

# THE COMPASS



SPRING 2008 Vol. 3, Issue 6

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As I write this column, signs of spring are in the air. The temperature is in the mid-60s, and the piles of snow have all melted, however the date on the calendar is January 8th. We all know that the next few months will almost surely feel more like winter than spring. Our new faculty and our first-year students from outside of Buffalo will be wondering why we call it "Spring semester" and not "Winter semester"!

As we look forward to this semester, and a new round of classes and colloquia, it is worth reflecting on the semester that has just passed. I am particularly pleased to report on two highly successful departmental events – the visit of Dr. Risa Palm, and the retirement celebration held for Professors Athol Abrahams and Mike Woldenberg. Coincidentally, both of these events were held on the same day (November 16th). Risa Palm is a member of our department, but we do not get to see her often since she spends most of her time as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in Albany. Her visit here was a busy one – not only did she get the chance to meet with the President and Provost here, but she also gave a well-attended and well- received seminar on "Culture Realms in the United States: A Marketer's Approach".

Later that evening, the department hosted a dinner in honor of the contributions of Drs. Abrahams and Woldenberg, on the occasion of their retirement. Faculty (current and former) and staff were in attendance, along with many of the honorees' colleagues, collaborators, and former graduate students. The evening was absolutely delightful. Most importantly, Professors Abrahams and Woldenberg received many heartfelt and well-deserved thanks for their contributions to the department. It was a wonderful opportunity for new faculty to peer through a window on the department's history, for current faculty and recently retired faculty to get together, and for faculty and some former students to reminisce with one another.

In the last newsletter, I alluded to changes and upgrades to our physical space. In this newsletter, Professor Sean Bennett describes the recently completed flume lab. This is a world-class facility, and will be the site of many unique experiments that will undoubtedly lead to cutting-edge experiments and research.

If you are in town, or close (and even if you're not), you should always feel free to drop by.

Peter Rogerson

Peter Rogerson

## TABLE OF CONTENTS



**6** ← Faculty News

Student News

8 Center Reports

Past Events

Grants, Awards and Appreciation

18 - Alumni News

23 - Lost Alumni

25 Our Thanks

26 More Photos

# 28 Calendar of Events (back page)

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

Special thanks to Renee Ruffino, Creative Design Director, College of Arts and Science and Bethany Perl For the design and layout of The Compass

Professor Peter Rogerson, Chair and Editor Donna Banach, Co-Editor

Cover photo of Professors Michael Woldenberg and Athol Abrahams by Chi Ho Sham (MA '80, PhD '84)

# **DEPARTMENT NEWS**

#### Improvements to Existing Space

Two areas within the department have undergone recent renovation to make them more teaching-and student-friendly. Wilkeson 135, the "Soils Lab," now has been transformed into a "Teaching Lab," equipped with new tables and chairs for up to 30 students, dedicated computer and projector, lectern, projection screen, and whiteboard. This "Teaching Lab" will be used to service our GEO106 laboratory sections as well as other Geography courses. Second, the GIAL has new carpet and now houses 12 individual study areas assigned to graduate students, as well as one additional area for the large-format plotter. These renovations and new furnishings are much needed additions to our departmental resources, and we gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Office of the Dean, College of Arts and Sciences.



Wilkeson 135



**GIAL** 

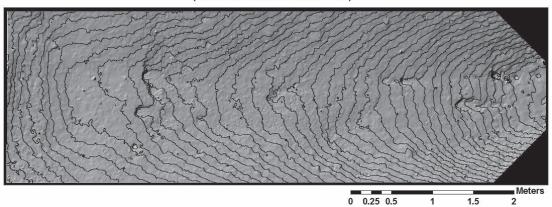


#### New soil erosion facility completed

**Dr. Sean J. Bennett** and Ph.D. candidate **Mr. Lee M. Gordon** recently completed construction of a rainfall and soil erosion facility located in Statler Hall. This facility comprises: a 7.1 m x 2.4 m tilting flume currently packed with a sandy-loam soil, a nozzle-based rainfall simulator capable of administering storms of 30 or 70 mm/hr, and a dedicated digital imaging system suspended on a track above the flume. As the soil bed is deformed and headcuts and rill networks develop in response to the applied rain and overland flow, water and soil fluxes exiting the flume can be monitored continuously and high-resolution (mm-scale) digital elevation models of the evolving soil surface can be constructed. As part of his Ph.D. thesis, Mr. Gordon is examining the formative processes of rill initiation on this experimental landscape and the fundamental characteristics of rill network development and evolution.



Contour and hillshade representation of digital elevation data of eroding soil surface (contour interval is 1.0 cm)





#### **More Department News**

#### The Compass

Thank you very much for your support and comments about The Compass. We will continue to provide you with the bi-annual newsletter. However, due to increased costs of printing and mailing we will produce only an electronic version in the fall and a hard copy in the spring. If we have your email address, you will receive the electronic version. Also, all previous issues can be found on our website.

#### Athol Abrahams and Michael Woldenberg Student Field Work Award

The Department has established the Athol Abrahams and Michael Woldenberg Award, to be awarded each year to a student in Earth Systems Science, for the support of student field study. Read more about it at <a href="https://www.geog.buffalo.edu">www.geog.buffalo.edu</a>.

#### **Website Changes**

Our new online donation link can now be accessed from our main page <a href="www.geog.buffalo.edu">www.geog.buffalo.edu</a>. Using the drop down menu under options, donations can be made to:

#### Please support the Department of Geography

- Geography Department Resource Fund
- · Hugh W. Calkins, Ph.D. Prof. of Geography Applied GIS Award
- · Abrahams & M. Woldenberg Graduate Student Travel Award

#### **Career Fair**

If you or your company is interested in hiring some great geographers (like yourself!), the Department of Geography will be hosting Career Fair, April 10th, 2008. For a registration form or more information, please see our website <a href="www.geog.buffalo.edu">www.geog.buffalo.edu</a> or e-mail Donna at <a href="database-dat

# **FACULTY NEWS**

This spring semester, **Dr. Charles H.V. Ebert**, Distinguished Teaching Professor, offered a non-credit enrichment seminar entitled "Teaching Effectiveness and Public Speaking" open to department faculty and graduate students. The lectures are based on the former course, Geo 800 - The Art of Teaching, and on presentations given for UB's Center for Teaching Effectiveness.

**Dr. Jessie Poon** helped organize the Second Global Conference On Economic Geography 25-28 June 2007, Beijing International Convention Center, Beijing, China.

Dr. Jessie Poon was an invited guest lecturer at Peking University.

On January 28th, 2008, Dr. Kristin Stapleton and **Dr. Jessie Poon** gave a lecture on U.S. – China Trade Policy. The event was held at the International Institute of Buffalo and was co-sponsored by the Canadian Consulate General, Buffalo.



#### **More Faculty News**

**Dr. Chris S. Renschler** was awarded the 2007 Young Scholar Award from the Soil and Water Management and Conservation Division of the Soil Science Society of America. The award recognizes scientists who have made an outstanding contribution in Soil and Water Management and Conservation within seven years of completing their doctorate. Renschler received the award recently at the 2007 annual meeting of the Soil Science Society of America in New Orleans in recognition of his major impact on the management and protection of public lands and water resources.

Over the past years Renschler's research has focused on geo-spatial modeling of natural resources, hydrology, and erosion by linking geographic information systems (GIS), environmental process models and publicly available data sources.

With funding over the past several years from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management, he has developed and supported a GIS software tool that is helping the U.S. Forest Service to more quickly and accurately assess and mitigate the devastation of soil erosion after wildfires or rangeland fires.

**Dr. Narushige Shiode** was a guest lecturer at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan, in October 2007, and at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, in December 2007.

#### **Professor James McConnell Recognized**

UB Geography Department faculty, Rodney Erickson (Executive Vice President and Provost, Pennsylvania State University), and J.W. Harrington (Professor, Department of Geography, University of Washington) purchased an "Advancing Geography Fund" Commemorative Brick from the Association of American Geographers (<a href="http://www.aag.org/cf/bricks.htm">http://www.aag.org/cf/bricks.htm</a>) to recognize **Professor James E. McConnell's** contribution to Geography. Bricks will be placed in the walkway of Meridian Place (AAG headquarters) in Washington, DC. Professor James E. McConnell's one of many contributions to advancing geography at the University at Buffalo-State University of New York has been setting up the International Trade and Business Concentration for undergraduate and graduate studies in the Department of Geography. The department continues to place graduates in international trade in local, national and international private and public sectors. McConnell was also the Director of the Canada U.S. Trade Center (CUSTAC) at UB from its inception in 1988 through to 1995.

## STUDENT NEWS

**Matthew S. Eggleton**, Ph.D. candidate (adviser **Dr. Bagchi-Sen**), accepted a promotion within the civil service, a new position with the US Department of Defense, and moved to Stuttgart, Germany in September 2007. In his new role as Deputy Chief; Intelligence Training, Readiness, and Exercises; Intelligence Directorate; HQ US European Command, Matt is responsible for the oversight and coordination of all intelligence training within the theater. Over the next few years he intends to continue to expand upon current programs by increasing the use of distance learning and accelerating the growth of intelligence training programs made available to partner nations. See: <a href="https://www.eucom.mil">www.eucom.mil</a>.



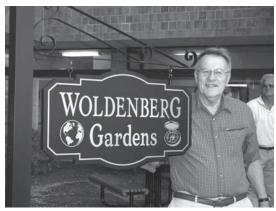
## **CENTER REPORTS**

#### Canada U.S. Trade Center (CUSTAC)

Over the past year, the Trade Center has focused on two research threads (albeit important ones). The first thread represents an extension of Jim McConnell's work on the economic impact of U.S. antiterrorism regulations. Anneliese Vance, a doctoral candidate in Geography, has taken the lead role in this new research – which focuses on the border security environment of the Niagara bi-national region. The other research thread represents an extension of the earlier work by David Pritchard and Alan MacPherson on the North American and European commercial aircraft industry. Fully 8 years ago, Dr. Pritchard predicted that China would launch its first manufacturing program for regional passenger jets by 2008. The business press had a good laugh at that prediction. But guess what? China rolled out its first regional jet in December of 2007. Do we have good economic geographers in the Center, or what? For 2008, it looks like the Center will continue its work on the aerospace industry and the cross-border security environment. Hot topics; so stay tuned for our next batch of publications and policy briefs.

## PAST EVENTS

#### Woldenberg Gardens Dedication, September 24th



Michael Woldenberg



Several Department of Geography Faculty were on hand to celebrate the event



#### Geography Week, November 12th thru 16th

2nd Geography Graduate Student Research Symposium. Presenters and their talks were:

Seth Spielman, "Estimating the effect of urban form".

**Youngsang Kwan**, "Spatial distribution of forest growth rate across the eastern USA using Forest Inventory and Analysis plot-level data and seasonal MODIS-vegetation index products". **Daejong Kim**, "A new monitoring method on land use change for sustainable land development". **Jeff Gower**, "Decisions to Outsource Product Manufacturing to a Non-Market Country: A Case Study of North Korea".

The GGSA sponsored two geography-related contests, "Where-in-the-World" photo contest and "Geography Poetry Contest". **Youngsang Kwon** and **Will Poppe** were the winners of the photo contest. **Rupal Desai** is our poetry winner.

#### World through the Eyes of a Geographer

When I go for a leisure hike, I hear the rhythms of waterfall,

I see the rolling hills and the valleys.. and I see Geography

As a part of my everyday life I see the urban dwellings and the skyscraper buildings .. and I see Geography

In the news I hear about the oil crisis and the biofuel policies ..and I see Geography While traveling on the highways,

I see farmlands and forests and windmills and domestic animals...and I see Geography In world politics and wars over land and natural resources..I see Geography

In culture and food habits of different regions I see Geography

In the quiet of the cold night, I look up at the star lit sky and think about the small earth ... and I still see Geography

I look at different facets of life and in all of them I always see some Geography

#### -Rupal Desai

Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Risa Palm**, Professor, UB Geography Department, Provost & Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, The State University of New York. Dr. Palm's presentation was "Culture Realms in the United States: A Marketer's Approach".

In traditional cultural geography, the United States is divided into such "culture regions" as "The South" or "The Mormon culture region", and individual states may be divided into "upstate" and "downstate" with associated economic and political connotations. As consumers, we leave traces of our preferences and tastes through our responses to surveys or our "membership" in grocery store discount clubs. Many of these traces are aggregated and reported to marketers by firms such as A.C. Nielsen in order to target audiences for their clients. The presentation illustrated the kinds of detailed spatial information about consumer preferences that are easily available, and showed how consumer-based culture regions can be constructed.



On November 16th we celebrated the retirement of Athol Abrahams and Mike Woldenberg. Colleagues, faculty and staff attended the event that was held at the Ramada Hotel (formerly The University Inn). Our thanks to Chi Ho Sham (MA '80, PhD '84) for the photos.



Athol Abrahams, their son Geoff Abrahams and Lorraine Oak



Lorraine Oak and son Geoff Abrahams





Mike Woldenberg and daughter Nina Woldenberg



Mike and Caroline Woldenberg



Mike uses the opportunity to describe the Fibonacci Ratio!







Peng Gao, PhD 2003



Mike Woldenberg, Athol Abrahams and Pete Rogerson



(I-r) André Roy and daughter Catherine, Terry Toy and Athol Abrahams



Ms. Nathalie Côté, her husband Normand Bergeron and Mike Woldenberg



Michael O'Neill and his wife Deborah Sheely



#### November 17th "Dinner for 12 Strangers" by Omar Novillo, UB Geography student

"Dinner For 12 Strangers" was an event hosted by Marsha Henderson. President John B. Simpson recently appointed Mrs. Henderson to the newly created position of Vice President for External Affairs. The goal of the evening was to promote the exchange of information between distinguished leaders and professionals from the Buffalo area and students from the University at Buffalo. In attendance were Rita M. Andolina (Staff Development & Training Department for Western New York DDSO), Christopher J. Henderson (Administrative Vice President at M&T Bank Corporation), Amanda Marshall (Senior Vice President at UBS Financial Services), Dick Marshall (CEO of International Imaging Material, Inc.) and Andrew J. Rudnick (President and CEO of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership). Students in attendance were Peter Grollitsch, Przemek Garbaczewski, Kristen Mruk, and myself.

I felt that the dinner was very interesting because we, as students, were all able to interact with these successful executives. Topics of discussion included the UB 2020 Plan, the UB experience and campus life, students, personal goals and aspirations, and the careers and accomplishments of all the professionals. I found the experience to be extremely helpful, considering I will graduate college in a month. The advice and insight I gained from this experience will be extremely beneficial in my future. I want to personally thank **Dr. Bennett** and the entire Geography Department for nominating me and allowing me to participate in this very special event.

#### November 30th Colloquium Speaker

**Dr. Vince Ebert**, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor, Emeritus, was our invited guest colloquium speaker. This was a standing-room only event attended by students, faculty and alumni. Ebert's presentation, "Intelligence and Disinformation" outlined the basic activities that involve intelligence: with this connotation referring to the methods of gathering information or, in a military framework, the information about an adversary. The process of hindering intelligence-the art of disinformation-is used by the armed forces of all nations and is as old as human conflict. Disinformation has greatly influenced the outcome of battles, wars, and history, and frequently demanded great courage and also led to significant casualties. Case studies and photographs illustrated this lecture.

In the U.S. News & World Report, December 31, 2007 – January 7, 2008, print edition you can read "50 Ways to Improve Your Life in 2008". Number 20 is "Study Geography"!



## Friday, December 7th Geography Department Family Holiday Party



Professor Lee Wang and son Kevin



Arushi Renschler Pandey and Leena Sen, Daughters of faculty Professors Chris Renschler and Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen





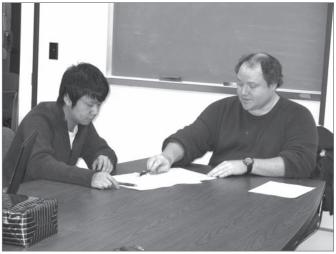
Santa and Eli Spielman, son of Seth Spielman, PhD student



Professor Irene Casas



### **Career Counseling**



Steve Russell (right) of Erie County DSM, Department of Environmental Planning helps geography students like Haifeng Yu (left) with their resumes.



It's a Fire! ... Drill!!!







# GRANTS, AWARDS AND APPRECIATION

#### New IGERT grant to support ecosystem restoration research

UB has received a prestigious \$3.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to train a new generation of environmental experts using Western New York and the Great Lakes Basin as a "living laboratory." Twenty-five doctoral students selected for the Ecosystem Restoration through Interdisciplinary Exchange (ERIE) program will be among the first in the nation to be trained with a strong foundation in the engineering, scientific, and policy-making considerations involved in restoring ecosystems, regardless of the discipline they are pursuing.

The Project Director for the grant is Dr. Alan J. Rabideau (Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering), and he is joined by Dr. Richelle M. Allen-King (Geology), **Dr. Sean J. Bennett** (Geography), Dr. Donald A. Grinde (American Studies), and Dr. Howard R. Lasker (Geology) all serving as Co-Principal Investigators. In addition, **Dr. Chris Larsen, Dr. D. Scott Mackay, and Dr. David Mark** (all from Geography) will serve as Faculty Participants in the project.

The ERIE initiative is a collection of academic programs and research projects designed to advance the science, engineering, and policy of ecosystem restoration, and contribute to the ecological recovery of the Great Lakes and Western New York. Additional information about the program, including application details, can be found at <a href="https://www.erie.buffalo.edu">www.erie.buffalo.edu</a>.

Thank you very much for my copy of "The Compass" (Fall/Winter 2007). I enjoyed the useful information about the many outstanding awards recently bestowed upon the faculty and students. I am particularly grateful for the short "History of Geography at UB" written by **Dr. Charles H. V. Ebert!** He is the reason that I majored in geography, eventually earning the Ph. D. (Clark University). Dr. Ebert was the best "teacher" I ever had .... at any educational level. When I began in geography, Dr. Pegrum was the chair (Geology & Geography). At that time, he taught us that the Earth was 2 billion years old! Since then, it has more than doubled in age! So, how old do you think that makes me feel? Please give my best to Dr. Ebert. I only wish that I could attend his lecture on the 30th. Tell him that his students will never forget going on field trips in his new Studebaker at speeds approaching the sound barrier!! Ah, those were the days.

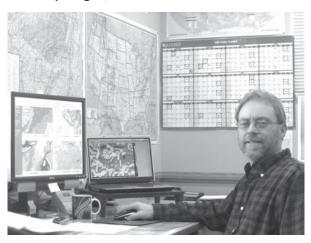
Merlin

Merlin P Lawson, Ph.D. Professor of Geosciences Dean Emeritus Lincoln, NE 68588-0340



## **ALUMNI NEWS**

#### In the spotlight, an interview with Jim Porter



Jim Porter (B.A. 1983, M.A. 1985, Ph.D. SUNY ESF 1990) is Deputy Chief of Watershed Monitoring and Operations Support for the New York City Water Supply. Despite working for New York City, Jim rarely sees a subway tunnel or skyscraper, being fortunate to instead work in the Catskill Mountains, about 125 miles northwest of Manhattan. NYC has six major reservoirs in the Catskills that supply nearly all of the 1.1 billion gallons of water used by the City and surrounding communities every day.

After finishing his Ph.D. in forest biogeochemistry at SUNY ESF and doing two years of post-doc work continuing his research on the impact of acidic deposition on soil and water chemistry in the Adirondacks, Jim went to work as a water quality hydrologist for NYC in 1992.

Between '92 and early 2007, he directed a water quality monitoring program for watershed streams, developed a network of automated weather stations to provide data for water supply operations and to assist the National Weather Service with flood warnings, worked with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to build and operate a high-density stream gage network in the Catskills, and directed the City's snow survey program, which measures the amount of water in the snow pack. Jim also managed a long-term, \$10 million study by the USGS looking at the use of forest management to mitigate the impacts of acidic deposition on water quality, focusing on dissolved nutrients and aluminum. This work will come to fruition in Spring 2008, when the first of several workshops will be held with land managers to develop GIS-based tools to guide forest management decisions aimed at maximizing water quality benefits.

In early 2007, Jim was tasked with overseeing the development of a computerized decision support system that will link NYC's existing water quality and water quantity models, integrate near-real-time meteorological, stream flow, and snow pack data, assimilate river forecasts, and account for the myriad operating rules that govern the reservoir system.

Jim, his wife Tammy (a geographer from SUNY Geneseo), son Jesse (11) and daughter Meg (9) live on 30 acres in the Catskills. Southeastern NY makes a great launching pad for a "geography family," as it provides for easy long weekend adventures to such varied destinations as Boston, the rocky coast of southern Maine, the "wilds" of New York City, the Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound, Pennsylvania railroad country, and the Baltimore-DC area.



But the Porters also spend a lot of time traveling back to Western New York, which is, and always will be, home. Meg asked recently if she should buy a house in Buffalo when she grows up, and Jesse is already planning for college at UB. Maybe attending UB is an inherited trait...

A sample of a project Jim has worked on:

Gilboa Dam, which forms Schoharie Reservoir, was completed in 1926 and is one of the oldest dams in the Catskill Mountain region of New York City's water supply. In 2005, a safety inspection revealed the dam was slightly below state standards. Although a full-scale, \$300 million rehabilitation of the dam was already scheduled for 2012, emergency repairs were initiated (and the rehab was accelerated to begin in 2008). The repairs consisted of drilling through the dam into the bedrock below and installing 79 anchors that effectively lock the dam down tightly to the bedrock. To prevent the reservoir from spilling during construction, two actions were taken. First, a small notch was cut near one side of the dam. This allowed water to spill straight down to the spillway channel below, thus allowing work to proceed along the majority of the dam, unaffected by spillage. Second, four large siphons were installed that remove water (up to 500 million gallons per day, total) from the reservoir and discharge it at the base of the dam, also allowing work to proceed unimpeded along the face of the dam. The siphons are used during periods of high runoff, when inflow to the reservoir would exceed the ability of the notch alone to maintain water levels below the top of the dam. The work was completed in late 2006 at a cost of \$24 million."

#### Read more about the dam project:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/dep\_projects/gilboa.shtml http://www.acppubs.com/article/CA6409117.html



Schoharie Reservoir with siphons during dam repair in Feb 2006. In order to maintain a low water level in the dam and prevent spillage during repairs, four siphons (the large brown pipes) were installed. The siphons can remove a total of 500 million gallons of water per day.



Schoharie Reservoir spilling following snow melt in March, 2005. The reservoir has a large watershed (316 sq. mi.) relative to its capacity (19 billion gallons), which means it fills quickly and spills fairly readily.

# **MORE ALUMNI NEWS**

**'60s** 

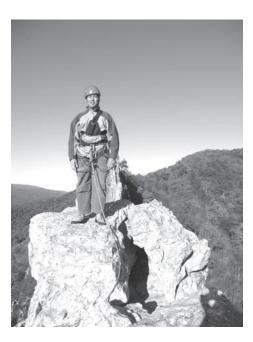


#### '70s

**John Yahwak, BA 1975,** is Vice President, Compensation & Benefits, Simon Property Group in Indianapolis, IN.

#### '80s

**David W. Cacner, BA 1986,** graduated from the George Washington University in Washington, DC, obtaining a Masters in Engineering Management. Dave works for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency as the chief of Marketing and Requirements in the eGEOINT Management Office located in Reston, VA.



**Eugene Lee, BA 1985,** works for GEOEYE and enjoys rock climbing very much. However, it is at times 'sporty', borrowing a term from the US Coast Guard rescue squads.



**Daniel Visone, BA 1985,** is a Program Manager for two major research projects, PM Battlespace Terrain Reasoning & Awareness Battle Command PM Joint Geospatial Enterprise Services Science & Technology Program.

'90s

**Bob Bielecki, BA 1993**, lives in Matthews NC with his wife Debbie (UB 1991). Bob has recently been named the Fixed Annuity Sales Director at LPL Financial Institution Services in Charlotte, NC. His involvement in the community includes membership in the Charlotte Economics Club, the Bond Club of Charlotte, and the Charlotte Touchdown Club.



Donald Cole, MA 1997, BA/BS 1994, has lived in Williamsburg, VA for the past 11 years. He has spent most of his career in GIS. For many years he led a firm called GeoDecisions (<a href="www.geodecisions.com">www.geodecisions.com</a>) as the Vice President of Local Government Solutions. He left Geo about a year ago and now works at Woolpert (<a href="www.woolpert.com">www.woolpert.com</a>). He continues his career in GIS, but also carries out a lot of engineering work (water, wastewater, storm, transportation, landscape architecture, etc). Cole is a client manager, in business development and solves problems when they come up.

Don is married to Allison and has three children, Alexandria (16), Abigail (13) and Drake (10) and works with his kids organizations (basketball, etc.) They enjoy their vacations to the Caribbean (Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, Jamaica, Bahamas, etc). Don has also traveled to Tunisia and Libya on business.

**Elise Esprit, BA 1996,** is a real estate agent in San Diego, working for John Lefferdink and Associates within Prudential California Realty. She states her background in Geography from UB has come to serve her well in her field as we do all types of RE from high end residential to commercial.

**Dr. Nicholas David King, PhD 1995** is the Executive Secretary at Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) in Copenhagen.

Dr. King was born in Kenya and grew up in South Africa, and has received tertiary qualifications from institutions in South Africa, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Prior to the GBIF appointment, he has been CEO both at the **Endangered Wildlife Trust** from 2003 to 2007, and at **BioNET International** from 1999 to 2003. Before this he held a senior technology management role in the Environmental Division of the CSIR in South Africa. Of his decision to join GBIF, Dr. King says, "I am passionate about reaching a time when the world is sustainably managing its biodiversity. One of the things that will help the global community achieve that goal is the data and information about biodiversity that GBIF makes available. I'm excited about working to help GBIF achieve its potential."



Dr. King's background includes degrees in biology, ecology, geography and the management of information technology. He also has expertise in technology innovation and in the resolution of problems stemming from resource constraints. "Nick will bring fresh insights into the opportunities for GBIF to play a major role in delivering biodiversity information to the many user communities we serve globally, from research to sustainable development" said Board Chair David Penman. "His recent experiences, and continuing links, in southern Africa and the less developed world generally will be enormously valuable to widening GBIF's potential influence and partnership role".

**Brian A. Mikelbank, BA 1994,** is Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Director of the Center for Housing Research and Policy at Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University.

**Melissa Neave, PhD 1999,** is a lecturer in the School of Geoscience, The University of Sydney, Australia. Her main area of interest is in the field of biophysical interactions in fluvial systems with a focus on arid/semiarid hill slope processes. She has worked on the biogeomorphic influences of small mammals in a Chihuahuan desert ecosystem in the American southwest and is currently using rainfall simulation to model the effect of surface crust formation and soil salinity levels on runoff and sediment generation in western NSW, Australia.

Captain Andrew F. Seligman, BA 1991, recently changed positions at the USEPA Region III, Philadelphia. He is now a Senior Environmental Scientist/Enforcement Officer enforcing the Clean Water Act. He is a Certified United States Coast Guard Masters License Instructor and is also a Certified ASA Sailing Instructor. He teaches sailing during the summer. He uses some of the geography skills learned at UB to teach people how to read nautical charts as well as navigate using coastal piloting and coastal navigation techniques.

#### '00s

**Brad Eldredge, PhD 2005,** has a new position working for the Montana University System. He is the Coordinator of Institutional Information and Research, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

**Christopher Fultz, MA 2005,** is a Senior Credit Policy/Risk Analyst with HSBC Mortgage Corporation, USA.

**Kipp M. Koren, BA 2002**, is employed in Geospatial and Information Management Services at PSOMAS, a leading consulting engineering firm specializing in the land development, water and transportation markets.

**Bengtong Neo, MA 2006,** is a Principal Academic Advisor at the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) -University at Buffalo Programs.

#### CORRECTION

**Rich Quodomine, (MA 2003 and BA 1996)** In the last issue it stated Rich graduated in 1987, which, at age 13, would have been the Geographic equivalent of Doogie Howser!



#### More Alumni News

**Scott Rayburg, PhD 2005**, professor of Environmental Science at the University of Canberra, Australia. My principal area of research is on geomorphic form and process and the links between these. Within this research I have a strong focus on interdisciplinary research and I enjoy working in a team environment. I have worked in a number of different areas within my career, including small and large rivers in the US and Australia, semiarid hill slopes in the US and Australia and more recently in lakes and wetlands. I have a strong modeling background and I utilize a variety of hydraulic and hydrologic models within my research as well as several geographic technologies including GIS, GPS and remote sensing.

Gabriel Schmidbauer, MA 2004 and BA 1999 is employed at NOAA.

## BIRTHS



Christopher Lim born December 28, 2007 at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital. **Hyunwoo Lim, MA 2003** and Esther Jang are the happy parents.

## **LOST ALUMNI**

If you have any contact information for the following "lost alumni" please email Donna at <a href="mailto:dbanach@buffalo.edu">dbanach@buffalo.edu</a>. We don't want them to miss out on all YOUR news! Thank you.

ALAVI, SEDIGHEH, MA 1981
ALDAY, KATHERINE, M., BA 1973
AMATO, JON, P., MA 1965
BARNES, ALFRED, R., BA 1968
BASU, PUSHPA, MA 1993
BAUER, CHARLENE, R., BA 1970
BERMAN, DAVID, H., PHD 1995
BIFARO, RONALD, M., BA 1968
BLACKMAN, GILLIAN, H., MA 1983
BROTHERS, DONALD, A., MA 1972

BROWN, NEAL, A., BA 1971
CADZOW, JOHN, F., BA 1962
CAETANO, LAURA, J., BA 1997
CARESTIO, RALPH, M., MA 1968
CAREY, DAVID, PHILIP, MA 1992
CASCIOTTI, DAVID, A., BA 1968
CHACONVELIZ, MIGUEL, ANGEL, PHD 2004
CHAIT, ALAN, L., BA 1968
CHAMBERS, ROBERT, E., BA 1960
CHEN, SHOU WEN, MA 1993





CHEN, SHOU-CHUNG, MA 1993 CHEN, TIEN-CHIEH, MA 2003 CHENG, DUEN-REN, MA 1989 CHENG, SHUOLING, MA 1981 CHIDEYA, NGONI, BA 1970 CHO. PIL-HO. MA 1989 CHOO, SUNGJAE, PHD 1993 CLAIRE, ROBERT, W., MA 1974 COLLINS, ANN, M., BA 1970 CORNELIUS, FREDERICK, D., BA 1950 COTTRELL, RICHARD, R., BA 1969 COVINO, MARILYNN, BA 1977 DANSEREAU, DAVID, C., MA 1974 DAVIS, MORGAN, E., BA 1975 DETORRES, BARBARA, A., BA 1978 DEVER, ALAN, G, MA 1969 DIEHL, RAY, P., BA 1959 DINICOLA, ANDREW, J., BA 1984 DONOHUE, PAUL, T., BA 1981 DORN, ADAM, JOHNSTON MA 2000 DRAGONE, GEORGE, A., BA 1957 DUGUAY, CLAUDE, R., MA 1985 DUZAK, CATHERINE, K., BA 1968 EGAWA, ATSUKO, MA 1984 ENGLER, MICHAEL, EDWARD, BA 2003 ESSINGER, RUPERT, D., MA 1986 FLEISCHMAN, MICHAEL, H., BA 1965 FREEDMAN, MELISSA, LYNN, BA 1989 GARCIA, LISA, MARIE, BA 2002 GEITZENAUER, KURT, R., BA 1962 GENOVESE, RAFFAELE MA 1972 GIBSON, MARTHA, K., BA 1969 GOLDBERG, ILENE, S., BA 1979 GOULD, MICHAEL, D., PHD 1994 GRABAU, SUSAN, E., BA 1968 GREEN, SUSAN, L., BA 1981 GREGORIO, DANIEL, M., BA 1968 GRZYBEK, PAUL, S., BA 1963 GUSTER, GILMORE, E., BA 1960 HAGGLOVE, HOWARD, J., BA 1956 HAKE, DEBORAH, ANN, BA 1989 HALIM, MARLENE, MA 1995 HALL, JERRY, A., MA 1965 HALL, WARREN, F., BA 1955 HEITZ, JAMES, R., BA 1969 HERNANDEZ, JOSE, LEANDRO MA 1991 HOANG, CUONG, VU, PHD 2000 HODUR, DARRELL, L., BA 1976 HOROWITZ, DAVID, BA 1966 HUANG, CHAO-MIN, MA 1992 HUBBARD, RONALD, JAMES, MA 1993 JOE HAO, SU-ER, PHD 1994 JOHNSON, WILLIAM, A., BA 1954 KELLAGHER, RICHARD, C., BA 1951 KHANUNGKITKONG, KITTI, MA 2003 KINNICK, LANCE, E., BA 1968

KLANG, FREDERICK, R., BA 1978

KLUGMAN, JEFFREY, M., BA 1991 KNIFFIN, JOHN, H., BA 1971 KOENIG, E., FREDERICK, MA 1971 KOTARSKI, CONSTANCE, ANNE, BA 1998 KRUMINS, KARL, BA 1968 KULAK, BRADLEY, JOHN, BA 2001 LAARAKKER, MARJAN, A., BA 1984 LAMB, RICHARD, F., MA 1970 LAMBRIX, MARY, E., BA 1967 LANDO, DOMINIC, WILLIAM, BA 2003 LAUZON, JEAN, P., MA 1984 LAVIN, STEPHEN, J., BA 1968 LEE, NANCY, E., BA 1970 LEE, VIVIAN, YUNYUN, BA 2001 LEE, WOOI HONG, BA 1991 LI, MEI, CHUN, BA 1997 LIBOMIMAMPUYA, MALISO, BA 2001 LUCK, ALAN, D., BA 1966 MA, PEEDER, MA 1987 MAGDER, SAUL, B., BA 1971 MAKANJUOLA, SAUBAT, O., BA 1977 MANDEL. ELLEN. D., BA 1976 MANNERBERG, AXEL, R., BA 1960 MARICICH, JOHN, M., MA 1969 MARKOWITZ, DAVID, J., BA 1970 MCCORMICK, GARY, E., BA 1992 MCDONALD, JOSEPH, L., BA 1960 MCGRATH, RICHARD, E., BA 1969 MCMANUS, DEIRDRE, A., MA 2005 MCNAMARA, KATHLEEN, MICHELLE, BA 1994 MERRITT, JEFFREY, DOUGLAS, BA 1991 MEYERS, LESLIE, N., BA 1967 MIALE, TEODORICO, ANTONIO, BA 1995 MOHN, WALLACE, D., BA 1961 MROWKA, JACK, P., BA 1966 MUSSARI, JOSEPH, BA 1965 MWIDADI, PERCIVAL, B., BA 1966 NEWTON, JAMES, W., BA 1964 NOONAN, GARETH, HOWARD, MA 1991 NTUMBA, TULUMBA, J., BA 1984 OESAU, PHILIP, J., BA 1983 OH, GUNWHA, MA 2004 O'LEARY, BRIAN, EDWARD, BA 1992 ONWUMEROBI, ANTHONY, C., MA 1976 PAAR, CHRISTOPHER, M., BA 1984 PERRY, RICHARD, H., BA 1951 PROVENZO, NICHOLAS, P., BA 1970 REIDY, MARY BETH, MA 1991 REINIG, WILLIAM, C., BA 1969 RHEE, MINJE, MA 1987 ROSS, ANDREW, BA 1984 ROSS, PRISCILLA, J., BA 1971 RYAN, HOLLY, MARIE, MA 1994 SAMPUCNARO, JENNIFER, BA 1995 SANDHU, ANURAJ, SINGH, BA 1988 SANDHU, JATINDER, S., MA 1988 SANTA MARIA, JOSEPH, J., BA 1968

WEIRICH, HERBERT, A., BA 1951 WEIS, KAREN, J., BA 1980 WEISANSAL, ROBERT, J., BA 1994 WEITZ, RICHARD, A., BA 1967 WHITE, WILLIAM, O., MA 1985 WHITING, TRUMAN, C., BA 1965 WINKLER, PAUL, H., BA 1967 WINSTON, GARY, ORLANDO, BA 2003 WOKOMA, WOKOMA, D., PHD 1987 WOLFE, EDWARD, J., BA 1969 WOLFO, EDWARD, J., BA 1970

WOO, SIMON, MA 2002

WALKER, THERON, OMAR, BA 2001

WOODHOUSE, BEAUMONT, C., MA 1969 YEE, LILY, L., BA 1998 YOUNG, ANNA, BA 1988 YOVANOVITCH, JOHN, BA 1970 YUSUF, MATHARUDDI, MA 1988 ZAHNISER, JACK, L., BA 1959 ZANDELL, CHARLES, H., BA 1959 ZIPPIN, JEFFREY, P., BA 1973

SANTIAGO, OLGA, LYDIA, BA 1992 SCHMIDT, JAMES, C., BA 1961 SCHOFIELD, PETER, MA 1983 SICURELLA, MARY JO, BA 1992 SILBERGELD, DAVID, L., BA 1961 SINHA, GAURAV, MA 2005 SMITH, IMOGENE, K., BA 1967 SOCKOVIE, MARTIN, J., BA 1969 SODA, MICHAEL, A., BA 1965

SPALLA, KATHRYN, CHRISTINE, BA 2002 SPENCER, BEVERLY, A., BA 1981

STANSON, CAROLE, E., BA 1965

STARR, JAMES, F., BA 1970

STEPHENSON, DAVID, E., BA 1963 SULISTYO, MAITRIJANI, MA 1997 SULLIVAN, HELLE, MOELLER, BA 1990 SWEENEY, BRENDA, ANN, BA 1994 TABALUJAN, NORMAN, JOSEPH, MA 2003

TAYLOR, EDWARD, W., BA 1963 THURNHERR, ELIZABETH, A., BA 1977

TROPPMAN, ROY, W., BA 1966 VEGA, NESTOR, ALBERTO, MA 1988

# **OUR THANKS**

We sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness. Below are alumni who have generously contributed to the Department of Geography from August 18th through December 4th, 2007.

Anonymous

Mr. William W. Beck Jr, 1972 Mrs. Cheryl A. Benjamin, 1986 Mr. Robert R. Bielecki, 1993 Dr. John D. Burke, 1975 Mr. Steven P. Castelli, 1977

Mr. Calvin and Amy Chin, BA 1989

Mr. Clark Desmet, 1981 Mr. Mark T. Conti, 2005 Mr. William R. Daly, 1993 Dr. Francis M. Domoy, 1968 Ms. Tracy H. Eichler, 1986 Mr. David G. Ferguson, 1993 Mr. Bryan R. Fricke, 1992 Friend of Geography

Mr. Richard W. Gleason, 1975 Mr. Chad C. Goodwin, 1993 Mr. Steven I. Gordon, 1970 Mr. Hoe Hun Ha, 2007 Ms. Jessica B. Hall, 2001

Colonel Mark A. Jelonek, 1982

Ms. Mary T. Jenks, 1973 Mr. Michael K. Juhn, 1998 Mr. Christopher P. Kaiser, 1991 Mrs. Karen A. Kennedy, 1991 Dr. Linda J. Kuechler, 1997 Mr. Ronald D. Lemon, 1952

Dr. Ge Lin, 1996

Ms. Florine M. Luhr, 1999 Mr. Alan C. More, 1971 Mr. James L. Mulvihill, 1972 Mr. James H. Porter, 1985 Mr. Robert W. Romeo, 1983

Mr. and Ms. Jan S. Schneier, 1987

Mr. Henry H. Tobin, 1988 **UB** Geography Graduate Dr. Irina Vasiliev, 1988 Mr. Robert M. Wilson, 1998 Dr. Zongxiang Yang, 2001 Mr. Juntin J. You, 1996





# **MORE PHOTOS**



1980 DOG Soccer Team Members in the photo from left to right: Alan Rothenberg, Carolyn Holland, Athol Abrahams, Pam Nuss, Mike Peterson (holding soccer ball), Chi Ho Sham (peace!), Powell Crosley, Kurt Brassel, Richard Jarvis, Paul Kelly, Peter Rogerson (Chair of UB Department of Geography), and Andre Roy (plaid jacket).

From 1978 to 1982, the Department of Geography Soccer Team established a record for winning not a single game despite the fact that many of our players were from soccer dominating countries (e.g., Australia, U.K., Canada, Switzerland, and Hong Kong). Nevertheless, the team played its heart out in typical Buffalo weather (i.e., rain and snow, and low temperature) and had a great time boosting other teams' standings. I still remember that during one of our games in the rain, the other team actually congratulated us when we scored from a corner kick as the ball was unintentionally kicked from the corner directly into the goal and was accidentally touched by the goalie. At a personal level, I believe we all had a great experience both on the field and off the field – interacting with fellow students, faculty members, and administrative staff. Of course, it did not hurt to get a bunch of bookworms out into the fresh air for some exercise and worked up a thirst for libration.

Photo and article by Chi Ho Sham, MA 80, PhD 84.





Here is proof of Mike's retirement! He is cleaning up his files that were stashed OUTSIDE his office.



Sitting at Mike's desk, here is a view of his world. I hope he has more than 30 days to vacate! He may have to bury some of this stuff in his garden!



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Spring Colloquium <a href="http://www.geog.buffalo.edu/colloquium/">http://www.geog.buffalo.edu/colloquium/</a>

April 3rd – 4th Crossing Borders Conference at UB

http://www.canadianstudies.buffalo.edu/crossing\_borders/

**April 10th** Career Fair – in the Department of Geography

http://www.geog.buffalo.edu/careerFair.shtml

April 15th-19th AAG in Boston, MA

http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2008/index.htm

May 10th Department of Geography Graduation

3 p.m. at Center for Tomorrow, UB Alumni are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP to Betsy Abraham <u>babraham@buffalo.edu</u>



www.geog.buffalo.edu

University at Buffalo The State University of New York The Department of Geography 105 Wilkeson Quad Buffalo, NY 14261-0055 Non Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Buffalo, NY Permit No. 311