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## TAMU plans conference on Gulf, weather relation

A group of TAMU scientists has planned a conference for January 1976 to organize research on the effects of the Gulf of Mexico on weather in the Eastern United States.

Hurricanes that form in the Gulf of Mexico can cause destruction throughout the Southern, Midwestern and Eastern United States. However, the Gulf is often neglected as a major weather producing source.

The TAMU Center for Applied Geosciences will be in charge of the conference that will draw researchers from the entire United States. The National Science Foundation has agreed to provide funds for the conference.

"There is an urgent need for an

assessment of the research which we need to do over the Gulf so that its influence can be taken into account in weather forecasts," said center director, Dr. James R. Scoggins.

"The Gulf is generally neglected in comparison with its importance as a weather producer and its influence upon the weather," he said. "Surface observations and soundings are not taken on a regularly scheduled basis at any point within the Gulf which makes it difficult to analyze existing meteorological conditions and to forecast the weather produced by the Gulf."

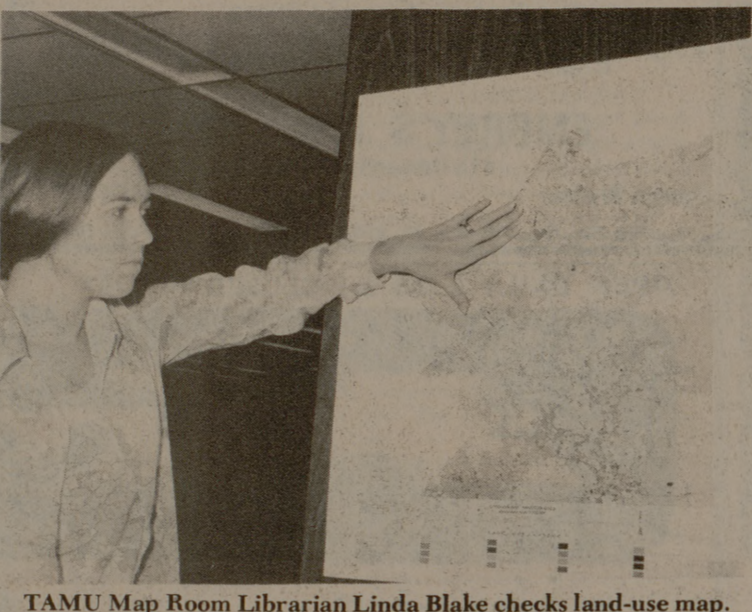
"The Gulf is a significant source of heat and moisture, both of which influence the weather tremendously," Scoggins said. "Severe

storms in the Midwest would not be there if it weren't for the Gulf."

An example is the severe storms which spawned damaging tornadoes in Omaha, Neb. this year.

"At this conference, we want to determine what additional research is needed to better understand the Gulf as a weather producer," he said.

"We have a planning committee composed of scientists from TAMU, Florida State University and the University of Miami," Scoggins said. "The committee has formulated the program and will invite experts in different research areas to speak on the Gulf's influence and, as a result, the foremost authorities are expected for the conference."



TAMU Map Room Librarian Linda Blake checks land-use map.

## Land-use maps now available

Land-use maps covering a 120-mile diameter area centered on Houston are now available for use in the TAMU Library.

The 26 experimental maps, prepared by the Manned Spacecraft Center of NASA, are in the Library Map-Room collection.

Dr. Irene Hoadley, director of TAMU libraries, said users are requested to provide comments.

The maps include a 1:500,000 test-site sheet, four 1:250,000 and 21 1:125,000 scale sheets. They depict by color coding up to 20 uses of land.

Legend keyed, the charts show non-producing land, residential (developed and that undergoing development), irrigated and unirrigated land, pasture, orchards, and other agriculture-related lands. Also shown are forests, forest brushland, water, marshes, extractive industry areas, public and semi-public lands. In addition, cultural, entertainment and recreational lands, industrial, commercial and transportation, communication and utilities areas are included.

The maps cover an area bounded roughly by Columbus and Palacios, Caldwell, Bryan-College Station, Huntsville, Liberty and Daisetta.

They are intended to aid the study of application of remote sensors to resource management and environmental problems in the Houston area.

Land use was interpreted basically from 1:120,000 scale color Ektachrome film exposed in November, 1970. Field checking and use of collateral information were restricted since the land-use information is to be used as a research tool.

Map Room Librarian Sheila Johnson and Linda Blake will provide a questionnaire for user comments. These will be forwarded to the Earth Observations Division of the Manned Spacecraft Center.

## Aggie, Soviet chosen to study sensing uses

A TAMU scientist and a Soviet researcher have been appointed by the World Meteorological Organization to examine remote sensing techniques for agricultural and meteorological uses.

Dr. Cliff Harlan of the Remote Sensing Center at TAMU and Dr. A. D. Kleschenko of the Russian Hydrometeorological Service in Moscow were named last Thursday by the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology of the world organization to "... see what can be done with satellite and aircraft observations of the earth and how it can be done best."

The organization is looking for applications in underdeveloped countries, Harlan said. "Remote sensing data can be collected rapidly and used on problems such as pests, disease, and soil degradation. It also can give information on the conditions of crops, pastures, and forests."

"First, the organization wants a study of the existing state of knowledge of satellite and aircraft sensing techniques," he said. "Then they want to know how these can be extended to large areas and information collected more rapidly."

"The WMO (the meteorological organization) also wants us to consider the best ways in which this data can be acquired, stored and made available for analysis," Harlan said. "Finally, we're to prepare a report on all the information we've gathered and present it to the commission."

Harlan said much of the work will be communicating with the people who are doing the remote sensing research.

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