



your connection to UNT-Geography

Issue No. 28

Spring 2007

Tami Deaton, Editor



Department News:

Acevedo recognized for Int'l Efforts

The International Education Committee and International Studies and Programs will honor Miguel Acevedo at a banquet during the Celebration of World Cultures: International Week 2007 in April. They will celebrate the accomplishments of students, faculty, and staff that reach beyond the boundaries of nations and embrace the world in education.

Briggs honored with Alumni Award

Chris Briggs will be honored this year with our Alumni Award. Chris graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Geography from (UNT) in December 2004. Since that time he has worked with the Buxton Company in Fort Worth. He currently serves as a Managing Senior Geographic Information Systems Analyst and as the Operations Director for Buxton's CommunityID® division which assists with the economic development efforts of over 250 municipal clients across the United States. Chris played a major role in planning the recent US-Canada Corporate Geography Conference held at UNT. His company helped sponsor that event, which brought international scholars and industry experts to UNT to discuss current trends in economic geography. Mr. Briggs has been instrumental in hiring numerous UNT students as interns and employees with the Buxton Company. He lives in Denton with Keely his wife of ten years and his two sons Riley and William. In his spare time he enjoys playing music, reading, and hiking along the greenbelt trail.

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16th Annual Spring Awards Banquet



May 5, 2007
At 6:00 pm
In the
EESAT Atrium

Dr. Lisa Nagaoka
Keynote Speaker

Invitations arriving in the mail soon!

(\$249,419). This project is a multidisciplinary effort involving researchers from the College of Engineering and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). Participant departments include Electrical Engineering (Co-PIs: Dr. Shengli Fu and Dr. Xingrong Li), Geography and Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS) (PI: Dr. Miguel Acevedo), Computer Science (co-PI: Dr. Yan Huang), Biology and IAS (co-PIs: Dr. Ruthanne Thompson and Dr. Tom Waller). It includes support by the Computing and Information Technology Center (CITC), CAS Computing Support Services, the Center for Distance Learning (CDL), and the Elm Fork Education Center. In addition the project includes collaborations with the City of Denton, Texas, the National Weather Service (Fort Worth Office), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Lewisville Independent School District.

This project expands the application of the Environmental Sciences ECOPLEX web site and propels it into the Texas Environmental Observatory (TEO). The newly funded NSF project aims at demonstrating how to empower local governments, policy-makers, students and K-12 teachers to take advantage of cyberinfrastructure (CI) in the environmental arena. Educational modules will be developed and centered on innovative CI integration of new technologies for environmental monitoring and modeling. Research activities based on innovative development will include: a wireless sensor network to monitor soil moisture over a watershed; a low-cost total column ozone automated monitor; and a web portal that supports sophisticated analysis and modeling tools.

New Alumni: Recent Geography Grads

B.A./B.S. 2006:

Stephen Strauss
Samuel Chandler
Erika Milani
Will Flanagan
Eric Crews
Richelle Magalhaes
Derek Locker
Jon Fraley
Gregory Webb
Kenneth Fedor

Matthew Windsor
Rachelle Olson
Randy Neal
Brian Gluckman
Mara Hedrich
Williams Phillips
Roberto Ochandio
Andre Cameron
Miles Chester

M.S. AGEO 2006:

Dilcia Figuera Gonzalez
Nilanjana Bhattacharjee
Daniel Hendrick

Zongpei Tang

Current Research



Miguel Acevedo

The proposal titled "Engaging Local Governments, Teachers and Students in Cyber-Infrastructure for Environmental Monitoring and Modeling" has been recently funded by the National Science Foundation



Pinliang Dong

Pinliang received a Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award from the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) and a UNT Faculty Research

Grant to support his research on hyperspectral image analysis. In July 2006, he presented a paper at the 36th Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) Scientific Assembly in Beijing. Based on his research

in remote sensing, GIS, and spatial analysis, he has submitted three papers to *Advances in Space Research* and *Computers and Geosciences*. He is teaching GIS Programming and Intermediate GIS this semester, and will teach Introduction to GIS this coming summer.



Reid Ferring

Reid spent most of July and August in the Republic of Georgia participating in the excavations at Dmanisi, the 1.8 million year-old site he has been investigating with a Georgian-led international expedition since 1995.

Reid received a faculty development leave and a Fulbright Scholar-Researcher Grant from the State Department, and returned to spend the fall semester in Tbilisi, where he conducted research on Dmanisi geology and archaeology at the Georgian National Museum and taught a class in Geoarchaeology at Tbilisi State University. He also participated in fieldwork on the Miocene in eastern Georgia, where the team has found 8 million year-old ape fossils, and on excavations at a Neolithic tell (7,000 years old) in southern Georgia. Also in 2006, Reid was named a Fellow of the Geologic Society of America.

Paul Hudak

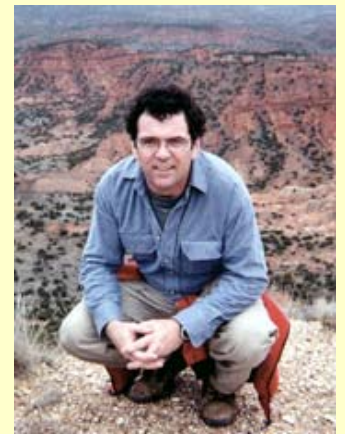
Paul has been working with students and faculty on a wide range of research topics. Recent examples include designing and modeling interceptors for removing contaminated groundwater, designing structures to keep carp away from establishing plants in lakes and wetlands, and evaluating environmental effects of drilling and producing from gas wells in north-central Texas. Recent results from



these studies and several others have appeared in various journals including, *Cancer Causes and Control*, *Journal of Solid Waste Technology and Management*, *International Journal of Environmental Studies*, *Urban Water Journal*, *Ground Water Monitoring and Remediation*, *Hydrological Sciences Journal*, and *Journal of Environmental Science and Health*. Last fall, Paul presented some of his research on water resources in rural Jamaica in a session that he organized at the Applied Geography Conference in Tampa, Florida. He continues to serve on the board of directors of the Applied Geography Conferences. Recently, Paul participated in a biodiesel agriculture workshop featuring faculty from several departments, landowners, and representatives from industry. This workshop explored issues and challenges of producing feedstock for biodiesel. Among other activity, Paul has been active on two panels of the American Society of Civil Engineers. These panels are developing new standards for evaluating hydraulic conductivity measurements in aquifers within a statistical framework. Paul is also a panelist for the Course Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement Program of the National Science Foundation. He will travel to Washington, D.C. in March to participate in panel deliberations. Paul continues to serve on the editorial advisory board of *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* and review for several other scientific journals. As internship coordinator, he is pleased to report that the department has built upon a large network of providers in diverse sectors of the workforce. Recent interns have worked in several fields, including land use planning, environmental consulting and regulation, geographic information systems, business geography, and surveying.

Don Lyons

Dr. Lyons continues to work on the geographic dimensions of industrial ecology. His most recent effort focuses upon the international flows of secondary commodities (essentially industrial scrap) to and from the



United States. Robert Wachal, one of our current undergraduate students, is providing able assistance in gathering the necessary data. His is scheduled to present the preliminary results of this work at a conference in Stockholm, Sweden in June. A recent collaboration with departmental colleague, Dr. Acevedo resulted in a forthcoming publication in *Geoforum*.

The recent arrival of Dr. Rice has reawakened a dormant interest in the geography of corporate headquarters location and they both have teamed up on a series of projects. The *Canadian Journal of Regional Science* will publish their first joint effort later this year and they organized an international conference on this topic with speakers traveling to UNT from the U.S., Canada and Europe for late February. This summer, he and Dr. Rice will travel to Canada to gather data on rapidly growing young Canadian firms for a project funded by the Canadian Embassy.

Along with Dr. Williams, he led another (4th) successful British Isles Field School last summer. This semester he teaches World Regional Geography and Economic Geography. Despite the generally recognized excellence and clarity of his hand writing in the classroom he has finally bowed to student pressure and has begun to convert his lectures to power point presentations. "Joining the rest of us in the 21st century" seems to be the most frequent comment from students.



Kent McGregor

Kent attended the SWAAG meetings at Norman, Oklahoma, Oct. 26-28, 2006 and presented his paper entitled, "Inside the Texas Oklahoma drought of 2005-06".



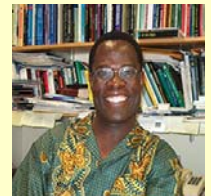
Lisa Nagaoka

In September, Lisa and Steve welcomed their son Peter into their family. Much of last year's activities revolved around the pregnancy and adjusting to parenthood. Peter spends a lot of time in the department as his parents attempt to continue

to be productive. He gets lots of attention from everyone in the department, so it seems to be working out well. Plus he loves Tami and Eva. This summer, the whole family will be going to New Zealand as Lisa finishes up her NSF research. In addition, she and Steve will be presenting several posters with graduate students on their Texas research at the Society for American Archaeology meetings being held in Austin.

Joseph Oppong

Joseph is on sabbatical this semester!



Murray Rice



Murray is teaching Urban Geography and Culture, Environment and Society this spring. He has also been busy getting ready for the international conference "Canada-US Corporate Geography 2007" that the geography department is hosting in February. The conference is bringing to campus some of the top researchers in the corporate geography field, and is providing an excellent opportunity for the geography department to demonstrate its relevance to the broader community on campus and in the Metroplex. Murray has appreciated the support that UNT Geography alumni, most notably several from Buxton, have shown in getting the conference off the ground. Aside from the conference and teaching, Murray is busy with his business research. He was successful in obtaining a grant to support his summer research, so he is off to Canada to do data collection, attend a conference, and escape the Texas heat. He won't be gone too long though, because Murray and his wife Sherri are expecting child #2 in July.



Harry Williams

Harry has been working hard on his NSF project: Character and preservation of Hurricane Rita storm surge sedimentation in Louisiana coastal marshes. New AGEO student Will Flanagan is working with me. He will do a masters thesis on marsh sedimentation

related to hurricanes. We are planning more field work in Louisiana later this spring and we are attending the AAG conference in San Francisco in April to present our findings. I am also jointly organizing 5 sessions at the AAG on hurricane impacts (with Dr. Kam-biu Liu, LSU - a paleotempestologist!). I want to be a paleotempestologist too because it sounds so cool. I am already thinking (and worrying) about the British Isles Field School in 2008! I'd like to say a few words to my recent AGEO graduates - can I please have my lab equipment back? (just joking!).

Alumni News

We would like to hear what you are up to, where you are, how's the family, your new promotion, etc. Just send us your information to deaton@unt.edu.

Here are a few people we heard from this year:

Christopher Pape ('04):

Environmental Scientist - Terracon (Dallas) - 2 years.
My wife and I just purchased our first home.

Diane (Gammon) Green ('93):

I'm not using my degree but still love reading the newsletter! I married Eric Green and we have three children. I'm a stay-at-home mom to our two daughters ages 7 & almost 5 and our son age 21 months. My world revolves around them and their activities. My husband is the basketball coach at Frisco High so you can always find us cheering for the Raccoons!

Webster Mangham ('05):

Hope all is well with the Mean Green. I have been a water quality geographer for the Trinity River Authority's Clean Rivers Program for pushing 2 years. Baby #2 will be here in about 10 days. Life is good in Texas.

Adam Nelson ('96):

I have been with DPS since 2000 and have moved from the role of Highway Patrol Trooper to Sergeant/Investigator. All is well right now. Kristen is pregnant with number three -- due in April. The name is supposed to be Kason Samuel. Bryson (5) and

Sophie (2) are doing well and like to drive their Mama crazy. And according to her when they're not doing it, I am.

Lisa Tanski Cook ('00):

I have been working for a software development company in Dallas for the last 8 years. I'm a senior support analyst. I got married in October 2005 (to Rob Cook.....was one of Kennedy's master students - Biology). We are currently living in Dallas. That's about it, nothing much exciting.

Jason and Sherry Brewington ('96):

Hello from Colorado!!! Good timing! We've been meaning to write with news. Sherry gave birth to our second child, Warren, on December 6. So - he's just over 8 weeks old, happy and healthy. Sherry has recently left her position at Miner and Miner and will stay at home with the boys while I remain on staff there. We still reside in Fort Collins and are still in love with the place, although this winter has been pretty harsh.

I'm a Product Specialist at Miner and Miner - I manage software development projects on the product development team. Projects I've been working on include mobile GIS and automated facility design applications. Our solutions are based on ESRI's ArcGIS platform, as always. Some of our clients in Texas are CoServ, City of Denton, City of Garland, City Public Service (San Antonio) and Centerpoint Energy to name a few. We provide software and services to about 300 utilities here in the U.S. and abroad. For more info, see: www.miner.com

Brian Akers ('01):

I just got married to Siobhan Barbee (NT c/o 2001) in October and we live in a 99 year old house in St. Louis with our dog Mikey. I've been with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency for two-and-a-half years working as a geospatial analyst. Siobhan just got a job at the beginning of the year working as an attorney for the State of Missouri in the Department of Social Services. We spend our free time exercising, reading, watching movies, and trying to find good Tex-Mex in the Mid-West. We wish you well.

Laura Mercer ('94):

Hmm where do I start. Well I started a family with John (whom I met at UNT) and after a few years started my own web development business. I have been doing that for about 7 years now and enjoy it a great deal. I do hope to go back and do my Masters in Environmental Science when my boys are grown and on their own. We live in Las Vegas Nevada and enjoy it quite a bit.

Dean Lee ('95):

Current Company - Michael Baker Jr. Inc located in Denton - Right on the square. Title - Mapping Supervisor; Work - performing quality control on GIS data associated with flood mapping in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. I am currently working with FEMA client to create guidance, specifications, and processes to accomplish Flood Insurance Studies. I am also supervising work done on flood map revisions and GIS work on mapping flood zones, training personnel in other Baker offices, and engineering firms to create GIS data according to FEMA guidelines. Extras - I keep hiring UNT folks! We have Julie Vicars, and Michael Stone (both UNT graduates) as well as Interns from UNT. Life - Living in Carrollton, Texas. I have twin boys who are 9 years old. Life is good.

Michael Stone ('00):

I have been at Michael Baker Engineering for over a year and I kick Julie Vicars' butt at GIS on a daily basis.

Julie Groening Vicars ('05):

I have been with Michael Baker Jr, Inc. for 2 years. Bought a house, gained a dog and a cat (1 dog, and 3 cats total now)...loving life! Hope y'all are doing well!

P.S. Michael Stone is crazy...

Michael Parker ('03):

Currently, getting back to UNT in pursuit of a Master's Degree after working in project and manufacturing management and information technology in recent years. I am also serving as a board member for my neighborhood housing association and became a recent volunteer with CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate for Denton County.

Dilcia Figuera ('06):

Currently working for Aerial Focus in Dallas as a GIS/Graphic Analyst where I collect, analyze, and interpret geographic information provided by geodetic surveys, aerial photography and satellite data.

Denise Currie Chapman ('93):

I am no longer in the work-force, but I am still working lots as a stay-at-home mom. After 10 years in the computer world, six of which I spent at IBM in both Sales and Marketing, I retired in 2003 to be with my son, Collin who is now 4 and 1/2 and our second son, Dylan who will be 1 on March 13th. I have been married to Chris Chapman since 8/99 who works for Glaxo Smith-Kline in the Neuro-health division. We have been living in Allen for almost 4 years where I have been involved with Moms Club of Allen, Neighborhood Social Committee, Neighborhood Play-Group Coordinator and the Allen Symphony Chorus (I sing Alto).

Adjunct Spotlight

Ken Iles:

This year marks my 30th year as a professional educator. I also will reach a milestone in my college teaching. I will teach my 300th college lecture class this year. My teaching in the Geography Department at UNT started 22 years ago. When I came here students in class were distracted by the opposite sex, sports and of course partying. We didn't have problems with cellphones, Ipods, Blackberries and laptops because they didn't exist. The student computer lab in the GAB was using TI game computers connected to black and white TVs, with a cassette tape recorder for storing your data. Things have changed just a little since the early 80's. Today when I'm not fulfilling my duties here at UNT you can find me teaching at TWU or one of our local community colleges.

In my spare time I enjoy experimenting with what my wife calls my "science fair projects!" We have a family travel trailer which I power using solar and wind technology. I have drilled shallow waterwells and have a cistern to collect rain water for use at the house. My list of home conservation projects is always growing. I look forward to taking some time

off this summer to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. I am so thankful that I get to teach here at UNT and work with the great group of folks in the Geography Department.

George Maxey:

George has been at UNT since 1986. He is currently editing his Dissertation and hopes to have it accepted by the end of this semester!

This semester he is teaching U.S & Canada and Earth Science and continues to work on the proposal for the Planetarium production for Geography 1710 laboratory. During the past year, a team of faculty and staff members from the Geography and Physics departments met with the expressed purpose of creating a multidisciplinary lab experience for Geography 1710 students. One that offered an enhanced learning experience through the dynamic technological capabilities of the UNT Sky Theater.

The team proposes to complete a geography lab, presented using the facilities of the UNT Sky Theater, to enhance the information that is presented in the Earth Science Laboratory Manual; more specifically, those chapters which cover Grid Systems, the Earth-Sun relationship, and solar and Atmospheric Heating.

For example, one concept that is presented in both Astronomy and Geography labs is described through the use of the Analemma, which illustrates the latitudinal position of the vertical sun on each day of the year. On the right is an Analemma as seen in the current Geography lab manual.

While this static illustration has proven to be difficult to explain to students, the team presented a prototypical "dynamic", animated, computer-generated model in the planetarium last Spring, showing that the sun is NOT directly overhead at noon on each day of the year! The model proved to be quite successful, with very positive student feedback.

David Sallee:

After completing my graduate degree in geography, I began teaching as an adjunct instructor at Tarrant County College and North Lake College, then in the Spring of 2006 I started teaching Geography and

Geology classes, back home at UNT. This semester I began as a temporary (nothing like true commitment) full-time instructor at Tarrant County College. I am extremely busy with a lot of windshield time (driving from Denton to SE Arlington every Tuesday and Thursday) and I have started teaching a new Human/Cultural class that I did not find out about until just before the semester began. I also teach World Regional and Physical Geography.

I am married to Kris (twenty-five years this month) and we have two daughters, Davi and Shelby. When I am not in the classroom or asleep in my recliner, I like to work in the yard, travel, and spend time in the outdoors.....hunting of course but I also like to photograph wildlife and collect fossils/artifacts.

Departmental Scholarships

The department would be grateful for any individual or corporate donations. We also encourage individuals to ask their companies whether they might be interested in sponsoring a scholarship in their name, to recognize a deserving student, at our annual banquet.

Friends of Geography Scholarship

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Donation: \$10 \$25 _____ Other