

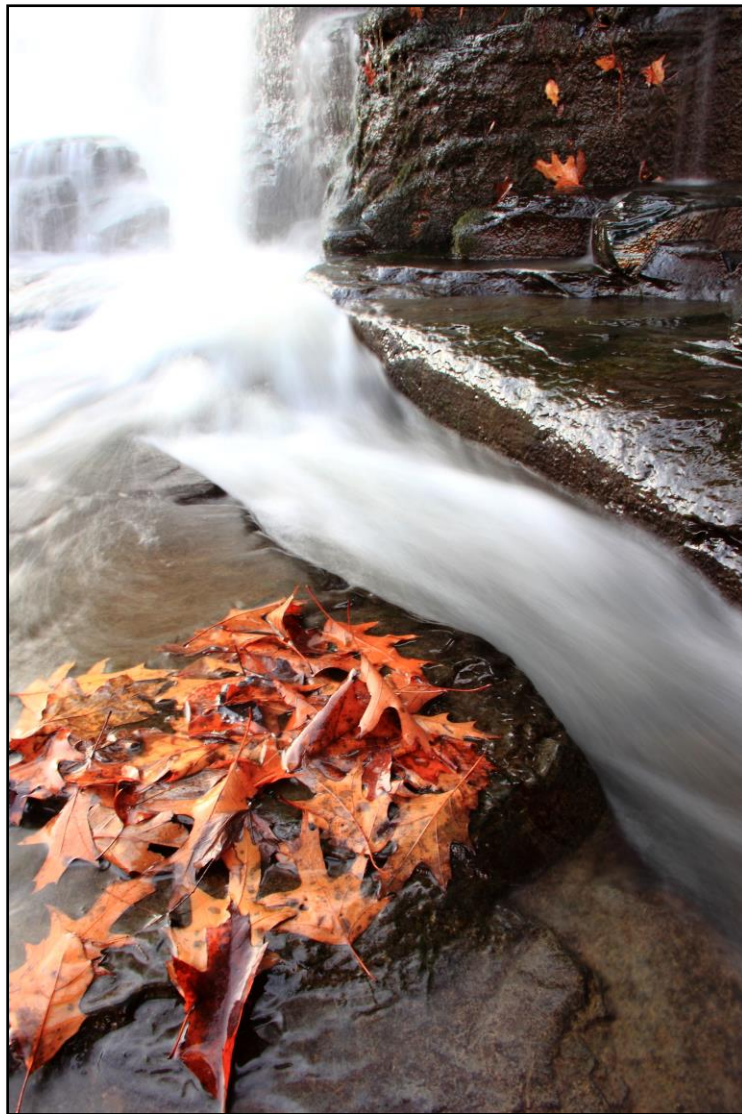


University at Buffalo *The State University of New York*

Department of Geography

THE COMPASS

2014



Source: Geography Awareness Week Photo Contest, Winner (Physical Geography category) (Steve Tulowiecki).

Location: Near Eighteenmile Creek in Hamburg, New York (November 2013).

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Fall 2014 semester is well underway and it looks like it will be another wonderful year. Our student pool this year is 116 Graduate students and 75 Undergraduate Majors in Geography & the new BA in International Trade.

Recently UB has added a new semester called the Winter Semester. This runs for a three week period in January and we are happy to say we will offer online classes during this semester. It's a great way for students to sneak in that last requirement needed to graduate.

We welcome three new faculty this Fall – Abigail Cooke, Monica Stephens and Nicholas Lustig. You can read a little about each of them further down in this newsletter.

Thanks for your patience while awaiting the arrival of the 2014 Newsletter! Please keep us informed so that we can have another nice newsletter in 2015.

Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 🕒 Student Awards & News
- 🕒 Faculty News
- 🕒 New Faculty
- 🕒 International Activities
- 🕒 Alumni News
- 🕒 Miscellaneous Activities –
 - Geography Awareness Week
 - Football Pool
 - Halloween Party
 - Holiday Party
 - AAG
 - Graduation Reception
 - Alan MacPherson Golf Outing



Note: Some entries have been modified due to privacy regulations.

Student Awards & News



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

The 2014 recipient is **Amy Hinchcliffe**. Amy will be doing an internship with the Worker Justice Center of Western New York focused on gender discrimination and sexual violence faced by women migrant farm workers in our region. Amy will use her internship

experience to develop a research paper on the issue, working under the guidance of Dr. Marion Werner. Amy will be recognized for her accomplishments at the 2014 departmental graduation ceremony.



Dr. Ling Bian honors **Peng Gao** as the 2014 Recipient of the **Hugh W. Calkins Applied GIS Award**.



The 2014 **Abrahams-Woldenberg Field Scholarship** goes to **Jonathan Pleban**. The title of Jonathan Pleban's paper: "Using genotype specific physiology to model stress response in *Brassica Rapa*."



The 2014 recipient of the **McConnell-MacPherson Award** in International Trade is **Jessica Blank** (seen with Dr. Jim McConnell).



The 2014 **Charles H. V. Ebert Physical Geography Scholarship** recipient is **Sylvia Choi**.



Tonya Lewis is selected for the **Public Humanities Fellowship**. The Graduate Student Public Humanities Fellowship program was developed collaboratively by the Council and humanities centers at Columbia University, Cornell University, the City University of New York, New York University, Syracuse University, and the State University of New York at Buffalo. The year-long fellowship is awarded to graduate students in the humanities. It includes training in the methods and approaches of public scholarship. Fellows will also have the opportunity to develop public programs collaboratively with local community-based organizations.



IGERT Fellow and PhD candidate **Sam Copeland** was honored with the **Excellence in Teaching Award for Graduate Teaching Assistants** by UB's Graduate School.



SEAS Graduate Assistant **Renad Aref** was nominated by CBE secretary Lori DuVall for the **UB "Student Employee of the Year" award**. This award is sponsored by UB Career Services to recognize the contributions of student workers. The award ceremony was held on Friday, April 25th at the Crossroads Culinary Center in UB's North Campus.



Dr. Jacquez's students in GEO 591

Introduction to Geographic Information Science conducted experiments with personal drones to better understand their potential contribution to GIScience. The class flew a combination Arduino-adafruit open hardware platform equipped with GPS and temperature and humidity sensors on the Parrot ARdrone. Here is visualized micro-scale variability in air temperature over the drone flight path. The height (z-axis) indicates deviation from average

temperature in degrees Celsius, a range of plus or minus 4 degrees Celsius on this flight. This highlights how little we understand small-scale variability in micro-climate variables such as temperature. We hope to equip the device with air quality sensors to better understand micro-scale variability in ambient air quality. We think we understand air quality, but we have yet to measure how it varies across small spaces and time steps.

Mike Habberfield has been involved with K-12 STEM fields outreach with Buffalo Public Schools as part of UB's NSF ISEP (Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Partnership) program. A seminal event for the program was the First Annual ISEP Science Summit on March 15, 2014 at the Buffalo Museum of Science

Lara Iverson is back from Zambia, where she conducted her dissertation research in collaboration with ZAMBART Project and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The research is funded by the: National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant.



L to R: T. Sielski, D. Patti Djalal, A. Meraxa & A. Ticoalu.

Teuku Arckyansyah Meraxa attended Arcky McKinsey & Company's Insight "Asia-Pacific" Program, held in Chicago, IL in June 2013. The program is designed by the global consulting firm to provide doctoral candidates and post-docs training and hands-on experience in management consulting practices in the Asia-Pacific region. In October 2013, Arcky received the **Republic of Indonesia's Ambassador's Award of Excellence** for his academic, leadership and community services contributions from the Indonesian Ambassador to the United States Dr. Dino P. Djalal.



Steve Tulowiecki completed his eleven-year quest to climb all 46 Adirondack Mountains over 4000 feet in elevation (according to original survey measurements). He was officially inducted as an Adirondack Forty-Sixer in 2013. Steve is pictured here on his 46th peak (Mount Haystack, elevation 4961 feet) in 2012, enjoying a celebratory bottle of Welch's sparkling white grape juice.

Misa Yasumiishi was selected as a 2014 Jeanne X. Kasperson Award winner by the AAG Hazards, Risks, and Disasters Specialty Group (HRDSG). Winners had their work highlighted in the J.X. Kasperson Student Paper Award Session in April at the AAG meeting in Tampa.



Students **Hao Fan**, **Will Schulmeister** & **Chenxi Ye** representing UB as student assistants at the Esri user conference in San Diego in summer 2014.



LESAM at 2014 Smart America Challenge in Washington, D.C.

Matt Adam, BA 2014 (on left) and his undergraduate research advisor **Chris Renschler** (not in the photograph) were invited by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to present the "Smartphone Disaster Mode" at the Smart America Challenge. The Smart America Challenge brings together organizations with

Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) technology, programs, and test beds to demonstrate the potential to improve safety, sustainability, efficiency, mobility, and overall quality of life. (Geoffrey Challen, Professor of Computer Science & Engineering, Geoffrey Challen is at the exhibit desk with Matt).

For more information, go to <http://smartamerica.org/teams/smartphone-disaster-mode/>

Faculty News

Dr. Sean Bennett was awarded The Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. This award honors those who consistently demonstrate superb teaching at the undergraduate, graduate or professional level.

Sean teaches courses in fluvial geomorphology and stream restoration, and conducts research on sediment transport mechanics, gully erosion, reservoir sedimentation and watershed processes. He has edited or co-edited three books and published in numerous scholarly journals. His work is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and NSF.

He is active in UB's Ecosystem Restoration through Interdisciplinary Exchange (ERIE) Program, which organizes a variety of activities devoted to restoration. Sean serves as a principal investigator of the Integrative Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program for PhD candidates and as an instructor in the summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program, both funded by the NSF, and as an instructor in the summer Environmental Restoration Workshop for community members. Sean, who joined the UB faculty in 2003, also is a member of the advisory council for UB's Sustainability Academy.



Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen is the recipient of the 2013-2014 Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award, administered by the Graduate School to recognize UB faculty for their support and development of graduate students through their mentoring activities.

The Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award is given annually to a member of the graduate faculty who has demonstrated “truly outstanding and sustained support and development of graduate students from course completion through research and subsequent career placement,” according to John T. Ho, vice provost for graduate education and dean of the graduate school.

Sharmistha has been department chair since 2010. A UB faculty member since 1993, she also served as the Department of Geography's Director of Graduate Studies from 2000-2004 and co-Director of UB's Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender — informally known as the Gender Institute — from 2009-2010.

Geoff Jacquez attended the GeoLife Research Roundtable Meeting in Gavle, Sweden in March, 2014. Convened as the kick-off of a 10-year program headed by the cluster company Future Position X, this roundtable identified priorities for GeoLife research in the Gavle region and all of Sweden. The small group of invited researchers were drawn from CRC-SI Australia,



Karolinska Institute, Bristol, Texas A&M, and UB. In all, 31 research proposals were formulated and refined by the group. Geoff is continuing his second year as Co-Science director for the health program of CRC-SI Australia, and is a member of the research investment committee for this organization. In Fall 2014, Geoff will be teaching at the Singapore campus of UB.

The GeoLife program aims to integrate health, information, public infrastructure and knowledge with fundamental GIS technology to become a driver of economic growth and sustainable innovation and has significant Swedish funding for the coming ten years. Several CRCSI proposals are under consideration within the program with decisions to be made in coming months.



Dr. Jacquez's GEO 100 class in Singapore (SIM), 2014

New Faculty 2014



Monica Stephens is delighted to join the Department of Geography at UB after two years as an assistant professor at Humboldt State University in northern California. She obtained her doctoral degree from the University of Arizona in 2012 and worked as a visiting scholar at the University of Kentucky. Her research integrates methodologies in Geographic Information Science (GIS) with Social Network Analysis (SNA) and Big Data. She harnesses and critiques these methodologies with data from social media, online base maps, and user-generated content to trace inequalities across gender, race and economic status. As a native Vermonter she is excited to return to the northeast and join the vibrant research at the University at Buffalo. She blogs with friends about maps, data and social media at www.floatingsheep.org.



Nicholas Lustig joined the Department as an assistant professor this fall. He completed his PhD in 2014 at the University of California, Los Angeles. His principal advisors were Michael Curry and John Agnew. His dissertation examined the spread of surveillance systems in urban areas over the last two decades, with particular attention on the construction of a city-wide surveillance network by the New York Police Department. His planned future projects include a comparative study of Real Time Crime Centers in several U.S. cities and an analysis of the impacts of the logistical revolution on the built environment of contemporary cities. Nicholas is teaching an undergraduate course on world regions and a graduate seminar on critical urban design. While Nicholas has spent all of his life in California, he is very happy to be living in a resurgent Buffalo, although he knows that...winter is coming.



Abigail Cooke is thrilled to join the department as an assistant professor. She received her PhD from UCLA in Geography in 2014. Her dissertation looked at the US labor market effects of increasing trade with low-wage countries, examining the impacts of import competition on wages mediated by task-trade vulnerability, wage inequality, and plant closures. She is currently working on a new project, collaborating with Tom Kemeny (Univ. of Southampton and UB), on the productivity effects of immigrant diversity in US cities. Abigail is teaching trade related classes for the department and enjoying getting to know the UB's undergraduate and graduate students.



Professors Emeriti **David M Mark** (L) & **Michael J. Woldenberg** (r) received career achievement awards at the 2013 Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Los Angeles, CA. David Mark was given the Robert T. Aangeenbrug Distinguished Career Award by the AAG Geographic Information Systems and Science Specialty Group. Mike Woldenberg received the Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award from the AAG's Geomorphology Specialty Group.

International Activities

International Trade Program in Singapore

The BA in International Trade program was recently introduced in Singapore at the University at Buffalo-Singapore Institute of Management (UB-SIM) campus. Asia now accounts for one-third of world trade, and is the world's largest destination for foreign direct investment among developing countries. China is the second largest trading partner of the United States. In recognition of the growing markets in this region, the United States has established free trade agreements with South Korea and Singapore. Our program is well poised to take advantage of students' rising interest on trade affairs in the region. The University at Buffalo is home to one of the highest shares of international students among American universities, the International Trade Degree at UB-SIM program is a natural complement to the university's internationalization mission. One of the advantages of the program is that it facilitates the international exchange of students: UB students are able to take classes in Singapore as part of their curricula, and UB-SIM students are offered the choice to complete their senior year at UB. Our classes are popular in Singapore having doubled in sizes since the degree was introduced in 2013. Students from all over Asia have signed up for the program including Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, South Korea, China and Singapore.

Alumni News



Randy Bertolas, PhD 1995, was recently elected to a third consecutive term as chair of the Department of History, Politics, and Geography at Wayne State College in the rolling hills of northeast Nebraska. He is also serving the second and final year as the President of Gamma Theta Upsilon. As state coordinator for

the Geographic Educators of Nebraska (affiliated with the National Geographic Society) he often lobbies on behalf of the Teaching Geography is Fundamental act (in the current Congress). Photo: With other GEON members, Randy (second from right) talks with Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (right) from Nebraska's 1st Congressional district.

Nicole Campbell, BA 2011 recently got engaged and her fiancé is in the Army. They have moved to Massachusetts for her job at International Paper.

Mike Coatsworth, BA 1989, is employed by Konecranes, the largest overhead crane manufacturer and service company in the world. As service manager for the branch he was very proud when his branch was selected "Branch of the Year" for 2013.

Joel Deichman, PhD 1999, has been very happy at Bentley University in Greater Boston. He was tenured in 2005 and his research is on FDI and international tourism. He has taken about fifteen groups of undergraduates on overseas academic short term programs to places including the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Ghana.

After graduation **Matthew Gibb**, BA 2011 started working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a GIS Specialist. He worked in response to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in Upstate New York, Hurricane Isaac in the Caribbean and Gulf Coast in 2012, and finally with Hurricane Sandy in late 2012. Currently, Matt is a first year M.S. candidate in Clark University's Geographic Information Sciences for Development and Environment (GISDE) program, in Worcester, Massachusetts. While working towards his Master's degree, he is working at Tighe & Bond, Inc, an environmental engineering consulting firm based in Westfield, Massachusetts.



Dann Karlson, BA 1997 is currently the Chief of Staff of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's next-generation weather satellite program, the GOES-R Series. He has been with NOAA since 1999 serving in a number of different positions, including as an officer in the nation's smallest uniformed service - the U.S. NOAA Corps. Prior to that he was a geographer with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Michael Khoury, BA 2013 accepted a sales position after graduation at Curbell Medical located in Orchard Park, NY. Curbell makes plastics and medical devices and he will be charge of the Midwest region.

ChangHo Lee, PhD 2013, has taken a position as an Integrated Analytics Architect at Conill Advertising, a division of Saatchi & Saatchi, The Publicis Omnicom Group in El Segundo, California.



After graduation, **Brian Mikelbank**, BA 1994 earned his MA (1996) and PhD (2000) in Geography from The Ohio State University. Since then, he has been on the faculty of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. He is currently Associate Professor and Director of the Master of Science in Urban Studies program. His research focuses on the spatial dynamics of housing markets, neighborhoods, and urban-suburban interactions.



Alan More, MA 1971 (standing) and his wife Diane met up with Mike Jankowski, UB's Associate Director of Alumni Relations, at the UB tailgate event for the Bills-Ravens game on September 29, 2013 at Jimmy's Tavern in Herndon, VA. Note his UB Geography T-shirt!

Alan is currently an Adjunct Professor at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, where he teaches in both the Interdisciplinary Studies and Intelligence Analysis degree programs. He was recently awarded the George Mason University Teaching Excellence Award for Adjunct Faculty, the first time that adjuncts have been recognized.

Prior to joining George Mason in 2005, Alan spent 32 years in the US Intelligence Community and on assignment to a number of national security agencies, including the Council on Environmental Quality, White House, Pentagon, State Department, and Treasury Department. All of these assignments involved a variety of issues that directly tapped into his geographic analytical background. He is very grateful to UB and the Department of Geography for the outstanding education and the generous financial support he received.

Jim Mulvihill, BA 1968, MA 1972 (US Army in-between). Jim says that Professor Ebert was key to his BA; while Professors Conklin and McConnell were key to his MA and he is forever grateful to all of them for giving him the opportunity for a wonderful and rewarding career in geography/planning. He is Professor Emeritus of Geography (2007) in California State University, San Bernardino. Last November Jim was elected as one of seven city councilmen in San Bernardino. He says the city is bankrupt so there are many issues to keep him busy for the foreseeable future. As his grapefruit and lemon trees are currently in bloom, he says he can't help but think of those cold winter days and nights crunching through snow on campus.



Richard Quodomine, BA 1996, MA 2003 has written a chapter in a book from the European Network on Communication and Transportation Research, presenting the work in the Azores (Portugal). He won an award to present a paper on transit research at IGU in Krakow, Poland. Rich serves as a mentor to Geography and Civil Engineering students at UB and others via AAG. He is currently serving as

Transportation and GIS Analyst in Albany, NY for the NYS Dept. of Transportation. Special thanks to Rich for being our alumni guest speaker at the department's graduation ceremony this year.

Victoria L. Rivissigno, MA 1972 went on to earn her PhD at Ohio State. She recently celebrated 35 years at the University of South Alabama. Her current position is Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, however, she will retire at the end of August 2014. Congratulations Vicky on a wonderful career- you make us proud!

Scott Steigerwald, MA 1997, is now working for IHS in Denver, CO as a software engineer.

William White, MA 1982 is Head of International Sales at Worldline in Brussels, Belgium. He has been living and working in Europe since 1985.



Markus Wieshofer, MA 1992 came to UB from Austria on a Fulbright Scholarship. After graduation he worked for a while at ESRI in California. After that, he went on an 18 month motorcycle trip through South America. Upon returning to Austria he did several years of GIS work for ESRI Austria and a big mobile phone company. Then, Markus participated in a variety of exciting adventures- crossed the Atlantic on a sailing boat, competed in the Paris Dakar motorcycle race, climbed a lot of high mountains and started working back in his hometown of Fieberbrunn, a little village in the Alps. He started a web programming and hosting company, and Austria's only vinyl record manufacturing studio, which now employs 11 people. Since Markus likes working for living and not living for work, he took another year off, and rode motorcycles all the way to China. He says that looking back, those two years at UB were a blast and besides all the people he was lucky enough to meet, Buffalo had one of the best bars on the planet- The Pink Flamingo! On top of all this, he still finds time to be in a band.

Check out Markus at: <http://www.drduh.com/> and <http://www.thepussies.eu/>

Department Activities

2013 Geography Awareness Week



Photo Contest

This photo is the winner of the Human Geography category. Winner of the Physical Geography category is our cover photo.

Photographer **Yang Li**, states: "The photo of Longji Rice Terrace was shot in Longsheng Village, Guilin City, Guangxi Province, China. It is a 66-square-km region of rice terraces that stretches layer upon layer, coiling around from the base of Longji Mountain to its summit. Construction of the terraces began in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), and continued until the early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The Longji Rice Terraces are the culmination of both the profound wisdom and strenuous labor of the Zhuang people."

All contest photos can be seen on our facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.608197325883680.1073741831.109676892402395&type=3>

Geography Football Pool



The Geography Football pool has been maintained for two decades with players scattered around the country and sometimes even in Europe and Asia. It is a great way to maintain contact with friends from Geography. Each week participants try and pick the winners in the NFL games. The highest scoring pool participant gets possession of the trophy for one year and then ships it to the new champ. The trophy was hand-crafted in 2002 by Alum **Jeff Brunskill**, PhD 2005. The donuts represent an old tradition of having the winner bring donuts into the office each week. Look for the email each August inviting you to sign up or contact Betsy Crooks at babraham@buffalo.edu

For the past five or six years our “Pool Commissioner” was PhD student **Jeff Gower**. In December 2013, Jeff passed away unexpectedly. The entire department was saddened by this news. The donut trophy has been renamed the “Jeff Gower Memorial Football Trophy” in his honor. Jeff will be greatly missed.





The 2013-14 Football pool winner is Alum **Clark Desmet (L)**. He's shown here at the 2014 Superbowl proudly wearing his Buffalo Bills HORNS and a Marshawn Lynch jersey. Clark is currently serving as the 2014/15 pool "Commissioner".



AAG President **Dr. Julie Winkler** visited us in October 2013. She gave a talk entitled "Climate Change Impact Assessments for International Market Systems."

Dr. Bagchi-Sen (L) with Dr. Julie Winkler

2013 Halloween Party



Full album of Halloween Party photos on facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.597676930269053.1073741830.109676892402395&type=3>

The Department Holiday Party

The annual department holiday party was held on December 9, 2013. It was a chance to celebrate age-old and not-so-old traditions. The event featured the traditional visit from Santa Claus. Again this year, Pete Rogerson brought in his keyboard and we were entertained by our students.



Full album of holiday photos on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.618264594876953.1073741832.109676892402395&type=3>

AAG



(L to R) **Jeff Osleeb**, PhD 1973, **Pete Rogerson**, PhD 1981 & current faculty and **Mike Gould**, MA 1988, PhD 1994. Jeff has the honor of being the first student awarded a PhD from our department!



Full album of AAG photos on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.733819466654798.1073741837.109676892402395&type=3>

2014 Reception for Graduating Students

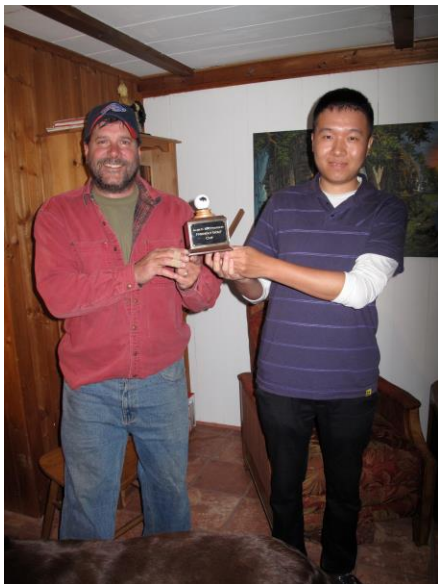




All graduation photos on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.683389958364416.1073741834.109676892402395&type=3>

The Annual MacPherson Golf Outing

The 5th annual golf outing in honor of former department chair Alan MacPherson was held on May 17, 2014. This year we had 25 participants (a continued growth compared to 20 participants in 2013 and 5 participants for the inaugural in 2010). This event is open to golfers of all abilities. Special thanks to Alum **Robert Bielecki**, who could not make it to town that day, for paying for drinks at the clubhouse. Contact Chris Renschler (renchsch@buffalo.edu) for more information.



2013 Winners

1st place Zhitong Su (R)
2nd placer Rob Wesolowski



2014 Winners

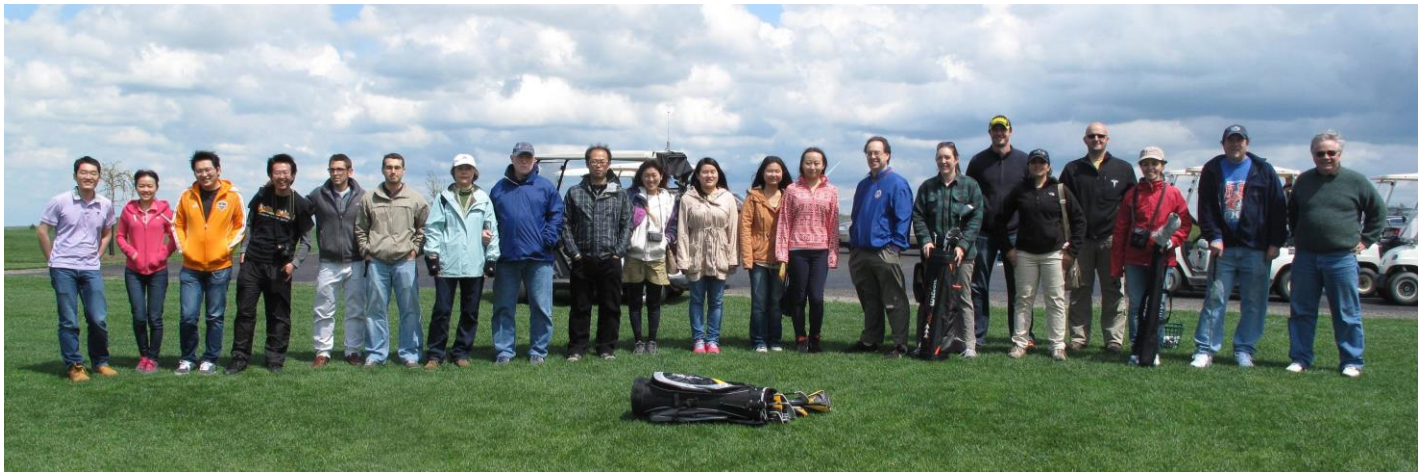
1st place Ned Tunmore (R)
2nd place Rob Wesolowski (L)

Big thanks go to **Valerie Randall** (Alan's wife) for once again hosting the after-party pot luck gathering.

The 6th Annual Alan MacPherson Friendly Golf Get-together will likely take place again on the day of the department graduation celebration- May 16th 2015.

Full album of golf outing photos on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.684137104956368.1073741835.109676892402395&type=3>



Special Thanks.....

We wish to express genuine thanks to everyone who has donated to the Geography Department. You have made a difference!

If you are interested in making a contribution, please visit our secure support pages:

[Geography Department Resource Fund](#)

[Hugh W. Calkins, Ph.D. Prof. of Geography Applied GIS Award](#)

[Abrahams-Woldenberg Field Scholarship](#)

[McConnell/MacPherson Award in International Trade](#)

[Charles H.V. Ebert Lecture Series and Scholar-in-Residence Program](#)

[Charles H.V. Ebert Scholarship Endowment Fund for Physical Geography](#)

[Gregory and Susan Aldrich Undergraduate Award](#)



Special thanks to Betsy Crooks, Manita Choudhary and Kejin Cui for making this newsletter possible!

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed by individuals in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions or the official business of the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Note -Some entries have been modified due to privacy regulations.

*The State University of New York at Buffalo
Department of Geography
105 Wilkeson Quad
Buffalo, NY 14261
www.geog.buffalo.edu*