Hebert has asked the program to start thinking seriously about a Masters in Geology. Here we see ourselves going for a set of niches within the general field of Petroleum Geology—possibly micropaleontology and low temperature (mud rock) geochemistry.

For both programs to develop we will need more space and more people. So, while we are desperate to do more, to grow and expand, and to improve the overall quality of our programs we are largely marking time at the moment. Sometime soon, perhaps, the brakes will come off and then you will need to hold on to your hats because Geography and Geology are poised for a considerable renaissance…

Chris Baldwin
baldwin@shsu.edu

Inside this Issue:
* Meet new Geology faculty
  Dr. Joe Hill
* Learn about new course offerings
* Congratulations to our student award winners
* Get out of the classroom with field class, camps and study abroad experiences
* Read about visiting scholars to the department
* See what the faculty have been up to

Message from the Interim Chair

Living in interesting times...

From the point of view of the Department of Geography and Geology these are both interesting times (may you, too, live in them) and slightly frustrating times. Interesting because we now have a small cadre of new young faculty who bring to the department fresh ideas and lots of infectious energy for teaching and for research. Their presence serves to reinvigorate all of us. But with this reinvigoration comes a certain level of frustration—particularly in the area of new faculty appointments. The newly approved Geospatial Masters Program needs new staff if it is to be something other than a cobbled-together approximation for a real program. We need more social geographers to expand upon the solid base that we have at the present—we need to offer more specialized GIS and Remote sensing courses as components of the Masters program but we also need to diversify and make a tad more interesting (sexy?) some of our middle and upper level human geography courses. For example there is talk of courses focused on such relevant topics as terrorism and also trans-border issues and just recently members of the Geography faculty have begun to think about expansion of our course offerings in the general field of meteorology and climate studies, perhaps allied with Public Communication with the ultimate aim of training such people as TV “Weather Communicators” (my term!)—all the very stuff of a modern, relevant and connected Geography program.

There are similar but slightly different pressures in the Geology program which now has over fifty majors. College of Arts and Sciences Dean Jamie Hebert has asked the program to start thinking seriously about a Masters in Geology. Here we see ourselves going for a set of niches within the general field of Petroleum Geology—possibly micropaleontology and low temperature (mud rock) geochemistry.

For both programs to develop we will need more space and more people. So, while we are desperate to do more, to grow and expand, and to improve the overall quality of our programs we are largely marking time at the moment. Sometime soon, perhaps, the brakes will come off and then you will need to hold on to your hats because Geography and Geology are poised for a considerable renaissance…

Chris Baldwin
baldwin@shsu.edu

New Faculty: Dr. Joe Hill

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Joseph Hill joined the department in the fall semester 2008. Dr. Hill received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Dr. Hill’s research is concerned with the structural and thermo-tectonic evolution of mountain belts. His specialty is medium- to high-grade metamorphic terranes, especially in Precambrian rocks. He has worked in the southern and northern Appalachians, Black Hills of South Dakota, and Wind River range, Wyoming. Dr. Hill is currently working in the piedmont region of Pennsylvania, investigating the detailed structure and metamorphism of the metamorphic core of the northern Appalachians. Dr. Hill is looking forward to learning about the structure and evolution of the Llano region of central Texas.

Dr. Hill will be teaching introductory classes in Physical and Historical Geology and upper division courses in Structural Geology, Tectonics, and the Geology of North America. He is also planning to develop a freshman-sophomore level introductory field methods course and upper division field course.

gnjoe@shsu.edu

Fall 2008 Newsletter
The Geography Program has kicked off a new course entitled “Geo-spatial Technology (Geography 364) which integrates computer mapping, GPS, interactive web applications, imagery, cell phone technology and vehicle navigation systems. The 300 level class is designed to be a fun and interesting introduction to the powerful geo-spatial technologies which are transforming our lives. As part of an innovative approach to this material, the instructor (Dr. Mark Leipnik) is providing each of the students in the class a Tom Tom 130 vehicle navigation system (shown below) for their use over the course of the semester. An on-going part of the pre-existing Field studies course (geography 433) has been to give students access to GPS units for their use over the semester and this provision of vehicle navigation systems in this new course is an extension of that concept. The class will be mapping their travels and using GIS to look at the same data (from Teleatlas) that is stored in their nav. system. In particular, errors and issues with the data will be explored. Dr. Leipnik is also working with the admissions office which uses nav. systems to build data on errors and omissions in nav. system data sets and compare the accuracy of differing nav. systems from Tom Tom and Garmin.

geo_mrl@shsu.edu

New Courses for Spring 2009

GEOLOGY 335: Energy and Environmental Impact (MWF 9-9:50am)—The course focuses on geologic energy resources, use, and environmental impact. The case will be made for the link between population growth, industrialization, and the critical need for developing existing energy resources as well as developing strategies for new energy sources and energy conservation. The impact of energy development and exploitation on the health of the ecosphere will be stressed throughout. Alternative and renewable energy sources will also be evaluated. The course format will include a number of case studies throughout, each intended to link the topic of discussion to real world considerations and local interests. Specific topics will include such things as plate tectonics and energy resources, fossil fuels, nuclear energy, renewable energy resources, and our energy future.

For more information, contact Dr. Gong (gxg002@shsu.edu).

GEOGRAPHY 332: Tourism Geography—The geography of tourism examines a wide range of topics intended to help us understand the movement of tourists and tourist dollars, the positive and negative effects of tourism on communities and environments, the promotion of tourism, the experience of tourism, and the ways in which we know our world through tourism. This course will examine the relationship between geography and tourism through issues of tourism supply and demand, types of tourism, tourism resources, the development of tourism, and the effects of tourism. These concepts will then be explored in the context of tourism destinations locally and internationally.

For more information, contact Dr. Nelson (vnelson@shsu.edu).

GEOGRAPHY 475: Geospatial Analysis—This course will introduce students the fundamental knowledge and techniques for the visualization and analysis of different types of spatial data. Students will learn the spatial analysis capabilities provided by ArcGIS through ArcToolbox and Spatial Analysis extension. Applications of spatial analysis techniques in a variety of fields such as planning, marketing, health, criminal justice will be discussed using case studies with real world examples. As a great complement to our existing GeoTech classes, this course will better prepare students for the increasingly competitive market.

For more information, contact Dr. Degenhardt (degenhardt@shsu.edu).
Student Organizations

Sam Houston Association of Geology Students (SHAGS)—SHAGS has a number of activities planned for the fall semester including:

- October 25th—Houston Museum of Natural Science trip
- November 14th—Fossil hunting trip
- November 21st-23rd—Llano Region field trip in conjunction with Dr. Hill’s Geology of North America class. We will be camping at Inks Lake State Park and touring the region observing a variety of Proterozoic igneous and metamorphic outcrops.
- December 12th—Fall banquet (check third floor bulletin boards or contact the department for more information).

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities or getting involved, contact Dr. Cooper, SHAGS faculty advisor, for more information (bjcooper@shsu.edu).

Geographers of Sam Houston (GOSH)—Dr. Strait has been appointed the faculty advisor for (GOSH), the student organization for geography majors and minors, as well as other interested students. In recent years, GOSH has not been an active organization, a trend which Dr. Strait intends to change. He will schedule a meeting sometime in November, and anyone interested in joining the organization should plan on attending. Once a meeting date and time is determined, there will be announcements made in all geography classes, and there will be flyers on the third floor bulletin boards.

One of the key topics to be addressed at this initial meeting will be Gamma Theta Upsilon, the nationally recognized geography honorary society. Membership in this society looks good on resumes and job applications. The eligibility requirements for this society will be explained at the meeting. If you are interested in getting involved in Gosh and/or Gamma Theta Upsilon, contact Dr. Strait for more information (jbs008@shsu.edu).

Geographers of Sam Houston (GOSH)—Dr. Strait has been appointed the faculty advisor for (GOSH), the student organization for geography majors and minors, as well as other interested students. In recent years, GOSH has not been an active organization, a trend which Dr. Strait intends to change. He will schedule a meeting sometime in November, and anyone interested in joining the organization should plan on attending. Once a meeting date and time is determined, there will be announcements made in all geography classes, and there will be flyers on the third floor bulletin boards.

One of the key topics to be addressed at this initial meeting will be Gamma Theta Upsilon, the nationally recognized geography honorary society. Membership in this society looks good on resumes and job applications. The eligibility requirements for this society will be explained at the meeting. If you are interested in getting involved in Gosh and/or Gamma Theta Upsilon, contact Dr. Strait for more information (jbs008@shsu.edu).

2007-8 Student Scholarships and Awards

The following students received awards for geography and geology during the 2007-8 academic year:

- **Reyna De La Cruz** (Sam Houston Association of Geology Students Scholarship)
- **Jak Kearns** (Sam Houston Association of Geology Students Scholarship)
- **Libbey Kutch** (Teaching Assistantship, Department of Geography, University of North Texas)
- **Molly Mayer** (Cannan Geological Scholarship, Houston Geological Society Undergraduate Scholarship & Houston Geological Society Outstanding Geography Student Award)
- **James Scott** (PEERS Scholarship)
- **Holly Stover** (PEERS Scholarship & Golden Key International Honor Society)

- **Melissa Strada** (PEERS Scholarship, Barron Scholarship Award, Robert & Mable Richard Endowment)
- **Leah Stump** (Excellence in Writing Award for “Maldives: A Fragile Development” paper written in GEO 437: Population Geography)
- **Phillip Teissier** (Scott Scholarship Award, Robert & Mable Richard Endowment)
- **David Thompson** (Holder Scholarship Award, Robert & Mable Richard Endowment)
- **William Yarbrough** (Williams Scholarship Award, Robert & Mable Richard Endowment & 2008 Award for Excellence of Scholarship, National Council for Geographic Education/Association of American Geographers)
Thailand & Cambodia—This summer, Dr. Gillespie took 14 students to Thailand and Cambodia on a month-long trip worth 3 hours of geography credit. While in Thailand, the students traveled throughout much of the country, from the coasts of southern Thailand to the mountains of the north. While in Bangkok, the capital city, the students visited the Grand Palace, Temple of the Emerald Buddha, and Temple of the Reclining Buddha. In Central Thailand, they visited the ruins of the ancient city of Sukhothai, which is more than 500 years old.

The students also traveled to Cambodia to see the ancient temple complex of Angkor Wat, the largest Buddhist temple complex in the world. The temple site was built from the 9th through the 15th centuries in the heart of the Cambodian rainforest. Their tour guide, who survived the infamous “Killing Fields of Cambodia” took them to one of the memorials to the victims of this terrible period in Cambodian history.

In addition to the cultural sites in both countries, the group visited Khao Sok, the oldest rainforest in the world. Nature, being what it is (i.e. natural) they had some unfortunate encounters with leeches while in the rainforest, but survived to continue their trip! Incredibly, they learned that leeches are actually a sign of a healthy rainforest.

At a ‘monkey’ school in Thailand, the students watched monkey trainers teach monkeys how to harvest coconuts from trees and ride a motorcycle to work – literally. (They don’t drive, they just stand on the seat behind the driver.) They also had fed free-roaming monkeys, went sea kayaking among giant rock pillars in the Andaman Sea, snorkeling on a coral reef, and hiking in the mountains of northern Thailand to see how the hill tribe people live their lives. They hiked and rafted through caves, went swimming in a pool at the base of a waterfall that was full of fish, visited family fruit farms, rode elephants through the forest and went white water rafting. They stayed in luxury hotels, family homes, sleeper trains, and an oyster farm built on stilts in the ocean. While an overnight home stay along canals, they floated down the waterways and watched fireflies light up the trees. In the day, they saw giant 6-foot monitor lizards swimming the same waterways.

Dr. Gillespie is hoping to lead another trip in 2010 and is considering different destinations – possibly Costa Rica, Egypt or Europe. Any students interested should contact Dr. Strait (bs006@shsu.edu).

Summer Field Studies Courses

The Mississippi Delta—At the beginning of the summer, Dr. Strait and Dr. Tiller took 15 students on the annual pilgrimage to the Mississippi Delta. This year they were accompanied by Kay Williams, author and writer for the LA Times, who was an assignment writing a story on the heritage of the Delta. The group left Huntsville on a Sunday morning and travelled to Memphis, TN, where they spent 2 ½ days experiencing the sights, smells and tastes of the Birthplace of Rock ’N’ Roll. They then ventured south, deeper into the Delta, where they investigated the home of the “Delta Blues” – visiting Tunica, Clarksdale, Mound Bayou, Cleveland, Greenwood and other communities in Mississippi.

During the trip, the group traveled to several sites important to the cultural geography of music – including legendary Beale Street, Soulsville (the neighborhood surrounding the Stax Museum of American Soul Music), Sun Studios, the Memphis Rock ’N’ Soul Museum, the National Museum of Civil Rights at the Lorraine Motel, Club Ebony, and the Delta Blues Museum. They also visited and had lunch at Dockery Plantation – the site many blues historians (including B.B. King himself) consider to be the birthplace of Blues. In addition, they paid their respects to the other King at Graceland (Dr. Strait’s “Mecca” of Americana Culture). Perhaps the highlight of the trip was a visit to Po’ Monkey’s Lounge, which may very well represent one of the last remaining rural “juke joints.” The 1-credit course will be offered again in the spring or summer – it will entitled Race, Blues and Rock ’N’ Roll: A Field Experience. Any students interested should contact Dr. Strait (bs006@shsu.edu).
Student Perspectives from Field Camp & Study Abroad

Jessica Huettel is a Weather and Climate lab TA in the Department of Geography and Geology. She is studying to get her certification in EC-6 generalist and ESL, EC-12 Special Ed and her masters in Counseling. She spent the spring semester abroad in Cyprus. The following is an account of her experiences.

I had never heard of Cyprus before until I started researching my study abroad options. Cyprus is a little island located in the Mediterranean Sea. It lies South of Turkey, West of Israel and North of Egypt. I lived in Nicosia, which is the last divided capital in the world. I lived in an apartment with 3 other girls from America. Our apartment was close to the university and in walking distance of most anything that we needed. Cyprus is divided in half because Turkey occupied and took over half of it about 30 years ago. The United Nations control the buffer zone and relations between the two sides. The north is Turkey occupied and the south is the Greek side. Both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots get along pretty well. The disagreement lies within the governments. We explored both sides of the island and it’s amazing how different two areas of such a small island can be. Cyprus is also very unique because people can ski on the snowy slopes while others are at the beach. I attended classes at the University of Nicosia. It consisted of 3 buildings and a library. I took sociology, cultural anthropology, photography and child psychology. The classes were pretty lax, but only had a mid-term and final exam as grades, which I wasn’t used to. We travelled around Cyprus, saw beautiful beaches and ancient ruins. We got to experience Greek food, dancing and traditions. There were about 75 American students studying there and it was very interesting to get to know them and to see how we were all so different even though we were all from the States. I travelled to Venice in February. We rode the water taxis and explored the small streets and bridges. My parents came to visit in March and we travelled to Rome. It was amazing to see the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. I took Latin in high school and it was really cool to be able to see the things that I had studied. It’s hard to imagine that these monuments were built so long ago and are still standing. Towards the end of the semester I went on a two and a half week trip around Europe with the program that I was on. We travelled to Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Slovakia. I got to see the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, the Dachau Concentration Camp, the Eiffel Tower and Louvre in Paris, the pieces that are left of the Berlin wall and many beautiful cathedrals and castles. Each day was a new experience in a new city! It seems like the trip went by so fast, but we got to see so much! When I got back to Cyprus after the Europe trip I went on a cruise to Egypt. We saw the Pyramids and Sphinx. We also went to the museum in Cairo and had lunch on the Nile river. Then my friend visited me and we went to Greece. We saw the Acropolis and I was blown away! Athens was gorgeous and we walked all over the city. During the last month of my stay in Cyprus there was a water shortage, which was a bit of an inconvenience, but luckily that’s when we did most of our traveling. I was blessed and able to see so much of the world. I think it is very important for students to study abroad if they can and to be aware of other people and cultures. I learned about places I had never heard about and I saw things that most will only see in movies. I really enjoyed my time abroad and hope to be able to travel more someday!

Sam Waters is a Geology major. He spent part of the summer attending field camp with the University of Arkansas along with Sjon Cox and Chris Bower. The following is an account of his experiences.

We spent six weeks traveling around Montana and Wyoming studying different geologic features. Are first projects were along the Big Hole River near Dillon Montana. These projects were on structural geology and the mapping of different rock layers. After those projects where completed we moved to Elk Horn Hot Springs to work on Hydrology projects. Over nine days at Elk Horn Hot Springs we mapped the flow from the hot springs and checked the effectiveness of a water reclamation project. After that we spent a couple of weeks doing various small projects in different national parks. The first park we visited was Yellowstone National Park where we studied the formation of different types of geysers. We then stayed a couple of days in The Grand Tetons National Park where we studied the formation of the Grand Tetons Mountains. A project on glacial features was done in and around the area of Glacier National Park (best national park in the nation). Occasionally smaller trips and projects where done over single days or while driving.

Field camp was the most fun and intensive course I have ever taken. Living in the wilderness or close to it, and being immersed in different areas of geology for so long helped to bring nearly everything I have learned in school to a point of togetherness in my mind. That is probably why I feel I learned more in those six weeks about Geology than I do in most semester long courses. The work that was done was so fun and interesting that I am surer of my decision to be a Geologist now than I ever was before.

Top: The University of Nicosia. Bottom: Jessica Huettel on the coast
Dr. Emmanuel Amamoo-Otchere, Executive Director, Center for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services, University of Ghana, and Visiting Fulbright Scholar toured Sam Houston State University from June 1 to June 4, 2008. On June 3rd Dr. Amamoo-Otchere addressed an audience of over sixty students, faculty, and staff on adapting land use management strategies in Ghana on account of climate change. During the visit Dr. Amamoo-Otchere inquired about potential connections between Sam Houston State University and the University of Ghana, which spurred meetings with Drs. Tamara Cook and Dana Nicolay, Associate Deans, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Baldwin, Acting Chair Department of Geography and Geology; Dr. Reiko Clark, Director of International Programs; and Dr. Jerry Cook, Associate Vice President for Research; Ms. Dalia Gallinaro, Director, Office of Research and Special Programs; and Mr. David Hoffpaur, College of Criminal Justice.

Dr. Derek Alderman to visit Sam Houston State University February 9 through February 11, 2009. Dr. Alderman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at East Carolina University. Dr. Alderman is a cultural and historical geographer specializing in the politics of public commemoration and symbolic landscapes in the American South, paying close attention to the role of African Americans in reshaping and reclaiming the region. For the past several years he has studied the politics of naming streets after Martin Luther King, Jr., establishing himself as a national authority on the issue. In addition, he has a general interest in southern popular culture, having written about the geography of NASCAR, Internet as electronic folklore about the South, Graceland as a pilgrimage landscape, the politics of Walmart’s expansion, hurricane graffiti along the Southeast coast, and the cultural history of kudzu. In 2007, Dr. Alderman co-founded (with William Graves) the Study of the American South Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. He presently serves as President of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers.

Summer & Fall Faculty Presentations

- Dr. Albert (with Dr. Ferry Butar Butar) “Integration versus Complementary and Alternative: NDs’ Position on the Medical Continuum, 2008” (poster) at the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (San Marcos, Texas)
- Dr. Gong “Spatial Interpolation of Crime Data Using Satellite Imagery” at the 31st Applied Geography Conference (Wilmington, Delaware)
- Dr. Nelson “Promoting Energy Strategies on Eco-Certified Accommodation Websites” at the 31st International Geographical Congress (Tunis, Tunisia) and “Tourism, Agriculture & Economic Identity in the Eastern Caribbean” at the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (San Marcos, Texas)
- Dr. Tiller “The 1837-1838 American Surveys in East Texas” (poster) at the East Texas Historical Association (Nacadoches, Texas); “Range 17 West” (poster) and “Locating William Darby’s Corner on the Sabine River” (poster) at the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (San Marcos, Texas)
- Dr. Strait “Blues at the Crossroads: A Teaching Module for the Geographical Study of American Blues Culture” (poster) at the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (San Marcos, Texas)
Dr. Cooper and his kids spent part of their summer in Colorado. The photo is taken from the front deck of the cabin they were renting. Lake San Cristobal is located in the San Juans just to the south of Lake City, Colorado. This is Colorado’s second largest natural lake and was formed when the massive Slumgullion Earthflow blocked the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River about 700 years ago. A second earthflow started moving about 350 years ago and is still moving, sometimes as much as twenty feet a year. The cabin is located on the toe of the older flow. The area is an excellent place to hike and kayak. The Coopers rented inflatable kayaks in Lake City (one red single-seater and a yellow two-seater near the water in the photo). They also took fly fishing lessons in Lake City and brought back lots of rocks.

bjcooper@shsu.edu

Dr. Gong received the 2008 Sam Houston Enhancement Grant for Research for his project “The Spatio-temporal Dynamics of Houston Urban Landscape”. He worked on this project during the summer, using satellite image classification and spatial metrics calculation to study and analyze the urban growth process of Houston.

This fall, Dr. Gong is also collaborating with Dr. Nelson on a research proposal to study the culture identity and protection of Qiang ethnic group in China in the aftermath of the 7.9 Sichuan earthquake earlier this year. Known as “people in the clouds”, Qiang ethnic group in China has a rich and unique culture heritage. Despite of its relative small size (about 300,000), Qiang is one of China’s oldest ethnic groups with a history dated back to 1600 B.C. Traditionally living on high mountains and deep valleys along rivers, Qiang suffered tremendously from the earthquake, losing almost 10% of its population. Its unique culture is also at serious risk of extinction.

gxg002@shsu.edu

Dr. Degenhardt submitted an extended abstract for an Elsevier book proposal that will comprise proceedings from the Cryosphere and Hazards Workshop held in Kathmandu, Nepal last April. The long-term goal Dr. Degenhardt’s study is to understand how surface morphology, which is related to composition and internal structure, influences the active layer and hydraulic activity of active rock glaciers. This is predicated on the knowledge of adjustments that occur within the active layer in response to short-term changes in weather and climate. This result of this study demonstrate the utility of geophysical methods for the study of alpine permafrost and glacial systems and their response to climate forcing agents. A clear understanding of the adjustments that occur within the active layer of rock glaciers in response to short-term changes in weather and climate is required for the accurate assessment of energy budgets related to accumulation or loss of ice mass within these landforms. Such knowledge is expected to have a significant impact on broader studies that involve global warming and climate modeling.

degenhardt@shsu.edu

Dr. Netoff continued work on various research projects including topics such as aeolian activity at a giant sandstone weathering pit in arid south-central Utah and the influence of joints, fluidization pipes, and deflation in the formation of giant sandstone weathering pits, also in south-central Utah.

gco_din@shsu.edu
Dr. Nelson received the 2008 Sam Houston Enhancement Grant for Professional Development for her project "Re-conceptualizing Nature Tourism: From Rainforests to Botanical Gardens". This grant allowed her to conduct summer fieldwork on the Caribbean Islands of St. Vincent and Dominica. She continues to work on this project with geography students Allison McRae, Nathaniel Stanfield, and Melissa Stroda and will first present findings in the spring.

In addition, Dr. Nelson received a travel grant from the Association of American Geographers and the National Science Foundation to travel to Tunis, Tunisia and participate in the 31st International Geographical Congress, sponsored by the International Geographical Union.

Dr. Tiller continues his research along the northeast Texas-Louisiana border. In March his article, "Was Timber Hill the Last Caddo Village in the Caddo Homeland?" was published in the Caddo Archeology Journal. The article presented a circumstantial case that Timber Hill, long thought to be the last Caddo village in their traditional East Texas homeland (abandoned in the early 1840s), in fact was probably abandoned at least 10 and probably 20 years before the Caddo were removed from East Texas. He has recently been invited to participate in the 2008 East Texas Caddo Research Group in Nacogdoches scheduled for early December where he will present elements of his research on historic-era Caddo village locations in day-long roundtable discussions with professional and academic archeologists.

In June, he and his brother’s book, Our American Adventure: The History of a Pioneer East Texas Family, 1657-1966. Huntsville, TX: The START GROUP, 576 pages, was published. The book is the culmination of a six year research project. Dr. Tiller has been notified that the book will receive an award at the upcoming Texas State Genealogical Society meeting in late October.

The first draft of a new book, Before the Line: A Geographical Analysis of Selected Period Records From the Caddo Lake-Sabine River Borderland, 1803-1841. Volume I: Boundaries and Administrative Units has been completed and hopefully will be ready to go to press by the end of the spring semester.

In addition to his field course, Dr. Strait spent his summer working on various research projects. One of them involves an investigation of the potential impacts that neighborhood influences have on infant mortality disparities among racial and ethnic groups. He is particularly interested in the infant mortality disparity between African-Americans and Hispanics. He recently submitted a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to fund this pursuit – the proposal is entitled "Uncovering the African-American/Hispanic Paradox: An Investigation into the Conflicting Neighborhood Influences on Infant Mortality."

He also collaborated with Dr. Gong this summer on related research projects that investigate the degree of residential segregation evident among racial and ethnic groups within Houston, TX. They expect these efforts to result in a couple of publications this coming year, and in March, Dr. Strait will present some findings at the Annual Meeting of the AAG in Las Vegas, NV.

In June, he and his brother’s book, Our American Adventure: The History of a Pioneer East Texas Family, 1657-1966. Huntsville, TX: The START GROUP, 576 pages, was published. The book is the culmination of a six year research project. Dr. Tiller has been notified that the book will receive an award at the upcoming Texas State Genealogical Society meeting in late October.

In addition to his field course, Dr. Strait spent his summer working on various research projects. One of them involves an investigation of the potential impacts that neighborhood influences have on infant mortality disparities among racial and ethnic groups. He is particularly interested in the infant mortality disparity between African-Americans and Hispanics. He recently submitted a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to fund this pursuit – the proposal is entitled "Uncovering the African-American/Hispanic Paradox: An Investigation into the Conflicting Neighborhood Influences on Infant Mortality."

He also collaborated with Dr. Gong this summer on related research projects that investigate the degree of residential segregation evident among racial and ethnic groups within Houston, TX. They expect these efforts to result in a couple of publications this coming year, and in March, Dr. Strait will present some findings at the Annual Meeting of the AAG in Las Vegas, NV.

In June, he and his brother’s book, Our American Adventure: The History of a Pioneer East Texas Family, 1657-1966. Huntsville, TX: The START GROUP, 576 pages, was published. The book is the culmination of a six year research project. Dr. Tiller has been notified that the book will receive an award at the upcoming Texas State Genealogical Society meeting in late October.

The first draft of a new book, Before the Line: A Geographical Analysis of Selected Period Records From the Caddo Lake-Sabine River Borderland, 1803-1841. Volume I: Boundaries and Administrative Units has been completed and hopefully will be ready to go to press by the end of the spring semester.

In addition to his field course, Dr. Strait spent his summer working on various research projects. One of them involves an investigation of the potential impacts that neighborhood influences have on infant mortality disparities among racial and ethnic groups. He is particularly interested in the infant mortality disparity between African-Americans and Hispanics. He recently submitted a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to fund this pursuit – the proposal is entitled "Uncovering the African-American/Hispanic Paradox: An Investigation into the Conflicting Neighborhood Influences on Infant Mortality."

He also collaborated with Dr. Gong this summer on related research projects that investigate the degree of residential segregation evident among racial and ethnic groups within Houston, TX. They expect these efforts to result in a couple of publications this coming year, and in March, Dr. Strait will present some findings at the Annual Meeting of the AAG in Las Vegas, NV.

In June, he and his brother’s book, Our American Adventure: The History of a Pioneer East Texas Family, 1657-1966. Huntsville, TX: The START GROUP, 576 pages, was published. The book is the culmination of a six year research project. Dr. Tiller has been notified that the book will receive an award at the upcoming Texas State Genealogical Society meeting in late October.

The first draft of a new book, Before the Line: A Geographical Analysis of Selected Period Records From the Caddo Lake-Sabine River Borderland, 1803-1841. Volume I: Boundaries and Administrative Units has been completed and hopefully will be ready to go to press by the end of the spring semester.

In addition to his field course, Dr. Strait spent his summer working on various research projects. One of them involves an investigation of the potential impacts that neighborhood influences have on infant mortality disparities among racial and ethnic groups. He is particularly interested in the infant mortality disparity between African-Americans and Hispanics. He recently submitted a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to fund this pursuit – the proposal is entitled "Uncovering the African-American/Hispanic Paradox: An Investigation into the Conflicting Neighborhood Influences on Infant Mortality."

He also collaborated with Dr. Gong this summer on related research projects that investigate the degree of residential segregation evident among racial and ethnic groups within Houston, TX. They expect these efforts to result in a couple of publications this coming year, and in March, Dr. Strait will present some findings at the Annual Meeting of the AAG in Las Vegas, NV.

In June, he and his brother’s book, Our American Adventure: The History of a Pioneer East Texas Family, 1657-1966. Huntsville, TX: The START GROUP, 576 pages, was published. The book is the culmination of a six year research project. Dr. Tiller has been notified that the book will receive an award at the upcoming Texas State Genealogical Society meeting in late October.

The first draft of a new book, Before the Line: A Geographical Analysis of Selected Period Records From the Caddo Lake-Sabine River Borderland, 1803-1841. Volume I: Boundaries and Administrative Units has been completed and hopefully will be ready to go to press by the end of the spring semester.

In addition to his field course, Dr. Strait spent his summer working on various research projects. One of them involves an investigation of the potential impacts that neighborhood influences have on infant mortality disparities among racial and ethnic groups. He is particularly interested in the infant mortality disparity between African-Americans and Hispanics. He recently submitted a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to fund this pursuit – the proposal is entitled "Uncovering the African-American/Hispanic Paradox: An Investigation into the Conflicting Neighborhood Influences on Infant Mortality."

He also collaborated with Dr. Gong this summer on related research projects that investigate the degree of residential segregation evident among racial and ethnic groups within Houston, TX. They expect these efforts to result in a couple of publications this coming year, and in March, Dr. Strait will present some findings at the Annual Meeting of the AAG in Las Vegas, NV.