

# THE COMPASS

## Department of Geography



Photo from Geography Awareness Week Photo Contest, Winner of the Human Geography category. Submitted by PhD student Ziyu Chen, this photo was taken in Cusco, Peru June, 2011 on her way to the Inti Raymi Festival.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am happy to see another Newsletter filled with information about our current students, faculty, and alumni. We now have a program in Singapore. We have been successful in attracting a large number of highly qualified foreign students over the past few years. Our graduate assistants have continued to receive external and internal awards.

I would like to thank all alumni and friends for keeping in touch and supporting the department! Please visit us if you are in town or please visit us during one of the events sponsored by the Department of Geography.

Best wishes,

*Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen*

Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen

Geography Fall Picnic, 2012



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Special thanks to Betsy Crooks, Graduate Secretary in the Department of Geography and Graduate Assistants Sungwoong Choi and Wei Yin.

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## 2013 ALDRICH AWARD

The Greg and Susan Aldrich Undergraduate Research Award was established to provide funding to students to overcome barriers that obstruct their ability to perform meaningful research and/or creative activities during their undergraduate enrollment at UB.



Iris Savoy-Burke

Iris Savoy-Burke's research project explores the political economy of rice, the staple of Caribbean diets, in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. While in Haiti the population now relies heavily on rice imports, the Dominican Republic remains self-sufficient in rice. Using trade data and an analysis of the secondary literature, Iris will determine the political economic factors that have yielded such divergent outcomes in rice production and consumption for both countries, and consider how these differences may shape future trajectories for the Dominican Republic as its rice producers begin to face the same competitive pressures that devastated their Haitian counterparts over two decades ago.

## 2012 ALDRICH AWARD



Viktor Mashalov

Viktor Mashalov's interests are in economic geography, international trade, and multinationals in emerging markets. Under the guidance of Dr. Bagchi-Sen, he has worked on studying China's foreign direct investments in Africa's energy and minerals industries. He also worked on a comparative analysis of biofuel production in the US and Canada. While studying abroad at The University of Toronto, Viktor assessed Canada's 2012 monetary and fiscal policies. During his two internships with the Department of Commerce, Viktor worked with a team of international trade specialists to help local

companies identify promising domestic and international markets. He also partnered with friends and family to start two small ventures, one of them to develop a business plan for the construction of a wind power facility in Newfoundland, Canada. Viktor graduated in May 2012.

## STUDENT NEWS

PhD students Jeffrey Chow, Deb Naybor, and Jeff Gower participated in the 2012 New York Conference on Asian Studies at SUNY-New Paltz.



Front row (left-to-right): Dr. Jeffrey Chow (PhD, GEO), Deb Naybor (PhD student, GEO), and Xiangli Ding (Grad student, HIS). Back row (left-to-right): Jeff Gower (PhD student, GEO), Mark Nathan (Assistant Professor, HIS), and Roger Des Forges (Professor, HIS).

### *Marissa Bell*

Marissa Bell, MA student in International Trade, was awarded first prize for the graduate student paper competition, at the Middle States conference of the AAG, for her paper on variegated neoliberalism in Croatia. The paper is forthcoming in the journal *Middle States Geographer*.

### *Chunyuan Diao*

Chunyuan Diao won the third place award in the remote sensing student paper competition from the Remote Sensing Specialty group at the 2013 AAG meetings.

### *Joseph Holler*

Joseph Holler, PhD (2012), won the 2013 J. Warren Nystrom Award from the Association of American Geographers (AAG). The Nystrom award is supported by a fund established by former AAG Executive Director J. Warren Nystrom, and an annual prize is awarded for a paper based upon a recent dissertation in geography. Joe's paper was entitled "Is Sustainable Adaptation Possible? Determinants of Adaptation on Mount Kilimanjaro."

## *Jason Knight*

Jason Knight participated as an invited speaker at the Vacant Property Leadership Summit at Emory University, hosted by the Center for Community Progress (CCP). In his role as the Community Planning Coordinator in the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, Jason has been a key participant in the formation of the Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation, a “land bank” created to address the crisis of distressed, vacant, abandoned, and task-delinquent properties in Erie County. CCP is a national organization that advocates for better vacant property reclamation policy and worked closely with state leaders to draft the enabling land bank and support the first land banks. This event brings together a small group of key national experts, policy-makers, and academics to engage in discussions and workshops centered on developing strategies for preventing, stabilizing, and repurposing these properties. Jason has joined the Buffalo State College as an Assistant Professor this Fall (2013).

## *Teuku Arckyansyah (Arcky) Meraxa*

Teuku Arckyansyah (Arcky) Meraxa, PhD student, completed a summer internship at J.P. Morgan Chase (JPMC)’s Jakarta Office in 2012. Arcky was part of a global team that was assigned to work on a special project in Indonesia. His responsibilities were to analyze Indonesia’s economy and develop financial models. Arcky’s contributions were directly incorporated into the project, and by the end of summer, the team presented the project’s results to JPMC’s senior management.

## *Andrew Ortego*

Andrew Ortego, a senior in the Geography Department (minoring in Computer Science), is the sole recipient of the 2012-2013 Marble-Boyle Undergraduate Achievement Award. The awards are sponsored by the Association of American Geographers’ Marble Fund for Geographic Science.

## *Xiaonan Tai*

Xiaonan Tai won the third place award in student illustrated paper competition from the Remote Sensing Specialty group at the 2013 AAG meetings.

### *New Faculty Member – Geoffrey Jacquez*



Dr. Geoffrey Jacquez

Geoffrey Jacquez joined the department in August 2012. His research focus is on the elucidation of health-environment relationships, in particular for cancers and chronic disease, and the development of spatial epidemiological methods. This interest began while he was working on his PhD in population genetics in the department of ecology and evolutionary biology at SUNY Stony Brook.

“That was in the late 1980s and GIS and gene sequencing were in their infancy. Gel electrophoresis was used to sequence genes, and the possibility of sequencing an entire human genome was a remote hope. We were simulating how genetic variability evolved

spatially in human populations, and demonstrated that correlograms quantifying spatial autocorrelation in gene frequencies could be used as diagnostic instruments to identify underlying processes such as migration, selection and isolation by distance. About that time the National Cancer Institute issued a request for proposals to develop cancer clustering methods that led to my first research proposal, written while I was a graduate student. Not surprisingly, that first proposal was rejected. But I revised and resubmitted. It was funded and I was hooked.”

Geoff attended the University of Michigan where he pursued a Bachelor’s degree in biology with a minor in computer science. After working as a computer programmer and field biologist at Arizona State University, he returned to Michigan where he obtained an MS in resource policy, economics and law, under the direction of Professor Bobbi Low. While finishing his thesis he was invited by Melvin Marcus, a prominent geographer and past-president of the Association of American Geographers, to participate in the Nepal Alpine Zone Research Expedition. Funded by the National Science Foundation and National Geographic Society, this expedition conducted a baseline environmental assessment in remote areas around Mt Annapurna. Geoff studied the ecogeography of *Chesneya Nubigena*, a high altitude legume that facilitates primary succession on a glacial moraine near Tilicho Lake, which abuts the Annapurna massif, resulting in his first research publication.

Upon returning to the United States, Geoff began work on his PhD at SUNY Stony Brook. Under the direction of Dr. Robert Sokal, and with a committee comprised of F. James Rohlf, Neal Oden and Akira Okubo, his dissertation applied spatial statistical methods to genetic and environmental systems, both real-world and simulated. He started the research firm BioMedware shortly after graduation, where he maintained a strong record of grantsmanship

and publication in spatial epidemiology and geographic information science before coming to UB.

Geoffrey is teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in advanced space-time analysis and geographic information science and is delighted to join such a strong group of quantitative and health geographers at the University at Buffalo. Since joining the faculty he has started work on a new book tentatively titled “Spatial randomization and statistical inference” that has been accepted for publication by Springer, and is developing a new technique for modeling the latency period for cancers using dynamic systems models of tumor genetics. Ultimately, he believes this approach will allow GIS to better identify the place and timing of environmental causes of human disease.

### *Jared Alstadt*

Dr. Jared Alstadt continues to examine the ecological determinants of the intensity of dengue virus transmission. This includes designing spatial sampling techniques that enable capture of asymptomatic carriers. Geospatial technologies and spatial statistic approaches are used to find associations between mosquito abundance, socio- economic characteristics, and transmission intensity. He traveled to Thailand in May 2012 to perform data collection and meet with collaborators at the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences. He also works on spatial dimensions of health issues closer to home with his graduate students.

### *Sean Bennett*



Geography Professor Sean Bennett (blue shirt) and graduate students Mohammad Ghaneizad and Donghua Cai are using this 7-meter-long model river to study river restoration techniques. Kevin Cullinan (beige shirt) from Physics Machine Shop built the model. Read the full article at:

[http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/research/news.host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/stories/2013/river\\_restoration\\_research.detail.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/research/news.host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/stories/2013/river_restoration_research.detail.html)



## *David Mark*

David Mark has been named the recipient of the 2013 Aangeenburg Distinguished Career Award from the Geographic Information Science and Systems specialty group of the AAG. Dr. Mark has also received the Excellence in Graduate Teaching award from the Northeastern Alliance of Graduate Schools (NAGS) for his exemplary advising and mentorship of doctoral students. Dr. Mark has been exploring new frontiers of GIScience research since 1970. His research set the foundation for spatial cognitions and conceptual neighbors of topological relations, and furthermore sprouted his research in cross-cultural and cross-linguistic variations and universal geographic categories. His enthophysiography research opened a new line of GIScience inquiries into landform communication and embedded ontological implications in languages. Dr. Mark's pioneering research in GIScience continues to inspire scholars in the field.

## *Sara Metcalf*

Sara Metcalf is Co-PI of a new, 5-year NIH R01 award (2012-2017), "Integrating Social and Systems Science Approaches to Promote Oral Health Equity," with Co-PIs Mary Northridge (NYU) and Carol Kunzel (Columbia University). Within the NIH, funding is provided by the Office of Behavioral Science & Social Research (OBSSR) and the National Institute for Dental & Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). This research builds upon an existing portfolio of models using a collaborative process of group model-building and using thematic insights from focus groups among older adults participating in Columbia University's ElderSmile program.

## *Jessie Poon*

Jessie Poon is the recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching 2012. The Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching honors those who consistently demonstrate superb teaching at the undergraduate, graduate or professional level. Dr. Poon's research interests lie in the areas of international trade and foreign investment, regional economic development and Asian businesses. A UB faculty member since 1998, she teaches a wide range of graduate and undergraduate courses in the Department of Geography, and has devoted much time to student recruitment and retention, advising and curriculum development.

## *Chris Renschler*

After serving for the past three years on the GSG Awards Committee, Chris was nominated and elected as Secretary-Treasurer. After being the Secretary-Treasurer for a year, he will be the Chair of the GSG and after another year, he will become a member of the Advisory Board for a three year period.

## *Peter Rogerson*

Peter Rogerson has been named SUNY Distinguished Professor in 2012. The SUNY distinguished professorship is SUNY's highest academic rank awarded by the State University Board of Trustees to full professors who have achieved true distinction and who are leaders in their field. Peter Rogerson is known internationally for his work in both population geography and in the field of spatial science, particularly for spatial modeling of migration and for new methods of spatial analysis. Most recently (2011), Rogerson became a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

## *Marion Werner*

Marion Werner was elected to the board of the Economic Geography Specialty Group of the AAG in January, 2013.

## *Mike Woldenberg*

Mike Woldenberg, Emeritus Professor, is the recipient of the Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career award, the highest honor awarded by the AAG Geomorphology Specialty Group.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### *Randy Bertolas PhD '95*



Randy Bertolas received the Paul Beck Outstanding Social Studies Educator Award from the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies at their annual conference held in Omaha on October 13, 2012. He is the 37th Nebraskan to win this prestigious award and only the second geography professor. Named in honor of the late Dr. Paul Beck, the Beck Award is the highest honor bestowed by the NSCSS. In addition, Dr. Bertolas was recognized on October 6, 2012 at the National Conference for Geography Education held in

San Marcos, Texas for his 10 years of service as the founder and advisor for his school's local chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon.

## *Hadar (Cohen) Borden, BA '97*



Hadar (Cohen) Borden

Hadar (Cohen) Borden, BA '97, MA '00 Administrative Director, UB Undergraduate Academies. In October 2012 Hadar was honored with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. You can read more about her achievements on campus career at:

<http://academies.buffalo.edu/about/staff/borden.php>

## *Jeff Brunskill, MA '01, PhD '05*



Left to right: Lia Jane, Tim (the terror) and Sarah.

Jeff is now an associate professor in the Department of Environmental, Geographical and Geological Sciences, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. Jeff is quite busy these days with his three children.

## *Jose Covarrubias, MA '07*

Jose Covarrubias, MA '07. Since 2011, Jose has been working on the BP oil spill (Gulf of Mexico). He lives with his wife and 16-month old son in Alabama.



## *Hoe Hun (Bryan) Ha, MA '07 PhD '11*

Hoe Hun (Bryan) Ha, MA '07, PhD '11 is working as an Associate Research Fellow (Temporary position) in a Government Research Institute called KRIHS (Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements- GIS Division). He has worked on six different National GIS Projects in Korea since March 2012.

## *John Kavanaugh, BA '02*

John Kavanaugh, BA '02 took his three boys (below) ages 6, 3 and 1 hiking through the pine forests and across the alpine tundra region of Rocky Mountain National Park in summer 2012. John also soloed as a student pilot in 2012, which allows for a first-hand remote sensing perspectives of Western New York. If any geography student or faculty needs aerial imaging or personal high altitude perspectives for their research, John is just the guy to get them airborne!



John Kavanaugh's three boys ages 6, 3 and 1



Alberta Falls

## *LaDona Knigge, PhD '06*

LaDona Knigge, IGERT fellow, PhD '06 attended the Vespucci Summer Institute in Fiesole, Italy, July 1-7, 2012: Spatial Information in Science and Society 10th Anniversary Conference. She is an Associate Professor & GIS Coordinator in the Dept. of Geography and Planning at California State University, Chico. (LaDona is in the center of photo in purple/yellow dress)



## *Youngsang Kwon, PhD '12*

Youngsang Kwon, PhD 2012, proudly displays the Geography Football Pool Trophy in his University of Delaware office. Just recently Youngsang accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the University of Memphis.



We hope the trophy (and Youngsang) have a safe trip to Memphis!

The Geography Football pool is made up of members and alumni of the Department and a few of their friends and relatives. We have maintained a football pool for two decades with players scattered around the country and sometimes even in Europe and Asia. It is a great way to maintain contact with friends from UB. Each week participants try and pick the victors in the NFL games. The winner gets possession of the trophy for one year and then ships it to the new champ. The trophy was hand-crafted by Alum Jeff Brunskill, PhD in 2002. The donuts represent an old tradition of having

the winner bring donuts into the office each week before the day of pool went electronic. Look for the email each August inviting you to sign up or contact Betsy Crooks at [babraham@buffalo.edu](mailto:babraham@buffalo.edu) for information.

## *Merlin Lawson, BA '63*

Merlin Lawson (BA '63) has retired from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln after 43 years. While he was Chair of the Department of Geography at UNL, the Board of Regents approved a BS in Meteorology/Climatology. As Dean of Graduate Studies and Dean of International Affairs, he had the chance to travel extensively throughout the world. His research endeavors took him to Greenland, Tajikistan and Honduras. Merlin and his wife, Nina, will celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary in January.

## *Paul Marko, BA '00*

Paul Marko, BA 2000, is working in Norfolk, Virginia at US Marine Corps Forces Command as a Financial Manager for aviation units on the east coast. In July 2011, Paul married Heather Gregg, an Assistant Professor at Naval Postgraduate School. Paul said he will be leaving active duty and moving to Monterey, CA, where he plans to pursue a new career in teaching. He will continue to serve in the Marine Corps Reserve.

## *Deborah Naybor, PhD '13*

Deb Naybor is continuing her research on the time and mobility of Ugandan women farmers. She has been working with a group of widows on categorizing frequently visited locations that were identified by GPS tracking methods.



A group of widows working with GIS mapping in Uganda.

## *Will Poppe, PhD '10*

Will Poppe, PhD '10 is now in his third year as a Senior Research Fellow at the CITY Institute at York University in Toronto. Will and his wife Carla welcomed their first child Sophia in February. The family plans to spend about six months in Quito, Ecuador.



## *Shuichi Sasagawa, BA '91*

Shuichi Sasagawa, BA '91 is currently in Singapore and says that he likes the unique architecture and the variety of people from all around the world. He says, "It's always summer and I miss snow."

## *Gabriel Schmidbauer, BA '99*

Gabriel Schmidbauer, BA '99, MA '04 is the Director of GIS for Mueller Services, a Buffalo-based company that provides property insurance products to the insurance industry. Gabriel's main role is providing leadership in the development of GIS Risk Products to clients. Gabriel and his wife Kristen live with their three children Hannah, Emil and Alexander in Buffalo's Elmwood Village Neighborhood.

## Paul Scipione, MA '71



Paul tells us, "I can still recall Dr. Ebert giving me a ride in his classic 1962 Studebaker Gran Turismo and having fun as Dr. McConnell's TA"

After careers in commercial market research and academia, Paul was invited in 2004 to return to his undergraduate alma mater, SUNY Geneseo, as Professor Emeritus of Business. He teaches the Freshman Writing Seminar, Market Research and Consumer Behavior. He also maintains his private practice in Livonia. Paul was a tenured Full Professor of Marketing at Montclair State University until his retirement in June 2004.

He is the author of nine books including *Western New York Vital Signs* (2011, SUNY Press), the 1988 Vietnam War novel *Shades of Gray*, and is currently at work on a sequel novel set in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Paul has also been active in public service. Appointed/reappointed by four New Jersey governors, he was the longest-serving Member of the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission for 20 years and was Chairman of NJAOC from 2000 to 2004. He is an active ham radio operator (AA2AV & N0AI) and FCC License Examiner. Paul served in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam in 1969/70.

Paul, his wife Linda, and their grandson Chris live in a custom log home overlooking Conesus Lake.

## Laura Shayder, BA '04

Laura Shayder, is now living in Norfolk, VA, working at CMA CGM as a Trade Analyst. CMA CGM is the world's third largest container shipping group.

<http://www.cma-cgm.com/Default.aspx>

## Danny Sheehan, MA '08

Danny Sheehan, MA '08 has moved from ISERP at Columbia University to the Department of Epidemiology at the Mailman School for Public Health at Columbia University. He is also an adjunct at Barnard College.

## *Seth Spielman, PhD '08*

View Seth's contribution to an article about "The New Cartographers":

[http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career\\_magazine/previous\\_issues/articles/2013\\_03\\_18/caredit.a1300045](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2013_03_18/caredit.a1300045)



## *Michael Szustakowski, MA '04*

Michael Szustakowski, MA '04 is currently in Washington, DC and working for the law firm, King & Spalding.

## *Shannon (Azzarelli) Wheeler, BA '04, MA '06*

Shannon (Azzarelli) Wheeler BA '04, MA '06 was recently promoted to GIS Supervisor for LA City Planning.

## *William Wieczorek, MA '84, PhD '88*

William Wieczorek is currently the Director (founder) of the Center for Health and Social Research, SUNY Buffalo State College. Bill was appointed Chair of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Initial Review Group, Epidemiology, Prevention and Behavior Research Review, 2012-2014.

In August of 2012, Bill gave a keynote presentation titled "Why Geography Matters for a Healthy Western New York" at the 1st Annual Western New York Health Geography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day, Roswell Park Cancer Institute.



He is also the Project Director and Co-Chair of the West Side Youth Development Coalition supported by a five-year award (October 2012) from the Office of National Drug Control Policy/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In the above photo, Bill is in front of the School of Public Health, Central South University, Changsha, China (January 2013), where he lectured on ethical human subject research procedures for a project on suicide.



## SUNY AWARDS CEREMONY

Betsy Crooks, Peter Rogerson, and Jessie Poon were honored at UB's October 3, 2012 Celebration of Faculty & Staff Academic Excellence.

Betsy Crooks received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service. Professor Peter Rogerson was named SUNY Distinguished Professor. Professor Jessie Poon received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Betsy Crooks, Peter Rogerson, and Jessie Poon

## THE ANNUAL GOLF OUTING HONORING ALAN MACPHERSON

Each year the annual golf outing honoring Alan MacPherson gets a little bigger than the previous year. The outing is held at Ironwood Golf Course, Cowlesville, NY and we're already planning the next one. Mark your calendar for May 17, 2014!



Zhitong Su, 1st place (on left), Arcky Meraxa, 2nd place



## GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK, NOVEMBER 2012

Events were organized by the geography graduate student association (GGSA).

Professor Adel Sadek of the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering at UB gave a talk entitled, "Evaluating the likely implications of green routing using an agent-based transportation-emissions simulator."

The graduate student research symposium featured a talk by MA student Xiang Ye. Xiang presented his work on the topic of Map Algebra Clustering. This flexible methodology facilitates exploration and understanding of large spatial and spatio-temporal datasets.

Students participated in photo and map competitions. The photo contest winners were Yanjia Cao in the physical geography category and Ziyu Chen in the human geography category. Brian Clarkson took home the prize for the best map production. Graduate student Nan Ding organized these events.

The keynote speaker was alumnus Andre Skupin. Andre received his PhD from the department in 1998 and is a professor of geography in San Diego State University. His talk was entitled, "Nothing sacred anymore: Irreverent geographic exploits in knowledge visualization." He discussed his use of self-organizing maps to visualize knowledge about a diverse set of subjects. Check out his webpage to see how maps can be used to make sense of musical genres <http://geography.sdsu.edu/People/Pages/skupin/index.htm>. While he was in town, Andre and his wife had a chance to catch up with friends and visit some of his favorite Buffalo establishments (Amy's Place and The Old Pink).



Professors Andre Skupin and David Mark



Enjoying the reception!

## Geography Awareness Week Photo Contest



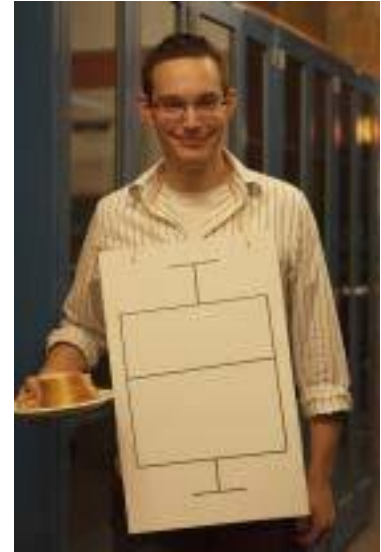
The winning photo in the Physical Geography category was submitted by MS student Yanjia Cao who states: “The photo was taken from the plane when I travelled to Xinjiang, China during the summer of 2011. The snow mountain is a small part of TianShan (Mount. Tian) range, which is a large system of mountain ranges located in Central Asia. The alluvial fan was shaped by the deposit of sediment built up by streams of Mount. Tian.

## Alumni Gets Special Delivery



“Free Shipping” is a wonderful thing! Deb Naybor, PhD 2013 delivered a UGA Geography tee shirt to Shuichi Sasagawa, BA 1991 in Singapore. Deb is teaching in Singapore for our department this semester. They had a nice visit sharing stories about the Geography Department.

# 2012 Halloween Party



## The Department Holiday Party

The annual department holiday party was held on Friday December 7, 2012. It was a chance to celebrate age-old and not-so-old traditions. The event featured the traditional visit from Santa Claus, who was played by graduate student Wenjie Jie. The winner of the second annual ugly sweater contest was determined using the latest in noise-meter technology. Graduate student Steve Tulowiecki took home the top prize again (see photo below).

This year's party included musical entertainment and a chance to sing along with favorite holiday tunes. Michael Ruffino and the Immanuel Cantors assisted with the program.



PhD Student Jonathan Pleban and son with Santa



Michael Ruffino and the Immanuel Cantors



The ugly sweater contestants. From left to right: Grace Tulowiecki, Steve Tulowiecki, Phil Savoy, and Amy Frazier. Steve wins for second year in a row!

## STUDENT AWARDS

### *Jorge Bajo*

Jorge Bajo is Principal Investigator of a project entitled “Estudio geológico de depósitos de flujos y oleadas piroclásticas, tefra, lahares y flujos de escombros en la zona occidental del Volcán de Santa Ana (Ilamatepec),” which has been funded by the Geography and Geophysics Commissions of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History. This project is a collaboration between three institutions (University at Buffalo, Buffalo State College and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) and the Salvadorian government agency, the Direccion General del Observatorio Ambiental in El Salvador.

### *Amy Frazier*

Amy Frazier is a recipient of the NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Award, which is supported by NASA and Michigan State University to assist outstanding students in attending the U.S. Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology Annual Symposium being held in Austin, TX from April 14-18, 2013.

### *Jeff Gower*

Jeff Gower was awarded the 2012 Marleigh Grayer Ryan Graduate Writing Prize at the annual meeting of the New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) for his article “Knowledge Management and Transfers between North and South Korea” at the Kaesong Industrial Complex on Sept. 29, 2012. NYCAS is the oldest and largest of nine regional conferences of the Association of Asian Studies. Jeff also received the 2013 Alumni Scholarly Publication Award from the Akron Law Alumni Association Board of Directors for his article “H1-B Visas” that was in the book “Debates on U.S. Immigration,” published in November 2012.

### *Lara Iverson*

Lara Iverson received a scholarship to attend the Summer Institute in Statistics and Modeling of Infectious Diseases at the University of Washington during July 2012.

### *Deborah Naybor and Stephen Tulowiecki*

Deborah Naybor and Stephen Tulowiecki were selected as winners in the Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Awards competition. This award is designed to recognize them for their exceptional competence and dedication as a teacher.

*Congratulations to all!*

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES BY FACULTY

### *Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen*

Bagchi-Sen offered a two-day course on innovation and entrepreneurship in October 2012 in Gothenburg University, Sweden. She and Professor Maureen McKelvey organized an international workshop on spaces of innovation in February 2013. She was invited to give a talk on spaces of innovation in emerging markets at the 2nd conference on the Development of China and the Indian Ocean Economies organized by the Yunnan University of Finance and Economics. She gave another invited talk on technology transfer at the Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa.

### *Geoff Jacquez*

In 2012, Geoff Jacquez accepted a two-year appointment as “Co-Science Director of the CRCSI Health Program” in Australia. He is very excited about this opportunity to contribute to Australia’s cutting-edge initiatives in medical geography, population health and spatial epidemiology.

### *Scott Mackay*

In April 2012, Scott Mackay gave an invited talk at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly in Vienna, Austria. The talk was entitled, “Modeling evapotranspiration based on plant hydraulic theory can predict spatial variability across an elevation gradient and link to biogeochemical fluxes” in a session entitled, “New insights on the effects of vegetation on evaporation.”

### *Jessie Poon*

Jessie Poon spent part of the Spring semester (2013) in Singapore, teaching in the department’s inaugural International Trade undergraduate program at The Singapore institute of management.

### *Le Wang*

In July, 2012, Le Wang led a research group to a study site in Ejina, Inner Mongolia in North-west China. Five UB graduate students participated in the trip. They are Amy Frazier, Chen Shi, Wenjie Ji, Chunyuan Diao, and Xiaonan Tai. The purpose of the trip was to establish a new field site for studying an invasive shrub species. Substantial measurements on vegetation growth and their associated environmental conditions were taken in the field. It is expected that such measurements can be coupled with our remote sensing analyses for understanding the population dynamics of the species in relation to environmental and climate conditions.



Le Wang was elected vice chair of the Remote Sensing Speciality group for a two-year term. Le Wang with some team members at study site in EJina, Inner Mongolia.



From left to right: Shougeng Hu, bin Chi, Wenjie Ji, Amy Frazier, Hao Peng, Le Wang, Xiaonan Tai, Yanfang Xiao.

## *Marion Werner*

Marion Werner traveled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti in July, 2012 to continue her research on foreign direct investment, global production restructuring and development policy. She will present initial findings of this work at this year's Latin American Studies Association meetings in Washington, DC. In the fall of 2012, Marion participated on the scientific committee of an international conference addressing industrial and development policy in Latin America. The conference, titled "Value Chains, Neoliberal Regulation, and Global Restructuring: Considerations from the South," was held in Santa Fe, Argentina at La Universidad Nacional del Litoral. Marion presented the opening plenary paper together with her co-authors, Jennifer Bair (University of Colorado, Boulder) and Víctor Ramiro Fernández (Universidad Nacional del Litoral).

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