

# Geosciences

DEPARTMENT OF  
PHYSICS AND  
GEOSCIENCES

## Newsletter

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### Program News

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#### Two Geosciences Majors Graduated in Fall, 2011

**Lily Alfaro** and **Jonathon Stroup** graduated during the December 2011 graduation ceremonies. We had a well attended party of 33 majors to wish them the best in their search for graduate school or jobs. Jonathon Stroup will be attending graduate school in Texas State University. Lily Alfaro is employed at Special Programs with the University.

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**Jessica Garcia is attending Texas A&M University College Station in the Fall, 2012**

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

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**Rebecca Roscoe** graduated December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology with a minor in Geography. Rebecca attended Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2004 after graduating from Woodland Park High School in Colorado. She came to the University with an interest in gemology, but towards completion of her B.S., she was more interested in economic geology and glacial geology. While attending the University, Rebecca taught geoscience laboratories almost every semester. She took the position as treasurer and secretary for a couple semesters in the Geology Club. In the summer of 2007, Rebecca received an internship with the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine in Colorado.

That following summer and Fall 2008 semester Rebecca and team members participated in an Ore Microscopy Research Project (with Orlando Gonzales and Jacob Hundl) in a study of the paragenesis of veins within the Cripple Creek/Victor Diatreme. She presented her research at the Pathways to the Doctorate Research Symposium in Fall, 2008. During the 2009 spring semester, Rebecca received a scholarship from the Corpus Christi Geological Society. She was working in an open pit hard rock gold mining environment. Most of the duties involved logging rock chip samples and planning drill holes. She also had an internship in the summer of 2009 with the Alaska Geological and Geophysical Survey in Fairbanks, Alaska. There she received valuable experience in ArcGIS, and great contacts with the State Survey and USGS. Rebecca is currently employed as a Geologist at the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine. She plans on attending Graduate School in January 2011. Rebecca really enjoyed her time and experiences at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

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**Melissa Ann Hidalgo** received her Bachelor of Science degree in Geology with a minor in Biology from Texas A&M University-Kingsville during the 2009 December commencement. Originally from Beeville, Texas, she earned her Associate of Science degree with emphasis of Geology from Coastal Bend College-Beeville in May 2006. While attending TAMUK, Miss Hidalgo was the 2008 Treasurer of the Geoscience Club and worked an internship as an interpreter with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the summer of 2008. This past summer, Melissa fulfilled her capstone course required by her degree plan by completing a rigorous six-week field camp (this implements coursework learned

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## Geosciences Program Welcomes 5 New Majors

We are happy to have 5 new majors enroll in classes this Spring, 2012.

**Sarah Beers** is a Presidential Scholar and an internal transfer student from the College of Education.

**Rolando Garza** is an entering freshman from Weslaco.

**Mark Pittman** is an internal transfer student from Engineering.

**Gloria Salinas** is an internal transfer student from Environmental Engineering.

**Brent Winborne** is a transfer student from San Antonio Texas.

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Sarah

Rolando

Mark

Gloria

Brent

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## Dr. Buckley is teaching a Dual Credit Course at Calallen

**Dr. John Buckley** is continuing to teach the dual credit Earth Science classes at Calallen Northwest Center for Advanced Studies. These classes, initiated Fall 2010, allow high school students the opportunity to take university classes while still in high school. They receive dual credit for the classes. This exposes them to the university environment and at a significantly reduced tuition level. The University credits earned transfer to any university they elect to attend. The class this semester is Earth Science II, the follow-on class to Earth Science I from the fall.

2011. 100% of Dr. Buckley's students from the fall returned for the second semester course "These students are a real pleasure to teach. They are eager to learn and ask lots of questions. With a 100% return rate the course picks up essentially from where we stopped in December." Dr. Buckley said. We hope to add more schools in the area to the program in the upcoming years. The students in the photograph are from three different area high schools. Front row left to right: Itzely Vega and Karen Trevino from Mathis HS. Second Row: Chloe Mengers and Geena Diaz and then Amy Salazar and Irene Olivarez all from Mathis HS. Last Row: Jake Ray (Odem HS) Miranda Lindley (Banquete HS) then Justin Medrano (Mathis HS, Matthew Mckaughan and Krystal Martin (Odem HS).

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## Geosciences Program invites speakers to give a talk for Majors

**Richard Parker**, Manager of Geological Operations at Swift Energy, was our guest speaker on Friday February 3. Richard is the first geology major awarded the Baccalaureate Degree at Texas A&I University. He came back and completed his Master's Degree in August 2000. He spoke about "Career Opportunities in Geology" and "Horizontal Drilling Challenges in South Texas." This was a timely and exceptional talk about the current "boom" in the energy industry. He believes our majors are getting into their careers at the right time.

**Randy Bissell**, formally of ExxonMobil and currently a Geologist at Headington, gave an AAPG Student Chapter invited presentation on December 6<sup>th</sup> on the Geology of Barbados. This talk also provided insights into "preparing your educational background for a career in geology." Mr. Bissell was very proud of his achievements in his career and shared with the audience his secrets of success. He was very impressed with our students.

Miss **Lauren Hall** gave an invited talk to Dr. John Buckley's Historical Geology class Friday 10 February. Lauren is in the 8th grade at the School of Science and Technology in Corpus Christi. Her talk was over her current and previous science projects titled "Revealing the Past". She discussed the preparation of fossil crinoids and trilobites from their respective matrices. Her project last year took her to a national science fair/competition in Washington DC. The talk she presented to the class Friday was to help her prepare for the more advanced levels of science fair competitions and hopefully to nationals again. The talk was attended by many of

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