March 22 is World Water Day! World Water Day is held annually on 22 March, raising awareness of the importance of freshwater and advocating for sustainable resource management, this year highlighting sanitation and water issues.

Quote for the day (from John Hawley, Emeritus Senior Environmental Geologist, NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources, and N.M. Tech)

“I keep the subject of my inquiry constantly before me, and wait till the first dawning opens gradually by little and little, into a full and clear light.”

Issac Newton

Promotions: Ashley Matheny and Daniella Rempe (BS, 2008) were both promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure.

More information on our newly tenured professors can be found at:
https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/researcher/ashley_matheny/
https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/researcher/daniella_rempe/

Awards: Wendy Robertson (BS, 2006; PhD, 2014) is the recipient of Central Michigan University’s 2023 Excellence in Teaching Award.
Upcoming Hydrogeologic Field Camp (HFC):

Daniella Rempe and Bayani Cardenas are teaching the 2023 HFC, which will be in Tulum, Mexico, from May 15-23 and in the Austin area on 8-14 May. The class will have unique opportunities in Tulum. Th class is staying at a property within (or bounded by) the Si’an Kaan Biosphere Reserve from May 15-19 and will investigate coastal or land-to-ocean vadose zone, groundwater, and surface hydrologic processes confined to the property. From the 19th to the 22nd, while based out of Tulum proper, the class will hit several sites to do synoptic sampling of cenotes in developed and ‘pristine’ areas, focusing on the famous Ox Bel Ha cave system. While the student teams will collect surface accessible samples, a team of cave divers will be collecting water samples from deep inside the karst aquifer. Three sampling teams driving from cenote to cenote with cave divers for 3 days is pretty unique and course intends to take advantage of it.

UT hydrogeology at the South-Central GSA meeting in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

We were well represented. Todd Halihan (PhD, 2000) is a professor at Oklahoma State University and was the lead organizer for this very successful meeting. Oral and poster presentation authors included: Kevin Befus (PhD, 2015), Steve Dworkin (PhD, 1991), Marcus Gary (PhD, 2009; BS, 2001), Todd Halihan, Brian Hunt (MS, 2000; BS, 1996), Jack Sharp (professor emeritus), and BS students Carole-Lynna Benhamou, Constance Marshall, Nakul Nagaraj, Taylor Sweatt, and Austin Turner.

Carole-Lynna Benhamou (center) and Constance Marshall (right) discussing their poster on Independence Creek with Antonio Cardona (a GSA member from San Luis Potosi, Mexico).

Constance was recognized as one of the 3 best undergrad poster presenters and received a free GSA membership. She presented 2 posters at the meeting.
Alumni and faculty news:

Pat Bobeck (MA, 1985; PhD, 2017) is the Chair of the History and Philosophy Division of Geological Society of America. The division is planning 3 sessions at the Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh next fall:
- Celebrating State Geological Surveys, State Geologists, and Exceptional State Projects
- Rock Art Throughout History
- Great Books in Geology Revisited

Patrick Fortson (BS, 2005) is a Senior Scientist with Braun Intertec Corporation in Austin. He recently conducted job interviews at the Department.

Aline Guidry (Brazil exchange student, 2006) is a project manager in Washington, DC.

Brad Garner (MS, 2005) is a Program Manager at Urantia Foundation and recently traveled to Tanzania to help their government monitor their rivers and groundwater using the same computer technology as USGS uses here in the USA.

Todd Halihan (PhD, 2000) is the Chair of the South-Central Section of the Geological Society of America.

David Harris (BS, 1975) is with Infinity Geosciences, a firm specializing in oil and gas prospects. Dave and wife, Karen, have lived in Dripping Springs since returning from New Zealand in 2005. They first met in the Hydrogeology Field methods class in 1987.

Russ Johnson (BS, 1997) comments that the Hydrogeology Newsletter is “Totally Saturated.” Russ still lives in Llano; that his daughters are grown up, graduated, and married; and that he has been with Weston Solutions (now as a Senior Project Manager) for over 24 years.

Kelly (Iacono) Daniel (BS, 2004) is with Kleinfelder in Austin.

John LaFave (MA, 1987) is the Program Manager, Ground Water Assessment Program, at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology in Butte, MT.

Kristie Laughlin (BS, 2000) is the BRACS Manager, Groundwater Division, at the Texas Water Development Board in Austin.

Roger Lee (PhD, 1996) is a Senior Environmental Geochemist with Pioneer Technical Services, Inc., in Austin.

Kevin Meyer (BS, 2011) is with JB Engineers performing geologic investigations and construction materials testing in Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska.

Lauren Petty (BS, 2006) is starting a new position as Permitting and Waste Supervisor at Georgia Power Company.
Matt Rodell (PhD, 2000) is with the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. He is the author of a report (cited in a recent AP new release) documenting the strong links between climate extremes (floods and extended droughts) and rising average global temperatures.

Jay Santillan (PhD, 2014) is with Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Jack Sharp (emeritus faculty) was interviewed by graduate students Noah Benitez-Nelson (center) and Nick Regier (right) on their podcast Science Y’all. Nick and Noah have interviewed several fellow students and UT faculty members (including Chris Bell and Matt Malkowski). The podcast can be found at:


Jack’s 15-minute episode can be found at:
https://open.spotify.com/episode/0BzQyIe0JcM9BPyVNJVkIV?si=ce9d1aa24cdd4c5f .

Kuldeep Chaudhary Singh (PhD, 2013) is a professor at Kent State University and was interviewed about the recent East Palestine, Ohio, chemical spill. Please check these links:
https://www.kent.edu/today/news/kent-state-researcher-reviews-east-palestine-cleanup

Alka Tripathy-Lang (BS, 2003; MS 2006) is a Science Writer at EOS. She authored two articles in the recent February edition – “Grains of Sand: Too Much and Never Enough” and “Making Underwater Cables SMART with Sensors.”

Spencer Whitman (BS, 2010) is a co-founder of a venture to sequester atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Barbara Wortham (BS, 2013) is a Climate Change Manager with PWC in San Jose, California.

Dan Zafar (BS, 2012) is a customer-facing software engineer with Databricks, a cloud-based company offering big data analyses.

**Obituary:** Weldon Hammond (PhD, 1984). Weldon was a professor at UTSA and started the hydrogeology program there.
Note: As I am now emeritus, these newsletters come out irregularly and not nearly monthly, as had been common since 1985, barring my sabbatical and research leaves. Please send me any news items that might be shared, especially some “blasts from the past.”

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.