

The News

The Department of Geography at Southwest Texas State University

• Spring 2000

Sally Ride “Wows” Full House Audience for Second Annual Lovell Lecture

By Dr. David Butler

Dr. Sally Ride, America's first woman in space, and currently a Professor of Space Science and Physics at the University of California-San Diego, gave the Second Annual Lovell Lecture on February 7, 2000, to a full house audience of about 900 in Evans Auditorium. About half the audience was comprised of schoolchildren, and the enthusiastic audience cheered and roared for Dr. Ride.



Dr. Estaville, Dr. Butler, and Dr. Ride in the Lovell Center Conference Library

Dr. Ride was introduced by the Department of Geography's Chair, Dr. Lawrence Estaville; Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Robert Gratz; and the Director of the

James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research, Dr. David Butler. Dr. Ride's lecture topic was "The View from Space". During her presentation, she used photographs taken from her two Space Shuttle missions, along with photos taken by other shuttle astronauts, to illustrate a variety of significant environmental issues. She described and discussed erosion associated with deforestation on the island nation of Madagascar, air pollution associated with widespread fires in the Amazon Basin (also associated with deforestation), atmospheric phenomena, and natural hazards. Particularly striking for the audience were images of major hurricanes, where shuttle astronauts were able to photograph down through the hurricane's eye directly to the ocean beneath it; and a sunset view of clouds building up to the tropopause that separates the troposphere from the overlying stratosphere. After her talk, Dr. Ride answered questions, primarily from school children.

Prior to the Lovell Lecture, a dinner held in Dr. Ride's honor was hosted by the Lovell Center, was sponsored by the Department of Geography, the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, and numerous local San Marcos businesses. At the dinner, Dr. Butler presented Dr. Ride a copy of the National Geographic Society book *Orbit*, a book of stunning photographs taken by NASA astronauts, which had been autographed by Captain Jim Lovell. The Lovell Center also presented Dr. Ride with a framed set of high-altitude false-color images of the hills of San Diego where Dr. Ride lives. This gift was prepared and framed for Dr. Ride by Dr. Ron Eyton, one of the Lovell Center Scholars, and Ph.D student Linda Prosperie.

Many Lovell Center Scholars, our outstanding office staff spearheaded by Angelika Lester, the Lovell Center graduate assistant Wendy Bigler, Lisa DeChano and a nearly endless list of wonderful student volunteers helped with the arrangements for the dinner and Second Annual Lecture, and the event would not have been nearly as successful without their outstanding efforts. On behalf of the Lovell Center, I'd like to invite you to come next year for the 3rd Annual Lecture. Future issues of this newsletter will contain information about this event, so watch this space!

FOUR MORE NEW GEOGRAPHY SCHOLARSHIPS!

The Geography Department is very pleased and excited that four faculty—Sent Visser, Dick Boehm, Denise Blanchard-Boehm, and Pam Showalter—have generously provided our students with three new scholarships and that Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) has provided support for one new scholarship. This year generous and caring supporters—an alumnus, a staff person, GTU, and 18 faculty and families—have now funded 21 new scholarships for our Geography students! These new scholarships will be presented to the selected outstanding students at the Sixth Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration to be held on April 29. Below is a listing of the new scholarships, the names of the supporters, and the annual scholarship amounts. We hope other individuals will honor special persons in their lives by likewise establishing future Geography scholarships to help support our students financially while they complete their studies.

1. Tim Staskus and Family support the Phillip A. Staskus Undergraduate Geography Scholarship, \$1,000 annually
2. Angelika Lester and Sheri Wahl support the Irene L. Wahl Geography Scholarship, \$500 annually
3. Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) supports the Richard A. Earl Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Scholarship, \$500 annually
4. Byron and Thelma Augustin supports the Bruce Lee Augustin Undergraduate Geography Scholarship, \$500 annually
5. Richard Boehm supports the Frank and Ivy Boehm Geography Scholarship, \$500 annually
6. Denise Blanchard-Boehm supports the Blanchard Geography Scholarship, \$500 annually
7. Denise Blanchard-Boehm and Pamela Showalter support the Natural Hazards Scholarship, \$500 annually.
8. Brock Brown supports the Peggy Steele Clay Outstanding Pre-service Teacher in Geography Scholarship, \$500 annually
9. David Butler supports the Ray and Marian Butler Environmental Geography Scholarship, \$500 annually
10. Fred and Anu Day supports the Amita Malwade Graduate Scholarship in Human Geography, \$500 annually
11. Richard Dixon supports the George D. Battle Memorial Scholarship Supporting Research in Climatology or Coastal Geography, \$500 annually
12. Ron Eyton supports the B. J. Eyton Undergraduate A.A.G. Travel Scholarship, \$500 annually
13. Susan Hardwick supports the Alice Rechlin Perkins Outstanding Female Graduate Student in Geographic Education Scholarship, \$500 annually
14. Jerry Touchstone Kimmel and Ruth Touchstone support the Roy H. Touchstone Graduate Scholarship for Nature and Heritage Tourism, \$500 annually
15. James Kimmel and Madelyn Kimmel Holley support the Ross Kimmel, Jr. Undergraduate Scholarship for Nature and Heritage Tourism, \$500 annually
16. James Petersen supports the Martha Sue Baker Morrow Scholarship for a Teacher Candidate for Secondary Geography Teaching, \$500 annually
17. Fred and Arlene Shelley support the A. E. and Alvina Beckworth Scholarship, \$500 annually
18. David Stea supports The Four Brothers Scholarship, \$500 annually
19. Sent and Mary Visser support the Adriana Samantha Visser Memorial Scholarship, \$500 annually
20. Ben Zhan supports the Mao-Geng Zhan Scholarship for Academic Excellence in Geography, \$500 annually
21. An anonymous faculty person supports the Joe and Jerry Moore Scholarship in Water Resources, \$500 annually



Dr. Boehm, Dr. Butler, and Dr. Ride converse before her presentation for the Lovell Center.



Reunion Bliss...
Join the Fun this year.
See story pg 3. Pictures Pg. 6

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Greetings from the Chair Dr. Lawrence Estaville

What can I say about your Geography Department when it has Sally Ride visit, 21 new student scholarships, and its first two Ph.D. graduates in the queue? Well, I can say that Shuttle Astronaut Sally Ride (from the chant "Ride Sally Ride" era!) gave a simply superb presentation on the view from space of the Earth's fragile environment before a packed and excited house in Evans Auditorium in February! Dr. Ride's presentation was the second in the Lovell Lecture Series sponsored by the department's James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research. And I can say that four more Geography faculty, Sent Visser, Dick Boehm, Denise Blanchard-Boehm, and Pam Showalter, generously agreed to support three new scholarships! Indeed, GTU also donated funds to support a scholarship as well, which brought the total number of new Geography scholarships established this year to an incredible 21!! The supporters of these 21 new scholarships will present them to our outstanding students at the Sixth Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 29. And I can say that Todd Votteler and Lisa DeChano are both poised to become our first two Ph.D. graduates in May 2000! What a way to begin the new millennium!

Dr. David Stea, director, and Dr. John Tiefenbacher, associate director, led the establishment of the Center for Texas-Mexico Applied Research, an



SWT interdisciplinary academic research center that will work on real-world environmental and economic development problems in collaboration with Mexican universities. The Texas-Mexico Center complements the four other academic research centers for which the department provides leadership: The Lovell Center (David Butler, director); the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education (Dick Boehm, director), which will host William Allen, the editor of the world-renowned National Geographic Magazine, as the third speaker in the Grosvenor Lecture series on 17 April in The Teaching Theatre of the LBJSC; the Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism (Jim Kimmel, director); and the Freshwater Research and Policy Center (Joe Moore, director). And our Texas Watch Program (Eric Mendelman, coordinator) is reaching out to water quality volunteers across the state.

Your department now has 516 undergraduate, 163 MAG, and 24 Ph.D. students and is 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!

The total number of SWT Geography faculty is 29, the largest geography faculty in North America and

the faculty with the largest number of women in the nation! Your Geography Department faculty have now published almost 1,000 publications, have been honored with 11 publication awards for outstanding books and articles, and have won 23 teaching awards from universities or national and state professional organizations! And, we will most likely have a new Master of Science (M.S.) in Geography program and a GIS certificate program established and accepting students for Fall 2000!

Angelika Lester continues to do a simply superb job as our department office manager! Joan Pasquali and Jena Ellsworth are excellent office staff who also make certain our ship stays on a steady course! And without Dan "the computer man" Hemenway we would be dead in the water with more than 300 department computers to be maintained!

You can see that I am very proud to be the chair of your department! You, too, should be very proud to be a part of your nationally recognized Department of Geography! Well, I could go excitedly on and on, but more details are in this newsletter, on our website at www.geo.swt.edu, or on our video (for a copy of the video, call the department at 512-245-2170 or e-mail: geography@swt.edu). For "up close and personals," be here for your Sixth Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 29! I hope to see you and your families at this annual Department highlight to join more than 500 alumni having a day of fun and food, presenting student awards, reminiscing, networking, attending workshops, visiting vendor displays, and seeing your department's new equipment and facilities!

Undergraduate Program Increases Quality Standards, Yet Remains Largest in the United States

By Dr. Brock Brown

With the implementation of the SWT's first two PhD programs, one of the stipulations of the Texas Higher Education coordinating Board was that the Geography Department should work to reduce the size of the undergraduate program. It was decided that this would be accomplished by raising standards rather than establishing arbitrary limits on the number of students admitted to the program.

Over the past several years the Department of Geography has been working to steadily increase the standards that students must meet to become majors in the Department. The intended outcome was to reduce the overall number of majors, but a growing number of better qualified students have pursued the major and the overall size of the undergraduate program has remained about the same.

Today, the Department has a highly talented pool of students who are recognized for scholarship and pre-professional accomplishment. Because of an apparently endless supply of highly qualified and talented students it appears that the undergraduate geography program at SWT will continue to be the largest in county for some time to come. Why do so many students want in the program?

As an alumni you already know that there are many components to the answer to this question and a lot of it has to do with the indisputable reality that the quality of the program increases each year. In recent years the faculty has grown to include more nationally recognized scholars. Largely due to efforts lead by Dr. Lawrence Estaville, Chair, the facilities and technological/information infrastructure to support instruction and hands-on lab experience has become one of the best in the country which, in turn, means students are better qualified and more competitive in their pursuit of employment or graduate study.

The internship program provides a key link for students making the transition from student to employee. The faculty who teach in the undergraduate program are a very talented and dedicated group who are highly recognized across campus and across North America. It is a well known fact that students who succeed in our program are on their way to success in their professional lives. So, the program did not get smaller, but it got better, and who can argue with that? The Alumni Reunion is a perfect time to build the bonds between current students, recent graduates, veteran alumni, and faculty. We hope to see you there!

GRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

By Dr. Fred M. Shelley

The 1999-2000 academic year has been an exciting and pivotal year for the graduate programs in the Department of Geography. We have seen the completion of our first two Ph.D. degrees, the development of important new initiatives at the doctoral and master's degree levels, the establishment of numerous graduate scholarships, and continued success in the completion and placement of Master of Applied Geography students.

Todd Votteler defended his dissertation on February 23, and Lisa DeChano's dissertation defense will take place on March 31. Todd and Lisa will receive their doctorates on May 12, becoming the first two persons in SWT's history to complete requirements for earned doctoral degrees. This year's commencement will also feature the awarding of an honorary doctoral degree to Gilbert Grosvenor, former chief executive officer of the National Geographic Society and one of the leading geographers in the United States.

Two exciting new initiatives will soon be approved. For the first time, the Department has been authorized to admit a limited number of qualified Ph.D. students on a part-time basis (see details elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter). The University has also approved the Department's proposal to offer the Master of Science degree, and

we are awaiting formal approval from the Board of Regents. Qualified current and incoming students will be encouraged to apply to the Master of Science program as soon as the program is formally approved.

Our graduate students continue to make important contributions at professional meetings and other professional activities. In April, 15 MAG and Ph.D. students will give presentations at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Pittsburgh. Several others will present papers at the annual meeting of the National Council for Geographic Education in Chicago in August. Several have published articles and book reviews in prestigious professional journals.

For the first time, five graduating Master of Applied Geography students have earned Ph.D. assistantships at major doctoral institutions in a single year. Wendy Bigler and Neel Bhattacharjee will go to Arizona State University; Matt Ramsport to the University of Kansas; Rebecca Sheehan to Louisiana State University; and Vanessa Eckert to the University of Texas/Kentucky. All of these students have done an outstanding job at the MAG level at SWT, and we are confident that they will continue their excellent work as doctoral students. Wendy, Neel, Matt, Rebecca, and Vanessa join many other MAG alumni who have successfully undertaken doctoral work at SWT and elsewhere, including Mark Bockenbauer and Alice Jones (see stories about them

elsewhere in this issue). Congratulations to all!

In December, 16 students were awarded the MAG degree. These include Lydia Bean (who has entered the Ph.D. program at SWT), Buck Buchanan, B. J. Carpenter, Kay Creitz, Rainy Day, Reed Dickerson, Mark Garcia, Josephine Jarrell, Greg Klaus, Allison Moore (who is now a full-time member of the Texas Watch staff), Dean Rother, Paul Schultze, Steve Schwelling, Jennifer Umscheid, Mick Wilson, and Penelope Younger. Congratulations!

We at SWT take great pride in the achievements of our excellent graduate students and graduate alumni. We are confident that the admission of part-time Ph.D. students and the establishment of the Master of Science degree will bring a new dimension of excellence to our graduate program activities. Of course, the successes that our programs are enjoying are a direct result of the hard work of our faculty, our graduate students, and our office staff—especially Joan Pasquali, the Assistant to the Graduate Coordinator who goes out of her way to help our current and incoming students meet their goals. I am confident that, with your help, the graduate programs will continue to achieve increased national and international recognition for excellence.

LEST WE FORGET

By Dr. Arlene Shelley,
Newsletter Editor



I can't help but think about how all things are tied together and how the responsibility for making our world a better place starts with each of us as individuals. All of us must work together if we are to reap the rewards that are waiting for us, our children, and our children's children.

I believe that academia works in the same way. I remember being an undergraduate English major at a regional college in Oklahoma in the 1960s. My goals were simple: to get out on my own, have some fun, and take as few courses as possible to get my teaching degree. Of course, I only took those courses that I thought I could "ace."

After graduation, I worked in business and education for about ten years before returning as a student to the University of Oklahoma to work toward a teaching certificate and a master's degree in natural science. Fortunately, I had two spectacular professors in physical geography—Dr. Katie Hirschboeck and Dr. Lisa Harrington. Dr. Brock Brown, who of course is now Undergraduate Coordinator in the Department of Geography at SWT, introduced me to my first field excursion. Through these teachers, I learned that I could ask questions that didn't already have answers. My whole world changed!

After finding geography, I couldn't get enough! I knew I wanted to be a geographer, and I didn't mind long hours in the classroom, the library, the laboratory, and the field. Learning became a whole new way of life! Now, every time I plan a lesson to present to my undergraduate students, I try to remember that most of them take my courses only because they are required for graduation. My goal is to find ways to excite the students about geography and encourage them to consider geography as a major. Without students, I wouldn't have the privilege of sharing my passion for our wonderful discipline.

Once students are hooked on geography, the web grows wider. Students are concerned about how geography functions in the real world, and parents are often anxious to know that there are real job prospects available for their sons and daughters who are majoring in geography. This is one reason why it is so important to keep our network with our alumni well tended. As alumni, you can provide a pathway for our students. Not only are many of you in a position to provide jobs or internships to our students, but you can act as mentors to our students. Many of you have volunteered to speak to our classes and student organizations. When our students and faculty meet with alumni, it gives all of us a chance to alter preconceived notions and to more accurately meet the needs of our current students.

I encourage all of you to participate in the important process of tending to our students. There are many ways to support our program, and I hope each of you will identify ways that you feel comfortable in doing so. I hope that each of you has a terrific 2000 and that you will be able to join your fellow alumni, current students, and faculty at the 6th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 29. We in the Department welcome your suggestions and your ideas, and we especially appreciate your taking time to meet our terrific students. One day our students will themselves be alumni, and they will pass on to future generations of students what you have given to them.

A lumi News

6TH ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION AND STUDENT CELEBRATION!

By Dr. Fred M. Shelley

The 6th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 29. Make your plans now to attend what promises to be the most exciting Reunion ever!

The theme of this year's reunion is "Celebrating Students: Honoring Past and Present." This theme is especially appropriate this year, because the Department will present some 21 new scholarships for the first time in addition to the nearly two dozen continuing scholarships and awards to deserving undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, Dr. Estaville will present Outstanding Leadership Awards to former chairs Dr. Allen Hellman and Dr. Richard Boehm and to Mr. Gerald Hill, Vice President for

Development. Outstanding Service Awards will be presented to Dr. James Harrison, Distinguished Professor Joe Moore, and Dr. Arlene Shelley. This year's Outstanding Alumni Award will be given to Mark Carter.

The tentative schedule of events is as follows. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. outside the Alkek Teaching Theater. The program will begin at 9:30 in the Teaching Theater and will include the annual State of the Department address by Dr. Lawrence Estaville, Department Chair, and a special National Geographic Society presentation by Peggy Steele Clay. The Awards Ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. After lunch, a special ceremony honoring winners of the scholarships and recognizing

those persons after whom the scholarships have been named will take place at 1:15. Both the Awards Ceremony and the Scholarship Ceremony will also take place in the Teaching Theater.

At 2:40, the Reunion will move to the Evans Liberal Arts Building where several workshops, department tours, and lab demonstrations will be held. Workshops tentatively planned include workshops on job networking and resume preparation; presentation of High resolution GPS units; a panel discussion on opportunities for women in geography; a presentation on 100 years of hurricanes in Texas; a presentation and demonstration of global positioning systems; and a presentation by members of the Texas Watch staff. At 5:00, we will move to Aquarena Springs for the traditional barbecue dinner.

Registration for this year's Reunion, including two meals, is only \$15 (\$10 for students and children over 10. Children under 10 are free). Everyone is invited. Come celebrate the achievements of your Department and help us to honor our outstanding students and alumni! A registration form is available in this Newsletter, and it can also be downloaded from the Department's website. I hope to see you and your loved ones on April 29!!

- 11:00 Awards Ceremony
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:15 Scholarship Ceremony
- 2:40 Workshops I
- 3:50 Workshops II
- 5:00 Barbecue, Aquarena Springs

See Pictures on Page 6.

Hotel Rooms for Alumni Reunion Weekend

A block of hotel rooms has been reserved for participants of the Alumni Reunion & Student Celebration. For the nights of April 28 & 29, anyone attending the Department of Geography's annual celebration can get a room at La Quinta Inn-San Marcos at a special rate (price depends on room type). If you want a nice and inexpensive place to stay that weekend, mention the 'SWT Geography Block' when you call the hotel for reservations. You must call the hotel directly at 512-392-8800 to make your reservations- the 1-800 number will not recognize local discount rates for the rooms. The block of rooms will be released on April 1, so plan ahead and make your reservations soon!

Down Memory Lane with Memorex at the Alumni Reunion

By Dr. Brock Brown

When making preparations to attend the 2000 Geography Alumni Reunion spend a bit of time recalling those fond moments as a student because we want to remember with you!! At this year's reunion BBQ we will have a video camera set up under the tent to record your account of memories past. We hope that over the years this event will enable us to develop a wonderfully rich and admittedly unauthorized history of the events that have shaped our Department. So, dig deep into those old memory cells and bring a story to share!!!



GTU Alumni

GTU will have a table at the Alumni Reunion on April 29. If you have not picked up or received your certificate, they will be available at the GTU table. After that date, contact Dr. Richard Earl and we can have your certificate sent to you. If you are interested in joining the national GTU alumni chapter, contact Dr. Earl at RE02@SWT.EDU.

Alumni News

MARK CARTER: DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

By Doc Augustin

Mark Carter has been selected as the Distinguished Alumni to mark the beginning of the new millennium. It is an appropriate honor for a man who represents what geography at Southwest Texas State University is all about.

Mark was born in Bristol, Connecticut, a few years ago. Although he is a Yankee by birth, he is a Texan at heart. When he was nineteen, he joined the Navy to experience world geography. His tenure in the Navy took him to Hawaii, the Philippines, Thailand, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Guam, Australia, and the Grand Turk Islands. After six years in the Navy, he exited his professional military experience at Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1981, he took Horace Greeley's advice and went west. He ended up as a twenty-five year old freshman at SWT. During his freshman orientation program, he was introduced to "Doc" Augustin and decided to major in geography. After three years at SWT, he longed to actually have an income, dropped out of school, and returned to Connecticut.

Once in Connecticut, he was hired by ESPN as a Satellite Earth Station Engineer. In this position, he was responsible for communicating with stationary satellites to provide sports programming throughout the world. One of the highlights of this job was that he usually had lunch with Chris "He could go all the way" Berman. Mark reaffirms that Chris is just as nice as he appears to be on ESPN today.

While Chris Berman was an exciting person to meet and work with, he paled in comparison with another ESPN employee by the name of Carol. Carol was different from Chris. She was intelligent, attractive, articulate, and female. She was destined to become Mark's soul mate.

After working at ESPN from 1984-1989, Mark and Carol decided to take a vacation in Texas. After seeing San Marcos, Carol and Mark decided to trade the 70-hour workweek at ESPN for the tranquility of the Texas Hill Country. They moved to San Marcos and enrolled in classes at SWT.

Mark worked to complete his undergraduate degree while employed at SWT Media Services. During this time, he was the principle architect for the design and purchase of \$1,000,000 worth of new equipment for the new Alkek Learning Resource Center's media studios.

In 1992, he completed his Bachelors degree in geography and graduated Summa Cum Laude. He immediately enrolled in the MAG program and served as a graduate assistant for "Doc" Augustin until 1994. In 1994, he received his MAG degree with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

After graduation, he was hired by SWT as the Video Network Specialist. His work took him into the field of designing and implementing interactive television systems for Distance Learning Programs, which kept in close contact with the Geography Department.

Since then, he has served as the Founding Chairman of the Geography Alumni Reunion Committee. He held that position for three consecutive years. He has also served as the Chairman of the University Staff Council, as a committee member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation team, as a member of the University Council, and as an SWT Mentor.

Mark Carter is a true friend of the Department of Geography and a worthy selection for the Distinguished Alumni Award. CONGRATULATIONS, MARK!!!!

office in Austin where she worked in the Petroleum Storage Tank, Municipal Solid Waste and Small Business Programs. She is a Registered Sanitarian and a Certified Visible Emissions Evaluator.

Kim Fedosky Brunson (B.A., 1983) resides in Wesley, Arkansas. She homeschools her 11 and 12 year old children, runs a home-based business dealing with nutraceuticals and educating the public on the use of dietary supplements for optimal health, and is a master's swimmer in Arkansas.

Chris Collier (B.S., 1988) has been appointed as the Texas Regional Manager of GIS/Trans, Ltd.'s newly created regional office in Austin. The Texas office will support existing contracts with the State of Texas, and expand GIS/Trans' presence in Texas and the surrounding area including parts of the midwest and southwest. He has more than 13 years of GIS and transportation experience and has held positions at the Texas Department of Transportation and Defense Mapping Agency.

Derek DuBard (B.A., 1993) works as a planner for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Low Income Housing Tax

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – MARK BOCKENHAUER

Dr. Mark Bockenbauer (MAG 1987), Assistant Professor of Geography at St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin, was recently awarded the St. Norbert College Outstanding Teacher Award for 1999 and the Leonard Ledvina Award for Excellence in Teaching.

After graduating from SWT, Mark entered the Ph.D. program in Geography at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. He completed his Ph.D. in 1994 and then joined the St. Norbert faculty. Mark teaches courses in World Regional Geography, Social Geography and Environmental Studies.

Above and beyond his teaching, Mark has been involved in a variety of professional activities. Mark served as co-principal investigator for a 1997-99 National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) grant. He has played a major role in developing and implementing the \$2.15 million "COAST" (Consortium of Oceanographic Activities for Students and Teachers) effort, with "Sea Scholars" trips on U.S. Navy oceanographic survey ships, website work, summer institutes for middle-school teachers, and curriculum development. He led Sea Scholars trips from Barcelona to Lisbon in 1998 on the USNS Pathfinder and from Charleston to Fort Lauderdale in 1999 on the new USNS Henson.

Mark is active in promoting geographic education across Wisconsin. He continues to co-coordinate the Wisconsin Geographic Alliance (WIGA). In June, 1999 he led a 12-day geographic education

Program in Austin. His primary responsibility is financial feasibility analysis of existing and proposed low-income, multi-family projects throughout the state of Texas. He encourages students to get experience through internship, and credits his internship with the City for giving him the opportunity to beat out persons with master's degrees from UT and A&M for his first job.

Albert El-Hage (MAG., 1998) has been working in the Water Team, Resource Protection, for Texas Parks and Wildlife for the past four years. In 1999, he was asked by the United Nations and the Lebanese government to head and conduct an in-depth environmental assessment of a forested area in Lebanon. He and his wife are proud parents of a new baby girl, Isabella.

Dian (Thompson) Fiala (B.A., 1989) is a fourth grade teacher at Spring Creek Elementary School in Garland, Texas. She and her husband, George Fiala, reside in Dallas.

David Gellner (MAG, 1999) is the Solid Waste Program Coordinator for the Capital Area Planning Council (CAPCO) in Austin. His responsibilities include oversight management and reporting for a solid waste grant program which annually distributes about \$400,000 in pass-through grant funds to local governments for recycling, waste reduction and educational initiatives. David is particularly proud of his efforts to coordinate activities related to combating the growing problem of illegal dumping, including creating a new program focus and staff position to deal with addressing problems of illegal dumping,

institute for 36 teachers in Eau Claire, and he led efforts to secure an endowment from the Wisconsin Legislature for WIGA. He also led a WIGA effort to design a new Wisconsin Desk Map, which was published for classroom use in December 1999. Now, the effort continues by coordinating with six teachers from across the state to finish the teachers' guide for the map in the next six months.

Mark serves as Midwest geography consultant for a National Geographic Society "United States Atlas for Young Explorers," published in November. He worked with the National Geographic Society to integrate geographic content into the Jason Project's (Jason Foundation for Education) paper and web-site curricula. He co-led a Jason-NGS workshop for 43 teachers in Milwaukee, in September. This also included three "extreme environments/exploration" presentations for a total of 160 teachers as part of the concurrent Jason National Educators' Conference. He is now helping to plan a Jason-NGS summer 2000 workshop in Hawaii.

St. Norbert College, where Mark teaches, is a Roman Catholic liberal arts college located just south of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Founded by the Norbertine Brothers in 1898, the college enrolls 2,000 students and has been ranked among the best ten liberal arts colleges in the Midwest by U.S. News and World Report. Football fans will recognize St. Norbert as the long-time site of the Green Bay Packers' training camp.

and to help coordinate education and training activities.

Mark Graybill (B.A., 19xx) works as Research Coordinator for Henry S. Miller Commercial, a commercial real estate company, in Dallas. He is responsible for site selection and analysis utilizing GIS. He is also working on Graduate Certification in G.I.S. and a Masters of Public Affairs degree at the University of Texas of Dallas.

Chad Hall (B.S., 1995; MAG, 1997) is Regional Manager for Mapping/GIS sales with Trimble Navigation, Ltd. in Austin. Trimble is a leader in global positioning systems technology and provides end-user and OEM solutions for diverse applications including surveying, mapping/GIS, agriculture, construction, mining, military, commercial aviation, automotive, vehicle tracking and timing.

Jennifer (Van Winkle) Knight (B.S., 1996) is Manager of GIS Mapping for 911 Operations for the State of Texas with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. She plans to enter the Master of Applied Geography program in the fall of 2000. She and her husband Chris bought a house in South Austin and have a ten-month old baby boy.

Colleen Larsen (B.S. 1996) works as a GIS/Mapping Technician in the Engineering Department for Padre Dam Municipal Water District in La Mesa, California.

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ALUMNI BITS

Compiled by Dr. Fred M. Shelley

Christy Askew (B.S., 1999) is working on her Master of Urban Planning degree at Texas A&M University. She writes that "Dr. Sally Caldwell taught me almost everything that I know in Planning," and that "being a part of the Geography and Planning Department at SWT has been one of the best experiences of my life."

Emily (McKenzie) Barron (B.S., 1997) works as a Planner II for the City of Austin, Development Review and Inspections Department. She was married in June 1999 and resides in Austin.

Christine Bergren (B.S., 1991) serves as one of two Small Business and Local Government representatives in the San Antonio regional office of the Texas Natural Resource and Conservation Commission (TNRCC). Prior to joining the San Antonio Region, Christine was employed by H.E. Butt Grocery Company as an environmental compliance specialist and with the TNRCC's central

A long Interstate 35

WOMEN IN GEOGRAPHY PREPARE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

By Dr. Arlene Shelley and Dr. Susan Hardwick

The SWT chapter of Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG), which is dedicated to advancing the status of women in geography, promoting gender awareness, and facilitating research on gender and geography, has had a very active and successful year.

Being a woman in a male-dominated discipline was one of the many topics discussed at the first annual women's retreat, sponsored by SWIG, at the SWAAG meeting in October. Over 35 women, faculty and graduate students, gathered at SWT's University Camp near Wimberley for insightful journeys into such areas as culture, arts, ethics, and determination. An orienteering course designed by MAG student Meg Garrett challenged the women to depend on their abilities and their partners, as did a "Low Ropes" course facilitated by the SWT Outdoor Center. MAG student Michelle Pulich led a wildlife trek along the banks of the Blanco River. Former SWT professor Dr. Julie Tuason, who now teaches at the University of Texas at Austin, led an informal song and jam session, and Dr. Caldwell discussed her new book, *Romantic Deception* (see story elsewhere in this issue). Lively discussion, encouraged by the relaxed climate of the retreat, reinforced mutual support for women within the discipline. Plans are already under way to hold another retreat before next year's SWAAG meeting. SWIG also co-sponsored a panel discussion on women in geography in the twenty-first century, in conjunction with the University of Texas SWIG chapter. An audience of 80 geographers participated in lively discussion led by a panel consisting of Dr. Susan Hardwick of SWT, Dr. Jan Monk of the University of Arizona, and Dr. Mona Domosh of Florida Atlantic University. The panelists examined the changing stature of women in geography



from a historical perspective, and examined how the needs of women students in geography can be served better within individual courses and throughout degree programs.

Two additional events are planned for April. SWIG at SWT and UT have organized a panel discussion to be held at the AAG meeting in Pittsburgh. The theme of the discussion will be "Creating a WarmClimate for Female Graduate Students in Geography." The participants include SWIG faculty sponsors Fred Shelley and Susan Hardwick, SWT MAG student Vanessa Eckert, and Megan Blake, Clark University; Maria Elise Christie, UT; Michelle Driedger, McMaster University; Kim Elmore, University of North Carolina; Jennifer Fluri, Penn State; Marlene Jackson, University of Western Ontario, and Rebecca Dobbs, University of North Carolina. At the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, SWIG will host its second annual panel discussion on opportunities for women in geography. All alumni, women and men, are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Anyone, male or female, interested in supporting women as geographers is encouraged to join SWIG and participate in SWIG activities. The number of women in academic and non-academic geography is increasing steadily, and through SWIG we hope to reinforce a warm climate for women geographers at SWT and to enhance educational, exploratory, and career opportunities for women geographers in Texas and throughout the country.

ESRI Training Offered at SWT

Beginning in March 2000, the Department of Geography and the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, in collaboration with ESRI, will be offering GIS training classes here at SWT. These courses are specifically geared for the government and business users of GIS technology, targeting those people who utilize ESRI products. ESRI-certified trainers will offer curriculum that is identical to that offered at the ESRI training site in San Antonio.

In order to take advantage of the state-of-the-art computer facilities available in the Department of Geography, these training sessions will be held during spring break, summer months, and other holiday periods, to avoid conflicts with regular class schedules. The first course being offered is "What's New in ArcInfo 8," which will be held on March 13-17 (Spring Break). The choice of which classes will be offered in the future will be based on market demand.

For information on these training courses, please contact Judy Behrens at 512-245-1823 or jb42@swt.edu. This information will also be accessible through the homepages of the Department of Geography, the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, and the SWT Office of Continuing Education.

National Geographic Editor to Present Grosvenor Lecture

By Judy Behrens

William L. Allen, Editor of National Geographic Magazine, will be visiting the SWT campus in April as the guest of the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education and the Department of Geography. Mr. Allen, who originates from Tyler, Texas, has served as Editor of National Geographic Magazine since 1995, and has worked on the publication for almost three decades.

At 7:30pm on Monday, April 17, Mr. Allen will be delivering the 3rd Annual Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture in the Teaching Theater of the LBJ Student Center. Gilbert M. Grosvenor, Chairman of the Board of National Geographic Society delivered the inaugural address of the lecture series in 1998. James A. Baker, III, 61st Secretary of State of the United States presented the 2nd Annual Grosvenor Lecture in Spring 1999.

Mr. Allen's lecture will be free and open to the public. Seating for this event will be limited, and it is suggested that anyone who is interested in attending should call the Grosvenor Center at 512-245-1823 to reserve a spot. Information about the lecture will be available on the Geography Department website at:

<http://www.geo.swt.edu/>.

The National Association for Environmental Professionals Spring 2000

By Chelsea Kelley

NAEP kicked off the spring semester during its first meeting on February 1. President Maggie Patay introduced new vice president Aaron Back and new secretary Becky Beard. The theme of this semester is recycling and NAEP members will be seeking creative ways to define both the reusable and the renewable. Dr. Craig Colten, NAEP faculty advisor, discussed possibilities in "recycling urban real estate." Brown fields are underused industrial areas that may be contaminated. Such properties are left abandoned and avoided for further use because of costly clean ups. Refinancing these sites offers a second chance for development.

Representatives from other environmental organizations, including GTU, Earth First!, Geology Club, and SPO, were introduced during the meeting. Projects to combine interests, forming an active community, are on the calendar of upcoming events. NAEP will join these groups on April 23 to host an Earth Day celebration at Sewell Park for the San Marcos community. There will be a coloring contest for children, educational displays, a plant sale, and other activities related to celebrating our planet. In addition, the NAEP will offer educational field trips for students and continue to invite guest speakers from the environmental field.

Fall 1999 guest speakers included Ervin Thomas, Brian Noble, and Ted Hazen from the TNRCC. They discussed programs within the Small Business and Environmental Assistance department and the role of permits in enforcing environmental protection. Kyle Hahn, local owner and founder of Green Guy Recycling, explained a "behind the scenes" perspective on recycling. Eric Mendelman, from Texas Watch, informed students on water monitoring throughout the state and how students can get involved.

Other Fall 1999 activities included participating in a river clean up, SWAAG, and Texas Recycles Day, an on campus effort to promote recycling through publicity and education. Members sold recycled notepads, accepted donations for Goodwill, and passed out pledge cards encouraging both students and faculty to recycle. Most notable accomplishment was the design and implementation of a sponsored recycle bin program. Dedicated members Maggie Patay, Aaron Buck, Dave Taylor, and Amanda Romero formed a team that motivated other organizations to recycle and sponsor their own on-campus bin, also enabling them to advertise their organization. Now there are both plastic and sponsored recycle bins in the quad. Congratulations to these members for making a difference!

To get involved and become a member, come and join us at the meetings. Regular meetings are held every other Thursday, beginning February 10, at 5:30 PM in ELA 116. Be on the lookout for upcoming events posted on the NAEP bulletin board.

Pictures from Celebrations Past



TODD VOTTELER DEFENDS PH.D. DISSERTATION

By Dr. Fred
Shelley



On February 23, Todd Votteler successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "Water from a Stone: The Limits of Sustainable Development of the Texas Edwards Aquifer." Todd, who completed his dissertation under the supervision of Distinguished Professor Joe Moore, was the first person in the University's history to complete and successfully defend a doctoral dissertation.

In his dissertation, Todd reviewed the geology and physical geography of the Edwards Aquifer along with the history of litigation surrounding its management. Declining water levels in the Aquifer can jeopardize continued flow of water into the Comal Springs near New Braunfels and the San Marcos Springs, imperiling several endangered species which inhabit these springs. He then used correlation analysis to determine the extent to which levels of indicator wells in San Antonio, Uvalde, and Hondo could accurately predict declines in flow levels of the Comal and San Marcos Springs, and he discussed methods to predict years of critical spring discharge before they occur. He pointed out that "the ability to forecast critical period years at the springs would aid in the sustainable management of the Edwards Aquifer and could help to avoid violations of the Endangered Species Act and transboundary disputes during low rainfall and recharge periods and droughts."

At the defense, Todd presented his findings to an audience of over 60 faculty, students, staff, and interested members of the community. He then fielded questions about the dissertation, its contributions to geographic theory, its implications for further research, and its implications for policy from his committee, which included Mr. Moore, Dr. David Butler, Dr. Richard Earl, Dr. Fred Shelley, and Dr. Tom Arsuffi (Biology).

Todd earned a bachelor's degree from the University of the South and a master's degree from the University of Michigan before entering the Ph.D. program at SWT. For several years, he has served as Special Master in the ongoing Edwards Aquifer litigation.

SWT's second Ph.D. defense will take place on March 31, when Lisa DeChano will defend her dissertation. Lisa's dissertation is tentatively entitled "Natural Hazard Perception in Glacier National Park, Montana, USA" and was written under the supervision of Dr. David Butler. Lisa's defense will take place at 12:30 p.m. in Room 105-106 at Alkek Library and is open to the public.

Todd and Lisa will be awarded their Ph.D. degrees at the Graduate Commencement on May 12. Congratulations to both!!

Alumni Bits continued from page 4

Jeff Lewellin (B.S. 1986), who has been in the environmental industry for twelve years, currently works as Emergency Response Coordinator for the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission in Corpus Christi.

Christopher Looney (B.S. 1998) is a Planner with the City of San Angelo, Texas. He writes recommendations, prepares reports and ordinances and delivers presentations to various commissions and boards. He participated in the implementation of a new zoning ordinance for San Angelo and is now immersed in many projects as the Department works on a Comprehensive Plan for San Angelo. Chris is enjoying his new experiences on the fringe of the "Texas Wild West". He is active in community theater and has already performed in five shows since moving to San Angelo. Chris encourages SWT undergraduates to take Technical Writing to complete their sophomore English requirements. "It was one of the most useful classes I took at SWT."

David Nix (B.S., 1991) is Director of Marketing for Motel Six in Dallas.

Amber O'Dell (B.A., 1997) is an underwriter for the Hartford Insurance Group in San Antonio.

Gary Russell (B.S., 1992) is Environmental Manager for Waste Management in Houston.

Dan Searle (B.A., 1979) is Claims Manager for UPS in San Antonio. He enjoys traveling the world and especially loves to hike in Big Bend and experience the spiritual connection between sky, rock, and heart. He recalls with pleasure heated conversations with Dr. Larsen, Dr. Harrison, and Dr. Hellman.

Richard Simmons (B.A., 1998), is now a Health, Safety & Environmental Independent Consultant. He enjoys time with his sons Taylor, 12, and Cody, 10. They were able to travel to the Yucatan with "Doc" Augustin's alumni group last year and really enjoyed it. Cody was bitten by the Geography Bug and would like to attend SWT when he graduates. Cody wants to know if Doc will be teaching in 8 years when he is a freshman.

Victoria Smith (B.A., 1992) earned an M.A. at the University of Arkansas and a J.D. at the Univer-

sity of Tulsa. She is currently Corporate Counsel in the Wal-Mart Corporate Office in Bentonville, Arkansas and resides in Mountainburg, Arkansas.

Mohammed Tangestani (MAG., 1997) is working with the U.S. Forest Service in Vallejo, California as a GIS Analyst Contractor, hired by Pacific Meridian Resources. Mo is working with a highly skilled and talented group of cartographers and GIS analysts on the Automated Land Project.

Tre Wagers (MAG, 1999) is an Adjunct Professor of Geography at San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas. He resides in Deer Park.

Tami Wiggins (MAG, 1991) moved to New Mexico within days of receiving her degree. Currently, she is working as an environmental geographer along with her significant other, Mike Racine, for Blue Skies Consulting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Blue Skies Consulting provides aerial mapping, remote sensing, technical editing, and document management. She is also attending classes in biology at the University of New Mexico and pursuing her interests in biogeography and phytogeography.

Marc Wilson (B.S., 1988) works as a GIS Technician for the City of Cedar Park, Texas. He resides in Cedar Park with his wife, Tamara, and daughters Shelby and Kylie.

Peggy Wittie (MAG, 1991) completed requirements for the Ph.D. in Geography at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation on January 28, 2000. She is working for the Superfund Section of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources in Raleigh.

Don York (B.A., 1987) has been with the Houston Police Department since 1988. He is now working with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration as a special agent assigned to the Dallas Field Division.

ALUMNI: Please share your news about your professional activities and personal accomplishments with fellow SWT Geographers in future issues of the Newsletter! Send your news by e-mail to Dr. Fred Shelley at fs03@swt.edu or by regular mail to Dr. Shelley at the Department of Geography, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas 78666

Brock Brown Honors Teacher in Residence Peggy Steele Clay

D.C. teachers at 8:00 on a Saturday morning have more energy than industrial-strength coffee. Thirty-two teachers circle the Staff Auditorium abuzz with anticipation. Word has spread throughout the District that Peggy Steele Clay and the D.C. Alliance put on workshops that are worth climbing out of bed to attend. Teachers trust that they'll be invigorated by the lecturers, practice hands-on methods of teaching the new content, earn graduate credits, have fun—and be surprised.

Peggy is teacher-in-residence and coordinator of the District of Columbia Geographic Alliance. A long-time 2nd grade teacher in Florence, Alabama, Peggy was hired at the Society in 1996 after eight years of participating in geographic workshops and institutes.

Her ability to reach learners of all ages so inspired Professor Brock Brown of Southwest Texas State University, that he wrote a check and established an endowed scholarship for student teachers from the geography department. His department chair, Dr. Lawrence Estaville and the SWT Foundation, added to the pot.

A popular instructor in the Geographic's summer institutes, Brock didn't hesitate on what to call the endowment. "I wanted to name it after someone who is inspirational," Brock said. "Peggy is one of the most exceptional geography teachers in North America. She has really helped urban teachers overcome enormous obstacles and achieve excellence in instruction."

Peggy's reaction? Outspoken and modest: "Brock blew my mind." On second thought, she's very pleased. "I like this scholarship because someone is going to learn to be a better teacher." On April 29 in San Marcos, Texas, when the first winner of the Peggy Steele Clay Outstanding Pre-service Teacher in Geography Scholarship is announced, Peggy will be there.

In the world of teaching, excellence begets excellence. Peggy credits her university professors for an



education that has carried her into classrooms, workshops and universities around the country.

Alabama A & M's education department in the segregated 1960s didn't mince words, Peggy said. "They told us, 'You may be lucky enough to get a job. And if you do, you may have a pot-bellied stove and hand-me-down books, but you have a responsibility for the academic achievement of the children given to you.'

"They worked the heck out of us," she said. "They taught us creative ways of doing things. No Hallmark stuff, no ditto stuff, real stuff—real leaves bordering your bulletin boards. They taught us how to find out our students' needs, find their learning styles, find ways to finesse the situation."

Peggy gets an A+.

Back in the Staff Auditorium early on a Saturday, it didn't take her long to spring a surprise. Today's lessons are based on two Radio Expedition tapes of "Life on the Brink" and "Oceans of Life." Five years ago, National Public Radio and the Society put these radio segments into school kits with tapes, maps, posters and an inventive teacher's guide. The kits have been discontinued, but when Peggy discovered the last 254 kits were available, she finessed the opportunity.

"These tapes are wonderful," said Peggy. "They teach children to listen. You always want a child to answer questions, but you also want them to ask questions. These tapes and the activities and readings in this guide are a fertile bed for that."

Peggy was so inspired by the Radio Expeditions kits that she and the Alliance created workshops to instruct fourth-grade teachers how to take advantage of a low-tech, content-rich gift. This is the kind of mix that Peggy relishes.

Content-methods materials...and people to energize them. You find energy in many places, Peggy believes. She reaches across borders to open teachers' minds to new possibilities.

Two years ago, she and Brock devised a graduate course in Geography for Teachers. Credited by Southwest Texas State, the largest geography program in the United States, the popular class is now in its second go-around. District specialists, Texas professors, and master Alliance teachers fly in from classrooms around the country to spend one Saturday a month with D.C. teachers.

Last summer, she took eight District teachers to South Florida for a joint institute with 24 Miami teachers. "The premise was that the physical landscape is different, but we have common problems and we looked for and found common solutions as pertained to inner city teaching and urban geography."

This summer Peggy is taking D.C. teachers to the Fish and Wildlife Center in Shepherdstown for a technology institute coordinated by Gwen Faulkner, the technology trainer for Harriet Tubman School and Steering Committee Chair for the D.C. Alliance. Later in the summer, District teachers will learn how to use Washington, D.C. as a lab to upgrade geography skills, and by the end of the summer, at least three District teachers will present to their counterparts at the annual meeting of the National Council for Geographic Education, which will be held in Chicago this year.

Typical of Peggy, one of the sessions will feature a joint presentation between the District and the Alabama Alliance. "We're reaching teachers in schools we haven't been in before. The Alliance is in every section of the city," said Peggy. "I have found in the District of Columbia Public Schools, teachers teaching, pupils learning, and parents supportive."

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission of the author from *NCGSN, w.d.letter*.

All About Texas

Freeman Ranch: A Window on the Texas Hill Country

By Dr. Jim Kimmel

John Graves wrote about the Texas Hill Country in *National Geographic Magazine*

The Hill Country escaped emphatic change for a long time through its rough topography and its paucity of agricultural and mineral wealth, which preserved its landscapes and cultural flavors and the connection of its people to the land. But the preservation itself in turn made the region all the more enchanting to outsiders in our prosperous, discontented, questing time, finally bringing big change in a rush.

(*National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1999, pp. 104-121.)

The Hill Country is probably the most loved part of Texas – loved by its residents, by people from across the state, and by out-of-state visitors. As John Graves fears, the attractiveness of the Hill Country poses a major risk of loving it to death. However, people's affection for the Hill Country also offers the potential to maintain and enhance its attractions. Jacques Cousteau said that we take care of what we love.

The Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism has recently initiated planning to provide interpretive and educational programs that can turn people's affection for

the Hill Country into knowledge and understanding that can lead to careful stewardship of the region's natural and cultural assets. This project will provide visitors to Freeman Ranch with a comprehensive interpretation of the Texas Hill Country, including its history, environmental dynamics, and current issues. Audiences for the programs will include educational groups of all levels, tourists, and participants in Elder Hostel-type programs.

The *Window on the Texas Hill Country* program will be based on solid research on all of the factors that affect the region and will provide crucial information that can help prevent deterioration of the Hill Country. This program will also provide valuable educational and professional experience for students in several University programs, including the Public History Graduate Program and the minors in Southwestern Studies and Nature and Heritage Tourism.

Topics of the interpretive program will include:

- history and culture
- environmental characteristics, including geology, hydrology, wildlife, and vegetation
- problems and opportunities of modern ranching and farming in the Hill Country
- private property rights

- environmental regulations
- changes in land ownership and use patterns, including transportation and suburbanization
- community dynamics and issues

As the list of topics illustrates, the interpretive program will not be superficial. It will address issues that are fundamental to the future of the region. On-going comprehensive research will be the foundation of the *Window on the Texas Hill Country* program. The program will provide substantive information in ways that are appropriate for the various target audiences. The program will be based on sound academic research, including the following:

- periodic surveys of Hill Country residents
- monitoring and analysis of land use trends
- monitoring and analysis of environmental trends

Freeman Ranch is the logical location for this regional interpretive program. The Ranch is located in the center of the rapidly urbanizing Austin-San Antonio Corridor, which lies on the eastern edge of the Hill Country. Freeman Ranch is the only sizeable area of Hill Country landscape under public management that is centrally located in the region. More importantly, it is

not a park, but it is a working ranch that illustrates the problems and processes associated with sustainable management of the Hill Country. The environmental and land management processes at Freeman Ranch will provide a substantial part of the content of the interpretive programs. The existing facilities at the Ranch are suitable for the initial phases of the program. However, as the interpretive program grows it will be necessary to develop a suitable visitor center.

The interpretive program will include the following:

- displays and materials for drop-in visitors
- regularly scheduled programs
- half-day and day-long programs
- multi-day programs on specific issues
- programs tailored for specific groups
- videos
- a coffee-table book
- an interpretive Internet site
- guidebooks to specific places and regions in the Hill Country

Jim Kimmel, director of the Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism and an associate professor in the Department of Geography, has initiated the funding process for the program. Research and development of the program should be underway by the Fall of 2000.

PART-TIME PH.D. STUDENTS TO BE ADMITTED

By Dr. Fred M. Shelley

The SWT administration has recently approved the Department's request to admit a limited number of part-time students to the Ph.D. programs in Environmental Geography and Geographic Education, effective in the Fall of 2000. The part-time option will allow qualified students to work toward their doctorates without having to quit their jobs or accept assistantships in the Department.

A total of four to five part-time Ph.D. students will be admitted to begin work in the fall semester of 2001. Part-time students in the Ph.D. program will be selected by the faculty later this spring from among applicants who

meet the program's formal admission criteria, including a 3.5 GPA in master's-level work and a score of 1100 on the verbal and quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Part-time students will be expected to meet all of the admission, retention, and degree progress standards of the Department and will be expected to complete their 31 hours of course work within four years.

Later this spring, an application period and deadline for these part-time slots in the Ph.D. programs will be announced. In the meantime, persons who might be interested in the Ph.D. program on a part-time basis should contact Dr. Fred Shelley at the Department (e-mail fs03@swt.edu).

MYTHIC GALVESTON GOES TO PRESS!

By Dr. Arlene Shelley

Geographic education and human geography professor Dr. Susan Hardwick has submitted her book manuscript to Johns Hopkins University Press in a fanfare of excitement! *Mythic Galveston: Reinventing the Texas Gulf Coast* is slated to be a part of the prestigious Center for American Places scholarly book series on life and landscape in North America. Hardwick, working closely with her research associates SWT Ph.D. students Susan Hume and Lydia Bean and cartographer/remote sensing expert Linda Prosperie, spent the last three years gathering data from personal interviews with island residents, census records, ship's passenger lists, historic newspapers, and other archival material.

Mythic Galveston is the first book to explore the relationships between social processes and spatial patterns of the residents of Galveston in the late nineteenth and early

twentieth centuries. The release of Hardwick's most recent book on the centennial celebration of the worst natural disaster ever to strike the U.S., the Great Storm of Galveston, is well timed.

Research questions framing her analysis include: Exactly what social and cultural processes have shaped the evolution of the city of Galveston since its earliest settlement by aboriginal people? How did these processes create the island city's distinctive sense of place and its evolving spatial patterns? What role did divisions between various groups of residents in the city play in the development and maintenance of Galveston's socioeconomic and political systems?

These and other questions are answered in over two hundred and fifty pages of text and illustrated by numerous maps, photos, and tables. Look for *Mythic Galveston* in bookstores in the fall.

A cross the U.S .

WORLD 2000

By Dr. Fred M. Shelley

Nearly 1,000 geographers and historians from across the United States convened in Austin, February 10-12 for the World 2000 conference, which was co-sponsored by the Department. The conference brought together scholars and teachers of world history and world geography, who discussed the daunting task of how to make sense of the history and geography of our complex world in a single semester!

The conference program included presentations by many well-known geographers and historians on various aspects of geographical research and teaching. The paper sessions were followed by instructional sessions, at which teachers and teacher consultants discussed adapting the research ideas for classroom use. Among the well-known presenters in geography were Dr. Phil Gersmehl (University of Minnesota), Dr. Stan Brunn (University of Kentucky), Dr. Kit Salter (University of Missouri), Dr. Alec Murphy (University of Oregon), and Dr. Julian Minghi (University of South Carolina).

A highlight of the conference was a banquet presentation by Dr. Harm de Blij, who is well known throughout the country for his frequent appearances on "Good Morning, America." Following Dr. de Blij's presentation, a reception sponsored by the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education was held in honor of Dr. de Blij and Dr. James Petersen, President of the National Council for Geographic Education. Nearly 200 professional geographers and geography teachers, including many alumni of the Department, attended the reception.

Above and beyond his duties as President of the NCGE, Dr. James Petersen of the SWT Geography Department served as

co-organizer for the World 2000 conference. Jim devoted nearly two years of hard work to make World 2000 a success. Several other SWT faculty including Dr. Byron Augustin, Dr. Brock Brown, Dr. Fred Day, Dr. Susan Hardwick, and Dr. Fred Shelley gave presentations and helped in conference organization. Nearly 20 SWT Ph.D., MAG and undergraduate students volunteered their time to serve as registration and session assistants during the conference. Special thanks to Nancy Middlebrook, who stepped in at the last minute to coordinate volunteer assignment efforts.

Prior to the Conference, SWT's chapter of Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG) in conjunction with the University of Texas chapter of SWIG sponsored a panel discussion on the past, present, and future of women in geography. Panelists included Dr. Jan Monk of the University of Arizona, Dr. Mona Domosh of Florida Atlantic University, and SWT's own Dr. Susan Hardwick. An audience of nearly 80 persons engaged in spirited discussion of problems facing women in contemporary professional geography and consideration of future prospects for enhancing the stature of women in the profession.

Thanks to the efforts of Jim Petersen and the numerous SWT students and faculty who volunteered their time to help, the World 2000 conference was a great success!



DR. PETERSEN ASSUMES PRESIDENCY OF NCGE

By Dr. Fred Shelley

Dr. James Petersen, Professor of Geography and a long-term member of the Geography faculty at SWT, recently assumed the office of President of the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE).

In a recent column in NCGE's Newsletter, Dr. Petersen outlined his vision of geographic education at the dawn of the new millennium. He noted that "During the last 15 years or so, we have experienced, nurtured, and supported a renaissance in geography education." Of course, SWT's Department of Geography has played an important role in this renaissance, including its leadership in the creation of national geographic standards, the establishment of the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, and the establishment of a Ph.D. program in geographic education. Dr. Petersen goes on to state that "The cusp of a new century and a new millennium is an appropriate time to appreciate our recent good fortune, address current opportunities while creating new ones, and assess what needs to be done."

Dr. Petersen identified four general goals for the NCGE. These included strengthening communication and connections between the NCGE leadership and membership; strengthening the membership in terms of numbers and diversity; strengthening service and support function for the membership; and continuing

strong leadership and support of initiatives that will improve research, teaching, and learning in geographic education.

Dr. Petersen went on to discuss some specific initiatives that will be undertaken in 2000 under his leadership as President. Dr. Petersen organized the geography program for the World 2000 conference (see story elsewhere in this issue). He is encouraging the installation of a searchable annotated bibliography on the NCGE website of research articles on geographic education. In August, he will lead a delegation of NCGE members to the International Geographical Union's Commission on Geographic Education meeting in Seoul, South Korea.

Dr. Petersen's election to the Presidency of NCGE is testimony to the respect that he has engendered over many years of dedicated service to America's premier organization for the advancement of teaching and learning geography. Of course, Dr. Petersen's vision is highly consistent with that of the SWT Department of Geography, which for many years has worked to advance the state of geographic education across Texas, throughout the United States, and around the world. The Department, the Grosvenor Center, and other organizations involved in geographic education are working hard to implement Dr. Petersen's goals and, in his words, to address current opportunities and create new ones.



SHELLEY WINS NCGE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Fred Shelley, Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator, was awarded the National Council for Geographic Education's Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award at the annual meeting of the NCGE in Boston in November. He was given the award by his colleague, NCGE President Dr. James Petersen (see photograph).

Dr. Shelley was nominated by Dr. Lawrence Estaville, the Department Chair, and his nomination was seconded by Dr. Byron Augustin, Dr. Susan Hardwick, MAG alumnae Joy Adams and Beth Jones, and current Ph.D. student Lydia Bean. A total of ten SWT Geography faculty members—Dr. Augustin, Dr. Estaville, Dr. Hardwick, Dr. Petersen, Dr. Shelley, Dr. Richard Boehm, Dr. Brock Brown, Dr. David Butler, Dr. Dennis Fitzsimons, and Dr. Robert Larsen—have now been presented with the Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award, which is the discipline's highest honor for quality teaching.

SALLY CALDWELL FINDS SIX SIGNS THAT HE'S LYING

Dr. Sally Caldwell, Internship Coordinator and Assistant Chair, recently published the book *Romantic Deception: The Six Signs He's Lying*. The book was published by Adams Media Corporation and is already in its second printing.



Romantic Deception is about women who have been involved in romantic relationships with men who have lied about their identities by misrepresenting their careers, marital status, educational or military background. She defines romantic deception as "the unrestrained misrepresentation of significant facts in the context of an intimate relationship." She argues that romantic deception is far more common than people realize "or are willing to admit," and she says that she wrote the book to shed light on what she regards as a pervasive problem. Since the book has been published, she has received letters and telephone calls from all over the country.

Why do romantic liars get away with these misrepresentations? Dr. Caldwell argues that romantic liars are masters of the art of deceit. They know how to lie, and how to cover the tracks of their lies. Romantic relationships are built on trust, and especially under conditions of mutual attraction and passion we assume that what we are being told is the truth.

Dr. Caldwell's book has already gained national attention. It has been mentioned in *Cosmopolitan* and *Glamour* magazines. In March, she appeared on the Jenny Jones Show, and will appear on a Discovery Channel Special entitled "Sweetheart Swindlers."

A cross the U.S .

News from the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education

The Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education has two nationally funded projects which are moving forward, both with the potential to change the nature of American geographic education. The National Geographic Education Foundation funded the Grosvenor Center in the amount of \$152,000 to prepare a scope and sequence in geographic education, grades K-12. For the first time, geographic educators will be able to say to educational policy makers, teachers, and parents that "This is the geography students should learn and this is the approximate order in which they should learn it." The scope and sequence matrix is being designed and printed, and will be available to the public by May 2000. In addition to a number of K-12 teachers, the university-level geographers who make up the project team include Dick Boehm and Susan Hume (Southwest Texas State University), William Strong (University of North Alabama), Joseph Stoltman (Western Michigan University), Patricia Gober (Arizona State University), and Norm Bettis (Illinois State University).

The second Grosvenor Center project has been funded by the Fordham Foundation in the amount of \$23,000 and deals with the preparation of a joint history/geography curriculum for grades K-12. The project addresses the questions, "What geography can be effectively taught with history?" and "What geography must be taught separately from history and the other social studies subject?" The results of this project will be available in September 2000. Geographers participating in this project include Dick Boehm (Southwest Texas State University), Patricia Gober (Arizona State University), Brian Blouet (College of William and Mary), and Sam Natoli (Independent Scholar-Washington, DC).

The Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center was created to coordinate research and service efforts in areas such as teacher training, assessment, pre-service certification, spatial learning, curriculum, learning materials, and the technology components used in geographic education. For more information about projects and activities associated with the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, visit the center's website at <http://www.geo.swt.edu/Grosvenor/> or contact Judy Behrens at 512-245-1823.

Women in Geography benefit from Alice Rechlin Perkins Scholarship.

By Dr. Susan Hardwick

This graduate level scholarship has been established in honor of Dr. Alice Rechlin Perkins, who recently retired as the Geographer at the National Geographic Society. Dr. Rechlin Perkins is a longtime supporter of women in geographic education. I first met Alice when she helped develop the National Science Foundation-supported Finding a Way: Reaching Diverse Young Women in Geography project in the early 1990s. Her ideas, vision, and guidance literally made the project happen – from its earliest conception to its final national dissemination.

Alice Rechlin Perkins' quiet strength, her gentle support, and her ongoing commitment to women in the field of geography have provided encouragement and energy for many women now active in the profession. Her leadership at the National Geographic Society, her role as a member of the Steering Committee for GENIP (the Geographic Education National Implementation Project) from its earliest inception in 1986 until her retirement from fulltime employment in 1997, and her active participation in leadership roles for the American Geographical Society, the National Council for Geographic Education, and the Association of American Geographers have meant that geographers from coast to coast have been influenced and inspired by her efforts.

This scholarship is dedicated to the long-term contribution of Alice Rechlin Perkins to help support women in the field of geography. Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Be a female graduate student;
- Have a 3.75 or higher undergraduate GPA;
- Show involvement in departmental activities;
- Plan to enroll in geographic education courses at SWT;
- Plan to become a teacher, community college instructor, or geography professor.



A round the World

Travel and Study Abroad *Geography of Europe in Europe, June 2001*

In June 2001, the Department of Geography at Southwest Texas State University will conduct its third biennial Geography of Europe field excursion. Participants in the class will receive 6 hours of graduate credit, either GEO 5310 Regional Field Studies or GEO 5344 Geography Curriculum, and GEO 5395, Special Problems and Topics: Geography of Europe. These courses can be used toward the requirements for the SWT Department of Geography Masters of Applied Geography degree programs. Leading the trip will be Professors Fred Day and Richard Earl, both regular faculty of the SWT Department of Geography. The 26-day class will provide on-site geographic analysis of the geography of Europe and classroom lecture and discussion at Franklin College, Lugano, Switzerland.



Students will learn about the variety of physical and cultural phenomena in the European region. The final itinerary has not been set, but the intent is to expand the trip from previous times to include central Switzerland and Paris, France. A theme of the class will be the "imperial city;" we intended to begin our tour in the first great imperial city, Rome, and to conclude in one of great imperial cities of the colonial era, Paris. After three nights and two days in Rome we will travel by private motorcoach to Pisa and Florence, great Renaissance cities along the Arno River. We will spend two nights and one day in Florence and will see both the geographically significant features and world famous art works of that city such as the Duomo, the David statue, and the Uffizi Galleria. Next, we will travel by motorcoach to Venice for two nights and a full day of exploring that fascinating, historic city. From Venice we will travel to Lugano via Eurail in the spectacular Swiss-Italian Lake District. We will stay at Franklin College, a private American college, for 12 days. Some days we will have formal class lectures on the Geography of Europe and will work on individual



research projects involving the geography of Europe. We will stay on campus in spacious dorms with cooking facilities. Other days we will go on day trips to spectacular sites such as St. Moritz, Valle Verzasca (featured in the James Bond movie *GoldenEye*), the military fortress town of Belanzona, and to Milan to see its wondrously from the fashion district to Leonardo's Last Supper. We will take Eurail to Zurich, the financial center, for an afternoon and night and continue on to three nights and two days in Paris.

The cost for the trip will be approximately \$3500 plus an additional \$500 for tuition. This amount covers all airfare, lodging, motorcoach, tour guides in Rome, Venice and Paris, and rail transportation. It does not cover meals. The trip is designed so that those who want to extend their study and travel in Europe may do so conveniently. Return flights can be rescheduled for a nominal fee (approx. \$200) and participants can extend their Eurail pass for an additional 8 days of rail travel for \$500.



Both course instructors are veteran geographers with years of field experience and travel in Europe. Dr. Day has studied at the Universite de Poitiers in France. Dr. Earl was one of the faculty for the 1999 SWT Geography of Europe field excursion and has traveled and studied throughout Europe. Both professors have led numerous field trips and field excursions in their teaching careers including field trips for the annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers, the National Council for Geographic Education, the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers, and the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science. To receive further information on this trip, including the specific trip itinerary, contact Richard Earl at RE02@SWT.EDU or Dept. Geography, SWT, San Marcos, TX 78666.

Explore the Cultural and Environmental Geography of Mexico

A geography course being offered during the upcoming Summer II session will present a unique opportunity for graduate-level students to explore the culture and environment of Mexico through a combination travel/study experience. While being introduced to the rudiments of field study (design, preparation, conduct, analyzing, and reporting), participants will study the environmental and cultural geography of the Bajio region of Mexico, within the context of the Republic of Mexico. Special emphasis will be placed upon how this area of study relates to the history and economy of the region, and upon the urban geography of the capital city, Guanajuato. Additional field excursions will explore neighboring colonial cities and the rural environs of Guanajuato.

The instructors for this summer course are Dr. David Stea and Dr. John Tiefenbacher. Dr. Stea is a Professor of Geography, Director of the Center for Texas-Mexico Applied Research, Associate Director of the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, and Center Scholar in the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research. He has spent nearly a decade of his life living, teaching, and researching in Mexico, and was Visiting Lecturer at Universidad de Guanajuato, among other institutions. Dr. Tiefenbacher is an Associate Professor of Geography, Associate Director for the Center for Texas-Mexico Applied Research, and Center Scholar in the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research. He has published several research papers on hazards and the environmental problems of the U.S.-Mexico border region and is currently conducting research on bi-national comparisons of agricultural responses to disasters and nature preserve management in both countries.

For more information about this course, including a description of course requirements, a calendar of class activities, the course reading list, and an estimation of costs associated with the class, visit the following website: <http://www.geo.swt.edu/programs/gg5395/index.html>.

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The Centurions	\$ 100 - 999
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When you become a member of one of our support groups through a tax-deductible contribution or multi-year pledge, your name(s) is placed in perpetuity on a plaque in a display case in the main department hallway. But more important, your gift will help students financially as they successfully complete their studies to gain a geography degree. So please clip off the form below, complete the information, and mail in today!

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Department of Geography
Southwest Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666-4616

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SWT Department of Geography's SIXTH ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION & STUDENT CELEBRATION REGISTRATION FORM

Saturday, April 29, 2000
9:00am Registration/ 9:30am Program
Begins in Alkek Teaching Theater

Name(s): _____

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