



# ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS IN GEOSCIENCES

## Summer Student Newsletter

Newsletter #18

Summer 2010



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### August Graduates

Students planning to graduate in summer 2010 can access the graduation application 24 hours a day, every day, until the final deadline. The application deadline is **11:59p.m. July 9, 2010** for graduate and undergraduate students who will complete requirements in the summer semesters. All students planning to graduate in August should apply early to ensure having a diploma at commencement. Submitting the completed graduation application will add the graduation fees to your account within 72 hours. Students submitting applications after 11:59p.m. July 9, 2010 will be subject to a \$50 late fee. Late applications to graduate will not be accepted after 11:59p.m. July 23, 2010. The link to apply can be found on the Howdy portal.



### December Graduates

Students planning to graduate in fall 2010 may begin filing applications for degrees August 18. The filing deadline for students completing degree requirements during the fall is September 10 without a late fee. Before you apply for December graduation, check to make sure any minors you were wanting to declare are showing up on your degree plan. Minors cannot be added once you apply for graduation. Also, come see Emily the first week of class during add/drop time to verify your fall schedule will fulfill your degree requirements and to fill out any adjustment forms that need to be made.

### GEOS 105

Another section of GEOS 105 has been created for the fall. If you are interested in switching to the new section time of TR 8-915am, let Emily know now, or wait until open registration and switch it yourself. As a reminder, all Environmental Programs students must take this course early in your academic career. This course should be taken before you take upper level courses and is a prerequisite to GEOS 405.

### New Student Conferences

Over the summer, the College of Geosciences has participated in one Transfer Conference and four Freshmen Conferences so far, giving us 6 transfers and 23 freshmen. After another Freshmen and Transfer Conference in August, our total new students at the start of the school year will be approximately 45! We'd like to welcome the new Environmental Programs students!

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## Geosciences Graduation Reception

On Thursday evening before graduation, the College of Geosciences hosted the 2010 Graduation Reception and Awards Ceremony. Each department and the College were able to give out awards to the students, as well as announce the Runnels Advising Award Recipient, Dr. Andrew Hajash. Pictured to the left, Dr. Millington received a Texas flag picture frame with a picture of some students in the Environmental Programs. Mitty Mohon, President of



EPIC and May graduate presented him this goodbye gift from EPIC. Pictured on the right is Jenny Towns (ENGS) and Allison Harris (ENST). They received the Environmental Programs' Outstanding Graduating Senior Award. This award was based on GPR as well as involvement within the College of Geosciences and/or the Environmental Programs.



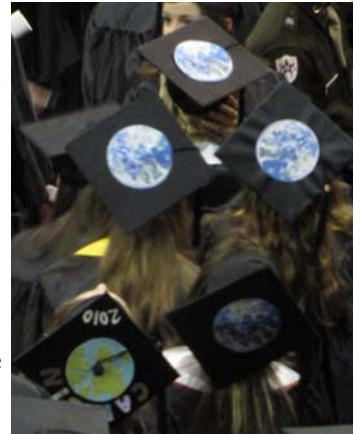
## May Graduates

Congratulations to those who graduated in May! Pictured to the right are the caps of some of the graduates who decorated with an earth picture provided by Emily. If you want to do the same when you graduate, let Emily know!

Environmental Studies (bottom left):

Ethan Snell, Nathan Skinner, Nicole Minicone, Beau Graham, Alexandra Vietti, John Elolf, Lee Gillihan, Kelly Clark, Andrew Dover, and Krista Burns. Not pictured: Edna Banda, Ry Blaisdell, and Allison Harris

Environmental Geosciences (bottom right): Jenny Towns, Erin Rush, Leslye Mohon, Dana Reusser, Caitlin McColloch, Matthew Hensley, John Gutierrez, Diane Durbin, and Aaron Bridger. Not pictured: Siraj Khan.



## Distinguished Student and Dean's List Criteria

If you have the goal of being on the Distinguished Student or Dean's List, you must meet all of the criteria as stated on the student-rules.tamu.edu website. Below is an excerpt from the rule:

*An undergraduate student who completes a semester schedule of at least **15 hours** or a summer session schedule of at least 12 hours with **no grade lower than C** and with a **grade point ratio of not less than 3.5 for the semester** or for a summer session shall be designated "**distinguished student.**" A student who, under the same circumstances, achieves a grade point ratio of at least **3.75 also shall be designated as a member of the "dean's honor roll."** First semester freshmen must complete a semester schedule of at least 15 hours with no grade lower than a "C," no Q-drops and with a grade point ratio of not less than 3.5 for "distinguished student" designation and a 3.75 for "dean's honor roll." The hours earned with a grade of S shall not be included in determining minimum hours required for the designation of "distinguished student" or "dean's honor roll." A grade of I or U disqualifies a student from being considered as a "distinguished student" or for the "dean's honor roll."*

## Career Fair Contacts

Instead of having a separate career fair, the College of Geosciences will be partnering with the A&M Career Center's Sciences Career Fair on September 16, 2010. In order to have a strong representation from the environmental sector, we are gathering contact information. So if you have any contacts from places you have interned, worked, or just know employees, then please send the information to Emily. If there is a company that you would like to see, but do not have contact information for, send Emily their name too. Information must be sent to Emily by July 26th.

See below for information on the Career Fair and Networking Events. There will be resume writing workshops and reviews. For times and dates on those, please visit the Career Center's website.

### The 12th Annual Sciences Career Fair

**Time:** Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010 10am-3pm

**Place:** 1st Floor Rudder Tower

**Contact:** Marilyn Yeager, Sciences Career Fair Coordinator  
marilyny@careercenter.tamu.edu

### Networking Events

Mix & Mingle with Former Students & Recruiters	Math Former Students & Recruiters	College of Geosciences Mixer
Wed 09/15/10 5pm-6:30pm 209 Koldus	Wed 09/15/10 7pm-8:30pm 166 Blocker	Thur 09/16/10 3:30pm-5pm 111 Koldus

## Study Abroad Show and Tell

Are you studying abroad this summer or in the fall? If so, bring back a souvenir! The Environmental Programs Office is now collecting whatever you want to bring us to put on display. We want to showcase where our students have gone, and what better way to do that than with neat stuff! Do not feel obligated to bring something back, and definitely do not spend a lot of money if you do buy something. If you have something you would like to donate, then bring it by the office to put on the Study Abroad bookcase.

## Summer Courses

Did you take courses this summer somewhere other than Texas A&M? If so, then once the courses are complete, request that a transcript be sent to A&M. Once A&M receives the transcript, the Office of Admissions and Records will apply the courses to your record. After they are applied, if any substitutions need to be done, come see Emily.

## Faculty Spotlight

**Dr. Ethan Grossman is the Geology and Geophysics faculty representative for EPAC.**

**Name:** Ethan Grossman

**Department:** Geology and Geophysics

**Birthday:** 4/14

**Family:** I have a wonderful wife Pam who just retired from private practice in psychology so that she could pursue her encore career, teaching psychology at Blinn. I have two terrific “kids”, Nick, age 30, and Meghan, age 28. Both have found soul-mates to marry and now live on either coast. And we have a three-year-old granddaughter, who is the family star.



**Where did you get your undergraduate, masters, and doctorate and what was it over?** I received a B.S. degree from the State University of New York at Albany in Geology, and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in Geochemistry. As a kid I hammered pebbles to see what was hidden inside. I’m still doing it but I have replaced the hammer with a mass spectrometer. My interest in marine geology was piqued by my sedimentology professor and mentor at SUNYA, Jeff Fox, who ironically joined my department at TAMU when he assumed the directorship of the Ocean Drilling Program. When I began graduate school, my future graduate advisor was looking for a student to take over the stable isotope laboratory. Measuring the temperatures of ancient seawater intrigued me and I signed on. Pursuing a B.S. degree in Geology and a Ph.D. in stable isotope geochemistry are two of the three best decisions of my life.

**How long have you taught A&M?** I have been at TAMU for almost 28 years. I defended my dissertation in early August, 1982, and headed to Texas two weeks later.

**What courses are you teaching this semester/what courses are you teaching in the upcoming semester?** This past semester I taught the 1-credit undergraduate course, *Principles of Geological Writing*, the 3-credit graduate course *Earth Systems through Deep Time* with Anne Raymond, and took the lead in teaching a 1-credit graduate seminar in *Stable Isotope Geosciences* with John Kessler and Brendan Roark. The last is the first course offered through our new Stable Isotope Geosciences Facility (SIGF). This coming semester I will teach a 3-credit graduate course called *Stable Isotope Geology*, soon to be renamed *Stable Isotope Geosciences*.

**Why do you think studying the environment is important?** On the wall of my high school bedroom was a poster of Earth from space with the title, *Protect Your Local Planet*. The best way to protect our planet is to better understand how it works so we can provide the information necessary to make the best policy decisions. It’s hard to ignore accurate measurements. By the way, I still have that poster.

**What do you enjoy most about teaching?** I enjoy being the tour guide to the wonders of the Earth and our clever methods to study its past, present, and future. I also enjoy seeing students develop and share an excitement for science.

**What do you find most annoying about college students?** I nearly wrote “nothing”, but I confess that I do get annoyed with Geology 101 students who try to slip out of class early.

**What are your hobbies?** Bicycling, hiking (especially field work), and science.



## Faculty Spotlight Continued

**What was your first job you ever had?** I started working in my father's shoe store at the age of 11. I wasn't a very successful shoe salesman.

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

A geologist or a chemist, so I became a geochemist. (Did I mention that I had a chemistry set?)

**Do you have any pets?**

We have two cats, Kiki's the female and Misha's the male. Though cancer has taken one of Kiki's rare legs, she's still the boss.

**If you had a million dollars, what would you do?**

A million dollars would not go far these days, but if I had ten million dollars my wife and I would take a month-long tour of the world, then I would get back to work. I think I would fund my own research and that of my students, though I would likely still write proposals to keep my edge and get feedback. Also, the charity donations would go up by a couple of orders of magnitude.

**If you had a time machine, where would you go?**

Having worked to understand Carboniferous climate and glaciations for so long, I would like to see whether we came close to getting it right. Seeing the end-Cretaceous asteroid impact would be cool, but I would want to watch from a safe distance.

**Anything additional you would like to add?**

Check out the Stable Isotope Geosciences Facility web page (<http://stableisotope.tamu.edu/>).



## Resident Hall Move-In Assistance Team

Residence Hall Move-In Assistance Day is scheduled for Sunday, August 22, and the Department of Residence Life is seeking volunteers! As a volunteer, you will assist students and parents in moving their personal belongings into the residence halls which reduces unloading time at the designated unloading zones and keeps traffic moving. You will be provided with free parking in the Southside Parking Garage and a distinctive Residence Hall Move-In Day T-shirt so incoming students and parents will easily recognize you. A brief orientation session will be held for all volunteers who choose to participate.

If you would like to sign up as a group, let Emily know by August 5th. For more information, visit <http://reslife.tamu.edu/housing/moveinassistance/>.

## Gig 'Em Week

Gig 'Em Week is Aggieland's official Week of Welcome! It provides students an opportunity to learn more about the campus, each other, and college life in general through a series of educational and social events sponsored by university departments, colleges, student organizations, residence halls, and community members. Gig 'Em Week 2010 will take place August 22nd—August 29th.

Currently enrolled students who participate become eligible for prizes, free food, and gain valuable knowledge, insight, and connections. For more information, visit <http://studentlife.tamu.edu/nsp/GEW.html>.

Environmental  
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## EPAC Student Representative Corner

**There have been no new EPAC meetings since the last newsletter.**

**There is one EPAC Student Representative position that is vacant. The elected student will serve the remainder of Krista's term (until December '10).**

**If you would like to nominate somebody or yourself for this vacancy, please email Emily. An e-vote will take place at the end of August.**

**Thanks and have a great rest of the summer!**

## Upcoming Events in July and August

July 9th—5 p.m. Last day for adding/dropping courses for Summer II.  
Last day to apply for August graduation.

July 20th—5 p.m. Last day to Q-drop courses for the 10-week semester. Last day to withdraw from the University for the 10-week semester

July 26th—5 p.m. Last day to Q-drop for Summer II. Last day to withdraw from the University for Summer II

August 2nd-September 3rd—Open registration available online from 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

August 9th—Last day of Summer II and 10-week classes

August 10-11th—Summer II and 10-week final exams

August 12th—Noon. Grades for degree candidates due in the Office of the Registrar

August 13th—Commencement and Commissioning

August 16th—Noon. Final grades due for Summer II and 10-week semester

August 27th—Last day to register for fall semester classes and pay fees

August 29th—Freshman Convocation

August 30th—First day of fall semester classes

