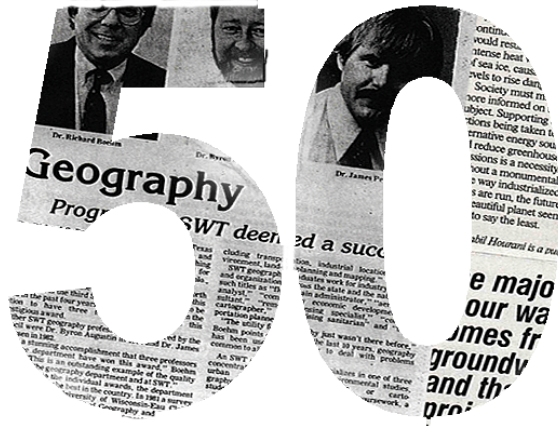
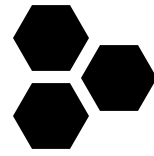


G E O N E W S



CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS

Texas State University
Department of Geography
Newsletter 2015

Greetings from the Chair

DR. ALBERTO GIORDANO, PROFESSOR AND CHAIR

Welcome to the Spring 2015 Newsletter of the Department of Geography. This is my first "greetings from the Chair" column and my second year as Chair. Let me start by thanking Dr. Phil Suckling for his eight years of service at the helm of our department. He left a healthy, successful, collaborative, and friendly group of faculty and staff, and I am honored to be his successor. I also want to thank Associate Chair Dr. Ron Hagelman, for his support, counsel, and friendship, and the faculty for their dedication to the students, the department, and the university, and for their willingness to explore new directions for the Geography department in an evolving and increasingly challenging academic landscape. I want to extend an especially heartfelt thanks to all the staff of the department for their work ethic, competence, attitude, enthusiasm, and for their willingness to go the extra mile (or miles!) to ensure that the department is a successful and welcoming community of students, alumni, staff, and faculty.

The past two academic years have been eventful. In Fall 2013, the department successfully completed its Academic Program Review, a formal process of review of academic programs that takes place every five years and is conducted by

external reviewers. One of the recommendations of the reviewers was to pursue a PhD name change for the Environmental Geography program. The faculty and the university upper administration agreed with the recommendation and as a result we are proud to announce that as of January 9, 2015, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has authorized our department to offer a PhD program in Geography—that is, without the "Environmental" qualifier. (The department has retained its two others PhD programs in Geographic Information Science and Geographic Education.) As a result of the name change, we will be able to continue our strong environmental traditions and also recruit new students in all sub-fields of Geography. In Fall 2014 we also graduated our 100th PhD, a symbolic but meaningful milestone that attests to the health and success of our program. Our PhDs work in academia, the public and private sector, and research centers all over the world, making us proud and honored of their accomplishments.



Another milestone for the department was the establishment of the National Center for Research and Geographic Education (NCRGE), a joint venture of the Department of Geography's Grosvenor Center and the Association of American Geographers (AAG). This is, to my knowledge, the first national center established on campus, and the first time the AAG has

"In Fall 2014 we graduated our 100th PhD"

partnered with a single institution on an initiative of this magnitude. The partnership has the potential for shaping geography education policies and research at the national and international level. We also strengthened our research and teaching collaboration with the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment,

a university center directed by Dr. Andy Sansom, Professor of Practice in our department and a graduate of our PhD program. We are also pleased to announce that, as of April 13, 2015, the Government Partnership Program (GPP) has a new director, Dr. Rebecca Davio. Rebecca, also an Assistant professor of Practice in Geography, brings considerable managerial and leadership experience acquired while working in the private sector and for the State of Texas. Dr. Davio succeeds Dr. Robert Larsen, GPP's founder and director for thirteen years, who has entered phased retirement. The Government Partnership Program has brought to the university over \$12,000,000 in grants over the course of thirteen years, and has supported, trained, and helped find permanent employment for over 400 students, mostly in Geography. Dr. Larsen will continue to stay involved in GPP to ensure a smooth and successful transition and to help pursuing new opportunities and projects.

I cannot, in this column, cover all that has happened in the department since I became Chair, but I do want to mention two events that have resonated not only inside the university but also at the State, national, and international level. The first is the visit of President Banda of Malawi and her contingent to the department in Fall 2013. In addition to delivering the 2013 Grosvenor Lecture, President Banda met with a large group of faculty from Geography and other departments, as well as several university administrators, to discuss collaboration possibilities and teaching and research opportunities between

Texas State and the country of Malawi. President Banda's visit was an honor for all of us in Geography and in the university, as this was the first time ever a sitting President visited Texas State. The second especially notable event occurred in January 2015, when the Department of Geography co-organized with the Meadows Center, the Texas Tribune, and the Texas Water Journal a panel on the history and future of the Edwards Aquifer Authority. Panelists and attendants included many key players of the Edwards Aquifer disputes of the 1980s and 1990s, as well as academics, policy-makers, elected officials, and interested Texas citizens. A video of the event is available online (<http://www.texastribune.org/plus/water/vol-3/no-5/panel-discussions-edwards-aquifer-available/>).

“Our students leave the department with the skills and education that allows them to be informed citizens and future leaders”

We have also welcomed several new faculty members to the Geography community, starting in Fall 2013, when we were joined by two tenure-track Assistant Professors (Dr. Colleen Hiner and Dr. Kimberly Meitzen) and one tenure-track Associate Professor (Dr. Jason Julian). Colleen (PhD, University of California Davis, 2012) is an Environmental Geographer who specializes in Environmental Management, Cultural

Ecology, and the Urban-Rural Fringe. Kimberly (PhD, University of South Carolina, 2011) is a Hydrologist with research and teaching interests in Fluvial Processes and Geomorphology, River Basin Management, and Biogeography. Jason (PhD, University of North Carolina, 2007) is an Environmental Geographer who focuses on Water Resources, Land Use/Land Cover Change, River Ecosystems, and Fluvial Geomorphology. In Fall 2014, we were joined by two additional tenure-track Assistant Professors. Dr. Yihong Yuan (PhD, University of California Santa Barbara, 2013) is a Geographic Information Scientist who specializes in Spatio-Temporal Data Mining, Human Mobility Modeling, and Travel Behavior. Dr. Russell “Rusty” Weaver (PhD, SUNY Buffalo, 2012) is an Urban Geographer who focuses on Urban Change and Decline and Spatial Analysis. Lastly, we have appointed Dr. Michael Solem, Director of Educational Research and Programs for the Association of American Geographers (AAG), to the position of Research Professor of Geography.

In the academic year 2014-2015 we have hired four new faculty members: Dr. Rebecca Davio for the GPP directorship, and one Senior Lecturer in Geology, one tenure-track Assistant Professor in Climatology, and one tenure-track Assistant Professor in Political Geography. We are also interviewing candidates for a fifth position, an Endowed Chairship in Water Conservation, to be hosted in the Geography department and at the Meadows Center.

More on the new hires after these new colleagues join us in the Fall 2015 semester. Finally, three faculty members were promoted. As of Fall 2013, Drs. Richard Dixon and Yongmei Lu were promoted to Full Professor and Dr. Edwin Chow was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Warm congratulations to Rich, Yongmei, and Ed!

I also want to recognize and celebrate the legacy, accomplishments, and contributions of three colleagues who have recently retired, Dr. Kimmel, Dr. Day, and Dr. Macey. For their service to the students, the department, the university, and the professional community, these colleagues have been awarded the title of Emeritus Professor by Texas State University and the Department of Geography.

Dr. James "Jim" R. Kimmel retired in May 2013 after twenty-two years of service to the Department of Geography at Texas State University. Jim received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. During his career at Texas State, Dr. Kimmel taught sixteen different undergraduate and graduate courses and developed the Nature and Heritage Tourism Minor and the Certificate in Environmental Interpretation. Jim is the author of two books published by Texas A&M University Press (*The San Marcos: A River's Story* and *Exploring the Brazos River*) and several book chapter, journal articles, and conference proceedings. His service to the department and the university includes the Associate Directorship of the Rivers Systems Institute (now the Meadows

Center for Water and the Environment), membership in the committee that developed the first PhD program at Texas State, the establishment of the Touchstone-Kimmel Scholarship in the Department of Geography, and service in the Faculty Senate. Dr. Kimmel was the recipient of numerous honors, including the National Council for Geographic Education

"our undergraduate program is thriving, with over 600 majors in Geography and about 200 minors in Geology."

Distinguished Teaching Service Award, the Association of American Geographers Globe Book Award for Public Understanding of Geography, the Dean of Liberal Arts Scholarship Award, and the San Marcos River Foundation Friends of the River Award. In 2005-2008, he was the recipient of the Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones Professor of Southwestern Studies endowed professorship.

Dr. Frederick "Fred" A. Day retired in May 2014 after twenty-six years of service to Texas State University. He received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1982 and went on to teach at the University of Colorado and East Carolina University before joining Texas State in 1988. Fred is a human geographer whose research work has focused on understanding the geographic and socioeconomic processes underlying population change, and in particular the effects of rapid population growth, migration, and depopula-

tion of the Great Plains. During the course of his career, Fred received numerous teaching awards and advised over eighty Texas State graduate students. At Texas State, he taught courses in population geography and the regional geography of Asia at the undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D. levels. Dr. Day also served as President of the Southwest Division of

the Association of American Geographers in 1995. A speaker of three foreign languages, Dr. Day has traveled extensively and worked five years in Asia. He

joined the Peace Corps in the early 1970s and spent two years teaching middle school in Korea.

From 1975 to 1978 he conducted research on the efficiency of public health care center locations in Thailand. In the summer of 1998 and for the 2003-2004 school years Dr. Day returned to Korea to teach Population Geography at Seoul National University, Korea's most prestigious university.

Dr. Susan M. Macey retired in May 2014 after twenty-six of service to Texas State University. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1982 and went on to teach at the University of Kentucky and Rutgers University before joining Texas State in 1988. At Texas State, Dr. Macey taught over twenty graduate and undergraduate courses spanning several areas in the discipline, including techniques, energy, natural and technological hazards, and health geography.

She also created several courses in GIS. Susan's research interests include GIS, environmental hazards, energy, medical geography, behavioral geography, and aging. During the course of her career, she has authored twenty-two refereed journal articles, six conference papers, four book chapters, five reports, and fifty paper presentations at regional, national and international meetings, and obtained external grants worth more than \$465,000. Her service to the discipline include Texas State delegate to the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, and director/chair of four Association of American Geographers' Specialty Groups. At the state and local levels, she served on the Texas Geographic Information Council and the

Capital Area Geographic Information Systems Planning Council. After spending twenty-six years in Central Texas, Susan has retired to her hometown of Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Brock Brown and Dr. Phil Suckling will retire in May 2015. These colleagues will be honored at the 2015 Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, scheduled for May 1st at the Freeman Ranch. I will celebrate their career and accomplishments in the next department's newsletter; for now, I want to thank Brock and Phil for their outstanding service to the department, their dedication to students, and their love for Geography.

To conclude this column, I want to close by celebrating our undergraduate program, which is thriving, with over 600 majors in Geography and about 200 minors in Geology. Our students leave the department with the skills and education that allows them to be informed citizens and future leaders, and to start productive and rewarding careers in the public and private sector. This is due not only to their talent and abilities, work, and passion for Geography, but also to a committed and dedicated faculty and staff. To my colleagues and all students, I want to send my big "Thank You" for your support, inspiration, and appreciation for each other and for the field of Geography.

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Pictured: Elizabeth Sterry



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN MARCOS
The rising STAR of Texas


Newsletter and Graphics created by Aja Brooks



TEXAS STATE

GEOGRAPHY

A HISTORY OF MAKING HISTORY



1965
Department of Geography is created. Dr. Allen Hellman is chair.



1977
Dr. Richard Boehm becomes chair. Faculty triples from 5 to 15 while Boehm was chair.


1981
Journal of Geography ranks department undergraduate program #1 in the nation

1983
Master's degree is offered. Undergraduate geography program became the largest in the nation with over 400 undergraduate students.

1986
Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE) is established.



Faculty nearly doubles from 16 to 29 while Estaville is chair



1994
Dr. Lawrence Estaville becomes chair and leads the department through an exceptional period of growth.

1996
Department adds Texas State's **first doctoral program**. The first five doctoral students were admitted the same year.



1995 Grad Student Forum created

50 YEARS

1997

Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education is established.

1999 Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG) is established

2000

Lisa Dechano and Todd Votteler become Texas State's (then Southwest Texas) **first** PhD graduates.

2001

Department gains membership into the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science



22%

enrollment increase from 2008-2009

2005



Dr. Phil Suckling becomes chair. 70 doctoral degrees were awarded during his 8 years of service.

2013-present



Dr. Alberto Giordano becomes chair. The department now has over 600 majors.

Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda President of Malawi

International Leader Tackles Poverty and Education in Malawi

September 19, 2013, the Grosvenor Center hosted her Excellency President Joyce Banda of Malawi at the Alkek Library Teaching Theater. Texas State President Dr. Denise Trauth gave the welcome speech. President Banda presented a lecture on "Transformational Partnerships in Malawi" to the over 300 students, faculty, staff, and invited guests in attendance. The Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and the 100 X Development Foundation co-sponsored the event.

President Banda is excited about the potential for changing leadership in Africa through transformational partnerships. Her Excellency said, "What I feel is that Africa is ready for female leadership. I must say that I have been pleasantly surprised because Africa has always seemed a patriarchal society where there is no room for women. I am very excited about what I see. Africa can create space for women to participate in leadership." President Banda served as foreign minister and the first vice president of Malawi before being elected to the presidency.

In Malawi, about half of the population is living in poverty and President Banda is working with the UN and within Africa to improve every citizen's standard of living. "As long as there is still work to do, I shall continue working until the job is done," declared President Banda, "I don't even have a choice. For me it was a calling."

Contact the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education for upcoming Grosvenor Distinguished Lectures by calling (512) 245-1823 or email lg33@txstate.edu.



"Africa is not all about disasters, calamity, and fighting. There is good leadership out there – leadership that is hopeful, that puts people first. For me, this is the job. I will work until the job is done."

"The UN must listen to us because that is what they are there for, and to look at issues of poverty, development, and health."

"Malawi has a youthful population interested in university – as an area it has potential. We need to find scholarships for the students."

Last November, Dr. Denise Blanchard was among 1,200 participants from all over the U.S. at the 2014 Joint Summit of the 24th Biennial Meeting of The Coastal Society and the 7th National Meeting on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration outside of Washington, DC at National Harbor, MD. The conference's theme entitled, "Inspiring Action, Creating Resilience" encompassed a wide array of coastal and estuarine topics such as: Living Shorelines, Building Community Resilience to Coastal Hazards, Technology and Tools for Coastal and Estuary Management, Restoration Science, Coastal and Marine Spatial Visualization and Planning, Planning for Climate Change, Improving Water Quality, New Paradigms in Coastal Resources Management, and Impacts from Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina. Dr. Blanchard also participated in a "Living Shorelines Project" field trip in Annapolis, MD, hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). Dr. Rob Schneder lectured on techniques, planning and design needed for successful projects at two of

CBF's most successful living shoreline sites: College Creek at St. John's College and Hoffman Park in the Parkwood Community. Pictured is Dr. Blanchard on the field trip, Dr. Schneder lecturing at College Creek, and a section of living shoreline restoration at Hoffman Park. The group also toured the headquarters of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

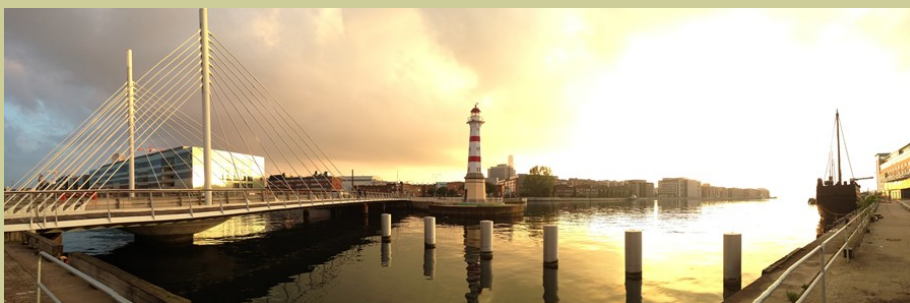


Brief report on the "Relational landscape studies of urbanization" conference in Alnarp, Sweden (June 2014)

By Colleen C. Hiner

In June 2014, I attended the "Relational landscape studies of urbanization" conference, in Alnarp, Sweden. The conference including presenters from several continents and many countries and sought to "explore the potential of relational landscape studies as a means to gain more nuanced understanding of the messy processes of urbanisation and peri-urbanisation" (per the conference website: <http://www.landscapestudies.se>). Paper topics all related to the "landscape" theme and included presenters from fields like geography, environmental studies, planning, agriculture, history, and political ecology. The conference was hosted by Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management and took place

at the Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences. Below are some photos of the campus as well as from Malmo, Sweden, the most proximate metropolitan area.



The Name Change | SUPO

The official name of the organization shall, from now on, be known as: **The Texas State University Student Urban Planner's Organization; a chapter of the Students for the New Urbanism**

The Colloquial Name shall be known as: **The Student Urban Planner's Organization**

The abbreviation for all intents and purposes shall be: **SUPO**

SUPO | Our Members, Our Involvement, Our Organization.

Along with changing a lot about the organization, it is inarguable that the differences attracted some of the best students that the Department of Geography can offer. Out of the 9 meetings in total during the semester, our maximum attendance was 43 people total. Of the people that came to meetings, we had 36 people pay the \$20 dues to get a T Shirt and become official members. On average, our meeting attendance was 21.5 people, a drastic increase from years passed. Of the three social events we held, an average of 18 people were at each. Of the two projects, nearly every member signed up to be a part in one way or another while a handful of others helped in any way they could. The volunteer events had an average of 9 people. We have a mix of undergraduates and graduate students ranging from freshmen to 2nd year graduate studies students from ages 18 to 56. All in all, the organization has gained notoriety in not only Urban Planning majors, but Geography majors as well. SUPO is active and growing this semester, with a new officer board, and over 20 regular members. We will be taking a field trip in April to the Mueller Redevelopment in Austin and taking a trip to Dallas-Fort Worth to CNU-23. CNU-23 is the Annual Conference for the Congress for New Urbanism, and the theme this year is "Meeting the Demand for Walkable Places." For more information on SUPO, go to <http://txstsupo.weebly.com/>. For more information on CNU-23, go to www.cnu.org.

"SUPO and the friends I made in it have given me the confidence and courage to begin actively perusing opportunities outside of classes and start thinking about my professional career. I can't wait for the spring." - Christina, SUPO Member, 2013



Net ID

Password

Since its launch, the geoguest / geography Career and Internship TRACS site has logged more than 50,000 user-visits by both geography students and geography alumni searching for career information, job postings and networking opportunities. Thanks in large part to the assistance of a network of geography alumni, the TRACS site displays hundreds of job and internship descriptions every year which have helped many Texas State Geographers get their careers started or make a career advancement move. The site also holds a collection of career information documents, links to Texas State Career Services Department resources – available to alumni as well as current students - and links to organizations that frequently employ geographers. Finally, the geoguest / geog-

graphy TRACS site maintains all seven editions of the *Geography Alumni Business Card Directory* - a most valuable tool for researching geography-related careers and finding networking contacts. If you are planning for an internship, your first job or thinking about a career move, an hour or so browsing the resources posted on the site will very likely be worth your time! If you or your organization have an internship or job opportunity you would like to post on the geoguest / geography Career and Internship TRACS site, please forward to Mark Carter @ mc12@txstate.edu.

ALUMNI FOCUS

Neng Wan accepted a position as tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Utah. Nen's advisor was Dr. Ben Zhan.

Matt Patton (advisor: Dr. Denise Blanchard-Boehm) accepted a two-and-a-half year post-doctoral position at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Matt will be working with Dr. Leilani Arthurs in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Nebraska.

Elyse Zavar accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of Geography at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, CT (<https://www.southernct.edu/>).

Yan Lin (advisor: Dr. Zhan) accepted a tenure-track, Assistant Professor position in GIScience at South Dakota State.

Matthew Connolly accepted a position as tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Central Arkansas beginning Fall 2014. Matt graduated from the GIScience PhD program in August 2013 and is currently on a one-year visiting lectureship at the University Utah. Matt's major advisor was Dr. Ron Hagelman.

Larry Kleitches was hired as a full-time instructor/temporary assistant professor at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania.

Briane R. Willis graduated from the geography department in 2012 and will be graduating in August 2015 with a M.S. in Environmental Education and Interpretation from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.



Cameron University has honored **Edris Montalvo** (Texas State Geography PhD 2010) its highest teaching award! We are all very proud of Edris as he holds our Texas State Geography flag high!

<http://www.cameron.edu/media-releases2014/Hackler>

The work of Geography PhD alum **Matthew Connolly** and faculty co-authors Ron Hagelman and Sven Fuhrmann was recently published in the International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research. The paper, "Estimating Residential Carbon Footprints for an American City," has been selected as IJAGR's Best Paper for 2012. (<http://www.irma-international.org/viewtitle/70661/>)

FACULTY NEWS

Butler Receives Graduate College Mentoring Award

Dr. David R. Butler, Texas State University System Regents' Professor in the Department of Geography, is the recipient of the inaugural (2014) Graduate College Outstanding Mentor Award. This award recognizes a faculty member who has had outstanding success in mentoring graduate students. Dr. Butler will receive the award in a Graduate College Award Ceremony held during Graduate Student Appreciation Week on April 10, 2015.



Dr. Alberto Giordano

Profiled in the USC Shoah Foundation article, "Holocaust Geographies Collective Explores Visual History Archive" regarding his work with the Holocaust Geographies Collective, a multi-institutional, collaborative research group.

<http://sfi.usc.edu/news/2014/01/holocaust-geographies-collective-explores-visual-history-archive>

Dr. Richard Boehm

Received the Dean's Excellence Award in Scholarly/Creative Activities

Awarded \$200,000 by the National Science Foundation for the project "RAPID: Geospatial Resources, Materials, and Tools for STEM Teacher Preparation." This is the first award that results directly from the creation of NCRGE, an initiative of the AAG, the Grosvenor Center, and Texas State Geography.

Mr. Mark Carter

-20 years of service at Texas State
-Received ALPHA-CHI Favorite Professor Award

Dr. Tzee Kiu Edwin Chow

Tenured and promoted to Associate Professor.
Recognized as a "Favorite Professor" by the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society.
Awarded Research Enhancement Program grant for 2014.

Dr. Brian Cooper

received the Dean's Excellence Award in Teaching

Dr. Richard Dixon

Promoted to professor

Dr. Lawrence Estaville

Received Geography Champion Award for establishing numerous scholarships and awards at Texas State University, Department of Geography, 2013.

The Texas Health Atlas co-authored by Lawrence Estaville and former Texas State geography doctoral student, Kristine Egan, has been honored with the Texas Reference Source Award for 2014 by the Texas Reference Source Award Committee of the Texas Library Association's Reference Round Table.

Honored with the Distinguished Scholar Award by the AAG Ethnic Geography Specialty Group.

National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) honored Dr. Estaville with its Exceptional Service Award for his work as a member of the NMDP Board of Directors.

Received the Dean's Excellence Award in Service

Dr. Ron Hagleman

Elected to Chair of the AAG Regional Division Councilors. Ron's term will expire in Fall 2015.

The work of Geography PhD student Matthew Connolly and faculty co-authors Ron Hagleman and Sven Fuhrmann was recently published in the International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research. The paper, "Estimating Residential Carbon Footprints for an American City," has been selected as IJAGR's Best Paper for 2012. (<http://www.irma-international.org/viewtitle/70661/>)

Dr. Colleen Hiner

Awarded a Research Enhancement grant from Texas State University to fund her project "Foothills in flux: Wine and the production and consumption of landscapes in the Sierra Nevada foothills of California." In this study, Dr. Hiner will examine the transition of the Sierra Nevada foothills from a place of production to one of consumption, chronicling the role of the booming wine industry in (re)shaping not just the physical landscape but also the cultural one.

Dr. David Butler

Awarded Certificate of Reviewing Excellence, from the Editors of *Geomorphology*.

Honorary Professor of International Studies 2012-2015
Published *Fire Lookouts of Glacier National Park*, with reviews featured and shared in the *Great Falls Tribune*, *Explore Big Sky*, and the *Washington Post*
Recipient of The Graduate College Outstanding Mentor Award. This award recognizes a faculty member who has had outstanding success in mentoring graduate students.

Recognized as a "Favorite Professors" by the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society.

Dr. Jennifer Jensen

Awarded a Research Enhancement Program grant for 2014.

Dr. Injeong Jo Now an assistant professor at Texas State, is the winner of the 2013 NCGE Salvatore J. Natoli Dissertation Award, given by the National Council for Geographic Education.

Dr. Yongmei Lu

Promoted to Professor

Honorary Professor of International Studies 2012-2015

Recognized as a "Favorite Professor" by the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society

Dr. Kimberly Meitzen

Recognized as a "Favorite Professor" by the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society

Awarded Research Enhancement Program grant for 2014.

Dr. John Tiefenbacher

Named Honorary Professor of International Studies 2012-2015

Dr. Muniz-Solari

Awarded a PAIGH-OAS (Pan American Institute of Geography and History – Organization of American States) grant to develop an "Online Network for Geographic Learning." The amount of the grant is \$10,150.

Dr. Robert Larsen Received an Award for Grant Funding

Dr. Donald Huebner

10 Years of Service

Since last January, Dr. Don Huebner, Senior Lecturer of Geography, has been serving as Interim Director of the Freeman Center (aka Freeman Ranch). Dr. Huebner is being elevated to Director of the Freeman Center effective September 1. Dr. Huebner will maintain his full-time role as Senior Lecturer of Geography while also undertaking his Freeman duties.

Awarded Research Enhancement Program grant for 2014.

Dr. Jason Julian

Awarded \$72,184 by the National Science Foundation for the project "Collaborative Research: Cross-Scale Interactions Among Climate, Land-Use, and River-Water Quality."

Grants:

-Social Demand for Ecosystem Services in the Nation's Fastest Growing City: San Marcos, TX. Research Enhancement Program, Texas State University, \$8,000 (JPJ portion: \$8,000). PI, 2015.

-Cross-scale Interactions among Climate Change, Land Use Change, and River Water Quality. NSF-GSS, \$227,816 (JPJ portion \$72,184). PI with Kirsten de Beurs and Chris Weaver (co-PIs), 2014-2016.

-NASA – Land Cover Land Use Change Program, \$213,262, 2014-2015

Title: Land Management Impacts on Water Quality in New Zealand across Political Boundaries

Investigators: PI-Jason P. Julian (Texas State University), co-PI Kirsten de Beurs (Oklahoma University)

Dr. Julian went to New Zealand last summer for research on his NASA grant: "Land Management Impacts on Water Quality in New Zealand across Political Boundaries."

While there, Dr. Julian gave 3 invited seminars and 1 guest lecture in Forest Engineering at the University of Canterbury.

Jessica Schneider

Research Coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts, earned her certification to become a Certified Research Administrator

WE PROUDLY WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT:

Tom Ballinger (to begin Fall 2015) – Assistant Professor in Climatology

Jennifer Devine (to begin Fall 2015) – Assistant Professor in Political Geography

Suzon Jammes (to begin Fall 2015) – Senior Lecturer in Geology

Rebecca Davio (began Spring 2015)

Rusty Weaver (began Fall 2014) – Assistant Professor in Urban Geography

Yihong Yuan (began Fall 2014) – Assistant Professor in GIScience

Nature and Heritage Tourism, Rivers, and a Quest for Geographic Holism

Jim Kimmel Ph.D., Professor Emeritus

In the mid-1990s I was searching for a way to emphasize and implement the holistic character of geography. I think holism is geography's uniqueness, but it is hard to do within our long intellectual tradition of analysis rather than synthesis.

About this time the tourism program coordinator at the Smithsonian Institution asked me to be the interpretive guide for their first tour through the Lower Canyons or the Rio Grande. I also published an article about using rivers as a context for educational programs, what we now call place-based education. And the university was asked by the U.S. State Department to host three delegations of Mongolian officials in order to help Mongolia move into a market economy from its decades in the Soviet sphere. I took Mongolian governors and the Deputy Prime Minister on tours to west Texas, thinking that it would be useful for them to see how we use semi-arid and desert places similar to much of Mongolia (but much warmer) for nature tourism.

Two complementary initiatives arose from those experiences. One was the course on River Basin Management which I developed and taught first in 1997. The second was the interdisciplinary minor in Nature and Heritage Tourism which was approved in 1997.



With encouragement and assistance from Chairman Lawrence Estaville, we developed the minor in Nature and Heritage Tourism in consultation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), especially Dr. Andrew Sansom who was Executive Director of

“The general public needs to understand how our world works”

TPWD and is now a geography professor at Texas State and director of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment. TPWD was starting its program in nature tourism, with the goal of encouraging private landowners to develop nature tourism activities as a way to broaden the state's tourism opportunities and

to generate supplemental income for the landowners. We became active in founding the Texas Nature Tourism Council and in providing technical assistance to ranchers and small towns that were interested in developing nature and heritage tourism. We also worked closely with the Parks, Recreation and Tourism program at TAMU, with a tacit agreement that they would focus on the business aspects of nature and heritage tourism and we would focus on the educational/interpretive aspects, with an emphasis on preparing students to work as guides.

As part of their doctoral work at Texas State Yongxia Xia, Ron Stephenson, and Andy Skadberg evaluated the suitability of geography as a context for interpretation in nature and heritage tourism.

Nature and Tourism continued...

I thought that cultural ecology would be an important perspective for interpretation and developed a course that is included in the certificate curriculum.

Given my interests in rivers as informal learning/interpretive venues I wrote *The San Marcos: A River's Story* and *Exploring the Brazos*, both published by the TAMU Press as part of its Nature Guide series. The Association of American Geographers gave the Brazos book the Globe Book Award for Public Understanding of Geography in 2011.

The general public needs to understand how our world works. I

think nature and heritage tourism, especially on rivers, can be compelling and enjoyable informal place-based learning and can help people develop a holistic perspective of our world. Both rivers and nature and heritage tourism provide useful contexts for holism. Rivers are a multiplicity of atmospheric, biogeochemical, and cultural processes at every scale from riffles to their watershed boundaries. Nature and heritage tourism is all about place, which is inherently holistic.

As I prepared for retirement in 2013 it was obvious that the best way to continue and grow the Nature and Heritage Tourism program was to recruit Shelley Plante to teach the NHT course. For many years Shelley has served as the

Nature Tourism Coordinator for TPWD and earned her MAG degree at the same time. The purpose of the NHT program is to prepare students to work in nature and heritage tourism, so Shelley's knowledge and experience are perfect. Dr. Jim Petersen's long-term interest and work in environmental interpretation made him the natural choice to continue that program.

GIS Day 2013

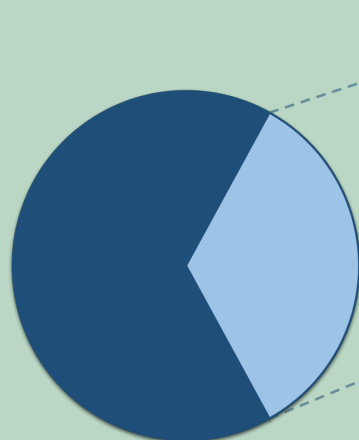
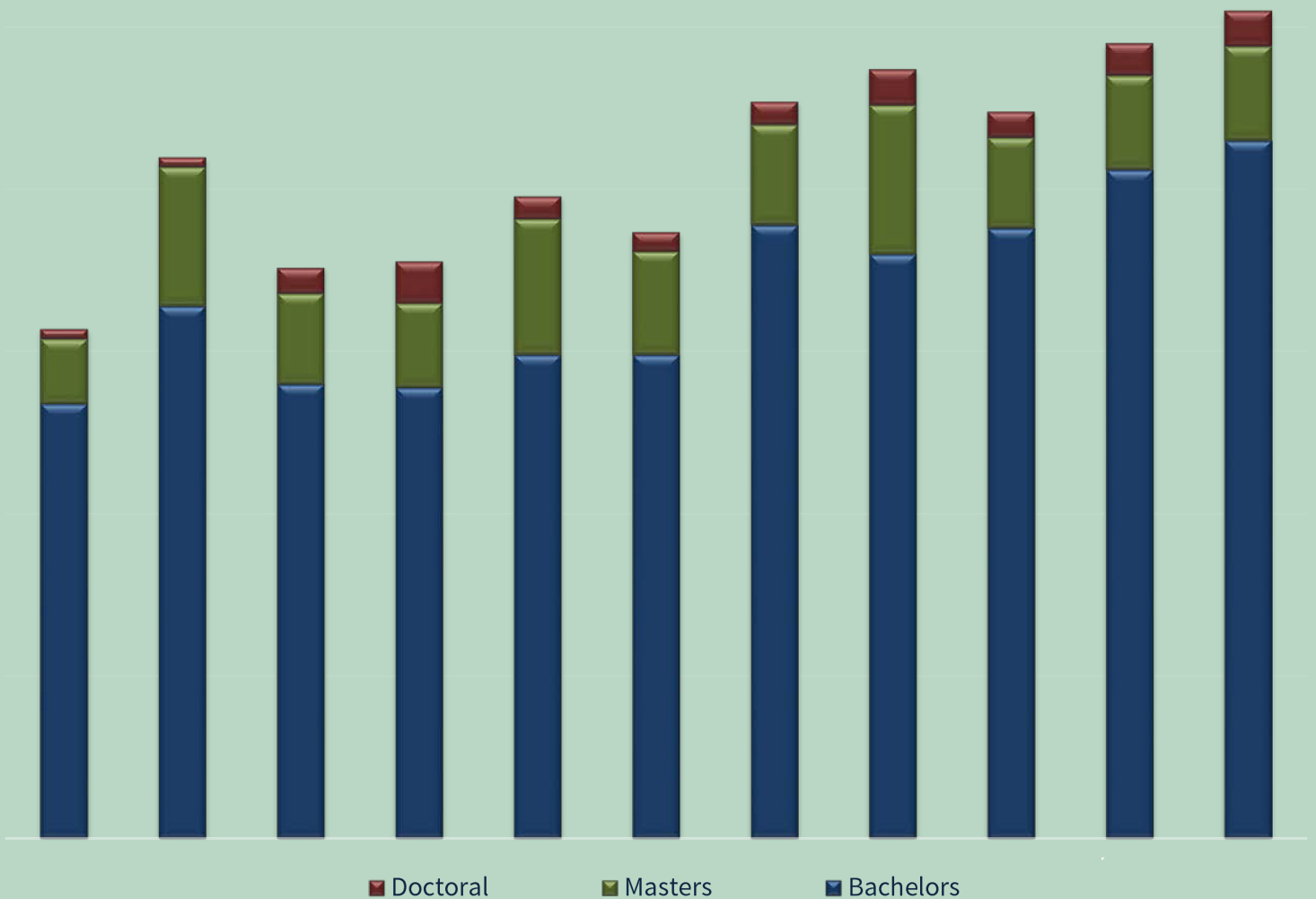
Phillicia Phillips

I am very pleased to report a fun-filled-hectic-successful day with 1300 students! There were countless students, teachers, attendees happy to have Texas State represented at the Killeen GIS day event. We met many former Bobcats, parents of current/past Bobcats, little brothers and sisters of future/ current Bobcats; all had positive comments about the university.



GEOGRAPHY BY THE NUMBERS

DEGREES CONFERRED IN THE LAST DECADE



**34% OF ALL
DOCTORAL DEGREES**
Awarded by Texas State since
2004 were Geography Degrees

FROM THE GRADUATE COORDINATOR

Dr. David Butler, Professor

Hello all, this will be my last column as Graduate Coordinator for our departmental newsletters. No, I'm not retiring or leaving Texas State! It's time for some "new blood" in the Graduate Committee and as Coordinator, and Professor Yongmei Lu will bring fresh perspectives and insights to the position beginning in the fall 2015 semester. It's been a privilege to serve in this capacity for several years, and many people have been of great assistance during my time as coordinator. I've worked in this position with great department chairs, Phil Suckling and Alberto Giordano, and with associate chair Ron Hagelman. All three of these gents were of great assistance and understanding during the past 18 months when I've been seemingly plagued by some physical challenges that have kept me from always being able to carry out the duties of coordinator. Phil Suckling, especially, helped out as interim coordinator last spring during my extended convalescence from foot surgery. The membership of the Graduate

Committee changes from year to year, but I've enjoyed working with all the members during my time as coordinator and appreciate those members who have filled in at Graduate Council meetings during the past 18 months – thanks to Yongmei Lu, Kimberly Meitzen, and Colleen Hiner. My thanks also go to the entire Geography Department staff who have been so kind and helped out during this same period. And most of all, my thanks to Allison Glass-Smith. My time as co-

"It's been a privilege to serve in this capacity"

ordinator would not have been half as smooth, fun, and interesting without her day-to-day presence and guidance through the bureaucratic waters of the graduate program. I believe that everyone knows what a true GEM Alli-



son is, but I wanted to say it publicly here also and with my profound thanks. Finally, my thanks to all the graduate students who make our program what it is. In working as coordinator, I've gotten to know so many interesting students from around the world, not just my own students or the students on whose committees I serve as a member. It's been a unique perspective and one that I would not have traded for anything. Thanks to everyone, it has been an honor to serve in the capacity of your Graduate Program Coordinator. All the best, and keep smiling!

GRAD STUDENT FOCUS

Laura Cano Amaya

(Advisor: Dr. Muniz-Solari)

Laura's work was featured in the AAG Newsletter. A link on the story is at: <http://news.aag.org/2013/11/texas-state-u-student-completes-dissertation-field-work-in-costa-rica/>

Awarded a \$5000 Doctoral Research Support Fellowship from the Graduate College.

Junfang Chen (advisor: Dr. Lu) has been awarded the Doctoral Research Support Fellowship Award from the Graduate College.

Benjamin Prince was awarded a Doctoral Research Support Fellowship by the Graduate College.

The Graduate College awarded **Monica Medel** the Texas State Celebrity Classic Scholarship. Medel will receive \$1,500 for tuition every semester until she graduates.

Phillicia Phillips

2nd-place paper award, "Geographic Relationships in an Urban Landscape: Green Space, Crime, and Ethnicity in Austin, Texas, 2006-2010," International Research Conference for Graduate Students, San Marcos, TX, November.

Butler, Grad Student Attend Conference and Field Trip, Present Posters

Regents' Professor **Dr. David Butler** and master's student **Rachel Cavin** attended the 44th annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, New Jersey, in October, 2013. The theme of the symposium was Coastal Geomorphology and Restoration, but poster presentations were provided on all topics of geomorphology. A field trip to the Jersey Shore examined a natural coastline in a New Jersey state park, and contrasted that environment with the developed area devastated by Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

David Parr and Sara Sobrino

were awarded the Graduate College Doctoral Research Support Fellowships for Spring 2015.

Graciela Sandoval

Selected for the Texas State 2014 Women's and Gender Studies Outstanding Scholar award.

Awarded an academic scholarship of \$3,000 from Atlantic Housing for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Recently elected as one of the two Student Representatives to the GTU Board of Directors. This is quite an honor as there are more than 170 active GTU chapters. She is the fifth Texas State student to hold that honor since 1995.

Featured as a Texas State University Rising Star: <http://www.txstate.edu/rising-stars-retired/g-sandoval.html>

Adam Mathews published a paper with advisor Dr. Jennifer Jensen in Remote Sensing entitled, "Visualizing and Quantifying Vineyard Canopy LAI using an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Collected High Density Structure from Motion Point Cloud".

Work by PhD student **Suzi Wiseman** (advisor: Dr. John Tiefenbacher) was featured in a story on the BBC website: <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-29846902>

Kanika Verma

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) selection committee has nominated Kanika Verma's (GEO) dissertation, *Geospatial Thinking of Undergraduate Students in Public Universities in the United States*, for the 2014 CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award. Kanika's dissertation director is Dr. Lawrence Estaville.

3rd-place paper award, "Role of Age and Sex in the Geospatial Skills of Undergraduate Students: An Exploratory Study," Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers, Nacogdoches, TX, October.

3rd-place paper award, "Geospatial Thinking of Undergraduate Students: A Texas State Study," International Research Conference for Graduate Students, San Marcos, TX, November.

Gail Hobbs Student Paper Award (first place co-winner), "Geospatial Skills of Undergraduate Students: An Exploratory Study," Geography Education Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, CA, April 2013.

Congratulations to Geography PhD student Kanika Verma who has been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship for next academic year from the Texas State Associated Student Government. The ASG also recently awarded Kanika a \$500 Rising Star travel stipend for her participation at the National Council for Geographic Education conference being held in Denver this August. Kanika's advisor is Dr. Lawrence Estaville

The NCGE has honored Kanika with its second place award for the Natoli Dissertation Award.

Geography doctoral student **Yan Lin** placed 2nd (out of fifty entries) at the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) poster competition. Her advisor is Ben Zhan.
<http://wise.cose.txstate.edu>

Paul Zunkel (advisor: Dr. Rich Dixon) has been awarded a \$500 S.T.A.R. (Rising Scholarly Travel Activity and Research) grant by the Associated Student Government to help with travel expenses at the AAG.

On behalf of the Gamma Theta Upsilon Awards Committee I write today to congratulate the Kappa Upsilon Chapter of Texas State University for earning the **Presidential Honors Chapter Award for 2014!** Your chapter is commended not only for recognizing the superior scholarship of your geography students but also for planning activities that celebrate and spread the word about geography to your campus and community. Your chapter's service to geography and to others through geography is remarkable. Congratulations!

In addition you have earned the right to display a Presidential Honors Chapter Badge for 2014 on your website.
- Mike Longan



Pictured: Dr. Jim Peters and Bob Stafford in 1985

UNDERGRADUATE FOCUS

Researchers Receive Remote Sensing Best Paper Award 2014

Xuelian Meng, Nate Currit (Texas State University-San Marcos) and Kaiguang Zhao (Texas A&M University) have been awarded the Remote Sensing Best Paper Award 2014. Their paper, "Ground Filtering Algorithms for Airborne LiDAR Data: A Review of Critical Issues" received the 1st prize in the category "Reviews."

The awarded article reviews LiDAR ground filtering algorithms used in the process of creating Digital Elevation Models.

On an annual basis the Remote Sensing Best Paper Award recognizes outstanding papers in the area of remote sensing techniques, design and applications that meet the aims, scope and high standards of the Remote Sensing journal.

Article link: <http://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/2/3/833>

Award link: <http://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/5/2/862>

Will Bishop, President of SUPO, was chosen as Bobcat Leader of the Month for the month of November by the Student Organizations Council.

Geography major **Rachel Wilson** received scholarship awards and other recognition from the Stelos Alliance on April 27.

GTU Chapter President, **Amanda M. Sankey**, is one of five students among 182 GTU chapters to receive a GTU national scholarship. The formal title of the scholarship is the "Richason Undergraduate Scholarship" with an award of \$1000.

Last September 25, 2014 beginning at 3:30 PM, the Department of Geography and SUPO hosted four distinguished Urban Planning Alumni:

Matthew Lewis, Sofia Nelson, Ericka Ragsdale and Alix Scarborough.

The panelists spoke with current Planning Students about various facets of the success of earning their respective Urban & Regional Planning Degrees from Texas State.

The panel was coordinated and organized by Mark Carter and undergraduate student **Will Bishop** and was really well attended (full capacity in ELA 344).



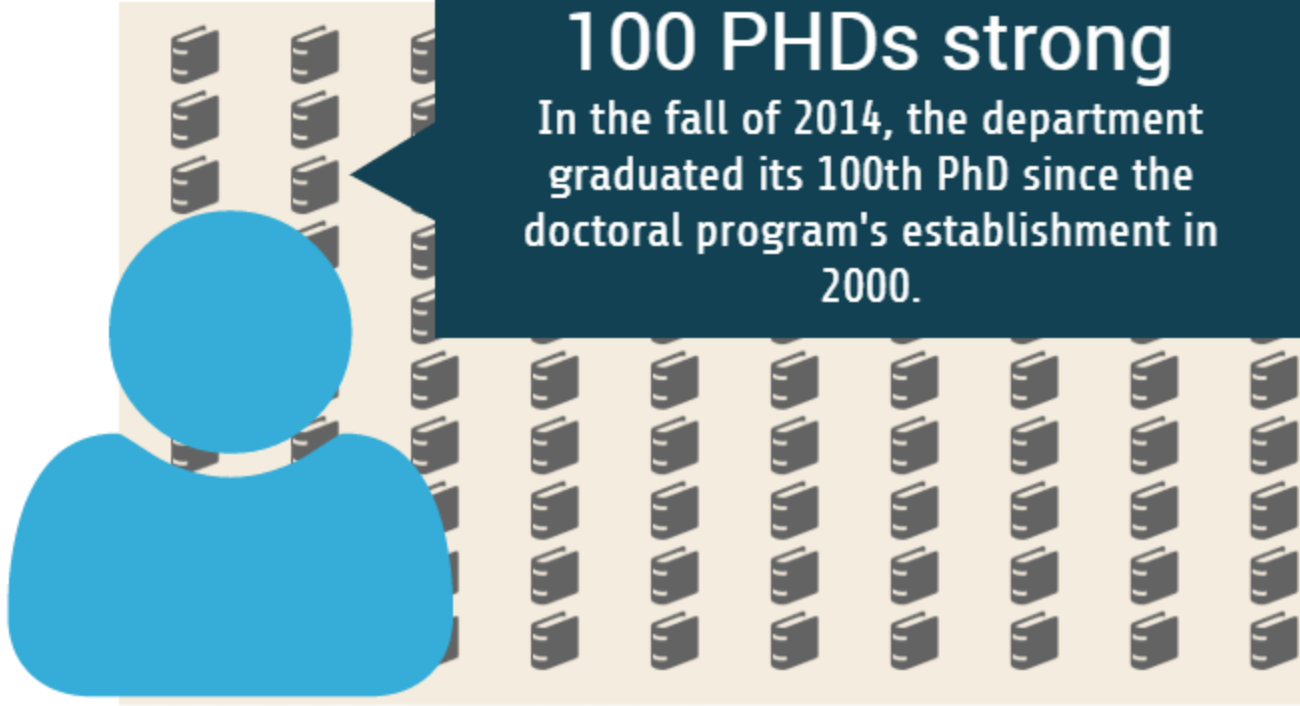
geography

BY THE NUMBERS

Statistics and highlights through the 2014-2015 academic year

100 PHDs strong

In the fall of 2014, the department graduated its 100th PhD since the doctoral program's establishment in 2000.



Numbers Don't Lie

The program continues to grow as the department explores new directions to advance the program and increase opportunities for our students.

our department has grown to over 600 geography majors and 200 minors!



In 1979 there were only 7 geography graduates!

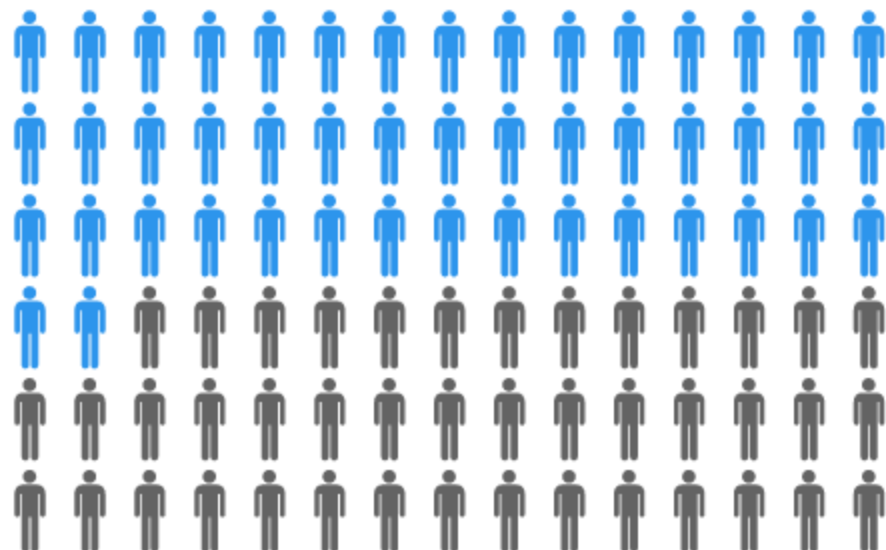


Undergraduate Graduates

Since 1979

4594

Undergraduates have received geography degrees!



47% graduated in the last 10 years!

1979-2014



The number of graduating undergraduates has increased by 58% since 2010!



Through the years the Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO) has brought sustainable education and action to this great university. In the past ECO has held fantastic Earth Day in the Quad demonstrations, creating increased aware-

ness for students and faculty about their impacts on the world around them. ECO has also cleaned its fair share of the campus' trash up, through dozens of cleanups while diverting plenty of waste from the landfill.

Presently ECO is continuing the sustainable efforts. The organization has begun a relationship with the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance to help develop a trail system in the Blanco Shoals area. This allows members to gain valuable planning and hands on trial

work ex-

perience. Other services that ECO plans to participate in include: The 30th Annual Great Texas River Cleanup, Bobcat Build and Earth Day. As well helping to compost and recycle the waste at the Geography Department's 21st Alumni and Student Celebration.

The organization is also developing a committee to consistently propose ideas to the environmental Service Committee (ESC), who delegates a portion of student tuition to environmental causes. This committee will allow ECO to influence the future of Texas State through large scale changes in a variety of areas that can be improved by some sustainability.



The Geology Club: Dinosaur Track Devotees

Every semester, the Texas State Geology club takes a trip out to beautiful Canyon Lake, Texas. Not for a day of leisure on the lake, but to devote their time and labor to the upkeep of the dinosaur tracks at The Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country. Spending the day at the museum uncovering and cleaning the tracks has become a tradition of the Geology Club. The club's work helps the museum prepare for one of their most important events, Dinosaur Day. This years' Dinosaur Day will be on April 19th. The club will head out to clean the tracks the morning before in order to enhance the educational programs planned for the big day. This service event isn't all hard labor, however, as the volunteers are usually treated to the docents' vast knowledge of geology and paleontology during lunch. The club has always enjoyed the event and will continue to enjoy assisting the Museum with their programs in the future. All volunteers welcome! Contact the club at txstgeology.weebly.com, or by emailing us at txstgeologyclub@gmail.com.





On February 2, 2015, Texas State University-Department of Geography and the National Center for Research in Geography Education (NCRGE) hosted a reception in Flowers Hall and welcomed a distinguished delegation from

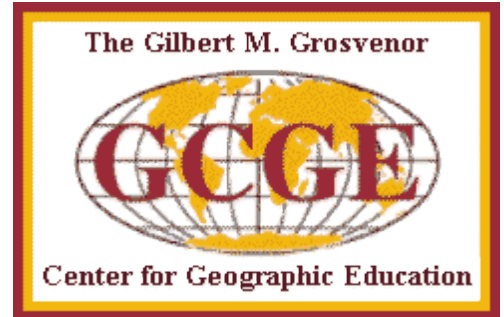
East China Normal University-Shanghai. Those visiting were Dr. Min Liu, Professor and Dean of School of Geographic Sciences, Dr. Yushan Duan, Professor of School of Geographic Sciences, Director of Geographic Education Center, Dr. Minhe Ji, Professor of School of Geographic Sciences, and Dr. Bailang Yu, Associate Professor and Assistant to the Dean. The purpose of their visit was to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for future international student exchange and research partnership.



NCRGE is in the process of building a Research Coordination Network (RCN) in geography education. As of January 2015, there are 32 U.S. based institutions represented in the RCN. The NCRGE network also includes international members, including East China Normal University and several major European universities.

Grants

Dr. Richard G. Boehm will serve as one of the Co-Principal Investigators on the Texas State University – Association of American Geographers (AAG) research project funded by the National Science Foundation’s Rapid Response Research (RAPID) program. Texas State’s funded portion of the Geospatial Resources, Materials, and Tools for STEM Teacher Preparation is just under \$120,000.



Both organizations propose RAPID analytic research to investigate how geospatial resources, materials, and tools (RMTs) will potentially operate within interdisciplinary STEM pedagogical frameworks. The timing of this research is important because it will capture teachers before, as they enter, and a few years after their entry into the profession. Research of this nature is needed to assess the likely impacts of ArcGIS Online on geographic learning and thinking in STEM classrooms, and to identify potential obstacles affecting future dissemination of geospatial data and technology in schools.

The first meeting of all participants was in January of this year.

Additional Personnel:

- Principal Investigator – Dr. Michael Solem (AAG) and Texas State University
- Other Co-Principal Investigators – Dr. Niem Tu Huynh (AAG); Dr. Emily Summers (Associate Professor in C&I) Texas State University

Senior Personnel – Dr. James Van Overschelde (Director of Evaluation & Research in OEP and Assistant Professor in C&I); Dr. Gail Dickinson (Assistant Professor in C&I); Dr. Edwin Chow (Associate Professor of Geography) all from Texas State University

Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture Series

The Grosvenor Center Distinguished Lecture Series is an annual event that features lecturers who are prominent geographers and public figures to whom geographic education has great meaning. This year’s lecturer was Mr. Jesse Luxton. Mr. Luxton is a “Hero of the University,” meaning that he has contributed more than one million dollars to Texas State University. He believes that much of his success is due to his relationship with geography and the title of his lecture was “How Geography Has Enriched My Life.” The lecture was well attended and a welcome was given by Dr. Denise Trauth, President of Texas State University.

Quick Guide to Alkek's Service Desks

by Jessica McLain

If you come to the library with an urgent question, it can be tricky to decide which of the many staff members to ask. To help you choose the right place for your problem, here's a quick guide to what each service desk does.

The **Research & Information desk** is the place to go for research assistance or general questions about the library building or collections. That's the big desk in the center of the main floor as you enter the library. No matter what kind of help you need, this desk is a good place to start.

This semester, the Research & Information desk will be extending its hours with the addition of specially trained student workers. On nights and weekends, they will be able to help with simple research and directional questions and will refer more complicated queries to the appropriate research librarian. Don't forget you can get help from the Research & Information desk in person, by email or phone, or via chat.

For questions about the computers or printing on the main floor, visit the **Printer Help desk** beside the Research & Information desk; if you're on the fourth floor, ask at the Computer Lab.

At the **Circulation/Reserve desk**, located just to the left of the front doors as you enter the library, you can check out items, pay for fines or color printing, and find materials your instructors put on Reserve for your class. This desk is also where you'll go to remove holds on your record and pick up Interlibrary Loan (ILL) items or other materials on hold. To check out DVDs or CDs on the third floor, take the item's case to the **Periodicals/ Media desk** — discs are behind the desk for safe-keeping. You can also get help navigating the interesting collections on that floor.

Last but not least, the **Government Information desk** on the fourth

floor is a fantastic resource for questions related to government, history, political science, or geography — especially if you are in need of statistics or primary source material. Gov Info staff can also help you navigate the SuDoc call number system and assist with map printing requests. Providing good service is important to us here at Alkek. We hope you'll be able to find exactly what you need at one of our many service desks.

"This semester, the Research & Information desk will be extending its hours"

STEP UP YOUR RESEARCH

by Lisa Ancelet

Research Support for Faculty & Graduate Students

Along with changes in the library regarding learning spaces and expanded staffing at our Research & Information desk, we are working hard to address the research needs of faculty and graduate students as the university moves forward as an Emerging Research Institution.

Exploration of new programming and services to support faculty and graduate students is the primary charge of what has traditionally been the Reference Department at Alkek. Now called the Research, Instruction & Outreach Department, we are pursuing more focused outreach for upper division and graduate students, along with faculty.

Beginning this year, Research, Instruction & Outreach librarians will identify new ways to expand partner-

ships and engagement within their assigned subject disciplines. One of the first steps is an environmental scan of academic liaison departments. The methodology will be a multi-pronged approach, including a thorough review of assigned academic departments focusing on the research and teaching needs of faculty. Tasks will include updating current collection development guides with attention to new programs and courses offered, online or in person interviews with stakeholders, literature reviews, and other tasks librarians identify as they work through the process of conducting the scan. Once scans are completed in early summer, librarians will take what they've learned to modify existing services or develop new ones.

Parallel to the work liaison librarians will be doing this year is the work of a new team charged with identifying and developing programming to inform the Texas State community on topics related to scholarship. Some of the topics being developed to serve the needs of researchers include authors' rights (maintaining copyright), management of researcher data, avoiding predatory publishers, and understanding impact factor.

Last fall, the library participated in Open Access Week by hosting a number of events for a new series called Trends in Scholarly Communications. Expanding the series to bring notable speakers recognized in the field of scholarly communications to Texas State and other similar events is another goal the team will be addressing this year.



A LITTLE NEWS FROM VALLADOLID, MEXICO

"DOC" AUGUSTIN

A few days ago, I had a wonderful visit with Pat in the department's central office and she asked me to send a little information about life in Mexico. On August 31, 2010, I retired from university teaching after a 42-year career in a job I absolutely loved. I spent 32 of those years at Texas State University (Southwest Texas State University). I still hold a deep affection for the university and the best Department of Geography in the

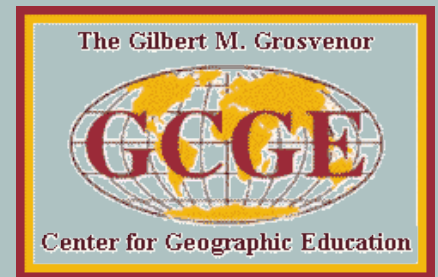
United States. I had the privilege of working with an exceptional faculty and staff. However, it was the students who made the biggest impact on me and they will always be held within a special place in my heart.

Rebecca and I sold our house in New Braunfels, Texas, and bought a house in Valladolid, an old Spanish colonial city located in the heart of the ancient Maya civilization. We are located on an excellent four-lane toll road about a two-hour drive from Cancun to the east, and Merida, the capital of the State of Yucatan, to the west. Rebecca has been very active in the founding of an English language library

and served as the Director after its opening. I have been busy conducting research and writing stories for The Yucatan Times and Yucatan Living.

We are both very active in the "gringo" community in Valladolid and have had more social opportunities than we can keep up with. Invitations for baptisms, weddings, quinceañeras, dinners, lectures, dances, concerts, tequila tastings, bullfights, rodeos, and other activities keep us busy. Our number one love remains salt water sports fishing, especially barracuda. We also have a significant number of guest who we spend time with on the Maya Riviera.

The Texas Alliance for Geographic Education's 2014-2015 Alliance Network Grant was approved in the amount of \$60,000 by the National Geographic Education Foundation's Board of Governors. The Grosvenor Center and the National Center for Research in Geography Education received a total of \$50,000 from the Legett Foundation in Abilene, TX and the Community Foundation of Abilene, TX on behalf of the Kickapoo Springs Foundation.



SWIG is also active, and growing this semester, with a strong officer board, and 15 regular members. Events this semester include:
Participation in the Great Texas River Clean-Up
Meetings with female professors about their research and experiences
Participation in Bobcat Build.

This Year in SOGIS

In the past year, the Society of Geographic Information Science (SOGIS) provided invaluable resources to students interested in GIS. SOGIS has hosted multiple guest speakers in different GIS-related fields, participated in projects led by various Texas State departments, and planned their largest and most successful GIS Day event yet, making this their most successful year to date.

Celebrated worldwide, GIS Day is a platform to exhibit real world applications of GIS and raise public awareness of how GIS contributes to communities of all sizes. SOGIS's GIS Day brought to Texas State many organizations that heavily integrate GIS into their core operations, including Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS), the City of Austin, the City of San Marcos, U.S. Army South, DrillingInfo, ConocoPhillips and Lewis Energy Group. Not only did these organizations educate students about practical applications of GIS and their importance, but several students also secured internships and positions with some of the organizations, including Kyle Gaenzle who earned a position at DrillingInfo. SOGIS used ArcMap, a GIS software, to create an interactive game wherein students pinned Texas cities they thought had the highest crime and obesity rates. The booth also featured a variety of globes, generously donated by The Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE). The highlight of the day was the keynote address, "Dataspace for Creating People Places," delivered by Matthew Lewis, a Texas State Alumnus and Assistant Director of Planning & Development Review for the City of Austin. He explained the challenges of planning for a city that is locked in by green-space and shared the GIS tools he and his team use to approach these challenges.



SOGIS has also begun hosting more guest speakers than in recent years. Retired Lieutenant Colonel David Foster, formerly of Army South, spoke about his contributions to mapping the Ebola crisis and the unique position of Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) specialists at the intersection of geospatial data and international politics. Dr. Yihong Yuan, Assistant Professor of Geography at Texas State presented "GIScience and the Big Data Age" in which she introduced students to her research on tracking human mobility through social network usage and shared invaluable GIS career resources and advice. Christine Thies, Principal Planner at the Austin Fire Department, demonstrated how GIS is used to reduce response times and determine locations for new stations.

To kick off 2015, various departments have asked SOGIS to contribute to their projects. For the Student Organization Council, members are currently revising maps detailing areas where general solicitation is permitted on the Quad, LBJ Mall, and the future Bobcat Trail Mall. Likewise, the Division of Information Technology asked for help to update the Texas State mobile app by designating ADA accessible routes, ramps, and entrances and travel times and distances. As part of the College of Health Professions' Texas State Employee Wellness Program, SOGIS will create a map displaying distances and numbers of steps between the Health Professions Building and other high-traffic sites on campus.

SOGIS is also looking forward to serving the San Marcos community through Bobcat Build, supporting the Geography Department Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration (ARSC), and participating in the Texas Geography Student Research Symposium (TXGSRS) by competing in the Geography Bowl and contributing to the Map Gallery.

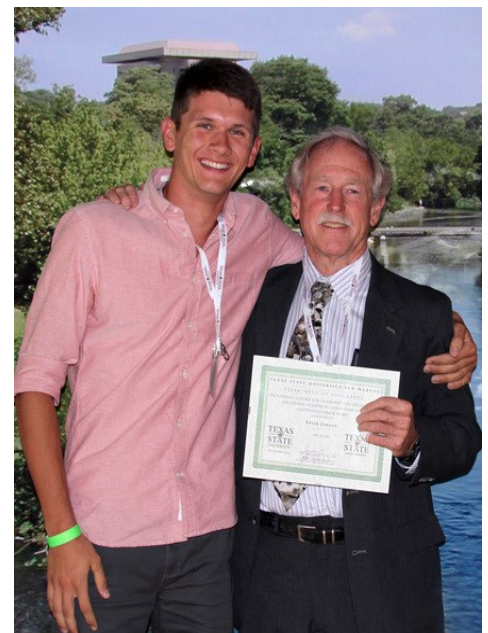
Finally, SOGIS Communications Coordinator Brietta Perez received a letter of recognition from the University of National Defense for contributing the STAR-TIDES network website (Sharing To Accelerate Research-Transformative Innovation for Development and Emergency Support), a collaborative research effort aimed at developing sustainable systems for disaster response in developing countries.

ALUMNI REUNION



Our 21st year celebration will mark 50 years of the department's existence at Texas State University. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2015 at the Freeman Center in San Marcos, Texas.

<http://www.geo.txstate.edu/alumni-central/reunion.html>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Call for Alumni Business Cards

We are preparing to publish the 8th Edition of our Texas State Geography Alumni Business Card Directory. Please send your business card by postal mail or scanned e-mail attachment to address below and be part of this geography department tradition.

The Texas State Geography Alumni Business Card Directory is a collection of alumni contacts, job titles and names of organizations that employ geographers serves as an concise, informative reference for anyone asking: "What do geographers do?" or "What can I do with a geography degree?" Since the first edition of the business card directory was published in the late 1990s by the Gilbert Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education under the guidance of Dr. Richard G. Boehm, hundreds of prospective geography students (and their parents), geography majors, geography graduates and geography alumni have all gained a better understanding of the career opportunities available to those with geographic knowledge and skills using this resource. Connections made through the directory have helped many geography students find contacts for informational interviews, job shadowing, internships and full-time employment. Recently graduated geography majors now consider the inclusion of their business card in the directory a 'right of passage' and an announcement that: "I made it!"

Previous editions of this directory presented at state and national geographic education conferences have received enthusiastic reception inspiring many other geography departments across the country to follow our lead and produce their own directories. The most recent edition (7th) of the directory is available at the department's website <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/prospective-students/business-card-directory.html>.

All seven editions of the Business Card Directory are available via the Geography Careers Information TRACS site (Net ID - geoguest / Password - geography).

Please send your business card by postal mail or scanned e-mail attachment to:

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San Marcos, Texas 78666
MC12@txstate.edu

