



# GEONews

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SPRING 2006

## TWELVETH ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION & STUDENT CELEBRATION

By Dr. Byron "Doc" Augustin, Professor

The Department of Geography would like to issue a very special invitation to all of our alumni and current students to attend this year's Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration. We firmly believe that we have the very best students and alumni of any geography department in the nation. It is important to the continuing health of our program that we engage in this popular event each year.

It is important to our faculty and staff because we love to visit with you about your families and your careers. We love to travel down memory lane

with you, and relive some of the events that helped shape your lives. We also love to reminisce about other events that might be best forgotten!

It is also important for us to "show off" our alumni to our current crop of students. It is wonderful for us to observe the interaction between our alumni and present-day students. The alumni are in a position to counsel current students about the "real world."

It is important to our current students because the alumni can serve as role models for the next generation of Texas State University (formerly Southwest Texas State University) graduates. Alumni can share their views on a host of important issues including potential internships, employment, resumes, sala-



Awards!!

ries and other issues. The event also allows our current students the opportunity to witness the importance of graduates staying connected to the department's faculty and staff.

The Student Celebration

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### Alumni

Do you have e-mail addresses for other Texas State Geography Alumni? If so, please send their e-mail address to [angelika@txstate.edu](mailto:angelika@txstate.edu)

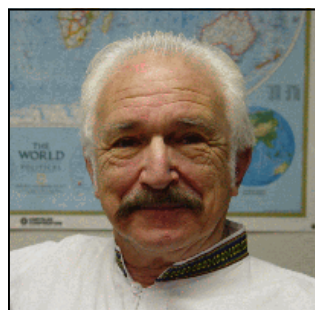
## NO SLEEP...TILL BROOKLYN!

By Melissa Gray, Ph.D. Student

### A Farewell from the Graduate Student Body

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. David Stea will retire from the Department of

Geography at the end of the academic year. He is an intriguing individual who possesses an intense passion for life, and more specifically, for teaching and learning, friends and family, and anything and everything related to

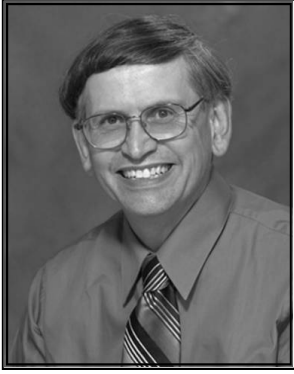


model trains. As a gradu-

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

My first year at Texas State is proving to be incredibly busy and exciting. I want to thank my faculty colleagues and our wonderful departmental staff for their support and encouragement as we make plans for the future. Such support is greatly appreciated.

This is a large and complex department with many things always on the go. We are currently conducting searches for new faculty members in urban geography and geographic education. We are making initial plans for several more faculty searches likely to be conducted next year. Many faculty members are busy on grant-supported projects and others have promising grant proposals in the works. Over 50 faculty and students will participate at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers to be held in Chicago during March. Our departmental Centers have been busy hosting several special workshops and events such as the annual Lovell and Grosvenor lectures. Other special events are being planned such as participation in next Fall's interdisciplinary Race, Ethnicity and Place conference being hosted at Texas State University. These activities suggest that this is

indeed a very dynamic place!

Our academic programs are in excellent shape. Nevertheless, we continue to examine our programs through our newly evolving Program Learning Outcomes plan and through continuing curricular review by our hard-working Undergraduate Committee and Graduate Committee. For the graduate programs, we have several assistantship funding opportunities for new graduate students, especially at the Ph.D. level. Therefore, we are actively recruiting new students to join our program for Fall 2006.

I especially want to encourage our alumni, faculty, staff and current students to participate in the upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, which will take place on Saturday, April 22. This event represents a wonderful opportunity for current students to meet our many successful alumni. For faculty and alumni, old acquaintances can be renewed. And we will honor and recognize the accomplishments of current students and other friends of Geography who are scholarship and award winners. Again, I hope to see everyone at the Aquarena Center on April 22!

"I ESPECIALLY WANT TO ENCOURAGE OUR ALUMNI, FACULTY, STAFF AND CURRENT STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UPCOMING 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION AND STUDENT CELEBRATION, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 22."

## A Farewell from the Graduate Student Body

*(Continued from page 1)*

ate student working under his guidance for the past several years, I have self-selected this song to embrace the essence of a perpetually energetic man who has shown me what it truly means to live (hence, the "no sleep" reference).

To recount the many accomplishments, achievements, travel experiences, and stories of professional and personal life experience that he has shared with students while teaching geography here at Texas State University, would take the length of a novel. Members of the graduate student body know Dr. Stea for his honest support of their ideas and dreams, his uncanny ability to meld abstract ideas into respectable academic research, and his unwavering dedication to the discipline of geography (including the students)—many nights that meant no sleep.

Beginning his new chapter in life, Dr. David Stea departs from Texas State University, bestowing to the past and present student body many memories marked with his cherished exuberance and artistic perspectives. Thank you for your time and student-related efforts, Dr. Stea. Thank you.

## ALUMNI TIDBITS

By Mark L. Carter, Internship Director

**Caleb Kraenzel**, a recent GIS major graduate, now works as a GIS Planner for the City of Marble Falls. Caleb offers the following advice for a successful job interview: 1) take notes during the interview - that way the interviewer knows that you are paying attention; 2) be prepared to show some examples of your work (a professional portfolio). Caleb explained that his boss (the Director of Planning) and the City Manager of Marble Falls are impressed by his knowledge and skills, which he credits to his education at Texas State!

GEO Alumni **Kevin Callaway** is now the National Account Manager for Tanknology "Environmental Compliance for Petroleum Systems." Mr. Callaway recently sought some new employees to join Tanknology and wrote: "I've always looked to my home (Texas State Geography) first when hiring new individuals. Texas State is where you find the candidates that want to make a difference and are willing to work hard to get there."

**Jason Richey** ('04) majored in GIS while a geography student and is currently employed by GIS Analyst, True Automation, Inc., Plano, Texas in their mapping department.

Recent geography graduate **Belen L. Garcia** now works as a Storm-Water Drainage Technician for the City of Killeen, Texas. Belen reports that he is enjoying his job and that he and his wife are expecting a baby later this spring 2006. Congratulations on both counts!

GEO Alum **Zach Howard** "finally landed a job" as a consultant with a software company - Quorum ([www.qbsol.com](http://www.qbsol.com)). Zach credits his success partly on experience gained through a student internship with the Texas Transportation Institute. Mr. Howard looks forward to seeing his card in the Geography Alumni Business Card Directory and also to establishing a geography scholarship in the future. Way to go Zach!

Geography Alumni and the Hays County 'connection.' Looks like our Geography Alumni pretty much run the show at the Hays County Environmental Health Department. **Stephen Floyd** ('93 & '00) is the Program Manager, GIS and the 911 addressing project. **Katherine Weiss** ('97) coordinates the 911 addressing project. **Marty Munoz** ('99) serves as the county's GIS Coordinator. **Craig Richardson** ('04) handles the coordination of

new sub-division of land in Hays County and **Kim Hall** is an Environmental Inspector. You guys could start your own Alumni Chapter!

**Lori Briden**, Geography Alumna and former NAEP Officer, now lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. Lori is an environmental assessor with JMK Environmental Solutions, Inc. Ms. Briden performs due diligence phase 1 and phase 2 assessments as well as real estate appraisals. Hope you are enjoying California Lori!

**Michael Long** recently completed his M.A.G. focusing on GIS applications, then moved to California to work on a software developer support team at Environmental Systems Research ESRI (the world leader in GIS software and technology) the very GIS software Mike learned about in class and lab here at Texas State. How cool is that?

Spring 2005 Geography graduate **Chris Jurica** now uses his skills as the GIS Manager for the Kendall County Appraisal District. Chris remembers the day that he examined our Alumni Business Card Directory during academic orientation: "From that day forward, I could not wait to graduate, begin my career and send my business card to the Texas State Geography Department to get it published along with the others." Be sure to check the next edition. Congratulations Chris - you made it!

GEO Grad **Casey Menn** got his start at John Knox Ranch in Fischer, Texas as an intern. Casey prepared a range management plan for this environmental education camp then continued to work for the camp as a program manager. Casey Menn was last spotted at the Career Services Summer Job Fair, recruiting new camp counselors for John Knox Ranch.

May 2005 Geography Graduate and former Geography Freshman Interest Group (FIG) Peer Mentor, **Laura Siebeneck** (Chance) attends graduate school at the University of Utah studying natural hazards. Laura plans to write a thesis on effectively planning for re-entry after an urban area has been evacuated. Laura reports that she learned a lot from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita! Good luck on your research

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## GEOGRAPHY INTERNS GAIN EXPERIENCE By Mark L. Carter, Internship Director

Our Geography Internship students gained valuable experience - and a great resume line - this past fall semester receiving real-world, work experience while providing valuable assistance to their sponsoring organizations!

**Kendall Bell** worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife facility in San Marcos helping with the endangered species protection project. **Daniel Donnelly, Robert Patrick, Joel Stanford** and **Robert Wolosin** all enhanced their knowledge of managing our interaction with the natural environment working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. **Christopher Douthit** learned about how the Hays Energy natural-gas electric power plant operates and how the plant meets its regulatory compliance requirements.

**Susan Meckel** assisted the Lower Colorado River Authority with research and review of state water quality permit applications. **Brent Moore** and **Kord Overlien** performed analytical tests on water samples using EPA approved methodology for the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center. **Nichols Skyler** worked with TV meteorologist Jim Spenser at KXAN in Austin.

**Alex Sanders** provided support to the staff of Baer Engineering and Environmental Consulting for a variety of projects. **Jeff Bracewell** used his GIS skills to help the LBJ National Historic Park build a database inventorying natural and cultural assets. **Nathan Johnson** assisted with a project to evaluate the hydrogeology of Pinto and

Las Moras Springs in Kinney Texas. **Marc Mollere** learned about interpreting the natural environment for visitors at Aquarena Center.

The Texas State University—San Marcos Geography Internship Program requires students to work a minimum of 150 hours and maintain a daily work-log. 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. Please address internship requests and questions to:

Mark L. Carter

Internship Director

Department of Geography

Texas State University—San Marcos

(512) 245-8587 or [MC12@txstate.edu](mailto:MC12@txstate.edu)

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## GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

*Courtesy of Dr. David Butler*

**Dr. Lynn Resler**, who graduated from Texas State with a Ph.D. in environmental geography, has won the 2005 Nystrom Award from the American Association of Geographers. The Nystrom Award is given for the best paper based on a recently completed dissertation in geography. Resler was one of eight finalists from universities including Penn State, Arizona State, University of Kentucky, University of Minnesota, University of Southern California, University of Florida, and University of California-Los Angeles. The judges, who could recommend up to three award recipients, gave only one award, to Resler, saying that her work was superior.

At Texas State, Resler wrote her dissertation on “Conifer Establishment Sites on a Periglacial Landscape, Glacier National Park, Montana.” She collaborated with Dr. David Butler, Professor of Geography, on a number of research projects related to the effects of global warming on alpine treelines and conifer establishment in tundra. Resler is now an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at Virginia Tech.





## TWELVETH ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION & STUDENT CELEBRATION

(Continued from page 1)

portion of the program provides all of us with an opportunity to recognize our very best students. It is a time when we celebrate those individual students who have excelled in scholarship and service to our department. It gives us the privilege of recognizing those generous individuals who have provided major financial support to our program by establishing permanent endowments to honor their loved ones.

This is a day full of happiness and joyous memories from the past as well as a day to create new memories for the future. Mark



Scholarships!!



Good Food, Great Company,  
and Lots of Fun!!

Saturday, April 22, 2006, on your calendar and plan on attending this year's celebration. In addition to our formal ceremonies, there will be live music, liquid refreshments, barbeque, and lots of informal conversation. Registration details will be available on the departmental website. Contact old buddies from the 70s, 80s, 90s and the new century, and encourage them to join us. Remember, there are a number of faculty that are getting a little long of tooth and are nearing retirement. There are few joys that exceed the opportunity to get together with your ex-students and current students. You would not want to deny that special moment for us, would you? I didn't think

so! See you on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. The first brewsky or soda is on me!

### Tentative Schedule of Events

1:00 pm **Registration**

2:00 pm **Formal Program I**

*Welcome*

*Scholarship Presentations*

*Department Updates*

3:00 pm **Break**

3:30 pm **Formal Program II**

*Department Awards*

*Student Organization Awards*

*Department Student Awards*

*Outstanding Staff Awards, Service and Leadership Awards*

*Outstanding Alumni Award*

5:30 pm **Barbeque Social**

7:00 pm **Entertainment**

*Texas State Salsa Band*

Additional photos and information are available at <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/Reunion/index.html>

## ALUMNI TIDBITS

(Continued from page 3)

Laura and the FIG students send their best wishes as well.

**Kirk Schoppe** ('05) works as an environmental scientist for METCO Environmental in Houston, Texas ([www.metcoenv.com](http://www.metcoenv.com)) specializing in source emission testing and air quality studies. Kirk reports: "I am learning all kinds of important bits of info here and

gaining great experiences. I travel a lot with this job and get to see the plants that power America. I do most of the testing on the stack inside the plant, which requires some nerve. I have been to a few coal burning plants where I tested 500 feet off the ground." Be careful Kirk, we want to see you at the Alumni Reunion!

**Brian Walker** graduated with a BS in Resource in Environmental Studies in 2000 before going to law school. During the Univer-

sity's "name change" debate, Brian explains that he: "was one of the alumni who lobbied pretty vigorously and testified before the legislature on behalf of the name change." Brian recently announced his candidacy for the Texas House of Representatives District 11 in rural East Texas. Check-out candidate Walker's campaign at: [www.briankeithwalker.com](http://www.briankeithwalker.com).

Good Luck Brian!

## 2005 ALL-TEXAS GEOGRAPHY CONFERENCE By Janet Dixon, Texas Alliance

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual All-Texas Geography Conference, *Geography: The Discipline of Diversity*, was hosted by the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education in the Department of Geography Texas State University-San Marcos on Saturday, December 3, 2005. Approximately 100 educators and exhibitors from across Texas participated in this year's conference. In addition, **Hagen Streckel** and **Grace Tolleson**, teachers from Copperas Cove High School, brought 12 members of their Geography Club to participate in student-oriented conference session. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to get exposure to a broader, more professional view of geography and social studies.

**Michelle Davidson Ungurait**, the Texas Education Agency's Director of Social Studies, was the Keynote Speaker for the All-Texas Conference. During her presentation, she provided many interesting and surprising slides/photos from around the world (e.g., a sign for a community that showed elevation, population, and rainfall amounts, and then totaled those together. What



a strange thing to do!). Michelle discussed several issues that enlightened the attendees to a new way of approaching diversity in the cultures that educators deal with in the realm of social studies.

**David Rutherford**, who is in his second year of working with the National Geographic Education Foundation in Washington, D.C. (see related story) provided a Special Address for the conference, discussing federal legislation that has been introduced to provide \$15 million in annual funding for geographic education research. Two educators were recognized as recipients of the 2005 Texas Alliance Distinguished Service Award: **Trent Wenzel**, New Braunfels High School, and **Tina Melcher**, Social Studies Specialist at Region 13 Education Service Center in Austin.

Conference sessions included Introduction to Google Earth; It's In the Bag: Using Inquiry to Teach About Globalization; Welcome to My World: Travel and Studies in Environmental Geography; Migration: Should We Stay or Should We Go?; From Russia with Love: A Look at Modern Russia; 21<sup>st</sup> Century Slaves; and, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Land of Camels, Mosques, and Oil.

## DR. DAVID BUTLER HONORED Courtesy of Dr. David Butler & Dr. Richard Dixon

Professor **David Butler** presented Texas State University's 39th Presidential Seminar on "Environmental Change and the Western Mountain Initiative" in Alkek Library, on February 21, 2006, at 3:00 P.M. Interest in the response of the environment to climatic change has grown rapidly among scientists and the general public over the last several decades. The effects of climate change on pristine natural reserves such as significant national parks are of special concern to both the general public and to scientists who conduct their research in such environments. Glacier National Park, Montana, is one such preserve in which Dr. Butler has been conducting research. Over the course of his nearly 30 years of research in the park, he has witnessed dramatic environmental changes in the park – glaciers have drastically receded, animal and plant distributions have been altered by changing vegetation patterns responding to warming conditions, and geomorphic processes such as snow avalanches have become more unpredictable. Similar responses to environmental change are being reported throughout other key National Parks throughout the mountainous west. The Western Mountain Initiative is a U.S. Geological Survey-funded, five-year project which extends his observations of environmental change in Glacier National Park to mountain ranges throughout the American west.



## RESEARCHER SEEKS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PATHOGENS & PEOPLE

By Jason Pinchbeck, Texas Watch

Have you ever wondered how safe the water in your local stream or lake is?



Healthy conditions for swimming and recreation in Texas' vast surface waters are essential for a strong economy and good quality of life for people and aquatic species. Although "swimmable" conditions are mandated through the 1972 Clean Water Act (EPA 1972), water resource managers still struggle to maintain safe conditions for Texans. In 2004, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) document that urban and rural nonpoint sources of pathogens cause impairments to forty-nine percent of water bodies listed with water quality concerns (TCEQ 2004).

Some people ask why this is important – it is vital to keep our streams and lakes minimally impacted by pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and protozoans. These can lead to diseases like Legionella, gastroenteritis, skin or ear infections, Giardia, and others. Streams and lakes are not only significant sources of recreation they also generate revenue for tourism-based economies and provide water for drinking and industrial uses.

Since there are more disease-causing organisms present in surface waters than can possibly be monitored with today's technology, agencies look for pathogen indicators like *E. coli* and fecal coliform to determine if streams meet water

quality standards. Based on epidemiological studies, scientists know that there is a strong likelihood that disease-causing pathogens are present and harmful in freshwater streams when *E. coli* numbers exceed 394 colonies per sample.

Many of those who have attended Texas State University are familiar with the fun times out at Dudley Johnson Park at the Blanco River (also known as Five Mile Dam). The Blanco River is a pristine spring fed stream that runs 84 miles from the western slopes of the Hill Country to its confluence with the San Marcos River just east of San Marcos. This river is known for its clean, clear water, limestone bedrock, leisurely flow, and rural nature.

In 2000, Texas Watch teamed up with the Hays County Parks Department to analyze monthly samples taken at two locations in the park for *E. coli* bacteria. Following standard state agency procedures, volunteer monitors collected samples during morning hours while the river was relatively undisturbed by park patrons. The samples were analyzed by the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center laboratory. Five years of data consistently show low levels of *E. coli* in the river with average values below 20 colonies per sample.

With a comprehensive understanding of ambient bacteria levels, Texas Watch decided to look at the information and ask a different question about river risks: Do *E. coli* levels increase and become hazardous during peak recreation periods at the park? To answer this question, Texas Watch researchers set out on a busy summer weekend to collect one set of samples in the early morning hours while the river was un-

disturbed and then another set of samples during peak use periods. Researchers hypothesized that sediments on the river substrate (bottom) would be resuspended in the water column when people are present. This would result in increased *E. coli*/pathogens\ levels while people are present.

Many variables such as rainfall, wild and domestic animals, sunlight, sediment, malfunctioning septic systems, and numerous other variables influence pathogen levels and viability. The early morning samples were collected to assess background pathogen levels before people were swimming. When the river was undisturbed and no one was swimming, average *E. coli* values were 1.8 colonies per sample (1.8 cfu/100ml). Low *E. coli* levels like these are rarely seen in surface waters. In fact, much higher lev-



els are often observed coming directly from springs like Barton Springs in Austin or the San Marcos River headwaters.

Later that afternoon Dudley Johnson Park became crowded and packed full of families, fishermen, and picnickers. Most everyone took to the river at one time or another to cool off during this

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## RUTHERFORD RECEIVES PH.D.

*By Janet Dixon*

On December 17, 2005, **David J. Rutherford** completed the final steps of his educational journey as a student by walking the stage at the Texas State graduation ceremony and receiving the Ph.D. degree in geographic education. While David's academic advisor, Dr. Richard G. Boehm, suffered from a severe bout of flu and was forced to remain at home that day, Graduate College Dean Michael Willoughby did the honors of hooding David at the ceremony. Although he wasn't able to attend, Dr. Boehm did sponsor a celebration dinner in honor of David for friends, colleagues, and faculty members following the graduation event.



David took classes in residence at Texas State from August 2000 until May 2004, and then was selected to serve as the first Grosvenor Scholar. The Grosvenor Scholar Program offers the opportunity for a Ph.D. student in geographic education from Texas State to serve a one-year residency at National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Grosvenor Scholar conducts research in various aspects of the Society's mission of improving geographic education in the United States. During his tenure as Grosvenor Scholar, David created a publication

demonstrating "What Works" in geography education, advised the Foundation on rigorous evaluation of programs, and assisted in policy research.

At the conclusion of his term as Grosvenor Scholar in August 2005, David was invited by the National Geographic Society Education Foundation (NGSEF) to continue his work with them as an educational consultant. He is currently working as a public policy specialist for NGSEF, where his primary responsibility is to conduct background research in support of policy change related to geographic education. He also contributes to operation of the Foundation's \$5.5 million annual grantmaking program, oversees the development and implementation of program evaluations, and provides consultation about the geographic content of various publications.

Before joining the Ph.D. program at Texas State, David was involved in geography and geography education for over 20 years, as a park ranger, classroom teacher, outdoor education instructor, and university researcher and instructor. He received his Bachelors Degree in geography from the University of California-Santa Barbara, a Masters in geography from California State University-Fullerton, and his teaching credential from the University of California-Santa Barbara. When his contract with NGSEF expires in August 2006, he plans to return to higher education as a faculty member in a department of geography.

## WELCOME TO THE TEXAS ALLIANCE, JANET DIXON *By Judy Behrens, Grosvenor Center*

Please help us to welcome **Janet Dixon** to the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education, housed in the Texas State Department of Geography. As the newest staff member in the department, Janet comes to the Grant Secretary position with over 30 years of experience working various jobs ranging from data management, quality assurance, civil service, and teaching. She has lived and worked in a variety of exotic locations, including the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Colorado, and California. Janet is

married to Dr. Rich Dixon, who teaches Climatology and other courses here in the department. Janet has been fortunate to travel with Dr. Dixon to many geography-related events, and on vacations to almost every state, including Alaska, taking photographs of scenery and wildlife along the way. She is also known for her good cooking and great Texas hospitality. Janet will be handling the daily operations of the Texas Alliance and can be reached at 512-245-3827 or [jd49@txstate.edu](mailto:jd49@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:

**Bobcat Day** – April 22

Cat's telephone service will shut down March 1<sup>st</sup>; student will use CATSWEB Service web site.

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

Advance registration for **Mini, Summer I & Summer II** will be held March 27<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>

**Fall 2006** advance registration begins April 11<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Group Advising** for Advance Registration with the Undergraduate Advisor will be held in ELA 384 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Monday, March 20 and Wednesday, March 8 & 29 and from 1:00 – 3:00pm Tuesday, March 7 & 28 and Thursday, March 23



## CONGRATULATIONS

**Dr. David Butler** will be awarded the AAG Mountain Geography Specialty Group's "Outstanding Career Award" at the annual AAG meeting in Chicago!

## CORRECTION

In the Fall newsletter, the name of Dr. Yongmei Lu's husband was incorrect—it is **Shuwei Chen**.  
Our apologies!

## CONGRATULATIONS

Effective February 1, 2006,  
**Dan Hemenway**  
was promoted to Microcomputer  
Lab Coordinator II.  
Way to go Dan!!!

## RELATIONSHIPS

(Continued from page 7)

typical summer day. By 2 pm there were more than 20 people in the downstream section of the park and sample collection resumed once again. Suspended sediment changes were noted and measured. Water samples were collected from numerous locations every five minutes until a total of forty-two separate samples were stored on ice and ready for transport to the laboratory. *E.coli* levels increased to an average of 22 cfu/100ml when eight people were swimming. When there were more than twenty-five people in the water, *E.coli* levels increased again to 48.6 cfu/100ml – a significant 27 fold increase from baseline levels

when no swimmers were present.

While the changes illustrated in this study show important increases in bacteria levels, this section of the Blanco River still meets state standards (less than 394 cfu/100ml) for swimming. This river is unique because of minimal land development, the small quantity of substrate sediment, and low levels of available nutrients. These variables, along with consistent flow create ideal circumstances for excellent water quality in the Texas Hill Country.

However, much of the rest of Texas does not benefit from such good conditions. Many water segments are already in peril due to nonpoint source pollutants and changes in land use. Sprawl and the resulting changes in the urban-rural

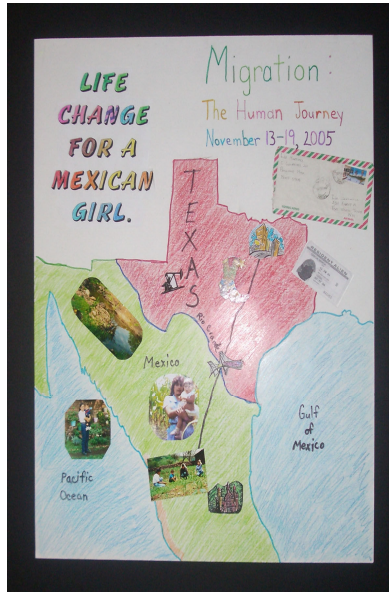
interface create opportunities for land impacts to have increasing negative influences on recreation and drinking water quality. This study is a good start at better understanding health risks associated with swimming in streams and lakes. Hopefully with better science, more information, and cooperative planning, we will make choices to afford future generations the same opportunities that we have now.

*Jason Pinchback* coordinates monitoring and watershed education projects for the Texas Watch program. He may be reached at 512-245-9148; [JP30@txstate.edu](mailto:JP30@txstate.edu). Jason would like to acknowledge **Mark Fonstad** and **Rich Dixon** for their guidance and assistance. Texas Watch is a collaborative partnership between the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the U.S. EPA Region 6 and is housed in the Dept. of Geography.

## 2005 ALLIANCE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS HONORED IN AUSTIN

By Judy Behrens

Geography Awareness Week 2005 was once again highlighted by the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education's Annual Poster Contest. This year's theme was Migration: The Human Journey, with the student artwork displaying human movement to or within the state of Texas. Over 28,000 students from kindergarten through 12th grade participated in campus-level competitions and the top posters from each campus were then judged at Texas State University-San Marcos in early November. First place winners included Luke Norman (K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and Mikaela Sevilla (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade), both from Mrs. Carson's classes at J.F. Delaney Elementary in Kennedale; Natalie Lorange (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade), teacher Ms. Curtis, from Notre Dame Catholic School in Kerrville; and Ashley Jimenez (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade), teacher Mr. Black, from John Marshall High School in



Kindergarten - 2nd grade  
Winning Poster  
by Luke Norman  
J.F. Delaney Elementary  
Kennedale, Texas.

San Antonio.

The winning posters from the categories K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

grade, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade were recognized during the 2005 Geography Awareness at the Texas State Capitol Building in Austin. The first place winners in each category attended an awards ceremony in their honor with their parents, teachers, friends, and relatives. Texas Representatives Harvey Hilderbran and Bill Zelder read proclamations from Governor Rick Perry. Mr. Casey Kelley, Chief of Staff for Representative Bob Hunter, spoke and gave each student a certificate of recognition. Dr. Richard Boehm, co-coordinator of the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education, extended his congratulations to the students, teachers, and parents for their interest and support of geography, complimenting the wonderful interpretations shown in the winning posters.



3rd - 5th grade Winning Poster  
by Mikaela Sevilla  
J.F. Delaney Elementary  
Kennedale, Texas



6th—8th Grade Winning Poster  
by Natalie Lorange  
Notre Dame Catholic School  
Kerrville, Texas.



9th—12th Grade Winning Poster  
by Ashley Jimenez  
John Marshall High School  
San Antonio, Texas

### DID YOU KNOW?

Sometimes land boundaries are not uniform. Belgium and the Netherlands have an underground boundary that differs from the surface boundary shown on maps. In 1950, the two countries agreed to move the underground boundary so as not to divide coal mines between the two countries.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO CHANGE

By Noah Hopkins & Taylor Powell

The Environmental Service Committee (ESC) stewards funds collected by the Environmental Service Fee (\$1/student/semester) to promote and improve environmental quality on the campus. This unique effort to fund environmental sustainability projects was envisioned by members of Texas State's student chapter of

the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), whose efforts date back to 2000. **Taylor Powell**, current NAEP co-Vice President and Geography minor, serves as the committee's administrative assistant and has been working hard to facilitate approved projects, build a website, and ensure the smooth operation of the committee.

The Environmental Service Committee meets every other Thursday at 5:15 pm in Evans 315. Taylor works out of an office in Evans 135, newly created for the Geography Department's many student organizations, including NAEP, Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the Student Planning Organization (SPO), the Student Organization for GIScience (SOGIS), and Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG). The Environmental Service Committee is an endowed University-level

(Continued on page 12)



## NAEP THROUGH THE YEARS

### Taking Stock of Our Department's Environmental Legacy

The Texas State student chapter of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) recently hosted a guest speaker representing Earth First!, an organization which shares many of the same goals as NAEP, but chooses to accomplish these goals through a wider variety of means. Listening to our guest's broad appeal for direct action, legal and otherwise, I found myself frustrated with the idea that this person was courting members from our organization to participate in his by outlining objectives that were also ours and a history in San Marcos of which we were also a part. As I continued to listen, I began to take inventory of the efforts and landmarks that have guided NAEP through the past few years, which now in full view, are remarkable.

We've expanded NAEP's officer team from four positions to nine: 2 Co-Presidents, 2 Co-Vice President, 2 Co-Secretaries, 2 Co-Treasurers, and a Liaison to the Annual Geography Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration. This has enabled a greater number of our members to assume positions of leadership. I also believe that

By Noah Hopkins

any member of NAEP, officer or not, has an equal opportunity to lead and invest their ideas and creative talents in the organization.

NAEP has a history of direct action. Our efforts to develop a recycling program on campus 5 years ago prompted the University Administration to institutionalize recycling on campus. Our dedication to public outreach and the development of a greater awareness about the environment on campus and in our community has inspired several Earth Day, Texas Recycles Day, and Bike to School Day events. We have hosted Earth Day Festivals in Sewell Park, awareness events in the Quad, and education activities at local elementary schools. We've also worked closely with the San Mar-

Our dedication to public outreach and the development of a greater awareness about the environment on campus and in our community has inspired Earth Day, Texas Recycles Day, and Bike to School Day events.

(Continued on page 13)



## SUPPORTING WOMEN IN GEOGRAPHY RETURNS TO TEXAS STATE

Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG) is returning to Texas State University!

SWIG is a University organization that has been active here in the past, and is ready for a new start. We welcome any interested person regardless of gender, age, education, or professional ranking to our meetings.



The mission of SWIG is to:

- \* Promote the participation of women in the discipline of geography
- \* Provide regular opportunities for intellectual, professional, and personal support
- \* Develop networks of resources and support for women in geography
- \* Empower women, academically and professionally, to advance the discipline of geography

For additional information, please contact [lb1213@txstate.edu](mailto:lb1213@txstate.edu)

**We include both sexes,  
as well as all  
ages and stages.**

**We support the  
professional and social  
development of all  
geographers**

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

*(Continued from page 11)*

committee, comprised of 4 students, and 3 faculty members, and our ex-officio advisor, **Brad Smith**. 2 students are appointed by the leadership of NAEP, 2 students are appointed by the leadership of ASG, and 3 tenured or tenure-track faculty members sit on the committee, one each from the departments of Geography, Biology, and Agriculture. Faculty representative **Brock Brown** and student representatives **Mary Waters**, and **Noah Hopkins** are all proud members of the Department of Geography sitting on this year's committee.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the ESF committee held its second largest event, the Extreme River Clean-up, at Sewell Park. The landmark event coincided with the City of San Marcos's semi-annual clean up. Sixty volunteers used thirteen kayaks and

canoes to collect around 550 gallons of recyclables and trash from the bed of the San Marcos River. Due to popular demand, there will be another clean up this spring. The ESC also sponsored an informative display in the Quad for Texas Recycles Day last November. NAEP and the ESC teamed up to provide information regarding recycling and give away nearly 1,000 "Texas State Recycles" T-shirts to the campus community. Late last semester the ESC also approved funding for over 200



NAEP members Matt Akins, Adrienne Clements, Taylor Powell, and Natalie Kleinecke provide information about recycling on campus.

new green recycling containers to replace the old yellow receptacles seen in ELA and across campus. Plans are in store to replace all outdoor recycling containers and one of Dr. Lu's 4427 Advanced GIS II groups is working on a project this semester to identify the best locations on campus to place outdoor recycling containers. ESC has awesome projects planned for this year including another Extreme River Clean-up, participation in Bike to School Day '06, Disc Golf Course Improvements, improvements to the Agriculture Department's Living Library area, and many, many more environmentally sustainable projects. The Environmental Service Committee is proud to be part of the Department of Geography and looks forward to illuminating the rising star of Texas even brighter!



## NAEP— MOVING TEXAS STATE TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE

*(Continued from page 11)*

cos Green Belt Alliance, the San Marcos River Foundation, and Enchanted Rock State Park to improve the quality of our local parks, recreation areas, and the San Marcos River.

Years ago, a handful of NAEP members conceptualized what would later become the Environmental Service Fee — a modest student fee (\$1/student/semester) set aside to specifically fund environmental projects on campus. Students campaigned to pass this fee and worked closely with the Associated Student Government, the University Administration, and the State of Texas Legislature. Two NEAP members actually testified before the Texas House of Representatives in Austin in support of the legislation to authorize the fee. Today, the Environmental Service Committee is charged with stewarding these funds (~\$68,000 annually), and there are two permanent positions on the 7-member committee for NAEP members working actively to move Texas State towards a greener future.

NAEP has taken a truly professional approach to preserving and protecting the environment and is perhaps one of our department's most valuable assets. A laboratory for idealism, NAEP provides a forum for our students to create positive change in our world. Instead of waiting to graduate or relying on previous experience, our students can take concepts about environmental and resource man-

agement learned in the classroom by morning and apply them directly by afternoon, right here on campus. What a truly awesome opportunity!

Nearly three years ago, the officers of NAEP hammered out a mission statement:

NAEP envisions promoting innovative change and cooperative growth towards an ecologically sustainable campus and community, while increasing environmental awareness and participation through productive public service.

While these words still guide us soundly today, the composition of our membership actively influences the evolving interest of our organization. With every new member and every new idea, we grow stronger in our ability to serve and wiser in our understanding of the bigger picture. Thank you to all of our Geography Alumni who helped NAEP grow to where we it is today. And to those of you who are ready to get involved and make a difference, we meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in Evans 311. I'll see you there!



## SHARING THE EXCITEMENT OF RESEARCH!

*By Noah Hopkins, Chair, TxGSR Texas State Steering Committee*

Texas State Geography is pleased to announce the expansion of the 3rd Annual Geography Student Research Symposium in co-sponsorship with The University of Texas and Texas A & M University.

The Texas Geography Student Research Symposium is a student-led professional mini-conference designed to celebrate and encourage Geography students, both graduate and undergraduate, to conduct high quality research. The event provides a forum for graduate students to share their interests with peers and faculty and to cultivate broader and stronger research interests in undergraduate students.

The event is comprised of paper and poster presentations, panel discussions, and a plenary session. Refreshments are provided and door prizes are awarded at the end of the plenary session.

The first Geography Student Research Symposium (2004) was designed for the students of Texas State University, and Dick Nostrand, University of Oklahoma, joined us as our plenary speaker. For our second event, we invited Daniel Sui, Texas A&M University, to speak at our plenary session. At the conclusion of last year's event, the committee's vision for the event began to expand. Conversations with Dr. Sui and the student committee revealed an

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## PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN GEOGRAPHY

By Noah Hopkins, President, Kappa Upsilon Chapter

### Gamma Theta Upsilon at Texas State University

The Kappa Upsilon chapter, founded March 13, 1969, of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) is a student honor society dedicated to excellence in geography. Members of GTU benefit, not only from another resume line, but also through our chapter's various activities. Over the past couple years, our meetings have consisted mostly of hosted speakers and our service activities have aligned closely with those of another geography student organization, NAEP.

Last Fall, GTU held a meeting to discuss our organization and whether our schedule and activities were reflective of our objectives:

1. To further professional interest in geography by affording a common organization for those interested in the field.
2. To strengthen student and professional training through academic experiences in addition to those of the class-

room.

3. To advance the status of Geography as a cultural and practical discipline for study and investigation.
4. To encourage student research of high quality, and to promote an outlet for publication.
5. To create and administer funds for furthering graduate study and/or research in the field of Geography.



Our meetings have been redesigned to develop and improve scholarship. This semester, GTU is hosting a grant and scholarship writing workshop, a workshop on the effective use of PowerPoint for

presentations, and a training session on how to use RefWorks, a reference management software application recently made available to all Texas State students through the library.

The leadership of GTU has also committed to help send as many of our members to the annual meeting of the Southwest Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) each Fall and our officers to the annual AAG Meetings each Spring. Funding is available through the Student Organizations Council and from the Geography Department for students participating in a conference paper, poster, or panel sessions. Students can also get a taste of the "conference experience" at our annual Geography Student Research Symposium, held each Spring.

For additional information, please contact Faculty Sponsor **Dr. Richard Earl**, President **Noah Hopkins**, or Vice-President **Liz Young**.

## 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 7, March 21, April 4 and April 18, 2006

2nd and 4th Tuesday each month.  
Future meeting dates are March 28 (no meeting during Spring Break week), April 11, and April 25, 2006

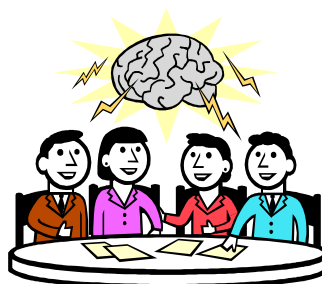
### SOGIS

Student Organization for GIScience  
Meets in Evans 311 at 5:00 pm on the second Monday each month.  
Future meeting dates are March 6 and April 10, 2006

### SOP

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

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



## 8TH ANNUAL GROSVENOR LECTURE *By Judy Behrens*

Baseball Hall of Fame President  
to Present  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual Grosvenor Lecture

Dale Petroskey, President of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, will deliver a free public lecture at Texas State University-San Marcos on March 29, 2006. Mr. Petroskey will present "Baseball as America" for the 8th Annual Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture Series at 8:00 p.m. in the LBJ Student Center Ballroom.

In this year's lecture, co-sponsored by the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education and the Texas State Athletic Department, Petroskey will walk the audience through 200 years of baseball and American history in a visual tour of how "The Game" has always reflected, and sometimes even

shaped, our American culture. Gilbert M. Grosvenor, chairman of the board of trustees of National Geographic Society, will be on hand to introduce Mr. Petroskey.

Prior to joining the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999 as its fifth



Dale Petroskey  
President of the National Baseball Hall  
of Fame and Museum

president, Dale Petroskey served at the National Geographic Society for 11 years, the last three as senior vice president for Mission Programs. From 1985-1987, he served in the White House as assistant press secretary to President Ronald Reagan. He now oversees the 66-year-old shrine dedicated to preserving baseball history and telling the story of its role in American culture.

This Grosvenor Lecture is free and open to the general public. All those who are interested in attending the event are encouraged to reserve seats in advance by contacting the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education (512-245-1823, [jb42@txstate.edu](mailto:jb42@txstate.edu)). Seating is limited for this event and seating priority will be given to those who secure tickets in advance.

## TEXAS GEOGRAPHY STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

*(Continued from page 13)*

interest to expand the event to include Geography students from Dr. Sui's department at Texas A&M and from Geography Departments around the state. Since then, we've developed a partnership with Texas A&M and UT to sponsor the event and rotate hosting.

The event is organized and facilitated by a committee of students representing each degree program - Undergraduate, Master's, and Doctoral. The committee has been able to successfully combine their contributions of time with financial support from the Department of Geography for the past two years. Satellite steering committees have been established at Texas A&M and UT to promote, and eventually host, the TxGSRs. And so what was once the Geography Student Research Symposium has evolved into the TEXAS Geography Student Research Symposium (TxGSRs). Texas State is excited to host our first expanded event and hopes that you'll join us in April! Texas Geography students and alumni are invited to present research and attend!

For more information or to register for the event, direct your web browser to our web site at:

<http://geosites.evans.txstate.edu/~txgsrs/> If you have any questions, please feel free to send us an e-mail at [gsrcs@geo.txstate.edu](mailto:gsrcs@geo.txstate.edu)

## RACE, ETHNICITY AND PLACE CONFERENCE III

By Dr. Lawrence Estaville

The third international Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference will be held at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas on November 1-4, 2006.

In the 2006-07 academic year Texas State University will commemorate the centennial of the matriculation of the first Latino student, Maria Elena Zamora O'Shea, on its campus. Texas State will hold several celebratory events during the year. The highlight of these events will be the international Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference III. Binghamton University (SUNY), one of the nation's top fifty public universities, and Howard University, the "Harvard" of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, hosted the first two conferences and with the Association of American Geographers and others are co-sponsors of our event.

This international conference will include nationally distinguished public speakers, scholars of various disciplines from throughout the world, and students from across the continent who will discuss contemporary diversity and equity issues, particularly those affecting Latinos and African Americans. Important conference themes that touch people of all racial and ethnic heritages will be quality education, healthcare accessibility, affordable housing, and immigration.

To register or submit paper/poster/session abstracts for the Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference III, visit its web site at <http://REP-conference.binghamton.edu/>. For additional details, e-mail [REP3@geo.txstate.edu](mailto:REP3@geo.txstate.edu).

Conference highlights include the latest research on the connections of race/ethnicity and place; an interdisciplinary setting bringing together geography and other disciplines with participation by academic scholars, researchers, professionals, and students; concurrent sessions include papers, posters, panels, workshops, and an ethnic

art show; free registration to student participants; dining includes a welcome BBQ with entertainment, two breakfasts, two lunches, and a closing dinner with entertainment – All Free to first 300 registrants. Workshops – free on first-come, first-serve basis include: Diversity Workshop; GIS Workshop on Race and Ethnicity; and Measuring Race/Ethnicity Disparities.

Five fieldtrips, which are free on first-come, first-serve basis, will be taken throughout Central and South Texas: Culture Groups of the Texas Hill Country; Ethnic Landscapes of the San Marcos and Guadalupe Rivers of Texas; Ghettos, Enclaves, and Citadels in Austin; Hispano San Antonio; and a Taste of Hill Country German Culture.

Also included is free transportation from/to Austin and San Antonio Airports and free shuttle service from/to San Marcos Conference Hotels.



### DID YOU KNOW?

According to the National Geographic Society, a survey of 18 to 24 year-olds from nine nations put the United States dead last in general geographic knowledge scores. One in seven – about 24 million people – could not find their own country on a world map. The survey revealed that Americans possess a pathetically poor sense of where they are – much less any knowledge about the rest of the world. And even more alarming, those who participated in the survey were recent high school and college graduates.





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## LAST, BUT NOT LEAST...

Congratulations to **Noah Hopkins** for his work on the Rural & Urban Sustainability through Regional Natural Resource Management project.

Aiming toward sustaining the quality and health of natural resources in Texas' "Hill Country," this project seeks to understand the dynamic relationship between rural land use, sprawling cities, and a changing environment in a place growing with tourists, homeowners, high-tech industry, and – more recently, refugees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In conjunction with the National Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), Noah joins the MyCOE (My Community, Our Earth) cadre while completing his honors thesis in Geography/Environmental Resource Studies at Texas State University, San Marcos.

### 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.



### *Two Ph.D. Students Receive Travel Awards*

Two Ph.D. students in Environmental Geography received travel awards to attend two important conferences. **Rebecca Brown** was awarded the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Global Change Travel Scholarship to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> *Symposium on Global Change and Climate Variations* at the *AMS 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting* on January 29 – February 2, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia. The scholarship covers airfare, lodging and conference fees. **Darlene J. Occeña-Gutierrez** was awarded a travel grant to attend the *Workshop on Tropical Cyclones and Climate* on March 27-29, 2006 at The Inter-

## GRADUATE STUDENT KUDOS

national Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia University in Palisades, New York. The grant covers air and land transportation, lodging, and food. Registration is free.

Both Becky and Darlene are graduate advisees of **Dr. Richard Dixon**.



### *AGC Student Poster Contest Winner*

**Shing-Tzong Lin**, Ph.D. student, received the second place prize in the Student Poster Competition at the Applied Geography Conference held in Washington, D.C. in November 2005. He was awarded an ESRI GIS software student license.

Lin is a graduate advisee of **Dr. Yongmei Lu**.



### *AGC Student Paper Contest Winner*

**Dawna Cerney**, Ph.D. candidate in Environmental Geography, received the third place award for Best Student Paper at the Applied Geography Conference held in Washington, D.C. In her notification message, Dawna was told "This is quite an honor, as the judges remarked on how difficult the decisions were. They were impressed with your presentation, with the research that you are doing, and with the fact that you published in the conference book." Dawna was awarded ESRI products

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