

# Geosciences

DEPARTMENT OF  
PHYSICS AND  
GEOSCIENCES

## Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2007

### Program News

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#### **In Memoriam to Dr. John Russell**

Dr. John Russell passed away Tuesday, Sept. 18. Dr. Russell was a major force in the development of Department of Geosciences. The program was primarily a geography program when he was appointed in 1971. He became chair of the Department of Geosciences in 1979 until he was appointed director of the OSR, which he helped establish. He built a strong geology program through recruitment and hiring key faculty. The faculty included Dr Jon A. Baskin, Dr. William F. Thomann, Dr. Michael Jordan, and Dr. John Delamata. With the help of his faculty, Dr. Russell developed new graduate level courses, brought in National Science Foundation funding, and secured a Masters program in Geology. The large number of quality undergraduate and graduate students from this time period is a testament to their efforts. John Russell will be missed for all his contributions to this program.

Funeral will be on Sunday, Sept. 23, at 3 p.m. at the Marion Christian Church, 140 Elm, Marion, KS 66861. Zeiner Mortuary is handling the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association or the American Heart Association through the mortuary. The address is: Zeiner Mortuary / 205 Elm St. / Marion, KS 66861

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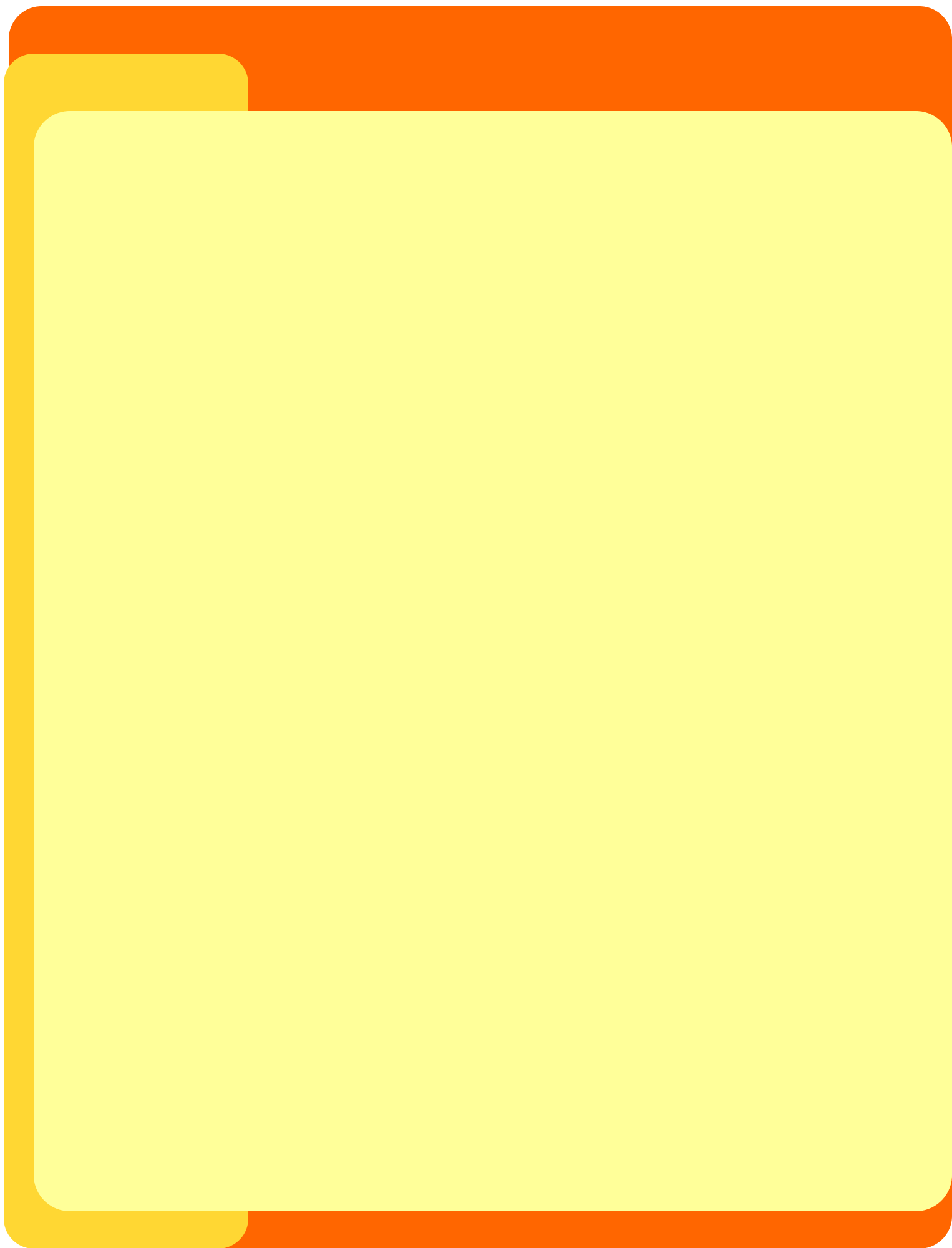
#### **Our Department has a new Chair**

Dr. Dan Suson, former Chair of our Department left TAMUK in August to accept the Dean of Science and Technology position at University of Purdue at Calumet. Dr. Lionel Hewett is the new Interim Chair of Physics/Geosciences.

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#### **DR. Norwine is Back with Publications**

Our longest-tenured faculty member, Regents Professor Jim Norwine, was on sabbatical during the academic year of 2006-2007. He worked on two major research projects while serving as a visiting professor at Western State College of Colorado in Gunnison. (He reports that a year in the Rockies was "tough but



## Student News

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### Students Share Experiences in Internships

**Joshua Dye** received an internship with the Uranium Exploration Company (UEC) as a GIS specialist. He is helping to organize the company's mining activities in six states into a GIS database.

**Ruben Cano** received an internship with Frac-Tech to work in mud-logging. Ruben received his contact for this job through Jason Bundick (TAMUK geosciences alumnus) who is managing an office in Brian, Texas.

**Matt Walker** completed his field camp with the UTD program and flew out to Alaska for an internship with USDA Forest Service. Matt developed a GIS and "ground-truthed" the map for the project.

**Jacob Hundl** and **Jonas Ball** received internships with Mesteña Uranium this past summer. Both students worked with **Adrian Garcia** and **Neal Kunkle**, which are alumnus from our program. Jacob added the following statement about his duties with the company. "The internship with Mesteña Uranium, LLC was a fantastic experience for an aspiring geologist. Experience working in the field on classifying samples from drilling, and doing GPS surveying reinforced classes previously taken. In the office, GIS skills were highly valuable, and we had opportunities to familiarize ourselves with geophysical data, such as electric, gamma, and PFN logs. Valuable experience with drilling rigs and their operation was also acquired. I enjoyed the internship so much, I am working there one day a week during the year." Jonas Ball is also continuing his internship this semester at Mesteña Uranium.

**Sam Cantu**, **Billy Hales**, and **Noe Saenz** worked on their internship with Dr. Yu this summer to develop a 3-D GIS of the campus. Noe Saenz is working with Drs. Yu, McGehee, and Shad Nelson on a project to develop GIS on escape routes during major flooding in Corpus Christi. Orlando Gonzalez is working with Drs. McGehee and Shad Nelson on a research project to develop a groundwater model of a red mud facility at one of the Sherwin Alumina sites. Billy Hales is developing a first class mineral display in the Halls in Geosciences.

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## Geosciences Club News

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### New Officers met for the Fall, 2007 – Spring, 2008 academic year.



The Geosciences Club elected Darla Martinez as the new secretary of the club to record and publish weekly minutes for the club. She is pictured with Jacob Hundl (President), Marshall Saenz (Vice President), and Jonas Ball (Treasurer). Our new historian Benjamin Wright was unavailable at the time of the photograph.

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## Alumnus Report

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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.

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**Neal Kunkel** graduated from TAMUK in May of 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology and is currently working as a Project Geologist for Mestefña Uranium LLC. His current duties include ore body delineation within current production areas, creating production well patterns and mapping these trends