



Student Newsletter



Spring 2012 Graduates

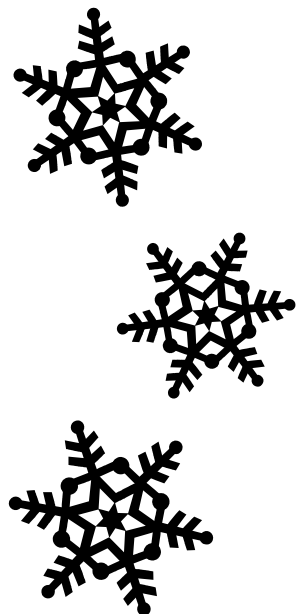
For those of you looking to graduate in Spring 2012, here are some steps to follow throughout the semester:

- 1) Log into Howdy to make sure all requirements are met and make an appointment with Emily to double check that the courses you are registered for in the Spring fulfill the remainder of your degree plan.
- 2) Make sure any minors you wanted have been applied to your record. Do not apply for graduation until the minors are showing!
- 3) Complete the online graduation application in Howdy by February 17th.
- 4) A graduation fee will be added to your student statement once you apply for graduation. Double check that it shows up and make sure to pay it.
- 5) Order grad announcements and gown around March. Information and deadlines will be posted on the graduation.tamu.edu website. The date and time of your graduation will not be determined until all applications have been received. However, it will be either May 11th or 12th.
- 6) If you will be registered for a course in the spring somewhere other than Texas A&M, you will need to send proof of enrollment to the Degree Audit Office by the Q-drop deadline.
- 7) Send any courses that were already taken elsewhere Texas A&M ASAP.
- 8) If you think you are eligible for the \$1000 Tuition Rebate, you need to complete the application found online as there is a deadline.
- 9) Emily will send out information about the graduation ceremony towards the end of the semester, but if you have any questions, please ask!
- 10) Utilize all of the Career Center resources, including getting signed up on the Hire Aggies website.
- 11) Pass all courses that you are registered for and pay any outstanding balances in order to graduate.
- 12) Enjoy your last semester at Texas A&M!



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Add/Drop

Once classes begin, you can add and drop classes the first week of class without penalty. Since the semester starts on a Tuesday, you will have until **Monday, January 23, 2012 at 5pm** to add/drop. After that, you will have to use a Q-drop to get out of a class. So make sure that you are enrolled in courses that count towards your major, that your load is not too light or too heavy, and that anything else is ok with your schedule.

Environment Cafe

Get excited for a new semester of Environment Cafés! The first café will be on January 24th from 9-10am in O&M 109. Swing by to enjoy some free refreshments while catching up with your classmates and advisor after being gone for the holidays. The cafés will continue to be twice a month. The February dates will be announced in the next newsletter. Don't forget, if you have any special food requests, let Emily know and she will see what she can do! Hope to see you there!



Congrats December 2011 Grads

Congratulations December 2011 graduates! Pictured below to the left are the Environmental Geosciences students (back row, left to right) Brandon Hopper, Maggie Anastasio, Chelsea Peper, Brian Rabaey, Chris Rodie, Megan Zetnick, Emily Vandewalle, (front row) Stephanie Gillihan, Manny Hernandez, Rachel Ezell, Sheraden Porter, Michael Spaits, Chelsey Stokes, and (not pictured) Travis Roof. Pictured below to the right are the Environmental Studies students (back row, left to right) Joseph Coats, Nicholas Delacruz, Scott Terry, Matthew Critchfield, Austin Miller, Morgan Moliver, (front row) Alyssia Becan, Elyse Torno, Kenji Miyajima, Jessica Schildwachter, and (not pictured) Michael Anglin and Chris Arceneaux. The Environmental Programs wishes them the best of luck in their future endeavors. Keep in touch!



Student Organization Open House

MSC Spring Open House will be at the Rec Center January 22, 2012 from 1-4pm. MSC Open House is the biggest recruiting event of the year! Student organizations will have tables set up to promote their club and activities. This would be a great time to see what organizations you may want to join. Don't forget to stop by EPIC's table!



First Year Grade Exclusion

Did you not do as well as you planned in a class? If you are a "first year college student" and meet the guidelines, you may be able to exclude that grade from your GPR calculation at A&M. If you are considering excluding a grade, please read the policy on the Office of the Registrar's website at: <http://admissions.tamu.edu/Registrar/Current/GradeExPolicy.aspx>. Make an appointment with Financial Aid (if you have any) to see how using a FYGE could affect your aid and with Emily so that you can discuss your options and to verify that you understand the policy.

Faculty Spotlight

Name: Mary Jo Richardson

Department: Oceanography (also Geology and Geophysics)

Birthday: St. Patrick's Day

Family: Married to Wilf Gardner. We have three "lovely ladies" (daughters), all through college and employed.

Where did you get your undergraduate, masters, and doctorate and what was it over? A.B. Smith College, Geology/Math. Ph.D. MIT/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program in Oceanography

How long have you taught A&M? I've taught at A&M since 1986.

What courses do you teach? For Fall 2011 – I taught GEOL 101 in Italy at the Santa Chiara Study Center and also piloted the lecture portion "online" back to College Station. For Spring 2012 – I am teaching an honors section and a regular section of OCNG 251.

Why do you think studying the environment is important? The Earth is our home. We are stewards of our environment for future generations. We must be responsible stewards and that starts with education and understanding. We strive to be environmentally green. We have solar panels on our home. Wilf has driven a Prius for 11 years.

What do you enjoy most about teaching? I love the students. I enjoy continually learning.

What do you find most annoying about college students? I detest when students lie, cheat or steal (including parking spots)

What is the funniest or craziest thing that you've seen or been asked while at A&M? Well, the craziest thing that I witnessed was while in Oman before a scientific expedition in the Arabian Sea. Three of us decided to go to the beach one day. At the beach there was a bus with men's dish dashes hanging in the aisle and guns and shields outside the bus. There were only a few people at the beach. There was an old wooden dhow (boat) in the bay. We went snorkeling among the rocks. After about 20 minutes a police boat came by with a blow horn and in clear English told us to get out of the water and to get our cameras since a "battle" between two boats was about to take place and underwater explosives would be detonated. We had unexpectedly swum into the shooting of a movie.

What are your hobbies? I most enjoy being with my family doing anything. I enjoy building and fixing things.

What was your first job you ever had? My first "real" jobs were tutoring math and science, and providing computer programming support for students on a main-frame that used "punch cards".

What did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be an oceanographer. And I am one.

Do you have any pets? I do not have any pets. I do have a grand puppy and two grand kitties.

If you were stuck on a deserted island, what 3 things would you want to have with you? Hmmmm. It would depend on what existed on the island for survival i.e. water, food, and shelter. Assuming there was a very short-term need to leave, a means of contacting a rescue team (working satellite phone or internet connection device) would be helpful.

Anything additional you would like to add? I am thrilled to see the Environmental Program in Geoscience flourishing. In the late 90's as a faculty member and Associate Dean in Geoscience I led the curriculum development of the Environmental Program's two curricula. I gathered the data needed and wrote the proposals for the two new curricula developed with my faculty colleagues. The curriculum in Environmental Geoscience was designed specifically as a flexible curriculum for both the science and social science components with numerous targeted "track" electives to be able to build the most appropriate degree for each student. I obtained the needed support from other departments and colleges, the faculty senate, the administration, the Board of Regents and the Coordinating Boarding. It was a glorious day when final approval was received as there were many students waiting for the degrees to be approved. The first graduate was in Fall 2003, the first year that the curriculum was offered.



Make an appointment
with Emily by going to:
envp.clickbook.net

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O&M 105

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EPAC Student Representative Corner

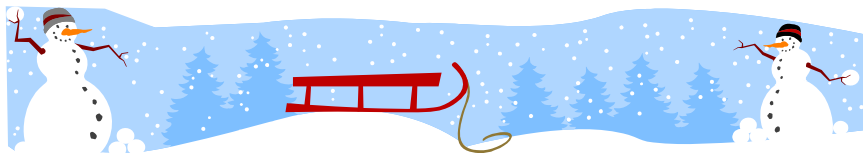
Due to one of the representatives graduating, there is now an open Student Representation position for ENGS. If you are an ENGS student and would like to nominate yourself, please email Emily a short paragraph stating your name, class year, and why you want to be a Student Representative and put "EPAC Nomination" in the subject line.

Deadline to submit nominations are Friday, January 27th.

The responsibility of the Student Representative is to attend the EPAC meetings that are held about once a month. EPAC is the decision making group for the Environmental Programs.

Good luck as you start another semester!

Thanks and Gig 'Em!



Upcoming Events in January

- 1st—New Years Day
- 2nd—Faculty and Staff return from the break
- 13th— 5 p.m. Last day to register for spring semester classes and pay fees.
- 16th— Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Faculty and Staff holiday.
- 17th— First day of spring semester classes.
- 23rd— 5 p.m. Last day for adding/dropping courses for the spring semester.
- 24th—Environment Café
O&M 109
9-10am

