



## Spring 2023 Caprock Connections

Welcome to the Spring 2023 Caprock Connections Newsletter from the Department of Geosciences. We are sending this in early Summer so we can capture the success of our recent graduation celebrations, appreciate those who have been recognized for excellence this academic year, and highlight students who received scholarships or research funding support to maximize their potential. Our students, faculty and staff continue to excel in their research, education, and teaching, and supporting these core missions is one of the most rewarding aspects of leading this great Department. Much of my joy, therefore, stems from the phenomenal support we receive for friends and alumni, who so generously support our efforts through the donation of time, tangible resources, and yes, money. Thank you.

The headline numbers that could never have been achieved without your support, and I celebrate them here with you are:

- Over \$165,000 in scholarship awards to over 65 students – we give more Department scholarship support to more students than any other program at Tech, and we distribute funding to students in all our programs – Geosciences, Geophysics, Atmospheric Sciences, and Geography.

Scholarship Recipients

- Approximately \$30,000 in support for travel, conference attendance, field trips and field work, and to access research-supporting infrastructure.

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Stories of success from many students who benefited from assistance and its impact are provided below – I hope they bring many smiles. Many of the opportunities that so many of you support provide lasting memories, and moments of happiness and success. Thank you.

My favorite memory? We held a party for graduating students the day before commencement. One attendee is a first-generation college graduate, was joined by extended family for the celebration: Mum, Dad, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. This was a huge moment for the family, and there was great joy, laughter, and excitement. The sense of personal and collective achievement was palpable. It was inspiring and I look forwards to leveraging your continued support of the Department to create many more moments just like that one.

Please be on the lookout for information about the Department sponsored core workshop at the WTGS Fall symposium, our Alumni reception in Pittsburgh at the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America, and our new Celebrating Success for Texas Tech Geosciences alumni event scheduled for the Spring 2024 where we will showcase our new teaching space in the Academic Sciences Building.

Thank you again for your continued support,

Callum



We would like to thank all of our donors who have contributed to each one of our endowments and scholarship funds. Without the generous support of our friends and alumni we would not be able to support so many students and provide transformative experiences in the field! If you would like to donate to the department please click the button to learn more.

Donate

## Congrats 2023 Grads!

We recently celebrated many students who graduated or who will graduate with a degree from the Department of Geosciences in May. We had such a fun time getting to meet families and celebrating such an amazing milestone for so many of our students! Always remember that you will always have a home here at Texas Tech and we look forward to hearing about your future endeavours! Please enjoy some pictures from the graduation celebration!



## Staff Spotlight

Over the past year, staff members are recognized for their efforts in helping students achieve their educational and research goals. This past spring we had two of our very own receive awards for their efforts!



Darren Hedrick (pictured center) along with nominator Matt Saldana (pictured left) and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Tosha Dupras (pictured right) was awarded with the College of Arts Excellence In Support. Darren serves as the department's IT support technician and keeps many of our computer labs in working order and ensures that the highly specialized software is updated and is in working order for students and faculty as they continue their research endeavours. Congratulations, Darren!



Celeste Yoshinobu (pictured with plaque) along with Provost Dr. Ronald Hendrick, Vice Provost Dr. Mitzel Lauderdale, and Texas Tech President Dr. Lawrence Schovanec, was awarded with the President's Excellence In Academic Advising Award. While this is one of the most prestigious awards for academic advising at Texas Tech, we all very aware that Celeste is an extremely valuable member of the department and we can not think of anyone else who is more deserving of such a prestigious award! Congratulations, Celeste!!

## Alumni Spotlight

Margo Watson, a 2020 graduate receiving a BS in Geosciences, recently received two awards from her company, Quadvest. In Margo's first year with the company, she was awarded Employee of the Quarter as well as Employee of the Year In 2022!

### Employee of the Quarter



*Margo exhibits all of Quadvest's core values. She's a rock star and has only been here 6 months.*

Margo (pictured on the left) writes: Quadvest is a water and sewer utility company based in Northwest Houston. We own and operate about 40 water treatment plants and 30 wastewater treatment plants covering 7 different counties. My primary role is to make sure our plants are in environmental compliance with TCEQ, EPA, and County regulations. I work closely with our engineering and construction teams to ensure any environmental issues that come up are addressed correctly. I get to enjoy office and field work throughout my work week. Water is a life essential utility and there will always be a need to have clean drinking water.

### Employee of the Year 2022

#### MARGO WATSON

*"Margo displays all of the Quadvest Core Values! Compliance is the best it's ever been and that is all due to Margo's hard work and dedication to Quadvest!"*



Wow! Way to go, Margo! We are very proud of our alumni and former students and their accomplishments in the field! If you have anything you would like to share with us, please connect with us on our social media platforms or send us an email! We would love the opportunity to connect and share those accomplishments!