

U.T. HYDROGEOLOGY NEWS - FALL, 2022

NEW HYDROGEOLOGY STUDENTS (476K – 391C)



The 2022 Physical Hydrogeology class – a mix of GEO hydrogeology, GEH, and EVS students., plus a few ringers Photo provided by Bayani.

GEOLOGY 346C TUTORIAL



Daniella and some of her 346C students at a tutorial session. From left to right: Connor Attmore, Jenna Connor, Anya Gandavadi, Isabella Hollis, Daniella, Nakul Nagaraj, and Luis Leyva. Also present, but not in this photo were Megan Palladino and Jingain Liang.

Upcoming events:

Phil Bennett appreciation: On September 30th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM there will be an appreciation gathering for Phil Bennett at the Holland Family Center and Masri Courtyard in JSG.

UT Tailgate Party: October 1 before the kickoff to the football game with West Virginia at the Holland Family Center and Masri Courtyard.

The 2022 GSA Annual meeting in Denver, 9-12 October

The UT alumni party will be on October 10th at Henry's Restaurant

UT alumni are convening 2 Topical Sessions:

Kevin Befus (PhD, 1015) is an advocate for T130, Coastal and Marine Hydrogeology in an Age of Rising Seas: From Shore to the Oceanic Ridge.

Brad Gooch (PhD, 2016) is an advocate for T137, Using 3D Geological Models to Explore Geologic Processes, Assess Natural Resources and Hazards, and Meet Societal Needs.

National HCP (Habitat Conservation Plan) Coalition Conference: Rob Mace (PhD, 1989) will be giving a keynote address at the conference in Austin, 25-27 October.

Not new faculty, but new to the hydrogeology teaching program: As noted in the last newsletter, Professor Dan Breecker and Associate Professor Tim Shanahan taught in the Hydrogeological Field Methods course last spring. They widen the range of expertise in the hydrogeology program.



Dan Breecker



Tim Shanahan

Dan received his PhD from the University of New Mexico in 2008, and after a post doc at the University of Arizona, he joined UT in 2009. Dan's research focusses on soils and caves.

Tim received his PhD in 2007 from the University of Arizona. His research focuses on understanding past and future climate variability using geochemical and stable isotopic signatures in sedimentary records and climate model simulations. He is also the director of the UT Environmental Science Program.

Alumni news:

Juan Acevado (MS, 2020) has left the TDWB and taken a position with WSP in Austin.

Kyra (Kim) Adams (BS, 2013) has news on 2 fronts: 1) her change in marital status and 2) she recently finished her postdoc and have joined the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California as a Scientist within the Sea Level and Ice Group, working on saltwater intrusion and other coastal projects.

Kevin Befus (PhD, 2015) is now an assistant professor at the University of Arkansas

Cody Bjornson (BA, 2017) is with the TWDB.

Chance Bolduc (BS, 2019) is starting a new position as Staff Geologist II at Apex Companies, LLC!

Rebecca Boon (BS, 2008) is with Battelle in Houston working fully remote in their Commercial Carbon Services team supporting sequestration projects. She sent this photo from the 2008 Cuatrocieneegas, Mexico, spring break field trip. We were almost stuck.



John Bumgarner (BS, 2002; MS, 2005) is the Director of the USGS New England Water Science Center. He says, “Our Center has about 180 incredibly talented staff conducting data collection and research that span the range of hydrologic science in all six New England States as well as Nationally. Some highlights are, of course, stream gaging as well as PFAS investigations, groundwater-flow and nutrient flux modeling, and climate-related studies.”

John’s wife, Michelle, still works remotely for UT as a Researcher in the School of Social Work and daughter, Dari, is in her senior year of high school; turns 18 in September; and is looking at colleges.

Anne Dunckel (BS, 2009) is with the US Forest Service in Spearfish, SD.

Sarah George (PhD, 2019), Kristina Butler (current UT graduate student) and Emily Mixon (BS, 2018, and current postdoc at the University of Wisconsin) were authors on a note in GSA Today entitled “From Doc to Postdoc; Taking the Next Academic Step”.

Brooke Kopecky (BS, 2019) is a project manager with Sol Systems, a leading, national renewable energy company

Ben Linhoff (MS, 2008) is with the USGS in Albuquerque.

Rob Mace (PhD, 1998) is the Executive Director of the Meadows Center for Water and Environment at Texas State University in San Marcos.

Katherine McGlaughlin (BS, 2016) is with the TCEQ in Austin.

Mark Null (BS, 1987) working part-time with Aqua Strategies as a consultant. Mark notes that he is “involved with the TxDOT Streamgage project that Dr. Maidment is heading up from UT. I am also the owner of PJ's Coffee located in Northlake, TX (near Texas Motor Speedway) and spend a lot of time there! “

Rebecca ~~Kinematic Velocity Squared~~ (Nunu) (BS, 2016) presented her finding on Balmorhea Springs water chemistry to the San Solomon Springs Working Group and will also be presenting at the 2nd Waters of West Texas Symposium in Pecos, Texas, next October 13. Rebecca is a Research Scientist with the SWRI in San Antonio and recently received a 400K WaterSMART grant from the USBR to continue her study of Balmorhea Springs.

Kevin Pasternak (BS, 1995) is a Principal Geoscientist at Atlas Technical Consultants, Inc. in Austin. Kevin presented a poster “*Evaluation of Modeled Infiltration from Retention Ponds to Effect an Air Sparge/Soil Vapor Extraction Remediation System*” at the 2022 Battelle 12th International Conference on Remediation of Chlorinated and Recalcitrant Compounds, May 22-26, 2022, in Palm Springs, California.

Sean Porse (MS, 2013) is an International Relations Specialist at U.S. Department of Energy . He recently moderated a PIVOT panel about the vast opportunities to decarbonize all manner of heating applications using geothermal energy.

Nolan Townsend (BS, 2013) is an assistant engineer at Hazen and Sawyer in Denver.

Jennifer Wilson (BS, 1995; MS, 2001) is with the USGS in Austin.

Brad Wolaver (BS, 1995; PhD, 2008) is a Water Resources Professional III/Hydrologist with the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer in Santa Fe. He has been: 1) using groundwater models to evaluate effects of groundwater rights transactions in New Mexico; 2) evaluating stratigraphy in support of reviewing well designs, some of which involve hydraulic fracturing; 3) working on an Indian water rights settlement, incorporating environmental flows for riparian vegetation restoration; 4) prioritizing the effects of forecasted climate change on surface water availability and interstate compact compliance; and 5) generally providing hydrologic technical expertise to a variety of agencies.

Notes on newsletter distribution:

If you have news that you would like to share, please email them to jmsharp@jsg.utexas.edu.

If you would like to stop receiving these newsletters, please let me know, and I will strike your name off the email lists.

If you know a friend or alum who is not receiving these, but would like to, please let me know and will shoot a copy to them.

If you have email addresses for the following, I would appreciate receiving them and then I can put these alumni back on the newsletter mailing list.

Lost alumni:

Juan Acevado
Mike Dobbins
Amy Campbell
Sarah Doyle
Briana Ferrari
Graham Fogg
Stu Goldsmith
Kim Gordon
Cass Meyer
Deb Pfeiffer

Note: As I am now emeritus, these newsletters come out more irregularly and not nearly monthly, barring my sabbatical and research leaves, as had been common since 1985. I plan to have another newsletter out in early November. Please send me any news items that might be, especially some “blasts from the past.”