



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF

GEOGRAPHY

2008 NEWSLETTER

Department Head News

W. Andrew Marcus
Professor and Department Head

I step into my new role as department head delighted to report that the Department of Geography has never

graphical Sciences in the Next Decade. Lise Nelson and Ph.D. student Matthew Derrick received Fulbright Scholarships. Patrick Bartlein was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Patricia McDowell was placed on the National

Research Council's Committee on the Missouri River Recovery and Associated Sediment Management Issues. Ph.D. students Shangrila Joshi Wynn and Ingrid Nelson received awards from the Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) and Jenn Marlon received the UO Dissertation Award.

For me, however, the aspect of our department I most enjoy is its strong sense of

community. This resurfaces at the start of each academic year at our annual faculty retreat, where we discuss the department and how we can continue to improve it.

Much of this year's conversation centered on how to use the wonderful donations many of you have given to the department. Some donations are restricted to specific causes, ranging from undergraduate scholarships (including the new Holzman Family Scholarship Fund) to graduate awards (Sandra F. Pritchard Mather Graduate Fellowship) to faculty research (with a generous new gift to the Herbert G. Kariel Geography Faculty Fellowship fund) to GIS support (James and Shirley Rippey Fund in Geographic Information Science). Unrestricted donations required more planning. The unanimous decision

was to prioritize support of graduate students and the graduate program. Graduate students are the future of the discipline and many of our donations come from past graduate students; it seems appropriate that donations go to this cause.

Next on the priority list for use of donations was support of GIS and information technology, which has a profound effect across the board on education, research, and administration. Support for this cause helps everyone.

After the retreat, the real community-building began with the department-wide Mexican potluck that highlighted geographic cooking. Awards ranged from Longest Stretch to Pretend It's Mexican Food (pesto tortellini was a runner-up) to Most Likely to Cause Heartburn (won by the jalapeño cornbread!) to Most Geographical (a tie between the Mexican map pie crust and the Colima Volcano chocolate cake).

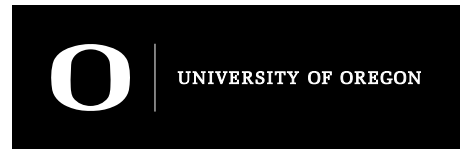
But our geography community extends well past the many adults and children who attended the recent potluck. It very much includes all of you. My hope is that you feel connected to the department and will visit us if you are here, or drop us a line if you are far away. I look forward to hearing from you.



The geography faculty held its annual retreat in Eugene this year at the Marcus house. From left to right: Dan Gavin, Andrew Marcus, Derrick Hindery, Jim Meacham, Pat Bartlein, Pat McDowell, Peter Walker, Susan Hardwick, Dan Buck, Amy Lobben, Xiaobo Su. Lise Nelson was in Mexico and Alec Murphy was in Europe, both starting their sabbaticals.

been in better health. Last spring we graduated fifty-four majors and now have 157 majors, a record for the department at the start of the year. Our entering graduate class has thirteen students, also a recent high. And in the past year, our summer master's program in geographic education graduated five students. To top it off, we added a new faculty member, Dan Buck, who shares an appointment between geography and Asian studies.

But health is not all about numbers; the quality of the program also remains exceptionally high as reflected in the appointments and awards our faculty and students received. Susan Hardwick received the Mentor Award of the National Council for Geographic Education. Alec Murphy was named chair of the U.S. National Research Council's Committee on Strategic Directions for the Geo-



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New Faculty Member Begins This Fall

The Department of Geography is delighted to welcome **Assistant Professor Daniel Buck** to the faculty and university community. Dan, originally from Chico, California, comes to Oregon from Oxford University in England, where he spent five years in a joint appointment in the geography and Chinese studies departments.

Prior to living in England, Dan lived in a number of interesting places such as Taipei, Taiwan; Madrid, Spain; Shanghai, China; and New York City (which he considers a foreign country). Here at Oregon he will be housed in the Department of Geography and share half of his time with the Asian Studies Program, an interdepartmental program that offers bachelor's and master's degrees. With two of our faculty members with research interests in Asia, our relationship with the Asian Studies Program is growing.

Though he grew up and completed his B.A. in Chico, California, his curiosity about other parts of the world were



Dan Buck at Oxford.

already obvious. His major was international relations, with a focus in Spanish. The year after he graduated, he participated in a scholarship exchange program to Taiwan. That experience redirected his interests toward Asia. He went on to earn his M.A. in Asian studies and Ph.D. in geography, with a focus on China, at the University of California at Berkeley.

Dan's general research interests focus on the mutual constitutions of society, space, and nature—which he studies within the fields of political economy, political ecology, economic geography, and Asian and Chinese studies. His research also often ties in with development, urban studies, and agrarian studies. Clearly, Dan's

interests are interdisciplinary in nature! This fall he is setting up his office and preparing to teach. Winter term he will be teaching two courses: Geography of Globalization and What Is Asia: Theoretical Debates. In the spring, he will

teach a seminar on the political ecology of urbanization in China. In the future, he would like to teach courses on 1) food as a window into the development of capitalism and modernity, 2) volume one of Karl Marx's *Capital* as a theoretical foundation for debates in human geography, and 3) East Asia. Many of his courses will be cross-listed in Asian studies and geography.

Dan moved to the U.S. in mid-September and is settling into his home in Eugene. His wife, Yi-Liang Kao, is a landscape architect who designs parks. Though currently still based out of Berkeley, she plans to relocate; perhaps she can help with the Eugene downtown development. While in England, Dan enjoyed punting, where you move a flat-bottomed boat (the English version of a gondola) using a pole to push on the bottom of a river. Maybe he can experience the Oregon boating tradition by drift boating on the McKenzie. Dan hopes to get back into hiking and general outdoor pursuits now that he is back in the West.

Tactile Maps in the Community

The Spatial Map Cognition Research Lab (SMRCL) has been busy making tactile maps for a number of organizations in the community this year. The Lane Independent Living Alliance had their annual conference this year at the Lane County Fairgrounds. The Oregon Country Fair contacted the lab this summer to make a tactile map of the indoor fairground space to show the different booths and organizations that participated. The map highlighted the paths, stages, and booths. Printed words on the fair map were included to make it accessible to both sighted and nonsighted people. Guide Dogs for the Blind had their second annual alumni reunion and conference this year in Portland, Oregon, and SMRCL made two maps for conference participants. One map highlighted the inside of the

conference hotel and the rooms in which different talks and events took place. The second map was of the surrounding area and includes the MAX light-rail tracks and stations and the mall and its entrances. SMRCL is currently collaborating with Guide Dogs for the Blind to update the maps of their dormitory, school grounds, and areas of downtown Gresham where they train on the campus in Boring, Oregon. Amy Lobben and Megan Lawrence were instrumental in creating these maps and communicating with the community at large.



Above: Reading a tactile map at the country fair.



Left: The tactile map of the Oregon Country Fair created by the Spatial and Map Cognition Research Lab.

Welcome, New Graduate Students!

The Department of Geography is pleased to welcome its new graduate students.

Nate Bellinger earned a B.S. in natural resource studies, with minors in geography and wildlife and fisheries science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His interests include Latin America, political ecology, and globalization.

Ian David Crickmore earned his B.A. in environmental studies from the University of California at Santa Cruz. He is interested in natural resources, with a focus on climate and land-use change impacts on forest ecosystems.

Erin Herring received a B.S. in both geology and botany from Humboldt State and an M.S. in quaternary sciences from Northern Arizona. She is interested in applying GIS in modeling environmental interactions and climate change.

Kenji Izumi '05 received a B.S. in environmental science from UO and M.S. from Nagoya University (Japan) in the Graduate School of Environmental Studies (Hydrospheric Atmospheric Sciences). He is interested in modeling climate change, focusing on disturbance in the mid-Holocene.

Mahmood Khan has a B.S. from Saint Louis University. His primary interest is in conflict and violence, particularly in the Balkans. He received a Promising Scholars Award from the UO Graduate School.

Adrianna Martinez got both her B.S. and M.S. degrees from Texas A&M. She is interested in fluvial geomorphol-



New graduate students. Back row, left to right: Kenji Izumi, Matthew Millett, Derek Miller, Kate McGuire, Jessica Phelps, Adrianna Martinez, Ian David Crickmore. Front row, left to right: Mahmood Khan, Tom Ptak, Lindsay Naylor, Nate Bellinger, Innisfree Seyman-McKinnon, Erin Herring.

ogy focusing on human impacts on rivers. She received a Promising Scholars Award from the UO Graduate School.

Kate McGuire received a B.S. from Southern Oregon University. Her research interest is in cartographic interpretation, design, and cognition.

Derek Miller earned a B.A. in geography from the University of Kentucky. He is interested in political geography, focusing on the Middle East.

Matthew Millett has a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. His research interest is in cartography, particularly animated mapping.

Lindsay Naylor received a B.A. in political science from Western Washington University and an M.A. in international development from American

University. She will focus her research on land degradation and economic development in Mexico.

Jessica Phelps '07 received her B.S. in geography at UO. Her research interests are in geomorphology and resource management, particularly river restoration.

Tom Ptak earned a B.S. in environmental life and sciences from Macquarie University (Australia). He has interests in a range of human and migration issues.

Innisfree Seyman-McKinnon earned a B.S. in environmental studies and biology from Antioch University and an M.A. in geography from the University of California at Davis. She is interested in political ecology.

Fieldwork on the Middle Fork John Day River

Grad students Pollyanna Lind, Stephani Michaelson-Correa, and Jessica Phelps collect data on the Middle Fork John Day River in the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon. Pat McDowell directed this research project, funded by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon. The goal is to determine whether recent river restoration projects are effective, and how the channel modifications are functioning.



Recent Department Graduates

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Christy E. Briles

"Holocene Vegetation and Fire History of the Floristically Diverse Klamath Mountains, Northern California, USA"

Amanda K. Coleman

"Reform(ulat)ing the Region: Competing Discourses of Region and Regional Change in the Depression-Era U.S. South"

Corey M. Johnson

"Spatial Strategies for Addressing Structural Changes: The Case of Eastern Germany"

Guoping Tang

"An Examination of Vegetation and Modeling-Related Issues and the Variation and Climate Sensitivity of Vegetation and Hydrology in China"

Eve Vogel

"The Columbia River's Region: Politics, Place, and Environment in the Pacific Northwest, 1933 to the Present"

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Jayson Evaniuck

Final Project

Jonathan M. Gault

Final Project

Christopher M. Highfield

Final Project

Earl Nick Martinelli

"Dynamic Time Course of Cognitive Map Distortion"

Julie R. Wakefield

Final Project

Melissa C. Webster

Final Project

MASTER OF ARTS

Y. Minnie Choi

"'Fighting' in the Nation's Capital: Understanding Residential and Occupational Assimilation of Koreans by Generation in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area"

Diana Fischetti

"Building Resistance from Home: EcoVillage at Ithaca as a Model of Sustainable Living"

Justyna Goworowska

"Gentrification, Displacement, and the Ethnic Neighborhood of Greenpoint, Brooklyn"

Safy Nurhusein

"Global Networks, Fragmentation, and the Rise of Telecommunications in Stateless Somalia"

Jennifer Lee Pera

"Tamagringo: Citizenship and Political Agency in Tamarindo, Costa Rica"

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Courtney M. Ashford	Caitlin K. McElhinny
Angela C. Bliss*	Robert D. Morse*
Bradley Cabe	Nicholas J. Nelson
Morgan P. Caughey	Matthew A. Oss
Nathan A. Chartier*	Kyle L. Overstake
Zachary M. Cohen	Douglas A. Rickett
Ian R. Crawford*	Benjamin A. Robertson
Mark B. Ellis	Nathan T. Sauvageau
Brian W. Foster	Tina L. Shinazy
Snake Harrington	Valerie S. Shine
Robyn A. Hoppes	Cody L. Smith
Nathan D. Hoxmeier	Jana M. Spencer
David S. Huebsch	Nikolai C. Sposato
Scott R. Kirkman*	Justin W. Stolzhus
James C. Kresevich	Rylee A. Sweeney*
Nicole S. C. Landsberg*	Lauren F. Thompson
Tiana M. Maple	Jaclyn K. H. Toh*+

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Randi N. Albanese	Echo D. Lappin
Sara F. Baker	Donald A. Love
Julia Boyett	Alexandra M. Marcus*°~
Emily G. Bulchis	Corinne A. Newton
Michelle I. Drenker*~	David B. Renn
Austin L. Charron*+~	Aaron Reyna
Sierran J. Fletcher	Joan M. Schmidgall*
Layna M. George*	Joshua D. Schane
Darel F. Harwell	Nicolas Spadaro*
Emily C. Kaufman*	Sunnie S. Turek

*department honors, +cum laude, ° summa cum laude, ~Phi Beta Kappa

Awards

UO Geography Alum Receives Cartographic Design Awards

Ryan Johnson '02, GIS analyst in transportation development at the Oregon Department of Transportation, created an award-winning map that just keeps on getting more awards! In August, at the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) International User Conference in San Diego—the largest gathering of GIS professionals in the world, with 14,000 in attendance—Johnson's traffic-flow map received third place in the Best Cartographic Design: Large Format category. Earlier in the summer, the map won the Best Use of Information award at a Texas conference. There were more than 900 maps in the ESRI conference category, which was defined as a single map product (not an atlas) bigger than 11 x 17 inches.

Johnson created the map for ODOT's Transportation Systems Monitoring Unit to help illustrate transportation-volume data. In April, he received first place in the People's Choice category at the GIS-T (GIS for Transportation) conference for the Impact of Transportation on the Human Footprint map (www.gis-t.org/poster.php?year=2008). Last year, he received an Honorable Mention at GIS-T in Nashville for his Transportation and Topography reference map (www.gis-t.org/poster.php?year=2007). He is an impressive example of a UO grad mapping out his future.

The 2008 winners of the Trussell Family Scholarship were **Emily C. Kaufman** and **Jaclyn K. H. Toh**. This award goes to undergraduates in geography with high scholastic ability and an interest in pursuing a career serving humanity.

Winners of the 2008 Bill Loy Award for Excellence in Cartographic Design and Geographic Visualization were **Vincent Artman** and **Demian Hommel**. Honorable Mentions went to **Nicole Landsberg** and **Benjamin Metcalfe**. This award honors Bill's many contributions to cartographic design and is given annually to one graduate and one undergraduate student in geography at Oregon.

Graduate Student Awards

In conjunction with the Graduate School, the Department of Geography awards grants to help fund graduate research during the summer. Recipients of this award in 2008 were **Paul Blanton**, **Megan Dixon**, **Marie Javdani**, **Marissa Isaak**, **Leslie McLees**, **Ingrid Nelson**, **Suzanne Walther**, and **Shangrila Wynn**. The department was also able to fund travel grants to fifteen graduate students presenting papers at the 2008 annual AAG meeting in Boston in April. Recipients of the travel grants include **Corey Johnson**, **Justyna Goworowska**, **Marie Javdani**, **Megan Lawrence**, **Jenn Marlon**, **Leslie McLees**, **Ingrid Nelson**, **Lee Pera**, **Guoping Tang**, **Megan Walsh**, **Suzanne Walther**, and **Shangrila Wynn**.

InfoGraphics Mapping Nearby and Far Afield: Eugene Olympic Trials to Mongolia

Projects

This summer the InfoGraphics Lab had the unique opportunity to provide mapping and GIS support for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for track and field that were held at Hayward Field in June and July. It produced maps in both print and interactive-web formats. The lab also worked closely with the athletics department to create a three-dimensional or bird's-eye-view map of the venue as well as a series of animations to help communicate the renovations to the public and key information for athletes. It was a great opportunity to promote the lab staff's skills in the 3-D mapping arena. The animations fed the public's curiosity to visualize how the venue would be configured to accommodate nearly 20,000 ticketed spectators inside Hayward Field as well as the thousands of visitors to the Eugene 08 festival venue surrounding the track. Several local news stations came to the lab and shot footage and interviewed students for stories describing how the animations were created. A version was posted on the UO's YouTube channel and received more than 4,600 visits. To see some of the maps and animations, visit this section of the lab website: infographics.uoregon.edu/eugene08.html.

In addition to the maps, campus GIS played a key role in the emergency operations and planning efforts. In collaboration with the UO's and City of Eugene's emergency managers, lab staff members integrated the GIS into the joint Incident Command Center. It was a tremendous opportunity to work closely with the City of Eugene and other local emergency-response groups as well as federal agencies such as the National Guard, FBI, Homeland Security, Department of Defense, and Secret Service.

The interactive map of campus is getting tremendous use. The first day of fall term saw nearly 2,500 users. The map has also cracked the 100,000 unique-visitor mark and has seen users from 143 countries.

Work continues on the *Atlas of Yellowstone* project. Andrew Marcus (senior editor), Jim Meacham (cartographic editor), and Althea Steingisser (research cartographer) traveled to the Yellowstone National Park area to meet with more subject-area experts for the thematic pages of the atlas and for fundraising as well. The team had success in securing a major contribution from Montana State University.

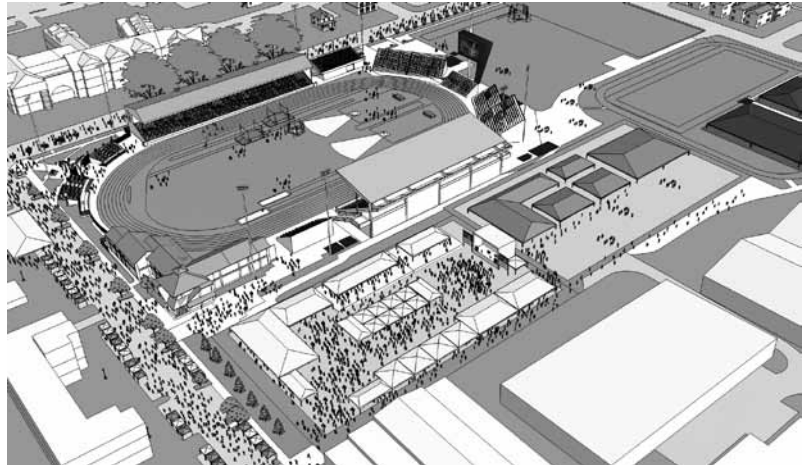
Work also continues on the Mongolian Altai project. In winter 2007, art history professor emerita Esther Jacobson-Tepfer and InfoGraphics Lab director Jim Meacham were awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund the creation of the *Atlas of the Ancient Mongolian Altai*, a photographic database, and an integrated interactive map website. Lab staff members are enjoying the ongoing collaboration with Esther as well as new collaboration with UO Libraries on the photo data set and website development.

Personnel

As is always the case, lab personnel had to bid farewell to another class of standout student employees. Graduate students Nick Martinelli and Lee Pera have taken fantastic new positions. Nick is working with TerraSeer and Lee is now at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Undergraduates Colin Zook, Bradley Cabe, Brook Eastman,

and Nicole Landsberg have also left the lab and begun new careers locally, around the U.S., and abroad.

Blake Andrew joined InfoGraphics as campus GIS program coordinator. Blake previously worked at Lane County Assessment and Taxation. He brings a wealth of professional experience to the campus GIS and mapping program.



The public map of Hayward Field and the adjoining Eugene 08 Festival area for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for track and field.

Jeff Kern joined InfoGraphics as a research assistant. He's working on several research projects with the Oregon Department of Transportation—in particular, redesigning the official state highway map and the State of Oregon bicycle map. These projects have the unique challenge of creating high-quality printed products entirely from ESRI GIS software, rather than the graphic design software normally used.

Erik Steiner is on a leave of absence with the lab, and is serving as the director of the Spatial History Lab at Stanford University. He is helping Stanford researchers, both by assisting in the creation of their lab ("InfoGraphics South") and by contributing to the Spatial History Project. The project brings together scholars working on projects at the intersection of geography and history using GIS in their research.

Graduate Students Highlights

Over the last year, **Paul Blanton** continued his research on the impact of railroads and roads on river floodplains, and taught geomorphology and hydrology for the department. This summer, he performed fieldwork on the Yakima, Skookumchuck, and Naches rivers in Washington state. He also worked on a cooperative project with Lane Community College initiating a GIS-hydrology technician program at the college, and developed learning modules that use geospatial data to explore issues related to hydrology, water resources, and sustainability in UO geography courses.

Megan Walsh published an article in *Quaternary Research*, titled "A 14,300-Year-Long Record of Fire-Vegetation-Climate Linkages at Battle Ground Lake, Southwestern Washington," with Cathy Whitlock and Patrick Bartlein. She gave talks at both the AAG and the International Association of Wildland Fire conference in Yellowstone National Park, as well as led a workshop at Thurston Middle School on paleo-perspectives on climate change as part of a larger effort to help local school teachers develop climate-change curriculum. In between all that, she got married! This fall she is defending her dissertation on natural and anthropogenic influences on the fire and vegetation in the Holocene epoch in the Willamette Valley region, in time to begin a postdoc position in January working with Associate Professor Doug Kennett (anthropology) and Pat Bartlein.

John English accepted a job offer from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries as a light detection and ranging (LIDAR) database coordinator and has relocated to the Portland metropolitan area. He spent several weeks throughout the summer conducting GPS field surveys for quality-control assessments of LIDAR data. He is currently editing his thesis to present in December.

Jon Jablonski, a fourth-year M.A. student studying development in China, is also the David and Nancy Petrone Map-GIS Librarian. In July he was promoted to associate professor in

conjunction with his sixth year at the UO Libraries.

Marie Javdani spent her summer in Malawi doing fieldwork on the Malawi government's agricultural input subsidy, which will be the basis for her master's thesis. She is exploring the effectiveness of Africa's "New Green Revolution" in addressing the underlying causes of chronic hunger.

Shangrila Joshi received a SYLFF Graduate Fellowship for International Research. Her research entails analyzing climate-change policy negotiations through a lens of justice, with a focus on India, where she will be going during winter break to perform fieldwork. She advanced to candidacy this summer and started a new GTF position this fall as the study-abroad scholarships adviser in the Office of International Affairs.

Maureen Kelley has spent the past year at San Jose State University teaching Introduction to Maps, Geographic Information Systems, and World Regional Geography. She is the cochair of the department's Geography Awareness Week festivities and the student representative of the AAG Cartography Specialty Group this year.

Matt Landers finished his first year in graduate school and spent the summer driving. In June he raced across the country to make a plane to the Alps, where he spent two weeks hiking with twenty-six relatives. Back home in Connecticut, he worked as an executive compensation analyst at the PepsiCo headquarters in New York. On his return, he drove back across the country, this time stopping at Niagara

Falls, Saint Paul, the Wall Drug Store (in Wall, South Dakota), Mount Rushmore, and Glacier National Park.

Megan

Lawrence, along with creating tactile maps for the Oregon Country Fair and Guide Dogs for the Blind, has been working on her research on the human cognitive response to map reading by mapping the brain.

Pollyanna

Lind cotaught the river and riparian field course this past June with Ph.D. student Chris Massingill and Professor Pat



Leslie McLees cooking for her host family in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

McDowell. This summer Polly worked in eastern Oregon on the Middle Fork John Day River with grad students Stephani Michelsen-Correa and Jessica Phelps collecting data as part of Professor McDowell's habitat restoration monitoring project on the river. She is writing her dissertation on floodplain evolution of the Sycan River this fall.

Jennifer Marlon received the prestigious UO doctoral fellowship to finish writing her dissertation, "World Fire: A New Long-Term Global Synthesis and Analysis." She is also the current student representative of the AAG Biogeography Specialty Group.

Chris Massingill advanced to candidacy this year, and moved during the summer to Alexandria, Virginia, where she is working on her dissertation analysis and writing, and looking forward to experiencing the fall colors in the east. She helped teach the riparian field course (with Pat and Polly) in June, and will be back in Eugene this fall and winter to finish a last bit of fieldwork, retrieve equipment, and download soil-moisture data.

Last year **Leslie McLees** received a summer field research award from the

AAG's Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group and the UO's Center on Diversity and Community to travel to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and conduct background research for her dissertation project on urban agriculture. While there, she took an intensive six-week Swahili course to complement her UO courses. She continues her role as the undergraduate adviser, and organizes activities for visiting area schools for Geography Awareness Week and for undergraduates during the year. She is the president of the Lane County Geographical Society and secretary-treasurer of the UO chapter of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

This summer **Stephanie Michelsen-Correa** worked at the Oregon Department of Forestry using GIS to map data for their Firewise Communities program. She also performed fieldwork with Professor



Stephani Michelsen-Correa giving it her all to find maximum pool depth on the Middle Fork John Day, August 2008.

McDowell and fellow grad students Jessica and Pollyanna at the Middle Fork John Day River, collecting data for her thesis.

Ingrid Nelson received a SYLFF Graduate Fellowship for International Research for her research in Mozambique. She spent the summer training in Portuguese and meeting Lusophone scholars at the Center for Portuguese

Studies and Culture (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth) with the help of a Luso-American Education Foundation Scholarship, a Gary E. Smith Summer Professional Development Award from the University of Oregon, and a departmental summer research grant.

Suzanne Walther received the Robert K. Fahnestock Memorial Research Award to conduct her sediment sampling on the McKenzie River. She also was awarded a grant to participate in the Preparing for an Academic Career in the Geosciences Workshop. Last spring she received a Savana Travel Grant to attend AAG to chair two sessions based on a study-abroad course she coteaches in southern Africa. She recently received the UO Women in Graduate Science Travel Award to present on her work on river-channel mapping.

Updates from Recent Grads

Amanda Coleman, Ph.D. '08, is an assistant professor of geography at Arkansas State University. She teaches introductory and advanced human geography courses, and will be teaching GIS courses in the spring. She continues to pursue research in aspects of

race, place, and the U.S. South, and has begun a research project that employs GIS analysis to measure food security among rural Arkansans.

Mary Crooks, M.A. '07, is working at the National Geographic

Society in education programs, promoted from her internship to associate producer of educational media. She makes lessons and activities for teachers and kids, teaches anyone who will listen about what geography

actually is, and manages educational content on the web.

Justyna Goworowska, M.A. '08, is a geographer in the population distribution branch of the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Division. She does a lot of mapping and is working on layout design of the 2010 census atlas.

Corey Johnson, M.A. '04, Ph.D. '08, is an assistant professor of political geography at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He has been proud to wear his West Coast credentials, as UO geography is a known and respected quantity in the Southeast.

Ann Laudati, Ph.D. '07, is an assistant professor of human geography in the Department of Environment and Society at Utah State University. She will be teaching courses in political ecology and environmental studies as well as a graduate seminar in natural resources and violent conflict in Africa. Ann is establishing research programs on how the environment is implicated in violent conflicts and in the politics of participation within the conservation community.

Lee Pera, M.A., M.P.A. '08, is a presidential management fellow in the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs), where she works on research projects dealing with veterans' access to health-care services. She is enjoying Washington, D.C.

Eve Vogel, Ph.D. '07, is an assistant professor at the the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is teaching a seminar titled Rivers as Regions, and will teach Introduction to Human Geography in the spring. She is working on turning her dissertation into a book, building coordination with an active water resources research group there, and shifting from in-depth research to broader comparative research. She is settling into life in Amherst with her son and dog.



UO Geography Grad Interns in Ireland

Alexandra Marcus '08 spent the summer in Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland, working with mediator Michael Doherty, head of the Peace and Reconciliation Group, and his staff. This internship was an opportunity to explore an area she had been researching for some time and to see peacemaking, negotiation, and mediation in action. She also got to see the



Alexandra Marcus in Derry, Ireland.

Apprentice Boys of Derry parade (the subject of her senior thesis). During the summer, she witnessed the incredible progress the Northern Ireland peace process has made in only ten years. Alexandra noted that there has been a major reduction in violence, including the disarmament of the IRA, and that day-to-day life has quickly adapted to the newfound peace. Conflict still exists, though, and she was able to better understand the long history of conflict between them and see how the two communities hold onto to their differences.

Department Summer Graduate Program for Teachers

Our department's innovative summer graduate program for K-12 teachers continued in earnest with teachers from Oregon, Tennessee, Nevada, and Alaska finishing their M.S. degrees this year. Many of the teachers who are enrolled in the program, as well as the instructors and GTFs for summer courses and the field-trip assistants, met at the annual summer potluck held each year at Susan Hardwick and Don Holgrieve's house. Our department offers the only summer graduate degree program in geographic education in the nation.

Lane County Geographical Society

The Lane County Geographical Society (LCGS) held its annual picnic and business meeting this year on September 28 at Hendricks Park. Attendance was not as high as in previous years, likely due to classes starting the very next day, but we did have people from outside the Department of Geography attend the picnic. This year the picnic will be moved to late May to allow more people to attend the event. LCGS



Members of the Lane County Geographical Society enjoying good conversation and food at the annual picnic.

is making an effort to reach out to the broader community to create more interaction between the university and the community. LCGS will be helping to coordinate events on campus this year for undergraduates and for visiting schools during Geography Awareness Week in November. There are no conditions for membership and anyone is welcome to help. For more information, please contact LCGS president Leslie McLees, lmclees@uoregon.edu.

Geography Awareness Week Activities 2007

Last November the geography department hosted a number of activities for Geography Awareness Week on November 12-16. Each year, our department is involved in this national effort sponsored by the National Geographic Society designed to increase awareness of the importance of geographic education. Susan Hardwick, coordinator of our summer graduate program for teachers and Geography Awareness Week activities for the department, took undergrad students to give presentations at middle schools in the area and cohosted assemblies in support of geography. Susan also served as the moderator of the state geography bee at Cal Young Middle School in Eugene. The peak of activity occurred on GIS Day, Wednesday, November 14.

Following a Google Map Mashup presented earlier in the term, the Map and Aerial Photography Library and the College of Arts and Sciences' GIS Committee sponsored a mashup contest. Junior Zack Ham took the honors for his website, ridewithgps.com. Later in the afternoon, five geography researchers gave rapid-fire "pecha kucha" presentations: showing twenty slides in six minutes and twenty seconds.

In addition, Leslie McLees and Erik Steiner put together a GPS scavenger hunt and mapping activities for sixteen students from Bethel Middle School with their teacher, Elizabeth Fine. The students were able to see much of the campus and also received a tour of the InfoGraphics Lab. The students not only enjoyed getting a field trip but seeing a college campus using GPS technology, learning about the history of maps and the current technologies used in creating them.

This year, our department received a grant to bring in a gigantic globe from a Chicago company called WhereAbouts Inc. for Geography Awareness Week. The globe holds as many as thirty students and their teachers, and will be set up in the ballroom of the EMU on campus. We had several hundred middle school students and one fourth-grade class visit the globe during this fall's Geography Awareness Week to hear a geography lesson inside the huge structure.

Field Course in the Sprague River Valley

Chris Massingill and Pat McDowell explaining soil moisture probes to GEOG 410/510 students. The course, River and Riparian Field Studies, was held June 16–25, 2008, in the Sprague River Valley of northern Klamath County. It was the second summer the field course was offered, and it was a success with enrollment maxed at ten students.



geography.uoregon.edu/mcdowell/field_school/2008index.html

Geographical Honor Society Gamma Theta Upsilon Sponsors Movie Nights in Campus

Gamma Theta Upsilon sponsored a geography movie night series this past year, organized by members Alex Marcus and Leslie McLees. The purpose of these events was to provide an opportunity for geography students to get together and discuss popular movies using a geographical perspective. Two faculty members were invited to discuss each movie, providing students an opportunity to interact outside the classroom with their professors. The general public was also invited as a way to promote geography on campus. The series began with Lise Nelson and Derek Hindery providing the historical and geographical context of Latin America during a presentation about *The Motorcycle Diaries*, helping to situate the early life of Che Guevara as presented in the film. Pat Bartlein and Dan Gavin used biogeography to frame the hilarious *Wallace and Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit*. The third movie, *The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill but Came Down a Mountain*, was hosted by Alec Murphy and Amy Lobben, who led a discussion on the political geography of Wales and the importance of maps in shaping identity. The movies were quite successful and events are being planned for the coming year.

Selected Faculty Grants and Awards, 2007–8

Shaul Cohen, Savage Foundation, “The Pragmatics of Peacemaking: Lessons from the Streets of Northern Ireland” (\$28,000)

Susan Hardwick, Canadian Embassy, Faculty Research Award, “U.S. Immigrants in Eastern Canada” (\$10,000)

Andrew Marcus and **Jim Meacham**, Montana State University (\$100,000) and Yellowstone Park Foundation (\$40,000), *Atlas of Yellowstone*

Pat McDowell, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon, “Effectiveness Monitoring for Physical Habitat and Riparian Vegetation at Restoration Projects in the Middle Fork John Day River Main Stem” (\$20,000)

Lise Nelson, Fulbright-García Robles Grant for teaching and research at the Colegio de Michoacán in Mexico (\$17,000)

XiaoboSu, Tom and Carol Williams Fund for Undergraduate Education, “Geography of Tourism: Integrating Academic Learning in the Local Community” (\$7,000)

Jim Meacham and InfoGraphics Lab, Oregon Department of Transportation, “Restructure, Redesign, and GIS Support of Transportation Projects,” including new official state map and Oregon bicycle guide (\$350,000—two-year)

Jim Meacham and InfoGraphics Lab, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, *Oregon Plan 2007–9 Biennial Report* (\$40,000)

Jim Meacham and InfoGraphics Lab, Stanford University Spatial History Geodatabase Hosting (\$14,808)

In Memoriam: Rechelle Kersh October 1976–December 2007

Geography department IT consultant Rechelle Kersh passed away after a long and courageous fight with colon cancer on December 13, 2007. Rechelle made a tremendous contribution to our department for the past seven years. She worked closely with our IT staff to develop our computer infrastructure into the complex systems we use today. Rechelle had a warm, low-key personality that was perfect for her job. She had a great talent for working with computer users of all levels that easily defused our stress with her combination of empathy and professional competence. She was a great problem-solver, often listening quietly and carefully to our panicked explanations of technological problems, and would say with a little smile, “That’s not a big deal, we can just. . . .” She’d work her magic and quickly solve our computer problems! Rechelle understood the needs of geographers because she was one herself, graduating with a degree in geography from the University of Kansas in 1999.

Outside of the office, Rechelle spent much of her time enjoying the outdoors. She especially loved the Eugene summers, kayaking and hiking with her husband, Ryan, and their two labs, Obie and Dar. She loved to travel, visiting family and friends from Kansas to Arizona, and spent time warming up during the long Oregon winters in Hawaii and Cozumel. She was a fun and giving person who loved dancing, the holidays, shopping . . . just life itself. And she always went out of her way to make her family and friends feel special.

All sorely miss Rechelle’s cheerful spirit and presence in the department.



Faculty Updates

Patrick Bartlein continues his research with the Global Paleofires Working Group and attended a workshop of this group in Great Britain with grad student Jen Marlon and Mitch Power, Ph.D. '06. He continues to work on his NSF-funded Paleovar Project, a collaborative project with six faculty members at Oregon State University, including Steve Hostetler, Ph.D. '87. Bart is developing a new course, GEOG 361 Global Environmental Change,



Fire in the Environment field trip to the B&B Complex fire in Santiam Pass and to the smoking remnants of a prescribed burn in Sisters, Oregon.

that will cover the process of natural and human-induced environmental change, and the impact of these changes on society and ecosystems. Climate change will be a major focus of the course. This fall, Bart was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in recognition of his contributions to modeling and visualization of climate and vegetation dynamics.

Shaul Cohen's book *Planting Nature: Trees and the Manipulation of Environmental Stewardship in America* was the focus of a keynote session at the International Society of Arboriculture national meeting. He also spent time observing the flooding on the Mississippi River. Shaul has continued his research and program-building in Northern Ireland. In part this was made possible by a two-year grant from the Savage Endowment for International Relations and Peace. The grant allowed him to bring visitors from Northern Ireland to campus for a program called "The Pragmatics of Peacemaking: Lessons from the Streets of Northern Ireland." In addition to classroom and campus presentations, the visitors were shared with community schools and performed a radio program on the local NPR station. Two guests will be coming with this year's program "Keeping the Peace." Shaul

sent four interns to work with his contacts in Belfast and Derry, and more students will go over next summer. On campus, Shaul became a core member in the faculty of the Department of International Studies.

Dan Gavin taught the large fall course The Natural Environment, and also a new course on wildfire that included local field trips and may be offered every other year. Dan's postdoc student from Switzerland, Daniele Colombaroli, helped equip the lab with some new tools and completed the lab work for his one-year project. Dan's summer began with invited symposiums (American Society for Environmental History, Botany 2008, Ecological Society of America, and a conference near his field sites in central British Columbia), followed by fieldwork in the forests of southern Oregon and then in Idaho with two incoming graduate students, and finally, completing a writing project in September. Dan's work with Jenn Marlon and Bart on a large synthesis of fire history was recently published in *Nature Geoscience*. He continues his work with colleagues in Illinois, Vermont, and Nebraska on reconstructing past abrupt climate change and how it affects fire and forest ecosystems.

Susan Hardwick continues her research on immigration and national identity in Canada. Her article on the national identities and citizenships of U.S.-born immigrants in British Columbia between 1966 and 2006 will appear in the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* in 2009. She is working on an article on the impact of social studies and geography education on the construction of the national identities of Americans as compared to Canadians. Susan worked in eastern Canada this fall interviewing immigrants from the U.S. and visiting classrooms. Building on Joe Searl's legacy, Susan and Don Holtgrieve continued co-coordinating our summer graduate program for K-12 teachers. A record number of teachers completed their degrees this year. Our department offers two online courses as part of our summer M.S. degree program—North American Historical Landscapes and Preparing to Teach Advanced Placement Geography. The most exciting event of the past year occurred at the National Council for Geographic Education meeting, where Susan was awarded the NCGE Distinguished Mentor Award. Graduate students she mentored at Oregon, California, and Texas were there to honor her.

Amy Lobben continues to teach cartography, GIS, and graduate seminars in navigation and map use and to work on the tactile mapping and navigation project with Stephen Fickas (Department of Computer and Information Science). Through that project, they released the first-ever software specifically for production of customized tactile navigation maps. With Ph.D. student Megan Lawrence, Amy continues to conduct laboratory and field-testing studies investigating map use and navigation by blind travelers. They also are working on a project on developing a tactile symbology for tactile thematic maps. Amy worked with Megan and Ann Laudati, Ph.D. '07, investigating behavioral as well as neurological patterns associated with the mental rotation of different objects as well as the completion of a "you are here" map task. The methodologies include computer-administered behavioral testing, from which a subset of people are chosen, who then take the test battery again while undergoing an fMRI, conducted at the Lewis Center for Neuroimaging.

Andrew Marcus returned from sabbatical inspired! Last fall, he and visiting faculty member Mark Fonstad taught a graduate tutorial on remote sensing of rivers, which was also the focus of his sabbatical in England, as the 2008 Durham University Distinguished International Fellow. There, he coorganized a session at the European Geosciences Union, gave talks in Austria, Germany, and Britain, initiated articles and book chapters, explored rivers in Scotland with leading researchers, and visited Ben Nevis and Isle of Skye with his wife and son. His eldest daughter graduated from Oregon with majors in French and geography. His other daughter is also a major in the department! Work on the *Atlas of Yellowstone* is making steady progress (see InfoGraphics news). He revamped his hydrology course with Ph.D. student Paul Blanton to include weekly labs using freeware models.

Pat McDowell is enjoying the transition to not-department-head status. She developed and taught a new course, Field Methods for Physical Geography, and is completing her research on the Sprague River. This summer she started a new project on restoration monitoring on the Middle Fork John Day River, ably assisted by grad students Pollyanna Lind, Jessica Phelps, and Stephanie Michaelson-Correa.

Jim Meacham continues work on the *Atlas of Yellowstone* with Andrew Marcus, the Mongolian Altai archaeology and landscape inventory effort with art history professor emerita Esther Jacobson, and the operation of the InfoGraphics Lab, as director. The Yellowstone project has provided

an opportunity to forge new relationships with Montana State University, the University of Wyoming, the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, and Grand Teton National Park. The Altai project is also making progress with a scheduled completion of an integrated mapping and photographic archive website in July 2009, along with the publication of *Archaeology and Landscape in the Mongolian Altai: An Atlas*, by ESRI Press. This project is assisted by the UO Libraries' Media's group on the website design and production. The Altai project is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. A major event was the twentieth anniversary celebration of the InfoGraphics Lab. Professor Bill Loy and Jim Meacham founded the lab in July 1988, with one graphics workstation and Jim as its operator. Over the years, the lab has grown into a state-of-the-art GIS and cartographic facility.

Alec Murphy became lead author of Terry Jordan's text on Europe, *The European Culture Area*, publishing a new edition in September. Alec wrote an article on multilevel governance that appeared in *GeoJournal* and prepared an entry on geography and sovereignty to appear in an International Studies Association compendium. Alec was appointed chair of a National

Research Council–National Academy of Sciences committee charged with producing a report on strategic directions for the geographical sciences in the next decade. Alec gave an invited lecture at a symposium on political geographic issues in the maritime arena in Tunisia. He also gave the keynote address at the National Geographic Society's workshop on spatial learning in geography. He remains involved with the American Geographical Society (as vice president) and the Association of American Geographers, and serves as coeditor of *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. He began his sabbatical hiking in the Dolomites with his college roommate, using cables and ladders (part of the "via ferrata" system installed during WWI) to climb mountain faces. He is spending the fall in Eugene and the winter and spring at Queen Mary, University of London, as a visiting research fellow.

Lise Nelson was granted tenure and promotion to associate professor in spring 2008. She completed an invited chapter titled "Espacio y etnografía en un contexto

globalizado" ["Space and Ethnography in a Globalized Context"] that will be part of an edited volume on globalization and ethnography to be published by the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla in Mexico. She also coauthored an article titled "Linking Baby Boomer Migration and Hispanic Migration into Rural America: A Multiscaled Approach," based on her research with Peter Nelson of Middlebury College. Lise taught a new graduate seminar in the spring, *Space, Place, Power*. She found it particularly rewarding to work with engaging students from different disciplines. She was awarded a Fulbright–García Robles Fellowship to teach and conduct research at El Colegio de Michoacán during her sabbatical.

Xiaobo Su has endeavored to settle in this year and start a new journey in Eugene. He continues his research about the politics of heritage tourism in China. He is working with Peggy Teo to complete a book, titled *The Politics of Heritage Tourism in China: A View from Lijiang*, based on his doctoral dissertation, which will be submitted to Routledge in January 2009. He had a paper published in *Tourism Geographies* (with Peggy Teo) to examine the state-society interaction in the process of tourism development in Lijiang. He is initiating a new project about how tourism and migration transform urban space and people's ordinary life in China. Over the summer, he attended a workshop at the University of Colorado at Boulder to improve his skills in teaching geography. In 2008, he received sponsorship from the Tom and Carol Williams Fund for Undergraduate Education to support his course Geography of Tourism.

Peter Walker, aided by graduate student Marie Javdani, did survey work in Malawi this summer to find out whether the "Malawi miracle" (so-called by *The New York Times*) of using a "New Green Revolution for Africa" really has such miraculous effects as many seem to believe. Not surprisingly, Amartya Sen's work from the 1980s still holds true: even with a maize surplus at a 'national' level, many people are still hungry if they cannot afford fertilizer. Peter is also beginning to write a comprehensive book about land-use politics in Oregon, contracted by the University of Arizona Press. This project is especially interesting to him, as until very recently

he knew little about land-use politics in Oregon. It helped that the state government recently conducted a comprehensive review of Oregon's celebrated, state-guided land-use program since it was conceived thirty-five years ago—the 'big look' land-use policy review by the Department of Land Conservation and Development. So far he's learned that the only thing lower than the public's opinions of the land-use bureaucracy is the land-use bureaucracy's opinions of academic researchers!

Adjunct Faculty

Donald Holtgrieve taught three upper-division courses for the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management (PPPM) this year, as well as his summer field techniques course and his online historical geography course in our department. With time to explore his passion for endangered fish, Don is a part-time student in the aquarium science program in Newport, where he and Susan enjoyed some weekends in their Nye Beach condo. Their first Eugene grandchild was born this fall.

Nick Kohler recently completed fieldwork on the influence of regional tourism development on world heritage sites in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Thailand. He returns to the region in December to work with research partners Coleen Fox of Dartmouth College (UO graduate) and Sekson Yongvanit of Khon Kaen University, Thailand. He continues to teach courses in the area of geographic techniques and human-environment relations, and also teaches an environmental monitoring and mapping course for the Environmental Studies Program.

Emeritus Faculty

Carl Johannessen has been writing reports and a book (with John Sorenson) titled *Biology Verifies Ancient Voyages*, now at iUniversity Press—the first step toward publication. He continues to research the domestication process of *Zea mays* (sweet corn) and is trying to grow a variety here in Eugene.

Visiting Faculty

Galen Martin is teaching Geography of Latin America this fall. He took his first geography course from Pat McDowell while completing his M.A. in international studies several decades ago! He earned his Ph.D. in cultural and environmental geography at the University of California at Davis. Over the past ten years he has developed and taught courses for environmental studies, international studies, PPPM, sociology, and geography. He resides with his family on a farm near Goshen, where he tends sheep.



Susan Hardwick after receiving the NCGE National Mentoring Award with Susan Hume, Ph.D. '05, who nominated her for the award.

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