

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

THE COMPASS



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Summer is here and it is time to have the Annual Newsletter out for our alumni, friends, students, and faculty. I am happy to announce that we now have new BA and MA degrees in International Trade in the Department of Geography. Next year, the University at Buffalo and the Department of Geography will be launching the BA International Trade degree in Singapore in partnership with the Singapore Institute of Management.

We are also in the process of introducing a new track in our existing MS program: Health Geography. Discussions are underway to move forward with cross-cutting undergraduate and graduate programs combining our strengths in Environmental and Earth Systems Science, Spatial Analysis-GIS, and Human-Economic Geography.

We saw many of our alumni at the Association of American Geographers' Annual Meetings in Seattle and New York City. Several alumni also attended the on-campus dinner we organized last spring to celebrate Dr. Vince Ebert's life and career. Randy Bertolas gave a touching speech! We remember Dr. MacPherson every May at our annual golf outing on graduation day. Nicole Gasparini addressed the 2011 graduates. Dr. Thomas Baerwald, Program Director of the Geography and Spatial Sciences Program, National Science Foundation, visited us in November. He delivered several talks to reach the broader community of university and college professors in the Western New York region. The geographers celebrated his visit at the Anchor Bar!

We continue to engage alumni in our programs. Greg Coniglio offered a workshop for GIS students and practitioners this Spring. Michael Ziolkowski and Peter Kedron will be going to Singapore this summer to teach international trade courses for UB's Singapore program.

This past year, graduate assistants have delivered outstanding performance both in the classroom and in research. They have been extremely forthcoming in participating in departmental activities. They hosted a variety of events during the Geography Awareness Week. Above all, they reintroduced the Halloween Party this year!

We 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

Special thanks to Renee Ruffino, Creative Design Director, College of Arts and Sciences, Mary Kate Baker, Student Design intern, Betsy Abraham, Graduate Secretary in the Department of Geography, and Graduate Assistant Wei Yin.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

-  **5** Student News
-  **7** Faculty News
-  **9** Research Spotlight
-  **10** Alumni News
-  **12** Events and Event Photos
-  **19** Student Awards
-  **22** Please support the Department

The Compass is published in the spring for the students, alumni and friends of:
University at Buffalo
The State University of New York
The Department of Geography
105 Wilkeson Quad
Buffalo, NY 14261-0055
Phone (716) 645-2722
www.geog.buffalo.edu



1st RECIPIENT OF THE GREG AND SUSAN ALDRICH UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH 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. Award applications are reviewed by a team of UB Geography faculty who give consideration to completed applications that show a true need for award support to complete projects, pay for supplies, attend conferences, and/or other intrinsic needs that must be overcome to complete a research project.



ANTHONY HILBERT is a junior in the Geography Department with a concentration in International Trade. He first became interested in geography last year after taking an introductory course on global trade, and he changed his major from history to geography. He is interested in labor rights and consumer preferences. He plans on receiving his Master's in Geography at UB before going on to law school. He received the award for his proposal titled "Challenges and Opportunities of Fair Trade Networks in Western New York" (Marion Werner, Advisor). The award offered Anthony the unique opportunity to do an independent research paper for the AAG conference this

February. The project focuses on the impact of diminishing marginal utility (referred to as "warm glow" when applied to ethical consumption) on fair trade coffee consumption as examined through consumer surveys. After looking into the literature concerning this topic and completing the surveys at various locations across Rochester and Buffalo, Anthony is now working on his final draft. His understanding of the research process has matured in a way that would not be possible without this grant.

STUDENT NEWS



Jordan Besek, M.A. student, will complete his masters project this summer. He is working with Buffalo subsistence anglers, or people who fish and eat what they catch, to improve the recognition of diversity in fish consumption ad-

visories in New York State. He will then move to Eugene Oregon, where he will begin a PhD program in Sociology at the University of Oregon.

Jeff Gower, Peter Kedron, and Wei Yin, Ph.D. students, presented at the annual New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS), September 16 – 17, 2011. The theme for this years' conference was "Asia at Work and Play," emphasizing the importance of Asian influence in these two spheres of life.

Jeff Gower presented on "The New China School of Literature: Perceptions of the Communist Party in Ha Jin's War Trash"; **Peter Kedron** presented on "Navigating European Markets: A Study of Foreign Direct Investment by Indian Pharmaceuticals"; and **Wei Yin** presented on "Locational Choices of Skilled Talents in China". Jeff Gower and Peter Kedron also served as panel chairs during the conference. In addition, Ph.D. student and Asian Studies Department graduate assistant **Jeff Chow** played a major role in organizing the two-day conference.

As an MA student in the International Trade concentration, **Lauren McCarthy**, MA 2011, was selected for a summer internship at the U.S. Department of State in Washington D.C. She worked in the Office of Multilateral Trade Affairs under the Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs. Some of the highlights of the internship included escorting participants at the World Food Prize announcement (hosted by Secretary Clinton), and escorting CEO participants at the U.S.-India CEO forum. She also compiled briefing books, including one with background data for each country involved in Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade negotiations which were used by all State participants in the June 2010 negotiating round in San Francisco, and another used by EEB Assistant Secretary Fernandez during U.S.-Greece

bilateral consultations. She also had the opportunity to work on an action plan to accompany two separate sets of U.S.-Turkish bilateral talks, and she put her trade analysis skills to work conducting research on inter-regional trade in Africa that went to Secretary Clinton. She was told that it even influenced the Secretary's speech to the July 2010 African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum! Lauren focused her MA research on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and U.S. trade, and she was able to work with the Office of the United States Trade Representative and prepare a paper on U.S. SME government procurement practices for presentation at a meeting for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, as well as a second in-depth analysis for internal circulation within the State Department.

As Development Officer for the Binational Alliance-- a not-for-profit trade organization, Lauren is now working on sponsorship development for the upcoming War of 1812 Bicentennial Peace Garden Trail and the 10th Anniversary of Doors Open - a project celebrating the legacy of Binational Peace and the architectural, historical and garden treasures located in the Buffalo-Niagara region. She has also helped to develop the organization's "Global Gateway" brand, creating and designing a new website, www.btaglobalgateway.com and member catalog, as well as leading the marketing campaign through social media and a weekly newsletter. Lauren has also developed an internship program, and welcomed four Department of Geography students for the Spring 2012 semester.

Chunyuan Diao, Amy Frazier, Wenjie Ji, and Xiaonan Tai, Ph.D. students, traveled to north-central China with Professor Le Wang during the summer of 2011 to study the environmental characteristics of saltcedar. Saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) is a shrub-like weed that was introduced to the United States from Europe and Asia in the mid-1800s for erosion control along riverbanks but rapidly escaped cultivation and has invaded riparian ecosystems. It is one of the most damaging invasive species in the U.S. due to its high water consumption, which causes millions of dollars in economic losses each year. While considerable research has been performed here in the U.S. to understand its behavior, the invasion mech-



anism of saltcedar remains poorly understood. In China, the research team from UB was joined by graduate students and professors from Beijing Normal University and spent several days in Beijing finalizing the field plan. The group then traveled to Jingbian County, Shaanxi Province in north-central China where they spent about a week gathering field data from native saltcedar plants, including hyperspectral reflectance measurements, leaf area index, and fractional cover. These data will be used to analyze the environmental drivers influencing saltcedar's growth and historical spread in a native habitat in order to compare natural dissemination patterns to the invasion patterns observed in the U.S.



First row: Amy Frazier (PhD student), Dameng Yin, Xi Yu, Hui Luo, Xiaonan Tai (PhD student), Chunyuan Diao (PhD student); the second row: Wenjie Ji (PhD student), Yuan Zhou, Shougeng Hu, Yuhao Rao, Dr. Le Wang, Jin Chen. Shougeng Hu is a teacher from China University of Geoscience, all other students are from Beijing Normal University.

Michael Habberfield, Ph.D. student, spent five months studying in the Biological Sciences Department at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. He carried out both coursework and research. This experience was made possible by the ERIE IGERT program. The program requires its trainees to complete a Canadian Experience component.

Deb Naybor, Ph.D. student, is working part time as a Conservationist for the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy in Jamestown, NY. Her tasks include education of students and land owners on the importance of the regional watershed, drafting conservation easements and GIS mapping of various parcels owned by CWC or of importance to the watershed. She has recently completed a study of shoreline habitat and conditions at the Chautauqua Institute, working with Jane Conroe, a water quality specialist at CWC. Her best days at work include kayaking or hiking to educate participants, or working with school kids on global and local water issues.

Peter Kedron, Ph.D. student, published several peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Geographical Analysis*, *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Journal of Applied Geography and Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*. Peter also organized a paper session on "Applied Spatial Analysis" at The Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, April 2011, in Seattle.

Michael Widener, Ph.D. student, completed a graduate student internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory's Center for Simulation Systems in Chicago. He developed a system for integrating GIS data into their agent-based models. He reports that the internship provided some interesting exposure to a number of different industries, and that he got to spread the good word about geography to a number of MBAs and engineers in the group. Michael also published several peer-reviewed journal articles in journals such as *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* and *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*, as well as research reports and conference proceedings papers.

Amy Frazier, Andrew Trgovac, Arcky Meraxa, Chen Shi, Deborah Ann Naybor, Fernando Rios, Hoehun Ha, Jeffrey Gower, Jorge Bajo, Joseph Holler, Martin Minkowski, Michael Widener, Peng Gao, Peter Kedron, Philip Savoy, Steven Russell Jr., Steve Tulowiecki, Tonya Lewis, Wei Yin, William Trask (Ph.D. students), **Zhihao Wang, Caitlin Curtis, John Whalen, Jordan Besek** (Master students), and **Anthony Hilbert** (undergraduate student) presented at the annual meeting of Association of American Geographers (AAG), hosted at New York City February 24-28, 2012.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Peter Rogerson has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of *Science*, one of the premier, peer-reviewed, general science journals in the world. Dr. Rogerson was named a fellow in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the field of spatial science, particularly for spatial modeling of migration and for new methods of spatial analysis. He served two stints as UB geography department chair—from 1991-94 and from 2007-10—and has held an adjunct appointment in the Department of Biostatistics since 2003. His research interests are in the areas of demography and population change, epidemiology, spatial statistics and spatial analysis. His current work focuses on developing new methods to quickly detect newly emergent clusters in geographic data; for example, determining as quickly as possible whether there is a new cluster of crime or disease. A prolific scholar, he is the author or co-author of five books and nearly 100 articles in refereed journals. His work has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Justice, among other funding sources. Professor Rogerson has received numerous awards over the course of his career, including a NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award, a Guggenheim fellowship, a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, and a Sustained Achievement Award from the UB Exceptional Scholars Program. [Adapted from the UB Reporter, December 8, 2011]

Dr. Chris Renschler offered the newly designed course Integrated Environmental Management (Geo470/570/Law777). Students review existing data and plans for soil conservation and flood management in order to produce a more integrated plan for managing water in rural watersheds. The aim is to identify strategies to manage a range of water issues, from short-term flooding to long-term land use and conservation planning. These strategies address the needs and resources of different agencies and communities. Professor Renschler has spent the semester developing plans to manage the Cat-

taugus watershed and surrounding ecology. He believes that this class has developed over the past years through input from students and stakeholders, and is an excellent way for enabling students to experience both research and outreach activities. Professors Chris Renschler and Barry Boyer combined the students' watershed management reports and proposals into a report for participating stakeholders such as the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Seneca Nation.

Dr. Tom Bittner was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2012. His research is devoted to formal ontology and its applications in Geographic Information Science. In his spare time he likes to take photos and to manipulate them digitally. His focus is on street and landscape photography.

"I aim to express the feelings a place or a landscape invokes in me when I encounter it with my camera. In this I am not so much interested in a realistic representation but rather in discovering and emphasizing the essence of the situation as I perceive it."

A representative example of his photography is the image 'Die Radlerin' (The woman bike-rider).



"In this image I aim to capture the ease and the speed with which the woman on the bicycle makes her way through the crowded and rainy inner city of Cologne in Germany. Her perfectly upright figure is almost completely black and its exact structure is only vaguely perceivable. The body is in strong contrast with the colorful and highly saturated patches that give the viewer the impression of movement and speed in relation to the inner-city lightning. The huge umbrella, which she holds in her hand seems to be one with the woman's body and emphasizes



the ease with which she navigates the traffic. I feel that the roughness of the representation and the lack of detail combined with the strong color contrast also supports an alternative interpretation: It creates the illusion of the Radlerin as an island in the ocean of movement around her—that she sits upright and still under her umbrella while the fluctuating world around her rushes past. The Radlerin expresses solitude, strength, and direction while the world around her displays unrest and chaos.”

Dr. Ling Bian continues her collaboration with a team of researchers and students in China investigating the dispersion of communicable diseases, such as flu, in urban areas. Dr. Bian and her team are currently in the data collection phase of the project. The project aims to understand health-related behavior of an urban population, the dispersion pattern of communicable diseases in an urban environment, and spatially oriented strategies to control and prevent these diseases.

In September, **Dr. Chris Larsen** presented the paper “How has Euro-American settlement altered Western New York’s forest composition? Will future climate change cause larger alterations?” at the Department of Environment and Geography, University of Manitoba and at the Department of Geography, University of Victoria.

Dr. Sara Metcalf participated in the Third Annual Workshop on Dynamic Modeling for Health Policy hosted by the University of Saskatchewan in July 2011. She was invited to the workshop on the basis of her expertise in agent-based and system dynamics modeling. She shared insights from research efforts modeling social structures to support healthy aging. To an international and interdisciplinary audience in Saskatoon, she presented the latest results of her NIH collaboration with NYU and Columbia University. The project employs a portfolio of models to simulate the effects of oral health outreach programs for older adults in urban environments. Other speakers at the workshop reported on the utilization of Canadian health data to inform dynamic models of public health problems. Organized by Dr. Nathaniel Osgood of Computer Science at the University

of Saskatchewan, the workshop included a group model-building component in which policies about urban health were contrasted for the U.S. and Canadian contexts.

As the PI of a research grant awarded by the state Key lab of Earth Surface Processes and Resource Ecology at the Beijing Normal University (BNU), **Dr. Le Wang** led a group of four UB Geography Ph.D. students and two visiting scholars from China, and conducted a field study in Shannxi Province, China in July 2011. The goal of the project is to study saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.), a weedy, invasive vegetation species introduced to the U.S. from Europe and Asia in the mid 19th century. During the ten days in the field, UB researchers, together with a group of researchers led by Prof. Jin Chen at BNU, located a potential field site in the southern part of the Maowusu desert that runs between the provinces of Inner Mongolia and Shannxi. Dense plots of planted saltcedar characterize the site. A total of forty-one field plots were surveyed. Various data were collected including fractional coverage of saltcedar, Leaf Area Index (LAI), as well as field spectrometer reflectance of saltcedar and surrounding species. The fieldwork laid the foundation for future remote sensing analyses of saltcedar developments in the site.

Dr. Jessie Poon continued her many international activities. This year, in June, she presented a paper titled “Regional Innovation Spillovers in China” at the Chinese Economic Society Conference in Beijing. She also conducted a workshop with Dr. Neil Coe (University of Manchester) on “Competitiveness & Innovation in Asia” in Singapore.

Dr. Trina Hamilton is a 2011-2012 UB Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellow. She gave a talk to a group of 60 students from City Honors School and Nichols School On December 7, 2011. The talk was part of UB Humanities Institute’s Scholars in the Schools series. The title of her talk was, “Fact and fiction in the ethical diamond trade.” She addressed issues related to Canada’s role in the ethical diamond market including the implications for labor, environmental protection, and economic development

globally. She also discussed how celebrities such as hip hop pioneer Russell Simmons are involved in this controversial topic.

Dr. Marion Werner conducted research in June 2011 in Caracas where she interviewed government officials and social movement actors about the Venezuelan-led trade initiative called ALBA. In addition to research, Dr. Werner participated in two international meetings in June and July. She gave

a paper at the Caribbean Studies Association meetings in Curacao on trade and labor in the Dominican Republic, and she delivered an invited talk on critical geography at the geography department at the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Tom Bittner's research is devoted to formal ontology and its applications in Geographic Information Science. Formal ontology is a rapidly growing area of philosophy that considers what categories of entities exist in the world, what relations hold between those entities, and what logical properties characterize these categories and relations. He recently analyzed the logical underpinnings of three classification and delineation systems for ecological regions: the system of the United States Forest Service (USFS), the system of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the system of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Ultimately, the aim of his research is to demonstrate that formal ontology is useful not only for information processing but also to address a wide range of more fundamental theoretical and scientific questions in a systematic and logically coherent fashion.

Dr. Trina Hamilton is working on a project entitled "Market Fictions: Constructing Ethical Spaces for the Global Diamond Trade". Given Canada's recent cornering of the ethical diamond market, one goal of the project is to better understand how producers and retailers have traded on Canada's reputation as an environmental and human rights leader and utopian visions of a pristine arctic landscape to market Canada as an ethical production space. These purity narratives are often contrasted with blood diamond portrayals of Africa. Ethical markets are subject to continuous contestation, however, and alternative narratives, including an African empowerment narrative backed by hip hop mogul Russell Simmons, are challenging Canada's purported ethical monopoly. The second goal of this project is to identify the multiplicity and evolution of narratives used to market

ethical production spaces, as well as the consumer desires and personal narratives that motivate ethical consumption and mediate the consumer-led governance of the global diamond trade. This diversity provides a market for both the more and less fictionalized representations of ethical spaces, with very real consequences for social and environmental standards at production sites.

Michael Habberfield, Ph.D. student, has been in the field conducting research on the spatial dynamics of amphibians inhabiting vernal pools (small seasonal wetlands that form in spring and dry up by mid-summer). Working with researchers at SUNY-ESF in



Syracuse, he undertook a mark-recapture study that seeks to quantify probabilities and scales of movement of animals between different pools. Beginning with the onset of breeding in April, adult wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*) were captured at pools and marked using visible implant alpha (VIA) tags that can be read through the frogs' skin. During April, they were able to tag ~300 adult wood frogs from eighteen different pools over an area of ~100 hectares. By late

June, this year's wood frog tadpoles had undergone metamorphosis and began to emerge from the pools. They were also VIA tagged (see photo), providing an additional sample of ~500 juveniles.

Spring 2012 will see similar tagging efforts and monitoring for recaptured individuals returning to breed at the same or different pools. Sampling over the next two years will provide the recapture data

used to build models that can estimate movement parameters and determine the environmental covariates influencing them. For readers interested in more details about the study, including the field site, methods, complications to be considered, and other related research going on at the site, check out this research blog: <http://heibergvp.blogspot.com/>

ALUMNI NEWS

John Baker, MS 2012

John has been working as a Technical Staff Member at Consensus Systems Technologies, an ITS Systems Engineering Firm. The firm develops ITS architectures for local, state, and national governments, develops ITS standards, and performs transit system analyses.

Matthew Gibb, BA 2011

Last August Matt was hired as a temporary GIS Specialist with FEMA to be part of a 5 person team providing GIS support for the current disasters declared for all of the flooding from Hurricane Irene, as well as the flooding in Broome and Tioga counties.

Jason Tempera, MA 2008

Jason Tempera has been busy carving out a career with Canon. As a Logistics Planning Specialist, he works on optimizing the company's international supply chain and service parts distribution systems. He's now putting his MA work to good use. As he explains, "When the recession hit, cost reduction became an important objective for the company. I must say the analytical abilities honed at UB were useful here. The value of statistical analysis, map making, database design/logic, transportation theory, cultural understanding, and spatial perspective in business has become clear to me. Geographers view problems and solutions from a certain perspective, which is very useful when applied to areas of business such as logistics."

Jason was also runner-up for an environmental award at Canon thanks to his spearheading of an electronic export document management system. So far the company is saving tens of thousands of dollars



and hundreds of thousands of sheets of paper each year! His parting advice? "Keep on studying. The skills learned at University bring with them career rewards. I am able to travel for the company on an increasing basis across North

America, and as any good geographer I am enjoying the opportunity to see new places (LA is great on Oscar night)."

Boae Chun, MA 2006, Phd 2008

Boae is currently an assistant professor in the Dept. of Geography Education at Kwandong



University. Boae and her husband added a third child to her family, and she is quite busy being Mom, wife and professor!

In photo are Rebekah, Daniel and Naryn.

Randy Bertolas, PhD 1995

Dr. Randy Bertolas, Wayne State College Professor of Geography, received the Gildersleeve-Stoddard-Stone Award on Oct. 15, 2011 for service to the cause of geography education in Nebraska.



The award is given by the Geographic Educators of Nebraska in conjunction with the annual convention of the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies (NSCSS). Bertolas was nominated for the award by one of his students. He said, "Recognition by your peers is one thing, but to be nominated for an award by one of your students is a truly great honor. Nothing gives me a greater sense of satisfaction in my career than to help teachers at any level develop into the best educators they are capable of becoming"

[Modified from the news originally published by News Center, Wayne State College, Oct 19, 2011]

André Roy, PhD 1982



Dr. Roy joined the University of Montreal as Assistant Professor in 1982 and has been a full professor at U of M since 1993. Between 1994 and 2008 he served both as head and as interim head of the Department of Geography and Associate Dean,

Research, Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Professor Roy was a visiting research fellow in the Department

of Geography, University of Leeds, UK from 1988-1989. Since 2003 he has held the Canada Research Chair in Fluvial Dynamics. Last year, he became Dean of the Faculty of Environment at University of Waterloo in August and will serve "an initial five-year term ending June 30, 2016."

As a physical geographer, Dr. Roy's work demonstrates a keen interest in the environment and in interdisciplinary approaches. [Modified from the news originally published by Daily Bulletin, Waterloo, Jan 20, 2011]

EVENTS AND EVENT PHOTOS

2011 Graduation



Athol Abrahams, Nicole Gasparini, Michael Woldenberg



Guest Speaker: Nicole Gasparini ('95BA)



Chris Renschler presents Steve Tulowiecki the Hugh Calkins Applied GIS Award



Jeff Chudy is recognized as CAS Outstanding Senior in Geography



Dr. Bagchi-Sen presents Matthew Gibb with GTU membership pin



Dr. Hamilton announces winner of McConnell-MacPherson International Trade Award



Dr. Woldenberg announces winner of the Abrahams-Woldenberg Filed Scholarship



Dr. Le Wang, Jiaohao Luo



Students and their families arrive



Dr. Sean Bennett, Kiran Ramachandran

Fall Picnic, 2011



Steve Tulowiecki and Phil Savoy



L to R: Ryan Mendieta, Michael Widener, Phil Savoy, Dr. Le Wang



L to R: TingTing Ma, ShuoWei Zhang, WenJie Ji, HaoHu, XiaoHong Shang and Zhuo Chen



L to R: Dr. Jared Aldstadt, Bill Trask and Michael Widener

Celebration of Dr. Ebert's Life and Career



Randy Bertolas (PhD '95), speaker at the dinner hosted to celebrate Dr. Ebert's life and career, and Dr. Woldenberg



Dr. Bian and Dr. McConnell

2012 AAG, New York



L to R: Tong Sun, Tonya Lewis, Susan Kum, Prasan Kankaew



L to R: Elizabeth Cahill Delmelle, UB MA and PhD candidate, UNC Charlotte and Martin Swobodzinski (University of Minnesota)



L to R: Three Buffalo PhDs: LaDona Knigge (now Cal State Chico), Jin-kyu Jung (now University of Washington at Bothell), and Jacquie Housel (now Miami University, Ohio)



L to R: Nichlas Nagle, Dr. Sara Fabrikant (University of Zurich) and Dr. Enki Yoo

2nd Alan MacPherson Friendly Golf Get-Together 2011

The “Friendly Golf Get-Together” honoring Alan MacPherson took place on Saturday May 14th 2011 at the Ironwood Golf Course (Alan’s home course approx. 1 hour south of the UB campus). Twelve players of various skill levels started the game at 7:30 am under perfect Scottish weather conditions and had a great time (see picture on the green taken by Visiting Professor Yanbing Wang from Capital Normal University in Beijing). Paul Wesoloski – one of Alan’s local friends – set a new record and received the “Alan MacPherson Trophy” from last year’s winner, Peter Rogerson. Alan’s wife, Valerie Randall (here in the picture at her home with the five players of the 1st Get-Together), hosted again all players and some of Alan’s friends for the traditional lunch potluck after the game. Thanks to you, Valerie, and all that made this a memorable event!



L to R: Pete, Jared, Randall, Rich Quodomine, CR, Michael Ziolkowski



Paul W. and Pete



L to R: Andrew Voss, Marc Voss, Paul W., Robert W., Pete Rogerson, Chris Renschler, Jared Aldstadt, Sean Bennett, Tarun Singh, Ryan Mendieta

The Inaugural Charles (Vince) Ebert Lecture

The inaugural Charles (Vince) Ebert Lecture was given on Friday, September 23, 2011 by **Thomas Baerwald**. Dr. Baerwald is the Senior Science Advisor at the Division of Behavioral & Cognitive Sciences of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and a past president of the Association of American Geographers. The lecture was entitled, "Tracking Geographic Trajectories." His talk drew on his experience at NSF to discuss



Thomas Baerwald, National Science Foundation-Fall 2011 at UB

recent trends in the field and highlight important areas of emphasis for the future development of the discipline. He made it very clear that geography has an important role to play in solving the important research problems of the coming decades. It was a fitting first lecture in honor of Dr. Ebert.

While at UB, Dr. Baerwald gave workshops regarding the NSF proposal process. This included a presentation aimed at established researchers and a workshop for young investigators. Between the presentations and meetings he managed to squeeze in a tour of Buffalo and dinner with department faculty at the Anchor Bar.

The lecture was made possible by the generous support of the friends and students of Dr. Ebert. If you would like to support the lecture series, please send a note with your contribution (see page 24).



Tom and Scott at the Anchor Bar



Geography Faculty with Tom Baerwald at the Anchor Bar



Geography faculty at the reception hosted for Thomas Baerwald



Tom Baerwald at the Anchor Bar

Geography Awareness Week, November 13-19, 2011

The Geography Graduate Student Association organized a week of fun and enlightening events to celebrate the geographic perspective. Graduate student **Peter Kedron** organized **the annual graduate student research symposium**. The presenters and their talks were:

Tonya Lewis – “Developing effective environmental justice policies through a synergistic analysis of space, the environment, and the law”

Michael Widener – “Simulating Effects of Social Networks on People’s Hurricane Evacuation Rates” (with Mark Horner and Sara Metcalf)

Asal Nassir – “The 2010 outbreak of Cholera in Haiti: How was the organization of Partners in Health able to succeed and bring hope to Haitians?”

Graduate Student **Drew Trgovac** organized **the annual photo contest**. The winner of The Best Human Geography Photo (below) was Professor David Mark’s landscape view of Ronda, Spain. The winners and all of the entries are posted on the departments Facebook page ([Geography Dept- SUNY Buffalo](#)).



David Mark's landscape view of Ronda, Spain

New for this year, a **map contest** was organized by graduate students **Lindsey Conrow and Susan Kum**. Entries were gathered in two categories, maps of the department and other maps. The entries were displayed in the department and votes were tallied at the end of the week. Steve Tulowiecki and Ryan Mendietta took home the prizes.

Internationally renowned journalist **David Bornstein** held a **roundtable with students from Geography and other departments** on Wednesday November 16th. Mr. Bornstein is an internationally recognized expert on social innovation. He co-authors the “Fixes” column in The New York Times and is the founder of [Dowser.org](#). He was also the keynote speaker for International Education Week at UB. Trina Hamilton moderated the roundtable.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Thomas Ponniah. Dr. Ponniah was a Lecturer on Social Studies, Assistant Director of Studies, and Faculty Associate of the Project on Justice, Welfare and Economics at Harvard University from 2003-2011 and is serving as a professor in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences at George Brown College for 2011-2012. The title of his talk was, “The Geography of Revolution: The Contradictions of Hugo Chávez.” While some see Chávez as a hero and others as a despot, Dr. Ponniah argued that he is perhaps a little of both. He showed how in his words, “a geographic imagination helps us to interpret the revolution in Venezuela.” Dr. Ponniah’s visit was organized by Michael Widener and Trina Hamilton.

The Halloween Party

The Halloween party was held on Friday October 28, 2011.



PhD students J. Fernando Rios (left) and Steve Tulowiecki (right)



Steve Tulowiecki & Mike Habberfield



Amy Frazier & Drew Trgovac

The Department Holiday Party

The annual department holiday party was held on Friday December 9, 2011. The event featured the traditional visit from Santa Claus. A new tradition was initiated with an ugly sweater contest. Geography Graduate Student Association President Steve Tulowiecki took home the prize for the contest.



L to R: Dr. Peter Rogerson, Steve Tulowiecki, Phil Savoy, Drew Trgovac, Mike Habberfield and Amy Frazier.



The winner of ugly sweater contest: Steve Tulowiecki

2011 AAG, Seattle



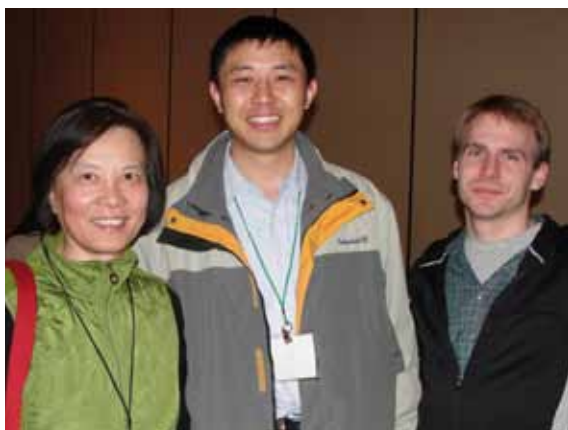
L to R:
Zongxiang Yang, PhD '01,
Jun Yan, PhD '04,
Jean-Claude Thill,
Yongmei Lu, PhD '01,
Xiaobai Yao, PhD '02



May Yuan (PhD '94) and Sungjae Choo (PhD '93)



L to R: Gaurav Sinha, PhD'08, Sara Metcalf, David Mark, Annieliese Vance-Sherman, PhD'08, and Joe Holler, PhD candidate



Ling Bian, Liang Mao, PhD '10, Sam Copeland, PhD candidate



L to R: Barry Kronenfeld, PhD'04, Chris Badurek, PhD'05, LaDona Knigge, PhD'06, Tony Oyana, PhD'03



Graduate Students: Joseph Holler, Phil Savoy, John Goergen (now an IGERT Fellow at the University of Iowa), Amy Frazier



Seth Spielman, PhD'08, Yifei Sun, PhD'01, Peter Rogerson, PhD'82

STUDENT AWARDS

Jorge Bajo received a grant from the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History for the 2012-2013 academic year to work with communities near the Santa Ana (Ilamatepec) Volcano area in El Salvador to understand how they view their landscape as compared with the views of experts and members of emergency agencies. The project involves work with these communities to generate hazard/risk maps via community mapping based on their knowledge and past experiences. Professors Chris Renschler and David Mark are collaborators on the project.

Amy Frazier recently won the First Prize in the 2012 AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group Student Honors Paper Competition and has also been elected the Student Director of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group for the coming year. She was also honored with the award "Graduate Student of the Year" by American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Central New York Region. She also received the Excellence in Teaching Award from UB's Graduate School.

Amy Frazier and **Joe Holler** participated in Seattle's Whidbey Island Marathon during the 2011 AAG meeting. Amy was the first female to finish, and Joe finished first among men in his age group.

Mike Habberfield received the department's Abrahams-Woldenberg Field Scholarship and also won the Graduate Student Research Grant Competition from the Biogeography Specialty Group of the AAG for his project, "Investigating the influence of pool and landscape features on the spatial dynamics of amphibian breeding in a vernal pool complex in central New York."

Joseph Holler was the winner of the 2012 Student Paper Award of the Development Geographies Specialty Group (DGSG). The title of his paper is "Climate Change Adaptation in Tanzania: Building Adaptive Capacity or Reproducing Vulnerability on Mt Kilimanjaro?".

Peter Kedron received the Excellence in Teaching Award from UB's Graduate School.

Breana Limina won the McConnell/MacPherson Award in International Trade.

Stephen Tulowiecki won the Hugh W. Calkins Applied GIS Award for a project that involves photographing the original land surveys conducted in Western New York, transcribing them into a database, and then mapping them using a Geographic Information System. Because these early surveys contained errors, Stephen's project entails direct site visits to record their precise locations using GPS. Stephen is quantifying measurement error and geolocational uncertainty in the original surveys to provide guidance on how these surveys may be applied in future research.

OUR THANKS

Donors from last newsletter-Jan 2011

Dr. Charles Abbott
Mr. Jared Aldstadt
Mr. Uldis Alks
Mr. Philip Andreozzi Jr.
Mr. Richard Babbage
Mr. Kenneth Balamut
Mr. Brian Barnes
Mrs. Cheryl Benjamin
Mr. Robert Bielecki
Mr. Mark Bilheimer
Mr. Timothy Brennan
Mr. Richard Brewer
Mr. Jason Brooks
Dr. Holly Butler
Mr. Daniel Cabic
Ms. Debra Chernoff
Dr. Francis Domoy
Ms. Tracy Eichler
Mr. Matthew Einson
Mr. Yeming Fan
Mr. David Ferguson
Mr. Brayton Foster
R.J. Reynolds Foundation
Morgan Stanley Foundation
G.E. Foundation
Dr. Scott Freundsuh
Mr. Christopher Fultz
Mr. Nicholas Geraci
Mr. Rick Gettings
Mr. Reginald Glover
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew & Lorry Goldhawk
Mr. Chad Goodwin
Dr. Steven Gordon
Dr. Joshua Grant
Dr. Shane Grant
Mr. Addison Green
Mr. Keith Grover
Ms. Margaret Hallenbeck
Mr. John Hoffarth
Colonel Mark Jelonek
Dr. Annitra Jongsthapongpanth

Dr. Dae Jong Kim
Mr. Evan Kolber
Mr. Dennis Koncelik
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher & Kathleen Kunitz
Mr. Thomas Liang
Mr. Stephen Loft
Mr. Saint Clair Martins Filho
Mr. Christopher McBride
Mr. Paul Mendy
Mr. Alan More
Mr. Raymond Mueller
Mr. Daniel Neumann
Mr. Paul Nevergold
Dr. Ifeoma Nwogu
Dr. Michael O'Neill
Commander John Ortolf USN (Retired)
Dr. James Porter
Mr. Richard Quodomine
Dr. & Mrs. Carl & Susan Reed
Dr. Jeffrey Roet
Dr. Peter Rogerson
Mr. Kenneth Schleede
Mr. Paul Schmidt
Mr. Carl Seeber
Dr. Chi Sham
Dr. Andre Skupin
Mr. Richard Sloan
Mr. Kenneth Stone
Brigadier General Philip Tennant
Mr. Greg Theisen
Mr. Henry Tobin
Dr. Louis Trapasso
Dr. Seth Triggs
Mr. Keith Tryon
Mr. Ming-Hsiang Tsou
Mr. Philip Varbaro, Jr.
Miss Janet Wacker
Dr. David Weiskopf
Mr. Harold Wolf
Mr. Matthew Wong
Dr. Hyun Woo Lim
Mr. Michael Zashak

PLEASE SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Please support UB's Department of Geography
by filling out our online donor forms

<http://www.geog.buffalo.edu/donate.shtml>

These links will take you to secure UB Geography
Department support pages:

Geography Department Resource Fund

[https://ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/giving/v2/
index.php?action=use-parameters&gift_
allocation=9356211526](https://ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/giving/v2/index.php?action=use-parameters&gift_allocation=9356211526)

Charles H.V. Ebert Lecture Series and
Scholar-in-Residence Program

[https://ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/giving/v3/
index.php?action=use-parameters&gift_
allocation=9356683026](https://ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/giving/v3/index.php?action=use-parameters&gift_allocation=9356683026)

Hugh W. Calkins, Ph.D. Prof. of Geography
Applied GIS Award

[https://ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/giving/v2/
index.php?action=use-parameters&gift_
allocation=9356544432](https://ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/giving/v2/index.php?action=use-parameters&gift_allocation=9356544432)

A. Abrahams & M. Woldenberg Graduate Student
Travel Award

[https://ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/giving/v2/
index.php?action=use-parameters&gift_
allocation=9356604532](https://ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/giving/v2/index.php?action=use-parameters&gift_allocation=9356604532)

McConnell/MacPherson Award in
International Trade

[https://ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/giving/v2/
index.php?action=use-parameters&gift_
allocation=9356640632](https://ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/giving/v2/index.php?action=use-parameters&gift_allocation=9356640632)



NOTES

NOTES

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Buffalo, NY
Permit No. 311



University at Buffalo *The State University of New York*

REACHING OTHERS

University at Buffalo | The State University of New York | The Department of Geography | 105 Wilkeson Quad | Buffalo, NY 14261-0055