Dean’s Awards: Fall 2010
2010 Association of Former Students
College Level Teaching Awards

- Dr. Sarah Brooks, Assistant professor, Atmospheric Sciences

Sarah touches students’ lives. She has left indelible impressions on students who have passed through our program—from introducing them to sushi to getting them a job.

Dr. Bowman, department head

Where would I be if I had never met Dr. Brooks? I really couldn’t begin to guess. She’s just been too influential in my life, and I wouldn’t have it any other way.

Graduate Student

Dr. Brooks rekindled my love of science and pushed me to pursue my goals. The skills she helped me obtain will stay with me the rest of my life.

Former student
Dr. Steven M. Quiring, Assistant professor, Geography

In only five years, he has employed 11 undergraduate students as research assistants . . . resulting in a number of co-authored papers and presentations.

Dr. Jonathan Smith

Dr. Quiring has made a greater impression on me than any other member of the Texas A&M faculty.

Undergraduate student

Dr. Quiring has truly affected my life by giving me opportunities I may not have obtained anywhere else and raised my standards of what I expect from an educator.

Graduate student
2010 Dean’s Distinguished Achievement Awards: Teaching

Dr. Andrew Hajash, Professor, Geology and Geophysics

The education of geology and geophysics for undergraduate students would not be at the current level if it were not for the selfless efforts of Dr. Andrew Hajash.

Geology student

His teaching style reflects his faith in the students to comprehend difficult concepts when the material is well presented.

Robert Popp, Geology and Geophysics

It would be hard to find a more helpful, intelligent and cheerful professor than Dr. Hajash.

Geology student
Dr. Benchun Duan, Assistant Professor, Geology and Geophysics

Dr. Duan is a rising star who appears to be headed for a truly distinguished career.

*Frederick Chester*

His rapid development as a leading researcher can be largely attributed to the balance between methodological innovations and creative geophysical applications.

*Steven Day, San Diego State University*

Ben and his students aren’t just on my tail . . . they have passed me by.

*Ruth Harris, USGS*
2010 Dean’s Distinguished Achievement Award: Research Scientist

- Dr. José Sericano, Research Scientist, GERG

His research has expanded our knowledge of environmental impacts in remote and underprivileged areas of the world.

_Terry Wade, GERG_

Dr. Sericano’s research has broadened the scientific understanding of monitoring and are included in the foundation publications in his field.

_Gunnar G. Lauenstein, NOAA_

He has established himself as a world-class scientist in the area of trace contaminants in the environment.

_Stephen Safe, TAMU Veterinary Medicine_
2010 Dean’s Distinguished Achievement Award: Technical Staff

- Tim Copple – Senior Systems Administrator, Geography

Tim is one of those brilliant people who has the courage and skills to topple old ideas and find creative solutions

Jim Rosser, IT

... Calm demeanor ... unusually organized in developing preventive maintenance protocols ... 

Doug Sherman, Geography

Beyond the call of duty ... always professional, courteous, knowledgeable.

Business Office
2010 Dean’s Distinguished Achievement Award: Technical Staff

- Matt Mefferd – Systems Administrator, IODP

Every customer interface is an opportunity to serve and excellence is the lowest standard he sets for himself.

Julio Cesar Flores, IODP

He displays unparalleled abilities, professional skill, resourcefulness and diplomacy. He is cool under fire with a “can-do” spirit.

Jim Rosser, IODP

Matt’s dedication and considerable talents . . . benefits IODP, Texas A&M, the College of Geosciences and the scientific community.

Philip Gates, IODP
Carria Collins, Business Coordinator I, Atmospheric Sciences

Ms. Collins is the epitome of the ideal office employee . . . Everyone agrees that she is the best office worker the department ever had.

Barbara Straube, Atmospheric Sciences

The bottom line is that she is not afraid of work.

Andrew Dessler, Atmospheric Sciences

Carria and Barbara Straube form the best administrative team the department has had in nearly 20 years.

Ken Bowman, Atmospheric Sciences
2010 Dean’s Distinguished Achievement Award: Administrative Staff

- Wendy Gamble, Business Coordinator I, Oceanography

Wendy understands the multitude of factors impacting graduate stipends ... and handles each student’s case with diligence and concern.

*Ruth Mullins and Julia O’Hern*  
*Oceanography graduate students*

Her knowledge of the job and always cheerful disposition make her a real asset to the department.

*Barbara Bayer, Oceanography*

She exemplifies professionalism.  
*Steven DiMarco, Oceanography*
Faculty Receiving Promotions and/or Granted Tenure as of Sept. 1, 2010

- Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure
  - Anthony Filippi, Geography
  - Wendy Jepson, Geography
  - Debbie Thomas, Oceanography
  - Daniel Thornton, Oceanography
Faculty Receiving Promotions and/or Granted Tenure as of Sept. 1, 2010

- Promotion to Full Professor
  - David Cairns, Geography
  - Donald Collins, Atmospheric Sciences
  - Franco Marcantonio, Geology and Geophysics

- Tenured:
  - Steven DiMarco, Oceanography