Letter from the Department Chair
A letter from the chair of the Department of Geography, Dr. Yongmei Lu.

Faculty Updates
Awards, promotions, grants, and news coverage of department faculty, including conferences the department hosted.

Dr. David Butler Retires
Dr. David Butler’s retirement is a final lesson on being a lifelong geographer.

Localizing air data
A team of Ph.D. students built clean air sensors for Bobcat Clean Air Project for less than $40.

Student and Alumni Updates
Ph.D., master’s, undergraduate students and alumni awards and achievements.

Geography’s Newest Faculty Member, Dr. Nancy Li

Geography Silver Stars
Established to honor alumni and Dr. Lawrence Estaville.

In Memoriam: Dr. Lawrence Estaville
He charted his legacy not by following the paths laid out before him but by creating them.

The ARSC in Pictures
A look back at the last 24 years of the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration (ARSC) and the 25th annual celebration.
By the time this issue of GeoNews reaches your desk or email inbox, I will have completed my first year as Chair of the Geography Department. Looking back at this academic year of 2018-19, I hope that many of you share my feeling of fulfillment and pride. It has been a year of hard work and achievement.

Dr. Lawrence Estaville was awarded Texas State University System Regents’ Professor in Fall 2018. Together with Dr. Byron “Doc” Augustin (retired in 2011) and Dr. David Butler (retired in 2019), we have three Regents’ Professors in our Department. There is no doubt that one of the reasons for the success of Texas State Geography is the many outstanding professors and their decades of dedication and leadership. A second reason is certainly our students, their unserved pursuit for knowledge and continuous aspiration for growth. We feel their passion through the pleasant breeze they stir up when walking by us. When I check our end-of-year budget balance sheet, I cannot help but realize that Bobcat Geographers have put our feet all over the world this past year through participating in various professional activities, including conferences, field trips, fellowships, grant funded research, and exchange programs. Our footprints are in Texas, in most states of the U.S., and in every continent except for Antarctica (on which I would not go. Once a Bobcat Geographer, always a Bobcat Geographer). Once a Bobcat Geographer, always a Bobcat Geographer.

Faculty Recognition

Dr. Richard Boehm was recognized at the Fall 2019 Convocation for his fifty years of service on faculty, and received a Texas State University Faculty Service Award. Dr. David Butler and Dr. Fred Day were celebrated as Distinguished Professor Emeriti at the Fall 2019 Convocation.

Dr. David Butler, Dr. Ed Chow, Dr. Jennifer Divine, Dr. Rich Dixon, Dr. Ron Hageman, Dr. Jennifer Jensen, Dr. Tim Loftus, and Dr. Rusty Weaver were “Favorite Professors” by graduate students in the Fall by the Texas State Chapter Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Dr. Tom Ballinger, Dr. Brian Cooper, Dr. Christli Townsend, and Dr. Delores Van der Kolk were selected by undergraduates students as “Favorite Professors” this Spring. The “Favorite Professor” designation is the oldest teaching award at Texas State.

Dr. David Butler was selected as an American Association of Geographers (AAG) Fellow. His AAG Fellowship was conferred at the Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon in April.

Dr. Richard Earl received the College of Liberal Arts Achievement Award for Excellence in Service in August 2018.

The Texas State University System Board of Regents named Lawrence Estaville Regents’ Professor. The Regents’ Professor designation honors outstanding members of the System’s professoriate who have achieved excellence in teaching, research and publication, and community service, while demonstrating an unwavering dedication to their students and university. Estaville was the 15th TSUS Regents’ Professor honored at Texas State, and the 3rd from the Department of Geography, joining Dr. “Doc” Augustin and Dr. Dave Butler. Read more here.

Dr. Alberto Giordano was recommended for placement on the Fulbright Specialist Roster from January 2019 to January 2022. Dr. Giordano was in Lithuania from April 26-May 11 as part of a Fulbright award.

Dr. Jennifer Jensen was selected by le Groupement d’Intérêt Scientifique (GIS) Institut des Amériques, IDA-Rennes as an America’s Chair for one month in 2019/2020. Dr. Jensen plans to use this time (May 2020) to establish long-term collaborative research and the project basis for a Study Abroad trip to be offered in Summer 2021.

Dr. Injoung Je received the 2018 E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Research award from the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) for a project titled “Learning trajectories of geography educators to incorporate spatial thinking into classrooms.”

Dr. Yongmei Lu received the 2019 International Studies Administrator of the Year Award from the Center for International Studies, Texas State University.

Dr. Robert Mace received the Texas Water Foundation Texas Rainmaker Award. Mace received this award in May 2019 for his leadership and exceptional contributions as a rainmaker, scientist, and educator.

Dr. Dr. Suzon Jammes was appointed to the National Science Foundation, NSF-Geoprisms (Geodynamic Processes at Rifting and Subducting Margins) program for the project “Effect of contrasting structural and compositional inheritances on the development of rift margins.” Dr. Jammes is PI on the project. Co-PI’s are Dr. Lutz Lavier from the University of Texas at Austin, Dr. David Butler, Dr. and Dr. Richard Earl.

Dr. Dr. Rebecca Davio was selected to serve as the Chair on the Honors Committee of the American Association of Geographers (AAG).

Grants

Dr. Sarah Blue and Rebecca Thomas (UT Geography) were awarded a $39,500 grant from NSF for their proposal “Rice, Ethnicity, and Place (RFP) 2018 Conference: Broadening Participation, Building Bridges & Supporting Diversity.” See more on page 4.

Dr. Rebecca Davio and the Institute for Government Innovation (IGI) were awarded a $151,000 competitive project from the Texas State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Dr. Alberto Giordano is a member of a research team funded for their proposal “The Holocaust Ghettos Project: Reintegrating Victims and Perpetrators through Places and Events” from The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Dr. Suzen Jammes has been awarded a $107,537 grant from the National Science Foundation, NSF-GeoPRISMS (Geodynamic Processes at Rifting and Subducting Margins) program for the project “Effect of contrasting structural and compositional inheritances on the development of rift margins.” Dr. Jammes is the PI on the project.

Dr. Rebecca Davio was elected to the Honors Committee of the American Association of Geographers (AAG).

OTHER NEWS

Professional Services

Dr. Alberto Giordano started his one-year term as President of UCGIS, the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, (https://www.ucgis.org) in June 2018.

Dr. Ron Hageman was elected to the Honors Committee of the American Association of Geographers (AAG).

Dr. Dr. David Butler was selected to serve as the Chair on the Membership Committee of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.

Dr. Dr. Alberto Giordano was selected as a member of a research team funded for their proposal “The Holocaust Ghettos Project: Reintegrating Victims and Perpetrators through Places and Events” from The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Dr. Suzen Jammes has been awarded a $107,537 grant from the National Science Foundation, NSF-GeoPRISMS (Geodynamic Processes at Rifting and Subducting Margins) program for the project “Effect of contrasting structural and compositional inheritances on the development of rift margins.” Dr. Jammes is the PI on the project.

Dr. Rebecca Davio and the Institute for Government Innovation (IGI) were awarded a $151,000 competitive project from the Texas State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Dr. Alberto Giordano is a member of a research team funded for their proposal “The Holocaust Ghettos Project: Reintegrating Victims and Perpetrators through Places and Events” from The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Dr. Suzen Jammes has been awarded a $107,537 grant from the National Science Foundation, NSF-GeoPRISMS (Geodynamic Processes at Rifting and Subducting Margins) program for the project “Effect of contrasting structural and compositional inheritances on the development of rift margins.” Dr. Jammes is the PI on the project.

Dr. Rebecca Davio was elected to the Honors Committee of the American Association of Geographers (AAG).

Grants

Dr. Sarah Blue and Rebecca Thomas (UT Geography) were awarded a $39,500 grant from NSF for their proposal “Rice, Ethnicity, and Place (RFP) 2018 Conference: Broadening Participation, Building Bridges & Supporting Diversity.” See more on page 4.

Dr. Rebecca Davio and the Institute for Government Innovation (IGI) were awarded a $151,000 competitive project from the Texas State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Dr. Alberto Giordano is a member of a research team funded for their proposal “The Holocaust Ghettos Project: Reintegrating Victims and Perpetrators through Places and Events” from The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Dr. Suzen Jammes has been awarded a $107,537 grant from the National Science Foundation, NSF-GeoPRISMS (Geodynamic Processes at Rifting and Subducting Margins) program for the project “Effect of contrasting structural and compositional inheritances on the development of rift margins.” Dr. Jammes is the PI on the project.

Dr. Rebecca Davio and the Institute for Government Innovation (IGI) were awarded a $151,000 competitive project from the Texas State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Dr. Alberto Giordano is a member of a research team funded for their proposal “The Holocaust Ghettos Project: Reintegrating Victims and Perpetrators through Places and Events” from The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Dr. Suzen Jammes has been awarded a $107,537 grant from the National Science Foundation, NSF-GeoPRISMS (Geodynamic Processes at Rifting and Subducting Margins) program for the project “Effect of contrasting structural and compositional inheritances on the development of rift margins.” Dr. Jammes is the PI on the project.

Dr. Rebecca Davio and the Institute for Government Innovation (IGI) were awarded a $151,000 competitive project from the Texas State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Dr. Alberto Giordano is a member of a research team funded for their proposal “The Holocaust Ghettos Project: Reintegrating Victims and Perpetrators through Places and Events” from The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).
Faculty in the News (continued)

Dr. Ed Chow was one of three researchers using AI to count the number of people and estimate crowd size at the annual July 1 protest in Hong Kong. Read the New York Times article here.

Dr. Brian Cooper is highlighted in two University Star articles: “Senior lecturer's classroom comedy conquers the Twitterphere” and “Meet Texas State’s Famous Faces.”

Dr. Andrea Dennison (College of Education), creator of the Happy-Healthy Toolkit, participated in the 2019 Texas State Innovation Lab at 3SSW. The Happy-Healthy Toolkit—a set of 21 activity cards in seven wellness areas—enhances coping skills and improves social and emotional wellness in children and adults.

Dr. Jennifer Devine and her research team have conducted a three-country case study (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras) examining how narco-trafficking impacts the environment and conservation governance in protected areas. They held a press conference at the University of Costa Rica on May 16, 2018 to disseminate their Costa Rica analysis. The press conference was covered by several Costa Rican news outlets and global press. Her work was also featured on the Texas State University website. Read more here.

Dr. Jennifer Devine’s research, titled “Modeling cocaine traffickers and counterdrug interdiction forces as a complex adaptive system,” was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

Dr. Alberto Giordano was featured in an online Texas State article in occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Read the article here.

Dr. Alberto Giordano was also featured in a video interview in Human Inquiry, an online magazine of the College of Liberal Arts at Texas State. See the video here.

Dr. Alberto Giordano delivered keynote addresses (with Tim Cole) at two European Holocaust Research Infrastructure meetings in London and Budapest in September 2018. Read more here.

Dr. Rene DeHon shares his connection to the Apollo landing on The Planetary Society’s website. Read more here.

Dr. Jennifer Jensen was elected to serve on the Texas State University Faculty Senate for 2019-2021.

Faculty in the News (continued)

Dr. Jason Julian was featured on Texas State’s website and in the November 2018 issue of Texas Monthly for his research on natural areas surrounding rivers, by using “an innovative mix of geographic tools and human behavior analysis.” Read more here.

Dr. Robert Mace, Chief Water Policy Officer for the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, wrote an article entitled “Into the blue again: leadership at all stages of the urban water cycle, including your home” for the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation. Read more here.

Dr. Robert Mace was quoted in the New York Times and in many other media outlets with his statement that Texas “is growing so fast that we’re constantly playing catch-up when it comes to building resilient water supplies.” Read more here.

Dr. Osvaldo Muñiz-Solari was invited as a keynote speaker to the International Conference “Geography Education in Vietnam and International Experience,” celebrated in Hanoi. It was co-organized by Hanoi National University of Education and the University of Münster. Dr. Muñiz-Solari opened the Conference with a talk on Transformational Learning in Geography Education.

Dr. Andy Sanson was featured in the October 2018 issue of Texas Monthly for his work to unite conservationists and hunters through a shared interest in the outdoors.

Dr. Andy Sansom and Anna Huff of Texas State’s Meadows Center penned an article—“Texas is growing fast. We need to protect our water,” in the Houston Chronicle, February 11, 2019—about how rapid growth in Texas, coupled with droughts and floods, have overburdened the state’s water resources.

Faculty Promotions

Dr. Rebecca Davio was promoted to Associate Professor of Practice, effective Fall 2018.

Dr. Injeong Jo was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, effective Fall 2018.

Dr. Jennifer Jensen was promoted to Professor with tenure, effective September 1, 2019.

Dr. Kimberly Melton, Dr. Colleen Mykyt, and Dr. Rusty Weaver are promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, effective September 1, 2019.

New Faculty

Dr. Michael Solem, previously a Research Professor with the Department of Geography, has accepted our offer as a Full Professor, and will start with this new appointment in Fall 2019.

Dr. Benjamin Prince and Dr. Samantha Krause have accepted our offer of Lecturer positions. They will join Texas State University Geography Faculty in Fall 2019.

Other News

Dr. Drs. Rebecca Davio and Andrea Dennison (College of Education), creators of the Happy-Healthy Toolkit, participated in the 2019 Texas State Innovation Lab at 3SSW. The Happy-Healthy Toolkit—a set of 21 activity cards in seven wellness areas—enhances coping skills and improves social and emotional wellness in children and adults.

Dr. Jennifer Devine and her research team have conducted a three-country case study (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras) examining how narco-trafficking impacts the environment and conservation governance in protected areas. They held a press conference at the University of Costa Rica on May 16, 2018 to disseminate their Costa Rica analysis. The press conference was covered by several Costa Rican news outlets and global press. Her work was also featured on the Texas State University website. Read more here.

Dr. Jennifer Devine’s research, titled “Modeling cocaine traffickers and counterdrug interdiction forces as a complex adaptive system,” was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

Dr. Alberto Giordano was featured in an online Texas State article in occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Read the article here.

Dr. Alberto Giordano was also featured in a video interview in Human Inquiry, an online magazine of the College of Liberal Arts at Texas State. See the video here.

Dr. Alberto Giordano delivered keynote addresses (with Tim Cole) at two European Holocaust Research Infrastructure meetings in London and Budapest in September 2018. Read more here.

Dr. Rene DeHon shares his connection to the Apollo landing on The Planetary Society’s website. Read more here.

Dr. Jennifer Jensen was elected to serve on the Texas State University Faculty Senate for 2019-2021.

Faculty in the News (continued)

Dr. Jason Julian was featured on Texas State’s website and in the November 2018 issue of Texas Monthly for his research on natural areas surrounding rivers, by using “an innovative mix of geographic tools and human behavior analysis.” Read more here.

Dr. Robert Mace, Chief Water Policy Officer for the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, wrote an article entitled “Into the blue again: leadership at all stages of the urban water cycle, including your home” for the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation. Read more here.

Dr. Robert Mace was quoted in the New York Times and in many other media outlets with his statement that Texas “is growing so fast that we’re constantly playing catch-up when it comes to building resilient water supplies.” Read more here.

Dr. Osvaldo Muñiz-Solari was invited as a keynote speaker to the International Conference “Geography Education in Vietnam and International Experience,” celebrated in Hanoi. It was co-organized by Hanoi National University of Education and the University of Münster. Dr. Muñiz-Solari opened the Conference with a talk on Transformational Learning in Geography Education.

Dr. Andy Sanson was featured in the October 2018 issue of Texas Monthly for his work to unite conservationists and hunters through a shared interest in the outdoors.

Dr. Andy Sansom and Anna Huff of Texas State’s Meadows Center penned an article—“Texas is growing fast. We need to protect our water,” in the Houston Chronicle, February 11, 2019—about how rapid growth in Texas, coupled with droughts and floods, have overburdened the state’s water resources.

Staff Recognition

Roman Gros has joined the Geography Department in August 2019 to support Geography undergraduate programs.

Allison Glass-Smith, Geography’s Graduate Program Staff Advisor, received the inaugural Dr. Lawrence Estaville Employee Excellence Award in June 2019.
Dr. David Butler’s retirement is a final lesson on being a lifelong geographer.

Dr. Butler will retire at the end of the Summer Session on July 3, 2019—a date he knows very well. He will then begin planning his travels across the globe that will start after his wife’s retirement later this year.

The plans are in flux, but his top priority is Antarctica and his wife is the Nile. He anticipates they will enjoy cruising while they sort out these plans. After visiting the Fjords of Norway, he learned to love cruises despite a particular dislike of boats.

While he is stateside, he anticipates spending time in Cloudcroft, New Mexico enjoying the mountain air.

He will also continue some work with the American Association of Geographers (AAG) to round out his lifelong commitment to geography. Between all of these activities, he hopes to sit back, relax, think, and read—things we could all hope to find time to do.

Dr. Butler has held academic positions at Oklahoma State University, the University of Georgia, the University of North Carolina, and Texas State University, teaching over 20 distinct courses and seminars across all levels. He has received honors and recognition for his work at each of these institutions at the department, college, university, and national levels. Among his most prestigious awards are the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) Distinguished Teacher, the University of Georgia Excellence in Teaching Award, Texas State University Distinguished Professor, and Texas State University System Regents’ Professor. In addition to his active participation at the annual meetings of the AAG and Binghamton Geomorphology Symposia, Dr. Butler has been invited to lecture at numerous universities throughout the US and Canada. He has also ably represented the discipline during invited lectures in Australia, China, South Africa, and Switzerland.

Dr. Butler provided countless hours of service to the department as Graduate Coordinator during a time of phenomenal growth in our doctoral program. He has received awards for his service to the College of Liberal Arts and the Geography Department. His service to the discipline runs the spectra from organizing conferences to chairing AAG specialty groups, to reviewing manuscripts for numerous professional journals. His commitment to professional service is exemplified by his current editorship of the AAG flagship journal Annals, where he has completely reinvigorated representation of physical geography.

Dr. David Butler represents the best in geography teaching, research, and service.

Dr. David Butler
Department of Geography

Dr. Butler’s list of Scholarly/Creative material in his vita covers 35 pages with listings from 1979 through the present. His grant listings occupy another 3 pages. He is an internationally recognized scholar—and literally wrote the book—on zoogeomorphology. He has received numerous university level awards for his research and has been honored by the American Association of Geographers with the Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award from the Geomorphology Specialty Group, the Distinguished Career Award from the Mountain Geography Specialty Group, and the James J. Parsons Distinguished Career Award from the Biogeography Specialty Group. This year his national honors were ignited by selection as an AAG Distinguished Fellow.

In addition to his active participation at the annual meetings of the AAG and Binghamton Geomorphology Symposia, Dr. Butler has been invited to lecture at numerous universities throughout the US and Canada. He has also ably represented the discipline during invited lectures in Australia, China, South Africa, and Switzerland.

Dr. Butler provided countless hours of service to the department as Graduate Coordinator during a time of phenomenal growth in our doctoral program. He has received awards for his service to the College of Liberal Arts and the Geography Department. His service to the discipline runs the spectra from organizing conferences to chairing AAG specialty groups, to reviewing manuscripts for numerous professional journals. His commitment to professional service is exemplified by his current editorship of the AAG flagship journal Annals, where he has completely reinvigorated representation of physical geography.

Dr. David R. Butler represents the best in geography teaching, research, and service.

Dr. David Butler
Department of Geography

Dr. Butler’s retirement is a final lesson on being a lifelong geographer.
imagining more informed citizens with localized data

The team built clean air sensors for Bobcat Clean Air Project for under $40 that illuminate red when the air quality is bad and green when it is good.

Doctoral geography student David Mills, team leader of the Bobcat Clean Air Project, built clean air sensors for localized data collection with the help of his teammates Guixing Wei, Shadi Maleki, and Niaz Marshad.

The clean air sensors were built with the support of the Texas State Environmental Service committee, which donated about $5,000 for the project. The team has since created AtmosVision, a non-profit organization to keep development going because some of the team members have graduated or are preparing to graduate.

In a perfect world, these sensors could influence public policies. Though Mills wants to be sure his team has achievable short-term goals in the project. The team has since created AtmosVision, with the help of his teammates Guixing Wei, Shadi Maleki, and Niaz Marshad. The clean air sensors were built with the support of the Texas State Environmental Service committee, which donated about $5,000 for the project. The team has since created AtmosVision, a non-profit organization to keep development going because some of the team members have graduated or are preparing to graduate.

In a perfect world, these sensors could influence public policies. Though Mills wants to be sure his team has achievable short-term goals in the project. The team has since created AtmosVision, with the help of his teammates Guixing Wei, Shadi Maleki, and Niaz Marshad. The Texas Economic Atlas was showcased at the 2018 SXSW in Austin. (Team Mentor: Estaville) Team Members: Mark Deka, John Punstonig, Ritchio Jose, and Kaleigh Bench.

An article co-written by Mark Deka and Niaz Marshad (advisor: Zhan) was featured on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility website read more here.

Walter Furens was spring 2018 semester as an exchange student at our sister school, Rennes II University in France.

Walter Furens (advisor: Mykle) and Shadi Maleki (advisor: Hageman) were awarded Love of Learning Awards from Phi Kappa Phi. The Texas State Geography Geobowl team "Wild Rice" won first place in the third year for the 2018 SWAAG conference. Individually, Joshua Hodge won first place and Walter Furens won second place. Joshua Hodge (captain) and Walter Furens placed third at the 2019 AAG Geobowl.

Joshua Hodge (advisor: Dixon), David Mills (advisor: Lu), and Shadi Maleki were awarded Graduate College Scholarships starting Fall 2018. Joshua Hodge was awarded a 2018 Summer Research Scholarship by SWAAG for the project "Geographic Patterns of the Hurricane Ike Storm Surge Sediment Deposit on Southeast Texas Gulf Coast Marshes." Joshua Hodge placed 2nd in the Graduate Poster Competition at the 15th Annual Texas Geography Student Research Symposium (TGSRSR) and placed third at the SWAAG Gradute Level.

Aydin Jayanda (advisor: Lu) published two articles this year relating to maternal health available here and here. Milad Kordke (advisor: Weaver) was part of a team that won first prize in the “Future of Energy Challenge” sponsored by Shell. The team presented its project at the “Pioneering Progress Together Conference and Shell Eco-marathon” in San Francisco.

Milad Korde and Shadi Maleki were selected to receive Alamo Area GIS Scholarships for their work as graduate students in the geospatial sciences.

Ph.D. Student News

Daria Andreikivskh (advisor: Tiefenbacher) and Christina Lopez (advisor: Weaver) won the 2019 Study of the American South AAG Specialty Group Student Paper Award for their paper entitled “Flood awareness among college students in Flash flood alley: A case study of Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, USA.”

Upendra Bom (advisor: Tiefenbacher) was awarded the Euro-Asian Specialty Group Field Research Travel Award and the Regional Development and Planning Best Proposal Award at the AAG Meeting in New Orleans. She also received the 2018 AAG Chairnarrart Award.

Upendra Bom and Mark Deka (advisor: Gordian) were selected by the Graduate College to receive Doctoral Research Support fellowships. Mark Deka was selected as the Outstanding Doctoral Student in the College of Liberal Arts for 2018-2019.

Bobcat Clear Air Team and their project was showcased at the 2019 SXSW in Austin. This community outreach project educates Bobcats, Texas State visitors and citizen scientists with a mobile application that provides real-time air quality monitoring. The team constructed the sensor entirely out of recycled materials and is currently monitoring the air qual-

ity at the Child Development Center on campus. Team members include Geography students: David Mills, Guixing Wei, Shadi Maleki, and Niaz Marshad. Faculty mentors are Drs. Yongmei Lu and Rusty Weaver. The Texas Economic Atlas was showcased at the 2018 SXSW in Austin. (Team Mentor: Estaville) Team Members: Mark Deka, John Punstonig, Ritchio Jose, and Kaleigh Bench.

An article co-written by Mark Deka and Niaz Marshad (advisor: Zhan) was featured on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility website read more here.

Walter Furens was spring 2018 semester as an exchange student at our sister school, Rennes II University in France.

Walter Furens (advisor: Mykle) and Shadi Maleki (advisor: Hageman) were awarded Love of Learning Awards from Phi Kappa Phi. The Texas State Geography Geobowl team "Wild Rice" won first place in the third year for the 2018 SWAAG conference. Individually, Joshua Hodge won first place and Walter Furens won second place. Joshua Hodge (captain) and Walter Furens placed third at the 2019 AAG Geobowl.

Joshua Hodge (advisor: Dixon), David Mills (advisor: Lu), and Shadi Maleki were awarded Graduate College Scholarships starting Fall 2018. Joshua Hodge was awarded a 2018 Summer Research Scholarship by SWAAG for the project "Geographic Patterns of the Hurricane Ike Storm Surge Sediment Deposit on Southeast Texas Gulf Coast Marshes." Joshua Hodge placed 2nd in the Graduate Poster Competition at the 15th Annual Texas Geography Student Research Symposium (TGSRSR) and placed third at the SWAAG Gradute Level.

Aydin Jayanda (advisor: Lu) published two articles this year relating to maternal health available here and here. Milad Kordke (advisor: Weaver) was part of a team that won first prize in the “Future of Energy Challenge” sponsored by Shell. The team presented its project at the “Pioneering Progress Together Conference and Shell Eco-marathon” in San Francisco.

Milad Korde and Shadi Maleki were selected to receive Alamo Area GIS Scholarships for their work as graduate students in the geospatial sciences.

Paepin Golf (advisor: Butler) was awarded a grant from the University of Wyoming - National Park Service to support her dissertation research.

Alisa Hartsell (advisor: Blue) has been selected for the 2018 Bonn Fellowship. Alisa plans to use the fellowship to study in China during the 2019 calendar year.

Christina Lopez was awarded the 2019-2020 San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance Research Fellowship, and the 2019 Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographers (SWAAG) Summer Research Scholarship.

Christopher Pierce (advisor: Blue) received the Honorable Mention Award in the student poster competition at the IX Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference.

Andy Pinon (advisor: Butler) has been awarded a $500 grant from the Rising Scholarly Travel Activity and Research (S.T.A.R) program supported by the Student Government at Texas State University, to attend the AAG Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Andy Pinon was also awarded the Critical Language Scholarship, an intensive overseas language and cultural immersion program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Andrea will study Swahili in Tanzania this summer.

John Punstonig (advisor: Weaver) was admitted to the 2018 George Washington University’s CIBER Summer Doctoral Institute.

Jennifer Villa (advisor: Butler) received a travel grant from the Rocky Mountain Section of the Geological Society of America to attend the society’s regional meeting in Flagstaff, AZ.

Guising Wei (advisor: Zhan) was selected as the 2018 Outstanding Doctoral Student from the College of Liberal Arts.

Doleorean Wiley, an incoming Ph.D. student (advisor: Mykle) launched a start-up bakery that repurposes spent brewer’s grain into a fiber and protein fortified baking mix in spring 2018, during her first semester as a Sustainability Studies master’s student. By September she was selling cinnamon rolls and soft pretzels at a local farmer’s market. In November, she won a people’s choice award at the Microsoft Community Impact competition held on campus. In March 2019, at her company’s one-year anniversary, she won 1st place at Texas State’s SXSW Innovation Labs which enabled expansion into a second market. Academically, she participated in the 2019 Leadership conference and advanced to the 3MT finals. While juggling entrepreneurship, classes, and being a mom and wife, Dolarion also presented a poster at Swaag and a paper at TGSRSR and AAG. Read more here, here, here, and here.

Master’s Student News

Lucas Chavez led the project to plot the route of an Emerald Crown trail to connect San Marcos, Kyle, and Buda to Austin through the Viollet Crown trail. Julian Emerson (undergrad) and Emma Highbereger (alum) also worked on the project which was highlighted in Community Impact, the University Star, and the Hays County Free Press. Read more here.

Colin Hilt spent the Spring 2018 semester as an exchange student at our sister school, Rennes II University in France.

Do not hallucinate.
Undergraduates

Emily Greene (advisor: Ballinger) won 1st place in the oral presentation during the College of Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Expo in May.

Gustavo Flores (mentor: Dixon), Math major, Geography minor, has been awarded the South Central Climate Science Center's Undergraduate Summer Internship for Underserved Minorities. Gustavo will be involved in "hands-on activities related to climate research that will allow him to see the direct impacts of climate variability and change on the bayous, delta and coastline of Louisiana, prairie and forest ecosystems and tribal cultures in Oklahoma, and the West Texas Southern High Plains."

Haylea Elliott (group manager), Jaid Mitchell, Alexandra Thompson, Joseph Berenji, and Justin Williams completed a project analyzing sewage spills over the Edwards Aquifer which was featured in a TV news story. The students completed their project for the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance as part of the GIS capstone class GEO 4427 taught by Dr. Yihong Yuan. Read more here.

Elijah Bennous visited our sister school, the University of Rennes, in France.

Layne Leonard (mentor: Mark Carter) received an Undergraduate Research Fellowships Scholarship for his research project titled Planes, Trains & Automobiles... But Mostly the Last One: Implementing Inter-modality as a Concept through Bus Rapid Transit.

College Factual ranked the Texas State Geography program the best value in Texas in their 2019 annual Geography & Cartography School rankings. This is the second year in a row the Texas State Geography Department has achieved this "Best Value for the Money" status. Texas State ranked in the top 10% nationally, at #13 out of 160 programs. Read more here.

ALUMNI NEWS

Dr. Fenda Akaueru was the recipient of the 2018 AAG Harm de Blij Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Dr. Butler was his advisor.

Andrea Alexatos and Stephen Ramirez participated in the 3rd Annual River Guardianship Symposium that is part of the Mermaid Society SMTX SPLASH festivities (SPLASH – Stewardship, Preservation, Local, Arts, Sustainability, Heritage). Drs. Andy Sansom and Jason Julian also participated. Drs. Colleen Myles and Kimberly Meitzen helped plan the event.

Cutter W. Gonzalez wrote an article entitled "When picking a major, students should consider geography" published September 4, 2018 in the University Star. Read more here.

Dr. Matthew H. Connolly, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Central Arkansas, was invited to post an article entitled "When picking a major, students should consider geography" published September 4, 2018 in the University Star. Read more here.

Dr. Jinhee Lee was selected as a 2018 recipient of the Salvatore J. Natoli Dissertation Award from the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE). Jinhee was formally recognized at the annual meeting of the NCGE at the Quebec City, Canada in August. Sejong Je was his adviser.

Jessica Melford-Miller was appointed executive director of Metro Transit in St. Louis, Missouri. "I welcome the opportunity to serve in this important capacity. Metro Transit is committed to being a leader in the region in this important capacity. Metro Transit is committed to providing safe, reliable and convenient service options that meet the mobility needs of our riders and the St. Louis region," Melford-Miller said. Read more here.

Kansas Sartin is featured in an article, "A love of adventure leads Bobcat to create outdoor gear carrier." Read more here.

Katie Steele was presented a 3rd Quarterly Civic Award from her employer, the City of San Marcos.

Dr. Yanan “Nancy” Li may be the newest addition to the Geography Department’s incredible and diverse faculty, but she is obviously at home. You can tell because on her personal website, she includes a fun fact: “I was born and raised in the capital city of the largest province in China, and now live in the capital city of the largest state in the continental US.” Not only is this fun fact geographic in nature, as you’d expect—it’s particularly analytical and even educational. Of course, she also has the bona fides you would expect from our faculty. She received her doctorate from the University of Tennessee in 2015 and has already published numerous articles.

Dr. Li is a physical geographer who emphasizes paleoenvironmental changes, glacial geomorphology, and terrain analysis. Dr. Li’s research is focused on understanding glaciers’ response to the changing climate and how those changes influence other geomorphic processes and human society. She is currently investigating recent glacier changes, reconstructing Holocene glacier history, and monitoring ongoing changes using a variety of different techniques. Those techniques include the use of satellite imagery, numerical dating, and optical/thermal drone mapping of mountain glaciers.

In fact, this past summer, Dr. Li conducted field work for two and half months at three study sites across the globe. She visited the Tibetan Plateau for the first time where she collaborated with researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Next, she led a team of researchers in Tian Shan, Northwest China. Finally, she visited the Wyoming Wind River Range—a part of the Yellowstone-ecosystem—with a team of researchers from the University of North Dakota.

This Wyoming trip really gave additional meaning to the ‘physical’ aspect of physical geography. It included 10 horses, 4 mules, and 7 people. The researchers spent five hours on horseback before the horses could no longer safely transport them. At that point, each person hiked 40–70 pounds to the research site. Previously Dr. Li completed research projects analyzing climate oscillations studies using tree-ring methods in the Southeast U.S. and documenting the timing and extent of the glaciers during the Little Ice Age in eastern Tian Shan, China.

In general, she is enthusiastic about studying natural systems—especially high-mountain environments. Her advice when trying to understand complex processes and mechanisms in nature are to, “Tackle them piece-by-piece, but ultimately they all have to be linked together to form a system.” She uses this approach to research mountain glacier/climate/water systems.

Dr. Li’s passion extends outside the realm of glaciers and research. She also has a love for photography. In fact, the photo above with a rock sample and all the photos included in the 25th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration photo essay were taken by Dr. Li.

It is probably the same advice she gives about understanding complex environmental systems that makes her such a fantastic photographer. She has an eye for the individual details but also meaning to the ‘physical’ aspect of physical geography. It included 10 horses, 4 mules, and 7 people. The researchers spent five hours on horseback before the horses could no longer safely transport them. At that point, each person hiked 40–70 pounds to the research site. Previously Dr. Li completed research projects analyzing climate oscillations studies using tree-ring methods in the Southeast U.S. and documenting the timing and extent of the glaciers during the Little Ice Age in eastern Tian Shan, China.

In general, she is enthusiastic about studying natural systems—especially high-mountain environments. Her advice when trying to understand complex processes and mechanisms in nature are to, “Tackle them piece-by-piece, but ultimately they all have to be linked together to form a system.” She uses this approach to research mountain glacier/climate/water systems.

This Wyoming trip really gave additional meaning to the ‘physical’ aspect of physical geography. It included 10 horses, 4 mules, and 7 people. The researchers spent five hours on horseback before the horses could no longer safely transport them. At that point, each person hiked 40–70 pounds to the research site. Previously Dr. Li completed research projects analyzing climate oscillations studies using tree-ring methods in the Southeast U.S. and documenting the timing and extent of the glaciers during the Little Ice Age in eastern Tian Shan, China.

In general, she is enthusiastic about studying natural systems—especially high-mountain environments. Her advice when trying to understand complex processes and mechanisms in nature are to, “Tackle them piece-by-piece, but ultimately they all have to be linked together to form a system.” She uses this approach to research mountain glacier/climate/water systems.

Dr. Li’s passion extends outside the realm of glaciers and research. She also has a love for photography. In fact, the photo above with a rock sample and all the photos included in the 25th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration photo essay were taken by Dr. Li.

It is probably the same advice she gives about understanding complex environmental systems that makes her such a fantastic photographer. She has an eye for the individual details but also is able to bring all of those details together to see the whole. As for being the newest member of the Geography Department’s faculty, it is clear those same principles apply. Dr. Li will contribute significantly as an individual and, at the same time, strengthen the entire faculty.
Michael Bailey, Class of 1981
Founder & Director, Hill Springs Cabin Educational Complex, San Antonio, Texas
Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Occupational Education

Colleen S. Gardner, Class of 2005
Executive Director, Bamberger Ranch & Preserve, Johnson City, Texas
Master of Applied Geography—Resource and Environmental Studies

Jason Bordright, Class of 2008
Consultant/Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Geography—Resource and Environmental Studies

Kyle W. Haley, Class of 2004
Minerals Manager, Pretty Group LLP, San Antonio, Texas
Bachelor of Science in Geography—Urban and Regional Planning

Kayla J. Byrson, Class of 2009
Senior Planner, Vincent Gerard & Associates, Austin, Texas
Bachelor of Science in Geography—Urban and Regional Planning

Nicholas J. Maloukis, Class of 2007
Park Superintendent II, Martin Creek Lake State Park, Tatum, Texas
Bachelor of Science in Geography—Resource and Environmental Studies

Senior Lecturer & Internship Coordinator, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
Bachelor of Science in Geography—Master of Applied Geography

Grace M. Montgomery Faulkner, Class of 1981
Retired, Texas Department of Water Resources
Bachelor of Science in Physical and Applied Geography

Brian Cooper, Class of 2002 & 2012
Senior Lecturer & Undergraduate Coordinator, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
Master of Science in Geography

Corissa Parker, Class of 2006
Project Manager, M & S Engineering, New Braunfels, Texas
Bachelor of Science in Geography—Resource and Environmental Studies

Jennifer Petrzeika, Class of 2005
Water Resources Operations Manager, City of Greeley, Colorado
Bachelor of Science in Physical Geography

Lynn M. Reeler, Class of 2004
Associate Professor, Texas Tech University
Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Geography

Amanda Sankey, Class of 2015
Project Manager, Crouch Environmental Services, Inc., Houston, Texas
Bachelor of Science in Geography—Resource and Environmental Studies

Tracie Tolle, Class of 2008
Management Analyst & Grant Manager, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies & Water Resources

Andrew S. Villalobos, Class of 2014
Senior Planner, City of San Marcos, Texas
Bachelor of Science in Geography—Urban and Regional Planning

Todd H. Votteler, Class of 2000
President, Collaborative Water Resolution & Editor-in-Chief, Texas Water Journal, Austin, Texas
Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Geography

Eric Wilson, Class of 2007
Instructor, World Geography & AP Human Geography, American International School, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Bachelor of Science in Geography
Dr. Lawrence Estaville charted his legacy not by following the paths laid out before him, but by creating new paths that left the Geography Department better than he found it, empowered students, and saved lives.

In the field of geography, desire lines are those paths that emerge where no path was originally planned. You can find them all over campus where the installed sidewalks are forsaken and instead dirt path shortcuts are carved to make it to class in time to be counted present.

It wasn’t because he was in a rush or was late to class that Dr. Estaville created his own paths to his many destinations and achievements. It was because many of his ideas were vanguard and there were no paths. The legacy of dirt paths he left behind serve as a map for creating permanent paths for others to follow and continue his legacy.

Departmental Vision

When he joined the Department of Geography at then Southwest Texas State University as the Chair in 1994, Dr. Estaville led the growth of the department into one of the nation’s largest geography departments. There were no doctoral programs at the university at that time. Rather than wait for someone to blaze that trail before him, Dr. Estaville led the establishment of the first three Ph.D. programs at the university in the Geography Department. The programs are still the flagship programs on campus.

He was also the creator of the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration that commemorated its 25th anniversary this year. Since its inception, it has served as a way to strengthen and broaden the geography community and link faculty, students, and alumni.

The Geography Department we know and love today is a vision Dr. Estaville saw long before many could have imagined it. Still, he found a way.

Empowering Students

Dr. Estaville raised over 6 million dollars in grants and raised funds to support graduate students and conferences. He envisioned and established 29 university student scholarships and 41 student, staff, and faculty awards. While the establishment of scholarships and awards is a well-worn path, creating 70 is something few can claim. Dr. Estaville was one of those few. To establish those scholarships and awards, he and his wife, Sandra, generously contributed more than $350,000 to Texas State University.

Another of Dr. Estaville’s passions was teaching. He was often recognized as a favorite professor by both undergraduate and graduate students. “His mentorship rarely ended at the culmination of a degree. It was a life-long duty for him,” one of his mentees recalled.

At the end of Dr. Estaville’s final semester he was unable to teach in the classroom. Dr. Yongmei Lu stood in for him to finish the semester. Much to her surprise, she was able to remember what it was like to be a teaching assistant because Dr. Estaville taught the class via Skype. Nothing could get in the way of determination. He was a “force of nature. Like the wind he would sweep [his students] up and carry [them] along on his current,” former student Dr. Fenda Akiwumi reminisced.

IN MEMORIAM

Lawrence Estaville
October 3, 1944 – December 20, 2018

Dr. Lawrence Estaville’s Desire Lines

Dr. Lawrence Estaville charted his legacy not by following the paths laid out before him, but by creating new paths that left the Geography Department better than he found it, empowered students, and saved lives.
 Career Highlights

Dr. Estaville held tenured academic positions at Texas State University, California State University, Clemson University, and McNeese State University. He was Geography Department Chair at both Texas State and California State Universities. Dr. Estaville taught over 39 undergraduate and graduate courses and advised 3 Ph.D. students and 11 master’s students. Dr. Estaville also contributed to the field of Geography by leading the establishment of the AAG’s Ethnic Geography and Business Geography Specialty Groups, and helping create the International Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference—including the 2006 conference held at Texas State which was attended by 1,300 participants from 14 countries. During the 10 years Dr. Estaville served as Chair of the Texas State Geography Department, he led the creation of the first three Ph.D. programs at Texas State and created 4 department centers, including the Texas Atlas project, which he directed. In addition to creating formal academic programs at Texas State, Dr. Estaville also created several lasting initiatives—including the Scholarships and Awards Program, a Colloquium Series, the Geography Student Research Symposium, and the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration—to create a robust geographic student and alumni community.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Estaville received 63 awards, including being designated Texas State University System Regents’ Professor in 2018. Other awards include 2 national career awards, 14 scholarship awards, 8 teaching awards, 2 mentoring awards, 6 leadership awards, 8 service awards, and 3 community leadership awards. He published 10 books, with 2 more forthcoming, 38 peer-reviewed journal articles, 18 peer-reviewed book chapters, and 4 encyclopedia articles. Additionally, he made 120 scholarly presentations and secured over $6.25 million in contracts and grants.

In addition to his academic contributions, Dr. Estaville also lead the establishment of the Texas State Cancer Advocacy Movement for Colleges and Outreach (CAMCO) which is active at 5 Texas universities. CAMCO has registered more than 50,000 student marrow donors which have saved 47 lives, to date, including several children. Dr. Lawrence E. Estaville had a vision for the greater good and a passion for leaving everything better than he found it. Largest, biggest, and first were terms sprinkled liberally throughout his Vita.
CHAPTER 1

THEN

A look back at the last 24 years of the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration
THE BEGINNING

A lot has changed since the inaugural event for then Southwest Texas State Department of Geography and Planning Alumni.
Since its inception, the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration has celebrated the excellence within the department.
In loving memory of Dr. Lawrence Estaville, creator of the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration

ONWARD!
Former San Marcos Mayor Billy Moore is presented the outstanding leadership award by Dr. Lawrence Estaville.
CHAPTER 2

NOW

The 25th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration
MORNING ACTIVITIES

Participants enjoyed glass-bottom boat tours, hiking and bird watching.
The Silver Stars were honored and over 40 awards were given to students totaling more than $50,000.
Thank you for your continued support. In the words of Lawrence, "God is good. Life is beautiful. Do good things."
AWARD WINNERS & CELEBRANTS

While locations and faces have changed over time, the close-knit community of faculty, staff, students, and alumni remains.
2018 – 2019 Colloquium Series Speakers

Food Deserts, Disparities and Democracy: Action Research for Spatial Justice in Appalachia
Bradley Wilson, Ph.D.
West Virginia University

Harnessing Collective Intelligence for Conservation and Environmental Problem-Solving
Steven Gray, Ph.D.
Michigan State University

Gaining Confidence in Hydrological Models Through Improved Understanding of Catchment Functioning
Christian Birkel, Ph.D.
University of Costa Rica

Interpersonal Relationship in Geographic Space
Cris Andrés, Ph.D.
Penn State University

Some Physical and Social Aspects of Hurricane Research
Jennifer Collins, Ph.D.
University of South Florida

Law, Territories, and the Geography of Urban Drilling
Matt Fry, Ph.D.
University of North Texas

Smoke- and Dust-in-Rain: Source of Nutrients and Pollutants to Terrestrial Ecosystems
Alexandra Porete-Gonzalez, Ph.D.
University of North Texas

Changes to the Global Value of Ecosystem Services: A Market Failure?
Paul Sutton, Ph.D.
University of Denver

GEO NEWS
University of Denver
Paul Sutton, Ph.D.

Changes to the Global Value of Ecosystem Services: A Market Failure?

University of North Texas
Alexandra Ponette-Gonzalez, Ph.D.

Gaining Confidence in Hydrological Models Through Improved Understanding of Catchment Functioning

Christian Birkel, Ph.D.

Interpersonal Relationship in Geographic Space

Cris Andrés, Ph.D.

Some Physical and Social Aspects of Hurricane Research

Jennifer Collins, Ph.D.

Law, Territories, and the Geography of Urban Drilling

Matt Fry, Ph.D.

Smoke- and Dust-in-Rain: Source of Nutrients and Pollutants to Terrestrial Ecosystems

Alexandra Porete-Gonzalez, Ph.D.

Changes to the Global Value of Ecosystem Services: A Market Failure?

Paul Sutton, Ph.D.