

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

# THE COMPASS



Photo taken by MA student Matthew DeCristofaro at Boulders Beach in Simon's Town, South Africa. There has been a colony of African Penguins at Boulder Beach since the 1980s and it is one of only three penguin populations on the mainland in southern Africa. Boulders Beach forms part of the Table Mountain National Park and is a popular tourist destination.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We are happy to bring this Newsletter together for all our faculty, students, alumni, and friends. Since our last Newsletter was published, the department has seen several personnel changes. On a sad note, we have lost Vince Ebert and Alan MacPherson. Their presence is missed but their legacy will not be lost. The department continues to thrive. Marion Werner joins the International Trade faculty from the University of Minnesota. She is taking over Alan's courses. We will be continuing to offer the hazards course made popular by Vince over several decades of teaching at UB.

As I write, we are admitting new majors, both undergraduates and graduates. This is the admission season! This past year, we experienced a significant increase in the number of new international graduate students. Our faculty is now more international than ever with 12 members from different parts of the world, including five Canadians!

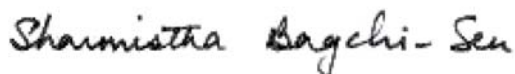
The Geography Department is still located in Wilkeson Quad. The location continues to be gorgeous whether it is summer, fall, winter or spring. Moreover, we are fortunate to be considered an important department in the university and the discipline. Our interdisciplinary research and teaching efforts, and our outstanding service to the discipline, university, and community have brought us a lot of recognition from peers. The stories in this Newsletter will give you a taste of this success.

We continue to build our alumni network. One goal is to help current students become successful in the job market through information exchange in this network. We are also involving alumni as adjuncts in offering credit and non-credit bearing classes and workshops over regular semesters and the summer. Our plan is to reach the broader community with our knowledge in applied GIS and spatial analysis. Stay tuned!

I must end this column with my gratitude to Alan MacPherson who invited me to apply to Buffalo in 1991. I was thrilled to receive his message in 1991 and I continue to be excited everyday about my job in the Department of Geography.

Thanks to 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

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Special thanks to Renee Ruffino, Creative Design Director, College of Arts and Sciences, Shawn O'Connor, Student Design intern, Betsy Abraham, graduate secretary in the Department of Geography, graduate assistant Tong Sun, and Professor Peter Rogerson.

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# STUDENT NEWS

**John Baker**, M.S. student, attended the Santa Fe Institute's 2010 Global Sustainability Summer School. This program brought together experts in climate change, economics, technological forecasting, and other diverse topics for a two-week, intensive course focusing on the interactions between fields and complex systems approaches to problems in sustainability.

**Pat Braun**, M.A. student, spent his summer developing a project titled Laboratories for Urban Regeneration and Education (LURE) on the East Side of Buffalo. This process involved working with inner city high school students preparing for the Earth Science and Living Environment Regents exam. The project also provided hands-on experience working on abandoned lot regeneration activities including urban agriculture, cover cropping, and an art park. As a graduate student, Pat would like to continue to pursue the issue of urban environmental management locally and internationally.

**Huicheng Chien**, Ph.D. candidate is now a Post-Doctoral researcher at the University of St. Louis. His new work is an extension of his Ph.D. work on watershed water quality in small watersheds, but now the spatial scope of his work includes the whole state of Missouri.

**Jeffrey Chow**, Ph.D. candidate is beginning dissertation work on Islamic finance in Malaysia.

**Sam Copeland**, doctoral student and IGERT Fellow, visited China. In Beijing, he collaborated with graduate students and research scientists in the Institute of Remote Sensing Applications, Chinese Academy of Sciences to work on projects involving 3D virtual geographic environments. Sam also went to Lanzhou in mid-western China to work with graduate students and scientists in Lanzhou University on research issues relating to natural resources and environment. Sam's China trip was sponsored by the GIScience IGERT program at UB. Sam also won the Best Poster Award at this year's UCGIS annual meeting for his work on "Fine scale simulation of influenza in an ER waiting room".

**Alan Delmerico** is a doctoral student who also works full-time as a Research Analyst at the Center

for Health and Social Research at Buffalo State College. He has received a BA/MA in Economics and an MA from the University at Buffalo. He has also taught Economics, Business and Geography courses at Daemen College, Buffalo State College and the University at Buffalo. His dissertation research examines the spatial characteristics of undiagnosed diabetes and diabetic complications in Western New York. His research interests are focused in behavioral health and include the geographies of alcohol availability and alcohol-related problems, as well as mental health-related topics.

**Jeff Gower**, doctoral student and IGERT Fellow, reports that after spending most of the spring semester at the Technical University at Delft, the Netherlands, he was a visiting student at the Institute for Geoinformatics (IfGI) at the University of Muenster in Germany in May and June. His stay there coincided with the 2010 World Cup, the world's international soccer championship tournament, in which the German national team made a good run towards the title. He had two articles accepted for publication over the summer. The first, "As Dumb as We Wanna Be: U.S. H-1B Visa Policy and the 'Brain Blocking' of Asian Technology Professionals," is scheduled to be published in Vol. 12, Issue 1 (Spring 2011) of Rutgers Race and the Law Review. A second paper, titled "North Korea: There are Reasons Why It Is Called the 'Hermit Kingdom'", is tentatively scheduled to be included in the May 2011 issue of Education About Asia, an official publication of the Association of Asian Studies. In addition, he has three other papers submitted to journals that are in various stages of review. Jeff also chaired a panel on "Globalization and Islam" at the 2010 New York Conference on Asian Studies.

**Joseph Holler's** (doctoral student and IGERT Fellow) field experience in Tanzania was an extension of the Jane Goodall Institute internship completed from January to July 2009. The purpose of the field experience was to process in-country approval for research, re-establish relationships with stakeholders and communities on Mt. Kilimanjaro, and begin data collection in the study site Mweka Village. Data collection was to include geographic

and climate data from government offices, stakeholder interviews, and participatory rural appraisal and mapping focus groups with each of seven sub-villages in Mweka Village. Joe has also been in Tanzania more recently, doing fieldwork for his dissertation.

**Lara J. Iverson** is a Ph.D. student in the Geography of Health. Her background is in international development work, anthropology and public health. Her primary focus has been on women's reproductive health and infectious disease epidemiology. Prior to coming to the University at Buffalo, she conducted field research in India, France and Vietnam. In addition, she worked in India and Washington, DC as a consultant, applying her research experience in international health and gender issues. Currently, her research project examines the role of gender and stigma in tuberculosis transmission dynamics in India using computational modeling.

**Susan S. Kum** is a first-year doctoral student. She received a MPH in Epidemiology from the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, and a BA in Political Science and Geography from Binghamton University. Prior to returning to continuing her graduate studies at UB, she was involved in research and training at the Earth Institute/Modi Research Group at Columbia University; the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Unit, International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs at Columbia University; and the GIS Center of Excellence/Bureau of Epidemiological Services at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Her research interests are health geography, public health surveillance, web-based information systems, and sustainable development.

**Breana Limina**, undergraduate, was the only UB student at the Shanghai Expo. She reports that it was a fantastic experience. The application was through University of Southern California (which designed and installed the program through the US-China Institute at the University). Around 1,000 students applied and only 160 were accepted. (2 years minimum of college level Chinese language study was required for the application). The term for the job title was "Student Ambassador"—some were grad students—others were undergrads (like Breana) or recent graduates. She says that this was obviously not a typical office internship, but

while she did not spend time crunching numbers or studying the financial markets in China, she was able to gain insight on the business behind the expo and on foreign relations as well as learn more about contemporary Chinese culture. Student Ambassadors were randomly put into different positions around the pavilion, the majority being in operations (VIP or General Pavilion Operations).

She feels that general operations gave her the most interaction with guests, giving her an opportunity to practice her Chinese language skills, which was exactly what she wanted. The visitors were thrilled to have the chance to interact with "real" Americans, learn about their lives, and share conversation. For many of the Chinese citizens with whom she met, it may have be the only chance they will ever have to converse with an American. The interns introduced shows, their pavilion and themselves. In addition, they worked outside (in the Shanghai summer), talking to the guests as they queued and "VIPs" in the fast access line.

**Liang Mao**, a PhD student, won the Best Paper Award at the 2009 annual meeting of University Consortium for Geographic Information Sciences (UCGIS) for his work on "Vaccination strategies in a mobile social network".

**Bhaskar Mitra** is now at the University of Arizona doing Post-Doctoral work on carbon and water cycling for NSF Critical Zone Observatory. This work builds on his Ph.D. work on carbon and water cycling in dryland systems.

**Deborah Naybor**, Ph.D. student is beginning dissertation work on land tenure and gender development in Uganda. Deborah is the 2010 recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's award for Academic Excellence and Student Achievement.

**Bridget Paul**, BA/MA student, reports that, "This summer, I returned to Beijing's Capital Normal University to study Mandarin. It was my second such trip and was, if anything, even more rewarding than my first. Aside from field trips to historical and cultural sites in China (the Great Wall, Forbidden Palace, and Terracotta Warriors, to name only a few) I spent my days between the classroom and the streets of Beijing, interacting with those around me. My Chinese has improved immensely, and I hope to spend this next year becoming truly fluent!"



**Kyle F. Reinson**, Ph. D. Student in Urban & Regional studies, was invited to attend the New Media Academic Summit in June for the second year. The event was hosted by the global public relations firm Edelman in New York City. Scholars from around the world met up with people in the news media and industry to discuss tech trends and the future of communication with respect to social media and commerce. Some highlights included an energizing speech by MeetUp.com co-founder and CEO Scott Heiferman. The summit was very helpful in terms of my research combining Geography and Communication. If fellow grad students are interested in seeing and hearing what was discussed, the podcasts and speaker bios can be found by visiting: <http://www.newmediaacademicsummit.com/Summit2010/agenda.asp>. In August, he was in Denver for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) annual convention where he was elected teaching chair of the organization's Cultural and Critical Studies Division, or as he says, "this just means more work for me to do!" But fortunately, he "enjoyed a very short family vacation with my spouse and 3-year-old son to the family farm in Georgia. Too much kudzu to describe!"

**David Roberts**, M.S. student, began work as a spatial analyst with Resource Data Inc. in July 2010. This consulting firm specializes in spatial data analysis for both resource exploration and environmental cleanup efforts. For example, they were involved in the Exxon-Valdez cleanup effort and now the Gulf oil cleanup. Dave's permanent home base will be Houston, Texas, but since he started work he has been stationed at Gulf oil cleanup command posts, initially in Houma, LA., and now in New Orleans. His work involves, among other activities, geocoding aerial images of the Gulf Coast taken each day. He ingests these daily images into a GIS-based viewer to provide support for cleanup operations planning, which is now focused on cleaning the coastal wetlands. He also operates the viewer during the planning sessions. Some of his work involves developing new code, and so Dave is putting both his Geography and Computer Science skills to good use.

**Heath Robinson**, doctoral student and IGERT Fellow, spent 6 months in Germany gathering information for his doctoral dissertation on spatial ontology and defended his dissertation in November 2010.

**Jennifer Stoll**, Ph.D. student is beginning fieldwork on agricultural cooperatives in Alberta, Canada.

**Diep Thai** is finishing up her Ph.D. dissertation on female entrepreneurship in Vietnam.

**Andrew B. Trgovac**, IGERT Fellow and a Ph.D. candidate in the Geography department, spent four weeks during the summer of 2010 in Singapore working with Dr. Yi-Chen Wang, an assistant professor of Geography at the National University of Singapore and University at Buffalo alumna. Trgovac and Wang share a common research interest in the utilization of pre-European settlement land survey records for the reconstruction of forest patterns in the United States. While there, Trgovac was invited to speak during the department's weekly seminar series and gave a talk entitled "The spatial pattern of forest rank abundance distributions in the eastern United States". Trgovac also attended the Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial Analysis (FOSS4G) conference in Barcelona, Spain in September 2010. His poster demonstrated how R Statistical Software can be used in the examination of forest abundance patterns and was selected for one of the forty academic tract spots at the conference.

**Michael Widener**, Ph.D. student became a fellow of the New England Complex Systems Institute (NECSI) and will be supported under Sara Metcalf's new NIH grant, which also enabled them to attend a summer simulation workshop hosted by AnyLogic. They will be working with a team of dental health experts in NYC, at NYU and Columbia.

## FACULTY NEWS



### New Faculty Member – Marion Werner

Dr. Marion Werner joined the department this January. Her research is concerned with understanding North-South trade and economic relations, with a particular interest in labor, gender, and Latin America. Her research interests were sewn in part in her childhood home. Marion was born and raised in Toronto, Canada by Argentine parents. Dinner conversations frequently covered the latest economic crisis in Latin America and the decline of the middle classes, while the range of guests at her parent's welcoming table periodically included new immigrants arriving in Canada after the latest economic upheaval.

Marion attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she pursued a Bachelor's degree in Latin American studies. Following college, she lived in Central America working on gender and labor rights, and then moved back to North America to participate in similar efforts with Latin American immigrants in the U.S. Marion entered academic geography by pursuing a master's degree at the University of Bristol where she focused on questions of trade and governance.

In 2004, Marion began her Ph.D. studies at the University of Minnesota under the direction of the Eric Sheppard and Richa Nagar. Her dissertation explores the collapse of the export garment industry in the Dominican Republic from the vantage point of displaced workers as well as Dominican firm owners and managers. Her monograph is based on ten months of fieldwork in the inland industrial city of Santiago and a new industrial site on the Haitian-

Dominican border. She draws on the garment industry's restructuring process to intervene in contemporary debates on global production that often read such production shifts in the global South largely through the lens of economic change in the global North. Marion presented her dissertation in the department of geography at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) and defended her dissertation in Minnesota in December of 2009. Publications related to her dissertation work are published or forthcoming in *Antipode: A journal of radical geography and Gender, Place and Culture*.

In addition to publishing from her dissertation, Marion has recently co-edited a special issue titled "Rethinking commodity chains" with Jennifer Bair (forthcoming, *Environment and Planning A*). The issue includes a co-authored theoretical introduction and a paper on garment industry restructuring in north central Mexico. She recently collaborated with colleagues to write an article on racialized discourses of humanitarian aid in the aftermath of the 2010 Haitian earthquake (in *Acme*) and has a chapter on Latin America and the Caribbean in the new edition of the *Companion to Economic Geography*.

Marion moved to Buffalo with her partner, Jaume, and her one year-old daughter, Yannick. She is teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on global trade (Geo 333 and Geo 632) in the department's ITC cluster and is pleased to join such a strong cohort of economic geographers. Marion looks forward to learning about Buffalo's own post-industrial geographies and to spending these first cold, snowy months pursuing her passion for film (when she's not prepping her courses).

**Professor Jared Aldstadt** is part of a research group studying the transmission of dengue virus in Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand. 2.5 million people are at risk for dengue infection annually, and it is leading cause of hospitalization among children in Southeast Asia. The project is funded by NIH, and collaborators include researchers from the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences, the University of Massachusetts Medical School, SUNY Upstate Medical University, and the University of California, Davis. The research employs geospatial





technology to perform cluster surveys of dengue virus transmission. The cluster survey technique spatially and temporally links mosquito vector population levels and host transmission, and overcomes the mismatch associated with many vector-borne disease studies. The cluster surveys allow our research group to capture dengue infections across the clinical spectrum and evaluate the relationship between mosquito density and dengue transmission. The research will also examine the indirect protective effects of vaccination on unvaccinated individuals during a planned dengue vaccine trial in Kamphaeng Phet.

**Professor Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen** served as a member of the scientific committee for the Business in Asia conference organized by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Gothenburg University, Sweden in December 2009. She was a visiting faculty at the Institute in May 2009 and will be visiting the School of Business, Economics, and Law again later this year. Her student Annitra Jongsthapongpanth completed a dissertation on HIV and AIDS among youth population in Thailand and co-authored three journal papers with her, including one in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers. Recently, she co-authored three other papers with her doctoral student Peter Kedron, including another paper in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers. Sharmistha just completed her six year term as the editor of The Professional Geographer.

**Professor Sean J. Bennett** served (invited) on the scientific committees for the following conferences: Fifth International Conference on Gully Erosion, "Human Impact on Gully Erosion," 20-25 April, 2010, Lublin, POLAND and Fifth International Conference on Fluvial Hydraulics 2010 (River Flow 2010), 8-10 September, 2010, Braunschweig, GERMANY. Conference papers co-authored by him were presented at the following international conferences: 14th Workshop on Physical Processes in Natural Waters, University of Iceland, June 28-July 1, 2010, Reykjavik, ICELAND; Human Impact on Gully Erosion, 5th International Symposium on Gully Erosion, April 20-25, 2010, Lublin, POLAND; and 33rd International Association of Hydraulic Engineering & Research (IAHR) Biennial Congress, Vancouver, British Columbia, August 9-14, 2009, CANADA.

**Professor Ling Bian** won an International Visiting Scholar Award at Queen's University and she visited Queen's University in the fall of 2010. She will give presentations and lectures, and interact with undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members there to exchange research ideas and engage in other academic activities. As the associate editor of the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Professor Bian gave a workshop on how to develop effective papers at the XXI Congress of International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing held in Beijing, China in Summer, 2008. The workshop was well received by more than 200 participating scientists and students, and was ranked the highest of all Elsevier sponsored workshops in China. In the last few years, Professor Ling Bian has hosted two international visiting scholars from China to work on GIS related research issues.

In recent years, Professor Bian and her students have looked into modeling the spatial dispersion of communicable diseases. These diseases are transmitted through close personal contact. SARS, H1N1 flu, and bird flu are typical examples of them. Professor Bian's research group uses GIS, agent-based modeling, and social network analysis to simulate the transmission of the diseases between individuals at different times of day and different locations.

Their work has received increasing attention from research communities. Professor Bian has been invited to give keynote and plenary presentations about their research at a series of national and international conferences and workshops. Most recently, she was invited by the Public Health Agency of Canada to present at the Mathematical Modeling and Geosimulations for Disease Spread workshop, by the World Universities Network GIS Academy to give a webinar in the Dynamic Modeling in GIS webinar series, by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to present at the Institute on Systems Science and Health. The responses to their research are enthusiastic. The host of the World Universities Network GIS Academy webinar series, for example, wrote 'Great talk, most interesting and I hope you enjoyed giving it as much as I enjoyed hearing it!'



As part of the research group, her students have won national awards in two consecutive years. In the near future, the group will continue their effort in exploring this area of research.

**Professor D. Scott Mackay** was on sabbatical leave during the Spring 2010 semester, splitting time equally between the Woods Hole Research Center in Falmouth, Mass., the Institute for the Environment, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Buffalo; he also spent some time with collaborators at the University of Wyoming. His son (who is home-schooled) and wife traveled with him and deepened their understanding of U.S. history with visits to Boston, Washington, the site of the last major Civil War battle, and so forth. During this time he finished up manuscripts (5 published or in press); a refereed book chapter; began work on new manuscripts; developed ideas for future research projects; served on a NASA Interdisciplinary Science panel; and continued serving as Associate Editor for Water Resources Research.

At Woods Hole Professor Mackay worked on his Department of Energy project on climate change impacts on carbon cycling, as well as new work on Bayesian techniques to maximize the information gained from a limited number of observations in a spatially heterogeneous environment. He presented his work in the Center's colloquium series, and learned about the Center's green technology (wind, solar, and geothermal power), which makes it perhaps the only research center with supercomputer power to have essentially a zero-carbon footprint.

At Chapel Hill he began extending his work on plant hydraulics at tree and stand scales to watershed scales. In particular, Mackay considered vegetation strategies for coping with drought and how these are expressed over time along with soil moisture continually subject to topographic and climatic control. He also examined how these processes affect southern mixed forests, both at the Coweeta Long-Term Ecological Research Station, and at Duke Forest. Professor Mackay has initiated the development of a research proposal on this subject, and is convening a session at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting to enhance the visibility of this subject.

Additionally, from June-August he supervised an NSF 'Research Experiences for Undergraduates' student, Mary Freiss, a student at Stony Brook University. Mary assisted him with conducting preliminary analysis on scaling up models of plant hydraulic strategies to watershed scales.

**David Mark honored** as a Fellow of the UCGIS. In February 2010, David Mark was announced as one of the initial class of Fellows of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), and organization with more than 70 colleges and universities in the United States as members. UCGIS promotes research and higher education in Geographic Information Science. Professor Mark was instrumental in founding the UCGIS in 1995, and served as President of UCGIS in 1997-98. He also Chaired the UCGIS Research Committee and their Policy and Legislation Committee. He was named as the UCGIS Research Award in 2004 and their Education Award in 2009, becoming the first person to win both awards. Recently UCGIS decided to establish a class of Fellows of the organization, and along with Professors Art Getis of San Diego State and Lynn User of the University of Georgia, David Mark was named as one of the first Fellows of the organization. For more about UCGIS, see <http://www.ucgis.org/>.



**Professor Sara Metcalf** is currently supported by a Drescher Diversity Award to advance two new research agendas in systems modeling that are inter-linked by the role of food in community health: (1) urban agriculture and (2) dental health among older adults. During Spring 2010, Dr. Metcalf received a UB2020 Civic Engagement & Public Policy Fellowship to conduct participatory research with the Massachusetts Ave Project (MAP), a local non-profit organization emphasizing sustainable urban agriculture and youth empowerment through its Growing Green Program. This partnership has expanded to include a variety of actors involved in the Buffalo Growing coalition, which formed as a community gardening task force two years ago. In March 2010, Buffalo Growing championed a resolution passed by the Buffalo Common Council to facilitate the transformation of vacant lots into community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture. Results from this engagement were presented during Geography Awareness Week, in a talk titled "Modeling the Local Food Movement". In collaboration with the dental schools at NYU and Columbia, Dr. Metcalf received an NIH exploratory research grant in systems science, with funding from both the Office of Behavioral Sci & Social Research and the National Institute for Dental & Craniofacial Research. The award, "Leveraging Opportunities to Improve Oral Health in Older Adults: A System Dynamics Model for Developing and Prioritizing Interventions, Programs, & Policies," was successful largely because of the quality of the causal hypotheses developed by Dr. Metcalf with the help of PhD student Michael Widener. While the exploratory research is based upon seniors seeking dental care through Columbia's ElderSmile program in upper Manhattan, future research will include older adults in Buffalo as well as New York. In addition to addressing issues of access, both projects link to

the role of nutrition in sustaining physical, mental, and ultimately dental health across the life course. Insights from these projects are being disseminated in scholarly outlets and at conferences oriented to the topics of urban agriculture and public health, as well as the methodology of systems modeling.

**Dr. Jessie Poon's** paper (2009) written with P. Cheong, "Examining Internet Use and Communication among Chinese Transmigrants" (Journal of International and Intercultural Communication 2(3): 189-207), received the top three papers award from over 100 submissions by the Global Communication and Social Change, International Communication Association, 2009.

She also edited a special journal issue on economic development issues in Africa, Latin America and Asia that included a paper from reputable Asian scholars such as Anthony Reid. Professor Poon is Editor of Geography, International Section, for Ashgate Publishing and Senior Managing Editor of Eurasian Geography and Economics which publishes papers on China, India, Central Asia, and Russia. She is collaborating on a research project with colleagues at the National University of Singapore that compares non-profit and faith organizations in Asia and the US and is also collaborating with colleagues at Peking University on China's green industry.

**Professor Le Wang** was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2009; he also became Director of Graduate Studies in July 2009. He has recently received the following awards: Individual service award, the International Association of Chinese Professionals in Geographic Information Science (CPGIS); third place, John I. Davidson President's Award for Practical Papers, American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS); and the Early Career Award, Remote Sensing Specialty Group - The Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, NV.

Recent invited talks by Professor Wang include: "Invasive Species Modeling with Multi-Scale Multi-Temporal Remote Sensing Data", University at Buffalo Geology Department Pegrum Lecture Series, January 21, 2010; and "Improving Small Area Population Estimation with High Resolution Remote Sensing", Capital Normal University, Beijing, China, June 18, 2009. He was Chair and

Organizer of the workshop: CPGIS Go-Home program, held in Nanjing Normal University, East China Institute of Technology, and Jiangxi Normal University, China; Session Chair and Organizer, Population Estimation Using Remote Sensing and GIS Technologies, the 105th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, NV; and Selected participant: CPGIS GO-Home program, held in Guangzhou University, and Henan University. Le Wang, as the guest editor and together with Dr. Changshan Wu at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, has organized a special issue for the international journal of remote sensing, "Population Estimation Using Remote Sensing and GIS Technologies", which appeared in November, 2010. Le Wang authored a book chapter, "Improving small area population estimation with high resolution remote sensing", for the book *Urban Remote Sensing*, to be published by Wiley-Blackwell. He authored another book chapter, "Remote Sensing of Coastal Mangrove Forest" in the book, *Remote Sensing and Geospatial Technologies for Coastal Ecosystem Assessment and Management: Principles and Applications*, which was published by Springer.

**Professor Enki Yoo**, in addition to her recent Drescher award, received a grant from NIH with her UB collaborators: "Use of cell phone-based time-activity data for air pollutant exposure estimation" which aims to use GPS-equipped smart phones to collect time-activity data used to refine land use regression- and kriging-based estimates of ambient air pollutant exposures. Professor Yoo is a Co-PI on this project. She also attended the 9th International Symposium on Spatial Accuracy Assessment in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, Leicester, UK, where she served on the Scientific committee and presented "Joint space-time modeling of West Nile virus vector mosquito abundance", together with Patty Trawinski, a former Ph.D. student. Currently, she is working on (1) Sorting out the effect of scale and residential selection on bias in estimates of contextual effects with former Ph.D. student Seth E. Spielman (University of Colorado) and C. Linkletter (Brown University) and (2) Affordable housing project in Buffalo with K. Patterson (University at Buffalo).

**Jim McConnell**, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus, has been dividing his time among three activities: volunteering at Friends of Night People soup kitchen and traveling to New Orleans to work with Habitat for Humanity on rebuilding housing; working with a local business/government committee to increase cross-border trade and investment; and traveling, first to Maine this past summer and then a cruise from Venice, through the Greek Islands, and to Turkey.



Mike Woldenberg wins the Doughnut Trophy

**Mike Woldenberg** continues to teach GEO 500 and recently won the Geography Football Pool.

Members and alumni of the Department and a few of their friends and relatives have maintained a football pool for almost two decades. Most of the participants are alumni who are scattered around the country and in Europe. It is a great way to maintain contact with friends from UB. Each week participants try and pick the victors in all the NFL games.

The winner each week basically recovers his or her investment and is expected to bring in doughnuts for those members still in residence at UB. This year's winner with the highest number of correct picks over the season is none other than Mike Woldenberg. Mike is holding the traveling Doughnut Trophy. For those who might win in the future: Mike strongly prefers cinnamon rolls.

# RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

## TRINA HAMILTON

Have you heard the one about the oil spill in Brooklyn? Most people have spent the past few months following the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, but **Assistant Professor Trina Hamilton** has had her sights on the oil plume under the Greenpoint neighborhood in Brooklyn.

This project was initiated a few years ago after I read an article describing New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's intent to "to sue ExxonMobil and four other companies over millions of gallons of oil lying under the Greenpoint neighborhood in Brooklyn" (Confessore The New York Times 8 February 2007). I immediately e-mailed a colleague at DePaul University -- whose research expertise is gentrification and deindustrialization in Brooklyn -- and we hatched the idea of combining our research expertise (mine being corporate social and environmental responsibility) to study the following question: How do toxic legacies affect the economic development trajectories of communities?

Greenpoint has gained national attention as the site of a decades old underground oil spill that is both larger than the Exxon Valdez spill and more difficult to attribute responsibility for, and hence clean up. Several lawsuits (by the New York Attorney General's Office, Riverkeeper, and private citizens) are now targeting ExxonMobil to clean up the oil, and the EPA has recently recommended Newtown Creek (adjacent to Greenpoint, where the spill was first identified) for Superfund designation. Environmental cleanup efforts in Greenpoint provide a unique counterpoint to the dominant green city narrative in NYC. According to the Mayor's PlaNYC 2030 vision and various other planning processes and projects, greening in the city, as it relates to toxic cleanup efforts, is focused on transforming previously industrial spaces into new housing, recreation and/or retail uses. This focus fits within the much-hyped creative city strategy deployed in cities across the globe and focused on creating an amenity and consumption-rich environment to attract the so-called "creative class," prompting recent discussions of environmental gentrification (i.e. cleanup leading to displacement, most often associated

with the transformation of industrial brownfields into high-rise housing developments). Even when greening initiatives are aimed directly at lower income populations, the goals remain recreational (increasing access to parks) and perhaps, in the case of urban gardening and agricultural projects, food provision, but certainly not industrial.

The cleanup efforts surrounding the underground oil plume and Newtown Creek do not reinforce the inevitability of environmental gentrification that seems to be associated with Williamsburg and even other parts of Greenpoint. In this case, greening of the city doesn't have to mean "parks, cafes and a riverwalk" as one recent Newtown Creek boat tour participant proposed:

*"It's extremely interesting to see it on a water level," he said. "It looks ugly with all the scrap metal around, but think about what it could be with parks, cafes and a river walk." (New York Times 2007).*

The vision of most of the stakeholders involved, including longtime resident activists and large environmental groups such as Riverkeeper, is not spaces of leisure and consumption (exclusively) or transformation of vacant toxic sites, but rather cleaning up of a still-viable working class neighborhood in order to protect public health, initiate ecological regeneration, AND maintain and increase industrial uses of the area.

We have begun interviewing government representatives, community activists, lawyers, and non-governmental organizations involved in the oil plume and Newtown Creek cleanup issues, and we are preparing (in tandem with a government-funded Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) study) to conduct a survey of businesses operating along the Creek in order to better understand their perspective on the future of the working waterfront, as well as cleanup plans such as the Superfund designation. Through this work we also hope to uncover some of the hidden green practices along the Creek (such as materials recycling and reuse, eco-product and service provision, pollution control measures, etc.) that may be less visible to the public than large



greenspace initiatives but are an important part of the greening of the city dialogue.

### CHRIS LARSEN

Major changes in the forests of Western New York (WNY) have been described in three recent papers by **Dr. Chris Larsen** and two of his former PhD students: **Yi-Chen Wang** (Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore) and **Barry Kronenfeld** (Assistant Professor, George Mason University). This research was in part funded by the National University of Singapore.

They were motivated to discover if the forests that now cover approximately 45% of WNY, differ in composition from the forests that covered WNY prior to settlement by Europeans. By the late 1880s, extensive forest clearance turned 75% of WNY into cultivated farmland. Much of this farmland was abandoned in the early 1900s, and has subsequently returned to forest cover. Are today's forests similar in character to those that covered the region when the first European settlers arrived? Or did land clearance and other activities in the intervening centuries result in lasting and irreversible changes to the ecology of the region?

To answer these questions, they obtained records of forests in the 1790s from presettlement land surveys conducted to facilitate settlement by Europeans. The boundaries of townships, typically 6x6 miles, had between one and four trees marked and their species recorded at half-mile intervals. In Amherst NY, an example of one of these townships is the square formed by Transit Road, Sheridan Drive, and Niagara Falls Boulevard and North French Road. The chief surveyor was Joseph Ellicott, the person for whom was named the Ellicott Complex within which the UB Geography Department is housed. These data were laboriously transcribed from microfilms and entered into a GIS by Wang as part of her PhD dissertation. A total of 8792 trees were recorded from nearly 40 species. The surveyed tree locations are arranged around the little dots distributed at half-mile intervals along the rectilinear grid in Figure 1.

Information on forest composition from the 1990s was obtained from the USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. This program was begun in the 1920s to keep track of the nation's forest resources and, more recently, to see how they

are responding to disturbances such as insect infestations and climate change. There were 261 plots in WNY that had a natural origin (e.g. they did not begin as plantations or orchards), which contained 4303 trees from more than 50 species. The FIA plot locations are shown as triangles in Figure 1.

When you look at the two datasets in Figure 1, you can see that they do not have co-located points. To facilitate comparison, both datasets were spatially interpolated using geostatistics and then represented in 6x6 mile grids, like shown for the maps of beech and red maple in Figure 2.

Key results are as follows:

- the three most abundant species in the 1790s were: beech (37%), sugar maple (21%), and eastern hemlock (8%)
- the three most abundant species in the 1990s were: sugar maple (19%), ash (12%), and red maple (11%)
- the three species with the largest decrease in abundance between the 1790s and 1990s were: beech (-30%), elm (-3%), and basswood (-3%)
- the three species with the largest increase in abundance between the 1790s and 1990s were: red maple (9%), black cherry (7%), and red oak (7%)

The changes in abundance of species match well known successional characteristics: species that decreased in abundance were slow growing, shade-tolerant, and long-lived, while species that increased in abundance were the opposite. For example, the maps in Figure 2 show the decrease across WNY of beech, and the increase over much of WNY of red maple. The lack of change in abundance in sugar maple may be due to it being actively maintained for maple sugar extraction.

When considered across WNY, areas that had experienced the most land in agriculture also experienced the greatest change in forest composition. This occurred because when the large areas of farmland were abandoned, there were few individuals of late successional species such as beech to contribute their seeds to the field. In addition, early successional species such as ash and red maple have seeds adapted to travel far and were thus able to readily spread into the abandoned fields.

To examine spatial patterns of change, the mix of forest types in each 6x6 mile grid cell was determined using linear unmixing methods (the same methods used to identify multiple land cover classes in a single pixel of a remote sensing image). This revealed a 64% decrease in Beech-Sugar maple forests across the region, and a 52% increase in Ash-Poplar forests. However, the spatial pattern of forest types was similar: the distribution of Beech-Sugar Maple contracted to a core region in the southern tier, while Ash-Poplar expanded around its base in the northern Lake Ontario plains.

There is evidence that the presettlement forest composition is returning. The older the existing forest in the 1990s, the more similar in overall composition it was to the presettlement forest. It appears that forests require more than 100, and maybe more than 200 years, of succession for the presettlement forest composition to return. However, it is possible that responses to climate change will deflect the trajectory of change, and lead forests to a completely new composition. In ongoing research they are assessing the relative impact of future climate change and past land use change on forest composition in WNY. Stay tuned for more!

Kronenfeld, B.J., Wang, Y-C. and Larsen, C.P.S. 2010. The influence of the "mixed pixel" problem on the detection of analogous forest communities between presettlement and present in western New York. *The Professional Geographer* 62: 182-196.

Wang, Y-C., Kronenfeld, B.J. and Larsen, C.P.S. 2009. Spatial distribution of forest landscape change in western New York from presettlement to the present. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 39: 76-88.

Wang, Y-C., Larsen, C.P.S. and Kronenfeld, B.J. 2010. Effects of clearance and fragmentation on forest compositional change and recovery after 200 years in western New York. *Plant Ecology* 208: 245-258.

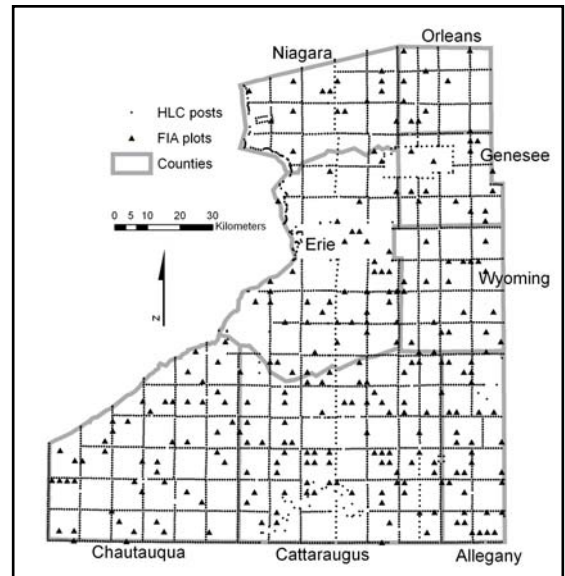


Figure 1

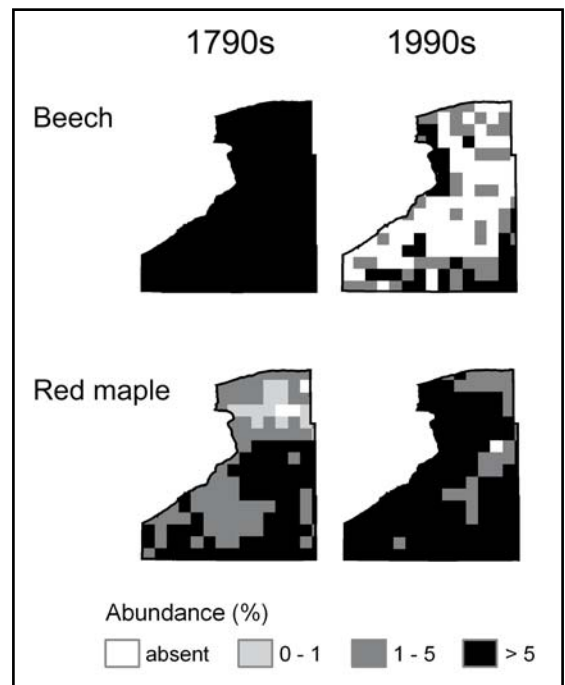


Figure 2

**SEAN BENNETT**

**By Simulating Gullies, Geographers Discover Ways to Tame Soil Erosion**

Ellen Goldbaum goldbaum@buffalo.edu [Originally published by UB Reporter, October 21, 2009]

Buffalo, N.Y. -- Dead zones in critical waterways, accelerated loss of arable land and massive famines. They're all caused by the 24 billion tons of soil that are lost every year to erosion, a phenomenon that costs the world as much as \$40 billion annually.

But predicting where erosion occurs, and thus how to prevent it, is a serious challenge.

That's why University at Buffalo geographer Sean Bennett has constructed various systems to model it, with assistance from UB's machine shop. His methods range from the deceptively low-tech, like simulating rainstorms over sandboxes to the high-tech, such as the use of particle image velocimetry (PIV) in large, re-circulating flumes to study how water and grains of sand interact.

The purpose of his work is both exceedingly practical -- geared toward helping farmers learn how to best prevent erosion -- and fundamental, to better understand how planetary surfaces evolve over time.

*"We have feet in two domains," he explains, "we're studying processes similar to those that created Niagara Falls; at the same time, we're studying how these processes degrade soil resources worldwide."*

The UB research is helping scientists better understand some of the key triggers of erosion, the complex formation of channels on the landscape, called rills and gullies.

"Rills and gullies are the dominant erosion processes on agricultural landscapes today and the main contributor to soil loss," says Bennett, PhD, UB professor of geography in the College of Arts and Sciences and an active researcher in the UB 2020 Strategic Strength in Extreme Events.

Rills and gullies also are a primary cause behind excess sediment and nutrients in waterways, which transports soil and chemicals further downstream.

Bennett says that these high nutrient loadings of nitrogen and phosphorus from eroding agricultural areas destroy aquatic resources, causing unmitigated growth of aquatic algae, depletion of dissolved oxygen and the creation of "dead zones" in places like the Gulf of Mexico.

Ironically, past research by Bennett demonstrated that when farmers till fields to remove rills and gullies, they actually end up accelerating erosion.

"Our numerical model showed that you could reduce soil losses by 400 percent if you adopt a no-till farming practice," says Bennett. "This is because the gullies grow to some maximum size on the landscape during a growing season. If farmers repair them by tilling the soil each spring, the practice actually causes much greater soil loss over the long term."

Bennett's physical model showed similar phenomena. "Our laboratory landscape showed the same thing," he says, "rills grow and evolve in time and space, erosional processes get arrested and reach an endpoint. After that, they don't produce much sediment."

To model how rills and gullies form, Bennett and his students built a rainfall soil erosion facility, erecting a 30-foot by 8-foot flume containing eight tons of soil, which allowed them to monitor their simulated landscape, looking for disturbances in the soil and the creation of rills and gullies.

Using digital cameras positioned directly above the flume, they developed digital elevation models of the topography across the flume, at millimeter-scale accuracy.

"Each set of images represents how the topography evolved at a discrete space and time during the simulated storm," says Bennett. The images reveal at what point during the rainfall and runoff, phenomena called headcuts -- small intense areas of localized erosion -- begin to carve deep channels into the soil.

"If we can predict where and when these headcuts occur, and develop technology that allows us to control them, then we can greatly improve soil resource management," says Bennett. Such technologies include runoff diversions, grass barriers and vegetated waterways. The images also revealed with startling clarity the fractal patterns that the simulated storm created in the landscape.

"Fractal organization is one of the most compelling ideas in science," says Bennett. "While I always knew that landscapes had fractal characteristics, I never saw it demonstrated so clearly as when I saw these treelike patterns in the images we took of our rill networks. To study sediment transport processes in rivers and how particles interact with the turbulent flow, Bennett designed a 30-foot by 2-foot flume channel, which was constructed by the UB machine shop.

In one experiment, the researchers fill the channel with sand and water, flatten the bed, and then turn on the centrifugal pump to initiate sediment movement. "Once the flow reaches a certain velocity, the entire bed erupts into ripples, created by the instability between the fast-moving fluid overlying the slow-moving sediment," Bennett explains.

"The PIV system can provide us with high-quality images and data right at the bed surface while these bedforms are being created," he continues. "By examining the physics of sediment transport in this way, we can develop improved models for flow and transport in rivers, allowing us to better manage our river systems and aquatic ecology."

Bennett hopes to use these flumes and equipment to expand his research on the interactions between vegetation and river function and form. Such interactions are critical to the process of restoring and stabilizing degraded streams, a primary thrust of the National Science Foundation-funded "Ecosystem Restoration Through Interdisciplinary Exchange" graduate training program at UB, in which Bennett participates through research and training. His work is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Science Foundation.

### **Betsy Abraham-Secretary for Student Services**

Betsy has been with the Department of Geography since 1996 and is the go-to person for any question or problem our students may have. She processes applications to all Geography programs and audits student records to verify they have completed all degree requirements. Betsy likes to be hands-on for many of our "fun" activities, such as our May reception for graduating students and our annual Holiday Party in December.

### **Jeanine McKeown-Assistant to the Chair**

Jeanine McKeown is the current Assistant to the Chair. She just celebrated her one-year anniversary in Geography on October 15th. Jeanine grew up locally and has a vast background. She holds a M.S. in Student Personnel Administration from SUNY College at Buffalo, and a B.A. from SUNY College at Fredonia. Before Geography, Jeanine worked in a variety of positions including UB's Political Science Department, higher education, banking, and human services. As Assistant to the Chair, Jeanine is mainly responsible for Geography's budgets, finances, and scheduling. She also serves as the Department's liaison for personnel and human resources-related items. In addition, Jeanine is the contact person for infrastructure upgrades and issues.

### **Joe Murray-Department Secretary**

Joe Murray started out in the Geography Department about fifteen years ago as graduate secretary. Currently, as Department secretary, his job is the "care and feeding" of the faculty and students—tending to their day-to-day needs such as making exams, assigning proctors, buying supplies, troubleshooting problems in the GIAL, making calendars and schedules. He assists the chair with reports and promotions. Like many people who were not born or raised here, he says he is in love with the city of Buffalo where he shares a house in the Cottage District with his partner of forty years and their Jack Russell terrier. Outside of work, his passion is collecting: mostly books, but other collections run the gamut from luggage labels to crazy quilts, amber necklaces and polyglots. Unusual fact about Joe: he is a Buddhist.





## 2000-2010

### Emilia Arestegui, BA 2004

Emilia lives in New York City and works for a Customs Petroleum Import & Export Brokerage company, Charter Brokerage.

### Shannon Azzarelli, BA 2004

After graduation Shannon moved to Los Angeles and she is currently working for the City of Los Angeles Planning Department as a GIS Specialist. She updates and maintains citywide geodatabases for zoning, and planning cases and ordinances. These layers, along with County and State parcel information are displayed in their online mapping system called [ZIMAS](#) (Zone Information Map Access System). It's a one-stop-shop for property owners and developers, alleviating the need to visit several offices prior to applying for permits.

### Gabriel Bailer, BA 2000



After years of being loyal to NY State, Gabe moved across the Hudson and now works and resides in NJ. He recently got engaged and will be

walking down the aisle in June, 2011. Gabe spent five years being a Senior Planner for a private planning/consulting firm and has now branched out on his own and formed his own Planning and Strategic Communications firm, "Urban Thinker Associates". You can get more information on Gabe and his firm at <http://urbanthinkerassociates.com/>.

### Mike Bastedo, MA 2001

After finishing his MA in 2001, Mike accepted a job in Buffalo, NY working as a GIS / Market analyst at Verdi & Company, a delivery network strategy & planning consulting firm. He worked there for 4 years as lead geographer on over 150 client engagements for financial services & utility clients. In 2004 he started at HSBC Bank, in a Delivery

Network Planning analyst role and was responsible for analysis & recommendations to optimize & grow the branch network in the U.S. Mike's role evolved in responsibility & complexity as he became increasingly involved in efforts across our North American business, merger & acquisition projects, and sharing best practices across our global operations. In 2008 he was brought onto a team responsible for a highly visible growth initiative, with direct interface to our regional & North American executive team. That team's work was deemed best in class across the global operation, and is now regarded as a template for how to execute such a project, and as such they are considered SME's for similar projects. In February of 2010, Mike transitioned to a new role, Manager Sales & Incentive Analysis, on our US branch network sales incentive compensation team. Mike's been quite successful at HSBC, which is due in large part to his interest in continually learning and challenging himself, as well as his interest in connecting with others in the organization globally, and sharing best practices in the US and globally, to benefit the broader organization.

### Alan Brown, BA 2008

After graduation Alan took an internship with the City of Buffalo, and now works full time in their Permits and Inspections Department. He works in the Building Code Review Office and coordinates plan approvals for projects.

### Tanya Catignani, MA 2004

Tanya is currently working for the Department of Defense in DC as a Cartographer. She had been at the Census Bureau, but left after about two years, looking for something with a little more adventure. She said the Dept. of Defense is very interesting and challenging and has been there for over a year now.

### Tiffany Choice, BA 2004

After graduating Tiffany worked within the legal realm, handling compliance, real estate law & now corporate law within info technology. Currently Tiffany is an IT paralegal for Macquarie in New York City.

### **Shawwna (Stroke) Clark, MA 2010**

Shawwna works as a biologist-soil conservationist with the USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center, in Corning NY.

### **Paola Csirke-Juliano, BA 1997, MA 2000**

After graduation Paola took a job in international marketing for a small computer hardware company in Buffalo, NY. She worked there full-time while completing her MA. Currently, she is working as a Global Market Research Analyst at SAS Institute (<http://www.sas.com/>), a business analytics software company. Paola, along with her husband, two sons and a dog live in North Carolina.

### **Michael G. Davis, MA, 2010**

Mike is currently working for Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council in downtown Buffalo.

### **Brian Dudek, MA 2009**

For the past year Brian has been working at Connected Nation (<http://connectednation.org/>) as a GIS Analyst. He is located in Bowling Green, KY.

### **Erika Gregory, BA 2010**

After graduation Erika took a road trip across country to visit national parks and forests of the Western U.S. She is currently working full time as a GIS Specialist for Sixel Consulting Group in Portland, Oregon.



### **Douglas Gress, PhD 2005**

After graduation Doug took a tenure track assistant professor position with Ewha Womans University

(College of Business) teaching Economic Globalization, International Business, and International Organizational Behaviour. Since 2008, he's been an assistant professor of Economic Geography at Seoul National University, Department of Geography Education. Doug teaches Economic Geography, E. Asian Regional Geography, Comparative E. Asian Industrial Systems, Economic Globalization, and World Regional Geography. He has been active in

publishing, conferences, and speaking, and is glad to be back in a geography department after having spent two years or so in a business school! Doug and his wife Kyounghee have been happily married for 13 years and enjoy life in Seoul! They enjoy traveling to other parts of Asia and, according to Doug – “we have an exceptionally cool dog named Max”!

### **Michael Fay, BA 2010**

Michael moved back to Syracuse and is attending SUNY-ESF in their M.S. program in water resources engineering (Department of Environmental Resources Engineering). He is doing field research looking at river restoration techniques and hyporheic exchange flows and also conducting experimental research with a recirculating flume. In summer 2011 he plans to travel to Europe and visit Dublin, Barcelona, Rome, Naples, Pompeii, Pisa, and Paris.

### **Chris Fiorillo, BA 2009**

After graduation Chris enlisted in the US Army Reserves with civil affairs and, after seven months of training,



returned to NY and coached a little league baseball team. He is now attending the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis, MN. He has not decided what type of law he'd like to go into yet, but will be studying abroad in either Rome or Tokyo this summer.

### **Jonathan Gregoire, BA 2009**

After graduation Jonathan was lucky enough to get an offer from the United States Border Patrol. He graduated from the U.S. Border Patrol Academy in June 2010 and is currently completing field training in El Paso, Texas. Upon completion, he will be permanently stationed in Buffalo.

### **Andrew J. Hillery III, BA2004**

After graduation Andrew moved to Herndon, Virginia where he put his GIS skills to use working for GeoEye, one of the largest providers of high resolution satellite imagery ([www.geoeye.com](http://www.geoeye.com)). While there, he coordinated imagery collection in support of disaster response during both the

Indonesian Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina events. Andrew and his wife moved back to Western New York in 2006 to build a home and start a family. He is currently employed by HSBC Mortgage Corporation as a Reporting Analyst and living happily in Lockport with his wife and daughter.

**Jacqueline A. Housel, Ph.D. 2007**

Jacquie is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Geography at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio



**Haley (Davis) Huntress, BA/MA 2005**

Haley was one of the first students to graduate with our newly developed BA/MA combined degree. After graduating from UB in May of 2005 she got married and started a

family, which includes three daughters- Ella 4, Maya 3 and Anna 9 months. Haley and her family live in Snyder with a house full of princess, fairy, and Dora accessories!

**Sungsoon (Julie) Hwang, PhD 2005**

Julie is currently living in Chicago teaching GIS courses at DePaul University

**Jin-Kyu Jung, PhD 2007**

After experiencing three harsh winters in North Dakota, Jin-Kyu and his wife Gunwha Oh (PhD 2010) recently moved to Seattle, WA, where he accepted a position in the Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences program at the University of Washington Bothell. Jin-Kyu and Gunwha have two daughters, Tate and Tia.



**John Kavanaugh, BA 2002**

John is currently Director of Platform Product for Synacor here in Buffalo, NY. His product enables Synacor's business customers, such as Time Warner and Qwest, to

do geographic targeting of online content, among a broad range of other Internet capabilities. Earlier in his career, John was doing Web GIS for Earth Satellite Corp., a Washington, DC-based remote sensing company that specializes in geospatial analysis for NASA and Intelligence community. This September 2010 photo shows John at L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland.

**John Leone, BA 2001**

In addition to his BA in Geography John also earned a BS in Business Management at the same time. In July he launched, an online boutique for sensual items based in Niagara Falls, NY. The products are discreet, whimsical, high quality examples of the latest innovations from the great minds in pleasure design. According to John, sexcuse moi is about "etiquette, elegance and romance."



**Eunjung Lim, PhD 2009**

Elle is currently working for the Master of Professional Studies in Geospatial Information Sciences (MPSGIS) program at the Department of Geography, University of Maryland.

**Ge (Grace) Liu, MA 2009**

Grace is currently working as program analyst with the American Italian Cancer Foundation in NYC. This foundation offers no cost mobile mammograms to uninsured women over 40. Her duties include indentifying priority neighborhoods and generating reports and maps to outreach using GIS.

**Taesoo Lee, MA 00, PhD 2008**

Taesoo is an Assistant Research Scientist at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. He is doing hydrological modeling for water quality.

**John Mack, BA 98, MA 2000**

John has been employed by Praxair, Inc. in Tonawanda, NY since June 1999, where he started as a summer intern during graduate school. From 1999 to 2001, he worked as a GIS Analyst in the IT department and from 2001 to 2004 as a GIS Analyst in the National Logistics organization. Since 2004 he has worked as a Right of Way Manager in



Praxair's Pipeline & Metering department. John and his wife Cheryl reside in the Town of Wheatfield with their 4 year old daughter, Kathryn and 8 month old son Liam.

#### **Craig Mandel, MA 2000**

After graduating, Craig moved to New Hampshire for a short period to work for a small vegetation management company helping to create customized GIS software for managing power company's right of ways. Shortly after that, he moved to the New York City office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for five years where he supported their conservation efforts in the region by generating maps and creating customized GIS solutions for the staff to use in their day to day tasks. For the past five years Craig has been working for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation's Natural Resources Group. His division is tasked with managing, maintaining monitoring, and restoring the natural areas of New York City's parks, such as urban forests and tidal and freshwater wetlands. As the GIS/Data manager for the group, he generates maps, manages GPS data collection, creates and manages multiple GIS databases, and helps catalog and quantify the work they do in the field for internal and external reports, grant writing, lectures, symposiums, and conferences. In early summer of 2010 Craig and his wife Vanessa welcomed son Owen into their family.

#### **Saint'Clair Martins Filho, BA 2008**

Saint'Clair moved to St. Louis, MO and works for AB Mauri Fleischmann's (yeast and bakery ingredients manufacturer). He currently holds a marketing/sales position, working closely with technical, manufacturing, and supply chain departments on product realization, in addition to managing all ABMF's exports.

#### **Peri Nelson, BA 2000**

After graduating in 2000 with a BA in Geography, Peri went on to earn a M.Ed. in science education at UB (2003). After teaching Science for 6 years in public, parochial, & charter schools she now works at Oswego County BOCES as a Technology Education Specialist under a Title IID Grant, teaching teachers educational technologies to use in their classrooms and with their students. Last November she

presented at the annual NYSCATE conference in Rochester. Currently Peri is taking classes at SUNY Oswego in the Educational Administration program.

#### **Davin Parrott, MA 2009**

Davin is working for an environmental/engineering consultancy, predominantly doing economic impact assessments of proposed development schemes, and also doing some statistical analyses of survey responses. He is located in Leamington Spa, UK.

#### **Will Poppe, Phd 2010**

Will lives in Toronto and just started a two year post-doc appointment at the City Institute at York University (CITY).



#### **Rich Quodomine, BA 1996, MA 2003**

After vagabonding between New York City, Connecticut, and other places, Rich, his wife and two children now reside in Clifton Park, NY. He is the GIS coordinator for the Public Transportation Bureau, analyzing the impact of public transportation routes vis a vis state policy. Rich is the Co-Chair of the Mapping Workgroup for the State's Environmental Justice Task Force. They are in the process of developing pilot projects that analyze possible impacts of multiple environmental and demographic stressors in an area. In terms of volunteering, he teaches children the basics of maps and even a little GIS at local elementary schools. At the New England ARCGIS Users Conference in Newport, RI last November, he showed how to teach kids to teach themselves, focusing on encouraging the youngest citizens to understand their world. Currently Rich is working on a chapter in an upcoming professional book, "Practicing Geography", a publication of the AAG and in addition, will be presenting at the AAG Annual meeting in Seattle, WA in April 2011 on Beyond the Ivory Tower: Careers in Geography. In his "free" time, Rich is a Cub Scout leader for his two boys, and a Little League Baseball Coach.

#### **Vincent Rundo, BA 2007**

After graduation, Vincent returned home to Cleveland, Ohio and currently lives in North Royalton, Ohio where he works for Dominion East Ohio Gas as a Technical Specialist II for the Asset



Data Management Team. He oversees many projects dealing with compliance, mapping, and data integrity for all East Ohio Gas Pipelines.

**Erik Schaefer, BA2009**

Erik is living in Buffalo, NY and working for ADP (Automatic Data Processing, Inc.) in Williamsville. He is a District Manager for the small business division selling payroll and tax filling services.

**Danny Sheehan, MA 2008**

After finishing classes Danny worked for Bergmann PC in Rochester, IVI Due Diligence, and AECOM in NYC as a GIS Analyst. He currently works for Columbia University's Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy ([iserp.columbia.edu](http://iserp.columbia.edu)) and the Built Environment and Health Project ([beh.columbia.edu](http://beh.columbia.edu)) as a Geographer, GIS Analyst and co-teaching a GIS class.

**Seth Triggs, MA 2004, PhD 2008**

Seth is still in the Buffalo area, teaching geography at Medaille College, and also working as an educational resource specialist at 3rdLearning in downtown Buffalo. In addition, he is vice-president of Citizens for Regional Transit, a 501(c) public transit educational/advocacy group.

**Yifei Sun, PhD 2000,**

Yifei has just been promoted to Full Professor, Department of Geography, California State University Northridge. He is setting up a Certificate Program on Innovation, Science and Technology Administration (ISTA).



**Ukit Tangsubkl,  
MA/MBA 2000**

Ukit is currently living in Bangkok, Thailand where he has an online media agency under the name "MintedImages". They

provide online services such as professional consulting, multimedia productions, online marketing, and social media. In 2010 he contacted his advisor, Dr. Jessie Poon and worked together to set up an internship for one of our current MA students.



## 1990s

**Elliott Axinn, BA 1994**

After graduation, Elliott worked for telecommunications companies in Buffalo and Rochester. In 1998 he returned to the classroom and received his MBA from the Simon School at the University of Rochester. Currently, Elliott is working for Booz Allen Hamilton in Northern Virginia.

**Randy Bertolas, PhD 1995**

After graduation Randy took a position at Wayne State College in northeast Nebraska where today he is professor of geography and chair of the Department of History, Politics, and Geography. In addition, as coordinator of the Geographic Educators of Nebraska (affiliated with the National Geographic state Alliance program), he promotes K-12 geography education across the state by facilitating summer institutes, participating in teacher consultant training, hosting the annual Nebraska State Geographic Bee, and organizing statewide geography festivals. Randy will serve in 2011-12 as national President of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the international geography honor society that recognizes academic excellence through scholarship competitions and chapter sponsor recognition. A two-time winner of the Outstanding Professor of the Year award at Wayne State College, Randy especially enjoys helping education majors from all fields in finding ways to actively incorporate geography into their classrooms.

**Christine Plaza (Brugh) BA 1996**

Christine lives in Erie, PA and works at GE Transportation in the Off Highway Vehicle COE as a Planner/Buyer. She recently entered the MBA program at Gannon University.

**Joel Deichmann,  
PhD 1999**

Joel secured a position at Bentley University in 1999 (then Bentley College) and has been there ever since. Some of his milestones



include earning tenure in 2005, a Fulbright in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2007, one year as interim chair in 2008-2009, and one year as interim associate dean of arts & sciences 2009-2010. Joel finally took his first sabbatical in Fall 2010 and travelled to Croatia and Bosnia for research. He's one of three geographers at Bentley, and a founding member of the Global Studies Department, where he teaches Global Regions, Cross-Cultural Communication, Geographic Perspectives on Contemporary Europe, Transition Economies of Europe, Global Transportation and Tourism. Joel said the best part of his job is taking students on Short Term Programs, mainly in Central Europe (Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina).

#### **Paul E. Hinz, MA/MBA 1992**

Paul is in San Antonio TX and works at Commercial Metals (www.cmc.com) in Accounting, and is excited about his son Alex attending UB later this year.

#### **Jeff Janek, MA 1996**

After graduation Jeff took a job at an engineering company in Williamsville, NY doing IT work and hoping to do GIS work later on. The GIS work never materialized but a career in IT came about. Jeff, his wife and two children live in Dallas, TX, where he is a Systems Administrator (which includes ArcSDE administration) for a mapping company near Dallas.



#### **Dann Karlson, BA 1997**

Dann and his family currently reside in Odenton, Maryland and he works at

the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center where he is the Chief of Staff for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) next-generation weather satellite program, called "GOES-R", which is scheduled to launch in 2015. Dann became a first-time dad earlier last year when he and his wife Shawna adopted their son Gabriel from South Korea.

#### **Florine Luhr, MA 1999**

Since her graduation in 1999, Florine has worked for a few local economic development organizations, including Buffalo Niagara Enterprise as a Business Development Manager; Empire State Development Corp. as Project Director on the Erie Canal Harbor Project. She currently is employed at Advancing Arts & Culture Buffalo Niagara as Executive Director. Florine feels strongly that her MA degree from in Geography has helped tremendously.

#### **Brian Mikelback, BA 1994**

After getting his BA from UB, Brian went on to earn his MA and PhD in geography from Ohio State. He is currently an Associate Professor in Urban Studies at Cleveland State University. Brian said he drives through campus every once in a while on his way to Syracuse and is amazed at the changes since '94!

#### **Paul Rooney, MA 1997**

Paul spent 4 years working in Cambridge MA as a GIS developer for a non-profit Math and Science Education Organization called TERC (Technical Education Research Centers). In 1999 he went to work for Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and is still there. Currently based in Albany, NY, he is an account executive working with environmental and health/human services state agencies in the Northeastern US.

#### **Chris Olney, MA 1997**

Chris Olney is a native of the Finger Lakes region of New York State. At the University of Buffalo (SUNY UB) he received a Bachelor's degree in biology and environmental studies and a Masters degree in physical geography. His first job after college was working for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) as an Inland Fisheries Technician, for two field seasons. In 1998 Chris was hired full time by The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development where he served as Director of Conservation for nine years. In that capacity he oversaw The Catskill Center's Land Conservation and Natural Resources Program, working to protect a variety of important conservation lands in the Catskill Mountain region, providing assistance to other land trusts and partner organizations, and being involved in a variety of issues pertaining to land use, land management, and general natural resources in the

Catskill Park and Forest Preserve, the NY City Watershed, and across the Catskill region. While living in the Catskills, Chris was the founder and first president of the Catskill Mountain Club (CMC), led many hikes and other outdoor activities for The Catskill Center and the CMC, co-authored a book titled "The Catskill Park: Inside the Blue Line - The Forest Preserve and Mountain Communities of America's First Wilderness", co-wrote a regular hiking and outdoor column in two local newspapers, and taught introductory Geographic Information Systems (GIS) courses at three local colleges. In 2007 Chris was hired as a Natural Resources Planner at NYSDEC to help administer NY State's portfolio of 150+ conservation easements protecting more than 750,000 acres of land. Despite the excitement of being involved in major, multiple-thousand-acre land conservation deals in the Adirondacks, Chris felt the "call home" to the Finger Lakes region and accepted the position of Director of Stewardship with the Finger Lakes Land Trust in October 2008, where he is currently responsible for the administration and stewardship of 30 nature preserves totaling nearly 4,000 acres, and more than 80 conservation easements and deed restrictions encumbering nearly 6,000 acres, all scattered throughout the greater part of a 12-county region. Wherever Chris lives and works, he enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, canoeing, traveling, riding his motorcycle on beautiful back roads, and playing with his two little girls. He and his wife Amy, kids Grace and Claire, and their dogs live in Trumansburg, NY.

#### **Seth Ruskin, BA 1992**

After graduation Seth went to work for Templeton Global Investors (part of the Franklin Templeton Funds) as a Portfolio Analyst for their Emerging Markets group in Fort Lauderdale Florida. He currently resides in Sharon, Massachusetts and works in Boston as VP, Sr Equities Trader for Robeco Investment Management.

#### **John "Jack" Joseph Stanek, BA, 1998**

After graduating with a degree in International Business and World Trade, Jack moved to Chicago, IL. He just finished his 10th year at AkzoNobel Functional Chemical, as an account manager in the Thermoset and Crosslinking Organic Peroxide business. Akzo is Dutch based chemical company

and Jack says that has put his degree to good work. He has been happily married for 6 years and has 4 beautiful children (Jackson (4), Fiona (2) and identical twins Delaney and McKenna (1)).

#### **Jeffrey M. Volpe GISP, MA 1996**

After graduating with a Masters degree in Geographic Information Systems in 1994, Jeff began working and continues to work as GIS Business Segment Leader for Bergmann Associates, an engineering consulting firm, headquartered out of Rochester, New York. Jeff served as President of GIS/SIG from 2000 to 2006, a regional GIS user group in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State. Jeff became President of the New York State GIS Association in 2007. Jeff is also active with the New York State GIS Coordinating Body and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). Jeff and his wife Amy have been married 14 years and have four wonderful kids – Vienna, Jeffrey, Eva and Alivia.



#### **David Weiskopf, MA 1993**

After graduating David moved to Nashville, TN, where he attended Vanderbilt University. He earned a PhD in economics in 1999 and then moved to Washington, DC to join an economics consulting firm. David has been working as a consultant ever since, with a focus on industrial organization, applied microeconomics, and antitrust. He currently works at Compass Lexecon, and also teaches a micro theory and policy course to master's students at Johns Hopkins.

#### **Xin (Michael) Wu, MA 1999**

Michael is currently working on Wall Street as a Senior Vice President, Royal Bank of Scotland, Stamford, CT.



## 1980s

### David Cacner, BA 1986

David was recently appointed to the Defense Intelligence Senior Leader position of Deputy Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Support Team to the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). He also serves as the Deputy Director, Systems Engineering Directorate at the NRO. In these positions he oversees systems engineering activities at the NRO and provides outreach to partners and enablers implementing available and emerging technologies of value to the NGA and NRO missions.

### Stephen A. Hirsch, MA 1980

Stephen moved to northern Virginia in 1979 for a position at the U.S. Geological Survey. Since then he's worked in the geospatial intelligence arena and has been employed by the MITRE Corp in McLean, VA since 1991.

### Glenn Johnston, MA 1987

After his 1987 graduation, Glenn was immediately employed by Bell Aerospace Textron, where he helped design the first overland test track for air cushion vehicles (hovercraft) in the U.S. He went on to teach secondary history in the NY public schools and worked part-time with GIS Resource Group in East Aurora, NY, primarily as a trainer. In 2007, he earned a Ph.D. at the University of North Texas (Denton) and then went on to teach at the university level in Maryland. Glenn is currently employed teaching Public History at Stevenson University near Baltimore where he is also the University Archivist.

Glenn submitted this comment "My success at teaching history has been totally attributable to my background as a geographer. The Canadian historian Donald Creighton once said that history is when circumstance encounters character. I would argue that all too often chief among those circumstances is geography as well as its attendant handmaidens of microclimate and weather. It was as true when Mike Woldenberg, David Mark, and I tried to make sense out of the news of the shutdown of

Korean Airline Flight 007 in 1983 as it is trying to understand what is going on in Afghanistan today. To understand much of history, look at the geography."

### Eugene Lee, BA 1980

Eugene is currently employed by GeoEye.

### William M. London, BA 1980

William M. London, Ed.D. M.P.H. is a professor in the Department of Health Science at California State University, Los Angeles. His previous faculty appointments include: associate professor and chair of the Department of General Studies in the College of Science and Health of The Charles Drew University, where he initiated the College's Master of Public Health in Urban Public Health Program; associate professor of health education at Kent State University; associate professor of health care management and director of the Graduate Program in Health Care Management of College of Saint Elizabeth; professor of health science at Touro University International; and specialized faculty mentor in public health at Walden University. He was also executive director of RAP, Inc., a private nonprofit mental health and senior citizens service agency in Genesee County, New York; the director of public health/public health editor of the American Council on Science and Health; and the director of communications of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

Dr. London is coauthor of the sixth, seventh, and eighth (2007) editions of the college textbook [Consumer Health: A Guide to Intelligent Decisions](#). He is the associate editor of Consumer Health Digest (a free weekly e-newsletter at <http://www.quackwatch.org/00AboutQuackwatch/chd.html>); a consultant to the [Committee for Skeptical Inquiry](#) (formerly called CSICOP); and a founding fellow of the Institute for Science in Medicine (<http://www.scienceinmedicine.org>). He co-founded and served as the first president of the Ohio Council Against Health Fraud, Inc. and later served as treasurer, vice president, president, and newsletter editor of the [National Council Against Health Fraud, Inc.](#)

Dr. London holds baccalaureate degrees in biological sciences and geography; master's degrees in educational psychology and health education; and a doctorate in health education from



University at Buffalo, The State University of New York. He received his master of public health degree in health administration from Loma Linda University School of Public Health in Loma Linda, California. He is currently a student in the Master of Science in Clinical Research Program at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

#### **Mary Mokka, MA 1986**

Mary has been with the Canadian Consulate General for more than 30 years. Both the MA in International Trade and MBA from U.B. were instrumental in Mary's achieving her current position as Trade Commissioner. She says that she will always remember Dr. James McConnell as a terrific mentor.

#### **Jacqueline Randler, BA 1986**

Jacqueline currently lives in Nashville, TN and works for Dell Inc. as a senior project manager. In September 2010 she started a DM (Doctorate in Management) with the University of Phoenix.

#### **Peter Rogerson, PhD 1982**

Peter has been teaching in the Department of Geography at UB since 1986, when he moved to Buffalo from his Assistant Professor positions in the Departments of Geography and Civil Engineering at Northwestern University. He had three books published in 2009, including one with Ikuho Yamada, a former Ph.D. student from the department. He completed a term as chair of the department in 2010.



#### **Robert Romeo, BA 1983**

Bob has 26 years of experience providing wealth management and financial planning advice to individuals and business owners specializing in investment planning, trust, estate and, cash flow sufficiency analysis, business succession and charitable

giving strategies. Prior to joining First Niagara he was Senior Vice President and head of the Private Bank of Bank of America's Buffalo office, where he was responsible for the management and expansion of existing client relationships and 5 years at M&T Bank as Vice President and Senior Trust Officer. He was Medaille College's first Director of the Certified

Financial Planner Certificate Program where he is a current member of their adjunct faculty and advisor to their School of Adult and Graduate Education.

He holds the CFP® Designation. He earned a Master's of Science with honors from The College for Financial Planning in Denver, Colorado. Bob maintains a series 7, 6, 63, 26 life & accident and health licenses with FINRA and NYS. He was recently selected for inclusion into the 2009 Consumers' Research Council of America "Guide to America's Top Financial Planners" for a second consecutive year, The American Registry's Who's Who in Banking and Finance, and has been an active board and committee member for numerous not-for-profit organizations throughout Western New York.

#### **Chi Ho Sham, PhD 1984**

Chi Ho Sham is a vice president and senior scientist at The Cadmus Group, Inc. in Watertown, Massachusetts. He received his doctoral degree from UB in 1984 with a focus on hydrology. He was a faculty member at the Boston University's Department of Geography and the Center for Energy and Environmental Studies from 1982 to 1992. He joined the environmental consulting field in 1990. He is an adjunct professor at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts and he currently serves as a trustee on the Water Resource Sustainability Division and a member-at-large on the Standards Council of the American Water Works Association.



1970s

#### **Ralph Blenn, BA 1974**

After graduation in 74, Glenn and his wife moved to San Jose, CA where he earned his M.A. at San Jose State University and also a California Community College Earth Science Teaching Credential. Also during that time he built a home in Morgan Hill, CA. In 1985 he began a career as a Quality Engineer for a major defense contractor -LM, in Sunnyvale CA., where he worked on the Hubble Space Telescope, Milstar, AEHF and SBIRS satellite programs. Glenn has three children; two have graduated from college and his youngest is in her fourth year at SJSU.

### **Susan Hadley, BA 1974**

Sue currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and is self-employed as a Patent Research Librarian. The majority of her clients are Patent Attorneys in the Silicon Valley Area, and various Patent firms located within the US. Our focus is Prior-Art Research, and Patent Law Library Management and Operations



### **Jim Mulvihill, 1968 & MA 1972**

In September 2009 Jim was invited by the Municipal People's Government of Chongqing, PRC, and the Chongqing

Planning Bureau, to a conference: "Western Development & Planning Towards a National Central Metropolis," to present a paper entitled: "Intensified Corridor Development in a National Central Metropolis." Jim is Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, California State University, San Bernardino. He presents papers at most of the annual AAG meetings and plans to be in Seattle in 2011. This photo shows Jim outside the Olympic Stadium "Bird's Nest."

### **Jeffrey Riese, BA 1978**

After receiving his BA Jeff moved over to Civil Engineering on Main St. where he received a MSCE in Transportation and Societal Systems. In 1980 he relocated to Gaithersburg Maryland (Washington D.C.) where he spent three years with Planning Consultant firms and 27 years with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. Jeff has been in Transportation Planning, Economic Development, Subdivision Review and for the last 5 years has been the Chief of Engineering and Maintenance for the County's Public Parking Program.

### **Cecelia Schroeder Willhoff, BA 1970**

Cecelia had some interesting comments on her back-in-the-day experiences. She said there were very few female Geography majors at that time and sometimes she did not feel welcome in some classes. We all got a chuckle when she told us the

story of a Geology professor asking her to drop his class because she was the only "girl" in the class and he thought she would be a distraction on the weekend field class where the guys "camped out". She said it seems so funny now that this situation could have even happened. Cecelia also earned an Associate's Degree in Business Management from Bryant & Stratton and a BS in Environmental Studies from UB in 1988.

She married when she was 45 and became a stay at home Mom after adopting a 6 yr. old from Russia. She enjoys traveling and has been to Russia, Hawaii, England, Germany & Finland, as well as the Caribbean area and many parts of the US.



## **1960s**

### **Ralph Carestio, MA 1968**

Ralph was a National Science Foundation Fellow in the Department of Geography and was an instructor of Economic and Physical Geography at the evening school on campus,



then called Millard Fillmore College. He entered the PhD program at Ohio State but left after one year to work for a consulting firm in Washington DC. The company was Real Estate Research Corporation and included a public affairs group Systemetrics. After 3 years he went to MassMutual in Springfield, Mass. where he started an internal research group in the Real Estate Investment Division that morphed into MassMutual Research, doing economic feasibility, demographic and highest and best use studies for clients around the world and responding to public sector economic planning RFP's at local and national levels. Ralph ultimately became responsible for the real estate equities area. Notable acquisitions included the Chrysler Bldg and Chrysler Bldg East, the Kahala Hilton Hotel on Oahu and the Hyatt on Union Square in San Francisco.

He was recruited away from MassMutual after nearly eight years to start and head up the Commercial Real Estate Group at NCNB in Charlotte, NC. ,

which evolved into one of the largest commercial real estate banks in the U.S, lending billions of dollars he said “the old fashion way, that is, investments that made sense”. They lent, and were paid back, billions of dollars on large ticket commercial construction and interim loans mainly in the U.S. In 1988 NCNB purchased the failed First Republic Bank in Dallas. Ralph was chosen to be one of five for a management team sent to Dallas to make this huge investment work. He was responsible for all Real Estate, Energy and Natural Resource activities and was instrumental in establishing the first work out bank for the FDIC. NCNB became Nationsbank and largely because of the success of the Texas investment, ultimately became Bank of America. In 1992 Ralph left Bank of America for Keycorp in Albany, NY. He was responsible for all non-bank businesses and investment operations which included Mortgage Banking, Trust Companies in 13 states, Investment Management and the Victory Funds, which was their mutual fund platform, Key Brokerage, Key Insurance and the Niagara Companies formed to work again with the FDIC in the aftermath of the Gold Dome Bank failure in Buffalo, NY. While in Albany he served as a Foundation Board Member for the Buffalo State Foundation (where he earned his Bachelor’s degree). In 1995 Ralph took early retirement and taught in a mission school for the children of migrant farm workers near Lake Okeechobee in Indiantown. He continued to serve on the Advisory Board of Fidelity Investments for several years and then moved to North Dallas, TX to be closer to family. Ralph and his wife now travel extensively spending a month each year in Italy and anywhere else “I can talk my wife into”.

So, in summation, Ralph says “That’s it. A good life for a kid from Sweet Home High School to Buff St. and UB. At each of those three places, one person, above all others, was instrumental in helping me to keep moving the ball forward by offering wise advice or cutting me a break or calming an anxiety. Dr. Ebert, then Chairman of the Geography Department was that person for me at UB.”

#### **Dan Neumann, BA 1967**

Dan graduated from UB in 1967 as geography major from the old Main and Bailey Campus. Dr. Ebert was his mentor and he was treasurer for the

Geography fraternity Gamma Theta Upsilon. He was commissioned and served four years in the United States Air Force 15th Air Force Strategic Air Command as a cartographic office and served during Viet Nam. He began working for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as a cartographer in 1974 and recently completed his 40th year with NOAA. Dan is currently senior IT in the Office of Coast Survey Hydrographic Surveys Division and also secretary for the Marine Technology Society Maryland Chapter where he has published many papers and chaired many sessions on hydrographic survey metadata.

This URL provides a link to his work on survey metadata display, where he created the Hydrographic Survey Metadata Database (HSMDB) and the interface to it.

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/idb/struts/results?t=101528&s=3&d=4>

Students at UB can also see some of his work using the next URL below which is a link to the Maps service at our sister agency National Geophysical Center (NGDC) in Boulder, Colorado.

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/bathymetry/hydro.html> Key in a survey number HXXXXX click on the Survey ID which appears and students will see the complete products list for that survey. His newest creation is the NOAA/NOS Survey Rap Sheets. Dan is active in UB alumni in the nation’s capitol and recently enjoyed dining with the new UB football coach Jeff Quinn.

#### **Daniel N. Csizmar, BA 1964**

Following graduation Daniel entered the insurance industry as a commercial insurance underwriter for CIGNA Insurance Company in the Buffalo office. Twelve years later, he moved on to marketing and sales of insurance for Billings Insurance Agency in Niagara Falls. After sixteen years, the agency was sold to Lawley Insurance Agency in Buffalo where he worked as a large accounts marketer until retirement in 2006. Dan says he highly recommends retirement!



## 1950s

### Charles Zandell, BA 1959

Upon graduation Charles went into the US Army via National Guard. After 6 months or so he attended Graduate School at the University of Kansas, receiving his master's degree in 1962. His first employment was with Sinclair Oil in Midland, Texas. Since then he has worked for several companies and even was a consultant for a couple of years. In 1982 he decided to open his own company which still operates as CZOR Oil and Gas, Inc. In addition to the oil and gas industry, Charles owned and operated two self service car washes, an industrial spray painting company and two marble and granite fabrication companies. In 2009 Charles and his wife Ilana celebrated 50 years of marriage and last November his 75th birthday. He is currently retired and living in Centennial, Colorado where we enjoys golf, Tango dancing and seven wonderful grandchildren. Although retired, he still has his hands in the Oil and Gas Industry along with being a licensed real estate broker in the state of Colorado.

### Ron Herdman, BA 1953

When Ron was at UB, it was not yet a SUNY school and officially there was not yet a Geography Department. (his BA is from the Geology Department) In 1954 Dr. Ebert, who was teaching Geography and Geology courses at that time, was instrumental in turning Geography into a separate Department. Ron went on to earn a MS in Geology from LSU in 1955. After that he was hired on with Humble Oil and Refining and moved to Crowley, LA. A few transfers led Ron to New Orleans in 1957 and Houston in 1967 with Exxon Production Research Co. In 1969 Ron moved to Exxon Production and retired from there in 1994. He still lives in Houston, TX.



"Most of the Chinese officials I met were extremely friendly and open. They raised concerns over the growing development disparities regionally, and between cities and the countryside. In terms of wealth, most describe the sharp increases in auto ownership in the cities -- personally, the pollution was beyond description, especially in Chongqing, which is in a river valley at a major confluence to the Yangtze, not unlike Pittsburgh."

Jim Mulvihill, BA 1968 & MA 1972, Beijing tour - Forbidden City



# EVENTS AND EVENT PHOTOS

## 2010 Spring Picnic

### Yearly Events

- Spring and Fall Picnics
- Buffalo party at the Association of American Geographers' meetings. It's in New York in 2012!
- Graduation in May
- Alan MacPherson Golf Get Together in May
- Weekly Colloquia Series and Reception in Spring and Fall
- Geography Awareness Week in November
- GGSA and UGSA sponsored coffee hour and other events
- Holiday Party in December



Pete Horvath, Pete Rogerson, Phil Savoy, Mike Woldenberg. Chilly picnic day, so some folk snuck inside!



UGSA grilling up some awesome chicken-kabobs.

## Reception for graduating students, May 2010



Dr. Ebert and Dr. James McConnell



Celebrating completion of their Bachelors of Arts degree..... (l-r) Jeremy Tracy, Dan Gallagher, Ryan Mendieta, Matt DeCristofaro and Erika Gregory.



Dr. Mike Woldenberg presents PhD candidate Jorge Bajo Sanchez the 2010 Abrahams-Woldenberg Field Scholarship



Drs. Peter Rogerson and David Mark



## Holiday Party December, 2010



Santa arrives!



Children of Dr. Renschler and Dr. Bagchi-Sen.



Always plenty of food...



Children of Dr. Wang and Dr. Mackay



It's a nail-biting experience.



Faculty at ease ... (Enki, David, Mike, Leo and Jared)

## 2nd Alan MacPherson Golf Get Together

### May 14th 2011... PLEASE JOIN US!



The first "Alan MacPherson Friendly Golf Get-Together" took place on Saturday May 8th 2010 at Alan's home course: the Ironwood Golf Course (approx. 1 hour south of Buffalo). Five players of various skill levels started the game at 7:00 am under Scottish weather conditions (windy and raining side-

ways) and had a good time after (particularly after the weather changed shortly after start to partly sunny, but still windy conditions; see photo). Pete Rogerson managed to claim the best score and received the "Alan MacPherson Trophy". Alan's wife, Valerie Randall, was so gracious to host us and some of Alan's friends for a lunch potluck after the game at their place around the corner, before most of the payers headed back in time to attend the department's graduation at the Center for Tomorrow at 3 pm. Thank you Valerie!

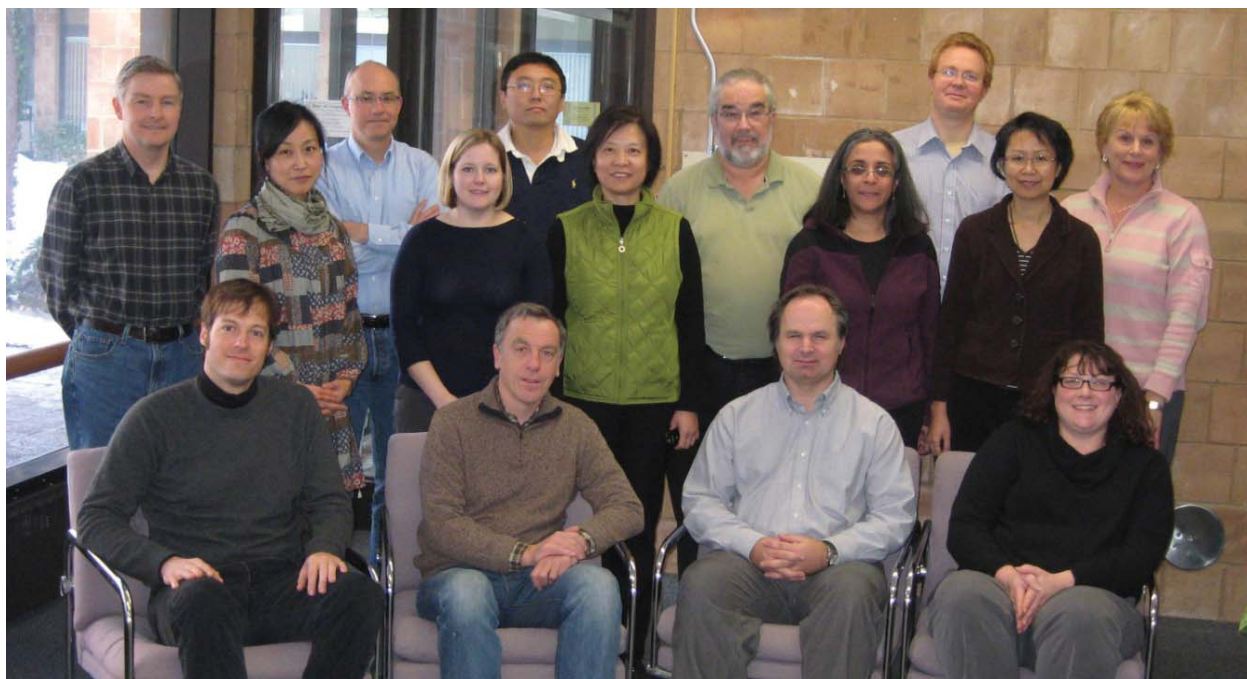
We are currently planning the 2nd "Alan Macpherson Friendly Golf Get-Together" on Saturday May 14th 2011 – the day of the Department's Reception for All Graduates. The event will be in a similar format at the same venues (starting at 7:30 am) and will feature a close-by birding excursion lead by David Mark as well as a morning bowling event at Alan's favorite lanes down the road starting at 8 am (this would be also the bad weather option for the golf and birding). All faculty, students, alumni, family and friends of the UB Geography community at all skill levels are invited to participate (please check the department's webpage for more details or contact Chris Renschler at [rensch@buffalo.edu](mailto:rensch@buffalo.edu)).

Photo (from left to right): Jared Aldstadt (faculty), Michael F. Ziolkowski (SUNY Brockport, Geography alumni), Rich Quodomine (NY State Dept. of Transportation, Geography alumni), Peter Rogerson (faculty), and Chris Renschler (faculty).





## 2010 Faculty/Staff



Seated L-R, Jared Aldstadt, Peter Rogerson, Chris Larsen, Jeanine McKeown.

Standing, L-R, Scott Mackay, Enki Yoo, Sean Bennett, Trina Hamilton, Leo Wang, Ling Bian, David Mark, Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen, Chris Renschler, Jessie Poon, Betsy Abraham

(missing from photo: Thomas Bittner, Sara Metcalf, Joseph Murray, and Marion Werner)

# OUR THANKS

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KRUEGER, CHRISTINE CAROL	ORMONT, WENDY E	SZUSTAKOWSKI, JOSEPH G
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LANHAM, JOHN R	PERRELLI, MARY FRANCES	THOMAS, STEPHEN M
LARSEN, CHRIS S.	PESEZ, PHILIP KENNETH	TOBIN, HENRY HOYT
LAWSON, MERLIN P.	PETERS, PATRICIA BARTH	TRAPASSO, LOUIS MICHAEL
LEMON, RONALD D	PHILLIPS, LOUANN	TRIFILO, LAURAA.
LENTNEK, BARRY	PINTO, MICHAEL JOSEPH	TRUNZO, JULIE CHRISTINE
LI, DIANE	POEHLMANN, KEVIN C	UB GRADUATE STUDENT
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MALLAM, L. JOANNE	ROGERSON, PETER A	WEISS, LAWRENCE
MARCHIOLI, MARY JANE	ROMEO, ROBERT W	WEYMOUTH, GAIL S
MARK, DAVID M.	ROONEY, PAUL E.	WIECZOREK, WILLIAM F
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MCCONNELL, JAMES E.	SALLAWAY, CAROLINE JORDAN	WOLDENBERG, MICHAEL J
MCKINNEY, JAMES V.	SAMUEL, DANIE, SOLAMEN	WOLF, HAROLD O
MEADOWS, RICK JOSEPH	SCHLENKER, RONALD W.	WONG, AMY
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MULLIGAN, MICHAEL P	SLOAN, RICHARD F	ZHOU, YIXIN
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# NEW UNDERGRADUATE AWARD

## **Greg and Susan Aldrich Award for Undergraduate Research**

The goal of this award is to provide funding to students who exhibit a need for funding to overcome barriers that obstruct their ability to perform meaningful research and or creative activities during their undergraduate enrollment at UB. Award applications would be reviewed by a team of UB Geography faculty who will 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. Application information can be obtained from the department's website.

# OBITUARIES

*June 23, 1924—Dec. 30, 2010*

## **In Memoriam, Charles H. V. "Vince" Ebert, *distinguished* UB professor**

Published in the Buffalo News  
January 1, 2011, 12:00 AM



Charles H. V. Ebert, distinguished teaching professor emeritus in geography at the University at Buffalo, died Thursday in the Center for Hospice&Palliative Care, Cheektowaga. He was 86.

Dr. Ebert, who began teaching at the University of Buffalo in 1954, retired in 2000. But the award-winning professor taught as many as four courses a semester after retiring, including his popular and long-running undergraduate course, "Disasters: A Study of Hazards."

The Amherst resident became an expert in the field and wrote a textbook, "Disasters: Violence of Nature and Threats by Man."

In one of his last interviews, Dr. Ebert warned about the widespread damage to the ecosystem and the economy from the exploded oil well in the Gulf of Mexico. But he cautioned against feeling hopeless and giving up.

"One duty is to stay informed," he told The Buffalo News in June. "Nothing is more dangerous than an uninformed public." He also urged people to support policies "that smell of some solution."

At the time, he was already preparing to teach "Disasters: An Analysis of Natural and Human-Induced Hazards" in the fall.

He spoke five languages: German, Russian, Spanish, French and English. His field work took him to Switzerland as recently as 1996 to study pollution and the melt rate of a glacier. During his career, he traveled around the world, for field work in Costa Rica, Russia, Poland, Greece, Peru and Afghanistan, among other countries, to study the effects of earthquakes, avalanches, volcanic eruptions, deforestation and soil erosion.



Closer to home, he conducted field research on the spread of toxic leachates at Love Canal, using soil samples and infrared aerial photographs. He once assisted Erie County prosecutors investigating a homicide by correlating ground conditions and weather radar data.

But Dr. Ebert will also be remembered for his teaching. Hundreds of students enrolled in his courses every year. He won the University at Buffalo Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence in 1975 and 1976; UB's Mr. Faculty Award in 1965 and 1968; and the Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Geography Teaching from the National Council for Geographic Education in 1990.

One incident in the 1960s revealed his manner of dealing with students.

"A dozen of what could be called radicals invaded my class, banging on trash cans," he recalled during an interview with The News in 2000.

Instead of calling security, like other professors did, provoking clashes, Ebert asked what he could do for the radicals.

When they said they wanted his students to join their strike, Dr. Ebert said it was up to his students, and put the option to a vote. The students voted to stay in class, and the radicals joined them for Ebert's lecture.

"I was here during the riots, and whether a class got disrupted depended to a large extent on the professor," he recalled. "It was not a matter of the professor being liked or not liked, but how the professor reacted. As some students overreacted, so did some professors."

Dr. Ebert was born in Hamburg, Germany, and attended private schools in Switzerland. He served in the U. S. Army. He earned a doctorate in geography at the University of North Carolina in 1957 after receiving a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in the field from there.

He is survived by a daughter, Monica (Norman E.) Shuman, his grandson Kyle Shuman and two great grandchildren, Hayden and Maddox Shuman. He was the brother of the late Gisela Fleischmann and was the uncle of Esther Fleischmann Griffith.

## **EULOGY AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE ON JANUARY 5, 2011**

**BY DR. TERRY TOY, PROFESSOR EMERITUS,  
UNIV. OF DENVER**

There are three components of professional life in a University: research; service and teaching. During his career Vince published numerous professional articles and monographs based on his research. What is extraordinary here is the geographic and topical breadth of the subjects represented in his research. He conducted field work in over 30 states and countries, including Western New York, Peru (Amazon Basin), Guatemala, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Afghanistan, Australia, West Germany, Mexico, Jamaica Great Britain, Iran, and Israel.\* He published on climate, soils, volcanoes, water resources and natural and man-made disasters. He was very proud of his book entitled *Disasters: An Analysis of Natural and Human-Induced Hazards*. This book was published in 4 editions, the last in 2000.

Vince presented scientific papers at numerous meetings and was an invited lecturer in the Soviet Union, Switzerland, Poland and Taiwan. He served as a consultant for various government entities in Western New York and around the world.

Service is another important component of professional life-ranging from service to the community, the University, the department and to students. Vince compiled a long list of lectures for various organizations in the community, including one period where he gave 76 lectures in 7 years! For 23 years he gave the lead-off lecture at the Western New York Science Forum. He also gave lectures for the Roswell Park Cancer Institute's Summer Education Program.

Vince was appointed to the Geology Department when he arrived in 1954. A few years later, President Furnas asked him to found the Geography Department, and this was done in 1963. As its first Chair, he built the Department and selected its first faculty members. In 1981 Vince and Ross MacKinnon saved the Department from extinction during a time when it was fashionable for universities to eliminate geography departments. The main

point here is that the opportunities that faculty and students have today in the Geography Department were initiated and sustained for many years by Vince Ebert.

Vince took graduate and undergraduate advising very seriously. I was one of his undergraduate advisees and he served as my main Master's advisor. He kept me headed in the right direction, always pushed me to improve my classroom performance, and as a result I was unable to take advantage of the "all expense paid, government-sponsored trip to Southeast Asia that was available during the mid and late 60's." As a graduate student I can attest that he had high standards but he was always available, with an open door, for research guidance and the writing of the thesis.

For many of you, teaching quality and effectiveness is what defined Vince Ebert. Should I recount the statistics of classes taught and numbers of students taught? Should I start with the list of awards that he has earned over the years? Should I re-live the stories that students, including myself, have about Vince as their teacher? The objective, simply stated, is to describe a legend in the classroom, nothing less.

The cold hard statistics are these: Vince taught at UB from 1954 to 2010. That is 57 years. He taught approximately 15 different courses. He usually taught 3 or 4 courses. It is especially noteworthy that he maintained this teaching load during the eight years he was Department Chair and the six years that he was the Undergraduate Dean. His classes ranged in size from nearly 500 to about 20, requiring various teaching styles. The smaller classes usually included laboratory sessions and field trips. A conservative estimate of the number of students he taught is about 44,600!

During his teaching career, Vince received eight major teaching awards:

- (1) U. B. Mr. Faculty Award--twice; (2) U.B. Milton Plesur Memorial Teaching Award;
- (3) U.B. University Award for Distinguished Achievements in Arts and Sciences;
- (4) SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching--twice in back-to-back years, the only person to do so. (5) SUNY Distinguished Teaching

Professor. (This is a rank above Full Professor, awarded by the State University); (6) Distinguished Teaching Award from the National Council for Geographic Education.

The words to describe Vince as a teacher include gifted, creative, inspirational, polished, enthusiastic, demanding but fair and consistent, and clearly loves teaching.

In his later years he taught a course for graduate students entitled "The Art of Teaching."

We all have our special memories about Vince. If you would like to read some of these, go to Google and enter: Charles H. V. "Vince" Ebert Guest Book. Recurring themes are: (1) Best teacher ever; (2) Most significant person in my college days; (3) One professor I'll never forget; (4) More influence on my life than any other person; (5) Caused me to study geography; (6) Several mentions of his old Studebaker.

In addition to these sentiments many of us have special memories. Once I was taking Prof. Ebert's soils class that met at 8:00 a.m. It was the winter of 1968. When I awoke there was a Buffalo blizzard in progress. Although my first instinct was to just roll over, I knew he'd be there. So, I got up and drove the '57 Pontiac station wagon down Niagara Falls Blvd. to the Ridge Lea campus. As I drove down Ridge Lea Road I saw someone walking along the side of the road in a topcoat and arctic boots with the buckles. I thought this guy must be nuts and I drove on. When I got to the Geography Department it was all locked up. I waited. Soon here came the fellow in the topcoat. It was Dr. Ebert. I had driven right past him. I thought: "Oh (expletive)!" but he never said anything. He probably never saw me because his eye lids were frozen shut. Anyway, I was the only student who showed up so we went for coffee in the cafeteria. The point is that he was trudging through the blizzard that day for an 8:00 a. m. class.

To conclude, in every facet of professional life, Dr. Ebert was an impact player. He conducted meaningful research. He served his university, created a department and nurtured students and faculty. But it is as a teacher, that he is and will be revered. Quite possibly, he was the best ever in the classroom.

As university professors, it is easy to focus on research, grants and publication because that is where the prestige and rewards tend to be. But with the outpouring of love surrounding Vince Ebert, perhaps we should rethink our priorities. Maybe teaching is at the top. Remember, each of those 44,600 students took away a little of Vince. Those students who became teachers will give a little of Vince. And the students of those teachers will, in turn, take a little of Vince. And so it goes; a teacher never knows where his or her influence ends.

And so as colleague, mentor and friend, we will profoundly miss you Vince, but Ilse will welcome you back. From all of us, thanks for the education and the memories.

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\*This is a list of research trips as of 1978! Amazon Basin, Afghanistan, Australia, Columbia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Great Britain, Greece, Greenland, Guatemala, Iceland, Iran, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Peru, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, West Germany, Western New York, Yugoslavia.

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#### **Professor Vince Ebert: Some memories** by Mike Woldenberg

Vince Ebert, a good friend, a superb teacher, and the founder and advocate of the Geography Department at the University at Buffalo has left us with memories of him and his wife, Ilse. Vince came to UB as a member of the Geology Department in 1954. A few years later, President Furnas asked him to found the Geography Department, and this was done in 1963. As its first Chair, from 1963 to 1970, he built the Department and selected its first faculty members. He was the Undergraduate Dean from 1970 to 1977.

Students will tell you that "Dr. Ebert" was a superb, charismatic professor. He was a fascinating lecturer who taught Physical Geography, Soils (a sequence of 3 courses), Climatology, Oceanography, and Disasters. He once gave regional courses on Europe, the USSR, and Central and South America. He also taught Cartography, the Introduction to Graduate Geography, and a special course in The

Art of Teaching. His lectures were illustrated with kodachrome slides from his travels. Up until 1978, Vince recorded research travel to approximately 30 countries; several of these were visited more than once. (We do not have a record of his subsequent trips). It was during his annual trips that he accumulated the very large collection of slides which he used in his courses.

While Vince predominantly taught environmental topics, he projected a concern for the people living in the regions he described and this empathy added to his appeal. His lectures were carefully organized and up to date and illuminated by slides, stories and humor. Last spring and summer he revised his Disasters course. He had just turned 86 years old in June. He became ill but began teaching the course in the fall of 2010 nevertheless. As he weakened in October, he had to hand over his newly revised notes to Prof. Scott Mackay.

Vince often advised students about their course selections and he influenced many to major in Geography and to go on to careers in this field. Many students commented on his kindness, his humor, and his inspirational lectures. I will give a few comments from students and friends taken from the Guest Book at the Dengler, Roberts, Perna Funeral Home, and found on the web at <http://www.legacy.com/guestbook/buffalonews/guestbook.aspx?n=charles-ebert&pid=147522465>

"Dr. Ebert's stories of all of his amazing experiences across the globe inspired me to get a degree in Physical Geography. His commitment to educating not just students at UB but people around the world, was rare. It was an honor to be one of his students, and I hope I can be even a fraction of the Professor that he was...."

-Nicole Gasparini

"...It was an inspiring undergraduate lecture with him that caused me to pursue undergraduate and graduate studies in Geography. My memories are of a vastly knowledgeable, always smiling, thoughtful, kind and wise tutor who took a genuine interest in students. He was always approachable and always patient. He was a real blessing in my life..."

-C. Mysha Webber-Eakin

"By the end of each semester, Dr. Ebert knew the vast majority of students' names, ...in a lecture hall of almost 300 students. At the end of two of his classes, the students gave him a standing ovation that brought tears to your eyes..."

-William Priester, Jr.

"I teach Geography at Temple University. I sometimes tell my students about Dr. Ebert's immense slide collection and how I aspire to match its breadth and depth..."

-Robert Mason

"Dr. Ebert was simply wonderful. I was a student in the 60's and honored to watch a master at his craft. He motivated me to love learning and helped me to maintain my motivation to graduate..."

-Sandra Christ

"My wife and I had the absolute pleasure of living across the street from Vince and his beloved Ilse for many years. We will miss his quick wit, intelligence, and wonderful stories..."

-James and Regina Gallagher

Vince and his wonderful wife Ilse supported the department in many ways. They invited new faculty into their home and these relationships continued over the years. Caroline and I went to Vince's 80th birthday party, and he came to my 70th. Vince and Ilse attended the spring and fall picnics, and the Christmas parties. Ilse brought wonderful meatballs, and Vince often brought his harmonica and entertained. After he had a few beers or some wine he would dance Cossack style. He was able to do this when he was about 60 years old.

Vince and Ilse kept the informal lines of communication open with the university community, Ilse with the UB women's club, and Vince with his peer group in the administration. It was through one of these informal contacts that Vince learned that the University was going to eliminate the Department within days. This was late in 1981. Vince and the Chair (later Dean) Ross Mackinnon saved the Department. Among other things, they pointed out that some members of our faculty were editing three major geography journals at the time.

Vince contributed to the larger Buffalo community, frequently lecturing to organizations, often more than once a month. He also acted as a consultant for

local environmental problems. He used false color aerial photography of vegetation to demonstrate the impact of the seepage of pollutants in the Love Canal disaster. He advised politicians that the original rocks lining the Erie Canal Commercial Slip should not be covered up; they should be used in the reconstruction of the Slip, and his advice was taken.

I would like to conclude with the comments by Bill & Patty Wieczorek from the Guest Book:

"Dr. Ebert was my major adviser for my Master's and doctoral degrees in geography, which allowed me to benefit tremendously from his extraordinary breadth of knowledge, but even more from his wisdom.... Even more influential was the loving guidance and advice from him and his beloved Ilse to me and Patty throughout the years. Vince's life work was an endless act of love for his community, for his department, for science, for people close to him as well as those who were often forgotten by others, and especially for the world and its intricate systems that he taught us all about. He will forever be an exemplar of an honorable man."

-Bill & Patty Wieczorek



## Dr. Ebert's 86th Birthday

We celebrated Dr. Ebert's 86th Birthday in June 2010. He got a surprise from a few "old" students.



Dr. Ebert and Ken Munro. Ken was a student of Dr. Ebert's in the 60s



Professors Emeritus Athol Abrahams and Vince Ebert



Dr. Ebert and Dr. Anthony Markello. Anthony took Dr. Ebert's class in 1955

## Alan D. MacPherson

### In Memoriam, Alan D. MacPherson

*Sept. 17, 1957—May 6, 2009*



Alan served as Chair of the Department of Geography from 2001 – 2007. He was also Director of SUNY-Buffalo's Canada-United States Trade Center (CUSTAC). Alan was born and raised in Inverness, Scotland. He earned bachelors and master's degrees from the University of Dundee in the United Kingdom in 1979, and a master's degree in urban planning from Edinburgh College of Art in 1981. In 1982, he earned a master's degree in geography from the University of Toronto, where he also earned his doctorate in 1988. Alan's principal research interests concerned the relationship between technological innovation and regional economic development, with special emphasis on export development and Canada-U.S. trade. His teaching included undergraduate and graduate courses in international business and economic geography.

### COMMENTS AT THE CELEBRATION OF ALAN MACPHERSON'S LIFE

May 12, 2009 by James E. McConnell  
SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus

I am very honored and pleased to say a few words this morning about Alan.

When I thought about what I wanted to say to celebrate Alan's life and his many successes, several words came to mind about him and the relationship that he and I had, and about the observations I made over the years regarding his personality and behavior.

#### 1. Partner

- The first word that comes to mind is the partnership that he and I had.



- I was chair of the Department of Geography in 1988 when Alan arrived from the University of Toronto as an Assistant Professor. Because he and I had similar research and teaching interests, we quickly formed a partnership. As a result, we co-authored papers, prepared research grants, and created and oversaw the Canada-U.S. Trade Center from 1988 to the present. Of course, much of our time was spent thinking through various strategies to keep the UB administration from closing the Center.
- I always valued wise counsel and his dedication to our joint efforts.

## 2. Scholar

- One of the most revealing words that I associate with Alan is scholarship.
- He was a consummate scholar and prolific writer. Whenever he presented his research papers at national meetings of the Association of American Geographers, the room would be packed with colleagues and students from North America and elsewhere who had come to find out what he was up to and to benefit from the nature of his current research.
- Working with him on joint research projects was always exciting. He had an extraordinary gift of conceiving relevant problems, carrying out the research, and writing the results of the investigations.
- He was also excellent writer, and anyone who has read his publications will be treated to the writing skills that he possessed.
- I always kidded him about his creative writing skills—emphasis upon “creative.” For example, we would conclude an analysis of data and he would create a paragraph about some aspect of our research. I would read over the paragraph and say: “Gee, I didn’t realize we found that out.” That is what I mean by creative—the paragraph was accurate, but I hadn’t appreciated the significance of the finding that he had generated.
- In short, Alan clearly enjoyed undertaking research, he was good at it, and he never

slowed down doing it!! His enthusiasm and success provided a superb example not only to his students but also to his faculty colleagues.

## 3. Mentor

- A praiseworthy attribute of Alan’s was his mentoring of students. He was always very generous and helpful in providing assistance to students.
- For example, I was always intrigued by the way he would ask questions of graduate students during their oral exams. Typically, he would provide them with small clues that would send signals to them about what he expected them to include in their responses. (Some students got his message, and, unfortunately, some did not!!)
- He was also very demanding of his students, expecting them to be innovative, accurate, and careful in articulating the results of their research. In short, he had very high standards, but at the same time he was always helpful and supportive—two very important traits!

## 4. A fourth word is **suit-less**

- Alan really didn’t like to wear suits. In fact, the only time I ever saw him in a suit was on two rare occasions:
  1. One was when we went to talk with a UB administrator—and even on these occasions, the person had to be really high up in the administration before Alan would put on a suit.
  2. The second occasion was when we would travel to downtown Buffalo to talk with people at the Canadian Consulate.
- What was more likely, especially in the winter, would be to see Alan in a Buffalo Bills jacket. This reflected, of course, his pleasure in joining David Mark in attending home games of the Buffalo Bills football team.

## 5. Humble

- A fifth word is humble. Alan never bragged about or exaggerated his many accomplishments. In fact, just the opposite. He could easily have

talked about his successes, but he chose not to do that.

- A personal example of his humbleness was clearly evident to me whenever he and I played tennis. I always felt that he **purposely took it easy** on me not only because he recognized our twenty-some-year age difference, but also because he was clearly the better player.
- Yet, he never said anything to me about our different playing abilities.

#### 6. Farmer

- Finally, the last word that I associate with Alan is one that may seem odd, at least to some of you, and that is Alan as “Farmer.”
- He and I had many conversations over the years about our farming experiences. For me, those stories related to my experience as a youth with two sets of grandparents living on farms; for Alan, those stories were about his present-day farming activities on farms around his home.
- For instance, I would ask him how the weather was affecting the hay crop in the farms surrounding his home. He would then proceed to tell me in very precise terms how many cuttings of hay could be expected that summer, and how that would enable him to get hay for Valerie’s horses.
- In short, I always thought that if Alan ever left university work, he would probably end up spending his days in the field as a farmer.

**In summary**, it is often said the **death is more universal** than life; everyone dies but not everyone lives. Alan certainly had a full and productive life, and I will greatly miss our joint activities, our candid assessment of students, and, especially, our friendship.

## Shinsuke Yatomi

### In Memoriam, Shinsuke Yatomi

Nov. 29, 1961—  
May 31, 2007

*Shin Yatomi, with  
surfboard, at the  
beach in Southern  
California*



**Shinsuke (Ryan) Yatomi, MA 1987, MBA 1987**, SGI-USA Study Department Leader and Living Buddhism Managing Editor, deceased, May 31, 2007, age 45.

Shin Yatomi was born on November 29, 1961, in Osaka, Japan. He graduated from UB in 1987 with joint MA in Geography and MBA degrees, specializing in international trade and finance. Shortly after, he went to work for an international banking institute in Manhattan.

In 1989, not content with a life in the financial world devoted solely to the pursuit of economic gain, Shin decided to pursue a new path, moving to Santa Monica, CA to accept a position with the (Buddhist organization) Soka Gakkai International's (SGI) book publishing center. Knowing his English-language skills were weak—Shin read voraciously, took classes in English and American literature, even studied Latin—with the purpose of developing his writing to make Buddhism understandable to a Western audience.

He worked in the SGI-USA publishing center for 18 years as a translator, writer and editor, making immense contributions to advancing Buddhist study in the United States. Shin authored dozens of articles that appeared in SGI journals such as *The World Tribune* and *Living Buddhism*. His book, *Buddhism in a New Light*, a series of essays on adapting Buddhism as a practical philosophy for daily life, has sold tens of thousands of copies, and is read and discussed every day of the week all around the world.

Shin was a “yon dan” level practitioner of the martial art of kendo and started surfing when he was in high school. Being outside, in nature, he said, recharged his batteries. On October 31, 2006, doctors confirmed that Shin had advanced stage cancer. That was the beginning of a new campaign for him—not against death but as Shin wrote, “to live fully each day.” He fought a valiant battle against the disease, continuing to write and encourage his readers up to the moment of his death.

Shin Yatomi is survived by his wife, Carolyn, mother, Kazuko, and sister, Aiko. For anyone seeking more information about the life and writings of Shin Yatomi, his family invites you to visit his virtual memorial at: <http://www.shinyatomi.com/index.html>.



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