form: \$

Registration includes admission to all activities, a souvenir program, catered lunch, and BBQ dinner with all of the fixings!

Return this form to:

Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration

Attn: Judy Behrens

Department of Geography

Southwest Texas State University

San Marcos, Texas 78666

Phone: (512) 245-1823 FAX: (512) 245-1653 E-mail: jb42@swt.edu

Alumni Information Update

Mail this form to: Dr. Fred Shelley
 Department of Geography
 Southwest Texas State University
 601 University Drive
 San Marcos, TX 78666-4616

Name: _____

Degree(s): _____ Year(s) Received: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Place of Work: _____ Job Title: _____

Work Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Family, Special Interests, and Other Information: _____

Personal Reminiscences or Recommendations: _____

Have you given us your current business card? NO? Business card directory information is on page 18!