



Just a quick reminder that we will have Department Meeting at 12:30 PM on Monday 8 April in 202 Martin Hall. This will be our last meeting for the academic year. The agenda is rather light. If you have any questions, announcement, whatever. . . please feel free to bring them up at the meeting.

Congratulations are in order to Joe Morgan. Effective 1 October, he will be an Associate Professor of Geography. Also, Joe is responsible for most of the information in this week's newsletter. So, in addition to Congratulations: Thank you!  
--Lou

### Department News

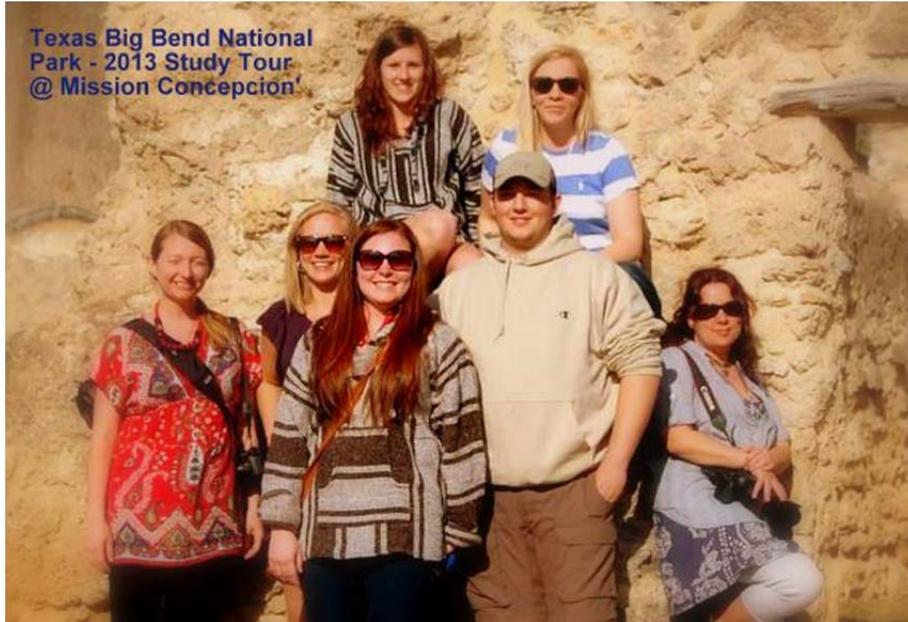
#### TEXAS - Big Bend National Park Study Tour:

The trip to Texas and the Big Bend was a great success. Seven students make the exciting trip and managed to return (mostly unscathed). The trip led us into Austin the Capital of the Great Republic of Texas and then to San Antonio, believed to be the cultural epicenter in the region. From the Alamo (you all remember the Alamo, right) to the Mission trail dating from the mid 1800's. If you haven't done Riverwalk, you haven't done modern Texas with a multitude



of restaurants, shops, and more artist's boutiques that one can imagine. From there to Del Rio along the Texas-Mexico border through the Hill Country and into the Chihuahua Desert a beautiful but desolate place historically known as the "Despoblado" or without population. A few days in the Big Bend park, climbing the Chisos Mountains to get a birds-eye view of the basin to the Santa Elena Canyon and the beauty of the desert along the Rio Grande River is enough to humble even the most

hubris among us. After a day of swimming in the Hot Springs and the Rio Grande we all met at the Old General Store in Terlingua Texas where many of the locals gather to relax and discuss the business of the day. Fortunately they were willing to share their life and history with the students - for part of their cultural hands on lessons - taught by those who were living the culture of the region. There is no better way to develop a deeper understanding of "a place" than to immerse yourself into the physiography, the climate and the culture. Thank you JSU for allowing this program to exist.



The study tour group from l to r front row, Erica Ferguson, Logan Byars, Anna Dorsy, Mathieu Hopper, Dana Lindly-Cotton. Top back, l to r Payten Samuels and Abigail Jacobs.

**BJ Bonner - Geography Major at Jacksonville State University**

BJ Bonner is an officer in training with the U.S. Coast Guard and will be working for NOAA upon Completion. BJ was a student research assistant on one of the Gulf of Mexico data collection trips on a NOAA Vessel in November 2011. He was so inspired by the process that he decided that should be his future. BJ applied for Officer Training School and was accepted right after graduation for this opportunity of a lifetime.

According to BJ, "This is my new ride for the next two years! The NOAA Ship Rainier! She spends her summers in the waters off of Alaska and is home ported in Newport, OR. I am very blessed to have the best job in the world."





"Rainier is equipped with the Kongsberg EM710 Multibeam Sonar System and a Rolls-Royce Moving Vessel Profiler (MVP) 200 sound speed acquisition system, and the ship's five aluminum survey launches are equipped with four Reson 7125 dual-frequency multibeam sonars, one tilted Reson 8125 multibeam sonar, one ODOM Echosrac CV200 vertical beam echosounder, and HYPACK and HYSWEEP Hydrographic Data Acquisition Software" YOU MUST BE WORKING ON BATMAN'S BOAT!

That is what I call a good gig.. Congratulations to B J Bonner, and good luck... Amazing what opportunities can be opened with a two-week research tour.

### **Abigail Jacobs at the Alabama Academy of Science**

Just received word - Abigail Jacobs, a double major in Political Science and Geography won



second place for the Alabama Academy of Science Social Science Paper Presentation competition at this year's Conference held at Sanford University in Birmingham. Abigail's paper on Crime and Social Stress is an ongoing effort between the Town of Piedmont Alabama and the Geography Students research efforts. This is an integrate study of the spatial relationship between crime and its correlation with stress as measured at the census block level. Abigail, thanks for all the hard work, and a well deserved congratulations.

## **College and University News**

### **JSU Jazz Festival Fri. Apr. 5 in Mason Hall**

Students, staff, faculty and guests are encouraged and welcome to attend. Admission is free. 7:30pm Concert: JSU Chamber Winds, Chamber Singers, Alumni Big Band, Jazz Ensemble I

### **JSU Voicemail Notification**

Due to recent telephone switch issues, the message light on single line phones is currently inoperable and will not illuminate when a message arrives. Please check your voicemail messages on a regular basis. Hopefully this issue will be resolve in short order.

### **Houston Cole Library Offering Curbside Service During Storm Cleanup**

With the Library building closed to the public due to storm damage, beginning Wednesday, 20 March, the Library will offer curbside service to deliver circulating items to students, faculty, and staff. Patrons may pick up requested items at the covered Gamecock Shuttle

stop located between the Library and Martin Hall. Curbside delivery will be offered 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. until Friday, 22 March. The service will be evaluated after Spring Break, and may be discontinued depending on the progress of construction at the Library.

Students, faculty, and staff wishing to use the Library's curbside delivery service may call any [reference librarian](#) or contact the circulation desk at (256) 782-5758. Please note this service is offered only for **\*circulating\*** items; reference and other non-circulating items are excluded. When making their requests, patrons will need to provide Library staff with:

- A list of the items being requested
- A time the items will be picked up
- Contact information (the patron's name, student number, and an email/phone number)

Patrons will be **\*required\*** to show a photo ID at the pick-up site in order to receive their requested items.

Please note that the book drop (located in the Library parking lot) is open, and patrons may use it at any time to return their materials.

The Library apologizes for any inconvenience occasioned by construction efforts. Further information regarding Library operations will be forthcoming after Spring Break.

### Rumor Has It...

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That Harry Holstein, after losing all his keys, decided that the best way to replace the missing car key was to buy a new car. He also lost his office keys. Unfortunately he found the keys before he was able to buy a new building for Archaeology.



### Contact Details

If you have items of news or interest that you would like included in the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences newsletter, then contact **Tracy Casey** before noon on Thursdays at: [tscasey@jsu.edu](mailto:tscasey@jsu.edu) or phone (256) 782-5232.