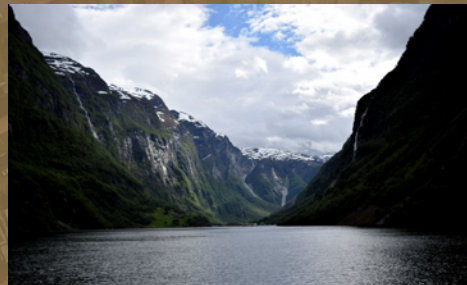


GeoNews

Texas State University Department of Geography Newsletter

Fall 2016 – Fall 2017 // Volume 21



**06 New Chief Water
Policy Officer**

10 Study Abroad

**12 Big Bend Field
Studies**

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TEXAS  STATE
UNIVERSITY
The rising STAR of Texas



A Letter From the Department Chair

Greetings Texas State administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and family. As Chair of the Geography Department it is my distinct honor to share the successes of our faculty, staff, and students along with news of their engagement with the world around them.

This newsletter includes news and information from the Fall 2016 semester through Fall 2017. Through that time, we have welcomed new members to our geography family, mourned the loss of members of our community, traveled the globe, and brought together people from near and far to join our community in our shared love of geography. It is truly a wonderful time to be a part of this community!

Since our last newsletter, our faculty continue to contribute cutting-edge research to the field of geography, serve the professional community and the local, national, and international communities, and teach and mentor our undergraduate and graduate students. For their achievements and dedication, our faculty have received multiple awards and recognitions, published dozens of books, book chapters, and journal articles, and received multiple research and teaching grants. Our staff joined these efforts with passion, dedication, and enthusiasm.

My pride in our students continues to grow as they show their promise inside and outside the classroom. Our students have received awards for their dedication and achievements in the field of geography and have found themselves learning and experiencing geography around the world.

Over the course of these semesters, the Department has hosted successful student celebrations and alumni reunions to continue the traditions of our department as one of great community. We have also brought in experts from outside to engage us with their research and perspectives to grow our community and collective knowledge.

On behalf on the Department, I thank you for your commitment and support to our community. I hope this newsletter serves as an opportunity for you to share in our successes and our excitement for the future.

Have a wonderful year!

Dr. Alberto Giordano
Chair, Geography Department

“It is truly a wonderful time to be a part of this community!”

Faculty and Staff News

In the News

Dr. Christi Townsend was interviewed by the Texas Standard (KUT/NPR) on climate change/extreme weather and how it affects viticulture in the Texas Hill Country in November.

 Hear it [here](#).

The Texas Atlas Project Team of the Geography Department under the direction of **Dr. Lawrence Estaville** was invited to represent the university at the 2017 SXSW Interactive Innovation Lab in Austin and at four Cats Caravan events in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. The Team also represented Texas State at SXSW in 2016.

Dr. Alberto Giordano was voted President-Elect of the UCGIS (University Consortium for Geographic Information Science).

Dr. Ron Hagelman and **Dr. Brendan Lavy** were highlighted in a KUT 90.5 news story.

 Hear it [here](#).


The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) appointed **Dr. Tim Loftus** to represent Higher Education on the Water Conservation Advisory Council.

The Alpha Chi Distinguished Lecture Series presented **Dr. Alberto Giordano's** (Professor and Chair of the Geography department)

Geographies of the Holocaust. Dr. Giordano uses mapping and geography to examine spaces and places of the Holocaust.

Dr. David Butler was appointed Editor of the Annals of the American Association of Geographers with a focus on environmental science and physical geography. His term began on January 1, 2017, and will run until December 31, 2020.

Dr. David Butler's 2005 paper on beaver dam failures was cited in the "Daily Commercial News."

 Read the article [here](#).

President Denise Trauth and Provost Gene Bourgeois approved **Dr. Brock Brown's** nomination as a Distinguished Professor Emeritus. Brock was recognized at the annual fall convocation and was invited to a luncheon hosted by President Trauth.

Dr. Ron Hagelman wrote an editorial for the October NCGE's newsletter titled "Teachers: America's Second Responders," a reflection on the "army of teachers, counselors, church leaders, parents, and community leaders who, as the dust settles and the ground dries, march onto evolving disasterscape with a commitment to helping their communities heal, recover, and thrive once again."

 Read the editorial [here](#).

Dr. Ron Hagelman was announced as the new Coordinator for the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE)

Awards

Dr. Jennifer Devine was voted the "2016 International Studies Professor of the Year" by the graduating class of the International Studies program.

Dr. Andy Sansom received the "Water for Life Award" at the San Antonio Clean Technology Forum.

Dr. Don Huebner and the participants to the Summer 2017 study abroad in Iceland and Norway won the "Bobcats Abroad Banner" photo award from Texas State University on November 9 (photographer: Andy Pinon).

Mark Carter was awarded the 2017 College of Liberal Arts Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching. Mark was honored at the College's Fall faculty meeting.

Dr. Benjamin Zhan, was the recipient of The Graduate College Outstanding Mentor Award for his "outstanding success in mentoring graduate students." Dr. Zhan received \$2,500 for his research account and he was recognized at The Graduate College's Awards Ceremony. The Graduate College also entered him into the Conference of Southern Graduate School Outstanding Mentor Award competition.

 Hyperlinks to additional content have been included throughout the newsletter. To view the digital edition, <http://bit.ly/v21geonews>.

Faculty and Staff News

Awards (cont'd)

Dr. Benjamin Zhan won The Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) Outstanding Mentor Award. He was selected for his outstanding efforts in working with numerous master's and doctoral students. As the winner of this competition, Dr. Zhan received \$1,000 and was recognized at a special awards luncheon during the 2017 CSGS.

Mark Carter and **Dr. Rusty Weaver** received the Alpha Chi National Honor Society Favorite Professor Award at the Alpha Chi Induction Ceremony.

Dr. Giordano was chosen to receive the Faculty Award for Outstanding Achievement in International Education.

Dr. Jason Julian served as Chair of SWAAG in 2017.

Dr. Rebecca Davio was selected for the 2016 College of Liberal Arts award for Excellence in Grant/Contract funding.

Maggie Hutchins, Program Director of Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE), was honored at the October 20-22 Texas Council for Social Studies (TCSS) Conference with the Outstanding Service Award.

Dr. David Butler received the James J. Parsons Distinguished Career Award, "In Recognition of Outstanding Lifetime Achievements in Biogeography", from the AAG Biogeography Specialty Group.

Grants

Dr. Jennifer Jensen (Co-PI) was awarded the 2017 – 2019: Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative grant for the project titled "Developing a process and conservation application for Landscape Conservation Design for the Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative". Her other Co-PIs are: Clay Green and Thom Hardy. The grant is for \$200,000.

Dr. Jason Julian, **Dr. Butler**, and **Dr. Meitzen** were awarded an NSF grant award titled "Resilience and Bio-Geomorphic Systems: The 48th Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium." The symposium took place at Texas State. The grant is for \$39,250.

Dr. Injeong Jo received a \$15,000 grant for Transformative Research to develop a conceptual model of pedagogical content knowledge for geography teachers.

Dr. Alberto Giordano and Dr. Tim Cole (University of Bristol, UK) were awarded £49,570 by the Toni Schiff Memorial Foundation in the UK for a project titled "The Experience of Hungarian Jews in Budapest during and immediately after the Holocaust".

Dr. Jennifer Devine (Co-PI), **Bernardo Aguilar** (PI), and **David Wrathall** (Co-PI) received a \$149,280 grant from Future Earth for the project "Drug Trafficking and Central American Protected Areas: Focusing on Participatory Governance to

Conserve Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity."

Dr. Jason Julian (PI) and **Dr. Rusty Weaver** (Co-PI) received a \$63,287 grant from the Meridian Institute for the project "Analysis of Demand for Stream Mitigation Credits in Colorado."

Dr. Sarah Blue received a \$500 2017 AAG Research Grant for the project titled "The U.S.-Cuban Rapprochement and its Implications for the Cuban Food System."

Dr. Kimberly Meitzen recently received a grant in collaboration with her colleagues, Dr. Jessica Graham and Ms. Kathleen Hoenke at the Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership (SARP) to examine barriers to stream connectivity in the upper Guadalupe River Basin (\$115,731 total, Texas State sub-award \$96,648). Through this project, Dr. Meitzen and her students will be mapping the barriers and fragmentation caused by dams and other impacts such as low-water crossings, and prioritizing specific barriers for removal or redesign to allow aquatic passage. The project is funded by the National Fish Habitat Passage program with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife.



Appointments

Dr. Michael Solem joined Texas State full-time after resigning his position with the AAG, where he was Deputy Director for Research and Education. Dr. Solem is serving as a Research Professor of Geography at Texas State and will continue in that role. In addition, he is now Director of Research for the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, a unit of the Department of Geography.

Dr. Solem continues to serve as Co-Director of the National Center for Research in Geography Education (NCRGE), which is jointly headquartered at AAG and Texas State. In this role, he develops initiatives and pursues external research funding with AAG. Funding for Dr. Solem's position is provided by grants and contracts from AAG, the Grosvenor Center, and external research organizations. Previously, Dr. Solem was a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the department from Fall 2000 to Spring 2003. We are honored that he has decided to continue his career with us and are especially grateful to the AAG for its support of Texas State Geography.

Retirement

It is with both sadness and joy that I announce that Dr. Jim Petersen retired as of May 31, 2017.

Dr. Petersen came to Texas State Geography in 1980, the year before completing his PhD in Geography at the University of Utah. He served the department as Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor and was Assistant Chair in 1991-1992. In the 37 years Jim was at Texas State, the department grew from seven faculty members to the large, PhD granting department it is today.

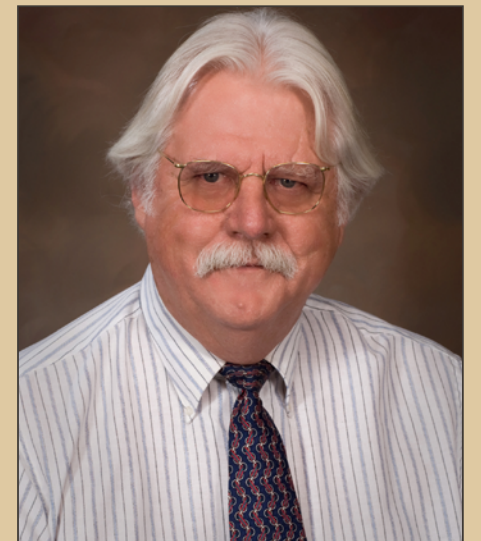
As Jim writes, "we have benefited from a collegial faculty that recognizes the importance of maintaining the department's strength and reputation in addition to pursuing their own professional goals. This is an extraordinary, forward-looking department with an exceptional and productive faculty, a fine group of active, enthusiastic students, and a wonderful, hard-working support staff... I am fortunate to have had many great opportunities for professional and personal development in my career, and am proud to have been a part of this department and of the discipline of geography."

Jim's accomplishments are too many to list here, but I want to mention a few. In the area of teaching, he created and taught many courses in geomorphology and other topics; created and led study abroad programs in Germany and in other countries; created and led for many years the Big Bend trip. In the scholarship area, I want to mention the several editions of his now classic physical geography textbook;

his edited books; and dozens of book chapters, conference proceedings, and journal articles. As concerns service, Jim served in several leadership positions with the NCGE, including President in 2000; he currently serves in the Board of Directors, Friends of Enchanted Rock; and he was awarded several honors, including the Outstanding Service Award, Gamma Theta Upsilon, National Honor Society.

On a personal note, I want to thank Jim for his support, counsel, and mentoring, first as a faculty member and then as Chair. For this, I owe him more than I can say. A special thanks for taking on leadership of TAGE at an important time in our collaboration with the NGS, and I look forward to continuing and strengthening our relationship with Germany, a relationship Jim has cultivated throughout his career. Finally, Jim is a Vietnam Era Veteran, having served in the United States Army Security Agency from 1966 to 1970.

Authored by: Dr. Alberto Giordano



Meadows Center Names Robert Mace as Chief Water Policy Officer

By Jayme Blaschke
Office of Media Relations

Dr. Robert Mace, a senior scientist and deputy executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), joined The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University. Dr. Mace was also appointed Professor of Practice in the Department of Geography.

With more than 20 years of experience at the highest levels of state government, Mace is one of the most respected water professionals in Texas.

"We are very fortunate to have convinced Robert to take a leading role in our organization here at Texas State University," said Andrew Sansom, executive director of The Meadows Center. "He has a keen understanding of both water policy and water science and he has served

as Texas' senior water conservation official. I know he will be missed at TWDB, but his presence at The Meadows Center will strengthen our relationship with that important agency."

With the TWDB, Mace led a department of 70 scientists, engineers and specialists dedicated to better understanding groundwater and surface water resources. Prior to joining the TWDB in 1999, he worked for the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin for almost nine years as a hydrologist and research scientist.

"I was attracted by The Meadows Center's mission to inspire research and leadership that ensure clean water for the environment and all humanity," Mace said. "I look forward to helping further develop and

strengthen policy-related research for water in Texas."

Mace has authored or coauthored more than 200 reports, papers and abstracts, and given more than 200 speeches on water. He holds a bachelor's degree in geophysics, a master's in hydrology and a doctorate in hydrogeology.

About The Meadows Center

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University was named following a generous gift from The Meadows Foundation in August 2012. The Meadows Center inspires research, innovation and leadership that ensures clean, abundant water for the environment and all humanity, and is led by Executive Director Andrew Sansom, PhD.



In Memoriam



Galen Rients

Geography major, Galen Rients, passed away unexpectedly. He was a transfer student and was a part of the department for a year. All indications were that he was heading towards a stellar academic career. He had a 4.0 grade point average and was pursuing honors courses.



Shadae Dixon

Shadae Dixon passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. She was a vibrant, intelligent, and beautiful young woman who was pursuing her PhD. She enjoyed travelling the world and speaking out about injustices. Her family and friends miss her dearly. Shadae was a beacon of light, the person who had everyone laughing and feeling like they were loved and listened to.



Betty Williams

Betty Williams passed away on April 10, 2017. Betty was Geography's very first administrative assistant, working primarily with Al Hellman and Dick Boehm and briefly with Lawrence Estaville. Betty loved the students and helped them in any way she could. She worked at the university for many years and even volunteered after her second retirement from the university.

Honors and Awards

Several students were honored at the 2016 Alpha Chi National College Honor Society induction ceremony: **Christine Ames, Mark Deka, Zahra Ghaffari, and Ana Julita Gomez Sanchez.**

The Texas Atlas Project Team, including students (**Mark Deka** and **Neliralda Silva**) and an alumnus (**Dr. Kanika Verma**) under the direction of Dr. Lawrence Estaville was invited to represent the university at the 2017 SXSW Interactive Innovation Lab in Austin and at four Cats Caravan events in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. The Team also represented Texas State at SXSW in 2016.

Carley Merrill won second place for best student photo of Study Abroad.

Danielle Dewhirst and **Eric Olson** won the Alkek GIS Map Competition based on their work artistically reinterpreting the Texas State campus map (pictured to the right).

PhD student **Zahra Ghaffari** (advisor: Dr. Currit) has been selected as the 2017 – 2018 Grosvenor Scholar, as part of Texas State's Program at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The Student Urban Planner's Organization (SUPO) members **Amanda Padilla, Craig Garrison, and Emilio Levario** won the Legacy Project competition at the 2017 Texas American Planning Association (APA) Conference in Frisco, Texas (pictured on page 9).

PhD student **Paepin Goff** (advisor: Dr. Butler) received a \$16,500 imagery grant from the Digital Globe Foundation for her doctoral research.

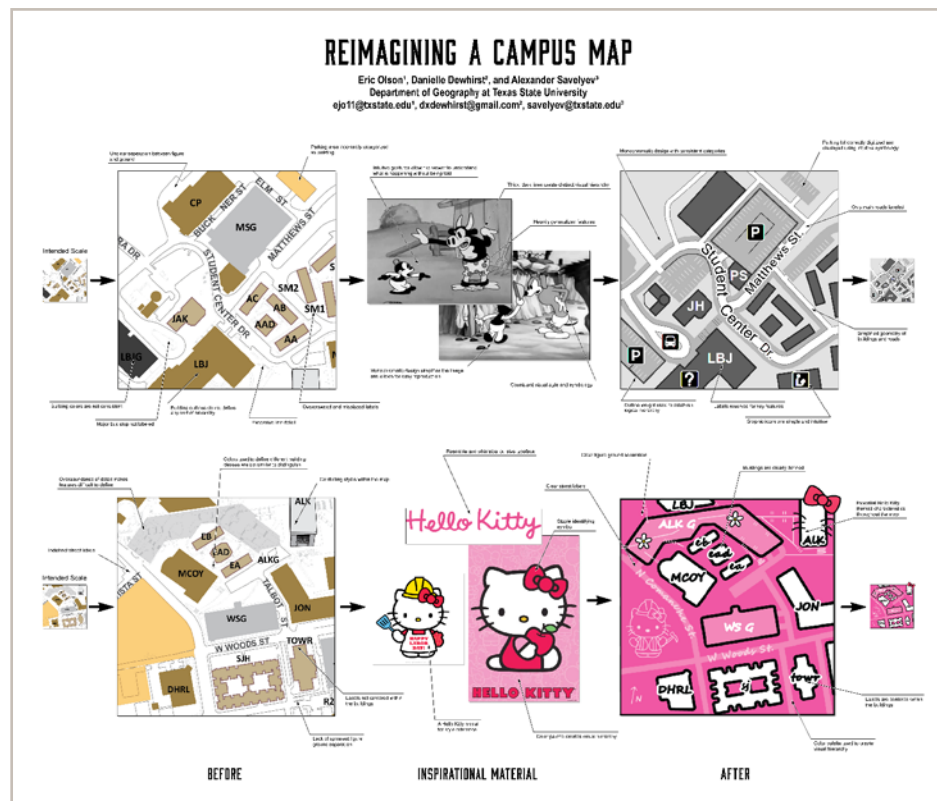
PhD student **Ross Martin** (advisor: Dr. Butler) is the winner of the 2017 College of Liberal Arts (COLA) Outstanding Doctoral Award.

PhD student **Maël Le Noc** (advisor: Dr. Giordano) won The Graduate College's Outstanding Master's Thesis Award in Digital Scholarship for his thesis, "Family Arrest and Separation during the Holocaust in Italy." Maël received \$500, was recognized at The Graduate College's Awards Ceremony, and was entered into the Conference of Southern Graduate School's competition.

PhD student **Monica Medel** (advisor: Dr. Lu) was the recipient of the 2016 United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) Scholarship for the "Doctoral Student" category. Monica received \$5,000.

Four graduate students were named recipients of the Honor Society Phi Kappa Phi's Love of Learning Awards in 2017. A total of 100 awards each in the amount of \$500 were given. The awardees are: PhD student **Christina Lopez**, and PhD candidate **Joshua Hodge** received \$1,000 graduate scholarship from the Texas State Graduate College.

Masters student **Chunhong "Chloe" Zhao** received the Joseph E. Pryor Fellowship



AAG

PhD student **Paepin D. Goff** (advisor: Dr. Butler), received the M. Gordon "Reds" Wolman Doctoral Student Research Award from the AAG Geomorphology Specialty Group.

MS student **Paula Jones** (advisor: Dr. Weaver) received the "Alternative Mode of Scholarship Competition" award from the Urban Geography Specialty Group.

PhD student **Joshua Hodge** (advisor: Dr. Dixon) was elected to the position of PhD student board member of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group

Ana Yanes-Garcia received a regional Alpha Chi \$250 scholarship. She was also elected the Region I student representative to the National Council of Alpha Chi.

SWAAG

Texas State's GeoBowl team, the Texas State Wild Rice, won the GeoBowl competition in 2016. The teams were composed of: **Tom Shelton, Joshua Hodge, Walter Furness, Paula Jones, Mael Le Noc, Katie Alegro, Elizabeth Yarbrough, Jeanett Bosarge, Alisa Hartsell, Ross Martin, and Thomas McNeal.** **Paula Jones** was one of the top individuals and represented our Regional Team at AAG.

Joshua Hodge // First Place Individual, Geography Bowl

Shadi Maleki // 2nd Place Graduate Paper Competition

Fangda Lu // 3rd Place Graduate Poster Competition

SWAAG (cont'd)

Masters student **Elizabeth Yarbrough** (advisor: Dr. Myles) won the student paper competition from the Wine, Beer, Spirits Specialty Group.

PhD student **Shadi Maleki** (advisor: Dr. Hagelman) was elected to the position of Council Representative for The Graduate Student Affinity Group

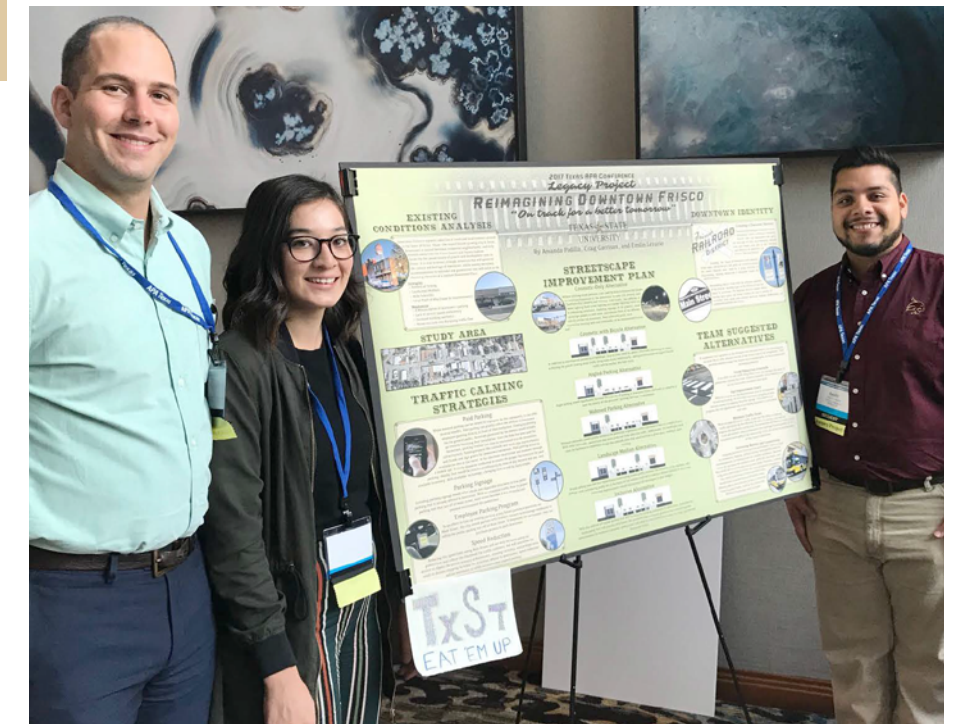
Two of our students won awards in the student competitions: **Ioannis Kamarinas** (advisor: Dr. Julian) won 2nd place in the Graduate Student Paper category, and **Grant Moss** (advisor: Dr. Jason Julian) won 3rd place in the Graduate Student Poster category.

Alumni

Former PhD student, **Brian Brettschneider** was interviewed as an expert in an NPR news story on the effects of climate change in Alaska.

Former Cum Laude graduate of the Geography Department, **Cari Harrington**, is CEO of H2O GeoSolutions.

Please stay connected to the geography community. Share your updates and news with us at <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/alumni-central/join.html>.



Study Abroad


Field studies provide students firsthand experience with a region's landscape and culture. They learn through direct observation and analyses about the region's physical environment, lifestyle, economy, culture, and the challenges and successes of these in Iceland and Norway. Gaining more than credit hours for the course, students return

home with skills gained by travel in unfamiliar lands: different monetary systems, transportation challenges unfamiliar to many Americans, and interaction with friendly, but different cultures, as well as increase their skills in handling new and unexpected situations. Students also observe and analyze, through visits to Norwegian universities, the similarities and differences in another country's educational system. Interaction with Norwegian students increased their knowledge and enhanced their abilities in another culture and in their own culture.

Norway

After arriving at Gardermoen airport, students traveled by train to their lodgings in the Oslo area and were encouraged to visit stores, groceries and area neighborhoods. Students traveled by NSB train, subway and ferry to Bygdøy to visit museums, including the Folk Life, Viking, and Farm Museum. These museums provided ample opportunity to discuss Norwegian life and influences, polar exploration, shipping and fishing, as well view the Kon-Tiki raft. Other tours included travel through Oslo with stops that included the Vigeland Sculpture Park, Royal Palace, Parliament, Ski Jump area, Johannis Gate and Oslo Sentrum; also visited

was the Kongsberg area, a royal mint and a silver mine. Instruction and discussion included the Olympics in Lillehammer and how Norwegian culture was portrayed, the occupation of Oslo by Nazis during World War II and the Resistance movement, the use of currency in trade and the widespread influence of Vikings throughout Europe and Russia to the Mediterranean.

 See more [here](#) and [here](#).



Iceland

Students arrived in Reykjavík and began to familiarize themselves with Icelandic customs and landscapes. There were tours of city landmarks, selected museums and exhibits, as well as Nesjavellir, Lake Þingvallavatn, Þingvellir National Park, Gullfoss Waterfall, and Geysir and Strokkur geysers. They discussed the geography and history of Iceland, its architecture and its role in the discovery of North America by Europeans. Students received instruction on and discussed plate tectonics, the geology of Iceland, glaciation, volcanoes and geo thermal energy. Also discussed was the Old Norse language, the rise of Icelandic democracy and the oldest parliament in the world, Alþingi, and its role in the Cold War, agriculture and deforestation in Iceland.

Big Bend Field Studies

Life Lessons in the Desert



Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve



In keeping with tradition, the Applied Water Resources graduate-level course (GEO 5334), taught in fall 2017 by Dr. Kimberly Meitzen, took an annual field trip to Bamberger Ranch in Johnson City, Texas, to learn about the importance of land management to water resources—specifically water quality and quantity. At the end of the field trip students quenched their thirst (and filled their

water bottles) from an artesian groundwater spring flowing to the surface! And, of course, the students learned why *selah* is part of the name of Bamberger Ranch. Because J. David Bamberger wanted everyone, “to stop, pause, look around you and reflect on everything you see—to be inspired to take care of and share the earth’s resources.”

The penultimate Big Bend class was a success. Dr. Jim Petersen has been leading students to Big Bend National Park since the early 1980s. In his final semester as a full-time faculty member, Dr. Petersen shared his love of this unique desert environment with another group of Desert Dogs (Department of Geography students). The overwhelming majority of students that have had the privilege of being a part of this legacy have commented that this was their favorite class while attending Texas State University (and Southwest Texas State). The experience instilled an appreciation for desert environments and for Big Bend National Park

by being able to see in the real world many of the things learned in the classroom. Currently, there are two recent Desert Dogs, (Emily Roeltgen and Mady Covarrubias), working as interns for the National Park Service. Many other Desert Dogs have gone on to have successful careers built on the what they have internalized from spending their spring break in the desert instead of the excessive hedonism of South Padre Island.

One of the life lessons taken away from this class is the ability to enter a new, unique environment and to be able to look at and evaluate it in a scholarly and, more importantly,

personally significant and memorable way. The other importance from being a part of this class (shared with study abroad classes) are the many lasting lifelong friendships that develop that transcend those obtained during normal, shared classrooms experiences. Once a Desert Dog, always a Desert Dog.

Dr. Petersen has agreed to return after his retirement to lead one final class of Desert Dogs on a life changing experience in spring 2018. The final iteration of this class will surely live up to the reputation, and wisdom, that this select group of students have experienced.





Send Us Your Card

The Business Card Directory

All eight editions are available online at <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/geography-careers.html>.

An interactive Business Card Directory Story Map created by the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE) in conjunction with Mark Carter and permission from Dr. Richard Boehm is also available. It's geared toward middle school and high school teachers to integrate into their curriculum and has been viewed over 2,900 times. See it at <https://arcg.is/1WXGjm>.

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 a concise 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 published in the late 1990s by the Gilbert Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education under the guidance of Dr. Richard G. Boehm, countless prospective geography students (and their parents), majors, and alumni have all gained a better understanding of the career opportunities available to those with geographic knowledge and skills.

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 'rite of passage' and an announcement that: "I made it!"

Previous editions of this directory presented at geographic education conferences have received enthusiastic reception inspiring many other geography departments across the country to follow our lead and produce their own directories.

“Connections made through the directory have helped many geography students”

PLEASE MAIL OR EMAIL YOUR CARD TO

M A R K C A R T E R

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
601 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
SAN MARCOS, TEXAS 78666

512.245.8587
MC12@TXSTATE.EDU

I N S P I R E

Y O U N G

G E O G R A P H E R S

Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration 2017



TEXAS  STATE
GEOGRAPHY

PRESENTS

ALUMNI REUNION *and* STUDENT CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018



Please tell us about your experience at <http://bit.ly/2oU31p1>

DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE
GEOGRAPHY ALUMNI CAREER PANEL
SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS CEREMONY
DINNER ON THE QUAD, UNDER THE OAKS

GEO.TXSTATE.EDU/ALUMNI-CENTRAL/REUNION.HTML

Special Events

Each year, the Department hosts special events and invites experts to speak and engage with our community. Our Colloquium series brings these experts to campus for seminars and receptions to create open conversations.

Gilber M. Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture



Gary Knell, president and CEO of the National Geographic Society, delivered the 18th annual Gilbert M. Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture at Texas State University. The lecture, titled "Generation Geography," addressed the importance of human and physical geography--how people interact with the environment and each other.

Colloquia



Green Infrastructure and the Hidden Politics of Urban Stormwater Governance in a Post-industrial Environmental City

Michael Finewood, PhD
Pace University



Revisiting Global Immigrant Gateways: Hyper-diverse, Established and Emerging Turnstiles of Human Settlement

Marie Price, PhD
George Washington University



Farmed Space in the Community: A Cross-Channel Comparison of Two Rural Areas in Concern with Urbanization, Mid Devon and Coglais

Yvon Le Caro, PhD
Université Rennes 2 — Rennes Cedex - France



Just Transitions in the Coastal Zone

C. Patrick Heidkamp, PhD
Southern Connecticut State University



Hydrologic extremes in Central Texas—extreme floods and droughts

Raymond Slade
Austin Community College, Northridge Campus



"It's my day...and I want it big!": neoliberal globalization and the rise and rise of an East African wedding industry

Caroline Faria, PhD
University of Texas at Austin



Creating a Research Program of Geographic Intra-Disciplinarity... and Why

Kelley Crews, PhD
University of Texas at Austin

Upcoming Events

Geography Student Research Symposium (TxGSRS)

San Marcos, TX
March 23, 2018

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

New Orleans, LA
April 10 – 14, 2018

24th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration

San Marcos, TX
April 28, 2018

Health and GIS Conference

Round Rock, TX
April 17 – 18, 2018

UCGIS/AUTCARTO

Madison, WI
May 22 – 24, 2018

National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)

Québec City, Québec, Canada
August 6 – 10, 2018

Southwest American Association of Geographers Division Meeting (SWAAG)

Baton Rouge, LA
October 4 – 6, 2018

Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference, IXth Edition

Austin, TX
October 17 – October 20, 2018

Applied Geography Conference

Kent, OH
October 30 – November 1, 2018

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Chicago, IL
November 30 – December 2, 2018

Department-Hosted Events

Resilience and Bio-Geomorphic Systems: The 48th Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium

The event started with a field trip on October 13, 2017, followed by a symposium from October 14 – October 15 at Texas State University. It was organized by Jason Julian (Program Organizer), Kimberly Meitzen (Field Trip Organizer), David Butler (Geomorphology Special Issue Editor), and Martin Thoms (University of New England).

Resilience thinking is a rapidly emerging concept that is being used to frame how we approach the study of biophysical systems. It also seeks to determine how societies, economies, and biophysical systems can be managed to ensure resilience; that is, how to maintain the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance.

There are strong overlaps between the scientific discipline of geomorphology (the biophysical processes that

shape Earth's landscapes) and the concept of resilience. There is however a lack of awareness of the foundations of the former in the emergence of resilience. Thus, resilience is limited and limiting in its application to bio-geomorphic systems.

This symposium provided a collective examination of bio-geomorphic systems and resilience that conceptually advanced both areas of study and further cemented the relevance and importance of understanding the complexities of bio-geomorphic systems in an emerging world of interdisciplinary research endeavors. The 48th annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium on Resilience and Bio-Geomorphic Systems brought together leading and emerging scientists in bio-geomorphology and resilience thinking.



River Guardianship Symposium

In collaboration with the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, the San Marcos River Foundation, the City of San Marcos, and the Mermaid Society SMTX, The Geography Department sponsored the first ever River Guardianship Symposium, which was one of the community events that was part of the Mermaid SPLASH week held in September. SPLASH stands for Stewardship, Preservation, Local, Arts, Sustainability, and Heritage.

Dr. Kimberly Meitzen, the committee co-chair, organized a series of presentations from local professionals working on the science and conservation of the San Marcos River. In addition, our student group Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO) volunteered for the event. The River Guardianship Symposium is set to become an annual tradition, and we hope to have the Geography Department continue to play a role in this event which

helps connect the local community to issues related to the rivers in our region.



Mark Your Calendar

for these Department-Hosted Events



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2018

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geo.txstate.edu/healthgis



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reconference.org

TXST to Tuscany

A Faculty-Led Study Abroad Program from the Geography Department

By Colleen C. Myles

First offered in Summer 2016, the TXST to Tuscany program focused on Rural Sustainability and the Geography of Food and Agriculture. Six students participated in the four-week program, hosted by the Castello Sonnino International Education Centre. Students resided at Castello Sonnino estate (<http://www.castellosonnino.it>), located in the village of Montespertoli in Tuscany, Italy. The estate includes a 16th century mansion, 13th century fortified tower, 40 hectares of vineyards, an olive orchard, organic garden, and enoteca (traditional wine bar/restaurant).

Students participated in a truly hands-on learning experience, wherein they toured: sites of production, like vineyards, orchards, gardens, and fields; processing, such as grain mills, apiaries, cellars, and oil presses; and consumption, including tasting rooms, restaurants, museums, and festivals. The students also worked directly in the places and modes of production,

spending time cleaning equipment, pruning vines, and gardening.

While the course was undoubtedly intense, the students had an astounding experience. As one remarked, following a visit to the top of the Tower at Castello Sonnino:

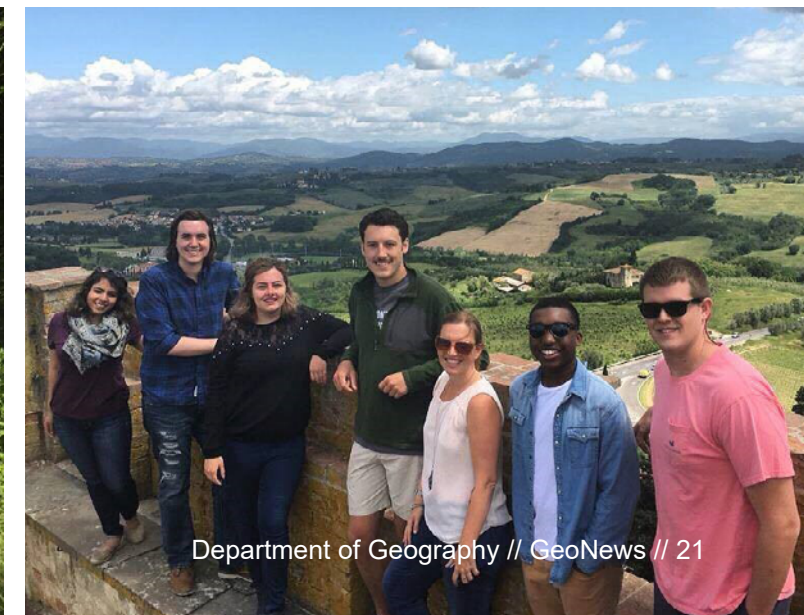
“We climbed the five or six floors to the top of the medieval tower and saw the greatest view I have ever seen in my life. You could see for miles in every direction, the rolling hills and fields. There’s no sight like it anywhere in America or any country I have been to.”

Another noted, “As a first trip out of the United States, I wasn’t sure what to expect when traveling to Tuscany. I knew that Italy is a country that had a rich history of art, culture, and cuisine, but I couldn’t ever prepare for the ways that this trip would open my eyes to the world around me.”

Clearly, the students learned a great deal—about the course topics, about

themselves, and about the world—all in a condensed period of time and while, incidentally, earning course credit. More than once, students mentioned how the place felt surreal, making comments like “Is this place even real?” or “I feel like I’m in a painting!”

In sum, the TXST to Tuscany course in 2016 proved wholly worthwhile, worthwhile enough to be adopted for a second run. The next TXST to Tuscany course is scheduled for Summer 2018 (<http://go.capa.org/florence/txstate-to-tuscany/>). This time there are sixteen students enrolled and, rather than staying in the Tuscan countryside, students will reside in the city of Florence, hosted by CAPA The Global Education Network (<https://www.capa.org>). The course topics remain largely the same, however, this time, in addition to covering the concepts and themes of the Geography of Food and Agriculture, students will explore ideas, theories, and practices related to Cultural and Political Ecology.



5 Steps to Change a Geography Student's Life

Scholarship Recipient
Mogahid "Mo" Hussein



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5 STEPS

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