



GeoNews

Southwest Texas State University Department of Geography Newsletter • Vol. 8, Issue 2, Spring 2002

2002: Year of Collaboration and Recommitment

Senator Hutchison Delivers Fourth Annual Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture

Cynthia Agold



From left: Richard Boehm, Gilbert Grosvenor, Kay Bailey Hutchison, and Jerome Supple.

The Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education hosted the 4th Annual Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture Series on November 9, featuring U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. Addressing a near-capacity crowd in the LBJ Student Center Teaching Theater, Senator Hutchison stressed the need for a basic understanding of geography by all Americans, today more than ever.

Discarding her original speech due to the events of September 11, Senator Hutchison's lecture focused on government actions related

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8th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration!

Fred Shelley



All current and former students, faculty, staff, and friends of the department are invited to attend the 8th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on Saturday, April 20 on the SWT campus.

The program will begin at 10 a.m. at Alkek Teaching Theater with surprise entertainment! Door prizes will be awarded to those who arrive in time for the opening of the session at 10:00 am. Following morning entertain-

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Fourth Annual Lovell Lecture – Charlie Duke Remembers the “Beautiful Blue Jewel”

David Butler

On February 12, the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research had the pleasure of hosting Apollo 16 Astronaut General Charles

“Charlie” M. Duke, Jr. After, Dr. Lawrence Estaville gave General Duke a tour of the department, he met with Lovell Center Scholars for a period of informal discussion and conversation. General Duke impressed and fascinated everyone by his graciousness and experiences.

General Duke presented the 4th Annual Lovell Lecture in the Alkek Teaching Theater to an enthusiastic audience of 350 people, including President Jerome Supple, Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Gratz, and

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David Butler and Charlie Duke

World Renowned “Public Geographer” Inspires

Michelle Humber

On Wednesday, January 16, the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education was delighted to host Harm de

Blij, a world renowned “public geographer.” Dr. de Blij is a geographer who has dedicated his life's work to the dissemination of geographic information through various media. He is best known to most geographers through his introductory geography textbooks, including *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts* (de Blij and Muller 2002).

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From left: Harm de Blij, Lawrence Estaville, and Richard Boehm.

Karl Rove, Senior Advisor to President Bush, will Deliver Fifth Grosvenor Lecture

David Rutherford



The senior advisor to President George W. Bush, the man who has been called the “central node” of activity that surrounds the presidency,

Mr. Karl Rove, is scheduled to deliver the 5th Annual Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture that will be held April 26, on the SWT campus.

Officially, Mr. Rove is the president's senior adviser, with purview over the offices of political affairs and public liaison. But he is also in charge of a new Office of Strategic Initiatives — something of a research group in the White House — and that role allows him substantial influence into most facets of the administration. Rove previously served as chief strategist for President-elect Bush's presidential campaign. Prior to his work with the campaign, he was president of Karl Rove Company, an Austin-based public affairs firm that worked for candidates, nonpartisan causes, and nonprofit groups. He is married, has one son, and is a long-time resident of Texas.

Mr. Rove will come to SWT as part of the Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture Series that has included Gilbert Grosvenor of the National Geographic Society, former Secretary of State James Baker III, and, most recently, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. All of these lectures have emphasized the integration of geography and geography education into broader social and/or environmental contexts at national or global levels.

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Greetings From The Chair

Collaboration and Recommitment

Lawrence Estaville

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, still weigh heavily on our hearts and minds. In a year in which our department's theme is "Collaboration and Recommitment," SWT Geography has strongly responded positively to the despicable acts of terror in three historic ways that embody our sorrow, prayers, and hope and our recommitment to education and global understanding.

We created a team-taught course this spring titled "Geography of Terrorism" that tries to understand better the cultural and political causes of terrorism that has been directed at the United States in recent years. A team of award-winning professors and graduate students has volunteered its expertise, time, and energy to make this course a memorable one for our geography students and for those students from across campus.

We are also raising \$10,000 to support a new scholarship, "The Spirit of Geography Scholarship," to honor the memories of those eight people, including three African-American 7th graders, who were on a National Geographic Society field experience when on September 11, their airliner crashed into the Pentagon. If you want to help us with donations to this special scholarship, please send them to the department. A representative from the National Geographic Society will help us recognized the first recipient of "The Spirit of Geography Scholarship" at our Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 20, 2002.

Finally, we have created the highest award that SWT Geography will ever present and titled it the "Spirit of Geography Award," which represents the pinnacle of leadership and support for geography and for SWT Geography—honoring a person of wisdom, vision, and peace—certainly essential qualities that will help bring our world closer together with new and reciprocal understanding and respect.

As reported to you in the fall, SWT Geography is now a Sun Microsystems Center of Excellence for Geographic Information Science! This is a collaboration among SWT Geography, Sun Microsystems, ESRI, and the National Geographic Society's Educational Outreach Program. Our Sun Center of Excellence for Geographic Information Science brings more than \$1 million worth of cutting-edge equipment into the department to establish two Sun teaching labs and two Sun research labs! We will highlight these thin-client labs at our 8th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 20, 2002.

Speaking of our Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, we expect more than 800 people to attend this April. The Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration Committee has planned a simply spectacular day filled with presentation of awards and scholarships, work-

shops, exhibits, tours, and the big BBQ blast at Aquarena Springs! The SWT Salsa Band and Cindy Gratz's Hawaiian Dancers from Sam Houston State will once again rock us! And that wild and crazy Joy Adams will again become the late-night karaoke queen known as "Spitney Beers!" So, mark your calendars for April 20, 2002, for this year's Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration because all current students and alumni—first time ever—will have FREE admission to SWT Geography's most important annual event!!!

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's presentation as the 4th Grosvenor Lecturer last November was marvelous! Dick Boehm, director of the Grosvenor Center, and his staff, led by Judy Behrens, worked hard to prepare for this important visit, and it was flawless! Apollo Astronaut General Charles Duke, one of only twelve humans to have walked on the moon, gave an amazing talk to a packed house in February. David Butler, director of the Lovell Center, and the Lovell Scholars, particularly Denise Blanchard-Boehm, and staff worked equally hard to see that the event's every detail was perfectly managed!

Your department now has 512 undergraduate, 162 master's, and 28 Ph.D. students and continues to be the largest Geography Department in North America! Our students continue to participate enthusiastically in Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the Student Planning Organization (SPO), the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), Support for Women in Geography (SWIG), and the Graduate Student Forum. Several of our students were honored once again during the past year with awards at national and state conferences or were congratulated for their publications!

Angelika Lester continues to do a simply superb job as our department office manager! Joan Pasquali and Sandra Foglia are excellent office staff who also make certain our ship stays on a steady course! Without Dan "the computer man" Hemenway we would be dead in the water with more than 425 department computers to be maintained! In addition, Patricia Hell, a very intelligent and thoughtful person, just joined the department to manage all of our grants and contracts that help us bring in funds to keep on the cutting edge of research and technology.

You can see that I am very proud to be the chair of your department! You, too, should be very proud to be a part of your internationally recognized Dept. of Geography! Well, I could go excitedly on and on, but more details are in this newsletter (edited by Emily Manderson), and check out our new, award-winning Web site at www.geo.swt.edu. For "up close and personals," be here for your 8th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 20!

Support for Texas State University

An Open Letter from Chairman

Lawrence Estaville

I write to support strongly President Jerry Supple's extraordinarily important initiative to change the name of Southwest Texas State University to Texas State University. Many reasons come to mind that make imperative the name change to the Texas State University. Of course, as geographers we take to task the current name of our university because it is not in southwest Texas, which is very irritating to us when our colleagues and others across the nation joke about this misnomer. Let me focus, however, on the essence of my thinking regarding the urgent need to change our university's name to Texas State University.

As you know, the Department of Geography was successful in developing and implementing our university's first two doctoral programs—one in Environmental Geography and the other in Geographic Education. Further, we now have a proposal for a third Ph.D. program at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review. This new doctoral program is in the exploding high-technology field of Geographic Information Science. To support these Ph.D. programs we must attract nationally recognized faculty, the highest quality students, as well as large grant and contract funding to provide vital support for the programs. We have faced difficult challenges in accomplishing these goals to create an internationally recognized center of excellence in geography. One of the factors that has significantly hindered our efforts is the name of our university, Southwest Texas State University, a title that does not evoke thoughts of national and international prominence, but instead harks back to days of a small, regional college that primarily served a student body from rural Texas.

Specifically, without a name like Texas State University, we will continue to have a powerful perceptual obstacle to overcome every time we advertise for a nationally recognized scholar-teacher who could as easily go to Penn State, Ohio State, or Michigan State. Likewise, nationally competitive students and students from around the globe think more than twice before they consider a university with a regional name. As equally important, when our faculty apply for grants from, for instance, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or NASA, as they have done in the past, it is very difficult competing with proposals from universities that have national names, recognition, and perception. In other words, the name of a university is

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A New Crop After the Harvest

Brock Brown



As is my usual practice, I arrived several hours early for the December 2001 commencement ceremonies in Strahan Coliseum. I do this in part to give me time, as the Liberal Arts Grand Marshal, to ensure that all required preparations have been made, and more important, an early arrival gives me the opportunity to meet all the graduating geography students and their families and friends who have come to share in this special moment. For many students this is a seminal event that somehow justifies the expenditures in time, money, and endured inconveniences. Years of effort, in some cases many years, have been devoted to reaching this graduation, and it is an honor for me to be a part of this celebration that marks the transition from geography major to geography professional and SWT Geography alumni.

I always have a wonderful time while participating in graduation, and I especially enjoy talking with all the geography majors and their families. This past December, my happiness was mildly flawed by the nagging question that kept stirring up in the back of my mind. "How are we going to replace all of the excellent geography majors and minors that are graduating?" As is always the case, I was amazed to see how they have matured during their geography experience at SWT to become ready to enter to the world beyond college. But, in the midst of this joy, I cannot help but return to my troubling question, "How are we going to replace all of the excellent students that are graduating tonight?"

After graduation, SWT closes for the winter break, people abandon the campus, parking spaces become abundant, and thoughts of the geography program are temporarily replaced with thoughts of family,

friends, and the holiday ritual. In early January, I returned to my office to prepare for the spring registration and orientation sessions that Joan Pasquali and I conduct for new students. As we were making plans and getting the advising infrastructure cranked up after a not-so-long winter's break, we reminisced about the outstanding crop of majors and minors that had just graduated. The nagging question came up again, "How are we going to replace all of the excellent students who graduated?"

During the next three hectic days of orientation, the question was answered. Each day brought us many high quality first year and transfer students who had specifically chosen to come to SWT to study geography. Additionally, my phone began ringing off the hook (well, almost) and my e-mail became more consumed by inquiries from prospective students wanting to know more geography, our department, and career opportunities open to geography majors. Every one of them had the makings of a "cream of the crop" geography student.

All of this reminded me that good students are the currency of our department. They enter, grow, and mature and then go on to pursue the adventure of unfolding their lives. There is nothing like having a very successful undergraduate program that is bursting at the seams with first-rate students to help attract new students to replace the ones that graduate each semester. We miss our students as they graduate, and hope to see them at future alumni reunions and other functions. They are a permanent part of our geography department, a family that gets larger every year because more and more good students choose to follow in their footsteps. While I am sure that I will continue agonize at the end of each semester as excellent students leave us to pursue their futures, I know it will be short lived as the next tide of future geographers rolls into the department. The entire department joins me in expressing our appreciation for each student, past and present, who have contributed to our success.

Transitions

Fred Shelley



Our journey through life is filled with transitions. Birthday parties, weddings, anniversary celebrations, holidays, and commencement ceremonies are among the many activities that we engage in to recognize the many transitions that we along with our loved ones experience over the course of our lifetimes. In contemporary Western society, retirement is one of the major transitions of life. In decades past, retirement was generally associated with gold watches, rocking chairs, and social security. Fortunately, we no longer regard retirement as the end of one's productive working life. The wisdom, experience, and commitment characteristic of retirees in all walks of life provides us with a vast storehouse of knowledge that we who follow can draw upon to enhance the legacies of those whose commitment to the day-to-day job grind has formally ended.

This spring, three persons who have contributed much over the years to the department and its graduate programs have announced their intention to retire from their current positions. Each has, in their own way, established a lasting legacy in the department. Dr. James Harrison, Professor of Geography, will retire in May after more than 30 years of active service to the department. Dr. Harrison's efforts were critical to the establishment of the Master of Applied Geography program, and especially to the planning program. Hundreds of his former students work as planners across Texas and throughout the country. Dr. Harrison established and for many years directed the internship program, which under the direction of Mark Carter today, remains one of the largest and best geography internship programs in the country. Many graduate and undergraduate geography students began their advancement up the career ladder by securing internships while in our department.

Dr. Jerome Supple, President of the University, will retire at the end

of August after serving as President since 1989. Dr. Supple came to SWT with a vision of transforming the University into one of the best universities in Texas, and he succeeded. His energy, vision, and commitment were critical to the development of the University as a highly respected state university. He provided the leadership and support essential to the establishment of our Ph.D. programs and our Master of Science program along with our increasingly successful and well-respected Master of Applied Geography and undergraduate programs.

Dr. Ronald Abler, Executive Director of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), has announced that he will resign from his position effective January 1, 2003. Dr. Abler, who has served in his position since 1989, has been the Association's most effective and successful Executive Director in its hundred-year history. He has been tireless in his efforts to promote geography and geographers, from the boardrooms of Fortune 500 companies to the corridors of the Capitol to the executive offices of University administrations throughout the country. He played a vital role in persuading the University and the Coordinating Board of the wisdom of expanding and enhancing the role of geography on the SWT campus. Yet he never forgot that students and young persons represented the future of the discipline. At the San Francisco meeting of the AAG, for example, Ron spent his valuable time with several graduate students who were attending their first meeting and were in awe of the discipline's luminaries. He sprang for a round of drinks and spent more than an hour patiently answering the students' questions about where he felt geography was going.

Jim Harrison, Jerry Supple, and Ron Abler are men of vision. At a time when most people associated geography with Trivial Pursuit, Jim Harrison envisioned hundreds of alumni in positions of increasing responsibility in applied geography across the state in both private and public sector positions. Jerry Supple became president of what was widely regarded as a party school with low academic standards, and he

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Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration continued from page 1



ment, we will present the department's scholarships, including the new Spirit of Geography scholarship that has been established in memory of the geographers who lost their lives in the September 11 tragedy. Dr. Lawrence Estaville, Department Chair, will then give his annual state of the department presentation.

After lunch, there will be presentations of awards to outstanding students, faculty, and supporters of the department. This year's Outstanding Alumni Award will be presented to Sandra Villalobos, former meteorologist on Channel 8 in Austin, who is now with the Weather Channel. We will also honor Dr. James Harrison, who will be retiring after more than 30 years of outstanding service to the department.

Following the awards ceremony, the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration will move to the Evans Liberal Arts Building for silent auction, bidding, workshops, exhibits, tours, and lab demonstrations. We will then adjourn to the Pecan Grove at Aquarena Springs for the annual barbecue, with entertainment by the Sam Houston State University Hula Dancers, the SWT Salsa Band, and karaoke!

Children are welcome to attend the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration. The program will include a workshop on environmental awareness and a scavenger hunt for kids. Children can also ride the glass-bottom boats at Aquarena Springs and view the many museum exhibits there. This year's Reunion and Student Celebration will feature a silent auction to raise money for the Spirit of Geography Scholarship (see detailed article on page 7).

Admission to the Reunion and Student Celebration, including all of these activities, lunch and dinner, is FREE (with donation of either \$1 to the Spirit of Geography Scholarship Fund or donation of \$1 or a can of food to the San Marcos Food Bank) to all currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate geography majors, and to all undergraduate and graduate alumni of the department, who register by March 31, 2002. Registration for geography minors is \$5 plus a canned good before March 31. Registration is \$10 for students and alumni registering after March 31 and friends, family members, and all other non-students and non-alumni (children 12 and under are free). To register, download, print, and mail the registration form attached to this newsletter. You can also download the registration form directly from the SWT Geography Web site.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the La Quinta Motel, located at 1619 IH 35 North near the intersection of Interstate 35 and Aquarena Springs Drive, for anyone interested in staying overnight. Because of the activities associated with President Supple's retirement, hotel space is limited so reserve your hotel room by April 1! The telephone number at La Quinta is (512) 392-8800. When you call, please give this information: "Geography Alumni Reunion" room block (# 92934366) for April 19 & 20. The cost for a room is \$75.00+ tax and is a king mini-suite, which is the only type of room available for those dates.

I look forward to seeing you and your loved ones at the 8th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration!! Please contact members of the Steering Committee—Fred Shelley (fs03@swt.edu), Judy Behrens (jb42@swt.edu), Allison Glass (am13@swt.edu), or Angelika Lester (al07@swt.edu) for further information.



Alumni Reunion Schedule of Events

Alkek Teaching Theater

- 9:00 Registration opens
- 10:00 Door prizes and Grad Assistant Follies
- 10:30 Scholarship Presentations
- 11:35 *Break*
- 11:40 Chair's State of the Department Address
- 12:15 *Lunch*
- 1:00 National Geographic Society Presentation
- 1:30 Awards Presentations, Recognition of Outstanding Alumni, Recognition of Jim Harrison's Retirement

Evans Liberal Arts Building

- 3:00 Workshops, Lab Demos, and Exhibits I
- 4:15 Workshops, Lab Demos, and Exhibits II

Aquarena Springs

- 5:30 Barbecue begins
- 6:00 Food served
- 7:00 Hula Dancers
- 8:00 SWT Salsa Band
- 10:00 Karaoke

Click Here
to go to the
Geography Website

Faculty News

Dr. Jim Harrison Bids Farewell

Emily Manderson



After many years of service to our department, Dr. Jim Harrison, a pillar of our geography and planning program is now teaching his final semester of classes at SWT. He is one of our longest standing faculty members and is well loved by the department. His dedication to geography will be remembered by faculty and the many students who were fortunate enough to have him as a professor.

As the youngest of his family, Dr. Harrison first became interested in geography while climbing the mountains of Colorado as a young boy. Growing up in the suburbs of west Denver, the mountains were literally his backyard, and he recalls having an extremely wonderful childhood. During his youth, Dr. Harrison's goal was to become an all-state baseball player. His father had played professional baseball and strongly encouraged him to work towards getting into either a D or C league. He played one summer in Arkansas. However, after receiving both his bachelors and masters at Denver University he began to rethink baseball and became more focused on his academic career. Dr. Harrison retained his interest in baseball, however; for many years he coached in the San Marcos Little League program and he led several teams to statewide playoffs.

After completing his master's degree, Dr. Harrison was offered a job in Englewood, Colorado as a city planner. This led to the position of assistant planner. Shortly after his success in this job, he was surprised with another opportunity from a friend that lived in Louisiana. Southeastern Louisiana State College had a one-year job opening and needed someone in a hurry. Two days later, Dr. Harrison left his hometown, caught a plane to his new job, which ended up being a three-year placement. Dr. Harrison decided that he wanted to pursue a PhD so he could continue to teach at the university level. He was selected as the only United States representative for a program at Simon Fraser in Vancouver, but was unable to finish due to his wife's illness. He then completed his PhD at the University of Oklahoma.

In 1970, Dr. Allen Hellman hired Dr. Harrison to start a planning program in the department. The focus of the planning program was on smaller local towns. Dr. Harrison and Dr. Larsen devised a strategy of going after smaller communities and pushing their internship program along with the Political Science department. According to Dr. Harrison, the real reason the program succeeded was due to the excellent students. The planning program was then expanded not only to urban regional planning but to environmental as well. Dr. Larsen's connections with the state helped convince state officials that geography was a discipline that had much to offer regarding management of air, water, and other natural resources.

Dr. Harrison believes that SWT and other universities have led the way to geography's increasing importance. When asked why geography is important he responded "Geography is so important because it makes us understand things better. In addition, you can do geography. It is not just an exclusively teaching field." Thirty years ago geography was very different. Dr. Harrison remembers when major university geography departments were declining, while ours was increasing due to our applied approach to geography. Now geography has the reputation as a viable and useful subject among students, the public, and employers.

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Boehm Awarded AAG Grosvenor Honors in Geo Education

Emily Manderson



Please join me in congratulating Dr. Richard Boehm as the first faculty member at SWT to receive a lifetime achievement award from the Association of American Geographers (AAG). This is the highest honor given by AAG for lifetime achievement in several categories including Research, Teaching, Service, and in Geographic Education. Dr. Boehm will be formally presented with the award at the upcoming meeting of the AAG in Los Angeles in March 2002.

The first honor given for Geographic Education was in 1995. Since then, eight people have been awarded this honor. The AAG has given Dick Boehm the same honor as Ronald Abler, Alice Andrews, Anthony de Souza, Edward Price, Roger Downs, Salvatore Natoli, Phil Gersmehl, Duane Nellis, and Rickie Sanders.

Dick Boehm's lifelong love of geography and geographic education has been an incredible journey that has left him feeling as if he would not have done anything differently. More than four decades of his life have been devoted to geographic education, which has allowed him to impact countless teachers and students. Boehm has contributed to geography through research projects and other services. For example, literally millions of students are learning geography with the aid of Dick Boehm's textbooks. The books have been so successful for a multitude of reasons; one being his close working relationship with teachers. Boehm incorporates the teacher's perspectives into textbooks, thereby making them invaluable teaching aids. It has been his joy to participate in bringing geography alive in the classroom.

According to Dr. Boehm, the most significant change for geographic education was in 1985 when Gilbert Grosvenor of the National Geographic Society helped promote the mission of geographic education. With the new visibility and influence, geography education became revered as more important to the public and to geography in general. There began momentum for change that Boehm has not let slow since then.

The Grosvenor Center at SWT seems never to sleep. From hosting guest speakers such as

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Butler Nominated to Nominate

Emily Manderson



The Nominating Committee of Association of American Geographers (AAG) is elected by the AAG's membership to nominate those who will run for major AAG offices such as the president, vice president, and members of the Honors Committee. Dr. David Butler has been nominated for a position on the AAG Nominating Committee. Six candidates have been nominated, and

the membership will elect three out of these six. The AAG has distributed biographical information of the nominees in the AAG newsletter.

Please let me encourage all of you who are members of AAG to cast your vote for David Butler. Our department could have a significant impact on the voting outcome. The AAG mailed out new ballots in late February with a deadline of April 1. David Butler is the first professor from this department to be nominated for this position. Let's all vote for Dr. Butler!

Faculty News

Congratulations to Faculty Awarded Research Grants

For example, this spring Dr. Richard Dixon received a Quick Response Grant from the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center at the University of Colorado and Dr. Mark Fonstad and Dr. Michael Solem were awarded SWT Faculty Research Grants

2002 Quick Response Grant

Richard W. Dixon



Excessive summer heat is a significant cause of weather-related deaths in the United States. These deaths should be preventable. Conditions favorable to excessive heat develop and persist over a number of days. The National Weather Service (NWS) has an excessive heat advisory program and works with communities to ensure dissemination of information to emergency services managers. Cities open "cooling shelters" and encourage neighbors to check on each other. Still, each year people die from excessive heat and a disproportionate number of those deaths are among the elderly. This study will seek to find out how the elderly (65 and older) receive and respond to warnings of excessive heat conditions.

It is important to conduct the fieldwork in the immediate post-impact time frame to examine how people heard about and responded to a particular event and if they felt their actions were beneficial. These "survivors" should share some common set of characteristics relative to receiving and acting upon hazardous heat advisories. Greater knowledge of these characteristics should enable emergency services to target warnings for maximum effectiveness.

The event to be studied is a major heat wave with heat-related deaths in the city of Dallas or Houston. At the end of the event a group of three researchers will travel by car to the city and conduct intercept interviews with elderly members of the city population. Interviews will be conducted at senior citizen centers, shopping facilities, and others areas frequented by seniors. Questions will seek to determine how seniors received information on the recent heat wave and their response to that information. In addition, we will ask for basic data on the economic and physical "conditions" of the respondents. Previous research has indicated that, in addition to age, level of physical health, and socioeconomic status are risk factors for heat-related deaths. We will process the data using standard statistical methods and responses will be cross-tabulated for levels of physical health and socioeconomic status.

Specific knowledge of how an identified high

vulnerability group obtains and responds to information on excessive heat will allow NWS forecasters and emergency services managers to tailor information products and educational materials to that group.

SWT Faculty Research Grant 2002

Mark Fonstad



My research enhancement grant is in support of the proposal "A New Photogrammetric Method For Measuring Historic River Channel Change." I am testing a new geographical theory that uses modern remote sensing techniques applied to some old favorites - aerial photos - to measure the three-dimensional changes in rivers through time. The method uses a computer to scan two air photos and calculate the true shape of the land surface, much as a human's binocular vision does. Also, because deeper water looks darker, the river topography under the water surface can also be estimated and compared with older air photos from the past sixty years. If successful, the technique should be widely applicable to many river studies worldwide. I am using the grant money to purchase software to generate 3-D maps, purchase air photos, and to hire a new aerial photo mission over the test area: the Brazos River above Waco. The new flight will allow me to calibrate the older maps and test the method's accuracy, and it will require some creative fieldwork by graduate students!

SWT Faculty Research Grant 2002

Michael Solem



My research enhancement grant is being used to conduct a pilot study for an international learning project I am directing called the Global Geographic Inquiry Challenge (GGIC).

The GGIC project is producing a series of Web-based instructional modules for global geography education with the support of the International Geographical Union and International Network for Learning and Teaching Geography in Higher Education. The first GGIC module, Migration, will be beta-tested and evaluated in spring 2002 at six institutions (Grove City College, Pennsylvania; West Chester University, Pennsylvania; University of Saskatchewan, Canada; Samford University, Alabama; Avondale College, Australia; and Estonia Business School, Estonia). Geography instructors at these institutions will pair up and collaboratively teach the module in their respective undergraduate geography courses. Students will collaborate on the module's inquiry lessons using a variety of Internet-based communication technologies. Faculty and student participants will be interviewed and surveyed to evaluate the module's content, instructional design, communication technologies, and implementation strategies. The results of the pilot study will be submitted to a professional journal for publication and (knock on wood) attract a larger grant to fund full-scale development and distribution of new GGIC modules.

SWT Geography and San Marcos High School Collaboration

Lawrence Estaville

San Marcos High School Principal Julio Toro and Assistant Principal Guillermo Mancha recently visited with SWT Geography to establish a framework for collaborative efforts in geographic education and geo-technology. Three important areas included in the collaboration are: 1) establishing a Sun Microsystems Computer Laboratory at San Marcos High School via a grant from Sun, 2) initiating an SWT Geography Weekend Academy in which San Marcos High School students come during the school year to SWT Geography to learn about our cutting-edge geo-technologies, and 3) participating in the SWT Geography Summer Academy for Minority Students that has been funded by the National Geographic Society and will be hosted by the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education this summer and that will also introduce students to modern geography, its methods, and geo-technologies. SWT Geography is strongly committed to collaborative educational efforts in our San Marcos community and throughout Texas.

Department News

New Geography Scholarships

Pam Showalter

The Scholarships and Awards Committee expresses its heartfelt thanks to Mr. and Mrs. David Anenson for creating a new geography scholarship in memory of their son Leif, an alumnus of our department. The Anenson's generosity will annually provide a student with \$1000 from the Leif Anenson Geography Scholarship. Applications for the scholarship will be competitive, and candidates must meet the following criteria: 1) be an undergraduate Geography major; 2) have a GPA of 3.0 or higher; 3) be a junior or senior specializing in the study of Geographic Information Science and who is helping to finance at least 25% of her/his education; and 4) write a two-page, double-spaced essay on what the student hopes to do with her/his degree in geography. We look forward to awarding this scholarship to deserving students and doing our small part to honor Leif's memory.

The Committee is also grateful to William and Eileen Karnau who donated additional funds for both the Sally Ann Karnau Geography Scholarship (undergraduate), and the Sally Ann Karnau Geography Dissertation Research Scholarship (graduate). The additional monies made available from these scholarships will produce a positive impact on students' lives that is immeasurable by allowing students more time to focus on their academic goals.

We salute the Anenson and Karnau families for channeling what must be a tremendous sense of personal loss into positive acts that will benefit others for generations to come. They, and all those who have kindly contributed to our departmental scholarships, continue to exemplify the spirit of giving so visibly exhibited throughout our country since September 11 of last year.

Ham de Blij continued from page 1

From 1990 to 1996, Dr. de Blij worked as Geography Editor for "Good Morning America" on ABC and as Geography Analyst for NBC News from 1996 to 1998.

As Director of the Grosvenor Center, Dr. Richard Boehm invited Dr. de Blij to visit with the students and faculty of the SWT Department of Geography. Dr. Boehm organized a question and answer session, entitled "Life as a Public Geographer," with

Dr. de Blij for faculty members and invited guests. Dr. Boehm arranged a similar question and answer session for geography graduate and undergraduate students. The session drew a near-capacity crowd to hear about Dr. de Blij's many adventures as a public geographer, and students sought professional advice from a man who has brought geography into the living rooms of many.

In both question and answer periods, Dr. de Blij touched on many interesting issues, including global warming, international research, and letter writing. He briefly discussed his ideas on global warming, using pre-history as evidence to push forth the idea that the warming being experienced today is part of a natural process of the earth, before it enters into another cooling stage. Dr. de Blij stated that human impact on the environment contributes to the warming process, but humans cannot control inevitable natural processes.

Dr. de Blij enthusiastically gave advice to geography students in attendance, as many were interested in hearing from a successful public geographer. He suggested that graduate students should engage in foreign research, because there are learning experiences in the field that simply cannot be reproduced in the classroom. In addition, foreign research is important because all students should experience the world outside of their local comfort zone.

Students and faculty at SWT were honored to hear Dr. de Blij's thoughts on geography. His words were motivational and his advice invaluable to future geographers. Harm de Blij, a geography legend, was a delight to host, and he was as impressed with the SWT Department of Geography as we were with him.



Geography faculty members listen intently to speaker Harm de Blij.

Spirit of Geography Scholarship

Forrest Wilkerson

The Department established the Spirit of Geography Scholarship to honor the memory of those people who lost their lives on September 11 in airplane that was hijacked and crashed into the Pentagon. Two of these people were National Geographic Society staff members—Joe Ferguson and Ann Judge—both dear friends to several members of our department, and three outstanding Washington, DC teachers—James Debeuneure, Sarah Clark, and Hilda Taylor—and their 11-year-old, sixth-grade students Rodney Dickens, Asia Cotton, and Bernard Brown, respectively.

Because the three students in the National Geographic Society group were African American, the department has decided to use The Spirit of Geography Scholarship to promote geographic education among minority students. The Geography Scholarships and Awards Committee will select each year an entering or continuing Geography student who best represents the "Spirit of Geography."

I am particularly proud to announce that a portion of support for the scholarship has come from SWT Geography graduate students. To date, SWT graduate students have contributed \$350 toward the scholarship and several hundred more dollars have been pledged. The graduate students are over one third of the way toward obtaining our goal of donating \$1000 to the fund. The scholarship has also been linked to contributions from the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration so that it will soon become financially self-sufficient. The Spirit of Geography Scholarship is perhaps the greatest statement yet of the kindness, caring, and generosity of the SWT Department of Geography, faculty, students, and staff.

Future Geographer in the Making

Nancy Middlebrook



Marcus Opheim is the first 5th grader in the history of Hernandez Middle School to win the 5th and 6th grade division of the San Marcos Geography Bee! Marcus competed with all the students at Hernandez School

becoming one of 84 students to survive the initial test. Three preliminary rounds following that initial exam narrowed the field to only twelve contestants. The final twelve participated in the oral citywide Geography Bee where Marcus won his division. Marcus is the son of Dr. Cynthia Opheim, chair of SWT's Political Science Department. Congratulations Marcus!

Department News

Geography of Terrorism

Lawrence Estaville

We will never forget the tragedy of September 11, 2001! In response to these horrific events, SWT Geography created a new course, Geography of Terrorism, in an attempt to impart to students within a geographical perspective a better understanding of the concept of terrorism and the terrorists who have attacked the United States in recent years. The course is a timely one that was not included in SWT's spring schedule but has drawn interest and students from across campus. Several award-winning faculty and graduate students have volunteered their expertise, time, and energy to ensure the course reaches its goals that include topics on: Geography and Terrorism: The Case of the United States; Geographical Context of Al Qaeda Terror-

ism and U.S. Responses: Places, Peoples, and Power; Global, National, and Local Geographic Systems: Before and After 9/11; A Sense of Place: Before and After 9/11; Vulnerabilities and Risks: The Case of Texas; and Globalism: Peace and Hope. Several high-tech "virtual field trips" take students through places that have been affected by terrorism or terrorists, for example, lower Manhattan and Afghanistan. Professors Lawrence Estaville, Byron Augustin, Brock Brown, Deborah Bryan, Mark Carter, Fred Day, Rich Dixon, Jim Kimmel, Fred Shelley, and David Stea and graduate students Lydia Bean, Kristine Egan, Paul Nagel, Jamie Smelser, and Forrest Wilkerson make up the teaching and support team for the course.

Dr. John Francis is the Guy to Know

Judy Behrens

Responding to an invitation from Dr. Richard Boehm, Director of the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, Dr. John Francis of the National Geographic Society visited the SWT Department of Geography on Tuesday, March 5. As Executive Director and Vice Chairman of the Committee for Research and Exploration, Dr. Francis manages NGS's funding of scientific research around the world and co-directs the Society's new Conservation Initiative, an effort to enhance the contribution to global conservation and sustainability.

Dr. Francis gave a brief presentation about National Geographic's focus on scientific research, in addition to offering an overview of the work of the Committee for Research and Exploration. He spent the remainder of his visit meeting individually with about a dozen faculty members and graduate students to discuss the possibilities for securing NGS funding for specific research projects.

Initially educated as a wildlife biologist, Dr. Francis began his career as a marine mammal scientist during a summer job in Alaska. He spent the next fifteen years traveling the world, studying seabirds, turtles, and 33 seal species. As time went on, Dr. Francis's interests turned to wildlife filmmaking. In 1992, his research on the Juan Fernandez fur seal off the coast of Chile captured the interest of National Geographic Television, where he joined the National History Unit of National Geographic Television. Since 1993, Dr. Francis has served as Associate Producer on a number of National Geographic Specials, including the recent "Diving with Seals," "Tracking the Great White," and "Giants of the Deep."

Silent Auction Donations Accepted

Judy Behrens

An addition to this year's program at the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration will be the Silent Auction, with proceeds going to the newly-established Spirit of Geography Scholarship. Donations for the auction are being accepted from Department of Geography students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. To date, donations include: (1) a gourmet dinner for four, prepared by a very famous faculty chef; (2) artwork from several very talented graduate students, staff members, and friends of the department; (3) a music CD featuring a gifted performance artist/ Ph.D. student; (4) hot sauce made from a secret recipe by a "spicy" graduate student; (5) roses grown by a certain horticulturally-inclined department Chair; and (6) a week's stay in a five-star resort in Puerto Vallarta from a very generous (and now very popular) faculty member.

Show your geography spirit... all donations are welcome, including items, services, talents, and anything else "legal" that you wish to contribute. To make a donation to the Silent Auction, or to get additional information, please contact Judy Behrens at (512) 245-1823 or jb42@swt.edu. The Silent Auction will be held from 9:00am-4:15pm on April 20th, during the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration. Auction items will be posted for viewing on the department's home page at <http://www.geo.swt.edu/>.

New Environmental Atlas of Texas

Lawrence Estaville

Benson Publishing of Austin, Texas reports that SWT Geography's School Atlas of Texas, the first ever of its kind, is selling strongly across the state with some school districts purchasing 200-300 copies at a time! The School Atlas of Texas is the first in a series of atlases to be produced by the department's Texas Atlas Project (TAP), a multi-product, multi-year project that has as its mission to publish atlases about Texas on, for example, geography education of school children, environmental problems, crime, health, and music. The TAP technical staff, led by Ph.D. student Lynn Resler, has now turned its attention to producing an Environmental Atlas of Texas. This atlas, aimed at high school and college students as well as the general public, will be larger and contain more sophisticated and detailed maps than the School Atlas of Texas that was created for seventh-grade school children. The Environmental Atlas of Texas will have eleven chapters that include maps and geographic information about the land, climate, water resources, vegetation, population, natural hazards, air pollution, environmentally sensitive zones, and industrial centers and hazards. The TAP anticipates completion of the Environmental Atlas of Texas by May 2003.

Holy Cow, Free Geography Webmail!

Free email address for a lifetime is available for geography department alumni and current students. To get the free email address, the first step is to visit www.geo.swt.edu/geowebmail/webmailform.html and fill out the form and submit it online. Joan Pasquali does a verification check and forwards the information on to Dan Hemenway and voila! You are at home at mail.geo.swt.edu. If you have any questions, please email the Webmaster for the department at webmaster@geo.swt.edu. Three major benefits of having the free email would be: 1. To keep updated with all Geography News 2. You can check your mail from anywhere in the world - as long as you have internet access, and 3. Your account is good for life.

Department News

Hannover Exchange Students Visit the Department

James F. Petersen



Several of the University of Hannover students.

As part of a long-standing exchange agreement between SWT and the University of Hannover, 12 German university students and an accompanying faculty member are visiting the campus and the

Department of Geography from February 8 to March 8. This international exchange between the two universities involves a month-long visit for two student groups, one from each institution.

The visit by students from Hannover to SWT will be reciprocated with a group of 12 SWT students from the Department of Geography going to Germany in May, led by Dr. James F. Petersen. The SWT-Geography group will visit the University of Hannover for a month during the first summer semester, from May to June. Student participants were chosen competitively, and each SWT student has a student-partner from Hannover.

While on campus the German students are housed in SWT residence halls, but when the SWT geographers go to Hannover, they will live in accommodations provided by their German partners. Rather than just being a travel-study tour, the experience of living with a German peer provides the Americans with a first-hand understanding of another country and its culture. In addition, because of this unique exchange arrangement, the American students are able to spend a month studying in Germany, including housing and travel expenses for a very reasonable \$2000. This cost is about half of most programs that in-

volve travel to Europe for a month.

While the Hannover group is here, they will attend classes on the SWT campus, and special lectures by faculty in the Department of Geography. The Germans will also be officially welcomed to the city by the Honorable David Chiu, Mayor of San Marcos, and they meet with SWT President Supple personally while they are here. Field trips are planned for the SWT and Hannover groups, with visits to San Antonio to discuss Mexican culture in Texas, a trip to the Hill Country to study the influence of German settlement on the landscape, and the physical geography of the Hill Country. At the end of the exchange, during spring break there will be an extended trip to Big Bend and the Texas-Mexico borderlands.

While in Hannover, the SWT students will study the Geography of Europe and Germany, and attend field trips organized by the Hannover group. Every year the program is a bit different, but in the past field trips have usually included Berlin, Germany's reinstated capital city, to see the effects of reunification and the relicts of Germany's divided past. Other possible destinations include the Harz Mountains and the North Sea Coast for physical geography, Hamburg with its port facility, and several small towns near Hannover. There will also be a four-day trip to Denmark, including visits to Copenhagen and to Viking archaeological sites. The faculty in the Uni-Hannover Geography Department will also present special lectures for the SWT geographers. They will also have an opportunity to meet Ludwig Schätzl, President of the University of Hannover, and Professor of Geography.

Over the years, a number of exchange students from Hannover have decided to return to San Marcos for further studies, and several have completed or are working on master's degrees in geography at SWT. The addition of these international students to our graduate program, and student interactions that develop during the visit of the Hannover students to our department are benefits of this exchange. Such opportunities for international cooperation and understanding are certainly relevant in the world today and make important contributions to an education in geography.

Center for Texas-Mexico Applied Research Fulfilling Vision and Mission

Nancy Middlebrook

Southwest Texas State University was the gathering place for a cooperative research planning conference among representatives from scientific, governmental, and private-sector organizations, and education and university communities in Mexico and Texas in October 2001. It was the largest and most diverse group of its kind ever assembled on the SWT campus. The conference was sponsored by the Center for Texas-Mexico Applied Research (CeTMAR), a university-level research center housed within the Department of Geography. The departments of Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and the College of Health Professions established CeTMAR in mid-1999 as a joint effort. Dr. David Stea, the Center's director, and the Center's associate directors, Walter Wright of the Department of Political Science and John Tiefenbacher of the Department of Geography, worked for several months to coordinate the meeting. The conference, financed by a grant from the Yazoo Trading Oil and Gas Services LLC, was held October 25-26 to discuss, in a formal setting, research projects focused on environmental and economic problems of common concern to Mexico and Texas.

Participants from Mexico included representatives from the National Council for Science and Technology, the National Water Commission, the National Council for Environmental Industry, the Universidad



Autónoma de Tamaulipas, the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, the Instituto de Geographia of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, Anahuac University, the Secretariat of Social Development, the Secretariat of Hydrological Services, and the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social. The Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social coordinates all public health services and research in the area of health for the entire Republic of Mexico. Participants from the United States included representatives from the National Science Foundation, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Texas Natural Resources Information System, and the State of Texas (Mexico City office).

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Department News

Mohini Dirisina Wins Best Student Paper Award at SWAAG

Emily Manderson



This past November at the annual SWAAG meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, Mohini Dirisina (MAG 2001) presented her paper titled, "Residential Choice of Asian Indians: A Case Study of the Houston MSA 1990." She won the best student paper award for her outstanding presentation. The judging for this award is based on a combination of the written paper and oral presentation.

Mohini became interested in this subject because she is an Asian Indian herself and found it personally appealing. With the persistent encouragement of her advisor, Fred Day, she pursued her interest in Asian Indian culture and cartography and was rewarded with a positive experience. She hypothesized that, due to the fact that Asian Indians place considerable importance on education, there would be a pattern of Asian Indians living in areas where there are better school districts. She found that there was no such pattern and that living patterns were actually random in relation to school districts. Through her research, her most exciting discovery was that she disproved many obvious things, ultimately learning that nothing is obvious.

Presenting a paper is an experience that she feels is valuable for every geography student. "It gives you confidence in yourself. You feel as if you can go out there and do something." In addition, Mohini now feels comfortable with manipulating and modifying census data, which was a goal of hers when beginning her research.

Mohini was a graduate assistant for Texas Watch and was well loved by our department. When she graduated in December 2001, she had no definite plans for her future except that she was moving to be with her fiancé in Kansas City. We know that she will take with her the knowledge that she is an excellent geographer and will continue to use her geographical skills to make unobvious discoveries.

From Pam Wridt: Her Dissertation

Nancy Middlebrook

Pam Wridt (MAG 1998) is a doctoral student at New York City University. She is now in the data collection phase of her dissertation: The Historical Geography of Childhood in Yorkville and East Harlem: 1940s-2000s. Her dissertation will compare the childhood experiences of individuals who grew up in and around the Isaacs Houses/Holmes Towers (IHHT), from the 1940s to present time.

The IHHT is a public housing development with over 6,000 residents situated along the border of Yorkville and East Harlem in New York. Enormous changes have occurred within the social, economic, and cultural fabric of these neighborhoods over the last century. However, impacts of these changes on young people's use of public space, their access to play and recreation, their leisure time activities, and their social relationships with peers and adults are not well documented.

The investigation will focus upon children's experiences in the community when they were between the ages of 11-13, covering three different time periods: 1) the 1940s, working with individuals currently in their 60s; 2) the 1970s, working with individuals currently in their 30s; and 3) the 2000s, working with young people aged 11-13. Understanding the significance of these changes will help educators, social workers, and planners promote community development that addresses children's unique environmental and social needs and the findings will provide a historical dimension to theory and research on children's environments in urban communities.

Transitions continued from page 3

envisioned nationally respected undergraduate and graduate programs in geography and many other disciplines. Ron Abler became executive director of the AAG shortly after several prominent universities shut down their geography programs, and he envisioned geographers as playing a critical role in understanding how to solve the many economic, environmental, and social problems facing modern global society. Fortunately, all of their visions became reality, thanks in large measure to their own efforts. All of them recognized that our department was well positioned to carry out their visions, and all contributed mightily to the department's increasing stature. It is fortunate that we in SWT Geography have recognized all of them with formal awards, and I am pleased that we will be presenting President Supple with the first Spirit of Geography award on April 20.

An uncle of mine, who lived past his ninety-ninth birthday, used to say that after he retired he was so busy he didn't know how he ever had time to go to work. No doubt, Jim Harrison, Jerry Supple, and Ron Abler will soon feel the same way. I am confident that they will use their wisdom and talents to the benefit of their communities for many years to come, and I know that we in SWT Geography will draw upon their experience and wisdom to build upon their legacies as contributors to the Spirit of Geography. Please join me in wishing each of them a long, active, happy, and productive retirement.

I will look forward to seeing you at the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 20!

Congratulations to the Pruitts!



Proud parents Keely and Kevin Pruitt, a graduate assistant in the department, are pleased to announce the birth of their baby boy on January 22, 2002. Ethan weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce and is doing great. Maybe a future geographer!

Grosvenor News

“Environmental Education: The Road to Hell is Paved with Good Intentions”

David Rutherford



John Lidstone and Richard Boehm

On January 28, 2002, the Grosvenor Center hosted a visit by Dr. John Lidstone, professor at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia. Lidstone, who specializes in geography education, environmental education, hazard and disaster education, education in the social studies, and is the editor of the journal *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education*, came to SWT as part of the Grosvenor Center's ongoing collaborative work with geographic educators from around the world. Dr. Lidstone met with faculty and students throughout the day and in the evening he delivered a presentation on the state of environmental education, “Environmental Education: The Road to Hell is Paved with Good Intentions.”

Lidstone believes that much of geographical and environmental education possesses an attitude of doom and despondency that not only fails to represent accurately the state of the world, but also produces student attitudes that are inordinately pessimistic. He pre-

sented evidence from Australia that much information that is included in school curricula comes from reports that are originally intended to effect political change, and, hence, place too great an emphasis on perceived environmental problems. He contends that geographical and environmental education is out of balance and needs a renewed focus upon life as “an endless adventure with something new to be learned every day.” Geography should seek to empower students to enjoy life as well as develop the skills, confidence, and hopefulness to solve the problems present in the world through an understanding of places, regions, landscapes and the people who live in these places and the ways of life they pursue. Dr. Lidstone reminded the audience of the strength of geography's shared heritage and ideals that differ from those of other disciplines relating an anecdote about an interdisciplinary field trip via bus in which “only the geographers – again, regardless of specialty – will incessantly rubberneck, gawk, point, explain, speculate, and argue about what they are seeing, more or less without regard to whether it is urban or rural, physical or anthropogenic, beautiful or hideous. In real places, much of what seems to separate geographers evaporates, and what unites them becomes vividly obvious.”

Share Your Experience: Become an Industry Mentor

Judy Behrens

In association with the “Enhancing Technology Skills in the Classroom” project, the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education is looking for industry professionals to serve as mentors for project teachers and students. Mentors will be recruited from among those individuals who utilize GIS as an integral part of their jobs in the Greater Austin-San Antonio Corridor. Each mentor will be asked to make presentations for students and teachers during training workshops, classroom visits, or through distance learning initiatives, in addition to participating in an Internet-based “Ask an Expert” component of the program. Mentors, who will be compensated for their participation, will be asked to make a minimum time commitment of one year to the project.

Alumni of the SWT Department of Geography who use GIS in their jobs are perfect candidates to become industry mentors of this training initiative. In addition to staying closely involved in the department's activities (and getting paid for it!), this is an opportunity to pass along your valuable knowledge and real-world experience and to nurture potential high tech co-workers.

Enhancing Technology Skills in High School Classrooms

Judy Behrens

Dr. Richard Boehm, Director of the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, and Dr. Ben Zhan, Professor of Geography, are jointly heading a project entitled “Enhancing Technology Skills in the Classroom,” funded by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). This demonstration project is designed to answer the TWC's call for initiatives that introduce Texas youths to high technology career opportunities in the hopes that they will eventually help to fill the ever-growing demand for high technology professionals in Texas. Over the course of the next four years, 800 Texas teachers and over 49,000 high school students are expected to receive training because of this program. The Grosvenor Center has partnered with five other organizations for this project, including the Rural Capital Area Workforce Development Board, Alamo Workforce Development Board, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Region 13 Education Service Center, and Region 20 Education Service Center.

During the next two years, this project will provide extensive train-

ing in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Information Technology (IT) to 80 high school teachers from the Greater Austin-San Antonio Corridor. ESRI will provide GIS training during two-week summer workshops here in the Department of Geography, in addition to awarding each participating teacher the software and a campus-wide site license for ArcView and Spatial Analyst Extension. While receiving the skills needed to introduce GIS successfully into their high school classrooms, the workshop-trained teachers will also be responsible for training additional teachers in GIS through in-service training sessions. In association with this project, participating teachers will also be eligible to participate in existing internship programs to gain real-world experience with GIS applications. Project personnel will provide continuous support for participating teachers and students through classroom visits, training materials, distance learning broadcasts, and a project Internet site. An essential element of this training program is the involvement of industry professionals serving as mentors for teachers and students (see related article “Share Your Experience: Become an Industry Mentor”).

The first two-week training sessions are scheduled for Summer 2002, with the first one planned for June 3-14 and the second one to be held on June 17-28. Spaces are limited, with a maximum of 20 participants per session.

Upcoming Events

Summer Academy for Minority Scholars

Ellen Foster

The National Geographic Society awarded a grant to Richard Boehm and Lawrence Estaville to develop the SWT Geography Summer Academy for Minority Scholars. The program will introduce minority Texas high school students to the exciting new world of geography during a five-day, in-residence academy at Southwest Texas State University.

Leaders in the discipline will present content lectures and activities allowing academy participants to use geography to solve problems and receive training in geographic techniques, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). In addition, local field trips and activities are planned to support geographic concepts addressed during formal sessions.

For more information about this program or to receive application materials, please contact Judy Behrens at the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, Department of Geography, Southwest Texas State University, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666, (512) 245-1823 (phone), (512) 245-1653 (fax), or jb42@swt.edu.

Texas Alliance Summer Institute

Ellen Foster

The Texas Alliance for Geographic Education will host a summer teacher-training institute at Southwest Texas State University in July. Forty middle and high school teachers will participate in an intensive program, "World Geography: Big Issues and Problem Solving." The two-week institute will focus on defining big issues and problem-solving strategies in world geography. Participants will receive instruction regarding in-service training methods and lesson plan development, familiarization with the Texas Essential Knowledge Skills (TEKS) and Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), and the use of the national standards as published in *Geography for Life and Path to World Literacy: A Scope and Sequence in Geographic Education, K-12*.

Successful completion of the two-week training institute will enable a participating teacher to become a Teacher Consultant (TC)/teacher trainer for the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education training programs. In addition to experiencing campus life for two weeks, all institute participants will be eligible to receive two hours of optional resident or extension graduate credit.

Texas Watch-Earth Day April 18, 2002

Aaron Buck

Participate in Earth Day 2002! Mark your calendars for April 18! On this 32nd Earth Day, Texas Watch invites you to participate in the tradition of celebrating environmental stewardship by promoting a clean future for our planet. On April 18, volunteers and professional monitors, regional and state agencies as well as the general public will come together in a statewide water sampling and educational effort, "A Day In The Life Of Texas Waters." Events will include environmental monitoring, watershed education, online dialogue, and real-time Web data postings. Data from monitoring activities will be accepted and posted on the Texas Watch Web site from April 11 to April 25. So, join hands with other concerned citizens and dedicated volunteers to show your commitment to the environment.

For more information or to locate events in your watershed, contact your regional Texas Watch supporting organization, or Jason Pinchback, Statewide Earth Day Coordinator, (877) 506-1401 (Toll Free), JP30@swt.edu.

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Liberal Arts Dean Ann Marie Ellis, along with many members of the faculty, students, and staff of the Department of Geography. Schoolchildren and members of the San Marcos and surrounding communities also attended. General Duke spoke on the topic "The Space Age: A Technological Milestone." He spoke of growing up and how, during that time, he never dreamed that he'd be the tenth of only twelve people who have ever walked on the surface of the moon! His story is one of patriotism and dedication, and everyone in attendance was touched by his genuine love for America and his devotion to duty. He became an astronaut in 1966, and was soon chosen as part of the Apollo program. He was on the back-up flight team for Captain Jim Lovell's ill-fated Apollo 13 mission, and served as CapCom (Capsule Communications) on the Apollo 11 mission where he was the person in Houston speaking directly with Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the moon. During the Apollo 16 mission, April 16-27, 1972, Gen-

eral Duke was the Lunar Module Pilot. He and Commander John Young spent three days on the moon in the Descartes Highlands, the highest elevations of the moon explored during the Apollo missions.

General Duke emphasized in his lecture how the fruits of the space program have filtered down to all aspects of society and noted that the costs of the Apollo missions have more than been paid for by the technological advances that the space program created. He also described the beauty and fragility of the Earth as viewed from space, calling it a "beautiful blue jewel." He noted that current astronauts can only view a portion of the curvature of the Earth from the altitude of Shuttle and Space Station orbits, whereas, only 24 humans, the Apollo astronauts, have ever had the opportunity to view that blue jewel in its entirety.

After concluding his lecture, General Duke graciously answered questions from the audience and then willingly signed autographs for any member of the audience who wished one. We at the Lovell Center were thrilled to have General Duke visit our department and center and deeply appreciate his willingness to provide the Fourth Annual Lovell Lecture!

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The goals and objectives of this conference included identifying projects of binational interest to which SWT expertise could contribute and prioritizing the projects. Department of Geography faculty and graduate students presented potential cooperative binational research projects on fresh water issues (Dr. Rich Earl, and Professor Joe Moore now with the Biology Department), solid waste management and environmental health problems (Ron Stephenson), natural hazards (Dr. John Tiefenbacher). The project ideas of binational concern that emerged were in the areas of water, solid waste management, health (including mental health), natural and technological hazards, and environmental and geographical education.

**Get FREE
Geography
Webmail
TODAY!**

New Ph.D. Assistant for 2002



Derek Wu
MA Community
and Regional Planning
University of Texas
Research Interests: GIS
application especially
in location analysis.

New Graduate Assistants for 2002



Meredith Greene
BA Geography
Texas Tech University
Research Interests: Brownfields projects
in Austin, Dallas, and Houston, and
transportation planning and develop-
ment Austin



Kevin H. Pruitt
BS in Geography with a concentration
in Resource and Environmental
Studies
Southwest Texas State University
Research Interests: Fluvial ecosystems,
graphic and Web design, geographic
information technologies



Michalle St. John
BS Renewable Natural Resource
Wildlife and Fisheries, Watershed, and
Rangeland Management
University of Arizona
Research Interests: Intergency conflict
resolution over any of their natural
resources.



Sarah Wyckoff
BA Communications
Southwest Texas State University
Research Interests: Environmental
resource management and
sustainability

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to terrorism and Afghanistan. "Before September 11, most people didn't know where Afghanistan was, much less Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan...now we realize that we are inextricably tied to the future of that country." Hutchison explained, "It's not enough simply to know where a country is, but to know how its borders came to exist, how and why the borders have changed—the who, what, when, and where of its people, including their ethnicity, religion, and values."

Regarding the terrorist attacks, Hutchison said everything in Washington is now referred to as either pre-September 11 or post-September 11. "We're in uncharted waters....We never realized we could lose more people to a terrorist attack than we lost at Pearl Harbor or in the Revolutionary War. But this is a new war. The enemy is not clearly defined by borders, but has tentacles all over the world, including here."

Defending the U.S. counter-offensive in Afghanistan, Hutchison stated that the attacks may have happened as a result of perceptions of the U.S. as weak because of our failure to respond to the attacks on the Khobar Towers and the USS Cole. "Our sailors were sitting ducks," she said of the Cole. "America is not going to be a sitting duck. We must be willing to step up to the plate or our children and grandchildren will never know the type of America that we know and love."

Senator Hutchison is a popular Texas figure, being the state's first female U.S. Senator. She won the office through a special election in 1993 and won re-election in 2000 with the highest number of votes ever received by a candidate in Texas. She currently serves on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Appropriations; Rules and Administration; and Veterans Affairs committees. It is an honor and a privilege to list her among the distinguished speakers of the Grosvenor Lecture Series, those past and yet to come.

Boehm continued from page 5

Harm de Blij to leading seminars on teaching techniques for graduate students, the Grosvenor Center has deeply incorporated geographic education into our department. One of the many successful focuses of the Center has been on geographic education for kindergarten through 12th grade. There is also an interest in looking at how geographic education is presented at the university level. Because the Center is living within the heart of our department, it has an insider's perspective to understanding geographic education at this level through research and dissertations. Another continued mission of the Center is the understanding of how geographic education interfaces with environmental education. The study of environment and society will have a huge role for forthcoming generations and should be a major part of their curriculum.

Dr. Boehm has been an endless crusader for geographic education since he first graduated from the University of Missouri with a BS in education and a focus on social studies. He labored for geographic education in the vineyard when there was little public support and has continued with the same determination and dedication as the perceptions have changed. When reflecting on this award Dr. Boehm stated, "This is something that I never, ever thought I would receive. For me, my work has been something that I have loved and think is worthwhile. To receive an award like this means that others also think that what I have done is important. That is an amazing feeling." Doubtlessly, we all respect and honor Dick Boehm's achievements. We are deeply grateful that our department has been able to be influenced by his passion for geographic education.

Student Organizations

GTU 2001-2002 Activities

Sarah Cummings



Mark Fonstad

The SWT Geography chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the international geography honor society, began the 2001-2002 year by participating in Geography Awareness Week and GIS Day. For the spring semester, President Sarah Cummings, Vice-President Jennifer Rice, Secretary Emily Gonzales, and Treasurer Nancy Middlebrook presented the schedule that includes an Earth Day celebration and support for the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration and several other service projects. GTU has also sponsored guest lectures by geography professors.

Last spring, GTU presented Angela Marini with the Richard A. Earl Scholarship of \$500 and Kenneth Davis with the \$100 GTU Service Award for his numerous contributions to the organization and department. GTU Alumni who would like to contribute to the GTU scholarship fund may do so by sending their tax-deductible contribution to the "GTU Scholarship Fund," c/o Angelika Lester, Department of Geography, SWT, San Marcos, TX 78666-4616.

For current GTU activities or to join the GTU alumni chapter and receive the Geographical Bulletin and the Omega Omega News alumni newsletter for only \$10/1 year, \$17/2 years or \$24/3 years, visit the GTU Web page accessible on Geography Department Web site at www.geo.swt.edu or email Richard Earl, GTU Faculty Sponsor, at RE02@swt.edu.

SWIG News: Growing in Support

Melissa Gray



The mission of Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG) is to strengthen professional, academic, and social bonds among women geographers. SWIG includes male geographers too! The core purposes of SWIG are to create an atmosphere conducive to learning about the increasing roles of women within both the discipline and the field of geography, provide career information and advice, and to facilitate professional networking.

Meetings for this spring semester are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month in ELA 311 at 5:00pm, unless otherwise noted. Events held and/or scheduled thus far include talks by professional women geographers who offer academic and career advice as well as other useful information about their field, social events, and participation in the upcoming Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 20, 2002. The members of SWIG will sponsor a panel discussion held during the day of the Alumni Reunion, while also volunteering time in the logistics of the day.

Toward the end of the semester, new leadership will be chosen as co-presidents Miranda Lewitsky and Melissa Gray prepare to graduate in May. The new president(s) will continue to lead the Southwest Texas State University SWIG chapter to explore professional avenues and social adventures in geography while nurturing the bonds already formed.

Graduate Student Forum

Amanda Ross



Lynn Resler

The Graduate Student Forum is an organization for SWT Geography graduate students, at both the masters and doctoral level, interested in enhancing their SWT Geography Department educational experience. All graduate students in the Geography Department are automatically members and are cordially invited to attend all activities. All members, and, therefore, all graduate students are invited to offer Forum suggestions for support activities. In the past, we have offered mini-workshops on creating successful PowerPoint presentations and on mastering Turabian, the department's official style manual for written graduate work.

The Forum provides a voice for students by electing representatives to serve on the Department Graduate Committee and to attend faculty meetings. Amanda Ross, master's student, and Lynn Resler, doctoral student, are the current co-leaders of the Forum. To help build a solid graduate student community within the department, the Forum sponsors social events including happy hours and camping trips. We are currently organizing a "New Student" welcome packet to debut in fall 2002. We also have a wide range of activities planned for the spring semester, including: March 4 Election of new Graduate Forum Representatives, March 19-23 AAG meeting, April 1 Turabian Planning Guide Meeting, April 15 planning meeting for the April 20 Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration.



Amanda Ross

Times Are a Changin'

Trent Botkin

The past few months have seen many old faces leave and new ones arrive in the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP). On November 14, the NAEP celebrated Texas Recycles Day with an open campus celebration in the Quad. Banners of recyclable products were strung through the trees, booths dotted the walls, and we decorated the Evans Building entryway in full regatta. At one booth, students made colored stationary out of junk mail, and another informed students of the landfill process. We had a booth devoted to displaying products made from recycled materials, and a final booth sitting out in the drizzle offered fresh Texas fruit and brownies compliments of the NAEP and the College Greens. The star of show was the ECO PLINKO board, which allowed students to win recycled products (pens made from blue jeans, utensils made from corn starch, etc.) after answering geography trivia. Do you know what the largest landlocked country in the world is?

The end of the year brought celebration for our many graduating members and sadness for having lost many of our active members. Some of those who graduated have already secured positions with Texas Parks and Wildlife, a Mojave Desert restoration program, and a federal environmental agency in Washington DC. Dave Taylor and Amanda Romero accumulated a variety of useful things made out of recycled materials, and purchased a used display case in which to house them. The NAEP presented

continued on page 16

Lovell Center

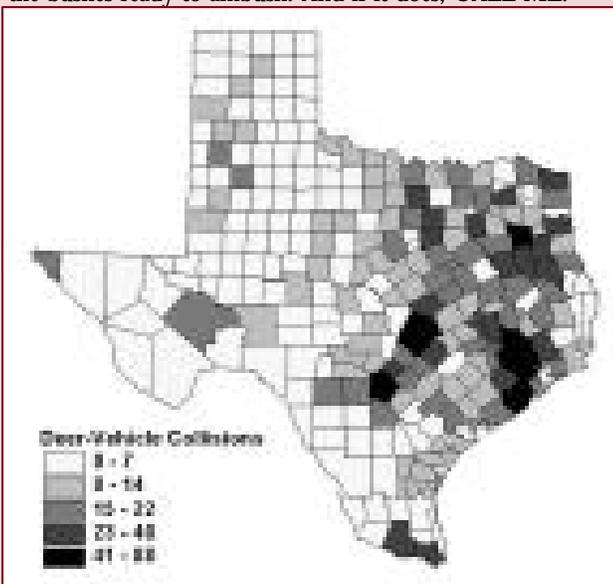
Animal Hazards – A Negative Human-Wildlife Interaction

Michelle Shuey

What is a negative human-wildlife interaction? If you are sick of squirrels stealing your birdseed, raccoons escaping with your garbage, coyotes eating your melons, deer munching your flowers, bobcats taking out your cats, or deer colliding with your vehicle, you have already experienced a negative human-wildlife interaction. Luckily these situations are as bad as the interaction will get for most people. However, if you have ever seen the television special, "When Animals Attack," you know things could be much worse.

Negative interactions with wildlife have been rapidly increasing over the last 30 years. Some biologists speculate as natural habitat disappears, animals are forced into less pristine environments, such as recreational areas or backyards, where the opportunity for the animal to come into contact with people is much higher. Others suggest that the lush vegetation and the availability of household garbage, which are characteristic of most suburban developments, provide the necessary environment for the population explosions of deer, raccoon, opossum and other backyard animals. To add insult to injury, high numbers of prey populations can attract predators (alligator, cougar, coyote, bear, bobcat, wolf) providing the opportunity for an animal attack on humans.

If these assumptions are correct, we need to understand how humans and animals use space, how humans and animals move within that space, and what landscape features can help to cause a negative interaction. This is where geography comes in. My research will be the first to attempt a mix of geography and wildlife management to create a model of animal hazards that will help to identify and locate risky areas within a particular landscape. So, next time you buy deer corn to feed the "cute little" deer that regularly visits your backyard, you may want to think twice because in all possibility a cougar could be waiting in the bushes ready to ambush. And if it does, CALL ME!



"Griz" News from Glacier National Park

David Butler

Through my years of research in Glacier National Park, I have been aware of numerous cases of grizzly bear-human interactions there, including having myself been bluff-charged by a sow grizzly defending her two cubs. During the course of her dissertation work on the perception of natural hazards in Glacier Park, Dr. Lisa DeChano (SWT Ph.D. in Environmental Geography, 2000) worked with me and used the >50-years of archived



copies of the Hungry Horse News (the weekly newspaper from Columbia Falls, Montana, that reports on the happenings in Glacier Park) to reconstruct a history and geography of grizzly bear-human interactions. We categorized these contacts into three categories: charges, maulings, and fatalities. The sites for each event were mapped, and site characteristics were recorded. Many of the hazardous interactions were shown to be related to seasonal migrations and feeding habits of the bears, which produce short-lived but geographically dense concentrations of bears, for example in berry patches in late August. The results of this research will be published in the spring issue of *The Geographical Bulletin*, as: DeChano, Lisa M., and David R. Butler, 2002. An analysis of attacks by grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) in Glacier National Park, Montana. *The Geographical Bulletin* 44, in press.



Following up on this interest in animal hazards as part of the suite of natural hazards in Glacier Park, I began a compilation of mountain lion-human interactions in the park when John Tiefenbacher told me of his interest in mountain lion-

human interactions in Big Bend National Park, Texas. He and his doctoral student, Michelle Shuey, were pursuing somewhat similar research with a much better, more detailed database on lion-human encounters there. Our mutual interests led us, under John and Michelle's leadership, to produce a co-authored paper that John and Michelle presented at the 6th Mountain Lion Workshop, held in December, 2000 in San Antonio. Their paper, "A Spatial Evaluation of Cougar-human Encounters in U.S. National Parks: The cases of Glacier and Big Bend National Parks," is forthcoming in the proceedings of the conference to be published this year.

Geographers have relatively ignored the topic of animals as hazards as a realm of hazard research. Under John Tiefenbacher's leadership, we are tentatively planning to host, under the auspices of the Lovell Center, a conference on Animals as Hazards to be held in fall 2002 here in the department.

Across the U.S.

The Doppler Effect: Phoenix Disaster Services

Emily Manderson



Brian Dopp (BS 1999, MAG 2001) wasted no time in creating a world of his own by starting a business that provides disaster mitigation planning to rural communities. Phoenix Disaster Services was first conceived when Brian was working on the effects of the 1998 floods on rural communities under the instruction of Dr. Susan Macey. When Brian talked to the police chief of Martindale he discovered that FEMA could not give them any money because they did not have a federally mandated state plan. Because rural communities have limited budgets and staff, towns such as Martindale have not been able to complete the 800 pages required of a comprehensive emergency disaster plan. Brian's company will do the necessary work for establishing a plan including research and discovering the particular details pertaining to that community. Once the plan is ready, Phoenix Disaster Services will take the plan to the state for approval. His business gives communities something that they are required to have and allows them to get it worry free.

Another aspect of Phoenix Disaster Services is a "Disaster Newsletter" that can be found on the company's recently revamped Web site at www.pdstx.com. The newsletter covers subjects from what emergency managers need to know, how to respond to bioterrorism, who to call in an emergency, how to plan for an emergency, to basic emergency information. The goal of this newsletter is to start people thinking about disasters. It seems to be working successfully. People who are on committees and are concerned regarding disasters are calling, yet they do not have the time or the money to get a new plan.

Brian's ingenuity has not stopped here. He and his company are also providing computer equipment such as scanners and GIS services to these communities. Phoenix Disaster Services aims to provide quality software services at an affordable cost. What an example for all geographers. Brian is literally using what he learned here in SWT Geography and applying his skills to the real world in a productive and admirable fashion. We are witnessing the Doppler effect in truth!

Open Letter

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exceptionally critical if it is to be considered as a national player. We in our Geography Department are internationally known for our superb programs, faculty, students, and for our two research centers—the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education and the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research. We want to be a part of a university that has the same medallion of excellence—the Texas State University.

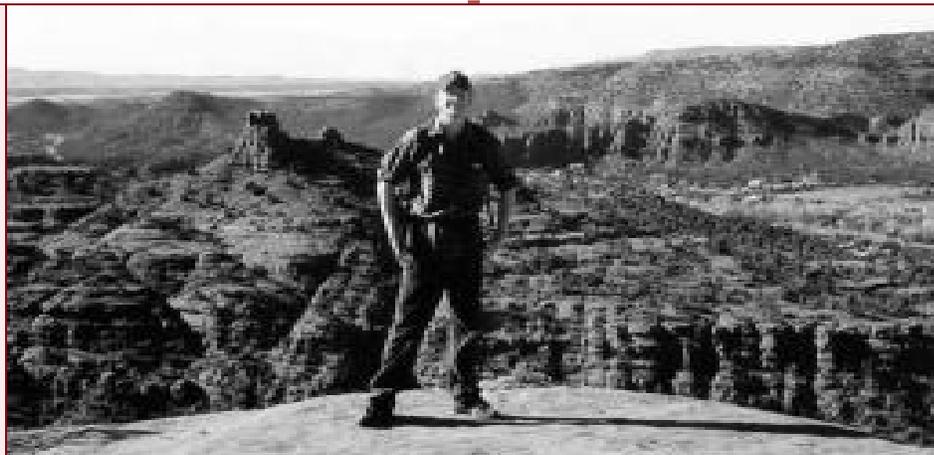
I, therefore, strongly urge that the leaders of Texas approve the name change of our institution to the Texas State University. If they do so, we can assure them that even more remarkable accomplishments will come from our Geography Department and from the other fine departments and programs across campus that will make TSU a university that is known internationally for its truly outstanding academic programs, thereby serving well the people of Texas in many more notable ways. I hope Geography students and alumni will likewise join President Supple in this crucial effort to create our new national image as Texas State University.

NAEP continued from page 14

the Department of Geography with the case, which is currently located in the central hallway of the first floor.

More river, beach, and park clean-ups are on the calendar, along with our Earth Day celebration on April 22. We are still in touch with the SWT administration and continue our expansion of the campus-recycling program. We will pursue the passage of the Environmental Service Bill during the next state legislative session, and believe that Representative Rick Green is in support of our goal.

The biggest project for the year is the "ELA Southside Beautification Project." Our goal is to transform a withered grass patch into a wildscape garden of native plants. To complete this project, the NAEP will work with the GTU, SWIG, Graduate Forum, the Department of Geography, and the Horticulture Program. At the eighth Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, we will hold a workshop to explain how we will complete the project



using organic methods. We are currently enjoying our highest membership ever and are always looking for more students who want to make a difference. Stop by our bulletin board outside the Geography Office to find out more. NAEP members who graduated in fall 2001 include: Scott Gardner, Amanda Romero, Jen Scott, Dave Taylor, Alphonso Porras, Shaun Robertson, and Flora Taylor.

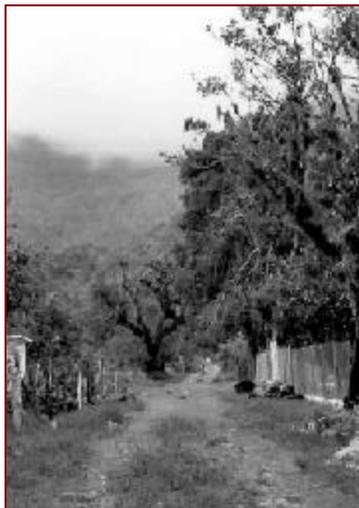
The spring semester has brought many new faces to the NAEP, with students from

Geography, Biology, Physics, Psychology, Agriculture, Graphic design, as well as graduate, doctoral, and international students. Graciela Juarez was elected vice president while retaining her position as Recycle Committee Chairwoman. Lana Denkeler, a physics major, was elected secretary. Lori Briden retained her position as treasurer, and I will serve my second and final term as president. New members and interested people show up every time!

Around the World

Far Out Field Search

Miranda Lewitsky



I have shared my research plans with many people, from wandering professors asking me about my semester in a hallway meeting, to a catch-up session with my family dentist, and, for the sake of amusement, with an occasional hairdresser. What I have noticed most, as I explained my research purpose over the past few months of growing clarity and confidence in my subject, is the mixed response of others. With the guidance of my thesis committee Dr. David Stea

(Chair), Dr. Emily Payne (from Education) and Dr. Fred Shelley, as well as patient Spanish lessons with Alex Marsh, Brian Teinert, and Trey Hoover, I depart to Mexico with the support of my friends and family in hope of accomplishing my response: "I am attempting to evaluate the admirable work of a small group of women in a remote village in the Sierra Madre Oriental Mountains of Tamaulipas, Mexico." The women create and succeed in a work cooperative that allows them to apply their domestic skills for profit. I will travel by bus, truck, and foot into a cloud forest, an established biosphere reserve on the shared limits of the southernmost temperate and northernmost tropical climates in North America. Aided by the community leader, I hope to be invited into the 24 village homes to conduct lengthy, individual interviews in Spanish, a language I desire greatly to learn in order to be able to communicate with a diverse population.

Perhaps you are a physician who is now confused over the difference between your preconceived notion of what geography is and my definition. Perhaps you are a parent who sees me at the throes of snakes and strangers. Perhaps you are a stranger who sees me only as overly-ambitious and idealistic, yet smugly naïve student. In my moments of conviction, I see someone who is thankful for a small idea that grew into a grand possibility to reach another dream. I see many challenges with the possibility to inspire great leaps of academic and personal growth. In addition, I see the fulfilled opportunity for geographic education to unite people from distant places and distinct ways of life.

Viva La Geografia! Field Research in Mexico

Brian Teinert

This research is taking me to El Cielo Biosphere Reserve. I love geography because it gives us such a wide variety of topics to study. One can choose to do field research anywhere imaginable.

You can even gather your data from home, if you cannot go out on the road. I have chosen to do my thesis research in the field and return to one of the loveliest places I have ever been in Mexico. El Cielo Biosphere Reserve is located in the Sierra Madre Oriental in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. The biosphere reserve is renowned for its spectacular cloud forest that serves as a rainwater catchment for the low tropical forest and agricultural region to the east and southeast of the reserve. The reserve's biodiversity is unique because it lies on the climate transitional zone between North and Central America. Here jaguars and macaws share habitat with black bears and mountain lions. There are four main zones of vegetation within the reserve: the tropical jungle, the mesophyte forest of fog, the temperate forest of pine-oak, and the arid plain (chaparral). Moreover, cacti, acacias, begonias, magnolias, orchids, poplars, cedars, and oaks live among one another. There are 255 resident species of birds, and 175 more species that are migratory to the reserve.

My research involves studying human encounters with the large predatory mammals that live within the reserve. When the area was named a Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations in 1985, the inhabitants were not displaced. There are about 24 villages known as ejidos. Within these villages are people who work in this outdoor environment and have a very good chance of encountering a jaguar, mountain lion, or black bear. I will look at the place characteristics of human encounters with these animals, as well as analyzing the attitudes of the residents toward them. I look forward to doing this research in the field.

I would encourage all geographers to get into the field, and see the places we study. It is a great gift to be a part of the SWT Geography program where there are many who provide support and inspiration to do this kind of interesting work. With the help of my advisor Dr. John Tiefenbacher, the thesis committee, and my peers (Miranda Lewitsky, Alex Marsh, and Scott Walker), this opportunity has presented itself to me. I hope to make the best of it! Viva la geographía!



Harrison continued from page 5

Dr. Harrison feels that it has been a positive and wonderful time here at SWT. He says, "It has been a good run." It is because of the dedication such as Dr. Harrison and other faculty that we have an influential and vital department. The road is now wide open for Dr. Harrison.

Dr. Harrison's retirement will be recognized at the 8th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 20. In addition, a retirement dinner for Dr. Harrison will be held late this semester, and all alumni and former students of Dr. Harrison are cordially invited. Details will be posted on the Web site and e-mailed to current students and alumni as they come available.

I would like to thank Dr. Harrison for all of the excitement you have given the department and let you know that you will be missed!

**MAKE PLANS TO
ATTEND
THE 8TH ANNUAL
ALUMNI REUNION
&
STUDENT
CELEBRATION**

Alumni Bits

Christy-Ann Archuleta (MAG, 2001) is working for the Texas Water Development Board in Austin.

Ashley Brook Bailey (B.S., 2001) is a Planning Technician with the City of Plano, Texas.

Kate Elrod (B.S., 1998) is Staff Planner in the Neighborhood Services Program of the Long Range Planning division of the Development Services Department for the City of College Station, Texas. She writes, "Some of my tasks are planning next year's Neighborhood Conference for Fall 2002, finishing up a Gateway grant program that is underway, working to develop contacts in neighborhoods that are not yet in organized associations, a quarterly newsletter, and, of course, point of contact for Neighborhood Associations."

Jorge Flores (B.S., 1999) is working for ESRI in Redlands, California as a Database Analyst.

Hugh Garrett (MAG, 1998) is Lecturer in Geography at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.

Donald Hall (B.S., 1996) is the Agency Disaster Recovery Coordinator for the Texas Comptroller's Office in Public Accounts. He earned a Masters' in Public Administration with a minor in Urban Planning from SWT in May 2000. He then graduated from the first Texas Information Technology Academy class in October 2000 as one of 30 selected from over 900 applicants. He presented his applied research project, "Disaster Debris Management; Analysis of State Plans" to the 2001 National Conference of the American Society of Public Administrators.

Charles "Chuck" Jackson (MAG, 1994) is a Travel Market Analyst for the Texas Department of Economic Development in the Market Texas Tourism Research Division.

Amy (Jennings) Kershner (B.A., 1999) is teaching fourth grade in League City. Her paper on environmental literacy has been accepted for publication this summer in the *Journal for Elementary/Middle Level Science Educators*.

Greg Klaus (B.S. 1996, MA 1999) is now the Environmental, Health and Safety Compliance Coordinator for the new \$600 million Hays Energy Facility in San Marcos. He is registered with the EPA as the project's Designated Representative and carries out duties such as: Emissions Monitoring and Reporting, Acid Rain Program Compliance, Storm Water Pollution Prevention, Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit requirements, Effluent Use Permit Agreements, Waste Classification, Registration and Manifestation, Source Reduction/Waste Minimization, Spill Pre-

vention Control & Countermeasures, OSHA Compliance, Air/Water/Fuel/Waste Sampling & Testing.

William Korthals (B.S., 2001) is GIS Analyst with the Texas Department of Health, Disease Control and Prevention Division.

Chris Langston (B.S., 1995) is Transportation Modeler for the Alamo Area Council of Governments. He earned his M.S. in Environmental Science at the University of Texas—San Antonio in 1999. He and his wife are expecting their second child this summer.

Tara Masser (MAG, 1999) is Associate Project Scientist with Roy F. Weston, Inc. in Austin.

Jennifer Phoenix Massey (B.S., 1999) is Consulting Projects Coordinator for The Dini Partners, counselors in philanthropy and nonprofit management, in Houston. Previously, she served two years as project manager for Keep Austin Beautiful. She resides in Houston with her husband, Dane.

Tammy (Turner) Milton (B.S., 1996) works for Above and Beyond Travel, Inc. in Austin.

Dean Rother (MAG, 1999) is Senior GIS Analyst with J.F. Thompson, Inc. in Houston. He writes, "I work with the Hydrology and Hydraulics group and I am presently constructing a GIS for storm water system management for the City of Bryan, Texas. I will also be creating a storm water GIS Web application for the citizens of Houston in the future. My day-to-day activities involve creating data from field survey information, using ArcInfo8 to build networks and programming ArcInfo using Visual Basic and AML to customize ArcMap and manipulate data. I have also found ways to incorporate GIS into hydrological modeling projects and have used Avenue to automate tasks my coworkers are performing in ArcView3.x. I hope that GIS will eventually become a tool for encouraging repeat business and expanded projects. The possibilities are great. I am very fortunate to have this opportunity."

Ron Ruthven (B.S., 1995) is a long-range planner for the City of Irving, Texas. He received his AICP certification last year, and is currently enrolled part-time at the University of Texas at Arlington, pursuing a Masters in Public Administration.

Susan Saunders (B.A., 1994) is a paralegal with Garvey, Schubert in Portland, Oregon.

Carol Stuewe (MAG, 1997) is now Customer Service Representative for the West Travis County Regional Water and Wastewater System, which is operated by the Lower

Colorado River Authority (LCRA). Her job responsibilities include managing the customer service functions for the water utility, working with developers wanting to add small developments to the system, marketing the system to residential and commercial customers, and incorporating those retail customers into the LCRA system. She writes, "The LCRA is rapidly expanding in the retail water and wastewater market. The LCRA's goal is to become the regional provider of treated water, and the LCRA is continually negotiating with several water utility systems to become the owner or operator of those systems. We are in a very high-growth scenario, making customer service an increasingly challenging job."

Mark Taetz (B.S., 1984) is a sales representative for ESRI in Boulder, Colorado.

Marc Wilson (B.S., 1988) is CAD Manager for WSM Architects in Austin. He resides in Wimberley.

Todd Yarbrough (B.S., 1998) is project manager for Aviles Engineering Corporation in Houston. His firm is involved in "the whole realm of environmental work from Phase I's to large scale subsurface investigations." His company is working on the new basketball arena in downtown Houston, and he is project manager for a gun range removal project at Bush Intercontinental Airport.

GeoNews is a semiannual publication of the Department of Geography at Southwest Texas State University



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Assistant Editor: Nancy Middlebrook

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**SWT Department of Geography
8th Annual Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration
Saturday, April 20, 2002
Advance Registration Form**

Name(s) of Registrant(s): _____

Address: _____

Day phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Fax: _____

1) SWT Geography Students, Staff, and Faculty

FREE registration with a donation of a canned good for the San Marcos Food Bank or a contribution to the Spirit of Geography Scholarship made by the **advance registration deadline of March 31**. After March 31, the normal registration fee of \$10.00 per person applies.

Number of Student, Staff, and Faculty registrations on this form: _____
Circle One: *Canned Good Donation Scholarship Contribution \$10.00*

2) SWT Geography Alumni

FREE registration with a donation of a canned good for the San Marcos Food Bank or a contribution to the Spirit of Geography Scholarship. Registration forms must be postmarked by the **advance registration deadline of March 31** but Alumni can bring canned good donations on the day of the Reunion. After March 31, the normal registration fee of \$10.00 per person applies.

Number of Alumni registrations on this form: _____
Circle One: *Canned Good Donation Scholarship Contribution \$10.00*

3) Geography Minors @ \$5.00 and a canned good per person before 3/31

After March 31, the regular registration fee of \$10.00 per person applies.

Number of Geography Minors on this form: _____

4) Additional Friends of Geography @ \$10.00 per person

Number of Friends of Geography registrations on this form: _____

5) Children under 12 free

Number of children under 12 registrations on this form: _____

Total number of people registered on this form: _____

Method of payment: Cash _____ Check _____ Credit Card

Credit Card Number (if applicable):

Expiration Date (if applicable) :

Signature (credit cards only):

Total amount included with this registration form: \$

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

Return this form to:

Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration

Attn: Judy Behrens

Department of Geography

Southwest Texas State University

San Marcos, Texas 78666

Phone: (512) 245-1823 FAX: (512) 245-1653 E-mail: jb42@swt.edu

Alumni Information Update

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

Name: _____

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

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: Work Phone: _____

Place of Work: Job Title: _____

Work Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Family, Special Interests, and Other Information: _____

Personal Reminiscences or Recommendations: _____

Have you given us your current business card? NO? Business card directory information is on page 18!
