

# SWT Geography GeoNews

Southwest Texas State University Department of Geography Newsletter • Vol. 9, Issue 2, Spring 2003

— *Sharing the Spirit of Geography* —

## Augustin Honored

*Maria Price*

At its Seventh Annual Unity and Friendship Gala at the Houston Intercontinental Hotel, The Arab-American Cultural and Community Center of Houston, Texas, honored Dr. Byron Augustin, Professor of Geography at Southwest Texas State University. Dr. Augustin and Mr. Nijad Fares, a prominent Arab American who is Chairman and CEO of Link Group Incorporated, Wedge Equities Incorporated, and Fares Farms Incorporated received the Arab-American



*Nijad Fares, honoree; Malak Fustok, gala chairperson; Dr. Byron Augustin, honoree*

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## Dr. Kim Rossmo, Renowned Crime Fighter, Visits SWT

*Jessica Mefford*



Crime scene locations can provide investigators with important information regarding where an offender may be based. Dr. Kim Rossmo applied this knowledge to

his background in mathematics and criminology to develop a practice now known as "geographic profiling." Geographic profiling applies theories of geography, psychology, and mathematics to analyze crime scene locations. On December 4, 2002 Dr. Rossmo visited SWT and spoke to a full house at SWT's Alkek Teaching Theater. He shared with the audience the value of using geographic profil-

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## Grosvenor Scholars Program Established

*Richard Boehm*



*Gilbert Grosvenor and Richard Boehm*

The Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education in the SWT Department of Geography is pleased to announce the establishment of the Grosvenor Scholars Program. Under this program, Ph.D. students in geographic education will spend 6-8 months, during their 2nd or 3rd year of doctoral studies in Washington, DC at the National Geographic Society (NGS) headquarters. A student will carry out Ph.D.-level research on a topic that is agreed upon by the student, the

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## Texas Center for Geographic Information Science Established

*Lawrence Estaville*

SWT Geography, with the approval of the University and its Board of Regents, has established the Texas Center for Geographic Information Science (TexGIScience). The first director of this important research center is Ben Zhan, who led the department's efforts to establish the center. The TexGIScience Center complements the department's new Ph.D. program in Geographic Information Science (GIScience) and parallels the department's Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education and Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research. Like the Grosvenor and Lovell centers have done in their research areas, the

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## Andrews Presented the 5th Distinguished Lovell Lecture

*E.J. Hanford*



*David Butler presents Sarah Andrews with the Lovell Center Crystal Award*

The James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research hosted the Fifth Annual Distinguished Lovell Lecture on February 13, 2003. Internationally known author and geologist, Sarah Andrews, gave the lecture. Andrews holds a B.A. from Colorado College and an M.S. from Colorado State University. Andrews has received the 2001 National Association of Geoscience Teachers James A. Shea Award, the 1999 American Association of Petroleum Geologists Journalism Award, and the 1997 Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists Journalism Award. Andrews has been inter-

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# Greetings from the Chair

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

Our thoughts and prayers are with our troops overseas and their families

Your SWT Geography Department continues to ROCK! We have a new GIScience Research Center, a new Bachelor of Science in Water Studies, a new Web-based GIS Certificate Program!!! In February, Ben Zhan became the first director of our Texas Center for Geographic Information Science (TexGIScience) that will become internationally recognized for its cutting-edge research in GIS, remote sensing, cartography, visualization, and spatial modeling! Students began entering our new B.S. in Water Studies this spring semester, and Rich Earl, Jim Kimmel, Mark Fonstad, and Joanna Crowe will lead them to their degree goal! Michael Solem led the department's efforts to place our four-course undergraduate GIS sequence on-line so students from all over the nation and, indeed, the world can earn a GIS Certificate via the Internet! Check it out today!

On top of all of this, for the first time in the history of the department, your SWT Geography faculty has now crossed the \$3,000,000 mark in securing grants and contracts during one academic year—and we still have several months to go!! These grant and contract funds are important in supporting our students and bringing in state-of-the-art equipment and software! And, of course, I cannot forget about that "ole Doc" Augustin who we all love and who was honored with the highest award from the Arab-American Culture and Community Center for his critical work in helping bring a better understanding to Americans about Arab cultures and geography! Former President George Bush personally recognized Dr. Augustin for his truly outstanding work on behalf of the world's peoples!! "Doc" Augustin is certainly an amazing human be-

ing in so many ways!!!

These new programs and projects will be highlighted at your 9th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, the biggest day every year for the department!! We expect more than 900 people to attend this April 26, 2003. Led by Angelika Lester and Allison Glass, the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration Committee has planned a simply spectacular day filled with presentation of awards and scholarships, workshops, exhibits, tours, and the big BBQ blast at Aquarena Springs! The SWT Salsa Band will once again rock us into the night! Also, Dr. Duane Nellis, current president of the Association of American Geographers and former president of the National Council for Geographic Education, and Dr. David Mark, the leader in establishing the NSF's National Center for Geographic Information Analysis (NCGIA) at SUNY Buffalo, will receive the department's Outstanding Leadership Award at this year's award ceremony! Don't miss the chance to visit "up close and personal" with two gifted leaders in the discipline of Geography! Mark your calendars for April 26 for this year's Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration!!

In February, Sarah Andrews, renowned author of popular books on the environment, particularly regarding the Southwest, gave an intriguing presentation as the Lovell Center's Fifth Distinguished Lecturer to a packed house in the Alkek Teaching Theater! And David Butler, who has led in a superb way the Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research, is passing the baton of leadership of this internationally recognized research center to Bob Larsen, who will bring new ideas and energy to lead the fine group of Lovell Center Scholars. Congratulations and thanks so very sincerely to David Butler for his visionary leadership of the Lovell Center during its first five years of development!! Dick Boehm and the Grosvenor Center staff are currently working hard preparing for the Center's Third International Conference on Research in Geographic Education that will see this May scholars come to San Marcos from all over the world to present papers and discuss future avenues for research in geographic education!

Your department now has 511 undergraduate, 163 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 Student Forum. Several of our students were honored once again during the past year with awards at national and state conferences or were congratulated for their publications!

Angelika Lester continues to do a simply superb job as our department office manager! Joan Pasquali, Allison Glass, and Maria Price are excellent office staff who also make certain our ship stays on a steady course! Without Dan "the computer man" Hemenway and his fantastic partner, Dave Jordan, we would be dead in the water with more than 425 department computers to be maintained! And Pat Hell-Jones continues to manage in a wonderful way all of our grants and contracts that help us bring in funds to keep on the cutting edge of research and technology and to support our graduate assistants.

You can see that I am very proud to be the chair of your department! You, too, should be very proud to be a part of your internationally recognized SWT Department of Geography! Well, I could go excitedly on and on, but more details are in this newsletter (edited by Jessica Mefford and Maria Price), and check out our award-winning Web site at [www.geo.swt.edu](http://www.geo.swt.edu). For "up close and personals," be here for your 9th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 26!



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## Who Is This Program for, Anyway?

*Brock Brown  
Undergraduate Program Coordinator*

During the final frantic days of late registration last August, SWT's enrollment quickly passed the 25,000-student mark. This growth is accompanied by an increase in the diversity of reasons why people are choosing to come to college and the goals they hope to achieve after graduation. We are seeing a parallel trend in Geography, which means we must work harder than ever to keep our programs current and in line with the expanding expectations of the increasingly diverse nature of geography majors.

As always, our largest body of majors continues to be the traditional undergraduate student who is seeking preparation for the wide range of interesting and challenging careers available to geographers. These students seek a solid foundation for their anticipated career field, advanced training in specific sub-areas, and cutting edge skills and techniques. Our alumni and intern sponsors are a major source of information about changing trends in the needs and expectations of those who employ our majors. Please contact us if you have input in this area.

Many of these new geography majors are in the traditional seventeen to twenty-year-old range, but increasingly we are seeing older adults from the mid-20s to the 50s and beyond. They are coming to SWT for a variety of reasons. Recently, many students coming to my office to talk about geography have been motivated by the downturn in the regional economy. They are being forced to seek a new career direction for reasons beyond their control. Others, however, have jobs that would be considered very good and stable, but they are feeling burnt-out or just want to do something different. Some adults entering college are seeking their first job ever upon graduation, often transitioning from a domestic role. Others are starting their lives over for a variety of personal and professional reasons.

For whatever reason, they are making a change and including college and geography in their plans, they are looking for something meaningful to do with their immediate future, and they have high expectations.

A growing segment of our pool of majors is not only seeking professional training, but they are also preparing to be competitive in graduate school. Working closely with Fred Shelley, Graduate Program Coordinator, and other faculty, we strive to help students identify areas of interest for graduate study, find graduate programs that are well suited to their interests, and help them identify undergraduate courses both in and out of geography that will best qualify them for the graduate programs in which they are interested.

Although small, there is also an increasing segment of students that already have post-college commitments and opportunities waiting for them, such as entering a family business, and need only to get a college degree. They are searching for a major that is interesting, stimulating, fun, and taught in a department where quality teaching is taken seriously.

It is no surprise to me that geography attracts people from all of these groups. It happened to me. I did not discover geography until I was over 30 years old. My public school exposure to geography had been a disaster of meaningless memorization, and I pretty much adopted a strategy of "just say no" to any more. What a shame that the discipline I would grow to love was misrepresented for so much of my life. Once I realized that geography was a broadly applicable perspective that provided me with a way to observe and analyze anything distributed across Earth space, there was no turning back. I quit my job, poured concrete and framed houses, and began to acquire a life-long pursuit in geography at the University of Oklahoma. Each of our prospective geography majors has his or her unique reasons and motivations for seeking us out. One thing we all have in common, however, is a deep curiosity to understand the world in which we live and perhaps improve it during our tenure here.

We are working hard to gain a better understanding of who our prospective students are, the backgrounds and life circumstances they come from, and what they hope to accomplish in their lives. This information

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## Student Organizations and Presentations

*Fred Shelley, Graduate Program Coordinator*

We in the Department of Geography are very proud of our outstanding faculty, students, and alumni. Our professors strive to make every class challenging and interesting, and they have a well-deserved national reputation for excellence in the classroom. Yet we sometimes forget that only a small percentage of learning, especially at the graduate level, takes place in the classroom. The typical professor and the typical graduate student are in the classroom about nine hours a week.

Clearly, less than a quarter of our professional time takes place in class. What are the sources of other learning opportunities? There are many: reading the geographic literature, teaching classes and labs, completing projects, and internships to name a few. In this column, I want to focus on two extremely important aspects of the educational process--student organizations and professional meetings.

We in Geography are proud of our five student organizations--Gamma Theta Upsilon, Graduate Student Forum, National Association of Environmental Professionals, Supporting Women in Geography, and the Student Planning Organization. All of them are blessed with strong, effective leadership. They have sponsored numerous professional and social activities. Under the leadership of the National Association of Environmental Professionals, all five organizations have contributed to the installation of the beautiful garden of native Texas plants outside the Evans Liberal Arts Building. All play a critical role in the organization of the

Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration each year.

Let me encourage students to volunteer their time and become active in one or more student organizations. Becoming active in student organizations is a great way for students to enhance learning opportunities outside the classroom. It's a great way to meet people, to network, to broaden your intellectual horizons, and simply to have fun!

In March, many in the Department attended the 99th annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) in New Orleans. We are proud that 29 students, along with many alumni and faculty members, gave presentations at the New Orleans meeting. This is the largest contingent of students of any department in the United States. Even more impressive is the diversity of topics and intellectual approaches that our students discussed, from minority recruiting in Geography to El Nino, from endangered woodpeckers to demographic change, from lacrosse to shark attacks, and many more.

Attending a professional conference--especially the AAG--and giving a presentation is a wonderful enhancement to any student's education. Attendees had the opportunity to meet and talk with the discipline's leading figures, interact with fellow students and faculty from throughout the country and around the world, and to renew their appreciation for the breadth, diversity, and intellectual traditions of the discipline. Let me express my thanks to the AAG presenters and attendees, along with their faculty mentors, for their excellent work. I urge every student to attend at least one professional meeting in Geography while in residence at SWT.

Student organizations and professional conferences play a vital, if sometimes overlooked role, in the educational mission of our Department. I urge you to support these efforts. I'll look forward to seeing you at this year's Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 26!

# Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration

## 9th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration

Angelika Lester and Allison Glass

*"We are Family....Get Up Everybody and Sing"* – uh, actually due to neighbor complaints, we will not be hosting karaoke this year! However, we will continue the tradition and host the SWT Geography's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration (AR&SC)!! We invite all current and former students, faculty, staff, and friends of the department to attend the celebration on Saturday, April 26, 2003.

Come test lady luck! This year we are proud to kick-off, on Friday, April 25, the first annual Poker Tournament, to raise money for our Spirit of Geography Scholarship!!! Pam Marsh has been working diligently to iron out all the details—be sure to visit our Web site for updates ([www.geo.swt.edu/Reunion](http://www.geo.swt.edu/Reunion)) and see the flyer in the back of this newsletter.

The AR&SC will begin at 10 a.m. at the Alkek Teaching Theater with door prizes and other exciting entertainment! Door prizes will be awarded at 10:00 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m. for those who arrive in time to attend Presentation I and Presentation II. Back by popular demand is GeoJeopardy, hosted by the wonderful John Schutz. Come test your knowledge and skills in geography and win fabulous geography prizes.

This year SWT Geography is excited to announce that a new scholarship has been added to the list! We are honored to make the announcement of the new scholarship during Program I (the honoree(s) will be surprised with the news – come check it out!) Following the

Scholarship presentation, Lawrence Estaville, Department Chair, will give his annual state of the department presentation.

You asked for it – you got it: this year we are able to provide children's activities throughout the day! Check out [www.geo.swt.edu/Reunion/Schedule](http://www.geo.swt.edu/Reunion/Schedule) and click on the hot links for more information. Remember to bring your entire family to this year's festivities!!

Immediately following lunch, door prizes will be given for those who arrive in time for Presentation II. (Don't forget the children's activities!!) We will then present our department awards (check out the Web site for detailed information). This year's Outstanding Alumni Award will be presented to Richard Simmons for his unwavering support of SWT Geography and our students!

Following the awards ceremony, the activities will move to Evans Liberal Arts for our second annual silent auction along with workshops, exhibits, lab demonstrations, and children's activities. If you are interested in donating to the silent auction please contact [angelika@swt.edu](mailto:angelika@swt.edu). Be sure to check out our Web site for AR&SC updates!

We will then follow our noses and the sounds of music to Aquarena Springs for the annual barbecue! Entertainment will kick off the evening, and the SWT Salsa Band will help us dance the night away! Due to the construction at "Old Town" we will return to memory lane and gather under the pavilion. Be sure to look for the dis-

play of a special activity that your children have worked on throughout the day! Don't forget about the glass-bottom boats at Aquarena Springs (tickets available at the registration table at Aquarena).

The AR&SC doesn't end there! Check out our Web site or the flyer at the back of this newsletter for more information about our exhilarating golf tournament on Sunday hosted by Rich Dixon!

Admission to the Reunion and Student Celebration, including Saturday's activities, lunch and dinner, is \$15. But WAIT: students, staff, faculty, and alumni can get in FREE if you register before April 9, 2003 and attend both Presentations I and II. Friends of Geography will receive a \$5 discount if they register before April 9, 2003 (children 12 and under are free). The department will purchase canned food with 10% of the registration and donate it the San Marcos Food Bank. To register, download, print, and mail the registration form attached to this newsletter. You can also download the registration form directly from [www.geo.swt.edu/Reunion/registration.html](http://www.geo.swt.edu/Reunion/registration.html)

Please feel free to contact Allison Glass ([am13@swt.edu](mailto:am13@swt.edu)) or Angelika Lester ([angelika@swt.edu](mailto:angelika@swt.edu)) for with any questions or suggestions.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU APRIL 26, 2003!!**









## Faculty News

**Byron Augustin, Brock Brown, and Rich Earl** were honored as Favorite Professors by SWT's Alpha Chi Honor Society. Only 26 faculty from across campus were so honored this year. Byron has won the award for the past 13 years straight (probably a university record), and this is the eighth time Brock has been honored with the award.

**Denise Blanchard-Boehm** was invited by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to participate in a focus group at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland for the development of a new course for higher education classes entitled, "Hazards Risk Management." Dr. Blanchard-Boehm worked with professionals from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Public Entity Risk Institute, George Washington University, University of Colorado-Denver, and several state emergency management offices. The course will be available on-line from FEMA at the end of 2004, and will be especially useful for college-level classes that address hazards, risk, and emergency management.

**Dick Boehm**, executive editor, Joe Stoltman, editor, and the Grosvenor Center staff, particularly **Judy Behrens** and **David Rutherford**, produced the superb new issue of *Research in Geographic Education*. **Lisa DeChano**, a recent Ph.D. graduate, also assisted with the issue.

The Academic Year 2001-2002 Undergraduate Committee (**Brock Brown**, chair, **Richard Earl**, **Debbie Bryan**, **Rich Dixon** and **Mark Carter**, members) had a proposal for a B.S. in Geography-Water Studies approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. We can now officially admit students into the program.

In addition, the Undergraduate Committee (**Brock Brown**, chair) had four new undergraduate courses approved by the Coordinating Board. These courses will be offered beginning in the fall 2003: GEO 3351 Geography of Health ; GEO 3355 Geography of Crime; GEO 4306 Geography of the Southwest; and GEO 4393 Studies in Geography.

**Mark Carter** was selected to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program. In its selection of Mark, the TCEQ underscored his strong leadership in placing environmental interns.

**Rich Dixon** was named an associate editor of The National Weather Digest, the professional journal of the *National Weather Association*. Rich was also selected to chair the Nomination Committee of the Southwestern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG). Finally, Rich was selected as the new vice president for the Association of American Geographers' Military Geography Specialty Group.

**Fred Shelley, Clark Archer, Steve Lavin** and **Ken Martis** had their work, *Atlas of American Politics, 1960 to 2000* selected from approximately 6,600 titles by the library magazine *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* as an Outstanding Academic Title, an honor the magazine calls "the best of the best" because it is given to only 10 percent of the titles.

**David Stea** has been nominated for an Honorary Doctorate (doctorate honoris causa) by the University of A Corunna, in Galicia, Spain. He was a member of the Scientific Committee responsible for organizing and actualizing the 2002 international environmental social science conference in Spain on "Culture, Quality of Life and Globalization: Problems and Challenges for the New Millennium." David was also the SWT representative to the North American Council on Higher Education Congress, which took place in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, in October, 2002. At the end of 1992, he was elected Vice-President (President-elect for 2004) of the Association of Borderlands Studies.

**Michael Solem** was appointed to a three-year term on the Association of American Geographers' Committee on College Geography.

**SWT**  
**Geography**

## Michael Solem Receives \$152,000 NSF Development Grant

*Maria Price*



The National Science Foundation has awarded Dr. Michael N. Solem a \$152,000 grant to develop an online Center for Global Geography Education. This

project has five aims: 1) to produce a series of online modules for global geography instruction; 2) to develop a fully automated online architecture that faculty can use to retrieve lessons and build international teaching collaborations; 3) to provide faculty with the training they need to adopt the project's materials; 4) to evaluate the project's impact on student learning; and 5) to support basic research on the nature and process of internationalizing geography education.

The planned instructional modules will be designed to enable students from different international colleges and universities to collaborate on geography problems through the Worldwide Web. Key educational objectives include: the ability to use the information, methods, and concepts of geography to examine global issues; knowing how to use information and communication technology for effective learning; being able to formulate and carry out strategies for asking and answering geographic questions in a team; and greater appreciation for international perspectives on world geographical problems.

Dr. Solem is directing the project from the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education at Southwest Texas State University in collaboration with the Association of American Geographers, the International Geographical Union, the International Network for Learning and Teaching, and the National Council for Geographic Education. For more information, please visit the project website at [www.swt.edu/~ms32/CGGE/index.html](http://www.swt.edu/~ms32/CGGE/index.html).

### 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](mailto:fs03@swt.edu) TODAY!

# Upcoming Events

## Calendar of Events

April 16

Brown Bag, Noon, ELA 313

Dr. Sharolyn Anderson,

“An Inclusive Classification Technique for Land Cover Land Use Determination for a Rural Community in Guatemala”

April 24

Liberal Arts Awards Day

5:30 pm at Centennial Hall Teaching Theater

April 25

Colloquium, 3:30 pm, ELA 116

David Mark, Professor,

State University of New York at Buffalo, “Landscape Categories in Yindjibarndi: Ontology, Environment, and Language”

April 25

Poker Night, 7:00 pm

Historic Fish Hatchery Office Building  
\$50 donation, Contact Pam Marsh at pm1037@swt.edu

April 26

9th Annual Alumni Reunion  
and Student Celebration

April 27

Golf Tournament

8:00 am

\$25 entry fee

Sundance Golf Club, New Braunfels, Texas  
Contact Rich Dixon at rd11@swt.edu

April 28

Last Class Day

April 29

No Classes - Final Exam Period  
(begins at 6:30 p.m)

May 2

American Society of Photogrammetry  
and Remote Sensing Conference  
(Anchorage, Alaska)

May 9, 7:00 pm

College of Liberal Arts and  
Graduate College and Commencement

May 22 – May 24

Grosvenor Center  
3rd International Conference  
on Research in Geographic Education

## Petersen to Lead May Field Trip to Big Bend

*Judy Behrens*

James Petersen, Associate Director of the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, will lead a field trip to Big Bend and the Texas-Mexico Borderlands Region on May 25-29, 2003. Ph.D. student Jonathan Herbert will assist Petersen on the 5-day trip, which is offered in association with the Grosvenor Center Conference, “Geo-Nexus: Research in Geographic and Environmental Education.” The trip is open to all students, faculty, staff, and alumni associated with the SWT Department of Geography, as well as to conference participants.

The price of the trip is \$275 per person and includes transportation (air-conditioned vans), park entrance fees, and enroute accommodations (4 nights, double occupancy). The fee does not include meals. The registration deadline for the trip has been extended to April 9, 2003. For more information and registration materials, please contact Sheri Wahl at sw21@swt.edu or (512) 245-3827.

### Tentative Schedule for Big Bend Field Trip:

*Sunday, May 25*

Depart from San Marcos, TX at 8:00 a.m. Overnight in Del Rio, TX. Topics for discussion/potential sights: Border crossing to Ciudad Acuna, Mexico. Texas-Mexico Borderlands, border towns, Maquiladoras, NAFTA, international cooperation and relations, border history.



*Monday, May 26*

Depart Del Rio at 8:00 a.m. Overnight in Big Bend National Park. Topics for discussion/potential sights: Seminole Canyon-Pecos River pictographs, Chihuahuan desert environments and vegetation, Chisos Mountains, desert life and settlement. Landforms, geology, climate, environment and history of the Big Bend Region.

*Tuesday, May 27*

Tour Big Bend area, overnight at Lajitas on the Rio Grande. Topics for discussion/potential sights: The Rio Grande, border outposts, Terlingua “ghost town,” historic mining in the Big Bend Region, Santa Elena Canyon, badlands topography, geologic features, geomorphology, Chihuahuan Desert nature center.

*Wednesday, May 28*

Depart Big Bend in the afternoon. Overnight in Del Rio. Topics for discussion/potential sights: Continue tour/discussion of Big Bend.

*Thursday, May 29*

Depart Del Rio, TX at 8:00 a.m. Return to San Marcos by late afternoon.

## International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources at SWT

*Jim Kimmel*

SWT recently formed the International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources. Its director, Mr. Andrew Sansom, served an outstanding eleven-year term as Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Working with the Institute are several Geography Department faculty, including Ben Zhan, Joanna Crowe, Sharolyn Anderson, and Jim Kimmel, who serves as an Associate Director of the Institute.

The Institute is off to a fast start, with initiatives in Texas and Mexico. One of its primary purposes is to develop models of holistic and sustainable river management. Both the holistic management approach and the goal of sustainability draw heavily on the perspective and technologies of the Department. Earl and Dixon have received funding from the Institute for the development of a flood symposium. The symposium will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2003 from 8:45 am-4:30 pm in the LBJ Student Center. Zhan has also been funded for research related to water resources analysis and management, including hydrologic modeling.

# Department News

## Rossmo Visits SWT

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ing in criminal investigations.

Rossmo began his career with a B.S. in Mathematics. He also holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in Criminology. He began studying criminal migration patterns during his master's thesis, and created the theoretical background of geographic profiling during his Ph.D. studies at Simon Fraser University. During his career, he has also worked as a police officer in Vancouver, B.C. While there, he observed first hand the spatial patterns related to serial crimes.

Rossmo uses a software program that he developed called Rigel, now manufactured by Environmental Criminology Research, Inc. Rigel utilizes mathematical equations to provide investigators with a spatial sense of a criminal's home location and hunting area, which can also help identify where a suspect is likely to attack next. The Rigel software uses the locations of serial crimes to create a three-dimensional "jeopardy surface." The surface peaks indicate areas of high probability of being a suspect's home base. The equations used in the computer program are based on the principle of least effort. This physiological theory states that people will not put more time, effort, or money into an activity than they perceive they need to. This principle, also called the nearness principle and the least cost theory, is used in fields such as transportation, planning, and many other aspects of geography. In this context, the nearness principle suggests that a serial criminal will commit crimes in familiar areas not far from his home base, but the criminal will not commit crimes too close to his home. The result of this pattern is a buffer zone of crime scenes surrounding the criminal's home.

In recent years, geographic profiling has become a widely accepted aid in solving serial crimes. All major law enforcement agencies are now using some type of crime mapping to aid in investigations. Rossmo has participated in investigations throughout the U.S. and his native Canada. Most notably, he recently applied his techniques to the investigation of the Washington D.C. area snipers. This investigation applied Rigel to the locations of sniper attacks to aid in determining where the sniper might be located. Geographic profiling is an exciting example of geography at work. It is evidence of the theories that can be created when geography is combined with other disciplines, in this case, criminology and mathematics.

## AAG: SWT Shines in the Crescent City

*Fred Shelley*

More than 70 current, former, and future SWT Geography faculty, staff, and students recently returned from a very successful trip to the 99th annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) in New Orleans, March 5-8. The SWT contingent was the largest of any department in the country outside Louisiana. SWT geographers presented more than 30 papers and 15 professional posters, and served on numerous panels and participated in many other professional activities. Of course, the SWT delegation took advantage of the opportunity to see one of the most diverse and fascinating cities in North America, including the French Quarter, the Garden District, Bourbon Street, and the French Market.

SWT hosted its second annual social event on Thursday, March 6. Angelika Lester and Allison Glass did a superb job handling the arrangements and logistics. Nearly 200 past and present SWT faculty and students and many other geographers and friends of the Department enjoyed the festivities.

Several SWT faculty members and students garnered individual honors! Rich Dixon was elected Vice President of the Military Geography Specialty Group. Dr. Dixon also led a field trip to the sites associated with the Battle of New Orleans. Lawrence Estaville was honored with the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group's Distinguished Service Award. Ph.D. alumnus Ron Hagelman along with former faculty member Craig Colten of LSU led a field trip on hazards in the lower Mississippi Valley. M.S. student Muhammad Taidur Rahman served as a member of a team from the Southwestern Division that won the AAG's Geography Bowl. M.S. student Jeanette Gara and Fred Shelley worked with Clark Archer and Steve Lavin from the University of Nebraska to produce a map insert on population change in the Louisiana Purchase region that was distributed to all attendees.

Next year's Centennial Meeting of the AAG will take place in Philadelphia, March 14th-19th. We are already planning to carry the SWT flag high—several SWT faculty and alumni have papers forthcoming in the two centennial volumes to be published in association with the 2004 meeting!

## Augustin Honored

*Continued from page 1*



*Former President George H. W. Bush introduced the honorees*

community's highest honor, the Award of Distinction. Former President George H. W. Bush introduced the honorees to the black-tie crowd of 500 guests in a surprise appearance at the Gala event.

Augustin, who has written two books and several articles on Arab and Islamic cultures, was honored for his work in helping erase stereotypes and misinformation regarding the Arab world. He is the first non-Arab to receive the award. Past honorees include Mr. Casey Kasem, national music icon; Ms. Helen Thomas, United Press White House Bureau Chief; Dr. Clovis Maksoud, former Arab League Ambassador to the United States; Kathy Najimi, Hollywood movie star, and Dr. Mana Saeed Al-Otaiba, Personal Advisor to His Royal Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates. Dr. Al-Otaiba has also served six terms as President of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Augustin joined the faculty of the Department of Geography at Southwest Texas State University in 1978. Since 1989, he has been a frequent visitor to the Middle East. In 1992, he was appointed state director of the Texas Committee on U.S.-Arab Relations, an office he held until 1999. Currently, he is serving as the deputy director of the same organization and is a frequent speaker for church groups, schools, and community service organizations on topics dealing with Arab and Islamic cultures.

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# Department News

## SWT Geography Faculty and Students Speak on the Future of GIScience

*Jessica Mefford*

The relatively new field of Geographic Information Science (GIScience) has raised questions from those within and outside the discipline of Geography. The very definition of GIScience has been debated in both the academic and professional arenas. Recently several SWT Geography faculty and students convened to discuss the field of GIScience, its future, and SWT Geography's role in the GIScience field.

Dr. Ben Zhan and Dr. Mark Fonstad, SWT Geographers, provided explanations of GIScience. GIScience may be defined as a basic research field that seeks to discover and redefine geographic concepts in the context of geographic information technology. It is a science that considers both the fundamental and abstract questions of spatial information. These questions might include abstract issues such as how we represent geographic phenomena or how we assess the accuracy of spatial information, or they might be more technological, such as what way might be best to convey spatial data to a diverse audience. GIScience can serve as a means of answering new questions in spatial information such as representation issues and cognitive research questions. GIScience can also improve dynamic modeling applied to the traditional subfields of Geography such as transportation and land use.

There have been numerous significant technological developments in GIScience. Dynamic simulation models, cellular automata, physically based models, and increased interoperability and diffusion of GIScience top this list. The future of GIScience is multifaceted. Perhaps most prominently, GIScience is certain to continue on a path of

*Continued on page 11*

## Water Resources in the Brazos River Basin

*Eric Mendelman*

"Water in the Brazos," a water issues forum, was held Saturday, January 25, at the Blackland Research Center in Temple, TX. Fifty-six participants attended the forum. In most parts of Texas, water quality and quantity have become very important—even critical issues. The Brazos River is no exception. People understand that how we address these issues in the Brazos River Basin today will help shape Texas' water future.

The topics presented at this forum ranged from general information about the basin to information about specific water quality impacts and issues. Anna Dunbar, Manager of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Waco Office, clarified what the TCEQ does and does not do to protect the environment. Ian Jones, a hydrogeologist with the Texas Water Development Board, spoke about the interface between the Edwards Aquifer and the surface waters in the Central Brazos River Basin.

Dennis Hoffman, research scientist with the Blackland Research Center, presented information about sediment runoff from Fort Hood, TX. Tom Conry, with the City of Waco, gave an insightful presentation about an enhancement project on Lake Waco that uses a constructed wetland to purify and filter water from the Bosque River upstream of Lake Waco. Justin Taylor presented an overview of volunteer monitoring on the Leon River. Jason Pinchback, current

*Continued on page 10*

## SWT Geography Crosses \$3,000,000 Mark

*Pat Hell-Jones*

For the first time in the history of the SWT Department of Geography, our faculty have crossed the \$3,000,000 mark for new and continuing grants, contracts, and development gifts for one fiscal year-- and we are only mid-way through the year!

So far, Geography faculty have secured \$3,303,371 in new and continuing grants, contracts, and gifts for FY 2003 from \$17,324,152 in proposals. Many of the proposed grants and contracts are still in review and may, indeed, provide much more funding before August 31, 2003, the end of the fiscal year. All of this activity does not include a federal proposal for \$6,643,000 for a program called Earth Shuttle. Here are some specifics about all of this important external funding activity that provides support for students, brings cutting-edge equipment and software into the department, and funds student travel to professional conferences.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) / Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded Robert Larsen with a \$481,255 contract that may turn into a multi-year contract. He also received a contract with the South Texas Development Council for \$49,795. Michael Solem received a \$152,548 National Science Foundation (NSF) Development Grant. Richard Earl and Richard Dixon were awarded a \$10,000 SWT / International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources (IISWR) grant.

Joanna Crowe, Mark Horner, and Yongmei Lu each received an \$8,000 SWT Faculty Research Grant. Sharolyn Anderson and Michael Solem were awarded a \$15,942 SWT Faculty Research Grant. Ben Zhan, collaborating with Jean Brender of Health Services Research, was awarded a three-year \$236,048 grant by the Texas Department of Health. In addition, Zhan won a \$25,000 SWT / IISWR grant.

Richard Boehm has also been busy. This year he has received funding from the National Geographic Education Foundation, the Dodge-Jones Foundation, and the National Geographic Society. He submitted proposals to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Leland Fikes Foundation, and the Houston Foundation, as well as a preliminary proposal submitted to the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

Also awarded grants were Richard Boehm and Jim Kimmel, who received a \$53,000 research grant from the National Geographic Society Education Foundation to support their work on Sustaining Natural Resources on Public Lands. Brock Brown (with Greg Pollard, Randy Simpson, and Leah Adams) received a Freeman Ranch Educational Outreach Grant for \$7,500 to establish the SWT Texas Native Plant Resource Center at Freeman Ranch. Rich Earl received a Freeman Ranch Research Grant of \$4,800 to continue his work on the "Spatial Variation of Precipitation and Streamflow." David Butler was awarded a renewal of a quick response grant titled "A Comparison of Public Awareness and Perceptions of Hazards in a Hazard-prone Landscape" from the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center at the University of Colorado.

The objective of the Geography Grants and Contracts Office is to increase the number and dollar amount of grants and contracts awarded to the department. To fulfill this goal, the Geography Grants and Contracts Office meets the needs of the faculty as they request information regarding new funding sources, assists with the preparation of new proposals, and provides support for awarded projects.

# Department News

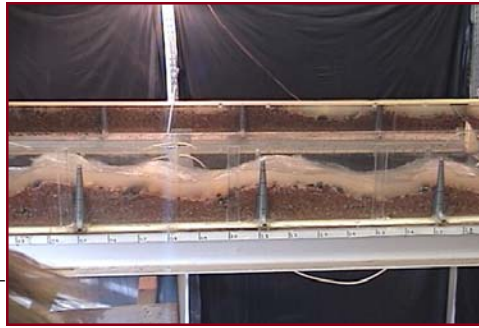
## The River Indoors

Joanna Crowe

The Physical Geography Lab (ELA 156) will soon be the home to Geography's latest piece of laboratory equipment, a flume. What is a flume, you ask? A flume is a laboratory representation of a river. Simply put, it's a trough through which water and sediment are passed. By watching and measuring how the sediment in the trough changes as water flows over it, researchers gain insight into how a natural river changes under various flow situations.

Two standard choices exist for replicating elements of natural transport systems in laboratory flumes. In one, the composition and rate of sediment feed are specified along with the water discharge, and the bed slope and bed surface grain size are free to adjust. In the other, the water discharge and the initial bed composition and slope are specified and the sediment transported from the flume is recirculated as sediment feed. SWT Geography is building a sediment feed flume, in which it is possible to specify the transport rate and grain size.

The interaction between sediment supply and sediment bed depends on many factors. Beyond the general properties of channel slope and geometry, the response of the sediment bed to a change in sediment supply will depend on both water discharge and the grain size and transport rate of the sediment supply, all of which will tend to vary under natural conditions. It is not possible to capture fully the range of natural variability or the interactions among the various controlling factors in laboratory experiments. Rather, laboratory experiments provide direct replication of particular combinations of the relevant boundary conditions and controlling variables and the sediment feed configuration provides a natural arrangement for examining the effect of changes in sediment supply on transport and bed adjustments in a river



*Standing waves develop in a flume simulation*

channel.

Research into the complex patterns of sediment transport began in earnest about 70 years ago, making river research a fairly young scientific field. A consequence of this is that as researchers, we are still learning about the fundamental processes that drive channel change. Using nondimensional numbers, the sediment and flow in the flume are scaled, dynamic models of natural rivers. Flumes are used to gain understanding into earth surface processes when field work is not feasible. Researchers use flumes to study the formation of bedforms along channel beds. In nature, these bedforms often develop during flood flows, when it is not possible to observe the channel in person. Environmental hazards, such as debris flows, landslides, and dam breaks, also lend themselves to flume research. Bridge piers are simulated in flumes so the channel bed scour caused by the pier may be studied and pier design improved to reduce channel effects. The future will present exciting research challenges and opportunities for SWT Geographers.

## Brazos River

*Continued from page 9*

Texas Watch volunteer coordinator, gave a summary of volunteer water quality monitoring in Texas. Larry Hauk of the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research gave a talk indicating that, although there are elevated bacteria levels in both watersheds, more monitoring data are needed for a complete analysis of the Leon Watershed.

The forum also addressed water policy issues that shape Texas water law. Steve Minick, TCEQ Director of Intergovernmental Relations, explained that two factors would influence the legislature's ability to pass important legislation this year: First, one out of five legislators is new and has a steep learning curve. Second, the state is \$1.8 billion over budget, making it less certain that sound legislation will be funded this year. He indicated that the first set of water debates will begin within the next few months and will include debate over groundwater districts, implementation of total maximum daily load, and water rights related to in-stream uses.

Texas Watch would like to thank the speakers, sponsors, and especially the meeting participants for making "Water in the Brazos" a very successful forum!

## Alumni Reunions Are Valuable

Byron "Doc" Augustin

During the 2002 Spring Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, I had the opportunity to meet with Mark Taetz, a graduate of our program. Mark is currently serving as a regional sales manager for ESRI. Our conversation gradually drifted to a discussion of the Yucatan Study Abroad Program. Mark was bemoaning the fact that he had never gone on the Yucatan trip while he was a student at SWT. He went on to speculate on some ways that his company could help us develop some new field experiences that would make the trip even more educational.

We promised to stay in touch, and recently Mark arranged to provide hardware and software to use in the 2003 Yucatan Study Abroad Program. Utilizing his connections with ESRI and Trimble Navigation, makers of global positioning system equipment, he was able to provide some very sophisticated technological equipment for student use.

The students will have access to three-handheld, field-equipped Windows CE Geo XT units. The Geo XT units will have GPS Correct software installed by Trimble. ESRI will provide ArcPad and ArcView software. The Geography Department will provide one Windows NT/2000/XP laptop for downloading/uploading data to/from the Geo XT units.

The students will form three teams to conduct GPS analysis at three major Mayan archaeological sites. When the data gathering is complete, the students will write a short summary of their findings, which will be submitted for publication in an ESRI and Trimble publication.

This amazing opportunity is the result of the type of interaction available at the Geography Department's Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration. It is a tribute to the success of our graduates and their willingness to "give something back" to SWT. A big departmental thanks goes out to Mark Taetz, ESRI, and Trimble. If all goes well, Mark will join us for a few days at some point during our study abroad program. We welcome other such educational and research collaborations with our alumni and their companies or agencies.

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# Department News

## GIScience Center

*Continued from page 1*

TexGIScience Center will soon gain international recognition for its significant contributions to GIScience.

The vision of the Texas Center for Geographic Information Science is to improve human life and the natural environment through advancing human knowledge in GIScience and applying this knowledge to address critical research issues in all application areas where geographically-referenced data and information can help obtain a deeper understanding of both the human and natural world and help develop better policies. Based on this vision, the mission of the Texas Center for GIScience is: (1) to conduct original research in GIScience that will result in significant scientific and social benefits; (2) to educate and train highly skilled professionals and scholars in GIScience and its application areas; and (3) to serve Texas, the United States, and the world through the advancement and utilization of Geographic Information Science and related technologies.

Other than Director Ben Zhan, Center Scholars currently are: Sharolyn Anderson (GIS, remote sensing, environmental), Deborah Bryan (GIS, transportation, location analysis, mathematical modeling), Joanna Crowe (fluvial geomorphology, hydrological modeling, water resources), Mark Fonstad (water, hydrological modeling, remote sensing), Alberto Giordano (cartography, visualization, GIS), Mark Horner (transportation, GIS, urban planning), Yongmei Lu (GIS, crime, urban and regional analysis), Allison Payton (remote sensing, climatology, earth systems science), Pamela Showalter (remote sensing, hazards)

Some specific research foci of the TexGIScience Center include:

1) Basic research that advances GIScience. Research and education in this area will address theoretical issues upon which geographic information technologies are grounded. The international University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) has identified a set of ten basic research topics in this regard: (1) Spatial Ontologies; (2) Geographic Representation; (3) Spatial Data Acquisition and Integration; (4) Scale; (5) Spatial Cognition; (6) Space and Space/Time Analysis and Modeling; (7) Uncertainty in Geographic Information; (8) Visualization; (9) GIS and Society; (10) Geographic Information Engineering.

2) GIScience and water resources research. Research and education in this area will explore how GIS and spatial modeling methods can be used to enhance research in water resources, water policy, and water quality stud-

ies. The TexGIScience Center will collaborate closely with the International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources (IISWR) at SWT along this line of the research.

3) GIScience and earth systems science. Planet earth as an interactive system consists of an atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. Research and education in this area will explore how geographic information technology and earth systems sciences can be combined to study planet earth as an integral system with an emphasis on how human activities affect global environmental change.

4) GIScience and environment and human health research. Past research has demonstrated that environmental factors affect human health. Because almost all environmental data have a geospatial component, geographically-referenced data are indispensable for studying the effects of environmental factors on human health. Research and education in this area will explore how geographic information technology and spatial analysis methods can be used to help improve health related research and decision-making in public health policy.

5) GIScience and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). This research and education will bridge geographic information technology and transportation. Such research activities will aim to improve the safety and efficiency of transportation systems through the utilization of information technology in general and geographic information technology in particular. Center scholars will explore how GIScience and technology will help develop the next generation of ITS.

6) GIScience and urban and regional studies. Urban and regional studies inevitably need to use geographically-referenced data and information. Research and education in this area will address issues related to urban and regional studies, urbanization, and globalization using GIScience technologies and spatial analysis methods.

7) GIScience education and training. It should be emphasized that education and training will be an important part of the activities in the GIScience center. In addition to maintaining excellence in the undergraduate and graduate GIScience programs in the Department of Geography, the center will explore outreach initiatives that will reach schools and communities in Texas and across the nation and help educate and train professionals in GIScience and technology.

For more information about our new Texas Center for Geographic Information Science, contact Director Ben Zhan at 512-245-8846 or fz01@swt.edu and look forward to the Center's new Web page on SWT Geography's Web site: [www.geo.swt.edu](http://www.geo.swt.edu).

## Otto Wetzel Donates National Geographic Magazine Collection

*Lawrence Estaville*

Mr. Otto Wetzel of Dallas, Texas has generously donated a wonderful collection of National Geographic Magazines and National Geographic map inserts that begins with the Society's first magazine issue in 1888! Mr. Wetzel also donated a beautiful set of barrister cabinets to hold the National Geographic Magazine collection. This donation, valued at \$25,000, has become a major centerpiece of the Grosvenor Conference Room (ELA 142) of the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education. SWT Geography—faculty, students, and staff—are all ecstatic and in awe regarding Mr. Wetzel's generous gift to the department! We all very sincerely thank Mr. Wetzel for his gracious gift and look forward to a formal ceremony later in the spring semester to dedicate this very unique collection of National Geographic Magazines!



## Future of GIScience

*Continued from page 9*

diffusion into society, the business world, and diverse academic disciplines. It is and will continue to emerge in forensics, health issues, and homeland security; anywhere that spatial representation can be applied.

As we explore the future of GIScience, we must also consider how our own GIScience program should grow. We will continue to explore the theoretical background of GIScience. One primary objective of a GIScience program is finding significant questions of spatial information and then discovering ways of addressing them. A second objective is the charge to our program to impart to its students the intellectual tools they will require to be passionate about geographic information, to be creative in their uses of it, and to be able to promote their own ideas of geographic space in whatever facet of society they inhabit.

## Department News

### The Meadows Foundation Funds IISWR River Modeling

*Jessica Mefford*

The Meadows Foundation is a private philanthropic institution established in 1948 by Algur H. and Virginia Meadows to benefit the people of Texas. The foundation recently granted SWT's International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources (IISWR) \$375,000 to study the Rio Grande, Colorado, and Guadalupe river basins. This funding will be used to develop management initiatives to protect the river basins. Andrew Sansom, director of the IISWR, said, "We are working to create watershed management models in both the Colorado and Guadalupe basins utilizing the capabilities of the SWT Biology and Geography departments. The Meadows Foundation funding will help develop tools for this purpose and provide additional research on the San Marcos Springs."

Through the water institute, SWT has also launched a partnership with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) to create a major study of the Rio Grande from Colorado to the Gulf of Mexico.

SWT Geography faculty working with the IISWR include Jim Kimmel, Rich Earl, and Joanna Crowe.

### "Closing the Gaps"

*Michelle Maness*

The Geography team at SWT recently traveled to J. J. Pickle Elementary School in North-east Austin to participate in the "Closing the Gaps Initiative." Universities from around central Texas were invited to set up educational booths on November 12, 2002 for this Texas Higher Education Plan. The main goal of "Closing the Gaps," is to increase the college participation rates of minority youth and help them reach their educational goals. The Geography team previewed their outstanding booth with talking globes, interactive 3-D Arc displays, and a Geography Wheel of Fortune to more than 200 children, educators, school administrators and media. The event was a huge success and indeed, SWT Geography was highlighted on NBC and ABC television stations in Austin that evening!

Our team was comprised of Judy Behrens, Angelika Lester, Amanda Grantham, David Jordan, Sheri Wahl, Cynthia Agold, Dan Hemenway, Deborah Bryan, Michelle Maness, and Paul Nagel!

### Eco-Walkway Brings Pervious Pavement to Evans Landscaping Project

*Jessica Mefford*

The xeriscaping project on the southside of Evans Liberal Arts Building now has an "eco-walkway" to allow people to enjoy the Department's native landscape. This is no ordinary sidewalk; it is Stoney Creek Materials pervious pavement. The Austin-based company developed this compound as an environmentally friendly, structurally superior alternative to concrete and asphalt. This compound is an innovative solution to problems of stormwater management and water quality.

The compound is an aggregate of traditional concrete materials but without the sand. Stoney Creek Materials pervious pavement is a structurally superior building material; its strength and flexibility surpass that of traditional concrete. Pervious pavement prevents stormwater runoff by allowing water to percolate through the material. Average permeability for this material is four inches per minute; this far surpasses most of south-central Texas' heavy rainfall events. A typical design section of a standard pervious parking lot consists of four inches of Stoney Creek Materials pervious pavement and 1½ to 2 feet of aggregate material above subsoil. Pervious pavement allows stormwater to



percolate through the concrete, thus preventing water from pooling on road surfaces during periods of heavy rain. This attribute is especially noteworthy when considering the incidence of automobile accidents during and after periods of heavy rainfall.

According to Jeffrey Gremaud of Stoney Creek Materials, the environmental implications of using such a building material include preventing concreted areas from producing stormwater runoff, groundwater recharge through percolation, conservation of water resources and decreasing pollution to water bodies through reduction in surface runoff. The permeable nature of the material allows moss and tree root systems to absorb moisture and oxygen through the pavement. Stoney Creek Materials Pervious Pavement is typically 5 to 7 degrees cooler than concrete or asphalt. The lower temperature has obvious implications when considering urban heat island effects. As urban and developing areas struggle with issues of stormwater treatment and urban heat island effects, building materials such as pervious pavement will mitigate some environmental impacts of development.



### Geography Awareness Week Activities

*Judy Behrens*

Students and staff from Department of Geography visited local grade schools to celebrate Geography Awareness Week (November 17-23, 2002). These individuals volunteered their time and efforts to bring the message of what geography is all about to young children in the community. The following individuals participated in a variety of Geography Awareness Week presentations offered at Wonderland School and Dezavala Elementary School: Cynthia Agold, Judy Behrens, Josh Brake, Ellen Foster, Carol Gillespie, Amanda Grantham, Angelika Lester, Michelle Maness, Katy Mauldin, Collin McCormick, Kazuyo Mizuno, Keiji Mizuno, Paul Nagel, Amanda



Ross, David Rutherford, Jesse Sandstrom, Melody Smith, Cathy Springer, Sheri Wahl, Amylia Williams, Sarah Wyckoff.

*Shown: Left, Keiji Mizuno, visiting professor from Japan, and Kazuyo Mizuno, registered dietician, teach fourth-graders about the Japanese culture. Right, Sheri Wahl teaches pre-school children about maps at Wonderland School.*



# Department News

## Texas Watch: Making a Difference

Amanda Ross

It is estimated that a fourth of the world's people do not have access to safe water. Even in Texas, it is not uncommon for water supply and water quality issues to appear on the front pages of our top newspapers. As a result, there are growing needs for both scientific information to address these issues responsibly, and an educated, active citizenry to hold decision makers accountable to protecting our natural resources. In order to address these needs, Texas Watch facilitates environmental stewardship by empowering a statewide network of concerned volunteers, partners, and institutions in a collaborative effort to promote a healthy and safe environment through environmental education, data collection, and community action. The Texas Watch Program is supported through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Texas Watch will be conducting several water quality monitoring certification sessions and public information workshops this spring. The annual Meeting of the Monitors was held at the University of North Texas, Denton on March 7-8. This year's theme was "Making a Difference: Monitoring for a Sustainable Tomorrow One Drop at a Time."

This year's Meeting of the Monitors brought together volunteers including teachers, government agencies, and concerned citizens to learn, mentor, and communicate about how to leave a legacy of healthy water in Texas. Activities included the partner meeting, speakers, and field trips including a chance to explore the world of Texas Mussel by traveling to Ray Roberts Lake State Park for hands-on experience in mussel monitoring, Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility, and a tour of Denton's award-winning watershed initiative. The Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility (LAERF) field trip included a tour of 53 experimental ponds, 18 flowing-water raceways, 3 outdoor mesocosm (fiberglass tank) systems, a research greenhouse, as well as laboratories for studying plant physiology and analyzing water, plant, and sediment samples.

Speakers covered topics ranging from "Urbanization and the Wildlife Response" by Dr. John Davis, an Urban Biologist from Texas Parks and Wildlife, to "Water Quality" problems in a high growth rate county by Texas Watch volunteer Dr. Glenn Buckley. Several other states volunteer water quality programs were represented at the Texas meeting including Oklahoma Water Watch and Alabama Water Watch. Dr. Bill Deutsch of Alabama Water Watch presented on "The Power of Citizen Volunteer Water Monitoring" and was one of the most popular speakers of the event.

The meeting also gave Texas Watch a chance to thank the many volunteers that make Texas Watch a success. Ten awards were given to dedicated monitors and partner organizations. Thank you to all that participated in the meeting!

If you are interested in more information on Texas Watch or Meeting of the Monitors, please visit the Texas Watch Web site at [www.texaswatch.geo.swt.edu](http://www.texaswatch.geo.swt.edu)

Upcoming events are listed below:

### Earth Day: April 22

In 1970, the original intention of Earth Day was to honor our earth by capturing the attention of our nation and to bring environmental issues to the forefront. What better opportunity to celebrate our involvement in positive change working for the environment than to come together on April 22nd for Texas Watch's fourth annual statewide sampling initiative: "A Day in the Life of Texas Waters."

### Check Out the New Texas Watch T-Shirt!

In recognition of our monitors, Texas Watch would like to present our new t-shirt. This shirt is 100% cotton, featuring our logo on the front and monitors on the back with the slogan: "Monitors Make a Difference One Drop at a Time." To order the new t-shirt, please contact Texas Watch via e-mail at [texaswatch@geo.swt.edu](mailto:texaswatch@geo.swt.edu) or by phone at 877-506-1401.



## SWAAG Conference Held in Laredo, TX

Pam Marsh

The Southwestern Division of the American Association of Geographers conference was held in Laredo, Texas in November 2002. It was an exciting and very productive time for the SWT Geography students and faculty who attended.

The opening luncheon was delightful – it was a chance to meet new people and listen to members from the Texas and Mexico diplomatic community. The sessions were all well attended, and there were presentations from a wide variety of speakers and topics.

Supporting the student presenters from SWT was an important function and a great learning experience for those who were attending their first professional conference.

Friday night's closing banquet at the brand new Texas A&M International campus was enjoyable. It was here that awards for outstanding student presentations were made. SWT was well represented; Muhammad Tauhidur Rahman took first place in the student paper awards and David Stinchcomb took second place. The music from the Texas A&M International guitar ensemble was incredible.

Attending such conferences is an integral part of a student's experience – undergraduate or graduate – and the networking opportunities are invaluable. The opportunity to meet and discuss current topics and shared research interests with leaders in the discipline, especially on such a personal level as a regional meeting, is worth the time and expense of traveling to these conferences.

## Grosvenor Scholars

*Continued from page 1*

the student's advisor and the Executive Director of the NGS Education Foundation. NGS has supported the national reform movement in geographic education since 1985 and has contributed more than \$100 million to further geographic education. All parties agree that now is the time to begin serious analysis of the success of this effort.

The Grosvenor Scholars Program is funded by the proceeds of the Grosvenor Endowment. The National Geographic Society contributed \$500,000 to the endowment, and Southwest Texas State University matched that amount. The student chosen to participate in this program will receive a support stipend for the time spent in Washington, D.C. This program is a further link in the close relationship between SWT and its Department of Geography, Gilbert M. Grosvenor, and the National Geographic Society.

# Grosvenor Center News

## Grosvenor Center to Host May 2003 Conference

Judy Behrens

The Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education will host its third bi-annual conference on research in geographic and environmental education on May 22-24. Geographers from across the globe will converge on the SWT campus to explore current research horizons and the burgeoning interface between the two sub-disciplines. A welcoming reception, an evening banquet, and local field excursions will round off a program filled with plenary, panel, and paper sessions.

Program proposals focus on research horizons in geographic and environmental education. Current program highlights include:

A. David Hill: Keynote Speaker

Norm Bettis: *Geographic Education Research Needs Identified in NAEP Data for 2001.*

Deborah Bryan and Bernadette Marion: *Connecting the Classroom and the Community: Service Learning with GIS.*

Irina I. Barinova and Vladimir A. Gorbanyov: *The Ways of Reformation of Russian Geographic Education.*

Elizabeth Leppman. *Your Name in Lights . . . Or At Least in Print: Yes, You Can write a Journal Article.* A workshop demonstrating a method and process will help you organize your ideas and thoughts into a publishable paper.

Mike Libbee: *The Michigan Achievement Project: Politics, Performance, and Professional Development*

Keiji Mizuno: *Geographic Education in Japan*  
Robert Morrill: *An Atlas of Virginia: What is It? Why Now?*

Anita Palmer: *Research Findings on the Effectiveness of GIS Professional Development for Teachers.*

Joseph Stoltman: *Citizenship and Geography in an Educational Context.* A panel discussion with Dr. Lisa DeChano, Ms. Gillian Acheson, Dr. Fred Shelley, and Mr. Vladimir Gorbanyov.

A six-day, pre-conference field trip to the Yucatan Peninsula will be led by Dr. Byron Augustin. Dr. Jim Petersen will lead a five-day, post-conference field excursion to explore the Big Bend Region along the Texas-Mexico border.

For more information, visit [www.geo.swt.edu/grosvenor/](http://www.geo.swt.edu/grosvenor/) or contact the Grosvenor Center at (512) 245-1823 or [jb42@swt.edu](mailto:jb42@swt.edu).

## Fifteenth Annual Geography Action! Poster Contest Draws 80,000 Students

Ellen Foster

The Texas Alliance for Geographic Education's (TAGE) 15th Annual Geography Awareness Week Poster Contest generated just over 80,000 student-designed posters from 245 Texas elementary, middle, and high school campus contests.

Judges Troy Kimmel (Meteorologist, KEYE-TV Austin), Luckett Lowry (General Manager of Roger Beasley Honda of San Marcos), Anne Cooper, and Elizabeth Nash selected first through fourth place awards for each division from the final round poster winners.

The winners in the Texas competition were second-grader Isabelle Erickson of Delaney Primary (Kennedale), Michael Hsieh of Hightower Elementary (Plano) for third grade, Rebecca Ann Ploetz of Bradley Middle School (San Antonio) for sixth grade, and Megan Haley of Health Careers High School (San Antonio) for ninth grade. All of them received their awards in front of family and friends at the State Capitol on November 18, 2002.

Richard Boehm, co-director of the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education, and Mr. Luckett Lowry, presented each student with a commemorative medal, a globe, an atlas, and a certificate for a \$100 savings bond.

TAGE also recognized the students' teachers and presented them with gifts. The award-winning teachers were Mrs. Carolyn Carson of Delaney Primary, Ms. Mika Johnson of Hightower Elementary, Mrs. Nancy Black of Bradley Middle School, and Ms. Mary Muenster of Health Careers High School.

Thanks to a gift from Roger Beasley Honda of San Marcos, second through fourth place winners in each division were sent medals and atlases. American Honda is a national partner for Geography Action! 2002, and TAGE is grateful for Roger Beasley Honda of San Marcos' commitment to geography education.

This year's theme, "America's Backyard: Exploring Your Public Lands," allowed students to illustrate the importance of our local, state, and national lands through responsible use, conservation, and preservation.

Award-winning posters were displayed throughout the Evans Liberal Arts Building at Southwest Texas State University during Geography Awareness Week, November 17-23. In addition, selected winning posters will travel to several statewide and regional conferences with TAGE staff throughout the year.

All 2002 Texas winners (first to honorable



2002 Poster Winners: Isabelle Erickson, Michael Hsieh, Rebecca Ploetz, and Megan Haley

mention respectively):  
 Kindergarten to Second-grade Division: Isabelle Erickson of Delaney Primary (Kennedale), Marissa Evans of Weatherford Elementary (Plano), Jay S. Purohit of Andrews Elementary (Plano), and Jamie Eley of Elm Grove Elementary (Kingwood).  
 Third- to Fifth-grade Division: Michael Hsieh of Hightower Elementary (Plano), Kelly Widder of Weatherford Elementary (Plano), Madeline Minchillo of Brinker Elementary (Plano), and Simone Longe of Hernandez Intermediate (San Marcos).  
 Sixth- to Eighth-grade Division: Rebecca Ann Ploetz of Bradley MS (San Antonio), Angela Rios of Terrace Hills MS (El Paso), Mackenzie Mitchell of Barbers Hill MS (Mont Belvieu), and Morgan Davidson of St. Mary's Hall (San Antonio).  
 Ninth- to Twelfth-grade Division: Megan Haley of Health Careers HS (San Antonio), Danielle Kelton of Andrews HS (Andrews), Katie Lust of Akins HS (Austin), and Sarah Mann of New Braunfels HS (New Braunfels).





# Grosvenor Center News

## Keiji and Kazuyo Mizuno: Reflections of Texan Adventures

*Jessica Mefford*

Keiji and Kazuyo Mizuno traveled from their home in Osaka, Japan in September 2002 and embarked on a journey of learning and exploration. Keiji is a visiting scholar at the SWT Geography Grosvenor Center, and his wife Kazuyo is a registered dietician. During their visit, the Mizunos have explored many aspects of Texas culture, physiography, and geographic education.

Keiji's research during his time with the Grosvenor Center has included a comparative study of Japanese and American curriculum standards. He will present this study at the Grosvenor Center International Geography Education Conference in May. Keiji and Kazuyo are also in the final stages of a study examining American students' knowledge of Japanese culture and geography. They attended Geography Awareness Week activities at San Marcos Elementary schools where they had the opportunity to teach elementary school children about Japan. The students had many questions ranging from some on Japanese food to karate. Students were especially intrigued with photographs and stories of snowy winters in Japan's mountainous regions. Keiji commented that speaking in front of a crowded elementary school

classroom made him more nervous than speaking at a large conference. They enjoyed this rewarding experience.

As many geographers do, the Mizunos spent their spare time exploring their surroundings. They have traveled to more destinations throughout Texas and the United States than perhaps many Texans. Their journeys have taken them to the Gulf Coast, the Rio Grande Valley, West Texas, and their personal favorite, Big Bend National Park. Keiji and Kazuyo enjoy camping and the outdoors. They were surprised during their visit to Big Bend to find the elaborate nature of American travel. Large recreational vehicles that are prevalent in the United States are rarely seen in Japan. Like many outdoor enthusiasts, the Mizunos prefer more traditional camping.

Keiji has a longtime interest in geomorphology and has enjoyed exploring the many diverse physiographic regions of Texas. He said that he truly learned the definition of "hill" while exploring the Texas Hill Country. Japan is a country characterized by steep mountains and densely populated plains; movement about the country is somewhat restricted by the topography. The gentle rolling hills of Texas have been a new experience for the Mizunos.

Kazuyo has continued her research as a dieti-



*From left, Kazuyo Mizuno, Richard Boehm, Denise Blanchard-Boehm, and Keiji Mizuno share the Holiday Season*

cian during their visit. She is currently studying differences in Japanese and American diets, as well as exploring deficiencies of both countries' nutritional regimes. She attended the National Conference of the American Dietetic Association in Philadelphia last fall. At the same time, Keiji attended the National Council on Geographic Education.

The Mizunos have enjoyed their stay in San Marcos; as well, SWT has been fortunate to have them as part of the Geography family. Keiji and Kazuyo are grateful to the many people who have made their visit and professional endeavors a success. They would like to thank Drs. Boehm and Estaville for their support and advice, and the Grosvenor Center and Department of Geography staff for sharing their Texas spirit with them.

## Enhancing Technology Skills in High School Classrooms

*Judy Behrens*

Operating under a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), the Grosvenor Center will host a two-week technology training workshop for Texas high school teachers, entitled "Enhancing Technology Skills in the Classroom." From June 9-20, 2003, high school teachers from the Greater Austin-San Antonio Corridor Region will receive intensive training in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Information Technology (IT) in the state-of-the-art computer labs of the SWT Department of Geography. Participating educators from various disciplines will learn how to translate GIS skills into effective classroom activities for high school students. Upon successful completion of the training course, which will be led by certified trainers for Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), each participating teacher will receive the software and a campus-wide site license for ArcView GIS.

The Grosvenor Center, under the direction of Richard Boehm, has partnered with five other organizations for this project, including Rural Capital Area Workforce Development Board, Alamo Workforce Development Board, ESRI, Region 13 Education Service Center, and Region 20 Education Service Center. The Grosvenor Center designed the training project to answer the TWC's call for initiatives that introduce Texas youths to high technology career opportunities and encourage them to fill the ever-growing demand for high technology professionals in Texas. For information or application materials about this project, contact the Grosvenor Center at (512) 245-1823 or [jb42@swt.edu](mailto:jb42@swt.edu).

## TAGE's Field & Stream 2003 Brings HS Teachers and Students to SWT Geography

*Ellen Foster*

The Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE) Field & Stream 2003 will bring Texas middle and high school teachers and students to the Department of Geography from July 6 to 18. The Field & Stream 2003 program is funded by a Grosvenor Grant from the National Geographic Society. The program will take secondary science and social studies teachers and their students on a journey to understand how Texas' public lands can be used as a laboratory to study water resources and sustainability.

Teachers and students will travel to Canyon Dam (Comal County), Pedernales Falls State Park (Blanco County), McKinney Roughs Environmental Education Center (Bastrop County), and the Texas Rivers Center (Hays County) to conduct a variety of field studies over the course of their two-week stay.

TAGE is working to build a geography intensive program that will include an "Ask the Expert" panel of water sustainability professionals. In addition, accepted teachers will participate in pre- and post-institute training days. The training days are aimed at helping teachers bring Field & Stream's activities and lessons into their own classrooms.

For more information, please contact the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education at 512-245-3827 or [ef1002@swt.edu](mailto:ef1002@swt.edu).

# Lovell Center News

## Hazards Happening in the Lovell Center

David Butler

The James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research presented its Fifth Distinguished Lecture, "Putting a Price on the Blue Marble: A Valuation of Our Planet" by Sarah Andrews, February 13, 2003 in the Alkek Teaching Theater. A reception for Ms. Andrews was held prior to the lecture.

Sarah Andrews has a background in geology, and is the internationally known author of the forensic geology mystery series featuring Em Hansen. Ms. Hansen employs her knowledge of geology, spatial abilities, and environmental issues to solve murder mysteries. Sarah Andrews' books have featured such environmental issues and hazards as groundwater pollution (*Mother Nature*), impact of gold mining (*An Eye for Gold*), earthquakes (*Fault Line*), and windborne aerosol toxins (her current book, available in hardback from St. Martin's Press, *Killer Dust*). Ms. Andrews met with faculty, students, and representatives of the press during her visit to the Lovell Center and the Department of Geography.

The Lovell Center has also been busy in a variety of other venues. Center Associate Director John Tiefenbacher has organized a special paper session on Wild Animal Hazards that was presented at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in New

Orleans in March. Rich Dixon and David Butler also participated in that session.

Rich Dixon, Rich Earl, former doctoral student Todd Votteler, and Marshall Jennings (Aquatic Biology) are busy planning a flood hazards conference that will be held on the SWT campus early in the fall 2003 semester. Watch for updates on this exciting event as more information becomes available!

Joanna Crowe is busy with the building of a research flume that will be housed in the department and allow for modelling of stream and sediment under conditions of varying flow, including flood conditions.

Several Lovell Center scholars attended and presented papers in November 2002 at the annual Applied Geography Conference held last year in Binghamton, NY. Denise Blanchard-Boehm and Rich Dixon both presented papers and had their papers published in the proceedings of the conference. Several students, including doctoral students Jonathan Herbert, Forrest Wilkerson and Ginger Schmid, also attended and presented papers with their faculty advisors that were later published in the proceedings.

*Continued on page 17*

## Andrews Delivers Lovell Lecture

*Continued from page 1*

viewed on radio and in print media about the integration of the arts and the sciences through the spoken word, and frequently lectures on science and writing to academic, museum, and community groups, emphasizing the importance of the role of geosciences in modern life.

In her lecture, Andrews exemplified the challenge geoscientists face trying to make their disciplines and the work they do compelling to the public. Geographers and geologists share unique patterns of thinking and processing spatial information. Such multi-dimensional thinking is critical to solving very complex problems that society faces today, including global warming, destruction of habitats and species across the face of the earth, and degradation of the environment as the human population dramatically demands the use of the limited resources on Earth.

Sarah Andrews takes a unique approach to solving these problems. For her fellow geoscientists, she is currently publishing a series of articles on spatial thinking. For an international audience, she continues to write about her fictional heroine Em Hansen – a passionate, inquisitive scientist who utilizes her intuitive abilities to solve mysteries. Each of Andrews' eight novels in the series is a rich tapestry of science, adventure, and mystery based on actual crimes and situations combined with fictional murders to drive the story.

During a luncheon with SWT Geography students, Andrews recounted some of the extensive research she has done for each of her books, living through many of the experiences depicted in her novels. She described going deep underground in the gold mines of Nevada, sitting on oil rigs in West Texas, and extracting underground storage tanks in California. She has garnered three decades of experience as a geologist in the oil patch, remediating hazardous waste sites, and working for the U.S. Geological Survey. She continues to teach geology at

Sonoma State University.

Throughout her day-long visit, she shared her message during a department tour and opportunities to meet informally with faculty and students of the Geography Department. She later expressed her excitement at the phenomenal capabilities of using GIS to help solve environmental problems.

Visiting with students, Andrews shared her personal experiences of working in a male-dominated field and developing her professional self-confidence, as well as the difficulties that still face women who must balance the priorities of a professional career with family.

Dawna Cerney, Ph.D. student in environmental geography and Lovell Center student scholar, commented on the underlying message, "She presented something for everybody...that we

need to take a holistic approach in which we recognize multiple levels on which spiritual and pragmatic aspects can come together to solve major problems."

The slogan, "If it can't be grown, then it must be mined" struck a chord with David Rutherford, doctoral research assistant in the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education: "What an important quote to use in teaching geography. Everything that we humans build and do on planet Earth is ineluctably connected with something grown/raised on a farm or extracted from the earth. Andrews' talk was an important reminder of this fact."

In accepting the Lovell Center Crystal Award, Andrews said she was proud to have been chosen as the Lovell Lecturer for this year. She joins a distinguished group including astronauts Captain James Lovell, Dr. Sally Ride, and Brigadier General (retired) Charles M. Duke, Jr., and Jack Dangermond, founder and CEO of Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), the world's leading software development company for GIS.



*Sarah Andrews pointing out a bone fragment at the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry*



## Internship News

### Geography Interns at It Again!

Mark Carter

Our Geography Internship students were at it again this past fall semester gaining real-world work experience while providing valuable assistance to their sponsoring organizations!

Richard Arnold, Brendan Donlin, and Richard Garlock interned with the Texas Natural Resources Information Systems and helped bring a wealth of geo-spatial information to the Internet for on-line public access. Kshitij Chaturvedi used a GIS to identify new cell phone tower locations for Sprint PCS. Bev

Lowery worked with the Texas Parks and Wildlife at Bastrop State Park documenting the habitat of the endangered Houston Toad using GPS and GIS technologies. Sarah-Scott Mitchell assisted Raven Environmental Services of Huntsville, TX by mapping and evaluating areas of the Cook's Branch Conservancy in Montgomery County slated for prescribed burns. David Cancialosi interned with the Village of Wimberley, helping this recently incorporated community by assisting with the complex task of establishing new zoning districts. Matt Braun worked with the City of New Braunfels Planning Department and helped develop a transportation demand model. Bailey Duncan learned about GIS contract work while interning with Murphy's World--a GIS and GeoEnvironmental Solutions firm--founded by SWT Geography alumnus, Sean Murphy. William Morrison interned with another SWT

Geography alumnus and doctoral student, Greg Klaus at the Hays County American National Power Plant, where he assisted with the required environmental regulatory compliance process.



Geography Intern Bill Neve (far left) demonstrates appreciation for the environment with a fishing pole to his young guests at LCRA's Mc Kinney Roughs Environmental Learning Center

Finally, William Neve completed his internship at the LCRA's McKinney Roughs Environmental Learning Center in which he passed his love for the natural world along to young visitors at this Colorado River park.

The SWT Geography Internship Program requires students to work a minimum of 150 hours and maintain a daily work-log. Interns are also required to submit an internship assessment report in order to receive college credit for their efforts. Internship sponsors assist interns with a required job description, provide guidance to students during their internship and complete an evaluation form at the end of the internship period. Potential internship sponsors should submit a request for an intern(s) that includes: 1) description of duties and responsibilities; 2) skills and knowledge requirements; 3) student learning opportunities; 4) physical location of internship; 5) financial compensation information; 6) contact name(s), phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Please address internship requests and questions to: Mark Carter, Internship Director, Department of Geography, Southwest Texas State University (512) 245-8587 or [mc12@swt.edu](mailto:mc12@swt.edu).

### SWT Geography Students Help One Another with Career Information

Mark Carter

The SWT Career Services Department assists students and alumni with employment information, resume and interview building skills, job shadowing and internship programs as well as a host of other services to help SWT students jump-start their professional careers. This past semester, the Geography Department was fortunate to have two geography students, Mike Long and Colin Johnson, working with the full-time Career Services Staff. This connection helped



many geography majors more fully benefit from SWT Career Services offerings. As part of an effort to reach more Geography students, Mike and Colin hosted a special seminar for our students to highlight the various ways SWT Career Services can help geographers identify and achieve their career goals. SWT Career Services makes its office and resources available to SWT Alumni as well as current SWT students. For more information, please visit their Web site at [www.careerservices.swt.edu](http://www.careerservices.swt.edu)

## Lovell Center

### Lovell Happenings

*Continued from page 16*

After a long wait, the papers from the 1999 Lovell Center-sponsored Plenary Session on Environmental Change were published in 2002 as a special issue of the international journal *Physical Geography*. The volume was back-dated to a 2001 publication date as Volume 22, Number 4 of the journal. It was guest edited by Lovell Center director David Butler. Papers in the special issue were written by nationally recognized scholars in physical geography who examine environmental issues; authors include Tom Vale (U. of Wisconsin), Jonathan Phillips (U. of Kentucky), Carol Harden (U. of Tennessee), George Malanson (formerly of SWT, now back at the U. of Iowa), David Butler, and former doctoral student Lisa DeChano, now on faculty at Western Michigan University. Another special journal issue featuring papers of the 2001 Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium, on the topic of Mountain Geomorphology, is in press for publication this year in the international journal *Geomorphology*. The conference from which the papers are derived was held in October 2001, in Chapel Hill, NC, and co-sponsored by the Lovell Center and the Departments of Geography at SWT, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Iowa.

Lovell Center scholars each maintain their own productive research programs, and several collaborations are also underway. Center Scholars would be happy to discuss their research programs with you and hope that you will feel free to contact them with any questions you might have about their work. You can also find out more about the Lovell Center and the work of the Center Scholars through a consultation of our recently re-designed Web page. Our Webmasters, Center associate director Denise Blanchard Boehm, and doctoral student E. J. Hanford are to be congratulated for their hard work and the fine-looking results! Check it out at [www.geo.swt.edu/centers/Lovell/index.htm](http://www.geo.swt.edu/centers/Lovell/index.htm)

### Undergrad Column

*Continued from page 3*

will put us in a better position to ensure that our programs continue to meet the increasingly diverse needs of the more than 25,000 SWT students. There is no doubt that many of you who read this newsletter have more insights to contribute. Please drop us a line so we can benefit from your insights and experiences. After all, the program really belongs to the students for whom it is intended to serve.

# Student Organizations

## Graduate Forum Making a Difference

*Cathy Springer and Allison Thompson*

In continuing our goals of communication, collaboration, and commitment to professionalism, the Graduate Student Forum has an exciting spring 2003 semester in store for us. Events for the spring semester include the Association of American Geographer's Annual Conference the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, featuring the Miss Geography Contest.

The Graduate Student Forum kicked-off this semester with a workshop for students preparing posters for the AAG conference in New Orleans. This year, more than 30 graduate students presented either a poster or a paper. We applaud and thank Dr. Estaville and the Department of Geography for their efforts in supporting graduate students attending professional conferences!

In late March, we joined members of SWIG on a high ropes course near Fischer, Texas. The course builds teamwork by posing challenges and problems that groups work together to solve.

Our biggest and newest efforts focus upon raising \$10,000 for a proposed scholarship fund. The Graduate Student Forum and Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG) are the co-sponsors of the proposed scholarship. Our goal this year is to begin the fundraising and to have raised one-fifth of the amount by May 2004.

This spring we will raise funds through two main avenues, that are meant for everybody to enjoy. The first is Department of Geography



*Graduate Forum members prepare for a "Full Moon Float" last fall*

license plate frames. These frames will be black with white lettering and will read "SWT" on the top and "Geography" on the bottom of the frame. So, flaunt your geography pride!! We are currently taking pre-orders for these frames which will be sold for \$8 each—a cost that even graduate students can afford!

The second event is the Miss Geography Contest. Look out guys, over the next two months, male professors will be recruited for the Miss Geography Contest. At the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 26th, the very lucky contest winner will be dressed as a woman and will introduce the Salsa Band to all of us! Alumni and students will be allowed to vote for their favorite professor by giving change or dollar bills to their favorite professor's contest fund.

As you can tell, we have an exciting semester planned. Don't miss the fun! We encourage everyone to get involved, especially graduate students. Contact Allison Thompson, Cathy Springer, Dr. Fred Shelley, or Allison Glass with questions.

## NAEP Asks What You Can Do?

*Graciela Juarez*

After listening to enlightening lectures on topics such as urban sprawl in the U.S., oppression in Iraq, or the newly formed Barranca de Caliza (at Canyon Dam) in New Braunfels, Texas, students cannot help but wonder how to begin to be a part of change; we want to apply what we are learning.

The National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) exists to give students a chance to apply their interests and concerns and to discover their capabilities. The Austin-San Antonio corridor provides students with the opportunity to observe environmental issues unfolding. NAEP commonly practices grassroot solutions, educational outreach, and teamwork to help students remain informed.

This spring, NAEP will camp at Enchanted Rock in exchange for volunteering as a Trailwork Crew. By the end of April the Evans Beautification Project (xeriscape garden) will be completely filled with Texas native plants. Earth Day, on

April 22nd, is NAEP's grand finale.

NAEP has six new officers who will continue the mission, but not without assistance. NAEP is blessed to have a collaboration of members, guest speakers, and faculty in the SWT Geography Department. NAEP would like to take a moment to thank those who ensured our success last fall. Among them are Mark Carter, Wayne Simoneau, Joan Pasquali, Lori Briden, Mikaila Bell, Deb Bomar, Collin Johnson, Eduardo Cen, Alain Basurco, Barry Kolasck, Amylia Williams, Kirt Schoppe, Jeanette Gara, David Viertel, Stephanie Stiefel, Lauren Dill, and Aimee Elbrecht.

You are invited to make a difference! NAEP meets every other Tuesday (April 1 and 15) at 5:00 p.m. in Evans Liberal Arts Building, room 311. Information is posted on the NAEP Bulletin Board outside the Geography Office and on the department's Web site: [www.geo.swt.edu/studentorgs/naep/index.html](http://www.geo.swt.edu/studentorgs/naep/index.html)

## Student Planning Organization Growing

*Mark Horner*

Your Student Planning Organization (SPO) made good progress last semester in its efforts to revitalize and lay out an agenda for the future. Aaron Buck (master's student) and Chance Sparks (undergraduate student) were elected president and vice president, respectively. Efforts are under way to re-establish the SWT chapter of SPO with the national and state chapters of the American Planning Association (APA). Affiliation with and support by the APA is critical to SPO's expressed goal of participating in state and national meetings.

For the spring semester, SPO will hold meetings on the last Monday of each month. An interesting lineup of activities and meetings is planned. At the first meeting on January 27, I held a workshop where TransCAD GIS was demonstrated. For those of you unfamiliar with this software, TransCAD is the premier GIS for use in transportation applications. Fortunately for us, the department recently purchased four licenses of academic TransCAD. I hope to show how this powerful package might be useful in your own work. At the second meeting of SPO on February 27, we hosted Mr. James Vaughan, who spoke about some of the local planning work he has done, including a recent planning project for Bulverde.

More activities are on the way. Email me ([mb49@swt.edu](mailto:mb49@swt.edu)) with questions or ideas for our SPO. See you at a meeting!!!

## Graduate Forum Lost in Corn Maze

*Jeanette Gara*

The weekend prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, a car full of geography students headed to Hondo, Texas to get lost in a cornfield. Sounds silly, yes, but it was a wild time running around in a corn maze designed with lots of Texas spirit. A hayride was a nice break from the confusion in the corn, and we learned that this maze was a new venture for a fifth generation of ranchers that own the land. It was a success, thanks to cooperative weather this year (last year, the cornfield was destroyed by a tornado). Next year, head out to the Hondo cornfield maze (which isn't actually corn...it's sorghum) and have fun getting lost. The maze is located about a mile east of Hondo on Highway 90.



# Student Organizations

## Supporting Women in Geography in 2003

*Meredith Greene*

Supporting Women In Geography (SWIG) plans to make 2003 one of the best yet for the organization. This year, SWIG will continue to pursue its goals of increasing male and undergraduate membership, and to become further involved in the local community.

SWIG members wrapped-up the fall semester by sponsoring SWAAG Women's retreat at SWT University Camp in November. The retreat was a great success, as women from the University of Texas attended to help brainstorm for new ideas and help plan for 2003. We were honored with several guest speakers also in attendance at the retreat, including Dean Ann Marie Ellis, dean of the SWT College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Sally Caldwell of the SWT Sociology Department; Dr. Emily Skop of the UT Austin Geography Department; and Drs. Debbie Bryan, Joanna Crowe, and Sharolyn Anderson of the SWT Geography Department.

We currently have several activities planned for spring 2003, including both social events and volunteer opportunities. In February, SWIG kicked off the new semester with its first meeting and happy hour. The major event in March was a teambuilding event in Wimberley, which involved a day trip to visit the SWT University Camp's ropes course. This event was not only a challenge, but also proved to be an excellent bonding experience for the group. April will be a busy month as the organization will face new changes with officer elections. New officers will be voted on by the members for the 2003 - 2004 academic year. The community event for the spring semester will be a Girl Scout workshop. SWIG will be dedicating two Saturdays in April to teach Girl Scouts the importance of geography and to help them earn their Eco-Action badge. In May, SWIG will celebrate the end of the year by sponsoring a camping retreat in Wimberley.



*Professor Sally Caldwell talks to SWIG members*

If you are interested in SWIG, please contact Meredith Greene ([mgreene@swt.edu](mailto:mgreene@swt.edu)), Bernie Marion ([Bernie@swt.edu](mailto:Bernie@swt.edu)), Ginger Root ([gingerroot@swt.edu](mailto:gingerroot@swt.edu)), or our faculty sponsors: Fred Shelley ([fs03@swt.edu](mailto:fs03@swt.edu)) or Debbie Bryan ([db33@swt.edu](mailto:db33@swt.edu)).

## NAEP Hosts Texas Recycles Day Event in the Quad

*David Viertel*



*Graciela Juarez and a fellow student checking out an electric vehicle*

On November 15, 2002, SWT Geography celebrated Texas Recycles Day with an interactive event in the university quad. Members of National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) and SWT geography students from Dr. David Stea's sustainability class organized activities that featured displays on recycling, educational games, a survey of commuter attitudes toward alternative transportation, and hands-on exhibits of electric and hybrid vehicle technology. In addition to environmental sustainability, the event stressed public awareness and community involvement in environmental and transportation issues.



*Lori Briden informing students how to conserve*

Geography student and NAEP President Graciela Juarez coordinated the event, which drew an enthusiastic response from participants. Even during a busy Friday afternoon passers-by paused to view the displays and inspect the scooters and cars between classes. More than 200 individuals completed surveys and voiced their opinions on transportation at SWT. Local businesses, including Electric Vehicles of Texas, Al's Freewheeling Cycles, San Marcos Toyota, and Roger Beasley Honda of San Marcos, presented vehicle demonstrations.

## Gamma Theta Upsilon Has a Busy Year

*Jennifer Rice and Rich Earl*

With the leadership team of President Jennifer Rice, Vice President Emily Gonzales, Secretaries Amylia Williams and Ben Urbanczyk, and Treasurer Nancy Middlebrook, SWT GTU has had a banner year. Last September, GTU set up a voter registration booth that registered more than 200 voters—more than the margin of victory in some of the local races in the November 2002 election. GTU members created a geography program for Wonderland Elementary School as part of Geography Awareness Week activities. GTU members went on a tour of the new Hays County Generating Plant, a 1,000 MW natural gas turbine electrical generating facility located near the San Marcos Outlet Mall. Allison Payton, Mark Fonstad, Joanna Crowe and Forrest Wilkerson gave illustrated presentations on some of their recent research at the bimonthly GTU meetings. This spring GTU will be touring the Bamberger Ranch, Selah, near Johnson City to view state-of-the-art Hill Country restoration practices. For Earth Day, April 22, GTU, with NAEP, will have a display in the SWT quad that will feature energy and other resource conservation methodologies as well as publicity for the environmental programs offered by the department. For more than a year, GTU members have helped with the Evans Liberal Arts Xeriscape Demonstration Project. GTU members provided professional level ushering services for the Grosvenor Lecture during the fall semester featuring geography television personality Harm deBlij, and the spring semester Lovell Lecture with novelist Sarah Andrews.

SWT GTU alumni may pick up their GTU certificates at a table in the department atrium during the afternoon session of the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, April 26. GTU alumni who would like to join the GTU alumni chapter, contact Rich Earl, [re02@swt.edu](mailto:re02@swt.edu), and he will send you the necessary information, or go the GTU national Web site, [GTUhonors.org](http://GTUhonors.org).

In recognition of their academic excellence and leadership, current GTU Present Jennifer Rice and 1997-1998 President, Cathy (Anderson) Springer won \$500 scholarships from the National GTU organization. Out of 160 active GTU chapters in the US, Canada and Mexico, they were two of the six GTU members to receive such awards.

## Student News

### Developing a Successful Volunteer Interpretive Program

*Allison Thompson*

The Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area is a Mexican Free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) viewing site located approximately six miles northeast of Rocksprings, in Edwards County, Texas. The 351-foot cavern is home to over three million Mexican Free-tails. Prior to 2002, access to the Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area (DSSNA) was available only through prearranged tours led by the staff of Kickapoo Caverns State Park. In May 2002, a local citizens group from Rocksprings, now called the Devil's Sinkhole Society Inc., entered into a concession agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and subsequently began conducting tours of the Devil's Sinkhole site. An interpretive center is currently located in Rocksprings and is operated by volunteers. The center provides a starting point for the tours to both the Sinkhole and Kickapoo Caverns State Park.



The joint operation of this nature and heritage tourism site creates many opportunities for the successful development of the site. In the case of DSSNA, TPWD will provide support to the Devil's Sinkhole, while fulfilling its mission of public access and education. The Devil's

Sinkhole Society, Inc. will provide the human resources to conduct tours, operate tour buses, and operate the interpretive center for the site. Any proceeds from the tours will go to the Devil's Sinkhole Society; profits will fund site improvements. The citizens of Rocksprings also anticipate local economic growth from the influx of tourism into the area.

The successful operation of the DSSNA is dependant upon the development of a well-planned interpretive program. To this end, I am currently conducting a directed research project under the guidance of Dr. Jim Kimmel of SWT Geography's Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism. This study will be based on an audience analysis for the Devil's Sinkhole site. I will obtain information for the audience analysis from a survey of visitors at the site and at Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area, another bat viewing site. Although the literature in this field discusses the need for the audience to be identified and analyzed, there currently exists a disparity in the discussion of methods for audience analysis. This study introduces psychographics and the concept of using a combination of values and demographics to identify the target audience. I hope that the results of this audience analysis will provide assistance to the Devil's Sinkhole Society and TPWD in order to complete a successful interpretive master plan and interpretive program for the DSSNA.



### The Creation of Baranca de Caliza: Excavation of the Canyon Lake Spillway, Comal County, TX, July 2002

*Forrest Wilkerson*



Last summer witnessed an unusual flood event in the south-central Texas Hill Country produced as much as three feet of rain over a six-day period. The nearby Canyon Lake Reservoir filled to capacity and overtopped the spill-

way for the first time since construction. Approximately 70,000 cubic-feet-per-second of water poured over the spillway eroding an impressive canyon into the limestone bedrock. I asked for permission from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to allow the GEO 4430/5430 Field Methods students access to the spillway to measure the erosion and determine the amount of material removed. The results of their efforts will be an occasional paper published through the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Natural Hazards Research housed within the SWT Department of Geography.

I had originally envisioned a rather simple paper demonstrating the

methods that we employed, our results, and some background information on the flood event and the lake and dam facilities. The students have responded far beyond a simple paper and are applying a variety of remote sensing and GIS techniques to the project. So far, students have downloaded and differentially corrected the GPS locations of all significant data points and displayed them on a pre-flood Digital Orthophoto Quadrangle (DOQ). They have also used the GPS locations and a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) to create three-dimensional models of the spillway canyon. Students have also enjoyed and learned from their interaction with Army Corps of Engineers personnel. The Corps has been very appreciative of their efforts and is pleased with the high quality of their work.

The student's documented that over 17,000,000 cubic feet of limestone were eroded from the mile-long canyon. This material is approximately enough to cover a football field, including the end zones, to a depth of over 300 feet. This project is in its final stag, and both the paper and several posters should be completed by the end of the spring semester; three posters will soon be displayed on the third floor.





# Student News

## A Historical Geography of the Comal River and Springs

*Julie Livingston*

Rivers have always been important to the history and settlement of Texas. Native Americans and early explorers made camp on their banks. Travelers and settlers were drawn to rivers because of their need for fresh water for day-to-day needs, for irrigation, and for transportation. In modern times they continue to be a focal point for recreation and natural resources. We are truly blessed in Texas with many beautiful waterways.

Historical geography is a specialization that studies how geographical distributions have influenced and changed a particular place over time. The Comal River and Springs are one of the unique resources of Texas geography and have a special function as one of the largest springs in Texas. This river is only a little over two miles in length, but its source is an important indicator for the Edwards Aquifer. The Comal River and Springs are also home to several endangered species.

When early German settlers came to New Braunfels in 1845, they needed a dependable water source that could be used for industry. Native Americans had camped by this river for centuries, utilizing the pure water resource and taking advantage of the attraction of game to the area and of the abundant supply of native vegetation made possible by the river. The Comal

had a constant flow that was consistently strong enough to run the mills that the settlers needed to prosper in their new environment. Today the river is used principally for recreation, but it is still a major contributor to the economy of the city of New Braunfels.

I am completing my research on the historical geography of the Comal River. The area of research is the Comal River and Springs and the adjacent areas that have been impacted by human development, especially since European settlement in the mid-nineteenth century. My study's objectives are to compile information on how Native Americans, early Spanish explorers, and European settlers since 1845 have used and impacted the riverine area of New Braunfels. By telling its story I hope to contribute to a better understanding of the special gift of Texas' rivers and to provide an understanding that will in some way help to prevent inappropriate development along Texas rivers and the insensitive use of water resources.

I believe the Comal River and Spring is an important part of Texas historical geography that has been left unrecorded and I hope that my research will produce a useful resource for those interested in this beautiful area of Texas. I conducted this study as a directed research project under the direction of Dr. Jim Kimmel.

## Geography Students Help Plan for Growth

*Mark Carter*

This past October, SWT Geography students participated in a public planning workshop as part of the "Envision Central Texas" initiative aimed at planning for growth in the Austin -San Marcos area. Workshop participants placed "game pieces" representing different types of development on large-scale area maps to provide ideas for possible future land use changes. Geography students and other participants also discussed future transportation options as well as land conservation and environmental protection strategies.

The Envision Central Texas staff will present several composite-planning maps based on input from the workshops sometime this spring, followed by additional opportunities for input and comment about how Central Texas should grow during the next 20-40 years. Please visit their Web site at [www.envisioncentraltexas.org](http://www.envisioncentraltexas.org) for additional information about the Envision Central Texas project.



## Junmei Tang Joins Ph.D. Program

*Jessica Mefford*

Junmei Tang joined our Ph.D. program this semester. Junmei was born and raised in a small town in the south of China called Jian. Prior to joining the program, Junmei was a student of Chinese Academic Sciences. She first became interested in geography in high school. She also excelled in math and physical chemistry, which provided a solid foundation for her later studies in geography.

Junmei's academic interests include remote sensing, GIS, image processing, landscape ecology modeling, natural resources management, and global change. She aspires to become a successful geographic scientist. Upon graduation Junmei hopes to serve her mother country, China, with the knowledge she will have gained while at SWT Geography. Welcome to our program, Junmei!

## Students Present at Conferences

### **NCGE in Philadelphia, PA**

**October 2002**

Ellen Foster  
Paul Nagel

David Rutherford  
Cathy Springer

Eric Samson

Carol Sawyer

Michelle Shuey

David Stinchcomb

Brian Plaster

Muhammad Tauhidur

Rahman

Lynn Resler

Ginger Root

David Rutherford

Charlotte Samis

Carol Sawyer

Ginger Schmid

Michelle Shuey

Ryan Weichelt

Forrest Wilkerson

Amylia Williams

Guangyu Wu

### **AAG in New Orleans, LA**

**March 2003**

Mikaila Bell

Xuwei Chen

Mindy Conyers

Susan Dunham

Ellen Foster

Jeanette Gara

Jonathan Herbert

Amanda Keen-Zebert

Bernadette Marion

Collin McCormick

Jessica Mefford

Jennifer Minor

Sarah-Scott Mitchell

Jessica Morgan

Paul Nagel

Komal Patel

### **SWAAG in Laredo, TX**

**November 2002**

Jessica Morgan

Paul Nagel

Muhammad Tauhidur Rahman

Lynn Resler

# Scholarships and Awards

## Scholarships 2003 - 2004

- A.E & Alvina Beckworth Geography Scholarship, *Kristine Egan*
- Alice Rechlin Perkins Graduate Scholarship in Geographic Education, *Pamela Marsh*
- Allen D. Hellman Scholarship in Geography, *Bitsy Cotter*
- Amita Malwade Graduate Scholarship in Human Geography, *Jeanette Gara*
- B. J. Eyton Undergraduate A.A.G. Travel Scholarship, *Graciela Juarez*
- Blanchard Geography Scholarship, *Brian Plaster*
- Bruce Lee Augustin Undergraduate Geography Scholarship, *Kayla Bryson*
- Don and Reba Blaschke Scholarship for the Protection of the San Marcos River, *Jason Pinchback*
- Donna Ranking Jeffries Undergraduate Scholarship, *Andrew Goudge-Augustin*
- Four Brothers Scholarship in Geography, *Komal Potal*
- Frank & Ivy Boehm Geography Scholarship, *William Flowers*
- George D. Battle Scholarship in Climatology/Costal Geography, *Darlene Oceana-Gutierrez*
- Hilmar W. & Alta R. Hageman Family Endowed Scholarship, *Elizabeth Young*
- Hodges-Padilla Dissertation Research Scholarship, *Lynn Resler*
- Irene L. Wahl Geography Scholarship, *Cynthia Agold*
- Joe & Jerry Moore Scholarship in Water Resources, *Heidi Carlin*
- Leif Anenson Geography Scholarship, *John McLaughlin*
- Mao-Geng Zhan Scholarship for Academic Excellence in Geography, *Jobnathon Herbert*
- Martha Sue Baker Morrow Scholarship in Secondary Geography Teaching, *Melody Smith*
- Natural Hazards Scholarship, *Carol Sawyer*
- Leon and Verann Simmons Scholarship, *Daniel Sorenson*
- Peggy Steele Clay Pre-Service Teacher in Geography Scholarship, *Sheila Henk*
- Phillip A. Staskus Undergraduate Geography Scholarship, *Amylia Williams*
- Ray & Marian Butler Environmental Geography Scholarship, *Dawn Cerney*
- Richard A. Earl Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Scholarship, *Collin McCormick*
- Ross Kimmel, Jr. Undergraduate Scholarship in Nature & Heritage Tourism, *Frank Engel*
- Roy H. Touchstone Graduate Scholarship in Nature & Heritage Tourism, *Colleen Lyons*
- Sally Ann Karnau Geography Dissertation Research Scholarship, *David Rutherford*
- Sally Ann Karnau Geography Scholarship, *Mikaila Bell*
- Spirit of Geography Scholarship, *TBA*
- The Adriana Samantha Visser Memorial Scholarship, *Cheryl Barnes-Krawietz*

## Awards 2003

- Outstanding Leadership Award, *Dr. Duane Nellis and Dr. David Mark*
- Distinguished Alumni Award, *Richard Simmons*
- Outstanding Service Award, *Graciela Juarez, Ben Urbanczyk, Amylia Williams, Mario Mata, Jr., Ginger Schmid, Forrest Wilkerson*
- ESRI Award for Excellence in GIS, *Mario Santasiere, Xuwei Chen*
- Geography Outstanding Graduate Student, *Lynn Resler*
- Geography Outstanding Senior, *Jennifer Rice*
- Outstanding Staff Service, *Jackie Albright, Susan Warren, Ken Smith, Karen Stachowitz*
- John Wiley Graduate Award, *Bernadette Marion*
- John Wiley Undergraduate Award, *Emily Gonzales*
- MAPSCO Excellence in Cartography Award, *Nikki Williams, Gayla Malson*
- McGraw-Hill Education Excellence in Geography Graduate Award, *Allison Thompson*
- NCGE/AAG Outstanding Senior, *Jennifer Rice*
- Rand McNally Award for Academic Achievement, *Amanda Williams, Carol Sawyer*
- Thompson - Brooks/ Cole Outstanding Nontraditional Geography Student Award, *Debra Bomar, Ron Stephenson*
- TAGE Elizabeth Sterry Award for Excellence in Geography, *Amylia Williams, Lynn Resler*
- Prentice Hall Outstanding Graduate Student Publication Award, *David Rutherford*
- Prentice Hall Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, *Michelle Shuey*
- McGraw-Hill Higher Education Excellence in Geography Award, *Trish Jackson*

## Dean Ann Marie Ellis Receives SWIG Award

*Ginger Root*

The members of Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG) have selected Dr. Ann Marie Ellis to receive their only award, the Julie A. Tuason Award for Supporting Women in Geography! Dean Ellis has shown great support to SWIG by speaking at the September Internship Round-up and on the Women's Faculty panel at the November retreat. In fact, she stole the show at the retreat when she shared her experiences leading up to her current position as dean of Liberal Arts. Dean Ellis is a wonderful role model for women and for all geography students. Further, she is extremely committed to SWIG and the Department of Geography, and SWIG is honored to give her this award.



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



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# Scholarships and Awards

## Duane Nellis to Receive Outstanding Leadership Award

Jessica Mefford



The Association of American Geographers (AAG) welcomed Dr. Duane Nellis of West Virginia University (WVU) as the 2002-2003 AAG president. Dr. Nellis is Dean of the WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences and was recently selected to receive the SWT Geography Outstanding Leadership Award.

In recent years Dr. Nellis has also served as president of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) and president of the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE). He is the first person ever to have served as president of GTU, NCGE, and AAG. Among Dr. Nellis' recent honors are The Gilbert Grosvenor Geographic Education National Honors (2001), the Kansas Geographic Alliance Outstanding Contributions Award (1997), and the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group Outstanding Contributions Award (1995). If marks were given for

multitasking, Dr. Nellis would receive a "10." He is successful in balancing academic service, teaching, and research. He feels that service is his way of giving back to the discipline of Geography.

Dr. Nellis was introduced to geography during his undergraduate degree program in his native state of Montana. He later received an M.S. and Ph.D. in Geography from Oregon State University. Prior to his position at WVU, Dr. Nellis served on the faculty of Kansas State University where he received several faculty awards and honors. Dr. Nellis' current academic interests include natural resource systems and environmental geography, remote sensing applications to land and water resource assessment, spatial analysis techniques, and virtual GIS applications and publications. He has recently used his knowledge of remote sensing and its applications to publish ways of using these methods in education.

When asked about the future goals of the AAG, Dr. Nellis stated that one objective is to broaden the membership base while strengthening the academic core. The AAG has formed a specialty group on crossing boundaries; this

group includes ESRI founder Jack Dangermond and Susan Hansen, former AAG president. This specialty group will focus on involving geography at the national and international levels when critical issues arise. The AAG also plans to include more workshops, forums, and publications directed to its growing constituent outside the academic arena.

Dr. Nellis has visited SWT Geography on numerous occasions. He mentioned that one of the Department's strengths is our continued contribution to the business world by producing graduates who go on to participate in consulting, government, and business, thus enhancing the visibility of geography in the public domain. Dr. Nellis also recognized that SWT Geography has historically been a leader in geographic education, and our growing Ph.D. program continues to play a prominent role in academia. SWT Geography looks forward to welcoming Dr. Nellis this April at our 9th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration.

## Outstanding Leader David Mark to Speak at SWT Geography

Jessica Mefford



Dr. David Mark is currently a Professor of Geography at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Mark has been a Research Scientist with the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA) since its inception in 1988 and has served as director of the Buffalo NCGIA site. The NCGIA is a multidisciplinary research center that currently operates between three universities including the University of California, Santa Barbara, University of Maine, and SUNY Buffalo. SWT Geography's Yongmei Lu and Ben Zhan worked with the NCGIA during their doctoral studies at SUNY Buffalo.

During his career, Dr. Mark fulfilled leadership positions in several professional organizations including the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, the Geographic Information Systems Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, and the Canadian Cartographic Association.

He has served on the editorial boards of *American Cartographer*, *Geographical Analysis*, *Cartography and Geographic Information Systems*, *International Journal of Geographic Information Systems* and *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, to name a few. In April, Dr. Mark will be recognized for his achievements and his devotion to the field of geographic information science (GIScience) with SWT Geography's Outstanding Leadership Award.

Dr. Mark has served as a consultant to academic programs in GIScience. His experience and knowledge of the field of Geography and GIScience in particular make him an excellent candidate for such task. To our own growing GIScience program, Dr. Mark recommends including a multidisciplinary dimension to GIScience research, connecting GIScience to problems in the environment and social sciences and exploring the philosophical background behind GIScience.

Dr. Mark's current research interests include ontology, briefly defined as the specification of a conceptualization, or a description that exists for the concepts and relationships that exist for

a thing or group of things. In the context of Dr. Mark's research, geographical ontology is a formalization of the relationships between information systems and the tangible world. It serves as a vehicle to capture the essence of real physical processes in a logical system. Dr. Mark is currently working in coordination with Dr. Barry Smith, Professor of Philosophy. This work has been a step toward the fundamental relationships found in geographic information systems. Through this work it is hoped to gain a means of better representing the physical world in an information system.

To learn more about ontology in GIScience, plan to attend Dr. Mark's lecture at SWT Geography on Friday, April 25.



# Across the United States

## Unsuspecting People in Hazardous Places

*John Tiefenbacher*

Though stories of man versus beast are often fascinating, sometimes entertaining, and usually demonstrative of just how stupid people can be, my personal interest in animals as hazards is that there are potential benefits for both people and “the beasts.” The early twentieth century was a period of great expansion of humans into wild places. Expansion of settlement is always rife with potential for conflicts, but is particularly so when the wild must be tamed – there is always resistance. Taming took many forms, but the most violent was the ridding of successive landscapes of the dangers inherent in those places, particularly dangerous animals. The slaughter of wolves, mountain lions, bears, alligators, and other smaller carnivores was believed to be honorable and necessary for the protection of settlers and livestock. Grizzlies, red wolves, timber wolves and the American alligator, among others, were pushed to the brink of extinction in many parts of their ranges. By the middle of the last century, it became apparent that those animals had played important roles in the health of ecosystems and that many ecosystems were collapsing “under the weight of their own too much,” as Aldo Leopold put it. By having less of what they didn’t want, people were getting less of what they wanted from the land. We can’t seem to live with them and we can’t survive without them.

The success of the environmental movement of the 1960s is no better demonstrated than by the rebounding of populations of bears, wolves, alligators, mountain lions, jaguars, lynx, and other large animals. Recovery of some species is occurring faster than expected. Recovery of others is happening unexpectedly. Mountain lions, for instance, were once common residents of habitats from Canada to Tierra del Fuego. Until recently, their populations were believed to be limited to west of the Rocky Mountains, Texas, and southern Florida. Several have been reported in several states of the plains and prairies of the upper Midwest. It is possible that even the Florida panther (a small population of mountain lions) may be expanding northward in the state of Florida.

From a wildlife biologist’s point of view, the “retaking” of rightful territory is nothing but good – “Damn the victims, full speed ahead!” Unfortunately, as many of them will also acknowledge, it is vital for these animals to be understood and accepted in order for them to survive – fewer “victims” means less bad press for the animals. The fact is that the territories that the animals are repopulating are now, or soon will be, human habitat. People in the West, for instance, are increasingly suburbanizing as cities grow into surrounding countryside and more

people commute from distant developments to urban jobs. While safety is always intended, these safe spaces move unintentionally toward hazard. Forests are changed into subdivisions of young telecommuting families who plant gardens and decorative shrubbery to beautify their lawns and yards. These homeowners are indirectly creating edge habitat, the perfect environment for browsing ungulates like white- and black-tailed deer. So deer also flock to suburbs and build their own little herds. Deer are nice, aren’t they? They’re quiet and look so cute in their neighborhood herds (except when they pillage your vegetable garden and jump in front of your car and transmit lyme disease and attack your dog...). It just so happens that the mountain lion’s favorite food is deer, and, if you’re a mountain lion, you might as well live as close to the herd as you can get. In effect, our cultural norms inadvertently transform nature into places that are tremendously suitable for deer and other animals that depend on deer.

Now seeing a mountain lion would be cool, you say? Exhilarating perhaps? Probably, but you probably won’t see it when it’s there. Eventually perhaps the common feral house cats in your neighborhood start disappearing and you see more mice around the house. Perhaps your dog seems to have run away? Maybe you think you saw a mountain lion in the trees watching the deer browsing at dawn or dusk? But deer can be fast and dangerous prey for mountain lions. A safer or easier meal might just be preferred. The big cat starts to eye the seven-year-old schnauzer chained up in your back yard. Your daughter also likes to play in the backyard. She has so much fun, running, screaming... enticing sounds and images for the big cat, and she’s just the right height for the lion, just the right size... Or maybe your older child wants to join the track team to run cross country ... he enjoys training in the quiet of the forest around the high school. Running ... like a deer...

It has happened... not often, but it has happened. And the prospect is increasing for attacks because people are usually unaware of the hazards present in new settings. From 1890 to 1990, there were 9 recorded human fatalities from mountain lion attacks and 44 more people were injured. In the decade from 1990 to 2001, there were 5 more fatalities and 39 more injured by mountain lions. New families in new houses in new developments in new communities ... inexperience and lack of awareness... they add up to unsuspecting people in hazardous places. They add up to a dead or injured child and usually a dead mountain lion as well. Can this be avoided? The geographer in me tells me that it can. Where are these places? Why do the attacks occur where they occur? Can we predict these? How can we



*Habitat conversion continues to push alligators closer to human populations*

avoid dangerous encounters? There are notable “hot places” for mountain lion attacks: the front range of Colorado near Boulder, southern California between San Diego and Los Angeles, the vicinity of Glacier National Park, Montana, and Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. Why these places and why not in other areas well-populated by both mountain lions and people? But there’s more. There are “hot spaces” as well: recreational settings (parks, playgrounds, and the like) and landscapes that meet the needs of both people and lions.

Substitute “alligator” for “mountain lion” and “swamps” for “forest” in this scenario and you see the same pattern. There were two alligator-human encounters in Florida in the decades of the 1940s and 1950s, when the alligator was being hunted to the brink of extinction for meat, for its hide, and for fun. Since the early 1970s, when the gator was declared endangered and intensive efforts started to aid in its return to the South, there have been over 300 alligator attacks in the state: 42 in the 1970s, 75 in the 1980s, and 154 in the 1990s. In just the first 18 months of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there were already 29 more! We should acquire wisdom with experience, but residents and visitors to Florida have yet to develop alligator-savvy. The human population of Florida has grown steadily and has continued to expand into historical gator habitat. Habitat conversion for housing, businesses, and recreation has brought gators into greater contact with people near suburban developments, around park ponds, on omnipresent golf courses, and in other recreational settings.

In Louisiana somehow something’s different. The gator population is big (gators are an important commercial commodity), and recreation in gator habitat isn’t uncommon. But there are no reported attacks of alligators on people in the state in the last fifty years – not one. Why not? Some say culture, some say intelligence, some say experience. I don’t think we currently know enough to say for sure, but the explanation might help us understand and solve the problems with other wildlife. The bottom line is that, if we can understand the factors that influence the potential for violent encounters between people and wildlife and we can determine the factors that influence the outcome of such encounters, we can begin to protect both people and the large carnivores that are certain to be vital to the survival of humankind itself.



# Across the U.S. and Around the World

## Second International GIScience Conference

*Glen Fritz*

Approximately 300 people attended the Second International GIScience Conference held in Boulder, Colorado September 25-28, 2002. The first conference, held in 2000 in Savannah, GA, had a similar attendance. The meeting is interdisciplinary, attracting individuals from fields such as computer science, programming, engineering, and geography, although geographers appeared to be in the minority. The program consisted of 94 paper presentations, 20 posters and 6 discussion panels.

The conference focused on research about geographic information systems (GIS) and not research using GIS. Seminar topics included the semantics of geographical information, cognitive science, GIS uncertainty, spatial interpolation, software engineering, geo-privacy, space-time modeling, and artificial intelligence. SWT Geography faculty member Mark Horner presented a paper, "Rethinking Representation in Spatial Models," while recent MAG graduate David Stinchcomb and Dr. Susan Macey presented a poster about Texas Hill Country bicycle routes entitled "Roadway Slope Mapping".

The chief buzzword seemed to be ontology, which, in the area of knowledge representation, is used to refer to a formalized conceptualization in a given domain. In this sense, ontology uses abstractions to describe things and axioms to constrain meanings.

The presentations were generally quite technical and appeared to represent a good cross-section of research interests in GIScience. Because much of the subject matter did not have direct geographical implications, I came away from the event with the impression that the meeting would be more appropriately entitled the Spatial Information Science Conference.

## Feasibility Analysis of Scenic Byways in Texas

*Jim Kimmel*

Under contract to the Texas Department of Transportation, Jim Kimmel and Ph.D. student Caroline Hatfield of SWT's Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism recently completed analyzing the feasibility of implementing the Federal Scenic Byways Program in Texas. Thirty-nine states currently participate in the program, which is intended to promote local tourism and economic development, while preserving the environmental, historical, and cultural characteristics of regions. The study involved an analysis of Scenic Byways programs in other states, a comparison of other themed-route programs in the U.S. and Europe, interviews with local officials in other states, a survey of managers of Scenic Byways across the nation, and a case study of Scenic Byways in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. The Texas Department of Transportation will release the study to the public this spring.



*Headwaters of the Rio Grande on the Silver Thread Scenic Byway in Colorado*

## Regional Science Conference in Puerto Rico

*Mark Horner*

Often, conferences are held in attractive locations. In fact, just a few years ago the Association of American Geographers (AAG) annual meetings took place in Honolulu, Hawaii. Thanks to the generous support of the SWT Geography Department, I was able to attend the annual meetings of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) last November in San Juan, Puerto Rico! Fortunately (or unfortunately), I was so busy with the conference that I was able to ignore most of the "distractions." However, I did manage to visit Old San Juan and tour the world-famous Bacardi plant!

I attended my first RSAI conference (Charleston, SC) in 2001, and I was quite impressed. For those of you unfamiliar with RSAI, the conference is much smaller than the meetings of AAG; generally around a few hundred. This smaller number is generally attributable to the narrower focus of the conference; largely quantitative urban and regional research at the intersection of geography, economics, information science, engineering, and other such disciplines. The smaller scale of this conference facilitates interaction with colleagues. All papers presented at the conference are assigned a discussant, so one generally leaves the meeting with good feedback and ideas for future work. I hope that some of you seeking additional venues to present your work will consider the RSAI meeting in Chicago in November 2003.

**Where are you going to be on April 26?!!**



*Photo by J.J. Gallegos*

## SWAAG Field Trip to Guerrero Viejo

*Jeanette Gara*

After the close of the Southwestern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SWAAG) conference sessions, University of Texas-Austin sponsored a field trip to a very interesting town across the border in Mexico. Two vans of geographers, including a few of us from SWT Department of Geography, ventured to the old city of Guerrero and to the new city (Nuevo Guerrero) where residents were relocated in the 1950s. Guerrero Viejo was founded in the 1750s, flooded by the creation of Falcon Reservoir in 1950, and exposed in the 1990s due to drought in northern Mexico and dropping lake levels. Topics discussed on the trip included Spanish colonial town planning, life along the Rio Grande in the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Mexican "new" towns, architecture, vegetation changes, drought, water resources, and international relations.

## Alumni Bits

**Ward Adams** (MAG, 2001) works as a research specialist with the Texas Workforce Commission, where he recently received a service recognition award for five years of service to the state of Texas. Ward is also engaged to be married to Liz Campbell of Austin. Ward plans to enter the Ph.D. program in Environmental Geography at SWT in fall 2003.

**Cate Ball** (MAG, 1998) is a City Planner for the Town of South Padre Island. She is now certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners. Cate was recognized by the Texas American Planning Association South Section in 2001 with a Section Planning Award for Best Planning in a Disaster, and by the Texas Department of Transportation with a Certificate of Appreciation for coordinating ground transportation during the Queen Isabella Causeway Collapse of 2001.

**MIKE BOYLE** (BS, 1998) has completed his first year as project manager for the Flagstaff, Arizona office of SWCA Environmental Consultants. SWCA has 14 offices throughout the Southwest with Texas offices in Austin, San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas. He writes, "I now have a staff of 27 biologists and archaeologists. The big news for my office is that I have successfully won two of the largest and highest profile projects in Arizona, the Colorado River Management Plan/EIS (CRMP/EIS) and southwestern willow flycatcher studies along the Lower Colorado River. I am particularly proud of the CRMP/EIS project. I was a guide on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon for 15 years and I am now writing the plan that will ultimately determine how the National Park Service operates concessions on the river. These two projects span the entire Lower Basin (below Glen Canyon Dam) of the Colorado River.

**John Bradford** (BA, 1998) has moved to College Station, where he has accepted a land project manager position with a real estate firm. He will be overseeing 3,000+ acres of ranch and forestland for development and conservation. He also plans to enroll at Texas A&M in fall 2003 to begin work on his master's degree in land development.

**Laura Brock** (MAG, 2001) is now a water analyst for Environmental Defense in Austin.

**Buck Buchanan** (MAG, 1999) has accepted a full-time position as a founding faculty member at Cy-Fair College, part of the North Harris Metropolitan Community College District, in Houston.

**Scott Childress** (BS, 2002) is working as a GIS specialist for PennWell MAPSearch in Houston. He writes, "After graduation (August 2002), I took my girlfriend, Christina, to Big Bend and spent 8 days backpacking through the park and visiting in Marathon, TX. Once we made it to the South Rim I proposed to her overlooking the Mexican desert at dusk. It was a very romantic and exhilarating trip, and we can't wait to get back there. The rest is history! We plan to marry in May 2003. We enjoy the outdoors and miss Central Texas very much!"

**Chris Formeller** (BA, 2000) has been employed as a photogrammetrist with Surveying and Mapping, Inc. for the past 2 1/2 years. He was promoted to project manager.

**William Fratianni** (BS, 1998) is currently working for Dell Computers World Trade LP, a division of Dell Computers. He writes, "I am an account executive for Latin America (Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean). I am also happy to report that Dell Computers has the largest market share of business in that region."

**Jon Hood** (MAG, 2001) is an account manager for Vesuvius U.S.A. He works in Houston, Texas and sells Alumina Silica Refractory Specialties to hydrocarbon processing, power, incineration, and steel industries. He is currently pursuing a certificate in Advanced Ceramic Manufacturing Technology through the Ceramics Correspondence Institute.

**Doris Kraft** (MAG, 1997) has begun her own business in the past year. She is currently providing management for the Texas Society of Infection Control Practitioners. In addition, she plans and executes development projects for non-profit organizations.

**Chris Langston** (BS, 1995) has accepted a Planner III position with the San Antonio Water System in its Development Engineering Department. Previously, Chris had been a transportation modeler and chair of an Off-Road Equipment Subcommittee for the past three and half years with the Alamo Area Council of Governments, where he has been involved with on-road and off-road air emissions modeling. He and his wife had their second child, a baby girl they named Ashley, in June 2002.

**Colleen Larsen** (BS, 1996) is still working at Padre Dam Municipal Water District in Santee, California as a GIS/Mapping Specialist. She writes, "We continue to work on building more GIS applications for our Engineering,

Customer Service and Field Personnel staff. Our emphasis is on Preventative and Predictive Maintenance. We only have the Sewer Application running at the moment. We have a good procedure of workflow between our field people, the utility mappers and the GIS group to keep the sewer links and sewer appurtenances up to date. Currently, we're working on building our water application. Our Engineering Development Services and Design groups both have simple Arcview projects that help keep track of their projects. Overall, my job entails so many different duties and responsibilities that I continue to grow as a GIS/Mapping Specialist."

**Marc LeFebvre** (MAG, 2002) has accepted a position with the Council for Environmental Education in Houston. He writes, "I am coordinating a new program known as Flying WILD--an initiative that will facilitate the efforts of educators, community organizations and students in bringing bird conservation education to schools. Flying WILD's main vehicle for promoting education is providing guidance and resources for the establishment of school bird festivals. Since my master's thesis explored the learning associated with environmental oriented festivals, I am delighted by this opportunity to apply my research and promote geographic education." He and his wife Thea had their second child, a boy named Leopold, in October.

**Michael Lindner** (MAG, 1998) is at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, working as an environmental consultant for small businesses and local governments. He writes, "More importantly, my wife Pepi and our 18-month old daughter Lua are doing great. Pepi and I are having fun with the geographically challenging task of raising Lua bilingually."

**Meredith (Summers) Little** (BA, 1996) has moved to Burkeville in East Texas with her husband, Tim, and children Michael and Josephine. She and Tim also run Navigation Software Solutions, which specializes in Web design and creative software for business needs.

**Chris Looney** (BS, 1998) has moved to New Braunfels and is working as a planner with the City of San Antonio.

**James Michalk** (MAG, 2000) has been working for the past 2 1/2 years as a water quality modeler for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. His primary responsibilities include modeling dissolved oxygen levels in water bodies throughout the state for the



## Alumni Bits

purpose of evaluating discharges from industrial and domestic wastewater facilities.

**Tara (Masser) Philips** (MAG, 1999) and Bryan Philips were married October 5 in Fredericksburg. She works in Austin for Weston Solutions, Inc. (formerly Roy F. Weston, Inc.) as an Associate Project Scientist. She writes, "I have recently been placed in the office's new IT/GIS Group and will begin GIS work at the beginning of this year."

**Linda Prosperie** (MAG, 1998; Ph.D., 2002) has a full-time position with the Mid-America Geospatial Information Center (MAGIC) project in Austin. She serves as a ground segment technician for an international Earth Observing System satellite receiving station, and she is responsible for developing a production routine for large volumes of remote sensing satellite instrument data.

**William Pugatch** (MAG, 2001) works as a GIS specialist for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. He writes, "I work in an area that deals with surface water quality called the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program which basically applies to load allocations so we can manage things like fecal coliform, metals, dissolved oxygen, etc. I am there to do computerized cartography, geospatial analysis, and some modeling." William has been invited by the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York to present an updated version of his directed research project on "The Geography of Major League Baseball Player Production: 1871-2002," in which he traces the hometowns of all 15,500 players who have played in the majors since the game's origin. He will present his research at the Hall of Fame in July 2003.

**Cyndi Ramirez** (BS, 1998) and **Stephen Jetton** (BS, 1997) will be married March 8 in San Marcos. Both work for San Marcos-based Grande Communications, Cyndi as the Senior Network Traffic Analyst for the Wholesale & Retail Telephone Network and Stephen as a Systems Administrator for the Packet Networks.

**Andrew Skadberg** (Ph.D., 2002) has accepted a tenure-track faculty position in the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University.

**Yongxia Skadberg** (Ph.D., 2002) is working as an extension associate in the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University.

## Perspectives from Down (Under) by the River

*Jeff Wilson*

There is an old Saturday Night Live skit where a motivational speaker played by Chris Farley warns of the dangers that await those bad children who fail to say "no" to drugs. He warns that they could end up, like him,

living in a van down by the river. Something from the skit must have struck a chord in my nature. Despite my satisfactory report card for "saying no" most of the time, I now find myself in his precarious living quarters down under in the land of middle earth: New Zealand.

Even if you have never been here, it probably is not surprising to say that New Zealand ain't exactly San Marcos, by almost any measure. Lamb has replaced my beloved beef. Tea has replaced coffee. Mince pies are consumed in place of nearly as healthy Paws-N-Go buttered cinnamon roll biscuits. These things have local substitutes, but there is nothing that comes close to supplanting a chorizo breakfast taco on a homemade tortilla in aluminum (known here as "al-u-min-e-um") foil. Driving on the wrong side of the road is enough to make one crazy.

With the hope of mitigating the loss of my sanity, I have managed to import a few goods and customs from home. Boots and a Stetson draw strange looks for passers-by. A Terlingua horseshoe adorns the grill of my van. During Thanksgiving, as the sole American, I organized



*Jeff Wilson on South Island West Coast, New Zealand*

a turkey dinner complete with Pilgrim Hats and Indian feathers. A full can of Rotel rests on my desk, although its fullness is in more jeopardy as the moons pass. These things help to ease the pangs of desire for my homeland.

How did SWT prepare me for my doctoral work in another country? My undergraduate degree was in engineering, and because I knew almost nothing of geography, SWT was a great place for orientation. I feel like I have a good grasp on both physical and human geographic theory after my two years there. Over the next three years, I will be researching the health effects of air pollution on the local population. This research fits well with the spatial epidemiology work I completed at SWT. The excellent education I received from SWT professors including, Dr. Debbie Bryan and Dr. Ben Zhan, has given me a jump-start for my research in New Zealand.

Beyond all of the academic experiences, however, I can say the thing that made my experience so great at SWT was the true esprit de corps spirit of the program. The "Grad Pit" commune, the Alumni Reunions, and the friendly, genuine, nature of the people at SWT Geography truly make it a unique and memorable place and time in my life.

Jeff Wilson completed his Masters of Science degree in 2002 under Dr. Ben Zhan. He now lives in Christchurch, New Zealand (part time) in a 1985 Mitsubishi Van while working toward a Ph.D. Jeff is especially happy that Emily Manderson, his partner, recently completed her MAG degree at SWT and has moved to New Zealand. Contact Jeff at [j.wilson@geog.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:j.wilson@geog.canterbury.ac.nz).



*Assisting another Ph.D. student with his research, by drilling into the Franz-Josef Glacier on the South Island in New Zealand*

### 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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Personal Reminiscences or Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

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*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

**\*\*\*\*REGISTER BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 AND GET \$5 OFF REGISTRATION\*\*\*\***

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: \$15 for BBQ

(see below THREE ways to get \$5 dollars off registration – check up to three boxes for **FREE** registration):

- Register by Wednesday, April 9, receive \$5 off BBQ
- Will attend Formal Program I - Scholarships Presentation (start time: 10:00 a.m.), receive \$5 off BBQ
- Will attend Formal Program II - Awards Presentation (start time: 1:15 p.m.), receive \$5 off BBQ

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

2) Friends of Geography: \$15 for BBQ

Number of Friends of Geography registrations on this form: \_\_\_\_\_

- Register by Wednesday, April 9, receive \$5 off BBQ

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: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total amount included with this registration 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): \_\_\_\_\_

**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

# First Annual Poker Tournament Registration Form

## Ready for Some Fun?

Come play Texas Hold'em Poker and win some cool prizes!

**\$50 donation to the SWT**

**Department of Geography Scholarship Fund**

for entry into the

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration Poker Tournament!**

Friday

April 25, 2003

Historic Fish hatchery Office in Sewell Park

(right behind San Marcos Chamber of Commerce and Parks & Recreation Department )

**7:00 pm ♠ Hospitality Room opens 7:30 pm ♠ Auction begins**

Try your luck against:

**Faculty, Staff & Friends of the Geography Department**

\$50 donation covers entry fee and refreshments in the hospitality room.

Do you want to come watch and not play?

**\$10 gets you an evening of fun includes hospitality room snacks and beverages.**

You must be 21 or older to enter the building and/or play poker!

For more information, contact

Pam March

pm1037@swt.edu,

(512) 408-8925

or in the Grad Pit (ELA 113)

**♣♠♥♦Deadline to sign up to play: Friday, April 18, 2003 ♦♥♠♣**

Winners receive prizes, not cash! Game played is Texas Hold'em, Las Vegas tournament style with timed, increased limits. All players receive a prize for entering.

Sign me up!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to: play? (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ I am 21 or older \_\_\_\_\_  
watch (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

Please make checks payable to " SWT Department of Geography" and mark it "Poker Tournament"



## **“Spirit of Geography” Golf Tournament Registration Form**

# **First Annual “Spirit of Geography” Golf Tournament!!!**

**Come and join your fellow geographers as Dr. Rich Dixon hosts the first annual “Spirit of Geography” Golf Tournament. Golfers of all ages, genders, and abilities are welcome. No handicap is necessary because this tournament is all about fun, fellowship, and Sharing the Spirit of Geography! Prizes will be awarded to the winners of the closest to the pin contest and long drive contest. Other “novelty” prizes and awards with a geographic theme are also planned.**

**Sunday April 27, 2003  
Sundance Golf Club  
New Braunfels, Texas  
Shotgun start at 8:00 AM**

**Entry Fee: \$25.00 per person includes green fee and cart!!!**

**Registration Deadline: APRIL 17, 2003**

(Registration is limited to 20 participants, so register early!)

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**Registration Form: Due APRIL 17, 2003**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preference for pairings:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks Payable to Department of Geography**

**Return Registration to: Spirit of Geography Golf Tournament**

Attn: Dr. Rich Dixon  
Department of Geography  
Southwest Texas State University  
SanMarcos, TX 78666  
rd11@swt.edu or 512-245-7436  
www.geo.swt.edu