

*Dick Boehm, Scott Mitte,  
Gil Grosvenor and Anne-Marie Ellis*

## Grosvenor Gala Honors Major Donors

*Judy Behrens*

On September 21, the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, hosted a gala dinner in the LBJ Student Center ballroom to pay tribute to the program's major sponsors and to celebrate the creation of the Grosvenor Scholars Program. Honored guests at the event included Mr. Gilbert M. Grosvenor from the National Geographic Society, Mr. Scott Mitte and Ms. Cheryl Nolting from The Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte Foundation, and Dr. Denise Trauth, Texas State University-San Marcos.

Following the gala dinner, Mr. Sam Abell, photographer-in-residence, National Geographic Society, presented the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Grosvenor Distinguished Lecture, "Lewis & Clark: Voyage of Discovery." Mr. Abell's presentation highlighted the photographic work he did while working with famed historian Stephen Ambrose to retrace the famous Lewis and Clark expedition undertaken two centuries ago.

## Geography Loses A Dear Friend

*Adapted by Angelika Wahl*

Karen Earl, 47, loving wife of Rich Earl, daughter, sister, teacher and friend, lost her battle with Breast Cancer and passed away on Friday, Oct. 22, 2004.

Karen lived every day of her 47 years with a vibrancy and intensity that left a

*Continued on page 6*

## Denise Blanchard- Boehm Honored

*Barbara Hilliard*

The National Council for Geographic Education recently awarded Dr. Denise Blanchard-Boehm from the Department of Geography at Texas State University-San Marcos, its annual Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award for 2004. Awards were given to 30, K-12 teachers and 6 university/college professors from the United States and Canada.



The DTA Awards recognize outstanding contributions to geographic education. Colleagues submitted nominations for the awards, and awardees were chosen by judging panels at the elementary, middle/junior high, senior high or post secondary level. Denise's contributions included: her role in building the department's largest intern program in the country (1992-1996); more than 20 refereed/invited/scholarly conference presentations and papers; the development of geography courses at the undergraduate/graduate level; high student evaluations of teaching effectiveness; mentoring of more than 42 masters and of 9 Ph.D. student advisees/or committee participant; more than 20 refereed and non-refereed publications (several co-published with colleagues/graduate advisees); active grant-writing; participation; and, numerous geo-ed workshops given at the state and national level, as well as, abroad in the countries of Turkey, Spain, and Italy.

*Continued on page 6*



*Angelika Wahl*

## Angelika Wahl Employee of the Year

*Adapted by Cynthia Opbeim*

Angelika Wahl, the Department of Geography Office Manager, was named the Texas State Staff Employee of the Year for 2004. The award was presented by Texas State President, Dr. Denise Trauth. Angelika was presented with an engraved plaque and also received a \$3,000 award and a reserved parking place near her office for one year. We are very excited that Angelika received this distinguished award!

Angelika began her employment at Texas State in January 1996 and has been an employee in the Geography Department for the last seven years. She brings a high level of organization and managerial expertise to all aspects of the operation of the Geography office and she is a large part of the reason our department has attained national recognition. To put it simply, she is invaluable. She has done a superb job in

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# Chair's Corner

Cynthia Opheim, Interim Department Chair

I am delighted to be able to serve the Department of Geography as Interim Chair this year. Allow me to introduce myself. I am the former Chair of the Department of Political Science at Texas State from 1996-2003. My areas of research include legislative process and education policy studies.

I am excited about the prospect of serving the Geography Department for several reasons. First, I have always been impressed by the outstanding reputation of the department, and it is exciting to me to be associated with such a quality organization. It's fun and stimulating to be around talented people, and the Geography department is full of them. Everyone has been very gracious and cooperative, and my experience has been terrific. Both I and members of my family have an intrinsic interest in Geography, and I look forward to learning more about this important discipline.

This fall the department held two premier events. The first was the third annual commemoration of September 11. My thanks to Dr. Lawrence Estaville for organizing and hosting this event in which a panel of local leaders discussed how our local community has been affected by the events of September 11. It was an interesting and memorable evening.


The second major event was the Grosvenor Scholars Program Gala and 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Lecture honoring the Mitte Foundation and other supporters for their contributions to the Grosvenor Scholars Program. This program allows us to send a Ph.D. student to the National Geography Society headquarters in Washington D.C. for one year to conduct research. The evening included guests such as the President and Provost of Texas State and featured Sam Abel, who is a Photographer-in-Residence for National Geographic Society.

Geography faculty continue to receive accolades and awards. Byron Augustin received the College of Liberal Arts Excellence Award for Scholarly/Creative Activity as well as the Outstanding Educator Award by the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Dunbar Center. Mark Fonstad also received the College of Liberal Arts Excellence Award for Scholarly/Creative Activity in the category of Assistant Professor. Denise Blanchard was given the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) 2004 Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award. Leo Wang received the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) Young Scholar Award.



Congratulations to Jim Kimmel who was promoted to Professor. Dr. David Stea received funding for a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to study "Landscape, Image and Language among Some Indigenous People of the American Southwest and Northwest Australia." These are just a few examples of the outstanding teaching and research efforts that continue to characterize our department.

We are making steady progress in our search for a new department Chair. Our plan is to interview candidates from across the nation in November and have a permanent Chair in place this spring or summer. We expect an excellent pool of quality applicants for this important leadership position. In the meantime, I will do my best to serve students, professors, staff, and alumni to continue your tradition of excellence.



**Our thoughts & prayers are with our troops overseas and their families**

## 9-11 Remembrance

On September 11, 2004, the department held the third annual commemoration of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Dr. Lawrence Estaville organized and hosted this event which was titled: "How Has 9/11 Affected San Marcos?" Panel members included the following distinguished San Marcos public officials: Mayor Susan Narviaz, City Manager Dan O'Leary, Police Chief Howard Williams, Fire Chief Mike Baker, EMS Director Tom Partin, Texas State Police Chief Ralph Meyer, and ALERRT Director Steve Griffith. These San Marcos leaders provided their insights about how the horror of September 11, 2001 has affected San Marcos, particularly regarding our community's protective and emergency plans and the training that has been undertaken to this time.



*Candlelight Remembrance*

Following the panel presentation and discussion, a brief candlelight remembrance was held on the south side of the LBJ Student Center.

## From the Graduate Coordinator

David Butler



It certainly seems strange to see the picture and name of someone other than Fred Shelley at the head of this column! As you all know by now, Dr. Shelley left Texas State this past summer to become the Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of Oklahoma, leaving a legacy of literally hundreds of graduate students served here in San

Marcos. I am sure that you all join us here in the Department of Geography in wishing Dr. Shelley the very best and great success at O.U.

I am very happy to be working for our graduate program as Graduate Program Coordinator. Allison Glass, our department's ace Graduate Staff Advisor, has been of tremendous help to me as I learn the "ins and outs" of this position, while at the same time she

continues to assist our nearly 200 graduate students. Thank you, Allison!

Our Master's and Ph.D. programs continue to attract outstanding students from across the country and around the world. Our current group of students includes, in addition to all of you wonderful "home-grown Texans", folks from places as far flung as Canada, China, South Africa, India, the Philippines, Brazil, and states from across the USA.

Our graduate alumni continue to succeed admirably as well. Recent doctoral graduates have accepted tenure-track Assistant Professor positions at Virginia Tech, Minnesota State, and Northwestern State (LA), and master's graduates continue to accept excellent positions in the public and private sectors throughout Texas, the region, and the country.

Please feel free to contact me, Allison, and members of the Graduate Committee if you have questions or need help in your graduate program. We may not have all the answers, but we're willing to try on your behalf. I look forward to another successful academic year, and wish you all great success in your graduate programs.

## Freshman Geographers Live and Study Together in New Residence Hall

Mark L. Carter



Four freshman geography majors: Brent Bradberry, Anthony Villanacci, Will Holder, Brittany Walsh and a peer mentor, comprise our first Geography Freshman Interest Group (below left to right). These students live together in the same section of the brand-new San Jacinto Residence Hall. They are enrolled

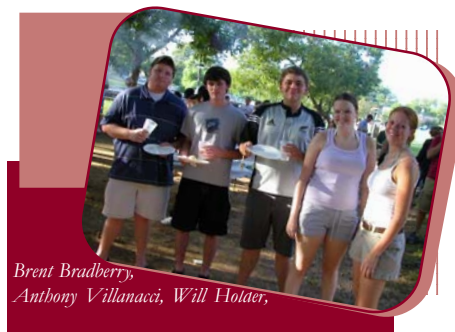
together in Doc Augustin's World Regional Geography class and their University Seminar course.

Senior Geography Major, Laura Chance (far right), serves as the group's peer mentor. Laura works with the Residence Life Staff and the Geography Department Undergraduate Advising Team to organize special events for these new geographers including campus community-building programs, educational activities, tutoring and study assistance as well as a wide range of learning and social opportunities sponsored by the Geography Department. Our Freshman Interest Group students recently attended our Paws Preview 'cookies and punch open house' and enjoyed food and friendship at our annual undergraduate welcome picnic (see photo below).

Dr. Alberto Giordano brought semester presenting an informal talk on using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to solve murder mysteries to our freshman interest group students as well as many other curious San Jacinto Hall residents. Our freshman interest group members are also quickly becoming active in our Geography Department student organizations. Future activities for these students include attending campus sporting-events together and a weekend retreat at the University Camp on the Blanco River in Wimberley, Texas.

According to the Residence Life Staff, the Freshman Interest Group program is about: "creating unique learning environments that will foster student academic and personal success with activities which emphasize active student involvement, inclusion, service, and appreciation of diversity." Ultimately, this program will help shape our future student leaders and successful geography alumni.

For more information about the Freshman Interest Group Program, refer to this Residence Life Department's Web Site at [www.reslife.txstate.edu/fig/index.html](http://www.reslife.txstate.edu/fig/index.html)



Brent Bradberry,  
Anthony Villanacci, Will Holder,  
Laura Chance

## Census Geographer Visits Department

Lauren Dill

The Texas State University Department of Geography was fortunate to receive a visit from David McCormack, chief of the Geographic Support Branch, Field Division, of the United States Bureau of the Census. Mr. McCormack arrived on Thursday, September 16 to introduce Texas State students to career opportunities with the United States Bureau of the Census as well as to conduct interviews with any students interested in a full-time geographer position with the Census Bureau. The bureau, which consists of 48 divisions, including 12 regional centers in major cities, is one of the largest employers of geographers in the United States, with approximately 100 full-time career

geographers as well as an additional 80-100 four-year term appointments.

Mr. McCormack, who began his career with the Census Bureau 27 years ago as a statistician, suggests two possible paths for students studying such subjects as geography and political science. First, students with 15 semester hours of math and statistics qualify for a statistician position. Mr. McCormack said that many geography students take classes that qualify as statistics and math classes, and those classes can satisfy the requirements. Similarly, students with 15 semester hours of geography-related courses qualify for the geographer position. If you qualify both ways, you have more flexibility in getting a job with the Bureau. Mr. McCormack is mostly interested in developing employees who are interested in a long-term career with the Census Bureau.

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# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual AR&SC, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2005

Have a great time at last year's reunion? Be be sure to mark your calendars for April 30, 2005. The official date for our 11th Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration! Events include presentations of more than 50 scholarships and awards to outstanding geography majors and graduate students — and, of course the annual barbeque from Fuschak's!! We will also continue our scholarship fundraising efforts with our fourth annual Silent Auction. Anyone wishing to contribute should send an email to [Alumni@geo.txstate.edu](mailto:Alumni@geo.txstate.edu)

We will return to Aquarena Springs this year with all events taking place in and around the conference center. We will again be able to enjoy the endangered species exhibit and glass bottom boat rides. Did you know there were nature trails as well as historical sites at Aquarena? Come explore the old and the new at this year's celebration!

Look for updates in the near future that will be provided on the department's Website: [www.geo.txstate.edu](http://www.geo.txstate.edu) All faculty, staff, current students, alumni, friends of the department and your families are invited to celebrate this year's achievements at Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration! Please feel free to email [Alumni@geo.txstate.edu](mailto:Alumni@geo.txstate.edu) with any comments and/or suggestions you may have. We look forward to seeing you and your families on April 30, 2005!

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Look How Much Fun We Had at the  
2004 AR&SC...

Visit us on the Web at  
[www.geo.txstate.edu/Reunion/index.html](http://www.geo.txstate.edu/Reunion/index.html)

# Department News

## Scholarships and Awards

*Joanna Curran*

The Scholarships and Awards Committee is excited to announce the formation of a two new scholarships. The first scholarship is especially important to everyone involved with Geography at Texas State, because it honors Lawrence Estaville for his vision and years of hard work and dedication to the department. The second scholarship is sponsored by the Brettschneider family targeted to undergraduate students.



The Lawrence Estaville Scholarship will be awarded annually to a first generation college student with either sophomore or junior academic standing and is involved in service to the Department of Geography and to the community. One \$500 scholarship will be awarded each spring. The funding for this scholarship has come in the form of donations from department alumni, current students, and current faculty and staff members. We are thankful to everyone who donated.

The Department wishes to announce the creation of the Karen Brettschneider undergraduate scholarship. The scholarship is in honor of Karen Brettschneider, who passed away last year from complications to breast cancer. Any undergraduate geography student whose focus is Resource and Environmental Studies or Water Studies is potentially eligible for the \$1000 scholarship.

Applications and complete information on the different scholarships can be obtained from the Texas State Department of Geography website. The deadline for applications is December 13, in the main office.

## Grants and Contracts

*Pat Hell-Jones*

Fiscal year 2003-2004 was a very busy year for Department of Geography grants and contracts. A total of \$12,286,685 in grants, contracts, and developments were submitted, and \$5,380,218 in funding was awarded to the department.

Funding was obtained from external sources such as Aramco Services Company, the National Geographic Society, the Texas Fund for Geography Education through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, to name just a few. Dr. David Stea, in collaboration with Dr. David Mark at SUNY, received \$250,000 in funding from the National Science Foundation, Dr. Benjamin Zhan and Andy Sansom received \$100,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Rich Earl again received \$20,000 in funding from TCEQ for Teaching Environmental Science. Dr. Richard Boehm received a total of \$121,500 in funding from the National Geographic Society Grosvenor Grant Program and \$45,813 from the Texas Fund for Geography Education through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board grant program.

Dr. Mark Fonstad submitted a \$489,625 proposal to the Early Career Development Program of the National Science Foundation, Drs. Pam Showalter and Sue Johnson (Sociology) submitted 3 proposals to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a total of \$1,175,295; one proposal to the National Science Foundation Geography and Regional Sciences Program for \$152,248; and one proposal, in collaboration with Andy Sansom at IISWR, for \$150,000 to EPA. Texas State University funded \$134,515 in research projects for the department. Drs. Deborah Bryan and Joanna Curran were awarded \$15,650 for their research proposal "Comparison of Arc Hydro and SWAT Models Used in Watershed Analysis" and Dr. Alberto Giordano was awarded \$8,000 for his work on "Visualizing Change: Nantucket Island, Massachusetts 1950s – present: A Multimedia Historical GIS". Also awarded Research Enhancement Grants were Dr. Bing Xu and Drs. Sharolyn Anderson and Rich Earl.

The proposals listed are just a sampling of the tremendous effort put in to researching, writing and obtaining grants by exceptional individuals. Student support, software and computer purchases, and research materials within the department would decrease significantly without the efforts put forward by a very remarkable, very dedicated faculty. The time and effort are, in fact, "Sharing the Spirit of Geography" with students, other faculty members and staff.

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## Geography Loses A Dear Friend

lasting impression on all who knew her. The stunning beauty of her everyday life leaves its mark on her family, friends, colleagues and students. We are better for having known her, as she modeled for us love, wisdom, courage, compassion, strength and integrity.



Karen was loved so much by her family and friends, who will miss her and cherish her memory forever. A student once asked Karen, "If you were to retire, what would you want your students to remember about your teaching?" Karen replied, "To always remember why you are dancing and to keep that fire burning in your heart."

Karen is survived by her husband, Richard A. Earl; her parents, Charles and Margaret Brown; and her brother, Merrill Barnes and his wife, Tema.

Contributions in Karen's memory may be made to the Karen Earl Memorial Dance Scholarship Fund, c/o Texas State University, 601 University Dr., San Marcos, TX 78666, or the Liturgical Arts, First United Methodist Church, 129 W. Hutchison, San Marcos, TX 78666.

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## Blanchard-Boehm Honored

NCGE President, Gwenda H. Rice, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, OR, will present plaques to recipients at the awards banquet during the NCGE annual meeting October 20-23 in Kansas City, Missouri. Awardees receive free registration to the conference and a one-year membership in the NCGE. The NCGE was chartered in 1915 to promote geographic education at all levels of instruction. It currently has 3,200 members worldwide.



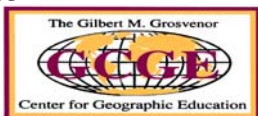
# Research Centers

## Grosvenor Center Develops Diversity Project with AAG & NCGE

*Richard G. Boehm*

This fall, the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education has been busy preparing a \$1 million grant application to the National Science Foundation's Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences (OEDG) program. Former Texas State University faculty member Dr. Michael Solem, currently the Education Affairs Director for the Association of American Geographers (AAG), is helping the Grosvenor Center develop a broad partnership proposal that will include the AAG Task Force on Diversity, the National Council for Geographic Education, Texas State University's Office of Equity and Access, several area school districts, regional community colleges, and Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI).

Last year, the Grosvenor Center has received over \$753,500 in external funding, both in grants and development dollars. This included nine grant programs that were funded, in addition to the final \$500,000 to support the Grosvenor Scholars Program.



## Grosvenor Center Events

### *2004 Summer Academy for Minority Scholars*

The third annual Summer Academy for Minority Scholars program was held June 19<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> at Texas State University – San Marcos. This year's theme, "Geography from the Outside In", focused on field work and incorporating outdoors activities into the classroom environment. Fifteen teachers and thirty-nine students from twelve schools across the state participated in the academy.

### *GIS Training*

Texas Alliance for Geographic Education sponsored a GIS training workshop September 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio, Texas. Other workshops offered throughout the state from June to September were located at: Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD; Humble ISD; Bellaire High School; San Antonio ISD; Weslaco, TX; El Paso ISD; Marshall ISD; and Texas State University - San Marcos.

## Texas Alliance for Geographic Education

The Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE) has participated in many programs since early spring. In April, TAGE assisted with the Geographic Educators of the Metroplex (GEM) conference. The conference was held simultaneously with the GeoBee in which 100 students from Texas participated in the annual nation-wide competition.

In June, TAGE conducted a History/Geography Workshop in which public school teachers created lesson plans incorporating a geographic aspect into history course work. The All Texas Geography Conference was held in San Antonio this year with about 300 attendees. Dr. Richard G. Boehm gave the keynote address about this year's theme: Gilbert M. Grosvenor and the National Geographic Society: A Legacy of Support in Texas. Our next event is the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Geography Awareness Week Poster Contest. Students from all over the state participate in this event.

This year's theme is "Cultures: The Sights and Sounds of Place." Students are encouraged to look within their own communities and the state to demonstrate visually the characteristics of culture in their area. The posters will be judged in November and an awards ceremony will be held in Austin at the Capitol Building. Many more projects are on the horizon and updated information can be found on the web site at <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/tage>.

## CETMAR

*David Stea*

The Center for Texas-Mexico Applied Research (CETMAR) continues to keep busy in accord with its mission: facilitating the pursuit of research projects focused on social and environmental problems of common concern to Texas and Mexico. Dr. Scott Walker became Associate Director during Spring Semester, 2004. CETMAR has lately been concerned with water issues in the Texas-Mexico region. The Center is working with members of Texas State's Department of Biology, the International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources, and Texas Watch in order to better understand and act upon regional water issues. CETMAR continues to participate in the "Mexican Issues" meetings, a multi-departmental Texas State gathering convened the first Monday of every month and sponsored by OSP. The Center is currently collaborating on several projects with other universities: working on the evaluation phase of the CONACYT-supported "Experiential Science Education in Primary Schools" with University of Tamaulipas, in cooperation with Missouri's Park University; projecting faculty and student exchanges with the Monterrey Institute of Technology at Guadalajara; and exploring exchanges with the University of Guanajuato. CETMAR helped plan and carry out a meeting of the Social Studies Education Council in Guanajuato in June. In August the Center was represented at the Alterglobalizations Conference in San Miguel de Allende at which The Center for Global Justice was inaugurated. A three week field study class is part of CETMAR's future plans and is scheduled for mid-July to mid-August of 2005. The field class, focused on the environmental and cultural geography of Mexico's Bajio region, was designed and previously taught by Drs. Stea and Tiefenbacher in 2000. Please contact Dr. David Stea, CETMAR Director, with questions about or interest in the field study class and other CETMAR activities: [ds34@tcxstate.edu](mailto:ds34@tcxstate.edu).



*David Stea*

# Research Centers

## Lovell Center Happenings

*Rich Dixon*



*Rich Dixon*

It has been another productive year for the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research. In February, the Center presented its Sixth Annual Lovell Lecture featuring Mr. Mark Schultz of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. His lecture, "The Power of Geospatial-Intelligence" highlighted the role of environmental and GIS analysis in national defense and hazard preparedness and recovery.

Last September, the Center was an Associate Sponsor of "Living in Flood Alley: Lessons to Learn" conference at Texas State. Center Scholars are editing a special issue of the journal "Physical Geography" which will present selected papers from the conference.

Center Scholars and Student Scholars shared the results of their research with the academic community by publishing over 30 refereed papers in journals and books along with numerous book reviews and abstracts. In addition, they presented papers at numerous national and regional meetings, such as AAG, SWAAG, and the Applied Geography Conference.

The Center sponsored an information table and presentations at the departmental alumni reunion in April. At the awards ceremony, five Student Scholars were awarded departmental scholarships and five Student Scholars received academic or service awards.

Finally, a fitting cap to a productive year was the graduation in May and August of Student Scholars, Lynn Resler and Forrest Wilkerson with their Ph.D. degrees in Environmental Geography. Be sure to check out the Center web page or contact me if you have questions about the Center!

## Texas Watch

*IT'S A TOUGH JOB BUT  
SOMEBODY'S GOT TO DO IT!*

Actually working with Texas Watch is an amazing job and we are all very lucky to be part of a great environmental program. Texas Watch completed TEN trainings this summer, as well as two regional meetings in San Marcos and McAllen!

### **What Texas Watch Has Been Doing Teaching Environmental Sciences**

Texas Watch teamed-up with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Teaching Environmental Science (TES) again this summer to deliver ten exciting, hands-on teacher trainings across the state. This year's partnership resulted in over 100 teachers receiving water quality monitoring training, many of whom plan to incorporate the Texas Watch curriculum into their classrooms. Each TES course also purchased at least one water quality monitoring kit to allow teachers easy access to expensive water quality equipment. This fall we hope to see many of these teachers and their classrooms sampling and analyzing the quality of water in their area.

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## The Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism

*Jim Kimmel*

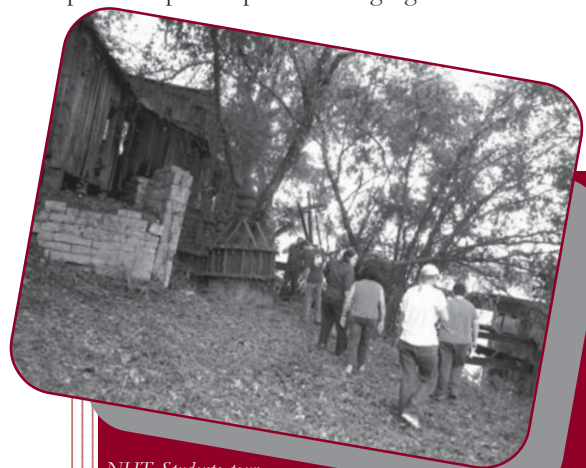


*Jim Kimmel*

The Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism is currently working with several organizations to assist with the development of learning-oriented nature and heritage tourism attractions. With cooperation from the Center, a large ranch in the Davis Mountains of Texas will host a limited number of visitors to experience the traditional ranch culture, while learning about a sophisticated GIS-based ranch management method developed by the ranch owners. The Center is working with the City of Luling, Texas, to restore a 19<sup>th</sup> century water powered mill which will serve as an interpretive center to tell the story of Central Texas agriculture. The Center is working with the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority to develop an interpretive plan for the gorge that resulted from the 2002 flood on the Guadalupe River, as Canyon Lake flowed over its spillway for the

first time in history. The Center will assist officials in the City of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, to develop a kayak trail in the Mexico segment of Laguna Madre. The Center is also working with local officials and the National Park Service Rivers and Trails program to plan a canoe trail on the San Marcos River Certified Guides

Seventeen geography students recently received certification from the National Association for Interpretation as Interpretive Guides. Jim Kimmel's new course titled Interpretive Environmental Geography provided the background in interpretive methods and geographic concepts to qualify the students to successfully pass the exams and other requirements of the certification process. Kimmel is a Certified Interpretive Trainer and Certified Interpretive Planner. National, state, and private tourism and outdoor education organizations now encourage their interpretive staff to be certified by the National Association of Interpretation.



*NHT Students tour  
Zedler's Mill*



## Research Centers

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### Texas Watch

#### Blanco River Watershed Summit

Texas Watch and the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association teamed up with the International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources to host a one-day Blanco River Watershed Summit at Texas State University-San Marcos on Saturday, July 17. The conference brought together experts on water resources to present current scientific research that assesses impacts from anthropogenic and naturally occurring conditions, and it was meant to stimulate a dialogue among the scientific, private, and public sectors on sustainable watershed management.

#### The Lower Rio Grande Challenge: Keeping Our Waters Clean and Plentiful

Over 35 participants and speakers from federal, state, and local agencies spent Saturday, August 14, 2004 learning about water quality and nonpoint source pollution at the International Museum of Art and Science (IMAS) in McAllen. The Rio Grande Valley faces rapid population growth and a convergence of cultures and economies- agricultural, industrial, and recreational. The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), Texas Watch, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sponsored this meeting in an effort to sort through complex issues and help chart effective strategies to meet the "Lower Rio Grande Challenge".



### Texas GIScience Center

Benjamin Zhan



The Texas Center for Geographic Information Science (TxGISci) was founded in 2003 in the Department of Geography at Texas State University-San Marcos. The center currently has faculty scholars with expertise in different areas of GIScience, including geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, cartography, and spatial analysis. Current focused research areas of the center include basic research that advances GIScience and using GIScience to research public health, sustainability science, earth systems science, homeland security, water resources, urban and regional studies, and GIScience education and training. Twelve Ph.D. students are affiliated with

the center as of September, 2004.

In addition to theoretical research activities, faculty scholars in the Texas GIScience Center have the knowledge and experience to undertake applied research projects involving the utilization of geospatial information technology. Example research projects conducted by research scientists of the center are: (1) Residential Proximity to Environmental Hazards and Congenital Malformations in Offspring, (2) (Texas-Mexico) Border Health and Environmental Threats Initiative, (3) Geospatial Data Mining for Environmental Exposure Assessment, (4) Hybrid Models for Sustainable Water Resource Management, (5) Agent-Based Modeling and Micro simulation of Transportation Systems, (6) Spatial Statistics and Crime Pattern, (7) An Experimental Adaptation of the National Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Project to Groundwater Districts in Texas, (8) Land Cover Land Use Mapping and Change Detection, (9) Crown Closure Estimation, and (10) Mangrove Forest Dynamics Study with Remote Sensing Imagery.

Center faculty scholars authored or co-authored 30 refereed journal articles, and secured sizable research funding during the past year.

Continued next column

### Texas GIScience Center Con't

TxGISci Center funded projects include:

·*Sustainable Agricultural Water Conservation*, supported by the US Department of Agriculture. Dr. Benjamin Zhan is one of the co-Principal Investigators (PIs) of this project.

·*Texas-Mexico Border Health and Environmental Threats Initiative*, funded by the US Department of Defense; Dr. Benjamin Zhan is project director for the Texas State University-San Marcos component of the initiative; Drs. Jean Brender, Alberto Giordano, Yongmei Lu, and Bing Xu are co-project directors.

·*Residential Proximity to Environmental Hazards and Congenital Malformations in Offspring*, supported by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) via the Texas Birth Defects Research Center, Dr. Benjamin Zhan is one of the co-Principal Investigators of this project.

·*Preserving Rural Landscapes and Agricultural Activities in Semi-Arid and Urban Fringe Environments: Sustainability as a Potential Conflict Resolution Strategy*, funded by the US Department of Agriculture, Dr. Pamela Showalter a co-Principal Investigators of this project.

·*A Methodological Approach for the Assessment of Extreme Precipitation Potentials: A Case Study in South Central Texas*, Faculty Research Enhancement Grant. (PI: Sharolyn Anderson; co-PI: Richard Earl)

·*Comparison of Arc Hydro and SWAT models used in Watershed Analysis*, Faculty Research Enhancement Grant, \$15, 650. (PI: Deborah Bryan; co-PI: Joanna Curran)

·*Save Our Springs Alliance Contract*, Graduate Student Assistance, \$15,199. (PI: Fred Shelley; co-PIs: Deborah Bryan and Leo Wang)

·*Visualizing Change: Nantucket Island, Massachusetts 1950s – Present: A Multimedia Historical GIS*, Faculty Research Enhancement Grant, \$7,989. (PI: Alberto Giordano)

·*Building the Right Roads – A GIS-based Traffic Analysis Method to Identify Location Needs for New Roads and Roads Expansion*, Faculty Research Enhancement Grant, \$8,000. (PI: Yongmei Lu)

## Student Organizations

### Another Semester with Grad Forum

*Rachel Bailey & David Viertel, Grad Forum Co-Presidents*

Yet another semester is upon us and the graduate students are getting back into the swing of things once again. The first meeting of the Graduate Student Forum was held on Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>. Issues of concern were discussed and plans are in the works for a variety of events. This year the forum will be sponsoring a raffle fundraiser to benefit the AAG Centennial Fund. Be on the lookout in upcoming weeks for ticket sales. Of course we will be continuing the Thanksgiving luncheon tradition as well. Additional information and volunteer lists will be available as the time nears. Grad Forum will be meeting on the second Wednesday of each month in room 316. More information regarding events and programs will be e-mailed as well as posted on the bulletin board by the main office.

### SOGIS

*Mike Long*

The Student Organization for Geographic Information Science was started in the fall of 2003. The goal of the organization is to offer a place for GIS students to discuss project ideas and problems, learn about upcoming events in the field of GIS, and meet and hear from professionals in the GIS field. SOGIS sponsored activities during National Geography Week, and during the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration. During Geography Week SOGIS helped bring awareness to students about GIS through interactive presentations in the Quad on the capabilities of GIS. One of the biggest hits of the year was the GIS showcase that was sponsored by SOGIS during the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration. Students were able to show off their GIS projects to faculty, Alumni, and potential employers. Past meetings allowed students to meet new GIS professors in the department and introduced students to websites where they could obtain free data, magazines, newspapers, software, and training in GIS. Future meetings will include professionals from the City of San Marcos and a local GIS firm, geocaching, and planning for GIS Day. Information on past, present, and future meetings can be found online at <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/studentorgs/GIScience/>. The organization meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 5pm in Evans Liberal Arts room 316. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### An Exciting Semester Ahead

#### N.A.E.P. Fall 2004

*Kirk Schoppe, N.A.E.P. - Co-President*

The fall semester of 2004 for Geography students started off with a triumphant splash. The second annual Undergraduate BBQ at Sewell Park was a huge success with close to 120 students, faculty, staff, and friends of geography. The event was sponsored and coordinated by your Geography department's student organizations. One of the contributing groups was the National Association of Environmental Professionals (N.A.E.P.). I am writing this on behalf of this great organization as a member and officer. N.A.E.P. has amazing events and initiatives set up for this campus and community in the very near future. Our first meeting was packed with enthusiastic students of all classifications and disciplines; all with a goal to preserve the Earth and to help set an example on our local environment. On Tuesday, September 21, 2004 we welcomed David Baker of the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association (W.V.W.A.). He was gracious enough to visit with us and fill everyone in on the goals and objectives of the W.V.W.A., while also providing a brief look at his plans as Hays County Commissioner, if elected. He also invited the group out for a day of leisure and learning in his own backyard, which just so happens to be Jacob's Well. N.A.E.P. has numerous speakers lined up for the year, and we all look forward to the experience and knowledge they are willing to share with this vibrant student population.

One of the most exciting and innovative initiatives by the N.A.E.P. is the Environmental Service Fee (E.S.F.). The first meeting of the E.S.F. committee was on September 23, 2004. The committee includes a faculty member from Agriculture, Biology, and Geography and four

*continued next column*

### N.A.E.P. Fall 2004

#### Con't

students. Two of these students will be Andy Ellis and I, while the other two were appointed by the Associated Student Government. With the help of other N.A.E.P. officers and key members such as Vera Wood, Mary Waters, and Alex Sanders, this committee will be an outstanding chance to show the Texas State community, along with the permanent community, the importance of environmental stewardship to ensure a bright future. To learn more on N.A.E.P. check us out online at: <http://www.geo.swt.edu/studentorgs/naep/index.html>.

### GTU

*Alison Magnusson*

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) is the International Geographical Honor Society and Service Fraternity. The Texas State University – San Marcos Kappa Upsilon (KU) chapter is continuing the tradition of excellence in the Geography Department. The KU chapter is providing opportunities for students to network with other geographers. The members and participants are also provided opportunities for service, to hear interesting speakers, and fieldtrips. Participating in service projects allow students to bond and become part of the Geographic community. Speakers show students real life applications of geography in a professional environment. Our submission for chapter of the year 2004 is completed and under review.

GTU welcomes students, alumnus, faculty and staff members. If you are a potential member please come to the meetings and participate in the service opportunities. The meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00p.m. in Evans Liberal Arts Building room 311. All geographers' welcome!

Check out our  
award-winning  
Web site today!

[www.geo.txstate.edu](http://www.geo.txstate.edu)

## Student News

### With Great Sadness the Department Mourns the Passing of One of Its Own Alumnus

#### Robin Adorno (MAG 1999)

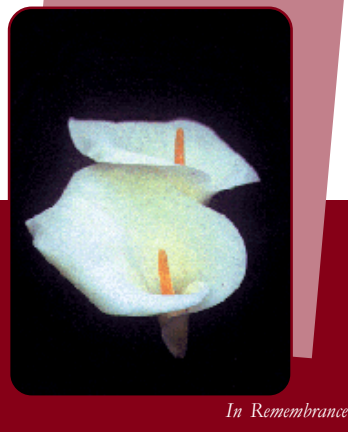
With great sadness, the Department mourns the passing of Robin Adorno who passed away in Austin on June 28, 2004.

Robin was born on April 24, 1962 in Kabul, Afghanistan and as a child lived in Samoa, Nigeria, Nepal, Sudan, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Spain where she graduated from high school.

She earned her B.A. degree from the University of Texas at Austin and later lived in Cairo, Egypt, Guangzhou, China, and Ottawa, Canada before settling in Austin in 1992.

In 1996, she enrolled in the M.A.G. program in the Department. She wrote a directed research project entitled "Demographic Changes Surrounding Nuclear Power Plants in Texas" under the supervision of her research advisor, Dr. Susan Macey, and she graduated with her M.A.G. degree in May, 1999. After graduate school, Robin worked as a GIS Coordinator for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Robin was very highly regarded by her fellow students, her professional colleagues and by the faculty for her warm and caring personality, sense of humor, and love of adventure. Her many interests included travel, backpacking, swimming, soccer, tennis, windsurfing, hiking and art. Robin's many friends will always remember her cheerful and outgoing personality, her friendliness and compassion, her commitment to environmental protection, and her always optimistic outlook on life.



*In Remembrance*

### Department Welcomes New Ph.D. and Masters Students

This fall we welcomed a large, diverse, and wonderful group of new Ph.D. and Master's graduate assistants!!

There are 11 new PhD. assistants. Bharati Ayyalasomayajuls, currently holds a bachelor's degree in technology and a Master's of Science from Texas State University. He's research interests are in GI sciences, remote sensing, and the grovner's center. He is married and comes to us from Andrapradesh India.

**Karen Bartell** holds a Master of "Arts and English from the University of Wisconsin. Her interest includes environmental water resources, wildlife, and anthrogeography. She is married and enjoys writing, traveling, and archaeology.

**Brian Brettschneider** is a native from Houston, Texas. He holds a bachelor's degree from Texas State University and

completed his M.A.G. degree in the department in 1997. His research interests include biogeography, physical geography, and climatology. He is married to wife Alecia and enjoys hunting and fishing.

**Alecia Brettschneider** is a native of Mesa, Arizona. She earned a B.A. at City University of New York and completed her M.A.G. degree in the department in 1997. Her research interest includes climatology, physical geography, environmental geography, meteorology, El Nino southern oscillation, and tornadoes. She is married to husband Brian and also enjoys baking and sewing.

**Rebecca Brown** is a native of San Antonio, Texas. She holds a bachelor's degree form Texas State University and completed her M.A.G degree in the department in 2004. Her research interest includes climatology, physical geography, environmental geography, meteorology, El Nino southern oscillation, and tornadoes. Rebecca and her husband David

### New Life Begins

X u e q i n (Elaine) He, currently a PhD Assistant in the Texas State University - San Marcos Geog-



raphy Department and her husband welcomed, their second baby girl, Jessie He, on September 16, 2004. She weighed 7# 10.6 oz and was 21". Baby and parents are doing well in San Marcos, Texas.

### Ph.D. Student Recognized

Carol Ann Gillespie has definitely been accomplishing things this last year. She has recently received the Women in Geography Education scholarship and award and the Graduate Minigrant in Geographic Education for Ph.D. students from the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE).

have one son, Jonathan aged 14, two dogs, Abby and Molly, along with a horse named Zeus. She also enjoys music, horses, reading, political movies, and traveling.

**Mindy Conyers** is a native of Flower Mound, Texas. She holds a bachelor's of Science from the University of North Texas and has completed her M.A.G. in this department in 2003. Her research interest includes Texas Atlas, fluvial, geomorphology, water resources and tubing.

**Zachary Moore** is a native of Allen, Texas. He holds a bachelor's of Science from Eastern Illinois and a Master's degree in urban and regional planning/educational policy from the Western Illinois University. His current research interest includes geography education, K-12 education policy, and higher education policy. He also enjoys the guitar, running, and biking.

**Jose Silvan** holds a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the National University of Mexico, Mexico City in 2002. His research interest includes digital image

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# Student News

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## New Students

processing, and remote sensing. He is married with one daughter and enjoys reading dancing and painting.

**Meng Xuelian** is a native of Wuhan China. She currently holds a Master of Arts from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2003. She is a research assistant for Dr. Le Wang and Texas Atlas. She enjoys table tennis, badminton, and swimming.

**Zhijun Yao** is a native of china. His main interest includes geographic information science and where he does research. He is also married to Junmei another Ph.D. student.

**Jamie Zech** holds a M.A.G. degree from this department in 2002. Her research interest includes culture, environmental activism, and sustainability. She is married and enjoys biking, movies, and reading.

Five new Master's students also joined our Department's as graduate students this fall 2004. Teia Brumgard, a native of Schertz, Texas, earned his bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from Texas State University in 2004. Her interest includes hazards, remote sensing, and GIS. She loves to read, run, go horseback riding and paint balling.

**Brian Buehner**, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, earned his bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Gegography from the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky. He is interested in physical, mountain and fluvial. He enjoys mountain biking and skiing.

**Johnathan Frodge**, originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, earned his bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of Cincinnati in 2003. His research interest includes habitat management and land-use planning. His activities and hobbies include camping, rock climbing and maintaining a goal to lead a sustainable life as possible.

**Lynn Smollin** is a native of Vermont. She earned a bachelor's degree in Physical Geography in 2004 from Northern Michigan University. Her interest includes the ribbon forests and their growth compared to glaciers in Glacier National Park. Her hobbies include hiking and watching the sunrise and the sunsets.

## Summer 2004 Field Work

Danna L. Cerney

This past summer I continued data collection for my dissertation. I am blessed to be working in a number of enviable locations, as the research that I am undertaking investigates the nature and cause of landscape level change in the montane ecotone over the last ninety years.

The montane forest occur-mountain environments. Eco-the edge of ecosystems that edge of their limits of tolerance tation and soils. As a result, if such as moisture the vegetative first take place and be observed was spent in Waterton Lakes eating sites within my study Lakeview Ridge and Horse-

Eight distinct sub sites identified and investigated for

of my study season was spent in the Glenbow Museum in Calgary Alberta Canada and in the Whyte Museum of the Rockies in Banff National Park seeking out historical pictures of my study areas. Next year I will be returning Waterton Lakes to take identical pictures replicating these historic photographs. Together the historic and the contemporary photographic paired images will be used to assess the degree and nature of vegetation changes taking place.



pies lower and mid slopes in most tones are defined as those areas on contain species existing at the for conditions such as precipi- there are changes to variables response to that change will in ecotones. Much of my time National Park Canada delin- areas along Bellevue Hill, shoe Basin.

averaging 0.25 mi<sup>2</sup> were study this year. The remainder

Continued from page 2

## Census Geographer Visits Department

Mr. McCormack described working as a geographer in the field division — the largest of the 48 divisions — as fast-paced and ever changing. The census occurs every 10 years, and employees are always looking for better, more efficient ways to perform their tasks. He stressed that employees must have good communication, organization, and multi-tasking skills. Mr. McCormack described the job as thankless, yet extremely important. In fact, the census is the largest peacetime logistical operation in the United States.

Employees of the Census Bureau enjoy federal government benefits including sick and vacation leave, health benefits, life insurance, payment of moving expenses for new employees, and annual cost of living increases. In addition, employees are allowed to work flexible schedules, or alternative work schedules. There are two types of appointments for the “geographer” position. A career conditional appointment means that the employee goes through a one-year probation period, and then after three years, the employee becomes a full career federal employee.

The second type, a term appointment, means that the employee is hired for up to a four-year term. McCormack emphasized that he prefers to hire geographers, because they think spatially, and are therefore better at integrating issues and tasks!

Mr. McCormack's spoke, the remainder of his day was spent scheduling and conducting interviews with interested Texas Students. For those who did not interview with Mr. McCormack, there is an open position for geographers at all times at any grade level. It is posted at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov), under [Jobs@Census](mailto:Jobs@Census). The job announcement number for this position is ASF-04-311.

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## Employee of the Year

coordinating a wide variety of special events, managing numerous and complex tasks in the department office, and serving faculty, students, and administrators. Angelika recognizes the importance of personal relationships in successful office management, and she goes out of her way to make sure that students, faculty and the public are given fast and fair service.

She has remarkable interpersonal skills. She considers students her primary responsibility and is helpful and friendly when dealing with them and conscientious when completing paperwork involving their activities. One person commented, "She is one of the best examples of professionalism that we have on campus! She represents the department and Texas State in a most professional manner." Another said, "Angelika is the "glue" that holds our administrative operations together. She is sincere, dedicated, loyal and caring." We all agree that she deserves significant credit for the outstanding work done by all of the Geography department staff over the years.

## Gnorbert the GEO Gnome

*Pat Hell-Jones*

Hello there! Please allow me to introduce myself – Gnorbert Geo. Gnome, newest member of the Texas State Department of Geography. I came into this position quite by accident... I was looking for a career change, and ran into Dr. Lawrence Estaville at the AAG annual meeting in New Orleans in 2003. Well, after listening to him expound on the fascinating subject I decided geographic studies really appealed to me. After all, there just aren't that many opportunities for advancement in my current position as resident yard ornament. My first opportunity to visit the department was in March 2004 just after everyone returned from the annual AAG meeting in Philadelphia. My introductory journey through Texas occurred in April 2004, visiting Fredericksburg, Stonewall, Johnson City and a quaint little town named Luckenbach

The event that clinched my decision to become a member of the Geography Department was attending the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration. What a marvelous time! I attended all the activities, and was astonished at the number of scholarships and awards presented. The workshops were entertaining, the duck races were great fun, finger-licking good barbeque, and dancing with bands! Until the next report, remember: "Teachers open the door. You enter by yourself." – Chinese Proverb.



*Gnorbert*

## National Geographic Internships

*Kristine Eagan*

Now in its 22nd year, National Geographic annually offers a limited number of students the opportunity to become involved in their activities through very prestigious appointments to their internships programs. The highly competitive internship application process targets skilled and determined students in fields pertinent to the Society's work. The National Geographic geography internship program, directed by Robert E. Dulli, Deputy to the Chairman, offers qualified students a professional learning experience through participation in a variety of projects intended to facilitate the diffusion of geographic knowledge. The geography intern program is specifically designed for geography and cartography majors at colleges and universities in the United States who are currently in their junior or senior year of undergraduate academic work as well as master's degree students.

Information about this program is usually sent to heads of geography departments at colleges and universities throughout the United States in late August. They are asked to encourage only their strongest students to apply. In order to be considered for the internship, the student must be a United States citizen or authorized to work in the country. The deadline for application materials, for all periods, is in early October for the following year.

The internship program, which typically accommodates about 10 geography students per each academic term at the National Geographic headquarters in Washington, D.C., pays \$325 per week and covers travel expenses. The interns work in many different divisions, such as

books, magazines, National Geographic Television and Film, international editions and the society's Internet site, nationalgeographic.com. The Interns work together with people such as explorers, photographers and writers that are involved in the many aspects of the Society's operations. There were 114 applications for the 2004 geography internship programs. Following the highly competitive application processes 32 geography and cartography students were selected as interns for the spring, summer and fall academic terms.

Several Texas State University geography department students have been selected for prestigious appointment to the National Geographic geography internship program. These students include Samantha Shannon, Tim Halsey, Kevin Pruitt, Amy J. Woodruff, Michelle Maness, and Noah Hopkins.

The latest Texas State University Geography department recipient of a National Geographic Internship is Noah Hopkins. In mid-December, 2003 he was selected for a paid internship with the National Geographic Society at their headquarters in Washington, DC. His term of service begins August 30th and will last through the middle of December, at which time he plans to return to San Marcos and finish his undergraduate work in Geography & Anthropology. He will be working with National Geographic competitions, such as the National Geographic Bee, which involves a certain degree of research. Noah states that "I look forward to serving one our country's premiere geographic institutions as a representative from another."



*Noah Hopkins  
and Mark Carter*

# Across the U. S. and Around the World

## Research News from Glacier National Park, Montana

*David Butler*

For the past five years, I have been funded by the U.S. Geological Survey on a grant that is examining the response of the alpine tree line/tundra ecotone in Glacier National Park, Montana, to climatic change (see photo – it’s a tough place to work in the heat of summer, but somebody’s got to do it! ;-).

The summer of 2003 was the final full field season associated with that project, but during this past summer of 2004 I continued to pursue certain interesting topics that had been initiated during the five-year grant. This work includes looking at the nature of sites where conifers are invading the alpine tundra as well as sites where invasion is not occurring even though conditions seem favorable for tree establishment. Current doctoral student Carol Sawyer joined Dr. George Malanson, former faculty member in our department, and me for several days of fieldwork during July. We looked at polygonal patterned ground above tree line, as well as landslide deposits along the eastern edge of the park in an area where the National Park Service has funded George and me to update their map of landforms of the area. Doctoral student Dawna Cerney, working on lower tree line ecotone dynamics in adjacent Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, and I spent time in the field and over dinners examining her field sites and discussing field methodologies and the use of archival photography for documenting landscape change.

In late August, several large debris flows occurred along Glacier Park’s famous “Going-to-the-Sun” Road, burying the road in several tons of rock and mud debris and closing it down for nearly four days during the height of late-summer tourist season. Through funding provided by a Quick Response Grant from the University of Colorado’s Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center, I went back to Glacier Park on September 1<sup>st</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup> to interview employees of the Park affected by the road closure. Dawna Cerney was funded on the grant as a field assistant, and provided outstanding efforts in conducting interviews and getting a good cross-section of governmental and non-Park Service concessionaire employees. The data gathered from the surveys will provide a better understanding of how local employees gain knowledge of hazardous landslide incidents in the Park, how they react during times of high hazard, and how accurate their knowledge of the landslide hazards are. The results of these interviews will be presented in a Quick Response Report submitted to the Natural Hazards Center in Boulder in January.



*Butler at Glacier*

## Seoul National University - “A Reverse Fulbright Fellowship”

*Fred Day*

Late in spring 2003 I received an e-mail announcing a competitive one-year position in the Department of Geography at Seoul National University. The Korean government was sponsoring what I have come to term “a reverse Fulbright Fellowship” to have an American geographer teach for a year in Korea. It seemed like a suitable time for a temporary change in my academic life...and I applied.

I was awarded the fellowship and from Texas State for the 2003-2004 academic assignment started right on the heels of our and a half weeks in June 2003. The France and Switzerland involved directing French Riviera, Rome, and many other hotel right on the Grand Canal in Venice. no more exciting way to gain six credit hours

My wife, Anu, daughter Meera and a year well spent. My rusty Korean from two returned to me, and enabled us to traverse city. Our apartment was on the Seoul center of the old city. To one side of us was the other side two 14<sup>th</sup> century palace 20 million people and purportedly the 5<sup>th</sup>

well served by one of the world’s longest subway systems; so fortunately, we didn’t have to risk driving in the heavily congested city traffic.

At Seoul National University, I worked closely with several world-class geographers, most notably Park, Sam-ok and Huh, Woo-kung (my former officemate from grad school at Ohio State). I taught an undergrad and graduate class each semester, teaching population Geography at both levels and a graduate seminar on Population-Environmental Issues as well. The students were inspiring to work with: Seoul National is the most prestigious university in South Korea and its 27,000 students are chosen by national competitive examination. I taught courses at the same level as I do at Texas State and in English as I was requested to do.



*The Day Family*

was generously granted a leave of absence year. Life was a little rushed as my taking underclassmen to Europe for four Geography in Europe program in Italy, study and field trips in the Swiss Alps, the venues. Perhaps most memorable was our The students readily admitted that there is in Geography!

I were off to Korea by early August. It was years in the Peace Corps in the early 1970s the old market places and far ends of the National University medical campus in the the theatre and entertainment district, on grounds. The metro area of Seoul (about largest metropolitan region in the world) is

*continued on page 15*

## Alumni Bits

### Department Alumnus Receives State's Top Environmental Honor



*Greg Klaus at Banquet Ceremony*

Shortly after graduation Greg Klaus (BS 96, MAG 99) was hired by American National Power to administer the environmental compliance and permitting for the Hays Energy Project being constructed here in San Marcos in 2000. This \$600 million power plant was built using state-of-the-art emissions control technologies and water conservation techniques.

This year Greg's work with Hays Energy helped the facility receive the state's top environmental honor, the 2004 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality & Governor of Texas- Environmental Excellence Award, for being one of the cleanest power plants in Texas.

Greg played a vital role in the development of the site's environmental management plan and in permitting of the facility. As Environmental Coordinator for operations Greg is responsible for administering the plant's State PSD Air Permit, EPA Acid Rain Permit, Title V Federal Operating Permit, City Wastewater and Effluent Use Permits, and the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. Hays Energy has a perfect environmental record with the EPA & TCEQ. Their compliance history came under the scrutiny of the awards committee, and a site visit by the TCEQ was conducted prior to selection.

As a current part-time Ph.D. student in Environmental Geography, Greg and Hays Energy offer an Internship position three times a year (spring, summer, and fall). The Internship program is entering its fourth year with the Department but still only receives one or two applicants per semester. This paid Internship is an excellent opportunity for current undergraduate and graduate students of Geography to learn about environmental compliance.

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### Seoul National University

My family and I had an enjoyable and very educational year. Korea, although very modern, is also very foreign, very different from the U.S. Despite a hundred Starbucks, Seoul uses little English. Korea is also very high-tech: it has a greater penetration of broad band internet and cell phones than any country in the world. I thoroughly enjoyed an almost keyless world: I had one key on my keychain! My one-hour commute to SNU's main campus was all done on debit card, whisking through subway turnstiles and bus transfers with the total journey fare precisely calculated by machine.

From Korea we traveled extensively in Asia: to China, to India to visit and travel with family, and to Thailand. In July we returned to Texas. This spring semester I will teach a graduate seminar on Population Geography giving some attention to the awesome globalization we witnessed in East Asia, as well as my undergraduate course on the Geography of the Far East. I hope to present a few informal slide sessions with graduate students and colleagues to share insights on a year teaching Geography in perhaps the world's most rapidly modernizing country.

### Bell Elected National Student Representative



*Mikaila Bell*

Mikaila Bell, B.A. 2004, has recently been elected as a national student representative to Gamma Theta Upsilon (International Geography Honor Society). Mikaila is currently attending University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL. Congratulations!



*Kade Tyler Wenzel*

### The Newest Geographer

Trent (BS Resource and Environmental Science, 1998) and Kalisha (BA English, 1998; M. Ed Counseling and Guidance, 2003) Wenzel welcomed the birth of their first baby, Kade Tyler Wenzel, on September 29, 2004. Baby and parents are doing well in New Braunfels, Texas.

