

Geosciences

DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICS AND
GEOSCIENCES

Newsletter

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JUNE 2007

Faculty News



Dr. Jim Norwine is selected for next year's faculty lecturer. Dr. Nowine has presented his research paper "Contemporary College Student Values: A Geospatial Exploration" at the annual conference of Association of American Geographers in San Francisco, CA. Dr. Nowine comes back in town in June, and he will continue his research and book writing on climate of South Texas during summer.



Dr. Thomas McGehee is assembling a team of current undergraduates with GIS experience to participate in the Geologic Characterization and Groundwater Modeling team next year.



Dr. Jaehyung Yu has won the grant of \$139,758.00 from National Geospatial Intelligence Agency for two years. The title of his proposal is "The Vertical Integration of Geospatial Intelligence for South Texas", and this project will help high schools and community colleges to launch GIS classes and provide \$2000.00 scholarship for two minority students who commit to be the Geosciences or Geology major at TAMUK.

Dr. Yu presented his research paper "GIS-based flood and storm surge damage assessment of Corpus Christi, TX" at the 2007 Annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, CA. Dr. Yu will participate in the STEP program May-mester from May, 14th to 25th. Dr. Yu will host two community college students and teach and supervise them to develop 3D campus model and animation for our beautiful TAMUK campus. During summer, Dr. Yu will teach two summer courses, and he and his research tem of three undergraduate majors, Sam Cantu, Billy Hales, and Noe Saenz, will work on GIS research projects. Their research will be focused on natural hazard management, urbanization and environmental change, and 3D GIS and animations.

To be continued on Page 2

Department of Physics and Geosciences
Texas A&M University - Kingsville

Faculty News



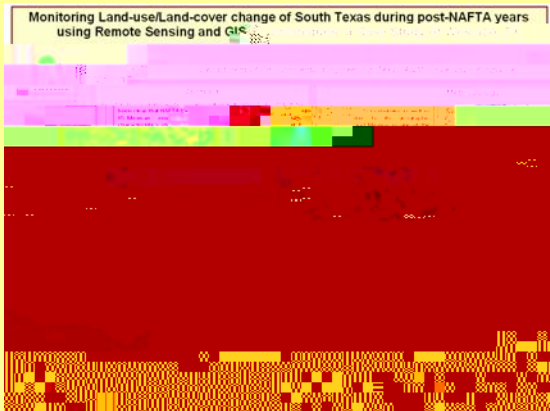
Dr. John Buckley has been working steadily on his Plesiosaur fossil. However, due to the extremely fragmented nature of the specimen, work has been progressing slowly. The purchase by the Physics and Geosciences Department of a compressor has allowed the use of an Air Scribe(tm). This tool is a miniature jackhammer that facilitates the more rapid removal of the matrix encasing the bone. The snout of the animal has been located along with the left jaw articulation. The presence of teeth in the snout area slows the work down because the Air Scribe cannot be used near teeth. Any inadvertent contact between the tool and

a tooth will shatter the tooth. Hopefully the snout will be completely isolated this next year allowing at least a partial reconstruction of part of the skull. Plesiosaur skulls were thin walled and very fragile. This individual suffered severe postmortem crushing, which converted much of the skull to something like a 10,000 piece jigsaw puzzle without a box top and with several pieces missing.

Dr. Jaehyung Yu, Dr. Tom McGehee and Jacob Hundl (a geology major) presented the Integration of GIS in the TAMUK Geosciences Curriculum at San Jacinto College Central Campus and Alvin Community College. Dora Devery (Professor, Alvin Community College) and Terry Sheehy (Professor, San Jacinto College Central Campus) have fine programs in their community colleges and are supplying us with excellent students.

Student News

Student Research



Samuel Cantu presented his poster session entitled "Monitoring Land-use/Land Cover change of South

Student News

Student Internships

Paul Amason has been working at Welhausen Well Field Operating Company as an intern. He has been working for this company for the past 5 years.

Orlando Gonzalez will be working with Dr. Tom McGehee and Shad Nelson on the Development of a Groundwater Model of the Bed 1 & 2 Red Mud Impoundments at Copano Bay, Texas.

Noe Saenz will be working with Drs. Jae Yu, Tom McGehee, and Shad Nelson to Determine the Routes of Evacuation during Flooding in the Corpus Christi, Texas Area using a GIS.

Samuel Cantu is working with the CREST program to on a GIS research project under Dr. Yu's supervision.

Joshua Dye will be working with AEC as a GIS specialist. Eugene Everett (TAMUK education department, 1995) will be working in the field with geologist Jon Pollock (TAMUK, 2005) at UEC.

Billy Hales will be working with Dr. Yu. He will also be working with the Art Department to develop a pamphlet of the hall display of rocks, minerals, and fossils for the Geosciences Program.

Geosciences Club News

New Officers were elected for the Fall, 2007 – Spring, 2008 academic year.

President – Jacob Hundl

Vice President – Marshall Saenz





Alumnus Report

We would like to keep up with our alumnus during their walk through their professional careers. TAMUK geosciences program has had over 300 graduates with either a Baccalaureate or a Masters Degree. If you send us an email with your current bio-sketch we would like you to come to TAMUK, meet our faculty and students, and present a talk.

**Adrian Garcia**

Adrian Garcia (TAMUK-BS, 1985) is a senior geologist working for Mesteña Uranium near Rachal, TX. He supervises project geological personnel in the exploration and production of Insitu Uranium Mining. He has worked for as a geologist for Uranium Resources, Inc.(1987-1998), State-wide geologist for Omega Environmental (1998-1999), International geologist for ARCADIS (1999-2004), and at Mesteña Uranium since 2004. He can be reached at AGarcia@mestena Uranium.com.

Jason Bundick

Jason Bundick (TAMUK BS geology, 2005) is working as a district engineer for Frac Tech Service in Bryan Texas. He is managing mud-logging and fracturing of petroleum reservoirs for Frac Tech field operations. He can be reached at jbundick@fractech.net.

Rafael Casanova

Rafael Casanova received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Texas A&I University, Kingsville, in May 1982. He has been working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Geologist/Environmental Scientist since 1990. He has worked as the EPA's Project Manager for the U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico, which consists of waste disposal rooms mined 2,150 feet underground in a 2,000-foot thick salt bed formation for the permanent (greater than 10,000 years) land disposal of transuranic radioactive waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons. He currently works as a Superfund Remedial Project Manager performing environmental investigations of abandoned and uncontrolled contaminated sites to determine the nature and extent of contamination for all media, and to select and implement a final remedy which is protective of human health and the environment. He is a registered Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas. He can be reached by e-mail at casanova.rafael@epa.gov.

Rojelio Medina

Rojelio Medina graduated in May 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology, and since then, have been employed by Halliburton Energy Services in Alice, TX. Within Halliburton, he assumed the title of Technical Professional for the Wireline Logging product service line. Since he earned that title, he has worked for major oil and gas producers mainly in South Texas and extending out to West and East Texas and even parts of Louisiana. He manages an Open Hole Logging truck and started by supplying these producers with formations properties such as formation resistivity, density and neutron porosity measurements, and gamma ray and spontaneous potential measurements all by wireline-conveyed telemetry tools. Since then, he has been trained on running imaging tools such as Halliburton's Magnetic Resonance Image Log* or MRIL* and their Extended Range Micro Image* or XRMi* tool. For the summer of 2007, he is applying for advancement to a Senior Technical Professional by giving a presentation on the "Geology of South Texas", which specifically involves a few formations that we commonly see in South Texas and the sand-shale laminations we see in these formations. This will be presented to a board of Halliburton management that will approve his advancement. He can be reached at rojelio.medina@halliburton.com.

Tina Utley

Tina Utley (formerly Tina Rodriguez TAMUK-BS geology, 2005) is currently working as Project Geologist at Uranium Resources Inc. Her job duties include exploration mapping and managing installation of production wells. She can be reached at tinacrodriguez@hotmail.com.

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