Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration: Wonderfully FREE!
Saturday, April 21, 2001

Fred M. Shelley

The 7th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2001. All current and former students, faculty, staff, and friends of the department are cordially invited to attend.

This year's Reunion and Celebration will feature two new venues. The activities will begin in newly remodeled Centennial Hall. The program will include an Earth Day presentation sponsored by the SWT chapter of the National Association of Environmental Professionals; discussion of the state of the department by Lawrence Estaville, Department Chair, and recognition of the retirement of longtime faculty member Sent Visser. Departmental scholarships and awards will also be presented. Special awards for Outstanding Leadership will be given to Dr. Ronald Abler, Executive Director of the Association of American Geographers, and D.R.J. Michael Willoughby, Dean of the Graduate College. Robert Larsen will present this year's Outstanding Alumni Awards to Vincent Nacawici and Joe Cruseturner. An informal lunch will be served during this portion of the program.

see Wonderfully Free, pg. 8

XINNONG ZHOU RECEIVES PH.D.
Fred M. Shelley

On December 22, 2000, Xinnong Zhou became the department's third Ph.D. recipient and the first international student to receive a doctorate from SWT. Under the supervision of Ben Zhan, Xinnong wrote his doctoral dissertation entitled “Geographic Concentrations of Lung Cancer Mortality in Texas and Their Relationships to Environmental & Socioeconomic Conditions.”

Xinnong and his wife, Shanshan, have recently moved to Redlands, California, where Xinnong has begun work as a research analyst for ESRI, the world's leading producer of GIS software. In addition, on February 4, Xinnong and Shanshan had their first child, Zhou Zhou, at 19.5 in, 7 lbs, and 14 oz. Her English name is Emily. A well-deserved congratulations from the entire department!
Greetings From The Chair

Lawrence Estaville

What can I say about your Geography Department when it hosted Jack Dangermond, president of ESRI (the most important GIS software company in the world) as the third Lovell Lecture (Astronaut) Jim Lovell—Apollo 13 fame—came back for the event), gained membership into the prestigious University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), and graduated in December its first international Ph.D. student, Xinnong Zhou!! Well, I can say that Jack Dangermond gave a simply superb presentation about his global vision for GIS before a packed and excited house in the Alkek Teaching Theater in December! Moreover, I can say that, in honor of the memory of their daughter Sally K. Annau, William and Eileen K. Annau are generously supporting two new Geography scholarships. The supporters of the department’s 20 scholarships will present them to our outstanding students at the Seventh Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 21. And I can say that Xinnong Zhou and his wife Shanshan moved to Redlands, California, where ESRI hired Xinnong as a senior researcher and whether daughter Zhou Zhou, another geographer, of course, was born on 4 February. What a way to begin anew life in California!

The five academic research centers for which the department provides leadership continue to blossom: the Goswener Center for Geographic Education (Dick Boehm, director), which is planning to host U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison as the fourth speaker in the Goswener Lecture series in Fall 2001; the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research (David Butler, director); the Center for Natural Heritage Tourism (Jim Kimmel, director); the Freshwater Research and Policy Center (Joe Omore, director); and the Center for Texas-Mexico Applied Research (David Stoa, director). As well, our TexasWatch Program (Eric M. Endelman, coordinator) is reaching out to water quality volunteers across the state.

Your department now has 508 undergraduates, 152 masters, 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 once again honored during the past year with awards at national and state conferences or were congratulated for their publications! Indeed, underscoring the high quality of SWT Geography’s graduate students since fall 1995 are these points: 1) professional organizations have recognized them with 27 awards and honors, 2) the students have published 42 book chapters and journal articles and 8 book reviews, and 3) they have given 156 scholarly presentations at professional meetings—a total five-year record of accomplishments better than many university departments. 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! Geography Department faculty have now published more than 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 now have a new Master of Science (M.S.) in Geography program, which will soon bring on-line a GIS certificate program, and have created a new “Gnomon,” world-class Web site!

Angelika Lester continues to do a simply superb job as our office manager! Joan Passquali and Sandra Foglia, our new Administrative Assistant II with a warm smile, are excellent office staff who also make certain our ship stays on a steady course! In addition, without Dan “the computer man” Hemenway we would be dead in the water with the almost 350 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, check out our Web site at www.geo.swt.edu, or get a copy of 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 personal,” be here for your Seventh Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 21! See you and your families at this annual department highlight to join more than 600 other people having a day of fun and food, presenting student awards and scholarships, reminiscing, networking, attending workshops, examining vendor display, enjoying jazz, salsa bands and glass-bottom boat rides, and seeing your department’s new equipment and facilities! And this annual premier Geography event is free to current students and only $10 for alumni!!!
Still Geography After All These Years, Not Paul Simon

Brock Brown, Undergraduate Program Coordinator

If you are one of the many alumni who have returned to attend a recent Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration, or even if your “keeping up” with the department has only been through these newsletters, it must be increasingly apparent that the hallway and classroom experience of undergraduate students today is quite different than years past, but it’s still geography after all these years. What was damn good is getting even better each year. From students to faculty to facilities, the undergraduate program continues to engage in self-study and modification in order to meet the needs of undergraduates entering the workforce or competing for graduate study positions. Below are some of the highlights drawn from our five-year Academic Program Review completed in October 2000 that emphasize the similarities in the undergraduate program over time and the ways in which it is changing.

We are still a very large department, and you can still make the claim that you graduated from the biggest geography program in the United States. The number of geography majors has remained high for the past five years. In 1995 there were 514 majors, and in 1999 the major count reached 529, the highest number for the five-year period. We continue to be a “mature” department with regard to our undergraduate majors. Over 70 percent of our majors are juniors or seniors, and this trend held steady for the five-year period. This student mix compares to about 50 percent for SWT as a whole and is due in part to the fact that few entering first-year students know much about geography, but many discover it once here—many of them while in Doc Augustin’s classes. Geography majors tend to be older than SWT students in general. A large number of geography majors are also employed full time, and many are parents of young children. With this in mind, we are especially pleased with high graduation and retention rates that indicate our students are successful in overcoming non-school demands to pursue a degree in geography.

Pre-collegiate preparation and quality of our majors continues to increase. Mean SAT scores for geography majors increased from 978 in 1996 to 1019 in 2000. At the same time the mean GPA remained fairly constant, increasing from 2.68 to 2.72, indicating that grade inflation is not a problem in the department. These trends were slightly higher than, but consistent with, Liberal Arts and SWT.

We are becoming a more diverse department. Female majors grew from 171 to 190, while the number of male majors decreased slightly. Overall ethnic diversity increased, but not as much as the department would like. Percent of “White” majors, according to the SWT fact book, decreased from 88.7 percent to 83.4 percent but still is overwhelmingly dominant among our majors. Categories of increase were Hispanic and American Indian. African-American majors declined from 8 to 5. This decrease is reflective of the field of professional geography in general, but the department is striving to find ways to attract more underrepresented groups into geography.

Living La Vida GEO, Not Ricky Martin

Fred M. Shelley, Graduate Program Coordinator

Recently, the department underwent a five-year Academic Program Review. Reviews of this sort, while time-consuming, give us a valuable opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished as well as to consider where we are going. In his column, my colleague and Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Dr. Brock Brown, has identified some of the highlights of the review as applied to our outstanding undergraduate program. Following his initiative, my purpose in this column is to present some of the highlights of the graduate program during the last five years.

The past five years have been an exciting time for graduate work in Geography at SWT. Three new programs—the Ph.D. in Environmental Geography, the Ph.D. in Geographic Education, and the Master of Science—have been established, and are thriving. Our first graduating Ph.D. students—Lisa DeChano, Todd Votteler, and Xinrong Zhou—have completed their doctorates and are active in the professional work force. A fourth new program, the proposed Ph.D. in Geographic Information Science, is in preparation and, if approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, will begin to admit students in the fall 2002.

By no means has our long-established and innovative Master of Applied Geography been neglected. Between 1995 and 2000, more than 160 persons, or more than two-thirds of the students completing graduate work in department history, were awarded MAG degrees. Our MAG alumni are making great progress in careers throughout Texas and across the country in government service, the private sector, education, and many other professions. We have achieved this success, moreover, in conjunction with a dramatic increase in the qualifications of incoming students. Our master’s and Ph.D. students have degrees from prestigious colleges and universities across the United States and around the world. The average GRE score of incoming graduate students has risen by nearly 200 points in the past five years. Our students have made great progress in publishing and presenting their research to professional meetings. Over the past five years, our graduate students have achieved more than 50 publications, including articles in prestigious journals such as Physical Geography, the Journal of Geography, and Environmental Science. This publication record is better than those of many entire geography departments! Students have given more than 150 professional presentations, and have won 27 awards for their excellent work.

We have also seen a dramatic improvement in the quality of student life. The Graduate Student Forum is a thriving organization. This year, the Forum organized a workshop on PowerPoint presentation and established the “Graduate Guardians” mentoring program. Graduate students have played important leadership roles in Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG), the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), and Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU).
Sent Visser Bids Farewell

Carley Pilgrim

SWT Geography bids farewell to one of its most beloved and longtime members of our “Geography Family.” Sent Visser, after twenty-two years of service to the department, will retire in May 2001. He leaves SWT after long dedication to the field of geography and the countless number of students he taught.

Sent Visser was born in the Netherlands, in 1947. At the young age of four, his family migrated to New Zealand, which is where, some believe, he picked up his funny accent. He was raised on a sheep farm, where the men are men and the sheep are sheared. Young Sent ventured to the city of Auckland, where he received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. In 1970, he crossed the seas and dove into Ohio State University’s Ph.D. Program and the American culture.

While working toward his Ph.D., the strapping Sent met his future wife, Mary Hale, who was working toward a master’s of Fine Arts degree. They married, and in 1975 the couple moved to Texas. Sent went to work at Southwest Texas State University in 1978, and Mary began teaching at Southwestern University in Georgetown.

During Dr. Visser’s long dedication to the department of Geography, he has filled the roles of many. He told me stories of “the old days of geography” when he would teach five classes a semester. He served as Graduate Program Coordinator from 1991 to 1994, and is proud to have been a “big part of the extraordinary development of the Graduate Program.” Although his specialty is in agricultural geography, he has taught economic geography and many other courses for the duration of his career at SWT. Sent acknowledges one regret in Geography by not publishing more. However, he has spent his entire career in the classroom, teaching future geographers. His proudest professional achievement is one of our own. Debbie Bryan was a student of Visser’s. He encouraged her through her education, and now she is one of our most inspiring instructors (Good job, ol’ chap!).

Although his career at SWT has been a critical and passionate component in Dr. Visser’s life, one must simply walk into his office to see there is much more in his heart. Blessed with three children, Sent is a beaming father. Their first child, Adriana Samantha, was born in 1976. “When I first saw her, I fell in love like I never had before” he exclaims. Unfortunately, Adriana was born with San Filippo Syndrome, a lysosomal sugar storage disease. She required tremendous medical care all of her precious, brief life and died on September 12, 1988 at the age of twelve. In her honor, Sent and Mary have established an Adriana Samantha Visser Geography Scholarship for students who care for disabled children. The impact of this loss still hauntingly prevails in the face of Sent Visser.

Due to the possibility of having other disabled children, Sent and Mary decided to adopt. In June 1987, Dirk Sent became part of the family. Six years later, the couple adopted another child, Marieke Adriana. Both kids are soccer players, and Sent claims himself quite the “soccer dad.” Dirk plays the flute, and according to her father, Marieke, now six, is a wonderful artist. “They are my proudest achievements,” Sent expressed.

Around here, Sent is known for other extracurricular activities. Any of you remember his Pub Crawls? Originally a tradition of New Zealand, a Pub Crawl is a graduation ritual where “beer is one of their religions,” explains Sent. Here at SWT, the Pub Crawl was a little more subdued, although I have no doubt that the spirit of the Crawl was strong and plentiful. The biggest problem was that “these Texans didn’t understand that you’re not supposed to take your truck to every pub. That’s why it is called a crawl.” In addition, I hear a farewell Pub Crawl will be taking place in Sent’s honor on Friday night, April 20 just before the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 21.

So, what is ahead for Sent Visser? Although recently undergoing a double by-pass operation, Sent has a positive outlook. He returned to work within weeks of his surgery and looks forward to the rest of the semester. He is organizing a river-rafting trip in the Grand Canyon this summer, and really enjoys playing in the stock market. He will watch his kids grow up, continue to do research and work in the field, and hopes to publish his Theory in Agricultural Geography. “Geography is a web of explanations,” states Visser.

So farewell you Dutch-Kiwi-Texan, our friend, colleague, and devoted teacher. Your legacy shall prevail, your lessons have been well learned, and how could we forget all the sheep jokes!

Visiting International Scholar: Dr. Ricardo Garcia Mira from Spain

During spring 2001 semester, SWT Geography is being honored by the visit, for two months, of Dr. Ricardo Garcia Mira, Associate Professor of Social and Environmental Psychology at the University of A Coruna in Spain. Hosted by both the department and the Center for Texas-Mexico Applied Research, Dr. Mira is assisting international aspects of the work of the department and the Center on environmental cognition and spatial perception. Ricardo Mira was the principal organizer of the Sixth Spanish Congress of Environmental Psychology held in A Coruna in December 1998, at which David Stea and Sidney Brower (University of Maryland) were keynote speakers. Dr. Mira is also a member of the organizing committee for the Seventh Congress, held at San Sebastian in the Basque Country in May 2001. He is the author of more than two dozen published works in basic and applied social science. While visiting at SWT, Dr. Mira is engaged in collaborative research with David Stea and Dennis Kerkman of SWT’S Department of Psychology.
Grosvenor Center to Co-sponsor International Symposium

Richard Boehm, Director

In cooperation with the International Geographical Union Commission on Geographic Education, the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education will sponsor the "International Symposium on Geographic Education: Theory, Research, and Practice" at Southwest Texas State University in May 2001. The focus of the upcoming symposium will be issues involved in teaching geography in higher education, as well as K-12 school geography.

David Stea and James Petersen will lead a five-day post-conference field excursion to explore the cultural, physical, economic, political, and environmental geography of northern Mexico. Co-hosted by the Grosvenor Center and SWT's Center for Texas-Mexico Applied Research, this trip will include visits to Nuevo Laredo, Santa Catarina and the Canyon of the Huasteca, Saltillo, Monterrey, Cascada Cola de Bavallo, and Ciudad Victoria. An academic exchange with scholars from Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas is also planned as part of this excursion.

SWT Geography faculty and students will offer a variety of local field excursions during the symposium. These events will include a walking tour of the San Marcos River green belt, an aerial field trip of the Hill Country and Blackland Prairie, an expedition to the Texas Gulf Coast, a river cruise to view the evening migration of bats in downtown Austin, and an exploration of the Blackland Prairiregion. More information as it becomes available about these day trips will be posted on the Grosvenor Center Web site.

An invitation is extended to all SWT Geography alumni, along with current geography faculty and students, and other interested parties to participate in the May 2001 International Symposium on Geographic Education. For more information and registration materials, contact the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, Department of Geography, Southwest Texas State University, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, Texas 78666. Voice: (512) 245-1823, Fax: (512) 245-1653, E-mail: jdb42@swt.edu, Web: http://www.geo.swt.edu/grosvenor/.

Young Children's Space Perception

David Stea

The Geography department of Southwest Texas State University is now the center of an international research project involving the U.S., Mexico, the U.K., South Africa, and Iran. The project, which has been investigating how very young children learn to read, interpret, and use maps very early in life—and prior to school—has its origins in research done at Clark University from the late 1960s through the early 1970s. Research then performed by the late Dr. James Blaut and SWT's David Stea using aerial photos and toy landscapes strongly suggested that children could comprehend geographic-scale spatial representations much earlier in the developmental sequence than previously supposed. The project led to experimental innovations in geographic education curricula in Massachusetts and Puerto Rico. The results of this phase of research are in the Annals, the Journal of Geography, Environment and Behavior, and a number of chapters in books published in the U.S. and the U.K., as well as in newspaper articles of the time.

The project was re-initiated in the early 1990s, then involved the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of Sheffield, and three Mexican universities, and is supported since by two grants from the National Science Foundation. In 1997 the new project began in the Spatial Learning Laboratory at SWT. Principal investigators in the most recent NSF-supported research have been James Blaut, who passed away in November 2000, David Stea, and Marta Pinon of SWT's Department of Psychology. This research, which is continuing, has involved present and former graduate and undergraduate geography students, including Marc LeFebre, Nancy Middlebrook, Vanessa Eckert, and Carley Pilgrim. Current research questions include the influence of social facilitation upon spatial learning and the ability of preschoolers to use maps to solve navigation problems in real environments.

Colloquium Lecture: Richard Francaviglia

David Stea

For the 2000-2001 SWT Department of Geography Colloquium Series, SWT Geography is pleased and proud to have had as its guest Professor Richard Francaviglia, whose presentation was entitled "Landscape and History: Interpreting the Crosstimbers.” A cultural/historical geographer with strong interests in architecture, urban design, and transportation, Richard Francaviglia is director of the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography at the University of Texas at Arlington. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in 1970, and has taught at the University of Minnesota, Antioch College, the University of Arizona, and Wittenberg University. His experience is not limited to academia, however; having held various positions in Arizona State planning and historic preservation agencies during the early 1980s, Francaviglia was later Ohio State D epartment of History Preservation Officer and Director of the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office. The most recent of his six published books is The Cast Iron Forest: A Natural and Cultural History of the North American Cross-Timbers.

NAEP Takes Great Strides

Dave Taylor, NAEP President

This past semester, National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), has become a more recognized and important leader at SWT. Without a doubt, the campus environmental community would accomplish few of its goals without the vision and competency of NAEP.

In addition to their on-going projects of campus wide recycling, river clean-ups, and environmental awareness, NAEP stepped up its work on the Environmental Service Fee (ESF). The then-NAEP President and ASG Senator, Maggie Patay, envisioned the ESF a year ago. She worked with a fellow Associated Student Government (ASG) Senator, Todd Curry, to introduce legislation enacting a student fee that applies to environmental projects and education on campus.

The two student leaders wrote a broad bill that defined the idea of a campus environmental fee, which the senators passed with the stipulation that revisions of the bill go into the final draft.

see NAEP, pg. 15
Department News

Third Annual Lovell Lecture Resounding Success with Jack Dangermond and Jim Lovell

David Butler, Director

The Third Annual Lovell Lecture, sponsored by the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research, was held on Monday, December 18, 2000. Mr. Jack Dangermond, founder and president of ESRI, the world’s leading company in the development and applications of Geographic Information Systems software, delivered the lecture. Captain Jim Lovell returned to SWT for the lecture and helped in introducing Mr. Dangermond.

preceding the lecture, Captain Lovell met with Center Scholars from the Lovell Center and held an engaging discussion about the Center’s future, research, and direction. Our own Lawrence Estaville gave a departmental tour to Jack Dangermond and Jim Lovell, during which several Lovell Center Scholars were able to show some of their recent research efforts to our visitors. A photograph of Bob Larson describing his work with municipal solid waste disposal to our visitors appeared in the next day’s New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung, along with an accompanying story. The San Marcos Daily Record also provided excellent coverage of the event. Vice President Gerald Hill welcomed the audience attending the lecture on behalf of the SWT Administration. We greatly appreciate his support. Mr. Dangermond’s lecture, delivered to a packed house in the Alkek-Ewing Center for the Arts, stressed the significance of both geography and geographic information systems in an increasingly interconnected world. After the lecture, Mr. Dangermond graciously answered questions from the audience, and he and Captain Lovell met with members of the audience who wished to visit with them personally.

On behalf of the Lovell Center, I would like to thank both Jack Dangermond and Captain Lovell for taking the time out of their extremely busy schedules to participate in this year’s lecture. Center Scholars, Dr. Estaville, our student workers and graduate students, and our fantastic office staff all helped in the preparations for, and carrying out, the event, and all deserve a hearty “Thank You!”

Jack Dangermond Again

Carley Pilgrim

Jack Dangermond sounds like a character from daytime television—suave, debonair, and mysterious. However, the real Jack Dangermond, owner and inspiration of ESRI, Environmental Systems Research Institute, the world’s largest Geographic Information Systems software company, is better in person than any character you will find on TV. The James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research hosted its annual lecture in December 2000, featuring Mr. Dangermond. Although he was late in the semester (December 18), Mr. Dangermond had no trouble sparking an interest from his attentive audience. Mr. Dangermond presented new ideas for his significant work and pointed toward new directions for the future of geography through GIS. Jack Dangermond is truly visionary. The way he articulates his ideas about the future of Geographic Information Systems evokes curiosity and awareness for those fortunate enough to hear him speak. Also, one cannot deny his passion for his work or his sincere interest in the world and its environment. I would like to thank Mr. Jack Dangermond for the wonderful experience of meeting him and the excitement he brought to the SWT Geography.

Warm Welcome: Sandra Foglia

Carley Pilgrim

The Department of Geography at Southwest Texas University would like to excitedly welcome Sandra Foglia in the position of Administrative Assistant II. Sandra comes to us bearing excellent skills, a willing dedication, and a laid-back disposition, traits this department will truly appreciate. Sandra and her husband David have three boys, Andrew, Luke, and Francis, and currently reside in Fischer, Texas. Although Sandra has plenty of experience in office management, she also has been a registered massage therapist for the past eleven years and received her certification as a paralegal at the University of Texas in 1998. Since then, Sandra has been a part-time student at Southwest Texas in pursuit of her bachelor’s degree, a full-time mom, and partner in her husband’s antique business in Austin, which specializes in mission style arts and crafts. For those of us that believe that arts and crafts begin and end in Fredericksburg, Sandra and David deal mostly in beautiful, turn of the century (that’s 20th century) mission style antiques, art, and furniture; in other words, the real thing. During our interview, Sandra emphasized her excitement to join our geographical family. She says, “I am here because I want to be here,” and “feels honored to have been chosen by the most impressive department on campus.”
GTU Has Busy Year
Richard A. Earl

The SWT Chapter of the International Geography Honor Society, Gamma Theta Upsilon, had a busy fall 2000 semester. Under president Matt Reeb, the chapter conducted a full slate of activities including the induction of eight new members and a successful banquet at the Salt Lick. Under the leadership of chapter treasurer Nancy Middelbrook, GTU initiated a geography tutorial program for 4th grade students at DeZavala Elementary School in San Marcos. For the spring semester, the club plans a field trip to Enchanted Rock as well as an induction BBQ and social at Canyon Lake. GTU alumni who have not received their certificate may do so by contacting me and joining the Omega Omega GTU alumni chapter for $10.00/year, $17.00/2 years, or $24.00/3 years.

We want everyone to know that the GTU booth at the Alumni Reunion and Student certificate may either pick it up at the GTU Web page accessible through the department homepage www.geo.swt.edu. GTU alumni who have not received their certificate may either pick it up at the GTU booth at the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 21 or contact me (RE@SWT.EDU). Provide me mailing address and I will be happy to send you your certificate. In addition, GTU members who want to continue to receive the Geographical Bulletin may do so by contacting me and joining the Omega Omega GTU alumni chapter for $10.00/year, $17.00/2 years, or $24.00/3 years.

Texas Watch continued
Fred M. Shelley

More than 30 SWT geography faculty, staff, and alumni bravely driving rains to attend the annual meeting of the Southwestern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) on the campus of Texas A&M University in College Station, November 2-4, 2000. For the third consecutive year, an SWT graduate student or alumnus took first place in the annual SWAAG student paper competition. Ph.D. candidate Ron Hagedorn was awarded first place for his paper, “Three Feet High and Rising: Urban Geography and the Floodplain.” Other SWT presenters included graduate students Stephanie Garcia, Mia Sealey, Andy Skadberg, faculty members Denise Blanchard-Boehm, Vijay Boken, David Butler, Fred Day, Rich Dixon, Rich Earl, Dennis Fitzsimons, Jim Kimmel, George M alanson and John Tiefenbacher, and alumni Teresa Howard and Rebecca Sheehan.

In late February, nearly 20 graduate students, more than a dozen faculty, and several alumni traveled to New York for the 97th annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). Fifteen current students—Lydia Bean, Jeff Cook, Stephanie Garcia, Melissa Gray, Lene Griego, Ron Hagedorn, Jeff Lash, Miranda Lewitsky, William Pugatch, David Rutherford, Ginger Schmid, Michelle Shuey, Ron Stephenson, and Forrest Wilkerson—gave paper and poster presentations at the New York meeting. Lene Griego, an undergraduate major, is the first winner of the Eyton Travel Scholarship and used this scholarship to give a paper on inter-basin water transfers and their effects on exotic species. SWT’s outstanding doctoral, master’s, and undergraduate students constituted the largest number of student presenters of any geography department outside the Northeast!
After the formal program, the venue will shift to the Evans Liberal Awards Building for workshops, lab demonstrations, and tours. Planned activities will include the annual career planning and job placement workshop, a discussion on the future of geography as a discipline, and tours of the department and its newest laboratory facilities and equipment. Following these activities, we will adjourn to the Aquarena Springs for the annual barbecue.

The annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration is aptly named, for it provides members of the SWT Geography family with an opportunity to celebrate who we are, what we have done, and where we are going. For current students, this is a unique opportunity to network with many alumni who work in the private and public sectors across Texas and elsewhere around the country. Lunch and dinner are included with the registration.

Thanks to the generosity of the department and our several sponsors in the community, students registering in advance will be given FREE registration in exchange for a can of food to be donated to the San Marcos charities. Students must register by Tuesday, April 17 in order to take advantage of this free registration. Registration for nonstudents will be $10, with children under 12 free. We hope that you and your loved ones will attend and celebrate the outstanding achievements of the department and its excellent students, staff, and faculty!

Last Call for Business Cards!!!

This is your last chance to include your business card in “Careers/Jobs in Geography,” the business card directory of recent SWT Geography graduates. Published by the Grosvenor Center, the Department of Geography uses this booklet to show potential, current, and former students what kinds of jobs people who have graduated with undergraduate and graduate degrees in Geography are holding. Geography alumni use this publication as a way to stay in touch with fellow alumni. SWT also uses the document as a recruiting tool for the Graduate College. Ron Abler, Executive Director of the Association of American Geographers, has asked to include this business card directory on the AAG Web site.

Even if you have sent us your business card in recent years, we are starting over fresh and are including everyone’s most recent business card. Please send two copies of your business card to:

Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education
Department of Geography
Southwest Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666
If you have any questions, please contact Judy Behrens at 512-245-1823 or jb42@swt.edu

Alumni Bits
Compiled by Fred M. Shelley

Terry Booth (MAG, 2000) entered the Ph.D. program in Environmental Dynamics at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville in Spring 2001.

John Bradford (B.A., 1998) is working for David Weekley Homes in Austin, Texas as an estimator. Previously, he did contract and design work for landscape architects and civil engineers, and worked as an estimator for Fairfield Development, an apartment developer based out of Dallas.

Shannon Breslin (MAG, 1998) left her post as Environmental Review Coordinator at Texas Parks and Wildlife, where she had been employed for more than seven years, to become a Senior Environmental Coordinator at the Lower Colorado River Authority in 1999. She writes, “I work in the Community Services line of business and have a mixture of responsibilities. Depending on the week, I assist with infrastructure planning (water, wastewater, transmission, and natural gas lines), park (re)development, grant writing, and education/outreach opportunities. The focus of my work continues to be protection of sensitive natural resources in concert with responsible community development.”

Julie Brown (MAG, 1998) left USGS in Austin and is now working for USAA Insurance in San Antonio.

B. J. Carpenter (MAG, 1999) is with the Watershed Protection Department, City of Austin.

Kirk D. Clennan (B.A., 1988) is Executive Director of Cedar Park Development Corporations in Cedar Park.

Deborah Alsup Cortez (B.A., 1992, MAG, 2000) is working for the Texas General Land Office in Resource Management in the Coastal Projects Division.

See Alumni Bits, pg. 11
7th Annual Geography Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration
Saturday, April 21, 2001 - Tentative Program

9:00 a.m. Registration
9:30 a.m. Formal Program I
   9:30 a.m. Welcome
   9:35 a.m. Presentation of Scholarships
   10:30 a.m. Break
   10:45 a.m. State of the Department Address
11:30 a.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Formal Program II
   12:30 p.m. Entertainment Segment
   12:45 p.m. Awards Ceremony:
      Student Organization Awards
      Departmental Student Awards
      Outstanding Department Service Awards
      Outstanding Staff Service Awards
      Outstanding Leadership Awards
      Past Distinguished Alumni Recognition
      Outstanding Alumni Awards
      Recognition and Presentation to Sent Visser
2:30 p.m. Workshops, Demonstrations & Tours I
   Department Tour
   Lab Demonstrations
   Job Networking Workshop I
   NAEP Environmental Workshop
   Glacier Project Discussion
   Graduate Forum Panel Discussion:
      “Have you thought about Graduate School?”
      Cindy Gratz: GIS Dance Presentation
3:40 p.m. Workshops, Demonstrations & Tours II
   Department Tour
   Lab Demonstrations
   Job Networking Workshop II
   SWIG Panel Discussion
   Closed Landfill Project Workshop
   Cindy Gratz: GIS Dance Presentation & Hawaiian Dancers
5:00 p.m. BBQ Social
   Kegs Tapped at 5:00
   Food Served: 5:30 - 7:30
   Glass-bottom Boat Excursions
   “World Music & Dancing”
   Walking Tours of Aquarena Center at Old Texana Village,
   Endangered Species Exhibit,
   San Marcos High School Jazz Band
   “Earth-Day” Kid’s Games, SWT Salsa Band
New Ph.D. and Master Assistants For 2000-2001

Lydia Bean, BA 1998, Indiana University; MA 1999, SWT; Mitte Scholar
Research Interests: U.S.-Mexico border, risk and vulnerability, political borders and health impacts
Hobbies: Art galleries, hiking, gardening, volunteer to take care of animals, cooking, and travel

Kristine Egan, BA 1997, UT at San Antonio, MA 2000; SWT, Mitte Scholar
Research Interests: GIS, Science, Water Resources
Hobbies: Reading, biking, rock climbing, camping, and travel

Ellen Foster, BS 1993, Texas Tech University; MA 1994, Trinity University
Research Interests: Profiling Geography majors and their characteristics in Geographic Education

Jonathan Herbert, BA 1992, Geography University of Sheffield; MS 2000, University of East Anglia Norwich, England
Research Interests: Climate change, El Nino because of global warming, global warming and extreme weather
Hobbies: Soccer, movies, and reading

Paul Nagel, BA 1991, University of Minnesota; MA 1997, University of Guam
Research Interests: Kindergarten through 5th grade in geographic education
Hobbies: Sports especially Baseball--Round Rock Express, Chicago Cubs--Green Bay Packers, and movie buff

Lynn Resler, BA University of Minnesota; MA University of Texas
Research Interests: Preservation of fragile ecotones
Hobbies: Photography, sciences, and information technology

David Rutherford, BA 1984, UCLA; MA 2000, California State University, Fullerton
Research Interests: Teaching and learning of geography in higher education
Hobbies: Surfing, mountain biking, and triathlons

Cathy Springer, BS 1998 Geography SWT; MA 2000, SWT
Research Interests: Geographic education (university level), computer-aided instruction, hazards, and risk communication
Hobbies: Shopping, making crafts/decorations, bike riding, and playing with our cat (Patches)
Alumni Bits continued from pg. 8

Craig Eissler (B.A., 1985) is an independent GIS contractor and education consultant. Craig is currently consulting with the SWT Geography on special initiatives. Previously, he spent over eight years in the Cartography/GIS field. Four of those years were in Silicon Valley working for a GIS software developer, Strategic Mapping (AtlasGIS), as a sales and marketing professional. He also worked for several other high tech start-up companies, both in California and on his return to Austin. His most recent work before starting his own business was with a community-based organization involved in workforce development.

Jaime Fernandez (MAG, 1991) is an Environmental Justice Specialist with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission in Austin.

Chad Hall (MAG, 1998) is Regional Sales Manager for Trimble. He represents GIS and mapping products in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. His company develops innovative Global Positioning System (GPS) technology-based products for a wide range of applications.

Josephine Jarrell (MAG, 1999) is Project Manager for the Environmental Affairs Division, Texas Department of Transportation.

Chris Langston (B.S., 1995) earned a master’s degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1999 and is working as a transportation modeler with the Alamo Area Council of Governments.

Michael Lindner (MAG, 1999) and his band, El Michael and the Moving Blues, released its first CD entitled "One Good Vibe." Yomamacom.com Records released the CD. Another SWT Geography alumnus, Bob Stafford (B.S., 2000), is a member of the band.

Mike Napier (B.A., 1990) works as a GIS analyst for the Pacific Disaster Center in Kihue, Hawaii. He enjoys surfing, fishing, hiking, and camping and has fond memories of great professors and the Texas coast.

see Alumni Bits pg. 13

Across the U.S.

Texas Atlas Project Soars
Lawrence Estaville

SWT Geography’s Texas Atlas Project is a multi-product, multi-year project focused on conceptualizing and producing a variety of atlases and maps to fill important gaps in educating the citizens of Texas. Scheduled for completion this semester, the first atlas, School Atlas of Texas, has contractual negotiations ongoing with a prospective publisher. The atlas is expected to be brought to market by July 2001. Keep an eye on the department’s Web site for purchasing details and check out examples of maps in the atlas.

Karin Ascot: Environmental Activist
Emily M. Anderson

As a student in the Master of Applied Geography program with a major in Resource and Environmental Studies, Karin Ascot was among the founders of the Graduate Student Forum and a leader among the students before she graduated in 1997. This was not the last trend she was to set. With honey red curly hair reminiscent of Botticelli’s painting the Birth of Venus, Karin Ascot is working on issues perhaps as grand as the birth of beauty.

For three years, Karin Ascot has been the conservation chair for the Austin Regional Group of the Sierra Club. She has been an advocate for various changes in perceptions of how societies create their environments. Issues such as urban sprawl and transportation are her main points of focus. Her biggest challenge is that the solutions for transportation are counterintuitive. According to Ascot, the topic of transportation is often “fraught with misunderstanding and myth. Adding lanes to a congested highway does not help the problem.” The problem according to Ascot is a lack of understanding the system as a whole. One widened road does not make changing patterns. Ascot tries to convince people of the fact that land use and transportation are inseparable topics. Her challenge is immense because she takes a great deal of explanation; one cannot summarize the causes of urban sprawl in a quick sound bite.

Ascot attributes the invaluable skill of seeing things with a holistic perspective to her study of geography. For example, in her studies she attained the proper vocabulary with which to define huge phenomena such as, “urban sprawl that exists as low-density auto dependent environments.” Another important influence has been theories of New Urbanism, which she studied with Fred Day. These influences helped build a solid foundation that she uses to convince people that compact, mixed, pedestrian-friendly cities are superior living environments for both people and the land.

As geographers we can stand proud knowing that people such as Karin Ascot are using their educational backgrounds to advocate for issues such as light rail, fewer roads in national forests, diminishing urban sprawl, pipeline safety, and many other important matters. A goddess in truth.

U.S. Geological Survey Continues Funding of Alpine Treeline Study

Dr. David Butler

The U.S. Geological Survey’s Biological Resources Division has continued its funding of the work of David Butler and George Malanson in Glacier National Park, Montana. The project, in collaboration with research scholars in the Park and at several other major U.S. universities, is examining the alpine treeline ecotone to determine if an upward advance of trees into the adjacent alpine tundra is occurring. Such an upward movement would likely be attributable to climatic change, but in a complex interaction with a variety of geomorphic and biogeographic processes occurring at the treeline. During the summer of 2000, Butler and Malanson, along with doctoral students Forrest Wilkerson and Ginger Schmid, conducted fieldwork for the second season. Malanson is gathering data on soil depth and site conditions to enhance the accuracy of simulation models he conducted to determine the likely location of future treeline movements. Butler is characterizing sites for prediction and monitoring of eolian sediment traps, and measurements of surface landform morphology.

see U.S.G.S. Alpine Study, pg. 14
Undergraduate continued

As an alumnus of our program, you are in a great position to help spread the word that geography offers exciting and lucrative career opportunities for everyone regardless of gender or ethnicity.

We are also graduating our majors in a timely manner. Annual degree production, SW T’s way of reporting the number of students who graduate in a given year, has increased considerably from 157 in 1995 to 179 in 2000, with about 30 percent of our majors graduating in a given year. The number of females graduating with Geography degrees over the five year period went from 49 in 1995 to 66 in 2000. Males increased from 108 to 113 for the same period. The increase in degrees awarded in Geography is especially significant since nationally both enrollments and degrees awarded in Geography have been declining since the mid-1990s.

Our undergraduate majors are also getting good jobs. A recent survey showed that 98.6 percent of geography alumni responding were employed full-time. The department receives and posts a large number of requests for intern and full-time employees with geography backgrounds and skills. These represent a growing number of firms and agencies that specifically target our majors and are in addition to the mainstream employment opportunities. The growing demand is the result of advances in technology and an expanding understanding in both private and public sectors of how geographically educated employees can make substantial and valuable contributions to planning and problem solving. Our undergraduates are also increasingly successful in obtaining competitive graduate study opportunities at prestigious universities.

Another benefit is that our majors do not have to move great distances to get employment upon graduation. Departmental components of alumni surveys for 1999 and 2000 confirm that about half of our graduates reside in the Austin-San Antonio Corridor after graduating, suggesting that they are finding jobs in their fields in the local area. The Houston and DFW metropolitan areas are next as employment and residential destinations for our graduates. Interestingly, these rates are similar to the geographic origins of our majors that suggests that many are successful in returning to their home areas for employment after graduation.

This summary should convince you of two things. First, the solid foundation upon which our alumni received their geography training is better than ever; and, second, we are constantly working to improve the undergraduate experience in the department of Geography. The faculty are more numerous and widely trained, the facilities are constantly expanding and being upgraded, and our majors are better prepared and better performing than ever before. Therefore, the more things change, the more they stay the same, but it’s “still Geography after all these years!”
The SWT Center for Texas-Mexico Applied Research (CeTMAR), took on several new projects during academic year 2000. With David Stea as Director and John Tiefenbacher as Assistant Director, CeTMAR is sponsoring contracts for borderlands closed landfill inventories in two Texas counties, and several research projects in environmental perception. CeTMAR also sponsored the year 2000 SWT summer field course on Environmental and Cultural Geography of the Bajo region of M exico and also-sponsoring, together with the Roscener Center for Geographic Education, a geography field course in Northern M exico in conjunction with the International Conference in Geographic Education to be held at SWT in May 2001.

CeTMAR has established ties with the state universities of Tamaulipas and Guanajuato, with governmental entities in the State of Guanajuato, and with the Institute of Geography at the National University of M exico. Between February and November 2000, CeTMAR members wrote and submitted a number of proposals for academic and contract research on subjects ranging from our two nations’ reciprocal environmental and cultural perception through borderlands tourism inventories.

Geography in the Workplace: Environmental Outreach on the U.S.-Mexico Border

Rebekah Hoffacker (MAG, 1994)

I have been working for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Region 9 (California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands) for the past three years. My title is U.S.-M exico Border Outreach Specialist. I focus on community outreach for the EPA’s U.S.-M exico border program, called Border XXI.

Border XXI is a unique program that brings together U.S. and Mexican entities responsible for the border environment to work together cooperatively toward sustainable development through protection of human health and the environment and good management of natural resources in both countries. This program emphasizes three strategies in advancing the goal of sustainable development: 1) ensure public involvement in the development and implementation of the program, 2) build capacity and decentralize environmental management in order to give more authority to local and state governments and environmental managers in the implementation of the program and 3) ensure inter-agency cooperation to maximize available resources. The community outreach that I do involves educating local and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations (health and environmental), academia, and the general public about the program, and encourage their input in the policies, regulations and decisions that are made by EPA and its national counterparts.

One of my most recent accomplishments has been a completion of a documentary film entitled “Border Visions,” a bilingual educational tool for the general public on the issues we are working on binationally at a local level with a goal of encouraging increased public participation. I have recently sent a copy of this film to my graduate advisor, Dr. Fred Day, so if you are interested in seeing it, please pick up the copy from him. This film is used at universities, in local governments, and has been sent to Presidents Bush and Fox to educate them on the issues as well. A couple of Texas public television stations have broadcast the film. The national PBS network has expressed interest in broadcasting it as well. To learn more about this program, we have a Web site: www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder

Before working at EPA, I worked for TNRCC as a U.S.-M exico border hazardous waste inspector. I provided training seminars for the M exico government on U.S. regulations regarding the import and export of hazardous waste, did inspections in maquiladora warehouses and on truck crossing over from M exico, and assisted the M exico government in inspection procedures. Previously, I had worked for TNRCC as an enforcement coordinator. In this capacity, I wrote agreed orders, and negotiated with companies that had air quality violations across the state.
Peac e Corps Volunteer, Honduras, 1999-2001

Nor a Pena

As I sit here thinking about what I am going to write for the department of Geography newsletter about my exciting first year in the Peace Corps in Honduras, I find myself fascinated by the jackass cutting my lawn. By jackass, I really do mean donkey. Is my one-year anniversary in Honduras and all I can think about is the beach and if the burros will hopefully cut a path to my scary latrine (not looking good). I graduated from SWT Geography in 1998. I joined the Peace Corps in December and for more than a year have been serving in Honduras. My brain is mush, my body is Jell-O, and physically all I have to show for it is this permanent farmer tan. Personally, I have learned so much and have finally caught up to my real age of 24.

First, the Peace Corps is not for everyone, and not everyone is for the Peace Corps. I joined the Peace Corps to make a difference, get away, learn from myself, buy something we have to face the reality of student loans, and most of all put my degree to use in another country. So far, I have achieved each of these personal goals. However, the Peace Corps had a different agenda for me over the 27 months I would serve. There are three goals that define the Peace Corps mission: to help the people of interested countries and areas in meeting their needs for trained men and women; to help promote a better understanding of American people on the part of the people served; to help promote a better understanding of other people on the part of the American people. As a Natural Resource Volunteer, I have certain project plans that Peace Corps, as a whole, wants to achieve such as, reforestation of micro-watersheds, environmental education, and protection of areas management. I work with reforestation and environmental education at a local school.

Let me tell you about my experience in the Peace Corps in Honduras. I live in a community of 300 homes, multiplied by 5 and that gives you the current population of Las Animas, also known as Purgatory. However, the Peace Corps had a different agenda for me over the 27 months I would serve. There are three goals that define the Peace Corps mission: to help the people of interested countries and areas in meeting their needs for trained men and women; to help promote a better understanding of American people on the part of the people served; to help promote a better understanding of other people on the part of the American people. As a Natural Resource Volunteer, I have certain project plans that Peace Corps, as a whole, wants to achieve such as, reforestation of micro-watersheds, environmental education, and protection of areas management. I work with reforestation and environmental education at a local school.

I currently live in a home that is smaller than Dr. Estaville of office. I share this place with Rudy therat, M ottimer the mouse, and Ralph the racoon with occasional visits from their drunken cousin that swings by looking for midnight munchies. Food is a problem. Rice and beans every day is not something I was expecting to eat for two years. In order to change this, I have to travel every week to the closest city of D'Anli, which is 20 minutes by bus. I think in two hours you can travel from Austin, havelunch in San Marcos and be in San Antonio in time for soaps. I guess you wondering why I would torture myself by going away on a two-hour bus ride, but there is no electricity (yet) in Las Animas nor a phone, computer, or even a telegraph.

This is only the tip of the iceberg on describing my Peace Corps experience. The volunteer experience is different. I have good times and bad times. Frustrations run on a more emotional level that have absolutely nothing to do with Honduras but the fact that I am in a foreign country makes the impact of loneliness and challenge the times worse. Things I deal with everyday such as lack of motivation, weight gain, lack of physical exercise, limited diet and nutrition, lack of emotional support, trying to understand my community, and the Peace Corps relate to my personal and professional experiences. I have had the chance to help make a difference in the lives of others and to grow as a person.

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MODERNIZATION, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WOMEN IN MOROCCO

Venicia Kelly (B.A., 1997)

I taught English as a foreign language at the American Center in Rabat, Morocco. In the Ville Nouvelle (new city), the streets are lined with European cafes and relatively modern buildings. The contrast between old and new is quite apparent here. In the midst of modernization, there exists Moroccan tradition, from the traditional dress, the djellaba, to the occasional donkey or herd of sheep in the streets.

I teach all ages of students, from nine-year-olds to adults. Most Moroccans speak two or three languages, so for most, English is their fourth or fifth language. Since the French occupation, French has been the official language in business and government which makes it, in addition to Arabic, compulsory in schools. The Arabic spoken in Morocco is not classical, but a dialect known as Darija.

I live in an apartment, which by Moroccan standards is a luxury. I have no appliances, no refrigerator, no oven, no phone, not anything. I cook on burners fueled by “butagaz,” which I change out monthly or so. I shower this way as well. I will say, however, that appliances are readily available but very expensive.

Unemployment in Morocco is at its highest. The government passed a law that went into effect June 1, 2000, stating that no Moroccan can have more than one job, to give others the opportunity to be employed. In addition, under a monarchy change is slow in coming, especially a monarchy whose core is Islam. The one hope is that the new king is young, and perhaps he will ensure that Moroccans are accommodated and that the economy grows with time.

Because Morocco has so many problems of its own, there is little focus on Middle East politics. Discussions about the Middle East tend to be about Islam, the difference in Arabic dialects, and modernization. Moroccans are proud of their strides in technology and quality of life for women as compared to the Middle East. They believe that Moroccans give women a fair shot and that with time Morocco will eventually become a developed country. Although many students believe that the U.S. government is greedy, smothering and overpowering, their opinion of Americans is different from neighboring Islamic nations. They seem to like Americans.

Environmentally, Morocco has much work to do. Air pollution is heavy because there are no emission regulations. There is a dumpster on every block about half the size of normal dumpster in the States, which makes for overflowing trash because the population for every block is twice that in the States. Recycling is not an issue here. People are more concerned with finding work rather than saving the Earth.

The streets of Rabat are lined with cafes; cafes full of men. Where are the women? Women in Morocco still need permission from either their fathers or husbands to engage in social activity. Women are not out and about socializing and sitting in cafes; they are at school or at home or at work. The women are sometimes angry about certain “rules” that apply to only them, but, in the end, what the Koran says is truth. Things are being done to change the way women are perceived and treated, shwia buh shwia (little by little). Last month, there were two marches, one in Casablanca and one in Rabat. The one in Rabat was a march by women in reaction to the Islamic fundamentalist march in Casablanca. So, yes, women do care and would like to see changes made.

NAEP continued

NAEP members gave expert testimony at the ASG meetings about the importance of the fee and to the type of improvements that could come from it. Raising student fees is very difficult, and some senators needed convincing. In the end, ASG passed the measure, even introducing a separate bill that proposed a seven-member board that included both a geography department representative and NAEP member.

One requirement of any student-related fee is that the students vote on it twice: once before presentation to the administration and once after it meets the administration’s conditions. NAEP members on campus administered a poll in the fall 2000. The first poll indicated tremendous support of students: 353 voted in favor of the fee, 66 voted against it.

Then, the fee passes through the President’s Cabinet, the Board of Regents, and, finally, the Texas Legislature. So far, the fee has only officially passed through the President’s Cabinet, but ASG stated that the fee should not have any problems with the Regents, and are focusing on the Legislature. The university attorney completed the final draft of the bill. It requires that the university charge $1 per student per semester, not to exceed $6 per student, per semester for environmental projects on campus. If passed by the Legislature, it will go into effect in the fall 2001. The attorney added a stipulation that any excess revenues from the fee will apply only to future environmental services.

The ESF bill was sent to our sponsor in the Texas Senate, Ken Armbrister, and to our sponsor in the Texas House of Representatives, Rick Green. Although neither has introduced their bills, they expect to do so soon. Because the Legislature has made secondary education a main goal for this session, NAEP hopes to gain strong support and set precedence for universities across Texas.

In the interim, NAEP members are continuing their work on campus recycling projects and community trash cleanups. ASG has initiated an ESF Ad-hoc Committee to smooth the transition to the real committee, and many NAEP members are part of this joint venture. Until then, keep your ears to the grapevine and keep rootin’ for us!
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:

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SWT Department of Geography’s
SEVENTH ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION
& STUDENT CELEBRATION
REGISTRATION FORM

Saturday, April 21, 2001

Name(s): ________________________________

Home address: ________________________________

Day phone: __________________ Evening phone: __________

E-mail: __________________ Fax: __________

Number attending reunion ___ (list all names above):

Amount enclosed: $10.00 per person

(children 12 and under are free)

Method of Payment: Cash Check Credit Card

Credit Card Number: ________________________________

Signature (required): ________________________________

PLEASE MAIL OR FAX FORM TO:
Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration
ATTN: Judy Behrens
Department of Geography, SWT
601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666
Phone: 512-245-1823 • Fax: 512-245-1653
E-mail: jb42@swt.edu

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