



# GEONews

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SPRING 2007

## REP III Is A HUGE Success!



**SOME IMAGES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE** — ARTICLE BEGINS ON PAGE 3

## GEOGRAPHY LOSES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

It is with great sadness we announce the loss of a very special alumni of the Department of Geography. Richard Simmons passed away unexpectedly on March 4, 2007. His obituary is posted on page 4.

Richard was very supportive of the Geography Department and the Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration. He was a generous contributor of both time and scholarship funding, and he will be sorely missed by his many friends. Donations are being accepted to the Simmons Family Scholarship fund.

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## YUCATAN STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS WIN AWARD

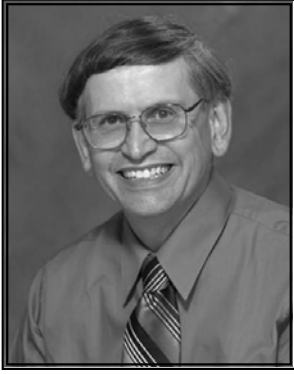
By Dr. Byron "Doc" Augustin

Following is a copy of an e-mail sent to Isis Gomez, Continuing Education Coordinator with the Correspondence, Extension and Study Abroad Office regarding nominations for International Office awards to students and faculty who did an outstanding job in International Education:

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## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR... *By Dr. Philip Suckling, Chair and Professor*

The 2006-07 academic year promises to be another very busy one for the Department of Geography at Texas State University-San Marcos! The third interdisciplinary Race, Ethnicity, and Place conference held on the Texas State campus in November was highly successful. Dr. Lawrence Estaville is to be congratulated for his leadership in planning this high-profile activity. Participants traveled from across the nation and around the world, and included many geographers as well as students, faculty and others from a very diverse group of disciplines and occupations.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Research in Geographic Education is being organized by the Grosvenor Center under the leadership of Dr. Dick Boehm. To be held in May 2007 in La Serena, Chile, the conference theme will be "Geography in the Americas: Collaboration on Research and Education."

This semester, we enrolled a very large incoming group of doctoral students, more than double the Fall 2005 cohort. Last May, we graduated six PhD students – a record for one commencement. While the doctoral program is maturing into a stellar program, we are pleased to announce an expanded role for the department with respect to the earth sciences at the undergraduate level. Plans are well underway to transition the Texas State geology undergraduate minor program to the auspices of the Department of Geography over the next year.

With respect to faculty members, the Department of Geography welcomes two new tenure-track colleagues: Dr. Osvaldo Muniz, Associate Professor with specialization in geographic education; and Dr. Kevin Romig, Assistant Professor with specialization in urban geography and planning. More information about these colleagues is contained elsewhere in this newsletter. We also welcome two one-year full-time lecturers: Dr. Ron Hagelman who will teach courses involving environmental geography, the U.S. and Canada, urban geography, and World geography; and Dr. Don Huebner who will teach courses involving quantitative methods, and the geography of Texas. Congratulations also to Dr. Mark Fonstad who was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure effective this semester.

Two searches are already underway to hire tenure-track Assistant Professors to begin Fall 2007. One position involves geographic education and the second position involves the human dimensions of environmental geography.

Lastly, the Department welcomes a new staff member, Leslie Garrett, who joins us from the Department of English. Leslie is our Administrative Assistant II charged with tasks involving accounting especially for grants and travel, among other responsibilities.

I am confident that 2006-07 will prove to be a productive and exciting year for the Department of Geography at Texas State University-San Marcos!

"WHILE THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IS MATURING INTO A STELLAR PROGRAM, WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE EARTH SCIENCES AT THE UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL. PLANS ARE ALSO WELL UNDERWAY TO TRANSITION THE TEXAS STATE GEOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE MINOR PROGRAM TO THE AUSPICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY OVER THE NEXT YEAR."

## VISITING PROFESSOR *By Dr. Fred Day, Professor*

Professor B. Hema Malini of the Department of Geography at Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, India, visited our department from Oct. 11 thru Nov. 24, 2006. Dr. Hema Malini, on developmental leave from her home university, is a climatologist and broadly-based environmental geographer. She interacted with several faculty and graduate students during her stay, and in particular climatologists Dr. Rich Dixon and PhD. Student Bharati Ayyalasomayajula. Dr. Fred Day served as her faculty host.

## REP III EXCEEDS ITS TEXAS STATE GOALS

*By Lawrence Estaville,*

The International Race, Ethnicity, and Place III Conference held at Texas State on 1-4 November 2006, led by Texas State Geography, exceeded its goals and received high praise from faculty, staff, and students from throughout campus and across the continent. The Texas State REP III Organizing Committee, with the approval of Provost Perry Moore, set ten goals for the university, and the conference exceeded substantially in accomplishing all goals:

Goal 1. *Highlight the University's Strategic Plan that seeks to "enrich our learning and working environment by attracting and supporting a diverse faculty, staff, and student body."*

Texas State clearly declared to the 1,276 registrants and hundreds of others who attended the REP III Conference an unyielding allegiance to diversity--diversity of people, diversity of ideas, and diversity of learning media and environments.

Goal 2. *Underscore to the university community, the state, and the nation Texas State's commitment to become a leader in attracting students from underrepresented groups, particularly Latinos and African Americans.*

The inherent vision of the Race, Ethnicity, and Place III Conference, its 2006 conference program replete with timely topics about race and ethnicity, including issues of gender, immigration, and internationalization, and the diversity of conference participants who came from across the continent and throughout the world were all statements that Texas State has an unwavering dedication to diversity and to the robust inclusion of students, faculty, and staff from underrepresented groups in fulfilling its educational mission.

Goal 3. *Host a large group of college students from across the country at the REP III Conference to show them the excellence of Texas State, thereby encouraging the students to share exciting perceptions with their friends and families and, ideally, helping us promote our HSI goal.*

The REP III Conference hosted students, many from underrepresented groups, from 59 universities and colleges throughout the nation, for example:

Arizona State University	Binghamton University (SUNY)
Florida State University	Howard University
Hunter College (CUNY)	Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University	Kansas State University
Kent State University	Louisiana State University
Michigan State University	Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University	Rutgers University
San Diego State University	St. Philip's College
Syracuse University	Temple University
Texas A&M International University	University of California, Berkeley
UCLA	University of Colorado
University of Georgia	University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts-Amherst	University of Michigan
University of Missouri-Columbia	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Oklahoma	University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas at Austin	University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison	West Virginia University

Many of these students joined in the painting of four "diversity canvases" that symbolized the "coming together" of conference participants to understand better one another as well as to contribute to the conference's conversations about race and ethnicity issues and their effects on places, small and large, local and global.

Of special note are the new relationships built in the planning and implementing of the REP III Conference between Texas State students and students at St. Philip's College, a Historically Black College and a Hispanic Serving Institution in San Antonio, as well as with the students in the U.S. Department of Education's McNair Postbaccalaureate Achieve-

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## GEOGRAPHY LOSES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



**RICHARD WAYNE SIMMONS**, 52, passed away Sunday, March 4, 2007. Richard was born in Houston, Texas on April 29, 1954 to Henry L. Simmons and Verann Parma. Richard was a graduate of Bellaire High School in 1973. He attended Southwest Texas State University where

he obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography and Planning in 1987 and was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity. In 2003 he established the Leon and Verann Simmons Scholarship Fund for the Geography Depart-

ment at Southwest Texas State University. He also received a distinguished Alumni award in 2003. Richard was an Environmental Health and Safety Manager at various locations throughout the world with Bechtel Corporation. He was an avid car enthusiast and sports fan, as well as a beloved son, father and friend. He is survived by his parents, Henry L. and Verann Simmons; sons, Taylor and Cody Simmons and numerous friends and relatives. Family received friends on Wednesday, March 7, 2007; services were held Thursday, March 8, 2007. (Published in the Houston Chronicle on 3/7/2007.)

ALUMNI TIDBITS *By Mark L. Carter, Internship Director*

**Austin Jacobson** (Resource and Environmental Studies '05) recently began her career as planner for the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). Austin works with Geography Alumna, **Michelle Conkle**, who received her MAG degree in 1997. Both Austin and Michelle work on transportation-related environmental and land-use issues for TXDOT.

Recent geography graduate **Hailey (Jett) Waters** now works with Phase Engineering, Inc. as an environmental consultant performing phase 1 and phase 2 site assessments. Hailey is also waiting for the safe return of her husband, who is currently serving in Iraq as a member of a U. S. Army tank crew.

**Kortni Jaramillo** (Resource and Environmental Studies '06) also works for Phase Engineering which she joined immediately August 2006 commencement. Kortni passes along this piece of advice about starting a new job: "Take lots of notes. Be sure to look back to your notes to see if you already have the information you need so you don't have to keep asking questions about things you already have in your notes." Sounds like learning to be a good student pays off in the work-place too. Congratulations Kortni!

Geography Alumni **Matt Braun** and his wife Annie recently relocated from Virginia to the Flagstaff, Arizona area. Matt writes: "I am working as an addressing specialist for Coconino County, which surrounds Flagstaff, and includes the Grand Canyon and part of Sedona – still using my geography degree." Matt also reports that fellow Geo Alumni **Robert Collis** is also living in northern Arizona, finishing a teacher certification program. Matt explained that he and Robert find time to still do a lot of mountain biking together!

**Jennifer J. Albaum**, Geography Department Alumna, now serves as Manager, Modeling Services for the MapInfo Corporation - Be Location Intelligent – in Ann Arbor Michigan. Jennifer explains: "I now work for MapInfo in their Predictive Ana-

lytics Division (a fancy term for location research). Specifically, I work in the modeling department building statistical models for various clients to help them predict store sales at a given location. Typically we deliver our statistical models as a plug-in to one of MapInfo's software systems so that the client has the ability to use the GIS functionality of MapInfo, while also having the ability to analytically look at the financial prospects of a particular site."

**John Karras**, Geographer, Class of 2006 is now a student in the Master's of Urban and Regional Planning program, School of Architecture, The University of Texas at Austin. John speaks highly of the excellent education he received as an Urban and Regional Planning student here at Texas State which he says prepared him well for UT Graduate School. John – you will always be a Bobcat even though you are in Longhorn Country now!

**Matt Noble** - Geographic Information Science graduate - is now sharpening his Geographic Information System skills as a GIS Specialist for Lewis Petro Properties in San Antonio.

Urban and Regional Planning graduate **Matthew Lewis** is a planner for the rapidly growing City of Hutto. With the new SH-130 highway currently under construction through City of Hutto, Matthew has plenty to keep him busy!

**Christopher Jendrzey** is employed by Picket, Kelm and Associates as an Engineering Technician. Christopher became interested in the engineering side of planning and environmental management as he studied and reported on "The Scour Susceptibility of Bridges" for the Texas Department of Transportation as an Independent

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## ALUMNI TIDBITS

(Continued from page 4)

Study project while a Texas State Geography student.

Geography Alumna **Sarah Wyckoff** returned home to Houston after graduation and now works as the Environmental Coordinator for the Advanced Projects Development Division of the Houston District of the Texas Department of Transportation. Sarah wrote recently to say: "I am definitely using the information that I learned in Dr. Earl's Environmental Management Class on the job."

Geography Alumni (Urban and Regional Planning) **Ryan Mikulenska** recently completed an internship with the City of San Marcos Planning and Development Services Office and is now on his way to full-time employment with a private land-planning consulting firm.

Another recent Urban and Regional Planning Major, **Gary Edenburn** moved from an internship position with the Planning and Development Services Office, City of San Marcos to a full-time position as a Senior Planning Technician. In addition to a variety of other duties, Gary is a case-manager for sign and fence permits, sign variance requests and manufactured home permits. Gary also works closely with two other Urban and Planning Alumni: **Chance Sparks** and **Sofia Villela**.

Chance works with long-range planning on projects including the Downtown Master Plan and community development projects. Chance formerly served as the City of Bulverde, Texas first Director of Planning.

Sophia also works as a Senior Planning Technician preparing staff reports for development proposals as well as staffing the City's Board of Adjustments and Appeals meetings. Congratulations to Sophia on her summer wedding to Mr. John Nelson. (Both Chance and Sophia both got their careers started as Planning Interns). Good luck to both of you from the Department of Geography.

- Looks like we have quite a 'den of spatially-oriented' Bobcats within the Planning Office of the City of San Marcos!

**Dave Taylor** ('01) and **Amanda Romero** ('02) were recently married and live in Portland, Oregon. Amanda works for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Dave works for a building company that is branching into Green Building. Dave and Amanda report that they are doing great! They moved from DC to Portland in January, and have settled in quite nicely- they bought a house and are really enjoying themselves. Dave and Amanda say they enjoy remembering the good times in San Marcos!

## ALUMNI REUNION IS APRIL 28, 2007!





## WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS!

**Dr. Ron Hagelman**

I grew up in Texas, mainly in Austin/San Antonio Corridor. I attended New Braunfels High School in New Braunfels, Texas where I was proud (at least at the time) to call myself a "Fighting Unicorn." As soon as I was released from that fate, I earned my BA at the University of Texas-Austin in History and Geography.

Upon graduation, I was hired by a financial products marketing company in New Hampshire, where I lived and worked for 2 years. Being homesick beyond measure, I conspired to start my own company back in central Texas. With the blessing and investment of my New Hampshire employer, I started and successfully ran my own marketing consulting firm out of New Braunfels for about 5 years. I found that career profitable, but not at all enjoyable, which led me to pursue new career-horizons in graduate school at Texas State University. I earned both my MAG and PhD in Environmental Geography under the expert guidance of John Tiefenbacher and others.

During the same period I married, and my wife and I had two daughters - one as I was finishing my thesis and one as I was finishing my dissertation! Nearing graduation, I took an Assistant Professor's position at The University of New Orleans in the Department of Geography in fall of 2001. I graduated in December 2001 and turned my attention to

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**Dr. Donald Huebner**

Dr. Donald Huebner was born in San Marcos at Soldier's and Sailor's Memorial Hospital. He now lives in Travis County with his wife Jan. Dr. Huebner has four children sons, Erik(36), Daniel (29), and Jefferson (21); and favorite daughter, Elise (20). The Huebner's also have two dogs: Boomer, a blue heeler and Jess, a Labrador.

Dr. Huebner earned his B.S. in Education and M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. He specializes in landscape ecology, GIS, cartography, biogeography, environmental hazards and history, conservation, and geomorphology. Additional areas of interest include remote sensing, wildlife management, medical geography, paleoecology, geographic education, American mountain west, and cultural landscapes.

An outdoorsman at heart, Dr. Huebner enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping, as well as reading, wood and metal working. Research interests include Texas and the American Southwest, historical ecology, and biogeography

His favorite quote: "never criticize a man's dog even if he asks you to."

**RIVER TOURISM AND RECREATION** *By Dr. Jim Kimmel*

Texas State University has developed an important focus on river systems. As a contribution to this initiative, Jim Kimmel has expanded his work on river tourism and recreation, especially on the interpretive aspects of those activities. He and his students continue to assist the City of Luling, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the National Park Service with the interpretation of Zedler's Mill on the San Marcos River. They also assisted with the planning and development of the state's first inland paddling trail on the San Marcos.

Kimmel is currently conducting funded research on white water tourism on the Rio Grande and interpretive programs on the Upper Mississippi River. He is on the steering committee for The International Ecotourism Society conference to be held in Oslo, Norway, in May, 2007, where he will lead a workshop on river ecotourism. Kimmel and his photographer wife Jerry Touchstone Kimmel are currently under contract with Texas A&M University Press to produce an interpretive book about the Brazos River.



## WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS!

**Dr. Osvaldo Muniz**

I am originally from Antofagasta, a port in northern Chile and one of the largest cities of the Great *Atacama* Desert. Cecilia, my wife, and I have two children. Patricia is a surgeon doing graduate studies at John Hopkins University, at the present time. Fernando, our youngest son, is a physical therapist

who works in Chile.

All of us moved to the states for the first time back in 1978 to have a rewarding family experience in East Lansing, Michigan, while I was pursuing a M.A. at Michigan State University. After graduation we spent a year in Chile to return to the U.S. again in 1984 and enjoy a different type of environment in Knoxville, Tennessee, where I developed my doctoral program at The University of Tennessee. Back in Chile in 1991, I had several academic and higher administrative positions in various universities and cities, while Cecilia worked as elementary school teacher and our two sons attended two different universities to obtain their professional degrees.

Being prepared as geographer in the largest university in the *Atacama* Desert, I had the great occasion to study under several important geographers from all over the world. They continuously visit Chile attracted by the physical as well as the human and economic conditions of the desert. That is why global and international perspectives were and still are crucial components in my professional and academic development.

I have traveled mostly all over South America as professional consultant conducting several projects related to dam development, electrical rural expansion, environmental impact of mining operations and urban mass transportation. My research interests are related to global economy and technology development, transportation and flow pattern of scientific networking. However, my initial preparation in pedagogy has always paved the way to study and develop education as a main component in my field.

Geography education has been a strong part of my career development since my early preparation as high school teacher in geography. Consequently, new technology applications for global learning and online learning methods are two of the most important research topics in Geo-Ed. In one sentence, I have progressively migrated from real flow patterns to virtual ones.

**Dr. Kevin Romig**

Dr. Kevin Romig grew up “inside the Beltway” in Washington, DC. His wife’s name is Julie Romig and she is a geographer as well. She has an undergraduate degree in Geological Sciences and a master’s in Geography. The Romigs share their home with two dogs named Lazarus and Moses.

He obtained his undergraduate degree in Geography from the University of Maryland, Master’s in Geography from University of Southern California, and a PhD in Geography from Arizona State. Prior to coming to Texas State, he was employed in a tenure-track position at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

His hobbies are participatory athletics, sailing, oil painting, barbecuing, and gardening. Dr. Romig’s research interests are in urban geography specifically the social nature of housing landscapes and forming a sense of place.

A common adjective describing Dr. Romig is quiet. He attributes this tendency to a famous quote from Abraham Lincoln, “Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt.” Since he grew up in Civil War country, he has been fascinated by the Lincoln Presidency and even has decorated the spare bedroom in the Romig house as the Lincoln bedroom.

**Alumni**

**Do you have e-mail addresses for other  
Texas State Geography Alumni?**

**If so, please send them to**

**[angelika@txstate.edu](mailto:angelika@txstate.edu)**

## NOTES FROM JOYCE

By Joyce Lawson, Geography Undergraduate Advisor

Here are some dates for undergraduates & incoming freshmen to be aware of this spring:

**Advance registration:**

Mini – Summer I – Summer 2, begins March 26<sup>th</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup>

Fall 2007, begins April 9<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

**Note:** You can request a degree audit after you have completed 45 hours of course work, and a degree summary after 90 hours of course work.

**Group Advising** for Advance Registration with the Undergraduate Advisor will be held in ELA 384 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm and from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm Wednesday, March 21, Tuesday, March 27, Thursday, March 29, 2007, .and Wednesday April 4.

**BE WISE AND BE ADVISED!****CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Allison Glass-Smith** was selected as Texas State University's Employee of the Month in December, 2006. Associate Provost Bourgeois presented the award at a brief ceremony. Congratulations Allison, on this well deserved recognition!

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Dr. Wook Lee and wife Seonim welcomed their second child, Joanna Lynn Lee, into the world at 6:08 am Sunday, February 4, 2007. We wish the entire Lee family good health and long life!

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Allison Glass** and G.W. Smith were married on December 2, 2006. Best wishes to the newlyweds from all the faculty, staff and students of the Geography Department!

**Dr. Ron Hagelman**

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working on the social dimensions of environmental change and hazard in the Gulf Coast. Ironically, the last project I worked on in New Orleans was a FEMA-funded grant relating to hurricane evacuation.

Knowing better, my family and I evacuated New Orleans ahead of Hurricane Katrina and returned to the Austin area. I continued teaching online courses for UNO last year as well as being invited to offer a course on Hurricane Katrina at Texas State. That relationship, and our desire not to move back to New Orleans in its present condition, has lead me to a one-year appointment at Texas State this year, an opportunity which I have enjoyed tremendously.

Frankly, I never really imagined returning here in this capacity, but it has been a fantastic treat to be among, friends, colleagues, and familiar faces. I have been made to feel right at home and have enjoyed being a part of such a progressive and prolific group.

**FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNIZED**

Congratulations to the wonderful efforts of our faculty and staff! We have just received notification from the Dean of Students that the faculty and staff listed below were named as part of the Graduating Student Recognition of Campus Support program.

An e-mail celebrating the success of December 2006 graduates was sent late last semester. They were congratulated on their accomplishments and were asked to name any faculty or staff member(s) that they felt contributed significantly to their success and development.

**"Doc" Augustin**  
**Brock Brown**  
**David Butler**  
**Mark Carter**  
**Joanna Curran**  
**Rich Dixon**  
**Rich Earl**  
**Lawrence Estaville**  
**Alberto Giordano**

**Allison Glass-Smith**  
**Jim Kimmel**  
**Joyce Lawson**  
**Yongmei Lu**  
**Carol Sawyer**  
**David Stea**  
**Angelika Wahl**  
**Scott Walker**



## YUCATAN STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS AWARDED

*(Continued from page 1)*

Isis:

I am submitting the names of four students that participated in the Geography Department's Yucatan Study Abroad Program who did something that I believe is worthy of an award. Their names are **Tracey Donnelly, Anthony Warzecha, Jessica Spangler, and Jake Theilman.**

The last four days of our study abroad program were spent on Isla Mujeres. The island sustained major damage from Hurricane Wilma in October of 2005. The island's residents depend heavily on tourism.

Many hotels, restaurants, bars, gift shops, and fishing boats were badly damaged and the island's economy went into a tailspin. People lost their homes and jobs as a result of the hurricane. As a result, a squatter's slum has sprung up on a vacant area of land on the south end of the island. The community is composed of shacks made up of cardboard, tarpaper, linoleum, plywood, metal scraps and anything the

families can scrape up. There is no electricity, sewage disposal, or solid waste service. The streets are paths in the dirt surface of the squatter's settlement. There are many families with small children who have nothing.

The four students listed above spotted the slum with the many children with few opportunities. On their own, without any suggestion or direction from the study abroad director, they took their own money and purchased soccer balls, candy, small



Doc Augustin and Anthony Warzecha



Doc Augustin and Jessica Spangler



Doc Augustin and Jake Theilman

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER—LESLIE GARRETT

The Geography Department is very pleased to welcome our newest staff member **Leslie Garrett**, Administrative Assistant II, who came to us from the English Department. She started in the department in September, and is mainly responsible for grants accounting, any purchasing for grants, and travel.

Leslie is married to Jeremy, and moved here from Houston. She graduated from Sam Houston State with a BA in English, and also attended Texas State in 1999 and 2000. She started the MATC program in Fall 2006.

In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and travel, is currently taking a pottery class to "have a creative outlet." When not occupied with her other hobbies, she also assists her husband with his wedding videography business.

When asked what her favorite travel experience was, Leslie related the following: "In 2004, Jeremy and I decided it was time to get out of Houston. So in May we bought a house in San Marcos, in June we quit our jobs, and in July we actually moved to San Marcos. In between quitting our jobs and moving, we took a 10 day trip to Costa Rica. The inspiration to travel there came from Jeremy's uncle, who owns property in Costa Rica." When asked what was her most memorable experience, the one thing she would tell someone if the asked "Why should I go to Costa Rica?", Leslie promptly replied "Riding a zip line through the jungle to celebrate Jeremy's 30th birthday, even though I am afraid of heights! We climbed to a platform on a tree, and took off from there. It was awesome, zipping through the jungle, with glimpses of the Pacific ocean in the distance. I really surprised myself mustering the courage to do it, and would not trade the experience for anything. She also noted that the hanging bridges were an interesting experience. While they did sway some, it wasn't as bad as Leslie thought it would be.

Welcome Leslie! We are happy to have you as our newest "family" member!!



## LOVELL CENTER 2007 DISTINGUISHED LECTURE HELD

*By Dr. Denise Blanchard, Professor and Director, The James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research*

The James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research held its **2007 Distinguished Lecture, presented by award-winning writer and producer of educational public service projects, Mr. Marshall Frech, on Tuesday, February 27, 2007** on the campus of Texas State University-San Marcos.

Mr. Frech delivered a stimulating and thought-provoking talk entitled, "The Water's Edge," based on his most recent film documentary of the 2002 Central Texas floods, a multi-part-series on the growing problems that floods present to our ever-urbanizing society. The film has aired on PBS stations throughout the United States, along with his previous film, "Flash Flood Alley," a documentary that followed five families who rebuilt

their lives after the great Central Texas Flood of 1998. This film has aired on PBS for several years now.

In addition to "The Water's Edge" and "Flash Flood Alley," Mr. Frech has also written, *Barton Springs Eternal* (forward by James Michener), and produced several award-winning, interactive CD-ROM's including, "Barton Springs Interactive" with Bill Moyers, "Green By Design" with Dan Rather, and "Flood Safety," a companion tool for use with the website FloodSafety.com. Mr. Frech has also appeared in other broadcast media, such as The Weather Channel's documentary, "It Could Happen Tomorrow."

Marshall Frech is currently Director of the national program "Flood Safety," and President of Vantage Point Media in Boulder, Colorado. He has

partnered and produced media for highly-visible public organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency, and the USGS. Within the State of Texas, Mr. Frech has professional associations with LCRA, Rice University, the San Antonio River Authority, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, the City of Austin, the City of Dallas, the Texas Center for Policy Studies, and the Harris County Flood Control District. You may read more about Mr. Frech at <http://floodsafety.com/national/about/marshallfrech/index.htm>.

For more information please contact, Dr. Denise Blanchard, Director of the Lovell Center at [RB06@txstate.edu](mailto:RB06@txstate.edu), or call at 1-512-245-3090.

## STUDENTS ATTEND SYMPOSIUM AT A&M

Graduate students from Texas A&M University organized a student symposium on Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006, and. Dr. Walt Peacock sent **Dr. Denise Blanchard** a personal invitation for our faculty and students to attend.

Several of our students gave informal papers. This was a great opportunity to network and learn about what other student academic researchers are doing throughout the state. Topics included: the natural and built environment; social and economic vulnerability; public policy; resource management; design and (re) development; physical planning; GI science and hazards; technological hazards; and other related topics.

## BLANCHARD ATTENDS 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL NATURAL HAZARDS WORKSHOP

*By Dr. Denise Blanchard, Professor and Director, The James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geog-*

Each year, the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado invites more than 400 hazards researchers and practitioners to attend the annual hazards workshop, originally founded in 1976 by Dr. Gilbert F. White, Gustavson Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Geography. **Dr. Denise Blanchard** represented Texas State University, the Department of Geography and the Lovell Center.

The workshop opened Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> with a keynote address from Margareta Wahlstrom, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, from the United Nations, followed by Plenary Session 1, featuring Dr. Shirley Laska from the University of New Orleans with information about "Recovery after Hurricane Katrina."

Throughout the three-day workshop, concurrent sessions were offered on a variety of topics including: the politics of international disaster, urban evacuation, leadership in disasters, mapping in a post disaster environment, issues in local emergency management, weather and society, responses to terrorism, bridging the gap between researchers and practitioners, and myriad presentations on aspects of the 2005 and 2006 hurricane season. Dr. Blanchard presented a poster and promoted the Lovell Center, and networked with hazards professionals. Dr. Blanchard was also one of 34 directors who participated in an international center directors meeting.

## GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS TACKLE INNOVATIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROJECT

By Jayme Blashke, as Posted in Currents On-line News for Texas State Faculty and Staff, May 11, 2006

Geographic information technology is rapidly becoming a part of everyday life, and a graduate geography class conducted by **Sven Fuhrmann** this spring at Texas State University-San Marcos investigated when and how advanced geographic information technology could be used during natural and man-made emergency situations.

Google Earth and Map Quest--interactive Internet-based maps that provide on-demand geographic information--are two such applications that have grown in popularity in recent years. Emergency responders and managers have begun to review the potentials of this technology for their tasks, explained Fuhrmann, an assistant professor of geography. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can support emergency management by providing information for locating and approaching the cause of an incident, supporting the acquisition and supply of resources, and displaying weather forecasts and other information.

This year's advanced GIS course (GEO 5419) provided a unique learning experience for the students. Literature reviews and lectures allowed the in-



After presentation, all students were allowed to view San Marcos from top of ladder truck

(Continued on page 12)

## GEOGRAPHY FIELD STUDY PROGRAM TO RETURN TO EUROPE

By Dr. Fred Day

In the summer of 2007 the Department of Geography will continue another of its fine traditions: a month of field study in Italy, Switzerland and France. This six credit-hour program includes several days in Rome, Florence and Venice, two weeks at Franklin College in Lugano, Switzerland, and a week split between the French Riviera and Paris. It is open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

The first Lugano Program was lead by Professors **Byron Augustin** and **Jim Kimmel** in summer 1997; it was highly successful and has continued on an every other year basis since then. Since then Professors **Rich Earl**, **Fred Day** and **John Tiefenbacher** have taken groups of approximately 30 students to Lugano. This summer Dr. Day and Dr. **Alberto Giordano** of the Geography Department will lead the group. Dr. Day noted: "We all are excited about this program. It is a great opportunity for both faculty and students. The extended travel allows us to teach students to observe...history, differing landscapes, the diversity of culture... Europe is indeed a fascinating place! Returning students have high praise for the program."

During the two weeks in Lugano, the group will study the Regional Geography of Europe in morning classes and do local field trips in the afternoons. Franklin College, a small international college with a picturesque hillside site,

makes an ideal location for students to get a feel for Europe. Two trips into the heart of the Alps are planned. Lugano has a beautiful lakeside setting: it is the urban focus of Italian-speaking Switzerland, a cosmopolitan economic service center, and yet is compact enough to experience on foot.

Anyone interested in going on this "once in a lifetime" study tour can receive more information from Drs. Day and Giordano, or the Department of Geography office. The trip dates this summer are from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup>.



The 2001 Summer in Europe Geography group in the heart of the Alps!

## PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY TO PRESENT 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GROSVENOR DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

*By Judy Behrens*



On Wednesday, April 4, 2007, Mr. John M. Fahey Jr. will visit the campus of Texas State University-San Marcos to present the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture. Mr. Fahey currently serves as president and chief executive officer of the National Geographic Society. The Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture is an annual event hosted by Dr. Richard Boehm and the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education.

John Fahey joined National Geographic on April 1, 1996, as the first president and chief executive officer of National Geographic Ventures, the nonprofit Society's separate, wholly-owned, taxable subsidiary company that includes National Geographic Television & Film, Nationalgeographic.com, and National Geographic Maps. He became National Geographic president and CEO on March 1, 1998.

During his tenure, Fahey has led an evolution of the National Geographic Society, including its entry into cable television with the National Geographic Channel, which airs in 27 languages and reaches over 230 million homes in 151 countries; the international expansion of National Geographic magazine, now published in 24 languages; the launch of National Geographic Adventure magazine and National Geographic Explorer classroom magazine; and the re-launch of National Geographic Expeditions travel program.

The Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture is free and open to the general public, and school groups are encouraged to attend. For more information about this event, contact the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education at 512-245-1823 or [jb42@txstate.edu](mailto:jb42@txstate.edu).

## STUDENTS TACKLE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROJECT

*(Continued from page 11)*

roduction and discussion of the latest GIS technology in emergency management, while the lab section of the seminar included a collaborative project with the City of San Marcos Fire Department. The project included reviewing past emergency incidents, assessing the needs of the San Marcos Fire Department, and developing cutting edge applications for future crisis management in San Marcos.

"The students and Dr. Fuhrmann went the extra mile working with us on this project," said San Marcos Fire Chief Mike Baker. "San Marcos Fire Rescue and all of the citizens of San Marcos will benefit from this collaborative effort. I enjoyed working them and look forward to future projects with the University."

In February 2005 San Marcos was

struck by a hazardous train derailment that resulted in the evacuation of hundreds of local citizens. A knowledge elicitation exercise in class allowed sharing the timeline of the accident and how Chief Baker and the crews managed the emergency response. The information gathered laid the foundation for the geo-information tool development in the lab section of the class.

"It has been a real learning experience for the students and me," said James Graham, a teaching assistant for the class. "We applied the theoretical background of this class to develop applied skills that enable us to understand both GIS techniques and the GIS requirements of the end user."

The students developed two prototypical applications for the fire department. On May 1, the graduate class presented the work to Chief Baker and

his staff at fire station No. 3 on Hunter Road. Students presented an Arc Explorer application in which they included datasets that might have been helpful during train derailment emergency response as well as novel two- and three-dimensional datasets that were linked to Google Earth and allowed city-based data query, route finding and 3D building visualizations.

Fuhrman's teaching and learning approach allowed combining theoretical aspects of GIS research and emergency management from the practitioner's point of view.

"This GIS course definitely did not operate just in theoretical vacuum," said Joshua Bailey, a first-year graduate student. "I'm happy to see that we developed useful prototypes."



## REP III EXCEEDS ITS TEXAS STATE GOALS

By Lawrence Estaville,

(Continued from page 3)

ment Program from universities across the country. Joining large numbers of Texas State students, many students from both St. Philip's College and the McNair Program participated in the REP III Conference. Ideally, Texas State will be able to continue to strengthen these new bonds with St. Philip's College and the McNair Program.

Moreover, 127 schoolchildren from San Marcos ISD and New Braunfels ISD presented posters they crafted about diversity and gave amazing presentations, including reading a series of their own creative writings about diversity, re-writing and singing the song "America the Beautiful" that included two additional stanzas about diversity, performing a mini-play and poem about peace, and playing wonderful mariachi music of Tejano heritage.

Goal 4. *Demonstrate support for the University's diversity initiatives, particularly gaining HSI status, from prominent government leaders, private companies, and foundations.*

Undoubtedly indicating their support for Texas State's diversity initiatives, prominent government, corporate, and foundation leaders at national, state, and local levels participated in or attended the REP III Conference, including:

### Government:

Lloyd Doggett, U.S. Congressman

John Duke Anthony, President, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Ygnacio D. Garza, Former Commissioner of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Former Mayor of Brownsville, Texas

Patrick Rose, Texas State Representative

Hugo Rene Oliva, Mexican Consul Deputy

Buddy Garcia, Texas Deputy Secretary of State

Jim Powers, Hays County Judge

Susan Narvaiz, Mayor of San Marcos, Texas

### Corporate:

Fred Zeidman, Chairman, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, and Senior Director, Governmental Affairs, Greenburg Traurig Law Firm

Donald Zale, Former Chairman and CEO, Zale Corporation

Bernard Rapoport, Founder and Former President, American Income Life Insurance Company

Glenn DaGian, Director, Government Affairs in Texas, British Petroleum

### Foundation:

Vicky Rahamatali, The National Academies, Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships

Hope Koch, Callaway Foundation

Other examples of government, non-governmental organizations, and private firms that participated in the REP III Conference include (see REP III Conference program back cover for a complete listing):

San Antonio Housing Authority, San Antonio, TX

San Marcos Housing Authority, San Marcos, TX

Texas Department of Protective Services, Austin, TX

U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

American Geographical Society, New York, NY

American Youthworks, Austin, TX

Casey Family Programs, Austin, TX

Diversity and Inclusion Texas Health Resources, Arlington, TX

Environmental Austin, Austin, TX

(Continued on page 14)

## REP III EXCEEDS ITS TEXAS STATE GOALS

By Lawrence Estaville,

*(Continued from page 13)*

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, San Antonio, TX  
 Mariachi Campanas de America, San Antonio, TX  
 Applied Materials, Austin, TX  
 Biomedware, Inc., Ann Arbor, MI  
 Century 21 of San Marcos, TX  
 Green Design and Sustainability Consulting, Austin, TX  
 Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr P.C., Dallas, TX  
 National Geographic Society, Washington, DC  
 San Antonio Express News, San Antonio, TX  
 Wells Fargo Bank, San Marcos, TX

Goal 5. *Create collaborative bonds with universities that are national leaders in diversity initiatives, especially Binghamton University (SUNY) and Howard University for the REP III Conference and possible future REP hosts such as the University of Miami, the University of Southern California, the University of Washington, and the University of Georgia.*

Dr. Lois DeFleur, President of Binghamton University (SUNY), and Dr. George Wright, President of Prairie View A&M University, emphasized their commitment to diversity as the cornerstone concept of the REP Conferences by giving two excellent plenary presentations about issues of race and ethnicity in higher education. President DeFleur also approved substantial funding support and resources for the REP III Conference from Binghamton University. Dr. Patricia Candia, Interim President, St. Philip's College became a National REP III Conference co-director and provided important funding support and resources as well.

Mr. Tim Wise, Director of the Association of White Anti-Racist Education, was the plenary speaker for a REP III Conference "student track" sponsored by Texas State's Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies. Mr. Wise, who recently appeared as a panelist on a CNN special program about race in America, connected directly and strongly with our students. Ms. Vicky Rahamatali, a Senior Program Assistant for Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships of The National Academies, welcomed many Texas State students to her exhibitor's table for three days of the conference.

We look forward to continuing our REP III Conference collaboration with Binghamton University and Howard University by joining them in partnering with Miami University as it hosts the 2008 REP IV Conference in Coral Gables, Florida. This conference held in one of the nation's most diverse metropolitan areas and the foremost U.S. transportation link to the Caribbean and Latin America will certainly provide an exciting venue to carry on the important work of past conferences here at Texas State, Howard University in Washington, D.C., and Binghamton University in New York. Continued collaboration with such premier universities as Binghamton, Howard, and Miami, all of which have well known programs that promote diversity with unwavering dedication, will further enhance the recognition of Texas State as an emerging national leader in diversity.

Goal 6. *Become a launching point for externally funded diversity projects that will draw students from underrepresented groups to Texas State.*

The Diversity Place Project that has the goal of impressing a tangible landscape presence of Texas State's commitment to diversity onto its campus is in progress. A Houston Endowment Project that will attempt to bond African-American and Latino students with Texas State is forthcoming as well as other external funding ideas that are currently in the formative stages.

Goal 7. *Provide important current information from the work of nationally recognized scholars in a variety of academic fields dealing with race and ethnicity issues that can also engender research into diversity for future scholars, the participating students.*

*(Continued on page 15)*

## REP III EXCEEDS ITS TEXAS STATE GOALS

By Lawrence Estaville,

(Continued from page 14)

The REP III Conference held 108 paper, panel, and poster sessions, 5 workshops, 8 fieldtrips, and an ethnic art show with 7 artists in which scholars from 98 U.S. universities and colleges and from a variety of disciplines shared useful and timely information about their areas of expertise and research. Nationally recognized scholars were from such universities as:

Arizona State University	Binghamton University (SUNY)
Brown University	Colgate University
Dartmouth College	DePaul University
George Washington University	Howard University
Hunter College (CUNY)	Michigan State University
Ohio State University	Oregon State University
Rice University	Rutgers University
Syracuse University	Texas A&M University
Trinity University	University of Alabama
University of British Columbia	University of Buffalo (SUNY)
University of Florida	University of Georgia
University of Maryland	University of Miami
University of Missouri-Columbia	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Oklahoma	University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin	University of Texas at San Antonio
University of Tennessee-Knoxville	University of Utah
University of Washington	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Also presenting at the REP III Conference were scholars from 10 other countries, including these universities:

Argentina:

University of Buenos Aires

Canada:

Queen's University  
Simon Fraser University  
University of British Columbia  
University of Toronto  
York University

Mexico:

Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi  
National Autonomous University of Mexico

South Korea:

Ewha University

Australia:

Deakin University Law School  
University of Macquarie

Chile:

Universidad de La Serena

France:

Univeristy Paris, Ecole du Louvre

Nigeria:

Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University  
Bayero University

Panama:

University of Panama

United Kingdom:

Sussex University  
University of Glasgow  
University of Nottingham  
University of St. Andrews

Goal 8. *Publish high-quality scholarly works from the conference papers, for example, an Atlas of Latinos, special issues of scholarly journals, a scholarly anthology, and a college/high school reader.*

Some of the REP III Conference's 204 scholarly papers will be published in two peer-reviewed special journal issues about race, ethnicity, and place in the *Journal of Geography* and the *Journal of Cultural Geography*. Other conference papers will become a part of the peer-reviewed anthology focused on the changing African Diaspora in North America.

(Continued on page 16)

## REP III EXCEEDS ITS TEXAS STATE GOALS

*(Continued from page 15)*

Many conferees will place their papers on race and ethnicity into review processes for publication in a variety of disciplines.

A draft of an extensive set of color multivariate maps for an "Atlas of Latinos in the United States" is near completion, and submission of the atlas for publication will take place in 2007.

*Goal 9. Allow a venue for securing substantial funds to support scholarships for Latino students at Texas State.*

The National Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference Committee and the Texas State REP III Organizing Committee raised more than \$150,000, including in kind support from several Texas State and local government units and a fine collaboration with the Stars of Texas Program, that sustained the conference's many events at high levels of quality.

British Petroleum (BP), the premier external sponsor for the REP III Conference, generously provided a \$25,000 scholarship endowment to assist first-generation students from underrepresented groups attend Texas State.

*Goal 10. Attract local, state, and national media attention to Texas State and its diversity goals.*

Central Texas newspapers from Austin to San Antonio published articles about the REP III Conference. During 2006 several national newsletters of professional associations included articles and announcements about the conference, and e-mail announcements were sent to 92 university departments/programs and research centers that focus on ethnicity research and 23 professional associations across the nation.

KLRU, the public cable television station in Austin, Texas, televised in February 2007 a special program about the REP III Conference fieldtrip to East Austin during African-American History Month. KLRN, the public cable television station in San Antonio, Texas, broadcast the film titled "Race Is the Place" during the REP III Conference.





NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS—NAEP

By Hayat D Qurunful

The National Association for Environmental Professionals is geared up and in full swing for another semester of events and activities aimed at bringing awareness to the natural environment here in San Marcos and beyond. As usual, our meetings are held the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of every month at 5pm in Evans Liberal Arts room 311. Although our meetings are indoors, much of what we do is outdoors. September 30th was a planned trail building day in Canyon Lake in honor of National Public Lands Day, and a week later on October 7th we hosted the San Marcos River Cleanup. We also have dates set for a camping trip to Enchanted Rock, water hyacinth removal at Spring Lake and our bi-annual Garden Work Day outside ELA.

Texas Recycles Day was November 15th. NAEP was on the quad providing information about recycling and had a garbage monster that you had to see to believe! We welcome students from all majors to come to our meetings and be a part of our organization. Hope to see you soon!

UPCOMING STUDENT ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

NAEP

National Association of Environment Professionals  
Meets in Evans 311 at 5:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month. Future meeting dates are March 6, March 20, April 3 and April 17, 2007.



SOGIS

Student Organization for GIScience Meets in Evans. Contact SOGIS at [sogis@geo.txstate.edu](mailto:sogis@geo.txstate.edu) for information on upcoming meetings.

GTU

Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Honor Society  
Meets in Evans 311 at 5:00 pm on the

2nd and 4th Tuesday each month. Future meeting dates are March 28 (no meeting during Spring Break week), April 11, and April 25, 2007.

SPO

Student Planning Organization  
Please see the bulletin board outside Evans 156 for meeting dates and times.

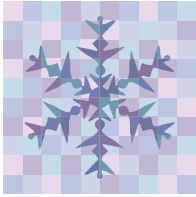
UNDERGRADUATE PICNIC FUN!!



The undergrad picnic was an overwhelming success! All but 5 of 160 burgers were consumed, 24 of 24 veggies burgers and 37 of 48 hot dogs were consumed, as well 180 soft drinks. Approximately 150 people showed up—not bad! The picnic is a prudent investment in the long term success of our undergraduate program!

## January

Tuesday, January 16—  
Spring semester classes begin



## February

Wednesday, February 14—  
Valentine's Day

Tuesday, February 27—Lovell  
Center Distinguished Lecture by  
Mr. Marshall Frech



## March

March 11—Daylight Savings  
Begins

March 12—17—Spring Break

March 17—St. Patrick's Day



## April

Wednesday, April 4—Grosvenor  
Distinguished Lecture by Mr.  
John Fahey

April 8—Easter

April 15—21—Annual Associa-  
tion of American Geographers  
meeting in San Francisco, CA

Saturday, April 28—Alumni  
Reunion & Student Celebration



## May

May 1—Dead Day

May 2 —8—Final Exams

May 11—12—Commencement

May 13—Mother's Day

May 28—Memorial Day

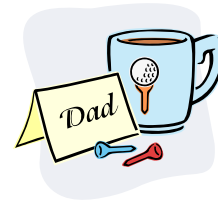


## June

June 4—Summer I classes begin

June 14—Flag Day

June 17—Father's Day



## YUCATAN STUDENTS NOMINATED

(Continued from page 9)

toys, and fruit. They loaded their materials on a rented golf cart and drove to the slum. They entered the slum and drove up and down the dirt streets handing out toys, candy, fruit and soccer balls. The parents of these children had tears in their eyes and the children could not stop grinning and laughing. Some Texas State University Santas had just brought Christmas a little early and brightened the day of a group of small children. Later, when the four students were telling me about their experience, the joy that this experience brought to their lives was remarkable. All they could talk about was how good it felt to help out some very deserving children. They were true ambassadors of Texas State University and I was so proud of them I nearly popped the buttons on my shirt. What a neat group of compassionate students who did something just because it seemed like the right thing to do.

Doc Augustin

**Note from Dr. Suckling, Chair:** Four of Doc Augustin's students from last summer's Yucatan study abroad program won the U.S. Student Award for Outstanding Achievement in International Education 2006 from the University's International Office for their special activity. This type of activity from our students is simply wonderful!

## BITTEN BY THE TRAVEL BUG? HOW ABOUT A TRIP TO CHILE???

In May 2007, the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, the Department of Geography at Texas State University-San Marcos, the Society of Chilean Geographers, the National Council for Geographic Education, and the Association of American Geographers are co-sponsoring an international conference titled "Geography in the Americas: Collaboration on Research and Education," in La Serena, Chile. The conference, scheduled for May 21-25, will be hosted by the Universidad de La Serena, situated on the Pacific coastline in Central Chile.



University faculty, K-12 educators, graduate students, and professional geographers are invited to participate in this effort to share knowledge and to develop international networks and collaborations among educators from both North and South America.

Conference participants are invited to take part in local field trips designed to highlight the scenic beauty of Central Chile, while the 5-day, pre-conference field expedition will explore the Atacama Desert and Antiplano Region of Northern Chile. A 4-day, post-conference field excursion will investigate the cultural, historical, and physical attributes of the region encompassing Santiago and Valparaiso.



Dr. Richard Earl, Professor of Geography from TSU-SM, is leading a 3-week graduate course which will include participation in the conference, the pre- and post-conference field excursions, and all local field trips. For information about this graduate course, please contact Dr. Earl at [re02@txstate.edu](mailto:re02@txstate.edu) or 512-245-3204.

For complete conference information, please visit the conference website at <http://www.geographyintheamericas.com/>.



## CHAGAS DISEASE—AN EMERGING ZOOONOTIC DISEASE IN TEXAS

By E. J. Hanford

**E.J. Hanford**, Doctoral Candidate in Environmental Geography and former Research Assistant for the Texas Center for Geographic Science, was invited to make a formal presentation on Chagas Disease and the implications for this endemic and emerging disease in Texas at the Six-States Meeting held in Texarkana on August 10-11, 2006. The meeting is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This annual event is a forum for Veterinary Medical Officers, Animal and Plant Inspectors and Animal Technicians, among others, to provide updates on disease outbreaks and surveillance of basic environmental parameters that control the spread of zoonotic disease, disease eradication programs, incident response, and coordination efforts to facilitate communication during emergency response to environmental disasters within the geographic region.

Ms. Hanford presented an extended overview on Chagas Disease in Texas, including the etiology of the disease, the potential for transmission within the environment among various host animal species, and the risks to humans living and working within Texas and other southern tier states. The presentation was, in part, based on a paper co-authored with Drs. Ben Zhan, Yongmei Lu and Alberto Giordano and entitled "Chagas Disease: The Significance and Implications of Evidence in the Literature" that has been accepted for publication in *Social Science & Medicine*. The paper will be included in a special proceedings volume reflective of the 2005 International Medical Geography Symposium. The research on Chagas Disease was part of the Border Health Initiative sponsored in part by the 311<sup>th</sup> Human Systems Wing of Brooks City-Base Foundation.



On Thursday, November 30, 2006 undergraduate and graduate geography students helped gift wrap Christmas gifts for Blue Santa. Blue Santa is hosted by the San Marcos Police Department and provides free Christmas gifts to children of local families in need.

*Photos courtesy of Dr. Sven Fuhrmann*

## LOVELL CENTER WEB PAGE REDESIGN

By Dr. Denise Blanchard, Professor and Director, The James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research

Kudos and a ton of thanks to **Mitch Crader**, who worked diligently on redesigning and updating the Lovell Center webpage in collaboration with Dr. Blanchard. We also deeply appreciate the contribution and assistance of John Rawls and Charles Robinson. Please visit our rotating "marble" at <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/lovell/>.





TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY-SAN MARCOS DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Evans Liberal Arts 139  
Dr. Philip S. Suckling, Chair

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Fax: 512.245.8353  
E-mail: [geography@txstate.edu](mailto:geography@txstate.edu)

*SHARING THE SPIRIT OF  
GEOGRAPHY*



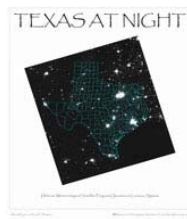
<http://www.geo.txstate.edu/>

## LAST, BUT NOT LEAST...

**Noah Hopkins**, AmeriCorps\*NCCC Team Leader addresses a meeting of the Corporation for National and Community Service Board of Directors on September 20th, 2006 in St. Bernard Parish, LA to discuss the powerful contribution made by national service participants and the continuing need for more volunteers on the long road to recovery.



## Order your Texas State Geography Gear!!



Simply go to the web site ([http://www.geo.txstate.edu/Geo\\_gear/gearcatalog.html](http://www.geo.txstate.edu/Geo_gear/gearcatalog.html)), download and complete the order form, and then return it via mail, e-mail, or fax. Payment options include check, MasterCard or Visa. Prices do not include shipping.



## GRADUATE STUDENT KUDOS

*AGC Student Poster  
Contest Winner*

*Bussemey Awarded  
GTU Scholarship*

**Michelle Bussemey**, GTU chapter president, was awarded one of five scholarships from Gamma Theta Upsilon at the business meeting of GTU held during the National Council for Geographic Education annual meeting at Lake Tahoe, NV Oct 5-8. Ms. Bussemey is the recipient of the Graduate Robert G. Buzzard Scholarship, named in honor of the founder of GTU, the international geography honor society.

Doctoral student **Emariana Taylor** won 3rd place in the poster competition at the Applied Geography Conference held in Tampa, Florida. Her poster examines the use of radar in mapping and examining bat habitat in central Texas.

Taylor is a graduate advisee of **Dr. David Butler**.



*Nystrom Award  
Winner*

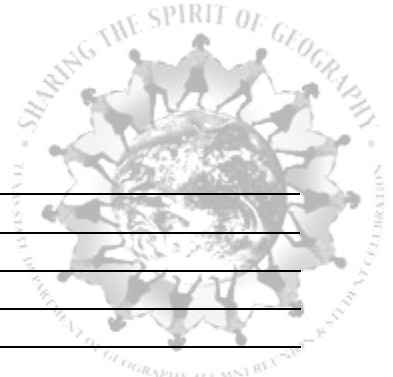
**Xuwei Chen**, one of our first two GISci PhD graduates in May 2006, was selected as a finalist in the annual Nystrom Award competition.

The Nystrom Award is an annual competition sponsored by the AAG for the Best PhD Dissertation in the country during the previous year. Last year's winner, Lynn Resler was an advisee of Dr. David Butler and now we have a finalist again this year (there are something like a half dozen finalists). The competition will conclude with paper presentations at the AAG meeting next April in San Francisco. The fact that we have had two finalists in back-to-back years – with one winner so far – is a strong indication of the maturing quality and recognition of our doctoral program.

Chen is a graduate advisee of **Dr. Ben Zhan**.



Texas State Department of Geography  
 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration  
 Saturday, April 28, 2007 at Aquarena Center  
 Registration Form



Name(s) of Registrant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

1) Award Recipients, Scholarship Recipients, and Volunteers:

**Registration fee is waived**

Number of: Award Recipients \_\_\_\_\_  
 Scholarship Recipients \_\_\_\_\_  
 Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_ on this registration form.  
 Number attending Bar-B-Que \_\_\_\_\_

2) Students, Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Friends of Geography:

Prior to April 25, 2007 \$10  
 After April 25 (including at the door) \$15

Number of: Students \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alumni \_\_\_\_\_  
 Faculty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Staff \_\_\_\_\_  
 Friends of Geography \_\_\_\_\_ on this registration form.  
 Number attending Bar-B-Que \_\_\_\_\_

3) Children under 12 are FREE

Number of: Children under 12 \_\_\_\_\_ on this registration form.  
 Number attending Bar-B-Que \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE REGISTERED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in the free Glass Bottom Boat Rides from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.?  Yes  No

\*\*\*\*\*

Method of payment: Cash  Check  # \_\_\_\_\_ (Please make checks payable to Dept. of Geography)

Credit Card:  Mastercard or  Visa Expiration Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (credit cards only): \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount included with this registration form: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Return this form to:

Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration  
 Attn.: Patricia Hell-Jones  
 Department of Geography  
 Texas State University – San Marcos  
 San Marcos, TX 78666

Phone: (512) 245-2170 FAX: (512) 245-8353 E-mail: [ph19@txstate.edu](mailto:ph19@txstate.edu)