

SWT Geography GeoNews

Southwest Texas State University Department of Geography Newsletter • Vol. 9, Issue 1, Fall 2002

— *Sharing the Spirit of Geography* —

Presidential Advisor Delivers 5th Annual Grosvenor Lecture

Judy Behrens



On April 26, Karl Rove, Senior Advisor and Assistant to President George W. Bush, delivered the Fifth Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture in the SWT Department of Geography. Mr. Rove oversees the strategic planning, political affairs, public liaison, and inter-governmental affairs efforts of the White House. He previously served as chief strategist for the Bush for President Campaign, and, for 18 years, he was president of Karl Rove & Company, an Austin-based public affairs firm that worked for Republican candidates, non-partisan causes, and nonprofit groups.

Continued on page 14

Ph.D. in Geographic Information Science Approved

Fred Shelley

The Department of Geography has recently established its third doctoral program! In April, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the Department's application to offer the Ph.D. in Geographic Information Science (GIScience). As the program application stated, "The Department of Geography's mission in geographic information science is to provide its students with educational experiences of the highest quality and to conduct vital research that produces valuable publications, technologies, and other contributions to society. The department is committed to outstanding teaching and scholarly activities within the framework of academic freedom and diversity of ideas. The Department is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and to serving

Continued on page 12

Harm de Blij Speaks on "Challenges for the United States in the 21st Century"

David Rutherford



VPAA Gratz, President Trauth and Dr. de Blij

Speaking to an overflow audience in the Alkek Teaching Theater with President Denise Trauth and VPAA Robert Gratz looking on, Dr. Harm de Blij presented the Sixth Annual Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture on September 11, 2002. Dr. de Blij described major challenges that confront the United States in these opening years of the 21st century. He powerfully demonstrated how these global-scale chal-

Continued on page 15

Andrews To Present Fifth Distinguished Lovell Lecture

David Butler



The James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research is proud to announce that Ms. Sarah Andrews, internationally known author of the Em Hansen mystery series, will present the Fifth Annual Lovell Distinguished Lecture on Thursday, February 13, 2003 at 7:00 pm in the Alkek Teaching Theater.

Ms. Andrews holds a B.A. from Colorado College and an M.S. from Colorado State University and is the recipient of the 2001 National Association of Geoscience Teachers James A. Shea Award, the 1999 American Association of Petroleum Geologists Journalism Award,

Continued on page 10

Sansom Heads SWT International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources

Jessica Mefford



SWT recently created the International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources. The Institute's purpose is to assist the development of

sound information and guidance for water resource policy and the management and sustainability of water resources. In February 2002, SWT named Andy Sansom executive director of the institute.

Mr. Sansom's career in natural resources has spanned nearly thirty years. He received a B.S. from Texas Tech University in Parks and Recreation Management. Since then he has worked in both the private and public sector of natural resources management. Early in his career Mr. Sansom worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington D.C. He has been a freelance writer who has authored two books, *Texas Lost* and *Texas Past*, and he has served as executive director of the Texas Nature Conservancy. Mr. Sansom came to SWT from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), where he had served as executive director since

Continued on page 13

Inside GeoNews

Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration	8
Faculty News	4
Staff News	6
Upcoming Events	7
Department News	9
Grosvenor Center News	14
Internship News	17
Student Organizations	18
Scholarships & Awards	20
Student News	21
Across the U.S.	22
Around the World	23
Alumni Bits	25

Greetings from the Chair

Department 2002-03 Theme: "Supporting Our Students, Supporting Our Faculty"

SWT Geography now has a Ph.D. in Geographic Information Science (GIScience)! The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board unanimously approved our proposal for the new Ph.D. program last spring. Seven new Ph.D. students entered the program this fall. GIScience includes GIS, remote sensing, GPS technology, cartography, visualization, spatial modeling, and spatial statistics and mathematics. The GIScience Ph.D. program joins our Ph.D. programs in Environmental Geography and Geographic Education. The department now has a total of 35 Ph.D. students.

The Ph.D. in GIScience complements our membership in the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (membership includes M.I.T., Cal Tech, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Penn State, Ohio State, and others) and our Sun Microsystems Center of Excellence for Web-based Geographic Information Science. Last month Sun delivered a huge V880 server that we will soon use for our Web-based distance learning initiatives. Our Sun systems now approach \$1.5 million in value! We will highlight our GIScience program and technological infrastructure at our Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 26, 2003.

Speaking of our Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, the 8th Annual Reunion and Student Celebration last April was another huge success with more than 700 people—the largest number ever—returning to SWT from places as far away as California, New York, and Washington, DC! The day was filled with presentation of awards and scholarships, workshops, exhibits, tours, and the big BBQ blast at Aquarena Springs! The SWT Salsa Band and Cindy Gratz's Sam Houston State dance troupe rocked us all! There was not a dry eye in the Alkek Teaching Theater at the end of the presentation of 34 scholarships to our students, including the scholarship Kurt Blaschke, an SWT Geography alumnus, donated in honor of his parents, Don and Reba Blaschke, and the Leif Anenson Geography Scholarship in the memory of one of our former students!

Sandra Villalobos of the Weather Channel was honored with the Geography Distinguished Alumni Award. The department presented its Outstanding Leadership Award to two former presidents of the Association of American Geographers—Dr. Reginald Golledge of the Department of Geography at the University of California-Santa Barbara, and Dr. Susan Cutter of the Department of Geography at the University of South Carolina—and to our own Dean Ann Marie Ellis of the College of Liberal Arts! Dr. Brock Brown, Dr. Fred Shelley, Judy Behrens, and Allison Glass

received Outstanding Service Awards for their truly wonderful work "above and beyond the call of duty" for many years! Finally, Debbie Banks of the VPAA's Office and Deborah McDaniel of the College of Liberal Arts received Outstanding Staff Service Awards for their many excellent contributions to our department! So, mark your calendars for Saturday, April 26, 2003 for this year's Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration—SWT Geography's most important annual event!

Dr. David Butler, director of the Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research, says to also mark your calendars for the fifth Lovell Lecture on February 13, 2003. With famed Apollo Astronaut Jim Lovell on stage, Sarah Andrews, renowned author of popular books on the environment, particularly regarding the American West, will give the presentation that evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Alkek Teaching Theater! In May 2002, Karl Rove, senior advisor to President George W. Bush, gave a marvelous presentation as the fifth Grosvenor Lecture on the importance of geography for the understanding of world affairs! Not to be outdone, Dr. Harm deBlij, perhaps the best known "public geographer" in the world, electrified the audience on September 11 with his comments about the challenges the U.S. faces in the 21st century!

Four very bright and energetic new faculty persons joined the department this year to help us increase the strength and prestige of our GIScience program: Sharolyn Anderson, Ph.D. from Arizona State, who specializes in GIS, remote sensing, and environmental geography; Joanna Crowe, Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins, specializing in fluvial geomorphology, hydrological modeling, and water resources; Mark Horner, Ph.D. from Ohio State, with specialties in transportation, GIS, and urban planning; and Allison Payton, Ph.D. from UC-Santa Barbara, who specializes in remote sensing, climatology, and earth system science. Please join me in welcoming our new faculty!

Your department now has 501 undergraduate, 134 master's, and 35 Ph.D. students and continues to be the largest Geography Department in North America! Our students continue to participate enthusiastically in Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the Student Planning Organization (SPO), the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG), and the Graduate Forum. Several of our students were honored once again during the past year with awards at national and state conferences or were congratulated for their publications!

Angelika Lester continues to do a simply

superb job as our department office manager! Joan Pasquali and three new, delightful staff additions -- Allison Glass, Pat Hell, and Maria Price -- are excellent office staff who also make certain our ship stays on a steady course! And without Dan "the computer man" Hemenway, and now with his new computer systems companion, David Jordan, we would be "dead in the water" with more than 450 department computers to be maintained!

You can see that I am very proud to be the chair of your department! You, too, should be very proud to be a part of your internationally recognized SWT Department of Geography! I could go excitedly on and on, but more details are in this newsletter (edited by Maria Price and Jessica Mefford) or check out our continually changing and exciting Web site at www.geo.swt.edu. For "up close and personals," be here for your 9th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 26! See you and your families at this annual department highlight joining more than 800 other people for student awards and scholarships, reminiscing, networking, workshops, vendor displays, seeing your department's new GIScience equipment and facilities, and having a day of fun and food at Aquarena!



Lawrence Estaville

Texas Center for Geographic Information Science Being Established

Ben Zhan

SWT Geography is establishing a Texas Center for Geographic Information Science. Dr. Benjamin Zhan is the acting director of the Center, which will play an important role in research, education, and service in all areas of geographic information science and technology in the state of Texas, the nation, and the world. Geographic Information Science includes GIS, remote sensing, GPS technology, cartography, visualization, spatial modeling, and spatial statistics and mathematics. Besides Dr. Zhan, current Center Scholars are Dr. Sharolyn Anderson, Dr. Deborah Bryan, Dr. Joanna Crowe, Dr. Mark Fonstad, Dr. Mark Horner, Dr. Yongmei Lu, and Dr. Allison Payton.



Lazy SWT Summer? It's Only an Illusion!

Brock Brown
Undergraduate Program Coordinator

During the hot, stagnant "dog days" of August the campus experiences a brief, almost nostalgic period of quiet. Summer session students have left campus, the Quad is abandoned by all but service vehicles, and the Paws 'n Go food kiosk is closed. With this quiet backdrop, the approaching end of summer is announced by a growing trickle of geography students who drift into Evans Liberal Arts Building to see what is going on and who is around. With the exception of the frantic hum of the traditional late summer re-tooling of computer labs, the halls are strangely quiet and often dim. Light from my office streaks into the third floor hall, attracting the advance brigade of students prowling the halls. They eagerly anticipate their upcoming courses and can hardly wait for the illusion of summer's long laziness to end and for the pace to pick up. Those who are on campus during the summer sessions, however, are aware that this is only an illusion and that the quiet respite is brief, lasting only a few weeks. During the not-so-lazy summer of 2002, good things were going on in the undergraduate program.

2002 brought a summer filled with many university-wide sessions for new and transfer students. This year a record number of excellent students entered SWT deliberately to become geography majors. While it is true that most geography majors still find their way to our department only after a few semesters at SWT, more and more students are choosing this university because of the geography program. We are glad to see this trend because early selection of a major gives students more semesters within their selected program, which translates into more choices with regard to

course work in the major, minor, and in selection of electives.

We began asking these geography-focused students how they had learned about our department in the first place. Many entering geography majors report that they are hearing about our department from high school and community college teachers and counselors. We are in the midst of expanding these contacts. Another common answer given when asked how students learned about our department was the Internet. Our department has an innovative Web site, and we began work this summer to enhance the undergraduate portion to make it easier to navigate and find information. As we bring our new undergraduate Web presence online we hope everyone will provide ideas and suggestions for its continual improvement.

Some new geography majors entering SWT for the first time report that a friend of the family or relative told them about geography at SWT. There is no doubt that this reflects the important role our many alumni play daily through their demonstrated good work as geographers and their professional and social contacts. In the final analysis, our alumni are the real measure of the success of our program. April 26, 2003 is that date set for this year's Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration. We hope that all alumni will attend and be part of this important alumni-student interface.

Over the not-so-lazy summer, the Undergraduate Committee, which works on behalf of the faculty to monitor and suggest ways the undergraduate program can be improved, gained two new members: Dr. Sharolyn Anderson will represent the GIScience concentration, and Dr. Joanna Crowe will represent the Physical Geography concentration. We are excited about the contributions they will bring to the undergraduate program. Returning to the Undergraduate Committee this year are the usual suspects. Dr. Rich Earl represents the Resource and Environmental Studies concentration and serves as faculty sponsor for the GTU chapter. Mark

Continued on page 10



Supporting Our Students, Supporting Our Faculty

Fred Shelley
Graduate Program Coordinator

This year, the Department has formally adopted as its motto "Sharing the Spirit of Geography." The theme of the Department for the year is "Supporting Our Students, Supporting Our Faculty." What do the motto and theme mean for our efforts to provide current and future students with high-quality graduate education?

As Graduate Program Coordinator, one of my goals for this year is to encourage volunteerism. All of us have gifts and talents that we can use to share the spirit of geography. I have charged our new and continuing graduate students to get involved in our five outstanding student organizations: the Graduate Student Forum (GSF), Supporting Women in Geography (SWG), the National Organization of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), and the Student Planning Organization (SPO). Each of these organizations has strong and effective leadership. Leaders of all five organizations have written about their organizations' plans for the semester, and these columns appear elsewhere in this issue of the *GeoNews*.

While active participation in student organizations is very important, volunteerism is much more than working with formal organizations. There are many ways to share the spirit of geography. It means taking a few minutes of your time to help others in the Department and in the community. Call or email a friend who is feeling down. Spend a little time helping a fellow student understand a confusing or unfamiliar concept or computer program. Reach out to fellow students and tell them that you genuinely care about them, and take the time to listen. The rewards and satisfactions of volunteering your time and talent on behalf of others are

tremendous.

We in Geography take great pride in our alumni. In 2001-2002, our first 6 M.S. students graduated, along with 7 Ph.D.'s and 28 MAG students. This impressive achievement brought the total number of graduates of the MAG program above 300 over the course of its history. As an alumnus, you may ask, "what does the theme of supporting students and supporting faculty have to do with me?" What can our graduate and undergraduate alumni do to support these goals? Our alumni are a critical part of the Geography family, and we encourage you to get involved in our efforts to support students and support faculty.

Let me ask alumni to encourage their friends and colleagues who are looking for outstanding educational and professional opportunities to seriously consider applying to our MAG, M.S., and Ph.D. programs. We also need and depend upon your advice about the changing nature of the work of professional geographers in government, teaching, business, and the nonprofit sector. Let me ask you to provide us constructive feedback about how we can improve our programs and do an even better job in preparing our current and future graduate and undergraduate students for entry into the 21st century workforce. We can support our students better with your guidance about how the work of the professional geographer is changing and evolving. Help us to identify internships and job opportunities for our current students. Most important, keep in touch with us and let us know what is going on in your lives. Continue to share the spirit of geography with us and with others who have touched your lives.

Let me close by thanking two people who were instrumental in the development of our graduate programs. As many of you know, Dr. Dennis Fitzsimons has left SWT to take a position at Humboldt State University in his native California. Dennis served as Graduate Program Coordinator in the mid-1990s and played an important role in the development of the MAG program in its early years. Joan Pasquali has been indispensable as the assistant to the Graduate Program Coordinator over the past

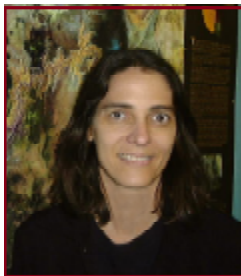
Continued on page 12

Faculty News

New Faculty Members

Jessica Mefford

Sharolyn Anderson, Ph.D.



Dr. Sharolyn Anderson recently moved eastward from her native New Mexico to join the SWT Department of Geography. Dr. Anderson brings with her an interest in spatio-temporal modeling, or the study of change over time. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. Her thesis research consisted of long sequence time series analysis.

Dr. Anderson received a Ph.D. at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, where she studied space-time interpolation. Her interest in studying change over time extends to many geographic regions, from the arid Southwest to tropical rainforests, and includes a wide range of applications. Dr. Anderson is interested in applying spatiotemporal modeling to the Austin-San Antonio area. She would like to determine how urban heat islands affect temperature. Her current research consists largely of change analysis, and of developing improved change detection methodology.

In her spare time, you might find Dr. Anderson enjoying outdoor activities. As a native of the Southwest, she's not afraid of the heat. She is also interested in computers, and she enjoys movies. Welcome to the department, Dr. Anderson!

Mark Horner, Ph.D.



Dr. Mark Horner is among the Department of Geography's dynamic new faculty members. He is originally from the coast of Maryland, where he received a Bachelor's of Science in Geography from Salisbury State University. Dr. Horner received an M.A. from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte (UNCC), where he studied GIS, planning, and transportation. While at UNCC, he worked at its Transportation Research Center, which further developed his interest in the area of transportation. His thesis research focused on using individual travel data to improve aggregate forecasting models. He continued transportation research at Ohio State University, Columbus, where he received a Ph.D. in June 2002. At OSU, Dr. Horner studied civil engineering and calculus in addition to geography, to enhance his knowledge of urban geography and transportation systems. He worked as research assistant at the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA). His dissertation research analyzed commuting in U.S. cities, as well as developed methods of studying commuting.

Dr. Horner enjoys studying urban and transportation issues because they are challenging research topics, yet they have direct applicability to some of societies most pressing problems. Currently, he is examining commuting behavior using data from the US census. Dr. Horner recently gave a presentation at GIScience 2002 titled "Rethinking Representation in Spatial Models." The bustling Austin-San Antonio corridor will surely provide Dr. Horner with opportunities to investigate urban and transportation issues.

Dr. Horner and his wife, Leslee, moved to San Marcos in July. The ever-friendly atmosphere of San Marcos and the Geography Department has pleased them. When he is not busy with teaching and research, Dr. Horner enjoys playing and listening to music. He is a bass guitarist, and his musical interests include rock, funk and jazz. Perhaps we will see him emerge on the local music scene in San Marcos.



Joanna Crowe, Ph.D.

The department welcomes Dr. Joanna Crowe to the SWT Geography family. Dr. Crowe comes to us from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, where she received a Ph.D. in Geography.

Dr. Crowe is originally from Nashville, Tennessee, and, while she completed her undergraduate and Ph.D. studies at Johns Hopkins, she is no stranger to Texas. She received an M.S. from the University of Texas where she studied hydrogeology. Her master's thesis was titled "Detailed Hydrogeologic Maps of the Comal and San Marcos Rivers for Endangered Species Habitat Definition, Texas." After completing her masters degree, Dr. Crowe worked as a hydrogeologist for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, where she studied water issues and water rights for national preserves. Dr. Crowe returned to Johns Hopkins in 1996. While there, she received an EPA Star Graduate Fellowship through which she studied step-pool formation in mountain rivers.

Dr. Crowe will continue her study of hydrogeology at SWT. This winter we can look forward to the construction of a flume within the department to aid students in learning about sediment distribution in rivers. You may ask, "What is a flume?" A flume is a laboratory representation of a river. Dr. Crowe will personally design our flume with known distributions of sand and sediment. The flume will be used to determine how a river will change with different inputs of sand and water. Sounds exciting! Dr. Crowe currently lives in downtown Austin, and she is looking forward to her wedding next May to her fiancé, Phil. In her spare time, she enjoys rowing and kickboxing; watch out unruly students!

Allison Payton, Ph.D.



Dr. Allison Payton is the latest addition to the field of remote sensing and climatic change at the SWT Department of Geography. She arrived in San Marcos this summer from Santa Barbara, CA, where she received a Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB).

Dr. Payton is no stranger to the Texas Hill Country. Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, she spent time as a child in the Hill Country region, and is fond of the area. Dr. Payton began her higher education at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. While living in the Four Corners area, she studied anthropology, which led to her involvement in field school in Taos, New Mexico. Later, Dr. Payton attended Northern Arizona University (NAU) where she earned a masters degree in Geography and Public Planning. It was at NAU that Dr. Payton discovered remote sensing and she entered the Ph.D. program at Santa Barbara. In 1999, while studying at UCSB, Dr. Payton spent three months at a research station in Antarctica. While there, she studied the physical properties of clouds at different scales, the dynamics of how clouds affect weather, and detecting clouds over snow and ice. In the future, Dr. Payton intends to study atmospheric radiation, specifically aerosols, and how they affect warming and cooling. Dr. Payton now lives in San Marcos with her husband Preston.

Faculty News

Richard Earl Receives NCGE Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award

Jessica Mefford

Dr. Rich Earl's goal in life "is to be a good geography professor." During his nineteen-year career as a professor, he has approached sharing the geographic discipline with an "evangelistic attitude." He firmly believes that people's lives would be enriched and the world around would be a better place if more people knew basic geography. This commitment to geography extends to the classroom, the Geography Department, the professional job market, and the community. Dr. Earl considers his attitude toward students a critical component of his approach to teaching geography. He views undergraduate students as "professionals in training," graduate students as "junior professional colleagues," and Ph.D. students as "professional colleagues." Dr. Earl mentors his students at all levels to enhance their professional capabilities.



Dr. Earl began his career in geography in his native southern California. He received a B.A. in Geography and Political Science from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1972; an M.A. in Geography, minor in Geology, from California State University, Northridge in 1979; and a Ph.D. in Physical Geography, minor in Geology, from Arizona State University in 1983. During his professional career, prior to receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Earl worked as a remote sensing analyst, teaching assistant, landuse analyst, faculty assistant, and teaching associate. In 1983 he received a faculty appointment as assistant professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at New Mexico State University. He went to Bowling Green State University, Ohio, in 1990 and served one year as a visiting assistant professor. Dr. Earl found his home at SWT in 1992 when he became assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Planning. He received tenure in 1997 and was promoted to associate professor. At SWT, Dr. Earl serves as Faculty Advisor to Texas Watch Program, faculty advisor to Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), member of the Undergraduate Committee, and is the major advisor to the Resource and Environmental Studies in the undergraduate program. He served on the fac-

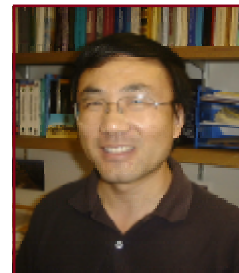
ulty of the three-week Geography of Europe field studies course in 1999 and 2001. He plans to lead a field study of the greater southwestern United States in 2004 with Carter Kearnes of the SWT Geology Department.

Dr. Earl firmly believes in getting students involved in fieldwork, most of his classes involve such a component. He also teaches oceanography and geomorphology on a regular basis. Dr. Earl divides his teaching methods into three broad headings that he incorporates into each of his courses. First, he strives to encourage student investigation of topics and places important to them; he recognizes that students will usually perform a more thorough study of a place that is of importance to them. Second, when possible, he solicits the informed opinions and solutions from students on part of a particular subject field. After leading students through a series of steps that bring them to a working level of understanding of a problem, he seeks their professionally informed solutions to that problem. This approach helps develop critical thinking and professional problem solving skills in students. Lastly, Dr. Earl embraces the challenge that new technology offers for effective teaching. He believes that at the university level, it is the responsibility of professors to educate professional geographers and not merely to train technicians. He strives to instill in his students an understanding of the philosophical and theoretical bases of their work. This education begins by first teaching students basic principles before they embrace professional technology.

Recognizing Dr. Earl's achievements, department chair Lawrence Estaville nominated him for the National Council on Geographic Education (NCGE) Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award. Dr. Earl's contributions to the teaching of geography provided compelling evidence to the NCGE. He traveled to Philadelphia in October 2002 to receive the honor. The SWT Department of Geography congratulates Dr. Earl on his achievement and thanks him for his tireless efforts to ensure the success of his students and the department.

Dr. Earl firmly believes in getting students involved in fieldwork, most of his classes involve such a component. He also teaches oceanography and geomorphology on a regular basis. Dr. Earl divides his teaching methods into three broad headings that he incorporates into each of his courses. First, he strives to encourage student investigation of topics and places important to them; he recognizes that students will usually perform a more thorough study of a place that is of importance to them. Second, when possible, he solicits the informed opinions and solutions from students on part of a particular subject field. After leading students through a series of steps that bring them to a working level of understanding of a problem, he seeks their professionally informed solutions to that problem. This approach helps develop critical thinking and professional problem solving skills in students. Lastly, Dr. Earl embraces the challenge that new technology offers for effective teaching. He believes that at the university level, it is the responsibility of professors to educate professional geographers and not merely to train technicians. He strives to instill in his students an understanding of the philosophical and theoretical bases of their work. This education begins by first teaching students basic principles before they embrace professional technology.

Ben Zhan Receives \$250K Hazards Grant



Dr. Jean Brender (Principal Investigator; SWT Health Services Research) and Dr. Benjamin Zhan (co-Principal Investigator) have received a grant in the amount of

\$236,048 to study "Residential Proximity to Environmental Hazards and Congenital Malformations in Offspring." This project is funded by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) via the Texas Birth Defects Research Center. This project will span a period from Sept. 1, 2002 to Aug. 30, 2005.

David Butler Receives NSF Exploratory Research Grant

Professor David Butler, in collaboration with former SWT faculty member George Malanson (Univ. of Iowa), Stephen Walsh (Univ. of North Carolina – Chapel Hill), and Dan Fagre (U.S. Geological Survey) recently received a National Science Foundation Exploratory Research Grant to examine "Effects of Avalanches on Local Carbon Budgets and Regional Forest Dynamics." During a field trip to Glacier National Park in May, Dr. Butler and his colleagues were struck with the large quantity of woody debris that had been transported downslope by snow avalanches and deposited at low elevations. They proposed a Small Grant for Exploratory Research to NSF's Geography and Regional Science division, and were notified in July that their project had been funded.

In September, Dr. Butler and his colleagues traveled back to Glacier Park to gather field data on the amount of woody debris deposited in several snow-avalanche path runout zones. These data will provide ground truth measurements for comparison with an Ikonos satellite scene acquired over the study area at the beginning of September. Dr. Butler will also be involved in tree-ring dating of past avalanche events on several of these avalanche paths.



Dr. Butler waves from the roof of a snowshed protecting the tracks of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway, during his May trip to Glacier National Park.

Staff News

New Staff Members

Jessica Mefford

Allison Glass



Allison Glass recently took on a new role within the Geography Department when she transferred from Texas Watch to become the Graduate Staff Advisor, working with graduate program coordinator Dr. Fred Shelley. She also serves as the co-chair of the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration Committee.

Allison has been a part of the SWT Geography family for quite a while. She received a Bachelor of Science in Geography and completed a Masters of Applied Geography in December 1999, with a concentration in geographic education. Allison joined Texas Watch as an Environmental Educational Specialist in 1999. During her time as a specialist with Texas Watch, Allison helped to make the transition of Texas Watch from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to the SWT Geography Department. Allison lives in Wimberley with her son Grayson and her daughter Taylor.

Dave Jordan



Dave Jordan recently made the transition from graduate student to full-time staff member within the department. Congratulations Dave!

Originally from Houston, Dave received a Bachelor of Science in Geology from the University of Texas at Austin. Upon graduation, Dave went to work for a GIS consulting company in Austin where he gained much of his computer expertise. Dave

chose to return to graduate school to study GIS and remote sensing. He joined SWT Geography in January 2001. At that time, Dave became the part-time assistant to microcomputer coordinator Dan Hemenway. During his time assisting Dan, Dave became an indispensable member of the department, so he decided to stay. The department's steadily growing computer infrastructure now requires the attention of two full-time computer systems analysts.

Dave prefers the university environment to the private sector. His favorite aspect of his job is that he is able to interact with so many different people on a daily basis, and we certainly keep him busy. Dave is currently completing his master's thesis, which involves calculating stream power of the Brazos River using aerial photography. Dave lives in Austin with his wife, Melanie, who is completing a masters degree in math from SWT. He enjoys the great outdoors, cooking, reading, and camping.

Amanda Ross



Amanda Ross found her home within the SWT Geography Department last summer. She graduated from SWT Geography in August 2002 with an M.S. in Geography concentrating in geographic education. Amanda intended to seek employment in the environmental education field within south-central Texas upon graduation. An ideal opportunity for her appeared last July when Texas Watch Environmental Education Specialist Allison Glass

moved to the position of Graduate Staff Advisor within the Geography Department. Amanda is originally from Georgetown, Texas. She completed her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Geography and Government at the University of Texas at Austin. During her master's program here, Amanda focused her study on the use of public lands for the purpose of environmental



Pat Hell

Pat Hell joined SWT Geography in March 2002 as an Administrative Assistant II. Pat came to the department from SWT Financial Aid Central Processing, where she had worked since August 2000 as an administrative assistant, and eventually assistant to the director. Pat's position serves three purposes: she assists all researchers within the department of geography with finding sources of funding, monitors the accounting of grants and contracts, and helps write grant proposals.

Pat enjoys her position because it allows her to interact with so many faculty and students. She has met many interesting people since last spring, and she has taken pleasure from the fact that the department is such an eclectic bunch. Pat has also been able to learn about the interests of a large portion of the department while she searches for funding sources for their research. In her spare time, Pat enjoys traveling, cooking, and spending time with her son, Casey. Pat is native to New Braunfels, Texas where she lives with her dogs, fish, and a pot-bellied pig named Daisy.

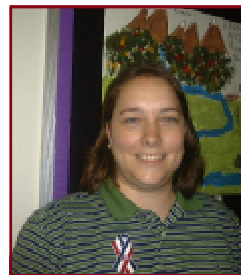
Maria Price



The Geography main office has a new face this year with the addition of Maria Price. Maria came to the department in June as an Administrative Assistant II. Many of us within the department have already met Maria; she handles travel, purchasing, keys, and supervises student workers. Maria is also the new editor of the *GeoNews*. Prior to joining the university staff, Maria worked as a property manager in San Antonio.

She received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Emory University in her native Atlanta, GA. She moved to Texas three years ago with her husband Larry, who is an SWT alumnus and now faculty member. Maria's favorite aspect of Texas is its people. She has enjoyed the warm, friendly nature of the residents here, and she favors the sunny hill country weather as well. Maria and Larry now live in Canyon Lake, and when we're not keeping her busy within the department, Maria enjoys hiking, reading and cooking. Welcome to the department, Maria!

Sheri Wahl



Sheri Wahl joined the SWT Geography family this July as a grant secretary for the Grosvenor Center. Sheri eagerly jumped into assisting with the "Big Issues Problem Solving 2002 Summer Institute" at the Grosvenor Center and participated in hosting the Geography Summer Institute for Minority Scholars. Sheri plays a dynamic role as the Grosvenor Center grant secretary. She is

responsible for duties including event coordination, purchasing, and assisting with Grosvenor Center activities. Most recently, Sheri assisted with the visit of the Grosvenor Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Harm de Blij.

Sheri is an SWT alumna; she graduated in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, and minored in Sociology. During her time away from SWT, Sheri ran her own painting business in her native Boerne, Texas. When she is not busy in the Grosvenor Center, Sheri enjoys fishing in Port Aransas, Texas, and mountain biking here in the Hill Country. Her latest project is gardening at her new home in San Marcos. Congratulations on your position, and welcome to the SWT Geography family!

Continued on page 19

Upcoming Events

CALENDAR for Fall 2002 & Spring 2003

Monday, November 4
Undergraduate Advising
4:00-6:00 pm, ELA 116

Tuesday, November 5
Undergraduate Advising
5:00-6:30 pm, ELA 116

SWIG Women's Retreat for SWAAG

Wednesday, November 6 -
Saturday, November 9
SWAAG Conference
Laredo, Texas

Tuesday, November 12
GTU Meeting
5:30 - 7:00 pm, ELA 311

Thursday, November 14
M.S. Thesis Committees should have received copies of theses

Saturday, November 16 -
Monday November 18
NCSS Conference
Washington, D.C.

Sunday, November 17 -
Saturday, November 23
Geography Awareness Week

Monday, November 25
Withdrawal deadline for fall 2002 semester

Tuesday, November 26
Department Thanksgiving Pot-Luck Luncheon

Wednesday, November 27 -
Friday, November 29
Thanksgiving Break: classes do not meet

Monday, December 2
Deadline for submission of theses to Dean

Saturday, December 7
Department Holiday Party

Monday, December 9
Last class day for fall 2002 semester

Tuesday, December 10 -
Tuesday, December 17
Final Exams

Wednesday, December 18
Grades are due to Registrar at 5:00 pm

Friday, December 20
Graduate Luncheon and Recognition Ceremony; Liberal Arts Commencement Ceremony
7:00 pm, Strahan Auditorium

Monday, December 23 -
Friday, January 17
Holiday Break

Monday, January 30
Classes begin for spring 2003 semester

Thursday, February 13
5th Annual Lovell Lecture featuring author and environmentalist Sarah Andrews
7:00 pm

Monday, March 10 -
Friday, March 14
Spring Break: Classes do not meet

Saturday, April 26



9th Annual Department of Geography Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration
(See page 8 for details!)

For more information on upcoming events, visit www.geo.swt.edu

Students Present at Conferences in Record Numbers

NCGE in Philadelphia, PA October 2002

Ellen Foster	Paul Nagel
David Rutherford	Cathy Springer

AGC in Binghamton, NY October 2002

Jonathan Herbert	Jessica Mefford
Ginger Schmid	Cathy Springer
Forrest Wilkerson	Ellen Foster

SWAAG in Laredo, TX November 2002

Jessy Morgan	Paul Nagel
Muhammad Rahman	Lynn Resler
Charlotte Samis	Eric Samson
Carol Sawyer	Michelle Shuey
David Stinchcomb	

AAG in New Orleans, LA March 2003

Xuwei Chen	Mindy Conyers
Sue Dunham	Jeanette Gara
Caroline Hatfield	Jonathan Herbert
Teresa Hobby	Graciela Juarez
Carol Koenig	Betsy Levy
Bernie Marion	Pam Marsh
Collin McCormick	Jessica Mefford
Jennifer Minor	Sarah Mitchell
Jessy Morgan	Paul Nagel
Muhammad Rahman	Lynn Resler
Ginger Root	David Rutherford
Eric Samson	Charlotte Samis
Carol Sawyer	Michelle Shuey
Ryan Weichelt	Forrest Wilkerson
Ginger Schmid	Amylia Williams
Guangyu Wu	

Free email address available FOR LIFE!
Contact us at www.geo.swt.edu and find out how!

Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration

Plan to Join Us at the 9th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration!

Angelika Lester

Mark your calendars! April 26, 2003 is the official date for our 9th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration! We will begin the day at the Alkek Teaching Theater honoring all of our scholarship and award winners. And don't miss all of the exciting accomplishments of the department in Dr. Estaville's State of the Department Address!

We will then move to Evans Auditorium for workshops and lab demonstrations in the afternoon and, of course, spend the evening enjoying barbecue and entertainment at the Pecan Grove at Aquarena Springs.

Look for updates in the near future that will be provided on the department's Website: www.geo.swt.edu. All faculty, staff, current students, alumni, friends of the department and your families are invited to celebrate this year's achievements at the biggest and best ever Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration! We welcome any comments and/or suggestions you may have. If you would like to be a member of the AR&SC Committee, please feel free to contact Angelika Lester at Angelika@swt.edu. We look forward to seeing you and your families on April 26, 2003!



8th Reunion Review

Allison Glass

Where were you on Saturday, April 20, 2002? Well all of your friends attended the Eighth Annual SWT Geogrpahy Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration. Over seven hundred alumni, students, faculty, and friends attended the daylong event. Alumni, students and faculty in attendance had the opportunity to win door prizes, participate in Geography Jeopardy, bid at a Silent Auction, which raised over \$2,000 for the Spirit of Geography Scholarship, meet two former presidents of the Association of American Geographers, enjoy excellent bar-b-que, watch hula dancers perform with fire batons, and dance to the SWT Salsa band. Whew! What a day!

Last year 34 scholarships were presented to students in the Geography Department, including two new scholarships, the Don and Reba Blascke Scholarship for the Protection of the San Marcos River and the Lief Anenson Geography Scholarship.

Following Dr. Lawrence Estaville's State of the Department Address, lunch was served while former SWT Geography Ph.D. student Michael Wilder provided musical entertainment (we're hoping he'll grace us again in 2003 – hint, hint, wink, wink). Gwen Faulkner of the National Geographic Society presented both an entertaining and thought-provoking video of world cultures. The day continued with the presentation of departmental awards. The awards recognized students, faculty, staff and alumni. Special recognition awards went out to Dr. Reginald Gollege of the University of California-Santa Barbara and Dr. Susan Cut-

continued on page 24



Department News

Water Studies B.S. Now Offered

Richard Earl

In response to the burgeoning demand for water resources specialists in our region, the department has initiated and obtained approval of a new Bachelors of Science in Water Studies. The program has been approved by the Texas State University Board of Regents and will become operative in the Spring 2003 Semester. This curriculum is designed for undergraduate students who want to specifically prepare themselves for a career in water resources.

Beyond the department core of requiring geography GEO 1309/1310, 2410, and 3301, the concentration requires GEO 3305, Applied Meteorology and Climatology; GEO 3434, Water Resources Management; GEO 4313, Environmental Management; GEO 4314, River Basin Management; GEO 4325, Fluvial Processes and Landforms; GEO 4334, Ground-water Resources; GEO 4335, Directed Research Water Policy, one techniques class from GEO 2426, 3416, or 4430; and CHEM 1141/1341 and 1142/1342 or 1430. In the process of completing this program, the students will also meet the requirements for a Water Resources Policy certificate (GEO 3434, 4313, 4314, and 4335) that will be shown on their transcripts. As with all other geography majors, the program will require a minimum GPA of 2.5 in geography and all SWT courses.

When informed of this proposed curriculum, SWT Geography alumni at the TCEQ (formerly TNRCC), LCRA, GBRA, and other water resources agencies gave a "thumbs up" to the program. All indications suggest that this new geography major will further SWT Geography's leadership in both the public and private sectors of the environmental and water resources employment arena. For additional information about this program, contact Dr. Richard Earl or Dr. Joanna Crowe, SWT Geography faculty members.

SWT Geographers Study the July 2002 Flood at Canyon Dam Spillway

Richard Earl

In July 2002, south-central Texas was hit by its third major flood in less than 4 years. The flood was produced by an upper-level low system that drew in prodigious amounts of maritime tropical air from the Gulf of Mexico, soaking portions of the region with up to thirty inches of precipitation over five days.

This flooding system was unique from the flood hazard perspective for several reasons. First, the type of storm, an upper level low, is not usually considered a major threat, even though a similar type storm produced major flooding in the Houston area in October 1994. Second, some of the worst flooding produced by this storm was a result of rainfall amounts accumulated over several days, which exceeded the design capacity of flood control facilities, most notably Canyon Dam. Many streams in the region experienced as many as five flood peaks. SWT Geography alumna and 1999 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Linda Hammon was among those who experienced flood damage as seen on nationwide Weather Channel reports.

Even before the floodwaters had significantly receded, SWT Geographer Byron Augustin was on the scene photographing the Canyon Dam spillway channel and downstream devastation along the Guadalupe River. Drs. Ron Eyton, Richard Dixon, and David Butler also conducted a photographic reconnaissance of the spillway area including stereo-



rephotography of the affected areas. Dr. Mark Fonstad is processing before and after digital imagery of the Canyon Dam area to identify changes in riparian habitats and fluvial processes. Participants from Forrest Wilkerson's Field Methods course mapped the spillway channel on September 28, 2002 and will report on these studies in a Lovell Center report. Professors Dixon and Earl have used the flood as an opportunity to reappraise the storm and flood potential in the region. Preliminary research shows that San Marcos has received five "100-year storms" in its 106-year climate record - two of these storms occurred less than two months apart in 1913!

Professor Earl is a lead organizer for a post-flood symposium to be held on the SWT Campus next April titled, "Beyond the 100-Year Flood, Lessons to be Learned." The symposium is to feature presentations by experts on the flood from the National Weather Service, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, SWT faculty and others. An invited target audience consists of local decision makers, from county judges and city council representatives to police chiefs and disaster response leaders. The public, especially the SWT community, is invited to attend this important event on April, 9, 2003. Check out the SWT Geography Web site for additional details.

September 11 Candlelight Remembrance

SWT Geography sponsored a September 11 Candlelight Remembrance on the Quad that brought more than 200 people together to share the light and spirit of peace and hope.



Check out our
award-winning
Web site today!
www.geo.swt.edu

Department News

SWT Geography Sponsors Teaching Environmental Science Program

Amanda Ross and Richard Earl

SWT Geography, in cooperation with Texas Watch, held its first Teaching Environmental Sciences (TES) workshop this past summer. TES is a ten-day course full of hands-on activities, presentations, and field trips that focus on air, water, and waste issues. The course is designed to provide K-12 teachers with "real world" critical thinking skills and problem solving when instructing their students on local environmental issues. Teachers receive educational and information materials from a variety of sources along with materials that support the TAAS (Texas Assessment of Academic Skills) and TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills).

TES is a tuition-paid, 3-hour graduate credit course for teachers. The graduate credit course (GEO 5395: Teaching Environmental Science) was developed by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in cooperation with universities throughout the state. Besides 3 hours of graduate credit, teachers receive 45 hours of continuing professional education (CPS) credit from the State Board for Educator Certification. In addition, the teachers receive 45 hours of Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee (TEEAC) certification.

The 2002 SWT TES workshop was taught by Dr. Richard Earl, SWT Geography MAG alumna Cinde Thomas-Jimenez, and Texas Watch Education Specialist Allison Glass. The students' first unit introduced them to water

properties and the issues that surround water in the Central Texas area. Participants continued their water unit with an overview of water resources and an in depth look at the Edwards Aquifer. The aquifer presentation was followed by a hands-on activity where teachers created models of the Edwards Aquifer using a fish tank, gravel, clay, tubing and a coke bottle. Students were also trained as certified Texas Watch water monitors. In addition, they were given tours of the wastewater treatment plant in the San Marcos area. Other field trips included the Texas Disposal Systems Landfill in Creedmoor, Garden-ville in San Antonio, SMI Steel Mill in Seguin, the American National Power electrical generating plant in San Marcos, Samsung Semiconductor in Austin, the National Weather Service in New Braunfels, Bamberger Ranch in Johnson City, and the US Fish Hatchery in San Marcos.

The Department of Geography in cooperation with TCEQ and Texas Watch will host its second TES course during the summer of 2003. From July 7-18 TES participants will explore environmental topics including butterflies, water and its properties, and recycling through discussion, lecture, field trips, and the development of a lesson plan, or literature review. If you are interested in participating in this tuition-paid, graduate-level course, please contact Dr. Richard Earl at re02@swt.edu or check out the TES Web page at www.tes.texaswatch.geo.swt.edu.

The Leif Anenson Geography Scholarship

Jessica Mefford

Leif Christian Anenson was born on November 11, 1973, and died on September 1, 2000. He received a Bachelor of Science in Geography from Southwest Texas State University



in 1997. He majored in cartography/ GIS. At the time of his death, Leif was completing graduate work for a masters of Aeronautical Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. That degree was presented posthumously to his parents on September 29, 2001.

Leif was an associate scientist with Hernandez Engineering in Houston working at NASA. He

was recognized for his contributions as an invaluable member of the Hubble Space Telescope Servicing Mission team.

The world of space opened up for Leif through his studies of geographic information science at SWT. He enjoyed his work and had a deep appreciation for the impact the space program has made and will continue to make in the lives of us all.

The Anenson family has chosen to honor Leif and his love for GIS through a scholarship within SWT Geography. Applicants must be undergraduate or graduate geography majors, have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, be junior or senior students specializing in the study of GIS, must be financing at least 25% of their own education, and write a two-page, double-spaced essay on what they hope to do with a degree in geography. SWT Geography thanks the Anenson family for their contribution to future geographic information scientists.

Lovell Lecture

continued from page 1

and the 1997 Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists Journalism Award. Her early training in geology was in eolian sedimentology and stratigraphy at the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver, and her subsequent experience applied that expertise in oil and gas development and environmental services, including wellsite duty for Amoco in Wyoming and management of soil and groundwater contamination at the Superfund site at Castle Air Force Base in California.

Her published novels, featuring the fictional heroine Em Hansen, cover applications of geology to environmental hazards (groundwater contamination, faults and earthquakes, and intercontinental dust clouds), oil and gas, paleontology, and mining. Her books are: *Tensleep* (1994), *A Fall in Denver* (1995), *Mother Nature* (1997), *Only Flesh and Bones* (1998), *Bone Hunter* (1999), *An Eye for Gold* (2000), *Fault Line* (2002), and *Killer Dust* (2003). Further integrating the arts and the sciences through the spoken word, she has been interviewed on radio and in print media, and frequently lectures on science and writing to academic, museum, and community groups, ever emphasizing the importance of the role of geoscience education in modern life.

Undergraduate News

continued from page 3

Carter represents the Urban and Regional Planning concentration, directs the Internship Program, is chair of the Scheduling Committee, and is the faculty sponsor for the National Association of Environmental Professionals.

Joan Pasquali continues with the undergraduate program in a big way. This summer Joan began working full time for the undergraduate program. Joan manages our records, monitors our program and course changes, solves many of our problems, is constantly searching for more efficient ways to do things, and provides the best student "customer service" anywhere. Her full-time presence will improve a number of aspects of an already outstanding undergraduate program.

As the busy summer ends, we eagerly embrace the fall 2002 semester. New students have arrived with high expectations, having made an important life decision about a career in geography. The quiet is gone for another season and the students are back in full force. We appreciate this time because our students are the "secret ingredient" that brings out the best in our department.

Department News

The Don and Reba Blaschke Scholarship for the Protection of the San Marcos River

Jessica Mefford

Kurt Blaschke has a profound appreciation for the San Marcos River. He feels that the river is San Marcos' greatest resource and so he has taken a generous step to help protect it.

Kurt is a Southwest Texas State University Geography alumnus; he graduated in December 1996 with a B.S. in general geography. Kurt reflects on his college experience



as giving him a broad perspective of the world around him. He began his college education at SWT; from here he transferred to the University of Texas, where he studied sociology. Kurt shifted from UT to the University of North Texas, Denton, and then to the University of Houston before returning to SWT. Along the way, Kurt took an introductory geography course, and became interested in the holistic perspective geography offered. He chose to major in geography at SWT because it allowed him to study the world around him, while not limiting his studies to one specialization. Supportive faculty members, including Dr. Richard Earl, Dr. Brock Brown, Dr. Fred Shelley, and Dr. Byron "Doc" Augustin, shaped Kurt's experiences at SWT.

Kurt's interest in geography has led him to travel throughout the United States and Europe. In 1995 Kurt spent one month in the Czech Republic, where he studied his own ancestry in the Sudetenland. Since then, Kurt's family members living in the Czech Republic have visited Kurt here in Texas. They even attended our Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration! Kurt returned to the Czech Republic to visit in 2000 and plans to do so again soon.

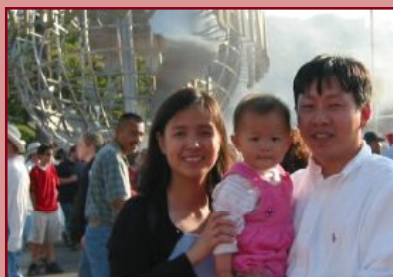
Upon graduation from SWT, Kurt worked for the Economic Development Council of Greater San Marcos for one year. Kurt now lives in The Woodlands, Texas 30 miles north of downtown Houston. The Woodlands is a growing neighborhood consisting of green belts and several separate villages. Kurt's entire immediate family now resides in the Woodlands. Kurt works as a consultant to banks, real estate brokers, and new home construction companies; much of his consulting is done in the Woodlands. Kurt's father Don owned a home building company, which first provided him exposure to this business. Kurt's geography background has a very relevant application to

his field of work. The holistic nature of geography has given him the tools he needs to envision future movement of people and optimal locations of potential real estate.

Kurt's parents, Don and Reba Blaschke, made possible Kurt's college education, and helped shape Kurt's character and spirit. Don and Reba are the parents of three children,

Kurt, Glen, and Adona. All three of the Blaschke children hold college degrees, and they now wish to pay tribute to their parents for providing them with this experience. Kurt donated the financial resources needed to establish a scholarship in the name of Don and Reba Blaschke that will continue in perpetuity within the Geography Department. The scholarship allows Kurt to honor his parents for the dedication they gave to him and his siblings during their college careers. The scholarship awards \$500 each spring to one undergraduate or graduate student in geography. The recipient must have demonstrated significant service to preserve and protect the San Marcos River and its surrounding environment as unique resources of San Marcos and Southwest Texas State University.

This scholarship gives Kurt and the university community the opportunity to participate in the preservation of San Marcos' most significant natural resource. The establishment of the scholarship also allows Kurt to share his own good fortune with future geography students. On behalf of SWT Geography, we thank you Kurt for your generous contribution and dedication to geography.



Xinnong Zhou, his wife, Shan Shan, and their daughter, Emily. Notice Emily's big toy globe in the background!

New Geography Grants and Contracts Office Established

Patricia Hell

The Geography Grants and Contracts Office is a new addition to the Department. During fiscal year 2001-2002, the department submitted 31 proposals totaling \$1.6 million. Of the 31 proposals, 10 were funded for a total of \$508,484. The department decided to appoint me to help with administrative duties because the department has done a fantastic job in acquiring grants and contracts. The purpose of my position is to relieve the Principal Investigators (PIs) of the administrative burden, allowing them more time to focus on their research.

With that in mind, the Geography Grants and Contracts Office will be responsible for finding additional funding sources, monitoring grant and contract accounts, assisting the PIs in preparing proposals and budgets, and preparing RBCs, purchase orders, office supply orders, and travel reimbursement requests. This office will also work closely with the SWT Office of Sponsored Programs and Grants Accounting on campus.

Currently, there are some exciting things going on with grants and contracts. Dr. Robert Larsen and his team are working on a contract with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality / EPA that hopefully will result in a several million-dollar, multi-year contracts. There are at least four National Science Foundation proposals, three SWT International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources (IISWR) proposals, and three National Geographic Society proposals that are either in the review process or are awaiting review. The department has fifteen active grant accounts at this time, although several are scheduled to close in the next month.

The Grants and Contracts Office is looking forward to working with all of the faculty and graduate students as they search for funding and work on awarded projects. The goal is to increase the number and dollar amount of grants and contracts awarded to the department. The opportunity to work with faculty and students of the caliber of those in the Department of Geography is a great privilege and an outstanding learning experience.

Free email address
available FOR LIFE!
Contact us at www.geo.swt.edu
and find out how!

Department News

Texas Watch Water Quality Monitoring

Amanda Ross

Texas Watch, established in 1991, is administered through a cooperative partnership between SWT, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Texas Watch is a network of trained volunteers and supportive partners working together to gather information about the natural resources of Texas and to ensure the information is available to all Texans. Volunteers are trained to collect quality-assured information that can be used to make environmentally sound decisions.

Currently, over 300 Texas Watch volunteers collect water quality data on lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, bays, bayous, and estuaries in Texas. Anyone with a desire to monitor water quality or learn more about the natural resources in Texas can be involved; over 400 groups have been trained to-date. These groups range in size from one person monitoring a single site to groups whose members monitor more than 50 sites. Volunteers range from teachers and their classes to senior citizens.

Texas Watch is proud to announce that all data collected by volunteers are now available online through the new data viewer. This



project represents the culmination of 10 years of volunteer efforts, and we hope that these data will aid and encourage research in the field of water resources, and also provide a snapshot of current and historical water conditions across the state. In addition to viewing data spatially, the data can be queried

by Site ID, Site Description, County, Date, Stream Basin, and Water Quality parameters including dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity and temperature.

Texas Watch's plans for the 2002-2003 year include National Monitoring Day and the bi-annual Meeting of the Monitors. National Monitoring Day celebrates the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Clean Water Act. On October 18, 2002 thousands of people across the nation went out in the field to test the quality of their local water bodies for National Monitoring Day. Another important Texas Watch event is the bi-annual Meeting of the Monitors to be held March 7-8, 2003 at the University of North Texas campus in Denton, Texas. For more information on these and other Texas Watch activities or to explore the new data viewer, visit the Texas Watch Web site at www.texaswatch.geo.swt.edu.

ELA Beautification Project 2001-2003

Graciela Juarez

In fall 2001, the students and faculty of the Department of Geography and the Department of Facilities at SWT agreed to improve the quality of the green space along the south side of the Evans Liberal Arts Building. The project, now referred to as the "ELA Beautification Project" has completed one-third of the transformation of the once yellow-parched bed of grass into a fruitful native wildlife habitat and observatory. Near the southwest entrance of ELA, mealy-blue sage, turks cap, lantana, red yuccas, and yellow bells are settling in well, blossoming, and quite thankful for the amount of rain received in the summer months. The remaining area between the live oak tree



Then



Now

and the southeast entrance of ELA will be filled with milkweed, mountain laurel, Texas red and white buds, benches to rest on, and an accessible path to pass through the middle of the landscape. Five geography student organizations including NAEP, GTU, SWIG, Graduate Forum, and SPO will complete the beautification project.

The ELA Beautification Project is meant to be an example of conservative sustainability and a reminder to always take the time to respect natural phenomena.

New Ph.D. Program

continued from page 1

our communities, from local to international."

The techniques included within the Ph.D. Program in Geographic Information Science are geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, cartography, visualization, spatial statistics, and spatial modeling. These techniques are used to communicate spatial information and analyses effectively to decision makers, other academic disciplines, and the public. It is expected that these techniques will be used in support of research in such areas as environmental assessment, natural resources, water management, transportation, criminal justice, demography, and many others.

In support of the new program, the Coordinating Board approved several new assistantships. It also approved our hiring two new full-time staff members, Allison Glass and David Jordan (see biographical sketches of Allison and David elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter). All four of our new faculty members—Sharolyn Anderson, Joanna Crowe, Mark Horner, and Allison Payton—have expertise in various aspects of geographic information science. The Department has more than 450 computers and state-of-the-art hardware and software. Ten new doctoral-level courses in geographic information science have been added to the curriculum.

Our first GIScience Ph.D. students entered the program this fall. Please join me in welcoming Xuwei Chen, Ionara de Lima, Glen Fritz, Jason Singhurst, Guangyu Wu, and Shuo-sheng (Derek) Wu to the new program!

Graduate Column

continued from page 3

five years. She is now devoting her full time to the undergraduate program. Please join me in thanking her for her outstanding work on behalf of our graduate students. Our undergraduates are very fortunate that Joan can now devote her full time to them and their superb program.

Finally, let me ask you to join me in welcoming Allison Glass to our full-time primary staff. Allison, who holds B.A. and MAG degrees in the Department, is a wonderful addition to the program and her outstanding work is already making a noticeable difference and with her help the graduate programs in Geography will continue to support students and faculty and to enhance our sharing of the spirit of geography.

Department News

SWT Geography Online GIS Courses

Michael Solem

To prepare students for work in the new information economy, the Department of Geography at Southwest Texas State University (SWT) offers an undergraduate GIS certificate based on successful completion of a rigorous four-course online curriculum. The four courses in our online GIS program provide students with comprehensive, hands-on instruction in the use of GIS to acquire, analyze, and display spatial data in digital format. The courses are taught by the department's Ph.D. students (currently Ionara DeLima) and employ a variety of teaching strategies to teach GIS theory, concepts, and skills, including problem-based inquiry, active learning, and seminar-style discussion. The course materials are delivered through the Worldwide Web using Blackboard, a popular software for building academic course Web sites. Blackboard provides many useful tools for managing online courses, including discussion forums, virtual classrooms, electronic quizzes, document exchange, and email. Reading materials and assignments are available in folders containing Web pages enhanced with Quick-time video clips. Access to the course Web sites is password-protected.

The first course in the sequence, GEO 2426, Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems, was launched in January 2002 and has since been taught in two long semesters and one short summer semester. This course introduces students to the basics of GIS data entry, database management, cartographic communication, and spatial analysis. In addition to delivering fundamental content knowledge, the course assignments provide students with hands-on training with ArcView GIS, a state-of-the-art desktop GIS that students purchase on a CD-ROM from our corporate partner and leading GIS company, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). The course project has students plan, design, and implement a basic GIS analysis based on a real-world problem. Consulting with the course instructor, students formulate research questions, develop hypotheses, search for and download spatial data on the Web, analyze their data with ArcView GIS, and create a Web site reporting the results of their study. Student projects have focused on a wide range of topics, including crime patterns in the City of Austin and the environmental effects of development in San Marcos, Texas.

The remaining three courses (GEO 2427, 4426, and 4427) are being taught for the first time in the 2002-03 academic year. GEO 2427, Management and Implementation of Geographic Information Systems, deals with the design, implementation, and management of GIS in government and private enterprise. The course lab is based on the ESRI Virtual Campus course, "In-

troduction to ArcInfo using Arc Tools." This six-module course introduces students to ArcInfo Workstation, a powerful GIS software for performing data exploration and analysis, geoprocessing, and mapmaking. The lab exercises teach students how to create and maintain geographic data, convert existing data to spatial data, manipulate tabular data, construct a GIS database, query a GIS database, and create maps.

Students continue the curriculum with GEO 4426, Advanced Geographic Information Systems, the first of two upper-division courses that explore familiar GIS concepts in more detail and introduce more advanced concepts and techniques. GEO 4426 examines the conceptual and technical aspects involved in spatial data handling, analysis, and modeling. The course lab features exercises from another ESRI Virtual Campus course, "What's New in ArcInfo 8 (from 7.x to 8.1)." This six-module course introduces students to the features and architecture of ArcInfo 8.1, giving them hands-on training with the latest in advanced GIS technology.

The capstone course in the program is GEO 4427, Advanced Geographic Information Systems II. This course features online discussions of scholarly readings that address contemporary research themes in geographic information science, including topics such as spatial cognition, data and database issues, interoperability, standardization, and visualization. But the primary focus of the course is an advanced project designed to acquaint students with real-time field experience and applications of ArcInfo GIS in geographical research. Student projects focus on the development of a comprehensive proposal and subsequent data collection and analysis. Students are evaluated on the quality of their proposal, the analytical product, and final presentation on the Worldwide Web.

For more information about our online GIS courses, including system requirements and how to register, please visit <http://www.geo.swt.edu/programs/onlineGIS/index.html>.

NO KIDDING!

FREE email

address for life!

www.geo.swt.edu

for more info



Sansom Heads Water Resources Institute

continued from page 1

1990. Mr. Sansom gained intense exposure to water policy issues during his time with TPWD, which works in nearly every facet of water related policy.

The purpose of the International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources is to promote research and investigation related to water resources. The Institute has a unique perspective of water resources. Mr. Sansom stated that SWT "is the only university looking at water from a truly holistic perspective." One goal of SWT in developing the Institute is to foster a basin-wide perspective of water. Traditionally, water resources have been emphasized in fragments. The institute approaches water resources in an interdisciplinary manner. SWT departments involved with the institute include Geography, Biology, Agriculture, Political Science, and Sociology.

The Institute's most significant undertaking is the Texas Rivers Center at San Marcos Springs. SWT purchased the Aquarena Center property in 1994 with the intention of using this property for education and research devoted to aquifers, rivers, and aquatic systems in Texas. The Texas Rivers Center is a joint project of SWT and TPWD, and is the only such undertaking affiliated with a university. As Director of TPWD, Mr. Sansom was directly involved with the creation of the Center. The Center will be constructed in phases. The SWT Board of Regents approved the first renovation phase in May 2002. The newly renovated center will house exhibit and office space, which will include the Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism.

Mr. Sansom is a native Texan; he is originally from Lake Jackson and has lived in central Texas for nearly twenty years. His experiences in central Texas have revealed the unique qualities of water resources in Texas. Among those is the relationship between the Edwards Aquifer and the flow of rivers in the region. The presence of endangered species within the aquatic system of central Texas has also presented water resources management challenges to central Texas; the region's rapidly growing population exacerbates these challenges. Mr. Sansom is enthusiastic about working with the Geography Department faculty and students to address these issues. He is certain that the Department's emphasis on water and environmental geography will complement the goals of the Institute.

Grosvenor Center News

Richard Boehm Receives Highest AAG Honors in Geographic Education

Judy Behrens



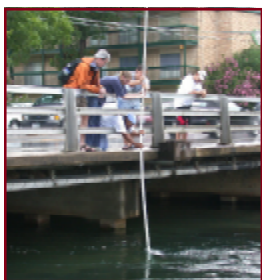
The Association of American Geographers (AAG) selected Dr. Richard G. Boehm as recipient of the 2002 Gilbert M. Grosvenor Honors in Geographic Education. The award, which was established to recognize outstanding lifetime achievement in geographic education, was conferred upon Dr. Boehm at the AAG's annual meeting in Los Angeles in March 2002. Only six other geographers have previously received the Grosvenor Honors.

For three decades, Dr. Boehm has provided outstanding leadership and made a variety of landmark contributions that have changed the landscape of geographic education across the United States, especially during the reform movement of the 1980s and 1990s. The National Council for Geographic Education elected him as its president in 1983. In 1984, he was a member of the writing team for the *Guidelines for Geographic Education*, which introduced the world to the "five themes" in geography that are still prominently featured in K-12 geography and social studies textbooks. In 1986, the National Geographic Society established a network of state geographical alliances and selected Dr. Boehm as co-coordinator of the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education, an organization whose membership currently exceeds 6,000 geographic educators at all education levels. He served as co-author of the 1994 *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards*, which has provided geography teachers with guidelines for teaching geography in K-12 classrooms. In 2000, Dr. Boehm assembled a team of geographic education specialists to formulate a "scope and sequence" for K-12 geography, making it easier for states to implement the national standards throughout their social studies curricula.

In 1998, after a nationwide search, Dr. Boehm was selected to hold the Jesse H. Jones Distinguished Chair in Geographic Education, the first permanent endowed chair at SWT. In addition to continuing in his role as co-coordinator of the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education, Dr. Boehm is also Director of the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, which was established to honor the vast contributions of Gilbert M. Grosvenor in advancing the national reform movement in geography. During his career, Dr. Boehm has hosted teachers at more than 100 institutes, workshops, and presentations and has authored over three dozen books and hundreds of articles, reviews, and reports.

SWT GeoSAMS Offers First-hand Look at Post-secondary Geography

Ellen Foster



Twenty-eight Texas high school students and 13 high school teachers converged on SWT for the first annual SWT Geography Summer Academy for Minority Scholars (SWT GeoSAMS) in mid-July to explore the world of professional and academic geography.

The primary goal of SWT GeoSAMS was to expose students to geography beyond the high school classroom and introduce the field of geography as a viable career option. Students and teachers participated in a wide range of activities including content lectures on human geography and geographic problem solving, measuring streamflows in the San Marcos River, experiencing the physical geography of

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, and exploring programs available to SWT students through the Department of Geography and Student Support Services.

Students, teachers, and staff learned first-hand the need to be flexible in planning and fieldwork. An unseasonably wet July in south-central Texas altered schedules and wardrobes for four of the six days of the academy. However, the rains filled the pools on Enchanted Rock – a sight not common in mid-July – offering students a natural, physical geography laboratory.

"This program has really changed my perception of geography in a good way. I no longer look at geography as memorizing capitals and highest mountains, but as figuring out why things happen, where they happen, and how to change those things if they are creating a problem. This new view of geography has seriously made me reconsider my future plans

Continued on page 16

Rove Lecture

continued from page 1

Speaking to a capacity crowd in the SWT Alkek Teaching Theater, Mr. Rove talked about the important role that geography has played in national defense throughout U.S. history, particularly during times of war. He cautioned that geography no longer means what it once did for national security, now that oceans and borders cannot protect us. According to Rove,

"...the United States is now fighting an enemy whose movements cannot be easily charted on a map room wall. This is an enemy without a country, capital, or people to defend...an enemy that could be anywhere or everywhere. Global terrorism is not tied to the political structure of any one nation. Geography will not shape this war in the same way it has shaped wars before. This war will place razor sharp limitations on geography to guide us."

The Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture Series is hosted by the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education in SWT's Department of Geography. Previous distinguished lecturers have included Gilbert M. Grosvenor, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Geographic Society; James A. Baker, III, 61st Secretary of State; William Allen, Editor of National Geographic Magazine; and, Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator from Texas.

Byron Augustin to Lead Pre-conference Yucatan Field Trip

Judy Behrens

Every two years, the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education hosts an international conference that focuses on research issues and frontiers in geographic education. The 2003 conference will be held in San Marcos on May 22 through May 24. The conference program will include several local field trips, in addition to a pre-conference field trip to the Yucatan Peninsula. The 6-day trip, from May 15 to May 20, will be led by Dr. Byron Augustin, an expert on Mexico who has visited the Yucatan region over 30 times. The trip itinerary will include arrival in and departure from Cancun, visits to Chichen Itza and Hacienda Uxmal, exploration of several Mayan ruins, tours of Merida and Zocalo, and fishing and snorkel-

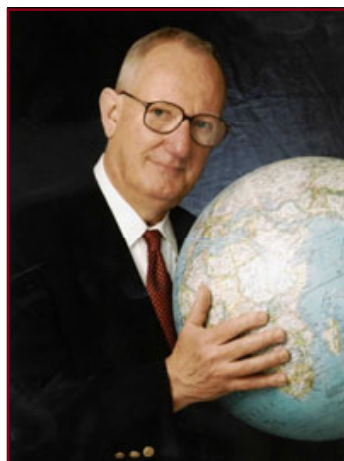
Continued on page 16

Grosvenor Center News

An Interview with Dr. Harm J. de Blij

Jessica Mefford

The SWT *GeoNews* staff had the pleasure of interviewing Dr. Harm de Blij during his recent visit to the SWT Department of Geography. During this interview, Dr. De Blij offered valuable advice for geography students and professionals alike. We can all benefit from Dr. de Blij's experiences in the field of geography, as well as from his interactions within the public eye.



Dr. de Blij has had a very long and productive career in the field of geography. I asked, "What are some of the more remarkable changes you have seen in the field of geography during your career as a professional geographer?" Dr. de Blij cited two major landmarks throughout the course of geography's history and included his own comments on the future direction of geography. He expressed that the quantitative revolution and the development of spatial analytical techniques such as GIS, now GIScience, have allowed geography to become a much more scientific and analytical discipline. Geography had previously been a discipline based on description. Throughout its developments, geography's focus has become too fragmented. Geographers have lost common ground and while struggling to focus on details, have lost sight of the "big picture".

I began the interview by asking Dr. de Blij a question regarding the geographic perspective in relationship to the general population. This is a question that we, as geographers, might ask ourselves from time to time. "How do you feel the general public of the United States can benefit from the geographic perspective?" Dr. de Blij replied by first stating that as a country the United States is the most geographically illiterate (major) society in the world. He added that this poses significant implications for national security, at a time when security should be high priority. Our nation's leaders and electorate are unaware of the world around us; this deficiency negatively affects policy decisions. Dr. de Blij feels that a more geographic perspective would aid legislators in making more informed decisions.

My next question concerned the perceptions of the public, "How do you feel the general public of the United States perceives the discipline of geography?" He answered that the public as a whole has an enormous misconception about geography. They do not realize the recent advances in the field of geography or the many realms of study that geography involves.

I was curious as to why this misconception exists, so my next question was "Why is the United States, as a country, so devoid of geographic knowledge?" His answer was based on our country's location. He stated that our location has long provided a buffer between our own country and much of the world around us. We are surrounded by major oceans on two sides and have only two neighboring countries, one of which largely speaks our language. We have been afforded the protection of distance from other countries and have therefore not stressed knowledge of geography.

The next question addressed the fragmentation that Dr. de Blij spoke of previously, "How do you feel geographers can transcend the boundaries of sub-disciplines?" Dr. de Blij responded by asserting that professional geographers need to publish books and articles aimed at nongeographers and individuals from other disciplines. Scholarly geographers are too reluctant to write general pieces, fearing that those pieces would not be well received among their colleagues. As a result, nongeographers are writing geography pieces. He argued that we need more generalists in the field of geography.

My final question addressed concerns that geography students might have concerning their own careers within the discipline of geography, "What advice do you have for future geography professionals?" Dr. de Blij recommended focusing on two key aspects of geography. The first is the relationship between human society and the natural environment. A geographer should have a comprehensive knowledge of both. The second is being well equipped to analyze spatial problems; this includes a broad range of questions from the diffusion of diseases to migration patterns.

We can all benefit from Dr. de Blij's experiences in the field of geography, as well as from his interactions within the public eye.

de Blij Lecture

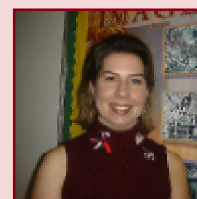
continued from page 1

lenges demand action that is informed by geographical knowledge and perspectives.

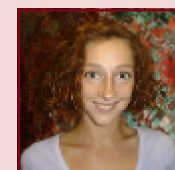
Dr. de Blij identified four major challenges facing contemporary Americans. Among these is the geographic illiteracy of Americans. He stated that, as a nation, our knowledge of the physiographic and cultural layout of the world has eroded so much that it negatively affects public policy and leads to dangerous isolationism. Second, Dr. de Blij warned that we should be prepared for potentially sudden effects that could result from naturally occurring global climate changes. Such changes are evident in historical and geologic records. The last of the challenges Dr. de Blij presented were of a political nature. He reminded listeners of the destabilizing influences being produced by the global diffusion of radical Islam and the related intractable problem of Israeli/Palestinian relations. Finally, Dr. de Blij spoke of the difficulties that are emerging from the rise of China as a hegemonic and potentially nationalistic world power.

Dr. de Blij's assertions of the challenges the United States will face in the twenty-first century left a profound impact on the audience. He continually reaffirmed geography's place in a changing world. As geographers, we can use Dr. de Blij's vision to determine our own roles in the twenty-first century.

GeoNews is a semi-annual publication of the Department of Geography at Southwest Texas State University



Maria Price, Editor
mp31@swt.edu



Jessica Mefford
Assistant Editor
jm1308@swt.edu

For a free subscription to SWT *GeoNews*, please contact:
Department of Geography
Southwest Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666-4616
Phone: 512-245-2170
Fax: 512-245-8353
Email: geography@swt.edu
www.geo.swt.edu

Southwest Texas State University, a member of the Texas State University System, is an equal opportunity institution.

Grosvenor Center News

Texas Alliance Offers Summer Teacher Training Institute

Judy Behrens

For two weeks during July 2002, the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE) offered an intensive, in-residence teacher training program for Texas middle and high school teachers. Twenty-eight teachers from across the state moved into SWT university housing and immersed themselves in learning new and innovative ways to teach geography in their classrooms.



SWT Department of Geography graduate Trent Wenzel was one of 28 teachers to complete the TAGE Summer Institute.

Hosted by Richard Boehm, co-coordinator of the Texas Alliance, the institute focused on defining big issues and problem-solving strategies in world geography. Veteran Teacher Consultants Pat Hardy, Cliff Kinder, and Ann Wurst served as the principal instructors for the program, with Ph.D. student Ginger Schmid and SWT graduates Jeff Lash and Ron Hagelman offering focused content lectures.

Institute participants received instruction regarding in-service training techniques, lesson plan development, familiarization with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), and guidance on how to use effectively the national geography standards. The teachers who successfully completed the training institute are now qualified to become Teacher Consultants (TCs) who participate in the training of other teachers for the Texas Alliance programs.

GOT PLANS?



April 26, 2003

Keiji Mizuno Joins Grosvenor Center

Jessica Mefford

Keiji Mizuno and his wife, Kazuyo, came to SWT Geography in September 2002. Keiji is a visiting scholar in the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education from September 2002 through April 2003. Keiji studied geomorphology for ten years while in Japan. More recently, his interests have shifted to geographic education. In Japan, he read papers authored by SWT Geography Faculty Members Drs. Peterson, Butler, and Boehm. This reading inspired him to collaborate with these SWT faculty members. Keiji began corresponding with Dr. Boehm, and soon a door opened for him to join the department as a visiting scholar.



Keiji and Kazuyo are from Osaka, Japan. They have traveled to the United States on numerous occasions; some of their favorite destinations include Hawaii and Yosemite National Park, California. They enjoy walking and hiking. This year, they plan to visit state and national parks. They look forward to enjoying Texas' natural scenery.

Kazuyo left her job in Japan to join Keiji at SWT. While here, she is attending seminars on nutrition and is continuing to research nutritional education. Kazuyo is a registered dietician and has taken an interest in introducing healthy Japanese food to Texas. Currently, the Mizunos are adjusting to the different foods available here. They regularly travel to Austin to purchase Japanese groceries.

The Mizunos are looking forward to interacting with SWT Geography faculty, staff, and students. Keiji looks forward to sharing Japanese standards of education with SWT, as well as bringing curriculum standards from SWT to Japan.

GeoSAMS Program

continued from page 14

for education," wrote Myriam Abdeljalil, a Bowie High School (Arlington, TX) tenth grader, after her week at SWT GeoSAMS.

SWT GeoSAMS, the creation of department chair Lawrence Estaville and Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education Director Richard G. Boehm, targeted students from groups that are historically underrepresented in geography, specifically African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and females. Over 50 teachers and administrators submitted team applications to the Grosvenor Center for acceptance to the innovative recruiting program.

SWT GeoSAMS was funded by a grant from the National Geographic Society, the Grosvenor Center, and the SWT Department of Geography, which hopes to export the model developed at SWT next summer to university campuses in five other states. The Grosvenor Center plans to publish a guidebook to help university departments establish similar academies in their states, and SWT GeoSAMS staff will sit on panels at both the National Council for Geographic Education and Applied Geography annual conferences this fall to discuss issues specific to recruiting and retaining students of underrepresented groups to geogra-

phy at the post-secondary level.

"A preliminary evaluation of the program reveals significant increases in students' geographic understanding," reports Ellen J. Foster, third-year Ph.D. student. "The students had a blast; the teachers went back to their campuses with a new perspective on geography beyond high school; and the staff had a lot of fun planning the activities. We are looking forward to tracking the students to find out where they go to college and what they choose as their majors."

Pre-conference Yucatan Field Trip

continued from page 14

ing on Isla Mujeres.

The cost of the field trip is \$1,095, which includes round trip airfare from San Antonio to Cancun, five nights hotel accommodations, entrance fees to attractions, ground transportation, a barracuda fishing and snorkeling trip, ferry travel, four to six meals, and all tips to drivers, hotel maids, and baggage handlers. There is room for a maximum of 30 participants for the Yucatan field trip and the final deadline for signing up is February 1, 2003.

Internship News

SWT Geography Receives Recognition from TCEQ Internship Program

Mark Carter

The SWT Geography Department recently received recognition from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission TNRCC, now the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), for having the largest number of students selected for the Mickey Leland Environmental Summer Internship Scholarship Program for 2002. This prestigious program was established in 1992 in honor of the late U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland for his efforts to promote a clean and healthy environment. This past summer, TCEQ selected fourteen SWT Geography students through a highly competitive process to explore future career opportunities in the environmental fields by working directly with TCEQ staff employees as well as with other participating agencies. Congratulations to these SWT Geography students on their success in assisting TCEQ, Travis County, and the Texas Railroad Commission with environmental issues while getting an overview of environmental enforcement and com-

pliance careers. TNRCC: Anna Burchert - Information Resources; Heidi Carlin - Water Supply; Jessica Morgan - Monitoring Operations; Brandon Smith - Strategic Assessment; Graciela Juarez - Small Business and Environmental Assistance; Ionara De Lima, Meredith Green, and Bernadette Marion - Registration, Review and Reporting; Mario Santarsiere - Air Permits; Sara Gagliardi, Jennifer Rice and Lori Briden- Enforcement. Travis County: Amanda Gabrielson. Texas Railroad Commission: Barry Kolarik. Special thanks also to Ms. Debra Cyphers, TCEQ Human Resources and Staff Development Division, for her assistance with application processing and placement. For more information about the SWT Geography Internship Program, including links to the Mickey Leland Summer Internship Scholarship Program and other potential internship opportunities visit www.courseinfo.mediasrv.swt.edu/courses/GEO4380-mc12/ and log in as "Guest."

Mickey Leland Scholarships at TCEQ

Bernadette Marion, Meredith Greene, and Ionara DeLima

The Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program provides summer internship opportunities for minorities, women, and economically disadvantaged students pursuing environmental, engineering, science-related, and public administration careers at colleges and universities across the United States. Established in 1992 by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC, now TCEQ -- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) in partnership with other Texas agencies and numerous private corporations, the purpose of the program is to expose undergraduate and graduate students to environmental issues and give them opportunities to gain professional experience. Most interns actually work on the central Texas TCEQ campus in North Austin. Others participate in private and state agencies across Texas. Interns are compensated for their contributions to the work-place. More important, however, the program develops a diversified work force within Texas' environmental agencies and private corporations by promoting employment opportunities for students exploring future professional opportunities in the environmental fields.

Under the supervision of Geography Graduate student and full-time TCEQ employee, Joseph Rincon, SWT Geography graduate students Ionara De Lima, Meredith Greene, and Bernadette Marion enjoyed the privilege of participating in the program at the Austin TCEQ campus. We were employed as GIS technicians in the IT section of the Office of Permitting, Registration and Remediation (OPPR). Among a variety of other responsibilities, OPPR manages the major database projects for the agency. One goal of OPPR is to spatially enable elements migrated into the database system to be accessed via a GIS interface. Our primary duties were to examine and create the spatial component of various entities regulated by the TCEQ. This task was vital to the agency as the spatially accurate data we created for the project would eventually be migrated into a single centralized agency database for use by all TCEQ employees and others connected to environmental regulation. More important, this experience contributed to our professional development. We gained a better understanding of the application of GIS within the environmental regulatory field, and we built relationships with other professionals in the agency.

Internship and Career Info Now on the Web!

Mark Carter

Current and prospective SWT Geography students can now get information about our Internship Program, as well as Geography Career Information by connecting to <http://courseinfo.mediasrv.swt.edu/courses/GEO4380-mc12/> and log-in as "Guest" or link from the main SWT Geography Website at: www.geo.swt.edu.

The Geography Internship and Career Web site now includes internship guidelines and applications, information for potential intern-

ship sponsors, and other related materials as pdf documents. Be sure to check the "Internship & Career Opportunities" folder. Although some of these postings may be out of date, they provide contacts and great "starting points" for possible internship and employment positions. Finally, the "External Links" section of the SWT Geography Web site provides links to past and potential internship and employment offerings, as well as links to Web sites with specific career information.

GIS Internship at LBJ National Historical Park

Jessica Mefford

This summer I had the pleasure of working with the National Park Service at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park in Johnson City. I was hired on a temporary appointment as a GS-07 Cartographic Technician. The purpose of my position was to perform a wide variety of tasks involved in the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) database for the park.

My duties involved digital data collection from outside sources including the National Forest Service, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (now TCEQ), and the United States Geological Survey. Data collection also took place in the form of field mapping techniques using the global positioning

system (GPS). I also created metadata for these GPS-derived layers. The data will serve as base maps for various types of display. Other data themes were developed that will assist the park in decision making for resources management.

This experience was my first in creating a GIS database, which increased my understanding of GIS because I learned firsthand how information is collected and how data are incorporated into a GIS. I am grateful to the National Park Service, specifically the Division of Resources Management and Visitor Protection at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, for providing me with this wonderful opportunity.

Student Organizations

The Graduate Student Journey

Cathy Springer and Allison Thompson

The Graduate Student Forum (GSF) is an organization for geography graduate students that strives to enhance the educational experiences and professional development of graduate students in the Department of Geography as they journey toward advanced degrees in geography. Graduate Student Forum co-Presidents for the 2002–2003 academic year are Ph.D. student Cathy Springer and MAG student Allison Thompson. Dr. Fred Shelley continues in his outstanding service and leadership as the faculty advisor for GSF. This year, the Graduate Student Forum is committed to three goals: communication, collaboration, and commitment to professionalism. All Graduate Student Forum activities and services are aimed at achieving these goals.

The forum serves as a voice for graduate students by acting as a bridge between graduate students and SWT Geography faculty and staff. To help achieve the goal of communication, the forum elects student representatives to serve on the Graduate Committee and to attend faculty meetings. This year, Ph.D. student Jonathan Herbert, and M.S. student Ginger Root will serve as Graduate Forum Student representatives to the faculty. The GSF is also updating its Web site in order to provide a place where graduate students may voice their concerns or questions about graduate programs and may communicate with the student represen-

*"It is good to have an end to journey toward;
but it is the journey that matters in the end."*

Ursula K. LeGuin

tatives, Jonathan and Ginger.

The GSF promotes collaboration along two avenues: the first being between all geography organizations, and the second between all graduate students. The forum participated in a department-wide social and picnic on Sunday, September 15 with all five geography organizations. The forum also sponsors social events that allow graduate students to meet and get to know each other better. Look for the "Full Moon Float" down the San Marcos River on October 18. To further facilitate student collaboration, the forum is designing a link on its Web site for graduate students to view the research interests of other graduate students so students with similar interests can collaborate and work together. The forum also provides information to incoming masters and Ph.D. students, and to undergraduate students interested in entering the graduate program. This summer, a welcome packet was organized by the Graduate Student Forum and issued to incoming graduate students. Information about the GRE and entering graduate school is posted on the GSF bulletin board in the Department.

The forum provides opportunities for professional development in service and scholarship. These events allow graduate students to meet other professionals in their field of study. This semester's volunteer opportunities include a Nature Conservancy habitat clean up at Barton Creek Habitat Preserve in Austin on September 28, a Southwestern Division Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) retreat at University Park on November 5, and the annual department Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner on Tuesday, November 26. In addition, the Graduate Student Forum Library Committee has been formed to help organize the department library, which is for graduate student and faculty use. Committee members are Aimee Elbrecht, Pam Marsh, Collin McCormick, and Charlotte Samis.

The Graduate Student Forum is dedicated to helping students through the graduate school journey. SWT Geography offers an array of opportunities for the professional development of graduate students. We encourage all the graduate students to take advantage of these many opportunities – you are here for only a short while (at least you hope so!). If you have any questions about GSF activities or about joining us on the graduate school journey, please contact Allison Thompson, Cathy Springer, Dr. Fred Shelley, or Allison Glass. Have a splendid year!

The Student Planning Organization

Mark Horner

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself to the SWT geography community; not only as a new faculty member, but as faculty advisor to our Student Planning Organization (SPO). My background is in urban geography, transportation, and GIS. Over the fall semester, I will work with students and faculty to chart out a course for SPO. I look forward to building an active organization together, which will serve as a focal point for those interested in planning issues.

Fortunately, given our setting in the Austin-San Antonio corridor, we will never run out of interesting planning issues! From transportation and congestion, to land use change and historic preservation, to environmental quality...this place has it all. I hope SPO will take advantage of these opportunities and get involved locally.

Besides holding meetings to facilitate the exchange of ideas among students, I envision

SPO hosting visiting professionals from nearby agencies, firms, and universities to hear their perspectives on the field. Similarly, members of SPO might be interested in visiting local planning firms. I would also like to see members of SPO participate in our Texas Chapter of the American Planning Organization through paper presentations, as well as at sponsored planning sessions at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting.

I encourage those interested in SPO to contact me directly at mh49@swt.edu. I am especially interested in having suggestions from students about how SPO could best serve them. Department alumni working in the field interested in speaking at a meeting of SPO, or those with insights into planning employment opportunities are urged to contact me as well.

The first meeting of SPO will be on Monday, October 28 at 5:30 pm in ELA 316. Hope to see you there!

Gamma Theta Upsilon Registers Voters

Jennifer Rice

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) is off to a great year with the completion of a very successful Voter Registration Drive at the LBJ Student Center and on the Quad. Nearly 200 students were registered in the two days, and they were given information about the upcoming November 5 statewide and local elections. Several members participated in the drive, including Barry Kolarik, Melody Smith, Ben Urbanczyk, Amylia Williams, Ginger Root, and Jennifer Rice.

GTU also just elected two new officers -- Ben Urbanczyk, historian secretary, and Amylia Williams, membership secretary. The current president is Jennifer Rice and the Vice President is Emily Gonzales. GTU has several other activities planned for this semester, including a power plant tour, river clean up, and Geography Awareness Week activities. GTU is also

Continued on page 19

Student Organizations

NAEP Members Work for the Environment

Graciela Juarez

The student chapter of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) at SWT is an environmentally conscience student organization that strives to support environmental stewardship and provides professional resources and opportunities for members. In this manner, we will encourage academic and career development beyond the classroom, resulting in students with leadership abilities and applied experience. Through cooperation with the SWT administration, the Department of Geography, and other organizations, NAEP aims to increase awareness of environmental issues and actively encourage and promote environmental responsibility on campus and in our world.

NAEP typically meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Evans Liberal Arts Building during fall and spring semesters. Check the NAEP bulletin board in the hall of the first floor of the Evans Liberal Arts Building across from the Geography Department main office, Room 139. NAEP meetings include announcements about upcoming events, brainstorming, and planning sessions for future events as well as informative guest speakers. Past guests speakers have included representatives from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Save Our Springs Alliance, and the San Marcos River Foundation. Projects to look forward to include: restoration and trail work; continuing management and expansion of campus wide recycling bins; Geography Awareness Week;

Texas Recycles Day event; planning and landscaping work on our beautiful new garden on the south side of the Evans Liberal Arts Building; lobbying for the Environmental Service Fee Bill; pursuing the development of an Environmental Management System at SWT; Earth Day Event; Beach Clean-Up at the Texas Coast; San Marcos River Clean-Up; nature walks; camping trips; bonfires and cookouts; participation in regional conferences; Geography Department Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration; collaborative activities with other SWT Geography Department student organizations -- GTU, SWIG and the Graduate Student Forum; collaborative activities with San Marcos community organizations such as the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance.

Membership in NAEP is open to all SWT students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the San Marcos Community, interested in helping NAEP achieve its goals of increasing environmental awareness and responsibility. NAEP officers for the academic year 2002 - 2003 are Graciela Juarez, President (gj1003@swt.edu), Lori Briden, Vice President (queenlapeaches@yahoo.com), Mikaila Bell, Secretary (kali@swt.edu), Natalie Mazakeri, Treasurer (nm47836@swt.edu), and Professor Mark Carter, Faculty Advisor (mc12@swt.edu). Thanks to our members in the past NAEP is a strong and determined organization able to assist the production of multidisciplinary professionals.

SWIG Offers Something for Everyone!

Ginger Root

Over the years, Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG) has become an important component of the geography graduate program at SWT. This year, president Meredith Greene and vice presidents Ginger Root and Bernie Marion are determined to increase undergraduate and male membership. SWIG is committed to making the organization an integral piece of everyone's SWT Geography experience by providing professional development workshops, social and professional networking, and volunteer opportunities. September and early October events included participating in the Geography Organization Picnic on September 15, trash pick-up at the Nature Conservancy Barton Creek Habitat Preserve on September 28, hosting an Internship Round-up on September 30, and providing a workshop by Dr. Joanna Crowe on grant-writing. SWIG members are most excited about their upcoming Women's Retreat on Tuesday, November 5, the evening before the SWAAG conference begins in Laredo. SWIG invites female geographers attending SWAAG, from SWT and other universities, to spend the night at University Camp in San Marcos to discuss women's and professional issues and to brainstorm ways to strengthen SWIG organizations and general support for women. If you are interested in the Women's Retreat or other SWIG events, please email Meredith Greene (mgreene@swt.edu), Bernie Marion (bernie@swt.edu), Ginger Root (gingerroot@swt.edu), or faculty sponsors, Dr. Fred Shelley (fs03@swt.edu) or Dr. Debbie Bryan (db33@swt.edu). Information is also available at <http://www.geo.swt.edu/studentorgs/SWIG/index.html>.



Allison Glass and Carol Sawyer welcome new masters and Ph.D. students at the Graduate Student Picnic in August.

Amanda Ross

continued from page 6

education. Her master's thesis, "Window Into Wilderness: A Content Analysis of Texas Parks and Wildlife Web sites," was an evaluation of these Web sites, and assessed how they can better be used for environmental education. As a graduate assistant, she worked with Dr. Brock Brown of SWT Geography in the "Step up to Geography" program. This program works with educators in the Rio Grande Valley to improve geographic education.

As the Environmental Education Specialist for Texas Watch, Amanda focuses on the development of watershed survey curriculum for students, mostly in high school and junior high school. Some programs are geared specifically toward students in the primary grades, such as September's Groundwater Festival at Aquarena Springs in San Marcos. This program was designed to educate children in grades 2-4 about groundwater. The Texas Watch program focused on nonpoint source pollution.

Amanda enjoys her work because her position has the potential to inform so many teachers, students, and adults about environmental awareness. We are glad to have you in the department, Amanda!

GTU News

continued from page 18

helping with the Evans Beautification Project as well as the volunteer recycling bins. Anyone interested in participating in GTU activities is welcome to attend meetings that are held each month on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 5:00 pm in ELA 311 or email GTU at gtu@geo.swt.edu.

**Check out our
award-winning
Web site today!
www.geo.swt.edu**

Scholarships & Awards

President Supple Receives the First Spirit of Geography Award

Lawrence Estaville



At its 2002 Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, SWT Geography presented former President Jerome Supple with its first ever Spirit of Geography Award, the department's most important award. The Spirit of Geography Award honors President Supple's deep commitment in promoting and supporting the discipline of Geography, particularly SWT's Department of Geography.

During his tenure as SWT's president, Dr. Supple envisioned and led in building one of the most outstanding Geography Ph.D. programs in the nation. Through his unwavering support, SWT Geography successfully established SWT's first two Ph.D. programs—one in Environmental Geography and one in Geographic Education. After a five-year review of these doctoral programs in which the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board praised highly SWT Geography's programs as national models and centers of excellence, the Coordinating Board unanimously approved SWT Geography's third Ph.D. program in Geographic Information Science. Without President Jerome Supple's vision and leadership, these three nationally recognized doctoral programs would not have come to fruition. SWT Geography will always hold President Supple dear in our hearts!

Michael Young Honored with Graduate Seminar Room

Lawrence Estaville



The Department of Geography honored Michael Young (Alumnus, 1971) by naming its graduate seminar room the Michael

Young Graduate Seminar Room. SWT President Jerome Supple, Vice President Gerald Hill, and Department Chair Lawrence Estaville unveiled the bronze plaque on the door of the seminar room at a ceremony during the 2002 Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration. This is the first time the Department has honored anyone with the naming of a room. President Supple, VP Hill, and Chair Estaville all praised Young's support of the Department's student scholarship program. Young has given the Department \$100,000 to match the funding of 20 scholarships initially established with SWT Geography Faculty donations. This collaboration of a Geography alumnus and faculty members will ensure that future SWT Geography students will have funding for their educational pursuits. Let's thank very sincerely Michael Young and our SWT Geography faculty for their truly spectacular student support!

Geography Award & Scholarship Recipients For 2002

Scholarships

- A.E & Alvina Beckworth Geography Scholarship, *Betsy I. Levy*
- Alice Rechlin Perkins Graduate Scholarship in Geographic Education, *Ellen J. Foster*
- Allen D. Hellman Scholarship in Geography, *Shanlanski White*
- Amita Malwade Graduate Scholarship in Human Geography, *Brian Plaster*
- B.J. Eytton Undergraduate A.A.G. Travel Scholarship, *Trent Botkin*
- Blanchard Geography Scholarship, *Ryan Weichelt*
- Bruce Lee Augustin Undergrad Geography Scholarship, *Jacob Kubena*
- Donna Rankin Jeffries Undergraduate Scholarship, *Kayla Bryson*
- Four Brothers Scholarship in Geography, *Johnathan Herbert*
- Frank & Ivy Boehm Geography Scholarship, *Jennifer Petrzelka*
- George D. Battle Scholarship in Climatology/Costal Geography, *Jessica Morgan*
- Hilmar W. & Alta R. Hageman Family Endowed Scholarship, *Heidi Carlin*
- Hodges-Padilla Dissertation Research Scholarship, *Ginger Schmid*
- Irene L. Wahl Geography Scholarship, *Emily McEverson*
- Joe & Jerry Moore Scholarship in Water Resources, *Anna Ludwig*
- Leif Anenson Geography Scholarship, *Cheryl Lynn Barnes Krawietz*
- Mao-Geng Zhan Scholarship for Academic Excellence in Geography, *David Rutherford*
- Martha Sue Baker Morrow Scholarship in Secondary Geography Teaching, *Melissa Kamenzind*
- Natural Hazards Scholarship, *Caroline B. Hatfield*
- Peggy Steele Clay Pre-Service Teacher in Geography Scholarship, *Sarah Ann Cummings*
- Phillip A. Staskus Undergraduate Geography Scholarship, *Christopher James Schacklett*
- Ray & Marian Butler Environmental Geography Scholarship, *Lynn Resler*
- Richard A. Earl Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Scholarship, *Jennifer Rice*
- Ross Kimmel, Jr. Undergraduate Scholarship in Nature & Heritage Tourism, *Mario Mata, Jr.*
- Roy H. Touchstone Graduate Scholarship in Nature & Heritage Tourism, *Allison Thompson*
- Sally Ann Karnau Geography Dissertation Research Scholarship, *Paul Nagel*
- Sally Ann Karnau Geography Scholarship, *Trish Thode*
- Spirit of Geography Scholarship, *Graciela Juarez*
- The Adriana Samantha Visser Memorial Scholarship, *Robin D. Berry*

Awards

- Spirit of Geography Award, *Jerome H. Supple*
- Outstanding Leadership Awards, *Ann Marie Ellis, Susan Cutter & Reginald G. Gollledge*
- Distinguished Alumni Award, *Sandra Villalobos*
- Outstanding Staff Support Award, *Deborah McDaniel & Debra Banks*
- Cooperating Teacher Recognition Awards, *Rhonda Marquardt & Robert Partida*
- Department Outstanding Service Award, *Judy Behrens, Brock Brown, Allison Glass, & Fred Shelly*
- ESRI Award for Excellence in GIS, *Bond Aaron Harper & David Stinchcomb*
- Gamma Theta Upsilon Outstanding Service Award, *Ben Urbanezyk*
- Geography Outstanding Graduate Student, *Lydia Bean*
- Geography Outstanding Senior, *Todd Curry*
- Graduate Award for Department Service, *Melissa Gray, Miranda Lewitsky, Lynn Resler, Amanda Ross, Jamie Smelser, & Ronald Stephenson*
- Graduate Student Forum Outstanding Faculty Award, *David Stea*
- GTU Award for Excellence in Geography, *Sarah Ann Cummings & Nancy Middlebrook*
- John Wiley Graduate Award, *Jamie Smelser*
- John Wiley Undergraduate Award, *Todd Curry*
- MAPSCO Quality Award in Geography, *David Jordan & Holly Mittel*
- McGraw-Hill Education Excellence in Geography Graduate Award, *Melissa Gray*
- NAEP Anne Marie Calley-Sims Award for Outstanding Service, *Deb Bomar & Wayne Simonies*
- NCGE/AAG Outstanding Senior, *Ginger Root*
- Rand McNally Award for Academic Achievement, *Linda Prosperie & David Taylor*
- Supporting Women in Geography, *Lydia Bean*
- TAGE Elizabeth Sterry Award for Excellence in Geography, *Lydia Bean*
- Thomson-Brooks/Cole Outstanding Nontraditional Graduate Geography Student Award, *David Rutherford*
- Thomson-Brooks/Cole Outstanding Nontraditional Undergraduate Geography Student Award, *Sam Helmle*
- Undergraduate Award for Department Service, *Deb Bomar, Trent Botkin, Sarah Ann Cummings, & Jennifer Rice*
- Prentice Hall Outstanding Graduate Student Publication Award, *William Monfredo & Forrest Wilkerson*
- Prentice Hall Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, *Ginger Schmid*
- McGraw-Hill Higher Education Excellence in Geography Award, *Amanda Romero*

Student News

International Students Hold Discussion Forum

Jessica Mefford

The SWT Department of Geography has a growing number of international students at all levels of its programs. Recently, the department chose to highlight some of our international students. These students gathered as part



Guangyu Wu
China

of a forum to discuss their experiences in the United States, Texas, SWT, and specifically the Geography Department. Students shared their own anecdotes about adjusting to the climate, culture, Department, and even the grocery stores. All participants are SWT Geography Ph.D. students: Dawna Cerney and Charlotte Samis, both of Canada, Guangyu Wu and Xiaomin Qui of China, Darlene Occena-Gutierrez of the Philippines, and Jonathan Herbert from the United Kingdom.



Xiaomin Qui
China

Dawna's first comments, "Wow, is it ever hot here!" addressed the heat she experienced when she arrived in Texas on August 27 of this year. Several of the students shared this sentiment. Charlotte, also from Canada, finds this area to be very moist. Charlotte has a unique northern perspective. She worked as a park planner in a very isolated region of northern Alberta. While there, she said that they received isolation pay, as the area was very remote and prone to natural hazards, especially elk and moose collisions with vehicles.

Guangyu arrived here last October from southern China. He is from a region that experiences monsoons, so he finds this area very arid. He loves the SWT campus because of the idyllic setting created by the river. He often enjoys relaxing at the riverside under the shade of trees. Guangyu, Xiaomin, and

Dawna Cerney
Canada

Darlene all commented on the sun's intensity. In their native countries it is custom to carry a parasol to shade one from the sun. They said they haven't done this here because they see no one else carrying a parasol, so they tolerate the sun. Perhaps we should grasp this health-conscious custom!

Purchasing food in the United States, particularly in Texas has been a new experience for the international students. Depending on their country of origin, they have varied opinions on the prices and food options available here in San Marcos. Dawna and Guangyu agree that food prices here are high relative to what they are accustomed to. Jonathan, on the other hand, finds food and expenses, including rent, to be more affordable than in England. Guangyu and Xiaomin say they can't get used to all the hamburgers and fried chicken that people eat here. They prefer to cook rice and vegetables at home.

Most students felt disadvantaged when they first arrived in the United States because their native currency was not worth as much here. Darlene commented that the exchange rates are especially disadvantageous for Asians and Mexicans. Charlotte commented that once they earned American money, this disparity was erased.

Nearly all the international students agreed that people are especially friendly in San Marcos. Charlotte lived in Idaho before moving here, she also shared that she has moved 55 times since age 18, and she finds people to be much more agreeable in Texas. Dawna finds people's friendliness sometimes exhaustive; she cannot believe the lengths of the e-mails she receives. She finds herself sometimes saying "Enough already. Get to the point."

Darlene came to SWT from Manila, on the largest of the Philippine Islands. In the Philippines, people travel between the 7,000 islands



Darlene
Occena-Gutierrez
Philippines



Charlotte Samis
Canada

by boat and airplane. She finds that the separation both isolates as well as unites the population. People do not travel often alone in automobiles; between islands they travel with other people. She has used email as a primary means of communication with friends and colleagues. She is originally from central Philippines, and was most recently studying in Manila. The journey from the southern islands in the Philippines to the northern islands takes three days by boat. Now that's a commute!

Language has been an issue of concern for some international students. Students from China and the Philippines, where English is not the primary language, received extensive training in English prior to coming to the United States. The transition from learning English in their native countries to actually speaking English in the United States has been difficult for some. Guangyu received ten years of English training in China, and he still feels that there is a language barrier between him and the general population. He feels he has made improvements during his ten months here. Xiaomin, also from



Jonathan Herbert
United Kingdom

China has been in the United States for over a year, and she has now been able to surpass much of the language barrier.

Students from all countries found similar differences in education between the United States and their native countries. One reaction that all students shared was surprise at the interactive nature of their classes. Guangyu and Jonathan agreed that in their experiences the classroom setting consisted of the professor lecturing while students listened passively. Darlene noted that the Philippine education system was modeled closely after the American system. Darlene received an M.S. in Geography from the National University of the Philippines. She chose to continue her education in the United States because the Philippines does not currently offer a Ph.D. in Geography. All students are excited to be studying in the United States; each student was drawn here for different reasons. Several students commented on the warm welcome extended to them by faculty and students of the department, notably Dr. Fred Shelley, when they were considering the SWT geography program.

Across the U.S.

Yellow Stones and Falls of Water

Mark Fonstad

Rivers are some of the most innately geographic phenomena I can imagine. As they flow from on high and collect more and more water, they begin to expend energy on the earth around them. We see it all around us, from the sounds of a babbling brook to the awesome canyon-carving power of a river in flood, rivers expend their energy in strange and mysterious ways. One of the best and most wondrous places on earth to discover how and where rivers go about expending their energy is in Yellowstone National Park, the mountainous



Fairy Falls

northwest corner of Wyoming where rivers behave more like strange animals with watery teeth than the local stream in the garden. For more than two years, I have been exploring this uncommon "energy landscape" using technologies ranging from the simple hand level to the most exquisitely designed imaging spectrometers and airborne hyperspectral instruments ever designed for remotely sensing the spatial behavior of a river. Unfortunately (or not), the natural phenomenon most resistant to our "new viewing" is the waterfall; its near-vertical plane mocks our attempts to view it from above or from within (even though I have a few fearsome field assistants), and it confounds the best mathematical models developed for the remainder of the river.

Some of the falls are caused by resistant layers or shafts or resistant rock. Some are due to the stream cutting into its own valley; the primary cut starts downstream and moves upstream, a process known as knickpoint migration. The long-term reason for this water-sculpted landscape is that it is an extremely new region at high elevation, made of loose material and subject to dramatic rainfall. The reality is that the actual local cause of most of the known waterfalls in Yellowstone is unknown. The geography of these waterfall-forming processes is not understood at all, and we certainly don't know how to predict their future behavior very well. Why this particular number of falls? What underlies their size distribution? How are they related to present-day patterns of energy expenditure? How long have they lasted? What is their destiny? Who among us will be the first to understand?

Today, there are about 300 named waterfalls in Yellowstone National Park. The area to the southeast of Yellowstone Lake, the

Thorofare, is one of the most isolated places in America. Nestled between the imposing Absaroka Mountain Range and a vast lake it, is extremely difficult to reach, even with time and money. There may be very few waterfalls in this area, or hundreds. Backcountry camping outside of a few designated sites is not allowed, and there are no highways anywhere close to the region. The maps of the region, including the USGS topographic maps and national park maps, are vaguely unspecific about the important locales within, and a person would have a hard time finding many pho-

tos of the region from any source. Many people, including myself, hope that large areas of Yellowstone like the Thorofare remain reasonably unexplored and untouched. In the grand scheme of things, they are small areas and are no more or less important than anywhere else in the park. However, these small areas remind us of the need for blank places on the map or where the ancient mapmakers used to write "Here be Dragons." It is my opinion that one day a final tally of waterfalls in Yellowstone will top six or seven hundred.

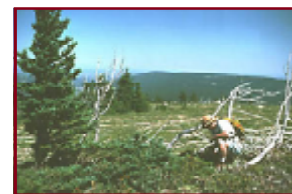
For the remainder of Yellowstone, we have viewed the river with unprecedented accuracy and resolution. The spatial diversity of both river forms and the diversity of spatial changes in the rivers are exceptional, even when compared with other mountain rivers. Classical theories of energy being expended gradually and uniformly down the length of the river (derived from lowland river measurements) fail utterly in Yellowstone; in fact, a simple random number generator can often predict the variability of the power in the rivers more accurately. Back to the drawing board.

As I was wandering downstream along the Yellowstone River, I saw a young girl, perhaps five years old, who was pointing to a hydraulic jump in the river and laughing with a certain lightness of being. The graceful arc of the water being released from its bedrock-confined state turned into a thousand little water droplets dancing in unison as they sprayed across the river surface. For some reason, the arc of water pulsed like a heartbeat every few seconds and made a low, growling sound between the trees. The girl looked up at me and smiled with bright teeth shone. I asked her why she was laughing and she said, "I like the way the water looks!"

So did I.

Glacier National Park News

David Butler



I carried out fieldwork in Glacier Park, Montana, in July and August of this past summer. My research, funded by the U.S. Geological Survey, is examining the role of landforms and soils in determining the location of upward migration of alpine treeline. Doctoral student Lynn Resler, also partially funded by the grant, is examining the role of nurse microtopography in determining where tree invasion occurs in the alpine tundra above treeline. Lynn was also supported during the summer through the National Park Service's "Geoscientist in the Parks" program, for which she assisted U.S.G.S. personnel in the field on projects such as snow and water sampling, among many. Doctoral students Forrest Wilkerson and Ginger Schmid have also worked on aspects of the alpine treeline project in past summers and are currently working on their dissertations resulting from that work.

Publications from the alpine treeline project have appeared or been accepted in several international journals, including *Geomorphology*, *Catena*, *Physical Geography*, and *Geocarto International*, as well as in several book chapters. I also spent several days collecting data on the effects of beaver dams and beaver dam failures on sediment storage in watersheds in eastern Glacier Park. I presented the results of that research at the 2002 Binghamton International Geomorphology Symposium in October.

In late August, I returned to Glacier Park at the invitation of the National Park Service to participate in an international Geoscientist Scoping Meeting for Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Geoscientist Scoping Meetings, sponsored by the International Union of Geological Sciences, examine the effects of changing climates on significant geomorphic and geologic processes in the national parks. I was asked to give a presentation on "Dynamic Surface Processes in Waterton-Glacier," drawing on his more than 25 years of experience in the area. I also was a co-leader of an all-day field trip that included stops throughout both Glacier and Waterton Parks, culminating in dinner in Alberta at Waterton Lakes National Park. As noted elsewhere, I returned to Glacier Park in September for several days of fieldwork funded by the National Science Foundation.

Around the World

Geography Field Study Program to Return to Europe

Maria Price

This summer the department 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. This field study is open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

The first Lugano Program was led by Drs. Byron Augustin and Jim Kimmel in summer 1997; it was highly successful and has continued on an every-other-year basis since then. In the summer of 2001, Drs. Rich Earl and Fred Day took 31 students to Lugano. This summer Dr. Day and Dr. John Tiefenbacher 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 during the mornings and explore in



the afternoons. Franklin College, a small international college in a pleasant hillside setting, 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 Tiefenbacher, or www.geo.swt.edu. The trip dates this summer are from May 31 to June 27.

My "Madiba" Memories

Michael Solem

A world traveler would be hard-pressed to discover a landscape as magnificent and beautiful as the environs of Boulder, Colorado, home to my alma mater and – lest we forget – the 2001 Big 12 Conference champions! Yet my recent visit to South Africa was a feast of the senses, full of the loveliest people and tastiest cuisine set amidst an unparalleled natural setting of jagged rocky peaks, windswept capes, and lush rolling vineyards. All of this, plus Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela – "Madiba" – who was there *three seats in front of me* at the Durban International Convention Centre to receive the International Geographical Union (IGU) Planet and Humanity Award.

President Mandela, now 84, walks with the assistance of a cane, yet the man's stature and sheer physical presence en-



Nelson Mandela receives the Planet and Humanity Award from IGU President, Anne Buttiner.

continued on page 24

Reflections of Antarctica

Allison Payton

With today's advanced technology, the world is becoming smaller and smaller. Even so, it takes a 24-hour plane trip to the tip of South America and a solid week on a ship to reach Palmer Station, the smallest and most isolated of the three U.S. research stations in Antarctica. Despite some of the roughest seas in the world, it is a trip well worth the taking. After a couple of days of thirty foot seas, waves become damped by the cover of sea ice and the ship enters a new world. The world is vast, stark, black, bright white, and beautiful. Quiet hours are passed watching seals float by on tablets of ice.

Eventually, a very small bastion of civilization is reached. Palmer Station is comprised of four blue metal buildings and a few other sheds and fuel tanks that are far more functional than aesthetic. The station is located on a small rock outcropping at the foot of a large glacier on Anvers Island, just off the coast of the peninsula. The scientific research practiced across Antarctica is very diverse, ranging from astronomy to psychology, but the vast majority of scientists at Palmer Station are biologists. Palmer Station is the headquarters of the Palmer Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Pro-

gram sponsored by the NSF Office of Polar Programs. The goals of the program are to monitor the marine life in the area and changes in its populations with changes in climate.

Many different species are targeted by the Palmer LTER from tiny phytoplankton and krill, which serve as the base of a relatively short food chain, to penguins, seals, and whales. Significant losses in the ozone layer over Antarctica every spring have affected phytoplankton and krill populations, incurring effects further up the food chain. A warming trend over the past half century has also resulted in a reduction of the sea ice that serves as a breeding and foraging habitat for certain populations of penguins. Populations of the ice-obligate Adelie penguins, which have been the primary inhabitants in the area in the past, are in decline. Taking their place are more and more Chinstrap penguins that prefer open seas. The differences in behavior of the two populations may eventually change the nature of the region's ecosystem permanently.

As climatologists, our research group is at Palmer Station to monitor levels of solar radiation at the glacier and ocean surfaces. Most days are spent near the station maintaining radiom-



eters and collecting ancillary weather data. An occasional hike up the glacier or trip across the water in the station zodiacs allows us to monitor conditions further away from station. The radiation measurements are used to determine ozone levels and the state of the atmosphere with respect to regional and global-scale climate changes. Progress has been made in validating atmospheric models that aid understanding all of the minute interactions of the solar energy with clouds, gases, and other atmospheric components. Eventually we hope to use this information to elucidate the physical mechanisms that are causing changes in the climate and driving disruptions to the ecosystem. This investigation may require another trip to Antarctica – one that will be well worth taking.

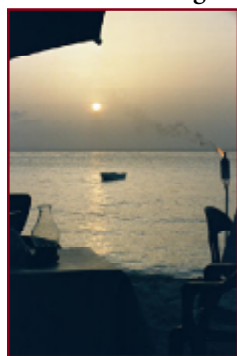
Around the World

Yucatan 2002: A Voyage of Discovery

Byron "Doc" Augustin

On Friday, June 7, my wife Rebecca and I departed San Antonio International Airport with 30 students for a twenty-two day field experience on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. The students enrolled for six hours of credit in two classes, the Geography of Latin America and Regional Field Studies.

By 2:00 pm Friday afternoon our group had checked into the Hotel El Meson del Marques in the charming colonial city of Valladolid. We stayed in Valladolid for twelve days, with classes held in the mornings and evenings while the



temperatures were cooler. Field trips, pool time, and siestas occupied our afternoons.

Some of our major field trips included a visit to Ek Balam, a recently restored Mayan site where we were guided by the Mexican archeologists who have led the restoration efforts. This trip proved to be a great experience for all of us as we were given permission to go into one of the temples that is normally off limits to the public. After a very warm morning at the ruins, the group headed deep into the jungle where we were allowed to swim in a private natural cenote of awesome beauty. For many of the students, it was their favorite experience of the trip.

The group also visited Chichen Itza, the largest Mayan site on the entire Yucatan Peninsula. The students were able to climb the massive El Castillo Pyramid for a dazzling view of the ancient city.

On other afternoons we visited Cenote Zacchi, Convento San Bernadino, and a factory, which makes the ancient Mayan liquor, Xtabentun. Xtabentun was known as the "drink of the Mayan Kings" and was made from fermented honey, from bees, that had collected pollen from the extremely rare Xtabentun flower.

During our stay in Valladolid, the students established strong friendships with some of the local students. They held sessions where the Mexican students practiced their English and our students practiced their Spanish. It was a wonderful cultural exchange, and soon they were watching World Cup Soccer matches together, going to discos, and playing basketball



and soccer.

One of our favorite experiences in Valladolid was an afternoon that we spent with Mr. Tony Aguilar, one of Mexico's most famous baseball players. Tony has been recognized as one of the ten best baseball players in Mexico. Each student received a personally autographed baseball and an opportunity to have their photo taken with Tony.

After Valladolid, we drove deep into the Yucatan rain forest to visit the classic Maya city of Uxmal. We also took a daylong excursion on the Ruta Puuc to observe the Maya ruins of Kabah, Sayil, and Labna before ending the day in Ticul at Restaurante Almendros where we ate the classic Mayan pork dish, Poc Chuc.

Then it was on to Merida (the White City), which is the capital of the State of Yucatan. The students fell in love with this bustling colonial city of more than a million inhabitants. They visited museums, cathedrals, government buildings and the zocalo. They took buggy rides down the spacious Paseo de Montejo and observed the mansions of the old henequen millionaires. However, their favorite day in Merida was Sunday when the city held its fascinating "cultural day" with traditional foods, music, dance, and native arts and crafts.



Our next stop was in Puerto Morelos, a quiet, serene fishing village along the Yucatan's Caribbean coast. The students had the opportunity

to snorkel on a coral reef, which is part of the Mexican National Park system.

We ended our journey on an island that can only be described as a tropical paradise -- Isla Mujeres. We slept in hotel rooms perched on a cliff with the ocean's waves crashing below us. We snorkeled, caught and ate very large barracuda, visited a Maya ruin, an endangered turtle sanctuary, a Mexican Naval Base, and a beautiful beach.

At journey's end, Rebecca and I both agreed that we were fortunate to travel with a group of fun-loving students who were also dedicated to learning as much as possible about the physical and cultural geography of the Yucatan. We were so impressed with this group that we decided to take another group this next year.

"Madiba" Memories

continued from page 23

dures like the statues of Greek antiquity.

How could you not revere this man? Where do we find his ilk among the leadership of our country? Imagine having a U.S. president articulate enough to write his own speeches.

And we did get a speech, a 15-minute portrait of a South African township where there is no clean water, no wood to boil the water, and thus the cholera problem. The force of the story left an imprint on the consciences of the assembled delegates, one that will not be erased until we have truly accomplished the IGU's moral imperative to make the world a better, more humane place in which racism, hunger, poverty, and injustice dissipate in the face of teaching that, as Kropotkin implored for us to do a century ago, we are all brethren, whatever our nationality. For information about the IGU, visit <http://www.igu-net.org/>.

2002 Reunion Review

continued from page 8

ter of the University of South Carolina for their outstanding leadership in the field of geography. Dean Ann Marie Ellis of the College of Liberal Arts was presented with the Outstanding Leadership Award for her continued support of SWT Geography. Sandra Villalobos of the Weather Channel was honored with the Distinguished Outstanding Alumni Award. After the Award Ceremony, participants had the opportunity to participate in one of eight geography workshops including Tours Around the World, a Lovell Center workshop on NASA Imagery and Natural Hazards, the Center for Texas-Mexico Applied Research's Northern Mexico from Gulf to Gulf, Dr. Richard Earl's Job Networking, and a children's workshop.

At the end of the day, everyone headed over to the Pecan Grove at Aquarena Springs. Fuschaks once again provided the delicious bar-b-que for the second year in a row. The night lit up as Cindy Gratz's Sam Houston State dance troupe of hula dancers performed with fire batons. No one should ever underestimate how well some of the professors can hula dance (we especially thank Doc Augustin and Rich Dixon for showing us their Texas rendition of the Hula).

The fun continued as participants danced the night away to the SWT Salsa Band led by John Lopez. Looking back at the Eight Annual of Alumni Reunion, a good time was had by all. We certainly hope to see you and your families at the 9th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 26, 2003!!!

Alumni Bits

Two Geography Alumni Elected to Public Office

Jessica Mefford

SWT Geography graduate (MAG, 2001) Tina Collier was recently elected to the Cedar Park, TX City Council, and Jimmy Tyree was elected to the City Council in Leander, TX. We recently asked Tina to share information with us regarding her public service position. Tina's experience can serve as a model to other geographers interested in public service.

Q: What duties does your job with the City Council entail, and how much time does it involve?

A: The job entails a lot of different activities depending on a person's particular interest or expertise. For instance, my expertise is transportation so I serve on the Transportation/Capital Improvement Subcommittee. The committee keeps other council members apprised of the work that the city staff is doing. I'm also Cedar Park's liaison for Williamson County in the formation of a Regional Mobility Authority and I serve on various regional committees such as CAPCO and CARTPO.

As far as time commitments, it could easily be a full-time job. There are meetings and functions to attend, and, of course, council meetings are the second and fourth Thursday of each month; although, in September we met much more often to work on the budget.

Q: What other vocations are you pursuing?

A: I am currently an Assistant Transportation Researcher at the Texas Transportation Institute, an agency of the Texas A&M University System.

Q: How has your knowledge of geography helped you in your career and public service?

A: My knowledge of geography, and, most importantly, planning have helped me in both respects. It certainly helps to have had a background in planning when discussing ordinances or resolutions that concern zoning and economic development.

Q: What public service opportunities would you suggest to other geographers?

A: I would suggest finding something you like and getting involved. My work started with me serving on the City's General Obligation Bonds Task Force and just progressed from there.

Q: Have any particular experiences or mentors at SWT assisted you in reaching your career goals?

A: Dr. Blanchard-Boehm was my advisor and she helped me use my experience on the Task Force to document citizen involvement for my directed research. I should also point out that she was also Jimmy's advisor. Do you think she is putting a curse on us?

What's New with You!

Joy Adams (MAG, 1999), a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas at Austin, has a one-year visiting faculty appointment at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, teaching human geography including research methods, tourism, historical geography of North America, and world regional geography.

Kathy Alexander (MAG, 2001) is working as a hydrologist for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (new name for TNRCC) in the Water Rights Permitting and Availability Section, Surface Water Availability and Interstate Compacts Team. Her duties include evaluating applications for new and amended water rights using the Water Availability Models developed for the Commission as a result of Senate Bill 1.

Karin Ascot (MAG, 1997) was married in July to Andrea Bongiorno [that's right, there's no S, his name is NOT Andreas!]. They met last year when he was here working for a local trans-

lation agency. She has chaired the local Sierra Club since February 2002 and is also working as a freelance technical translator of German.

Ashley Bailey (B.S., 2001) is a Planner for the City of Chandler, Arizona.

Lydia Lorraine Bean (MAG, 1999; Ph.D., 2002) is Assistant Professor of Geography at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Jon Becker (MAG, 2001) is working as an Environmental Protection Specialist for the U.S. EPA in its Region 4 office in Atlanta. He writes, "I am halfway through a two-year cross-training program for new employees during which I rotate around to different EPA departments to learn about the agency's various roles. I just completed a rotation with EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment in Washington, D.C., and I'm now back in Atlanta doing a rotation with the Geographic Resources Information Team. When my training program is up, I will receive a permanent assignment in Atlanta, most likely doing GIS and/or water quality analysis work."

Wendy Bigler (MAG, 2000) is in her third year in the Ph.D. program in Geography at Arizona State University. She writes, "I am busy at work on my dissertation, "Channel Change and Human Response on the Gila Indian Reservation, Arizona." I spent the summer working as a research assistant at the National Science Foundation with the Geography and Regional Science program directors, Richard Aspinall and Tom Baerwald. We are investigating Geography and Regional Science Program funding trends over the last decade."

Trent Botkin (B.S., 2002) spent the summer of 2002 as a Vegetation Restoration Worker in Yosemite National Park. He entered the Master of Applied Geography program at New Mexico State University. He writes, "I am pursuing a thesis in land restoration management. I currently teach three labs; one introduction to physical geography and two map reading and analysis."

Mike Boyle (B.S., 1997) has been promoted from the Director of Natural Resources to the Managing Principal of the Flagstaff office of SWCA, Inc., an environmental consulting firm. He writes, "That means I now oversee both natural and cultural resources programs. I have 23 employees and average revenues of about \$2.5 million. I have been with SWCA for almost five years since graduating from SWT."

Buck Buchanan (MAG, 1999) is Assistant Professor of Geography at Tomball College in the North Harris-Montgomery Community College District in northwest Houston. In Summer 2002, he developed and implemented the district's first Distance Learning Geography offerings. In summer 2001, he was a "Teacher at Sea" aboard the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s ship *Whiting* conducting hydrographic surveys in Key West, FL and the Charleston "Bump," SC. He received the Tomball College 2001-02 Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award (Social & Health Sciences Division).

Phil Caldwell (MAG, 1999) is a Research Fisheries Biologist with NOAA in Galveston. He writes, "My duties are totally GIS related. Earlier work at our lab centered on producing GIS data for the Essential Fish Habitat efforts. (http://galveston.ssp.nmfs.gov/efh/changes/default_new.htm#Abundance_maps) Recently some of my work was published in a technical paper: Sheridan, P. and P. Caldwell. 2002. Compilation of data sets relevant to the identification of essential fish habitat on the Gulf of Mexico continental shelf and for the estimation of the effects of shrimp trawling gear on habitat. NOAA Technical Memorandum

Alumni Bits

NMFS-SEFSC-483, 56 p. + CD. The data from this document are being used for a pilot project on the Gulf of Mexico, with the National Coastal Data Development Center, Stennis, Mississippi. (www.psisstennis.com/website/efh/viewer.htm). He also utilized a GIS to model marsh edge in an estuarine marsh in Galveston Bay. This work was published in *Ecological Applications*, volume 12, no. 2 (April 2002). He and his colleagues are examining marsh restoration efforts and techniques as related to fisheries on five restoration projects completed in Galveston Bay since 1999. He has also started an internship program in the laboratory. Most of the intern work involves GIS analysis and modeling with estuarine marshes.

Kirk Clennan (B.S., 1985) is Executive Director of the Cedar Park Development Corporation. He and his wife Kelly are proud parents of Ian Landry, who is ten months old and on the verge of walking and talking. He writes, "My wife is a talented cook and wonderful mother. She also has a Master's Degree in Public Administration with other course work in Exercise Physiology from Texas A&M and UT-Tyler respectively. If there are SWT Alumni that ride bicycles, I look forward to seeing them out on the road/trail."

Cary Cochran (B.S., 2001) is an Environmental Scientist with ATC Associates in San Antonio.

Tina Collier (MAG, 2001) was elected to the Cedar Park City Council in May. In July, she was married to Brett Jackson, an engineer from the Federal Highway Administration. She is an Assistant Transportation Researcher at the Texas Transportation Institute.

Melissa Cordell (MAG, 1999) has been working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (formerly the TNRCC) since her graduation from the MAG program. She writes, "I work with the Superfund Site Discovery and Assessment Program of the Remediation Division. I identify and rank sites for remediation under the state and federal Superfund programs. I conduct site assessments to identify sites that may constitute an immediate and substantial endangerment to public health and safety or the environment due to a release or threatened release of hazardous substances. I am the GPS/GIS Coordinator for the Superfund Site Discovery and Assessment Program."

Ken Davis (B.S., 2001) has taken a position with SAM Inc. (Survey and Mapping), a locally-owned Austin photogrammetry company. This company offers opportunities to expand into GIS and more technical photogrammetric

experience. He writes, "My son, Sam, is turning ten years old and takes piano lessons. We often go to the coast and sail on weekends. Our vacation this summer was to Yellowstone, Devil's Tower, and Mount Rushmore." Ken continues to play soccer three times a week and is captain of a local team.

Brian Dopp (B.S., 1999; MAG, 2001) is the owner of Phoenix Disaster Services in San Antonio. His company, which focuses on disaster planning for small and medium-sized communities, now has contracts with five cities and one county. He also publishes and distributes the *Disaster Newsletter*. For information on the company and back issues of the newsletter, visit his Web site at www.pdstx.com.

Daniel Federici (B.S., 1999) is teaching Earth Science and World Cultures at South Brunswick High School in New Jersey.

Kathie (Martel) Goldsmith (MAG, 1998) was married to Richard Goldsmith in June 2002. She is an environmental consultant for a private engineering firm. She writes, "I specialize in air and noise analysis and also in socio-economics and environmental justice issues. I write National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related documents for federally funded medium to large-scale engineering projects (like highways and transmission lines)."

Theresa Grahmann (B.S., 1997) is a Planner for the City of Pearland, Texas.

Lynne Haase (B.S., 1991) has been promoted to the Team Leader position of the Waste Planning Team, Strategic Assessment Division, Texas Council for Environmental Quality (TCEQ). She writes, "The Texas Solid Waste Disposal Act requires the TCEQ to prepare a state solid waste management strategic plan which considers all of the solid wastes under TCEQ's jurisdiction, including hazardous wastes and nonhazardous solid wastes from industrial and municipal sources. This plan is developed by the Waste Planning Team. To support the state planning efforts, the Team administers the Annual Reports Program for Permitted Municipal Solid Waste Facilities which collects data for state and regional planning efforts. A hazardous and nonhazardous waste needs assessment and trends analysis is prepared. The Team also administers the regional municipal solid waste management planning efforts through the state's Councils of Governments, and the \$11 million/year Regional Solid Waste Grants Program which implements the regional plans and many goals of the state plan." The six-member team also includes two other SWT Geography alumni, Joe Walton (B.S., 1991; MAG, 1996) and

Donna Huff (B.S., 1998), who is currently in the MAG program. Current student Brandon Smith served as an intern for the team this past summer.

Tim Haase (B.S., 1991; MAG, 1997) was promoted to Team Leader for the Multimedia Management Information System Team of the Enforcement Division of TCEQ.

Don Hall (B.S., 1996) is currently working as an Agency Business Continuity and Recovery Coordinator for the State Comptroller of Public Accounts. He recently received certification as a Certified Business Continuity Planner. He is also training to complete the 2003 Motorola Marathon.

Alice Jones (MAG, 1992) was promoted to Associate Professor of Geography, with tenure, at Eastern Kentucky University. Her teaching, and research center around watershed management, sustainability, and citizen participation in environmental decision-making.

Chris Kennedy (MAG, 2002) has joined the Peace Corps and is working on planning and urban development issues in Jamaica.

Christine Klingman (B.S., 1992) works for the Austin Fire Department's Planning & Research Section as its only GIS Analyst. She previously spent seven years with the Austin Police Department's 911 Division. She writes that the Fire Department introduced GIS about four years ago, but she is its first full-time GIS analyst. She completed the Department's Operations Map Book and is currently working on a wildland interface project with a grant from FEMA, training maps for operations, Hazardous Materials Incidents mapping, station maps, Hi-Rise Maps, and a Special Operations Mapping Project.

Doris Kraft (MAG, 1997) has gone into free-lance consulting, including managing the Texas Society of Infection Control Practitioners and doing development projects for a Texas foundation. Her daughter, Jamie Kraft, is a senior Geography major at SWT.

Jeff Lash (MAG, 1997; Ph.D. 2001), Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Houston at Clear Lake, won the National Council for Geographic Education's Outstanding Dissertation Award. He was presented the award at the annual meeting of the NCGE in Philadelphia in October.

Jeff Lewellin (B.S., 1986) works for the Texas Council for Environmental Quality, Region 14 in Corpus Christi. He provides over-

Alumni Bits

sight for a 10-person emergency response strike team. He writes, "We have sophisticated equipment for protection (self contained breathing apparatus), and instruments for detecting numerous chemical compounds. We respond to man-made as well as natural disasters. This group of TCEQ staff has an average of approximately 14 years emergency response related experience. We responded to Tropical Storm Allison last year, and this year we have been deployed to three large fixed facility incidents. We work closely with the EPA, USCG and numerous state agencies during large hazmat events or natural disasters." His team includes SWT alumni Kelly Crunk (B.S., 1990) and Chris Caudle, a Biology graduate.

Mike Lindner (MAG, 2000) and his wife, Pepi, had a baby girl, Lua, in June 2001. At a year old, she already knew how to recognize the globe and say, "mundo" (world).

Richard McEntee (B.S., 1999) is a GIS Analyst with the Texas General Land Office.

Scott Medbury (B.S., 1975) reports that his son, Warren, is a freshman computer science student at SWT. Warren is the third generation in his family to attend what his father points out is "the finest place in Texas to attend college." Scott has very generously donated a collection of back issues of the *Annals* and the *Professional Geographer* to the Department's library.

Bill Monfredo (Ph.D., 2002) is Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of New Orleans.

Chuck Mueller (B.S., 1992) has recently been promoted to the position of Assistant Division Director of the Strategic Assessment Division, TCEQ.

Holly (Collier) Mullins (B.S., 1978) is a Senior Planner for the City of San Marcos.

David Murdoch (MAG, 1998) is a senior hydrologist for the Lower Colorado River Authority. He writes, "During the last 8 years here I have been involved in emergency planning, operations of the highland lakes for flood management, water supply, recreation, and hydroelectric production. Most recently, I am involved in stage-discharge rating analysis, which allows some application of my main interest, fluvial geomorphology." He lives with his wife and two sons in Martindale.

Vince Nacewski (B.S., 1987) continues his work as President of BNC along with his partner Joe Cruseturner (B.S., 1988). He writes, "Joe and I at BNC are always looking for

good people to work within our organization. We concentrate on the hydrocarbon world from production to distribution including all aspects of the process. Emergency response, spill management, due diligence, and historical release sites, etc." The company has offices in Georgetown, Dallas, Houston, Midland, and Cushing, OK.

Mike Napier (B.S., 1990) is employed at the Pacific Disaster Center in Maui, Hawaii. He writes, "I am completing the GIS analysis in conjunction with the State of Hawaii Department of Health on the Hawaii Dengue fever outbreak this past year. Our findings will be presented at the Interscience Conference on Anti-microbial Agents and Chemotherapy Sept. 27-30 in San Diego, California. I also participated in the Discovery Channel documentary "Diagnosis Unknown" scheduled to air sometime in the January/March 2003 timeframe." For information on the Pacific Disaster Center, see its Web site at www.pdc.org.

Maggie Patay (B.A., 2000) is completing her two-year assignment in Tanzania with the Peace Corps.

Matt Ramspott (MAG, 2000) was married to Rebecca Bycott on October 5, 2002. He and Becca are both attending the University of Kansas. She is working on her master's degree in American Studies and working at the Lawrence Arts Center. Matt is nearing completion of his course work and conducting research for his Ph.D. dissertation in Geography.

Joe Sackett (B.S., 2001) accepted a position with Swissphoto in Zurich, Switzerland. He and his wife Jessica Fox Sackett (B.A., 2000; M.S. 2002) will be in Switzerland for the next two years.

Dave Taylor (B.S., 2001) is working for the Worldwatch Institute in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Taylor (B.S., 2000) continues her work with Howrey, Simon, Arnold & White, LLP in Houston. HSAW is the world's largest intellectual property law firm. She maintains the annuities and maintenance fees when they become due for their clients' patents on a global scale. She has also enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserves as a Marine Science Technician.

Scott Walker (MAG, 1997) is wrapping up his dissertation for a Sci.Ed.D. at Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Western Australia. In the meantime, he has started the first online degree program at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio where he works as an instruc-

tor. His latest endeavor is writing a National Science Foundation grant to teach teachers GIS in order to advance technology use in science education in the San Antonio area. Scott still lives in San Marcos with his wife and two children.

Megan Webster (B.A., 2002) is teaching advanced placement geography at Richardson Junior High School in Richardson, Texas.

Ed Wilcut (B.A., 1997; MAG 2000) was promoted to Conservation Planner IV in charge of Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Conservation Programs for the San Antonio Water System.

Peggy Wittie (MAG, 1991) has received a promotion within Texas Department of Health to an Epidemiologist II position in Bioterrorism.

Jessica Woods (MAG, 2000) is working for the City of Austin's Water Conservation Program as a Conservation Program Associate and Licensed Landscape Irrigator, focusing mainly on Austin's commercial water customers. Her son Owen is now two years old, and she and her husband are expecting another baby in November.

Sam Woods (B.A. 1991; MAG 1997) is Director of the Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in Lubbock, Texas. The MPO is responsible for coordinating transportation planning for the Lubbock area.

Pamela Wridt (MAG, 1997), a Ph.D. candidate at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, received the Kenneth B. and Mamie Phipps Clark Fellowship for her research on "The Historical Geography of Childhood in Yorkville and East Harlem, 1940s to 2000s." Her dissertation will focus on three generations of children's experiences of space and place in a public housing development.

Attention All Alumni
We would like to hear from you!

Keep the Department, and your fellow alumni, informed about professional and personal milestones in future issues of the Newsletter.

Please contact Fred Shelley at fs03@swt.edu TODAY!

Alumni Information Update Form

Please email the following information to Dr. Fred Shelley at fs03@swt.edu.

Name: _____

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

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Place of Employment: _____ Job Title: _____

Work Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Family, Special Interests, and Other Information: _____

Personal Reminiscences or Recommendations: _____

Have you given us your current business card? NO? Why not send us one today!

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

9th Annual Alumni Reunion Advanced Registration Form

SWT Department of Geography 9th Annual Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration Saturday, April 26, 2003

Name(s) of Registrant(s): _____

Address: _____

Day phone: _____

Evening phone: _____

Email: _____

Fax: _____

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

1) SWT Geography Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Staff:

\$10 for BBQ unless you attend (check box if you will attend):

Awards Presentation, then \$5 for BBQ

or

Scholarships Presentation, then \$5 for BBQ

or

Both Awards and Scholarships Presentations, then the BBQ is FREE!!!

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

2) Friends of Geography: \$10 for BBQ

Number of Friends of Geography registrations on this form: _____

3) Children under 12 are Free for BBQ

Number of children under 12 registrations on this form: _____

Total number of people registered on this form: _____

Method of payment (circle one): Cash

Check

Credit Card (Mastercard or Visa)

Credit Card Number (if applicable): _____

Expiration Date (if applicable): _____

Signature (credit cards only): _____

Total amount included with this registration form: \$ _____

Return this form to:

Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration

ATTN: Angelika Lester

Department of Geography

Southwest Texas State University

San Marcos, Texas 78666

Phone: (512) 245-1334 FAX: (512) 245-8353

Email: angelika@swt.edu