Leal Mertes: In Memorium

Professor Leal Anne Mertes died on October 1, 2005, at the age of 48. In a note to the Department, Keith Clarke stated:

“It is with great sorrow that I announce the death of Dr. Leal Anne Mertes, Professor of Geography in the Department since 1991. As most of us know, Leal endured a decade-long fight against breast cancer. Leal held a BS from Stanford, and a MA and PhD from the University of Washington, receiving her PhD in 1990. At UCSB she led a career active in research and publishing, and she was known as a caring advisor and mentor. Her interests spanned the dynamics of river channel, floodplain and wetlands interactions; the remote sensing of wetland environments; and the long term evolution of large river systems. She had also devoted a great deal of effort to educational issues, including curriculum design and assessment. Leal’s funeral will be private. A memorial to her life is being planned for next month, to which her University friends are invited. She is survived by her husband, Jim Wells, and a son, Zachary. As Chair, I have expressed the entire Department’s sympathy to Jim. Leal’s bright spirit and engaging enthusiasm will be much missed, along with her quest for excellence in scholarship and research. With Leal’s death, UCSB Geography has lost a good friend and a fine scholar.”

“She just wanted to keep working on rivers: getting muddy on floodplains; creating beautiful, insightful satellite images, and thinking great thoughts...”

Leal was an interdisciplinary scientist with BS degrees in both Geology and Biology from Stanford University and MS and PhD degrees in Geology from the University of Washington. To quote her web site, “Her research investigates the geomorphic and hydrologic processes responsible for the development of wetlands and floodplains in large river systems and across watersheds and to develop remote sensing techniques for analysis of wetlands and water properties. The work involves continuum mechanics, sediment transport theory, computational hydrodynamics, GIS, and digital image processing, in addition to more traditional techniques of geomorphology and sedimentology. The nature of this work has led to the development of digital databases in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for detailed spatial analysis of interaction of...
Bob Dylan sang “The times they are a’ chang-ing,” and again I’m reminded how true that is. Over the last few months we’ve said some sad farewells (Jim Proctor left to take a position at Lewis and Clark College in Oregon, Sara Fabrikant left for an appointment at the University of Zurich), and we’ve been saddened at the death of Leal Mertes (see page 1). Yet we’ve also welcomed new faculty member Hallie Eakin, and we are witnessing the large scale rebuilding of the campus. Fourteen building projects are under way at UCSB right now, giving our beautiful ocean campus a decidedly unfinished look. Looming in the years ahead is the move to Phelps Hall. Renovation work for the move rolls through the schedules, getting closer each year. Logistics planning this year will be followed by architects’ plans next. Yet our work goes on, proposals get written and funded, lectures are delivered, dissertations get written, and undergraduates earn their degrees.

This Fall, in addition to more routine business, the Department is beginning the process of evaluation. This is a two year undertaking, starting with student surveys this Fall and ending with the report of a visiting evaluation panel over a year from now. We, of course, already know the outcome of the evaluation! Yet this is an opportunity for us to shine, to create some useful planning documents, to determine where to devote our efforts in the future, and to listen to our students, staff and faculty. The evaluation will overlap with the national Research Council’s delayed 2005 program evaluations (and all important rankings). For the department, this a bit like taking the GRE’s and trying to get into graduate school. By next spring I’ll need to have that all important essay written. From where I sit, I have no doubt whatsoever about the result.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the value of some of our new curriculum this year can hardly be in doubt. Dr. Hallie Eakin will offer a new class, “The Geography of Hazards.” We anticipate major student interest in this; and also in the new course “World Regional Geography.” With the rise of the UCSB Global and International Studies program (they now have over 700 majors), we look forward to exposing these and other students to some mainstream geography. Katrina also reminds me how engaged we as a department are with important events, from links to global change to service on the National Academy’s panel on “Planning for Disaster.” There can be little excuse for failures like those that led to the flooding of New Orleans, and surely we can do better with a more active role for geography.

This week is the annual Geography Awareness week, and once again we have a host of outreach events planned, from classroom visits to a Geography day at the Arbor. Plans are afoot for geocaching, give-aways, demonstrations, and more. I can’t stress too much how important it is to get Geography’s message out there. As I glance through the Alumni section of this newsletter, the level of engagement of our graduates in the community is obvious. It’s a fine tradition, and one that I hope is still prevalent when we open the Department time capsule in 2074. Maybe all the construction on campus will be complete by then!

Best wishes,
Keith Clarke

As well as being an outstanding teacher and scholar, Leal is remembered for her passion about the environment and her compassion for mankind. And her zest for life and living was just as obvious on a personal and private level. Leal was a great knitter who “made amazing stuff” according to fellow staff knitters, she loved to cook, she was fiercely protective towards her students and staff, she was outspoken about her political beliefs, and she was both defiant and courageous in her 10-year battle against cancer. To quote her husband Jim, “Please know that Leal cherished her work and collaborations and friendships at UCSB. One of the reasons she so much wanted to keep living was because she had not satisfied her curiosity about the way the world works, and she just wanted to keep working on rivers: getting muddy on floodplains; creating beautiful, insightful satellite images, and thinking great thoughts. She was so pleased to be in a place so supportive of her scientific explorations and to be surrounded by such wonderful colleagues.”

A celebration of Leal Mertes’ life will be held on Saturday December 10 at 11am at the University Club of Santa Barbara (1332 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, CA). All friends, family and colleagues are invited. An informal reception will follow.
**MEET OUR GEOGRAPHY FACULTY**

**David Carr**  
Assistant Professor  
*Education:* PhD, Department of Geography, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, May 2002.  
*Research Interests:* Population (migration, fertility), health, environmental change, deforestation, rural development, Latin America.

**Oliver Chadwick**  
Professor  
*Education:* PhD, University of Arizona, 1985.  
*Research Interests:* Pedology, geomorphology, quaternary geology, soil-water-vegetation interaction and landscape relationships, and isotopic fractionations during soil evolution.

**Richard Church**  
Professor  
*Education:* PhD, The Johns Hopkins University, Environmental Systems Engineering; BS, Lewis & Clark College, Majors in Mathematics and Chemistry.  
*Research Interests:* Spatial optimization, natural resources management, operations research methods, GIS.

**Keith Clarke**  
Professor  
*Education:* PhD, The University of Michigan, Geography; MA, The University of Michigan, Geography; BA, Middlesex Polytechnic, London, Geography & Economics.  
*Research Interests:* Cartography, Geocomputation, and GIS.

**Helen Couclelis**  
Professor  
*Education:* PhD, Cambridge University, Urban Modeling; Diploma, Technical University of Munich, Urban and Regional Planning; MA, Technical University of Athens, Architect Engineer.  
*Research Interests:* Urban and regional modeling and planning, spatial cognition, geographic information science, geography of the information society.

**Tommy Dickey**  
Professor  
*Education:* PhD, Princeton University, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics.  
*Research Interests:* Atmosphere-ocean interactions and upper ocean mixing, turbulence and internal waves, bio-optics, biogeochemistry, and biological-physical interactions.

**Hallie Eakin**  
Assistant Professor  
*Education:* PhD, University of Arizona.  
*Research Interests:* Unraveling the implications of globalization for present and future vulnerability of local populations via food production and security.

**Catherine Gautier**  
Professor  
*Education:* Doctorat d’Estat, University of Paris, Physics and Meteorology; Doctorat 3eme cycle University of Paris, Physics and Meteorology.  

**Reg Golledge**  
Professor  
*Education:* PhD, University of Iowa, Geography; MA, University of New England, Australia, Geography; BA, University of New England, Australia, Geography.  
*Research Interests:* Cognitive behavioral geography, transportation modeling, and geography and disability.

**Michael Goodchild**  
Professor  
*Education:* PhD, McMaster University, Geography; BA, Cambridge University, Physics.  
*Research Interests:* Urban and economic geography, geographic information systems, and spatial analysis.
Konstadinos Goulias
Professor
Education: PhD, Civil Engineering (major in transportation, minors in stochastic processes and statistics), Department of Civil Engineering, University of California Davis, 1991.
Research interests: Transportation planning and modeling, travel behavior dynamics and microsimulation.

Phaedon Kyriakidis
Associate Professor
Education: PhD, Stanford University, 1999.
Research Interests: Geostatistics and spatial analysis, stochastic environmental modeling, scale issues in spatial data integration.

Hugo Loaiciga
Professor
Education: PhD, University of California, Davis, Water Resources and Hydrology; MS, UC Davis, Water Resources and Hydrology; BS, University of Costa Rica, Civil Engineering.
Research Interests: Planning, design and analysis of water resources systems, and theory and computational aspects of surface and ground water hydrology.

Joel Michaeelsen
Professor
Education: PhD, University of California, Berkeley, Geography; MA, University of California, Berkeley, Geography; BA, University of California, Santa Barbara, Geography.
Research Interests: Climatology, meteorology, and statistics.

Dan Montello
Professor
Education: PhD, Arizona State University, Psychology; MA, Arizona State University, Psychology; BA, The Johns Hopkins University, Psychology.
Research Interests: Spatial perception, cognition, and behavior; cognitive issues in cartography and GIS; spatial aspects of social behavior; environmental psychology and behavioral geography.

Dar Roberts
Professor
Education: PhD, University of Washington, Geological Sciences; MS, Stanford University, Applied Earth Sciences; BA, UCSB, Environmental Biology & Geology.
Research Interests: Remote sensing of vegetation, geology, ecology, and ecophysiology.

THANK YOU, DONORS!
The following people and institutions donated funds to the Geography Department from March 2005 through October 2005:

Geography Department Support
Mr. & Mrs. George Eberharter
Dr. William C. Halperin
Mr. Peter M. Hayward
James J. Lichter, Ph.D.
Mr. Keith C. Metzger
Mr. Mark J. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sarto
Mr. John C. Shute

Nicholas Bourdakis Memorial Fund (Undergrad)
Microsoft Matching Gift Program

Jack & Laura Dangermond Fund
Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)
Dr. Dawn J. Wright

David S. Simonett Memorial Fund
Mr. Earl J. Hajic

30th Anniversary Scholarship Fund
IBM Matching Grants Program
Mr. Marco E. Morais
Ms. Enid Pritikin
Dr. David M. Stoms
Dr. Dawn J. Wright
Annemarie Schneider
Assistant Professor
Education: PhD, Geography and Environmental Science, Boston Univ.
Research Interests: Human dimensions of land cover change; urban geography; satellite remote sensing and geographic information science; quantitative methods in geography and spatial analysis; global environmental monitoring and change; regional economic development, political and cultural aspects of development.

David Siegel
Professor
Education: PhD, University of So. California, Geological Sciences with specialty in Ocean Physics.
Research Interests: Interdisciplinary oceanography investigating physical, biological, optical and biogeochemical couplings on micro to ocean basin scales. Specifically, satellite ocean color remote sensing and optical oceanography, scale interaction in ecological and population systems, role of radiative exchange in air-sea interactions, and data information systems.

Raymond Smith
Professor Emeritus
Education: PhD, Stanford University, Physics; SB, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Physics.
Research Interests: Remote sensing of oceans, primary production and bio-optical modeling in aquatic environments with emphasis on Antarctic ecosystems, marine and sea ice ecology of Southern Ocean, UV effects on phytoplankton, optical/biological/physical oceanography; marine resources, remote sensing of oceans, and earth system sciences.

Terry Smith
Professor
Education: PhD, The Johns Hopkins University, Geography and Environmental Engineering; BA, Cambridge University, Geography.
Research Interests: Individual and aggregate decision making, and the application of methods of artificial intelligence models to such problems.

Christopher Still
Assistant Professor
Education: PhD, Stanford University, Biological Sciences; BS, Colorado State University, Biochemistry.
Research Interests: Global ecology, isotope biogeochemistry, plant ecophysiology, and biosphere-atmospheric interactions.

Stuart Sweeney
Associate Professor
Education: PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, City and Regional Planning; BA, University of California, San Diego, Urban Studies and Planning.
Research Interests: Urban and regional modeling and planning, human migration, local economic development/policy, and spatial point process models of economic activity.

Waldo Tobler
Professor Emeritus
Education: PhD, University of Washington, Seattle, Geography; BA, University of Washington, Seattle.
Research Interests: Cartography and computational geography.

Libe Washburn
Professor
Education: PhD, University of California, San Diego, Engineering Sciences (Fluid Mechanics); MS, University of California, San Diego, Engineering Sciences; BS, University of Arizona, Mechanical Engineering.
Research Interests: Coastal circulation, mesoscale processes, air-sea interaction, and interdisciplinary oceanography.

Department Stats:
- Faculty: 22
- Active Emeriti Faculty: 2
- Affiliated Faculty: 7
- Administrative & IT Staff: 12
- Research Staff: 26
- Graduate Students: 91
- Undergraduate Majors: 150
- Students taught per year (on average): 3,600
KUDOS: UCSB Geography In the News

David Carr. Assistant Professor of Geography, has been awarded a National Science Foundation Geography and Regional Science grant. Carr’s NSF grant, “The Underlying Causes of Tropical Deforestation: Rural Migration and Environmental Degradation in Guatemala” (9/1-05-8/31/08; $116, 370), will provide assistance and tuition for a graduate research assistant to collaborate in data collection and analysis. The award complements Carr’s NIH career development award on population and land use in Guatemala ($486,518; 6/1-05-5/31/10).

Research Associate Mark Grosch was recently awarded a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition by Congresswoman Lois Capps “in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community.” Mark is a volunteer for the Santa Barbara chapter of Habitat for Humanity of which he became President in October 2004.

Our Chairman, Professor Keith Clarke, is a recipient of a 2005 John Wesley Powell Award, which is given to organizations and individuals that have made significant contributions to the advancement of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) mission. P. Patrick Leahy, the Acting Director of the USGS, praised Keith for his leadership role in the field of Geography and for having made “significant influential contributions to the USGS mission through your work with the National Research Council,” and he went on to say, “Your outstanding contributions to shaping the future of geographic research in the USGS were immense.” The award is the USGS’s highest award for achievement.


Jason Davis is starting his second year as a PhD candidate in the Geography Department after having been offered two impressive fellowships. The first is a Jacob Javits Fellowship, which is administered by the Department of Education. The fellowship consists of an institutional payment in lieu of all tuition and fees for the fellow and a stipend based on the fellow’s financial need as determined by the measurements of the Federal Student Assistance Processing System. Jason was also offered, but had to decline, the NASA Earth System Science (ESS) Graduate Student Fellowship that is awarded to MA and PhD candidates who seek to understand earth system dynamics, anthropogenic natural resource change, and space exploration.

After nearly 10 years as the Department of Geography Vice-Chair, Dan Montello has relinquished the position to Oliver Chadwick. Oliver’s position became formal as of July 1. Apart from filling in when the Chair is absent, the Vice-Chair is responsible for Teaching Assistant assignments.

A partnership agreement between UCSB and a private Santa Barbara company, Terra Image USA, was signed on June 20th and, according to UCSB scientists, it will have a major impact on research that utilizes satellite imagery. Keith Clarke and David Siegel were among the university leaders in this collaboration. “We’re very excited that more than 40 UCSB faculty members, and many more of their students, doing research that utilizes satellite imagery, will have virtually unlimited access to high spatial resolution commercial satellite imagery, a research asset that has previously been available to universities in very limited quantities,” said David Siegel, professor of geography and director of UCSB’s Institute for Computational Earth System Science (ICESS), the lead university institute involved in the partnership.

Dr. Hallie Eakin has accepted a position as Assistant Professor, specializing in Hazards and Society in the Department of Geography. Dr. Eakin received her doctoral degree in Geography and Regional Development in 2002 from the University of Arizona with a dissertation entitled “Rural households’ vulnerability and adaptation to climatic variability and institutional change: Three cases from Central Mexico.” As a postdoctoral researcher in the Center of Atmospheric Sciences of the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexico City, she has continued to work on issues related to economic globalization, agricultural change, and rural vulnerability to climate in the context of several comparative international projects involving case studies in Mexico, Argentina, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Dr. Dan Montello has been appointed an Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies in the College of Letters & Science. Dan is an affiliated faculty member of the Department of Psychology, he is the Chair of the interdisciplinary Cognitive Science Emphasis Program, and he served as the Vice Chair of the Department of Geography for 10 years.

Dr. Phaedon Kyriakidis was promoted to Associate Professor. Phaedon’s research interests include geostatistics and spatial analysis, stochastic environmental modeling, and scale issues in spatial data integration. He is also faculty staff at the Earth Sciences Division, Berkeley National Laboratory, and he is currently working on two NSF grants— “A systems approach to the visualization of spatial uncertainty” and “A geostatistical framework for downscaling spatial data.”

Grad students Lisa Murawski and Jory Hecht are donating their talent, time, and even money out of their own pockets for a good cause. They are members of the UCSB chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), a campus student organization founded in October 2003. The mission of the parent organization, EWB-USA, is “to partner with disadvantaged communities to improve their quality of life through implementation of environmentally and economically sustainable engineering projects, while developing internationally responsible engineering students.” Lisa and Jory worked to implement a...
A week before the annual “Welcome Back” BBQ, the Events Committee sent out the following: “Are you ‘stoked’ yet about ‘catching a wave’ and ‘hanging loose’ with your Geography buds at the BBQ? Dressin’ in Beachy, Surfin’ attire would be ‘primo’ (you get the drift?) So, ‘Be true to your School’ & get with the ‘Good Vibrations’...‘Surf’s Up!’” I don’t know if the good vibrations that ensued were caused by the Indian Summer weather or the liquid refreshment, but the turnout was great, spirits were high, and, speaking of spirits, there was even an Elvis sighting (yep, Park Williams is still at it—see the article about his “Daring is Caring” endeavors to raise money for disaster relief on page 9).

Thanks to the Events Committee who put this bash together. Mo Lovegreen did

Prof. Clarke and grad student Laurel Suter audition with Elvis

most of the shopping and chopping and helped Kathy Murray do all the cooking; Jennifer Bowen, Michelle Keuper, Connie Padilla, Nancy Ponce, Bernadette Weinberg, and Beilei Zhang dealt with the organization and actual setup; grad students Tony Marca, Ben Turner, and Jeff Hemphill get credit for the surfboard and surf wax table decorations, as well as the surfin’ music; Jeff Onsted did an “awesome” job with the liquid refreshments; and Richard Weinberg, Keith Clarke, and Maral Tashjian captured the capers on film. Last, but not least, thanks to all those students, staff, and faculty who made the delicious side dishes and deserts!
water purification project in a small Andean village in Peru this summer. EWB-UCSB made its first visit to Araypallpa, Peru in July 2004 in order to assess the water and sanitation system and install solar-powered lighting for a local school that serves both children and adults. This summer, the team installed a water purification system that includes a slow-sand filter and chlorination treatment with the hope of reducing the town’s high rates of intestinal illnesses.

Geography Personnel Analyst Connie Padilla has been awarded a 2004-2005 UCSB Staff Assembly Citation of Excellence Award “to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding achievements and meritorious service of career staff.” Only ten awards are made each year, and this is the first time in 14 years that a staff member of the Department of Geography has been selected.

Several Geography graduate students and junior faculty recently won top competitive travel awards of $1600 each, funded by the NSF and awarded through the United States National Committee of the International Cartographic Association. The awards were based on abstracts of papers to be presented at the 22nd Annual Meeting of the International Cartographic Association (ICA 2005) in A Coruña, Spain 11-16 July. Recipients and abstract titles include Sarah Battersby, Grad Student, “Map projection and global-scale spatial cognition: Issues in psychophysical estimation”; Sara Fabrikant, Junior Faculty, “Thematic relevance and perceptual salience of dynamic geovisualization displays”; Kirk Goldsberry, Grad Student, “Limitations and potentials of real-time traffic visualization”; and Matt Rice, Grad Student, “Authentication, characterization, and control methods for cartographic data.”

Dr. Stuart Sweeney was promoted to Associate Professor. Stuart is perhaps best known for teaching what was possibly the world’s first ever “Geography of Surfing” class in Spring 2004, a class that was filled (indeed, overfilled) in record time, resulted in a series of local TV and newspaper stories, and, as Keith Clarke pointed out in his Letter from the Chair this March, was “at the forefront in our outreach for more undergraduate majors.” As Stuart points out, “my motivation for offering the course is to teach some of the ideas central to geography in a context that will connect strongly with the cultural milieu of the students. After all, most of the young people I teach at UCSB grew up in, or near, beach cities of California. I’m hoping that the course connects on a deep level with the students, allowing them to see the world around them through the lens of geography.”

Graduate student Sarah Battersby was awarded the UCSB Academic Senate Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for 2004-2005. The Academic Senate Graduate Council and the Committee on Distinguished Teaching Awards are charged with recognizing and enhancing teaching on this campus. Only four Teaching Assistants in diverse disciplines are recognized for their excellence in teaching each year. Sarah is currently working on her dissertation in spatial cognition.

Professor Reginald G. Golledge is amongst the 2005 class of Fellows elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts & Sciences. The election, the result of a highly competitive selection process, recognizes Golledge’s outstanding contributions in his profession. As its Charter of 1780 expresses it, the Academy’s purpose is “to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent, and virtuous people.” Professor Golledge is one of 196 new Fellows and 17 new Foreign Honorary Members elected this year.

UCSB Geography graduate students Matthew Rice and Charles Deitzel were among four graduate students in fields of study related to geospatial intelligence who were awarded the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation’s 2004 University Scholarships and were honored at the GEOINT 2004 Symposium in New Orleans, Louisiana in October. The $5000 scholarship awards are given to current doctoral students who “demonstrated academic and professional excellence in the geospatial intelligence tradecraft.”

Graduate student Julie Dillemuth has been selected to receive a 2005 Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. This 3-year award of stipend and tuition/fees allowance is “made to outstanding graduate students who demonstrate the potential to become knowledge experts and who can contribute significantly to research, teaching, and innovations in science and engineering.” The topic of Julie’s research is cartographic generalization for mobile map display, with a focus on how people use and interact with maps on handheld mobile devices such as PDAs and cell phones.

Grad students Eun-Hye (“Enki”) Yoo and Richard Middleton won first and second place, respectively, for their entries in the AAG Spatial Analysis and Modeling (SAM) Student Paper Competition at the April 5-9 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. Richard was awarded a cash prize for his paper, “The p-Median Planning Problem,” while Enki’s first place paper, “Area-to-Point Kriging Prediction under Boundary Conditions” resulted in a cash prize as well as an invitation to submit her manuscript for publication in Geographical Analysis, subject to the standard review process of the journal. Over 4,000 students participated in UCSB’s official 2005 commencement ceremonies.

Geography undergraduates received their diplomas and undergraduate awards during a morning ceremony on June 11 on the Faculty Club Green. The Geography Department has established two awards which honor students graduating with superior grade point averages. The first, Outstanding Achievement as a Geography Major, is awarded to students graduating with an overall grade point average of 3.5 or higher. The second, Distinction in the Major, is awarded to students who are graduating with an overall GPA of at least 3.5 and a major GPA of 3.6 or higher and have undertaken a major independent study project and/or graduate-level studies. We would like to honor the following students in those categories:
Lisa Frances Basanese (Outstanding Achievement), Kristen Lynn Hislop (Outstanding Achievement), Kathryn Lee Jackson (Outstanding Achievement and Distinction in the Major), Steven Joshua Morrison (Outstanding Achievement), Sean P. O’Connor (Outstanding Achievement and Distinction in the Major), Warren Brendon Richards (Outstanding Achievement), Jonathon Brennan Schuhrke, (Outstanding Achievement), Jason Edward Smart, (Outstanding Achievement and Distinction in the Major), and Matthew John Wilson, (Outstanding Achievement). We would also like to honor the following undergraduates who won special awards in the following categories: Michael Glenn Murphy, who won the Nicholas Bourdakis Memorial Award; Sean P. O’Connor, who won the Jack and Laura Dangermond Undergraduate Fellowship; and Jason Edward Smart, who won the Chair’s Award for Excellence in Geography. The Chair’s Award is given to the graduating senior who has majored in Geography and has attained the highest overall grade point average.

Surfing the web? Check out our home page: http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/

DARING IS CARING—GRADUATE STUDENT RAISES FUNDS FOR THE RED CROSS

“Thanks for noticing,” Park said when I commented on his outfit. Well, it’s hard not to notice a strapping weightlifter when he’s wearing a pink tutu, pink hair curlers, and pink slippers—and sporting a new moustache. No, he wasn’t campaigning for gay rights or doing field research on an arcane aspect of behavioral geography. As Park Williams, a grad student working on his PhD in Climatology, puts it, “In an attempt to spice up my life and do my part to save the world at the same time, until November 1, 2005 I will be accepting and acting upon dares and double-dog-dares for monetary donations that will go directly to the Hurricane Katrina Red Cross relief effort.”

Inspired by a close friend, Park embarked on his “Daring Is Caring” endeavors on September 7 by singing Regulator (Nate Dog and Warren G) during the Goleta Old Town Tavern’s Wednesday Night Karaoke. Taking that dare only netted him $10, but, 39 dares later, his total was $4,506.14—not surprising, insofar as the dares have included everything from wearing Speedos and tutus to becoming a “human doggie biscuit” and impersonating Elvis. Check out Park’s web site at http://www.daringiscaring.org/ for a humorous write up and pictures of all of his dares to date. Park’s charitable capers have been reported in newspapers, he was interviewed on a local radio station, and his web site was Netscape.com’s October 11 “Cool Website of the Day” and had received 331,043 hits as of November 14. He’s now looking for corporate sponsors to match his earnings, so please contact him if you have any ideas or are part of a company who would be willing to help this worthy cause.
October 24, 2005 – Top UK Scientist Cites UCSB Geography Research Regarding Global Warming

In an open letter to G8 Environment Ministers, Lord May, the president of The Royal Society, cited UCSB Geography research in his warning that climate change might undermine international efforts to alleviate poverty in Africa:

“To energy and environment ministers who will attend the G8 dialogue meeting on climate change on 1 November: As you gather to take forward the action plan on climate change from the Gleneagles summit, I urge you to consider some of the latest scientific evidence on the impacts of climate change that has recently emerged and to agree further action to stop the rise in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

Today, a scientific paper has been published in the journal Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences which concludes that climate change, largely caused by a rise in greenhouse gas emissions from human activities, may already be responsible for an increase in drought conditions, and hence for a rise in the risk of famine, in eastern Africa where millions are already at risk of hunger. The paper by James Verdin of the United States Geological Survey and co-workers presents evidence, collected by the University of California at Santa Barbara, that there has been a drop in rainfall since 1996 in Ethiopia and neighbouring countries, which coincides with a steady increase in surface water temperatures in the southern Indian Ocean. The researchers point out that this reduction in rainfall is adversely affecting the growth of crops and increasing the number of people who require food aid. The researchers conclude: ‘Already facing a food security emergency, with 8-10 million people at risk, troubling multi-year drying has been observed in recent years, associated with a positive trend in Indian Ocean sea surface temperatures that is affecting countries around the basin.’” (See http://www.royalsociety.ac.uk/news.asp?id=3833 for the full text and relevant links.)

The paper Lord May alludes to is “Climate science and famine early warning” by James Verdin, Chris Funk, Gabriel Senay, and Richard Choularton. It presents results from ongoing work being carried out by Chris Funk (left), Greg Husak, and others in the UCSB Climate Hazard Group that is headed by Professor Joel Michaelsen (below right). For more on their work, see http://archive.geog.ucsb.edu/events/news_articles/TheClimateHazardGroup.pdf.

Lord May concludes his open letter by saying: “The mounting scientific evidence shows that the consequences of global climate change are the biggest single threat facing the world today. The international community needs leadership in the fight against climate change and I urge the G8 nations to meet this challenge.”

Our Geography Department is providing some of that leadership. To be cited by a world authority as primary evidence for both the reality and causes of global warming at such a critical time is a major kudo for researchers in our Department. It’s also a tribute to both the talent and the dedication which UCSB geographers apply to their work and to the vision of the Geography Department to “include specialists in all of the major processes that influence the Earth system at human timescales… who are committed to integrating their knowledge with others to solve problems.”

The Geography Department’s Ultimate Frisbee team, “The Defenestration of Pupo,” was the 2005 UCSB intramural champion. The Defenestration beat “Smurfalicious” 9-6 for the title. The game was tense, as this was the only team that the geographers had lost to in the regular season on their way to becoming the number one ranked Intramural Coed Ultimate Frisbee Team at UCSB.

As for the team name, defenestration is the act of throwing someone or something out of a window—but whom or what Pupo is/was has yet to be explained to the editor—or to the team! The team has won the championship 3 years in a row now, and Kirk Goldsberry, the captain, quipped, “I can’t say that it was easy to guide this group of misfits to another title, but we did it nonetheless. Long live the Defenestration of Pupo!”
Lots of Smiles at the Fall Barbecue!

Grad Students Rebecca Powell and Sarah Battersby

Dr. David Carr and Dr. Dan Montello

Grad students Greg Husak, Jennifer Bernstein, and Jason Davis with friend Jes Morse

The King (Park Williams) with staffers (left to right) Beilei Zhang, Kathy Murray, Nancy Ponce, Michelle Keuper, Connie Padilla, and Mo Lovegreen (kneeling)

Grad student Tony Marca and friend Fei Hsu

Margot Clarke with grad student Meri Marsh and daughter Lucy
Alumni News and Change-of-Address Form

We would love to hear news of your life and appreciate your taking the time to update us with addresses and phone numbers. If you prefer, submit the information on-line at:
www.geog.ucsb.edu/people/alumnus_update_form.htm

NAME: First _______________ Middle initial _____ Last name __________________________

Last name when graduated, if different from above ________________________________

DEGREE(S): Please circle the degree(s) you earned in Geography at UCSB and write the year received.

BA Year _______ BS Year _______ MA Year _______ PhD Year _______

CONTACT NUMBERS: Do we have your current contact information? If we need to update our records or if you're not sure whether we have your latest numbers, please fill in the information.

Street address or P.O. Box ________________________________________________

City ___________________________________________________________________

State or Province _________________________________________________________

Zip code (or postal code) ________________________________________________

Country, if not United States ______________________________________________

Phone number __________________________________________________________

Email address ___________________________________________________________

NEWS: Please share brief news of a personal or professional nature – marriage, births, jobs, further education, career changes, publications, awards, etc. If possible, limit submissions to 100 words or less.

Mail to:

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Santa Barbara, CA 93106-4060

Thank you very much!
Alumni: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Araujo (was Vomastic), Dawn R. (BA, 1989)

Berkowitz, Steve C. (BA, 1990)
Steve wrote to say that he’s a real estate broker in San Diego.

Burbidge, Shaunna K. (MA, 2004)
I have been working at Envision Utah in Salt Lake City as a project planner for about 6 months. After the first two I decided that I left my heart in Santa Barbara (easy to do) and I wanted to finish my PhD. I am currently on a research leave of absence and am researching active transportation infrastructure in Utah. I will be returning to SB for my written exams in May 2006 and can’t wait. I am staying busy and was just appointed as a reviewer for the Transportation Research Record Journal.

Douglas, Jessica (BA, 2004)
I am now pursuing my master’s degree at Cal State University, Northridge (CSUN), and work part-time as an Assistant Planner at Rincon Consultants in Ventura.

Durousseau, A. Marlowe (Antoine) (BA, 2003)
After completion of the “Official Street Centerline Map for the City of Santa Barbara” as a non-traditional student working as a student intern for five years under the direction of Dr. Clarke, while at the same time working full-time for UCSB night staff, he has been working for the County of Santa Barbara since 2003, applying his skills of both Mapping and GIS.

Guthrie, Jason (BA, 2001)
Jason wrote to say that he’s moved to 2664 Escala Drive, San Diego, CA 92018, and that he’s working on his MA in Special Education.

Gorin, Jarrett (BA, 1994)
In August of 2004, I left my position as Vice President of Acquisition and Entitlements for the Capital Pacific Homes Central California Division to start a new company: Centerpoint Development Partners LLC. I am serving as President of Centerpoint. The company has offices in Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, and we are working on land-development projects throughout Central and Southern California.

Haggerty, Susan H. (BA, 1993)
Married July 20, 2002. Elementary Teaching Credential 1999 from CSUN.

Hamby, Elaine (BA, 1983)
I did cartography, historic preservation, and land use planning in Sacramento, then served two years in the Peace Corps in Hungary. Now, I’m a curator at a local history museum in Mendocino County. I was saddened to hear of the deaths of Jack Estes and of Walter Capps. Two wonderful professors.

Hintze (was Maloney), Christine E. (BA, 1997)

Inlander, Ethan M (MA, 2002)
After 14 years in Santa Barbara, 7 years in the Department of Geography and almost 9 years with Conception Coast Project, I recently made a big move. My wife, daughter and I picked up and headed east to Fayetteville Arkansas. I accepted a job as a conservation GIS specialist with the Nature Conservancy. I primarily work on conservation of karst and river ecosystems.

Jones, David W. (MA, 2002)
I am working for Idea Integration as a GIS Consultant, currently working on a project with a large utility company in the front range.

Keightley, Keir E. (MA, 1999)
Though I keep in touch with a few old classmates, I am out of touch with many and would love to get back in touch. I am in my first year of the UC Davis Geography PhD program and would welcome any efforts to interact (academically or otherwise) as a geographer with UCSB Geography and its members (alumni and current).

Maynard, Paul F. (MA, 1981)
After more than 20 years of professional work with image processing and digital video, I’m finally working with stereo imagery and photogrammetry. I’m writing code to enhance the Air Force’s precision targeting software—the software that is used with coordinate seeking weaponry.

Padgett, Antoinette (BA, 1985)
In 1986 I was offered a position at UCSB as a cartographic assistant at the Marine Science Institute working for Dr. Ken Macdonald. I worked there for ten years and during that time participated on three research cruises to map the East Pacific Rise using sonar. These expeditions took me to Mexico, Ecuador, Galapagos and Easter Island, where I met my husband, Luis. I had always wanted to go to Easter Island and I felt fortunate to be able to fulfill this dream. In 1989 I was awarded a scholarship from the Getty Conservation Institute to study rock art conservation in Australia. I took a year’s leave of absence from UCSB and returned in 1990 with a graduate diploma from the University of Canberra. I continued to work at UCSB making maps and began doing...
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Gifts of support for the Department of Geography at UCSB are deeply appreciated. All gifts, large and small, help us in our mission of teaching and research, and promote the study and understanding of planet Earth and its inhabitants.

For the following accounts, please make checks payable to: UC Regents

- Geography Department Support: Unrestricted support.
- 30th Anniversary Scholarship: An endowment designed where interest only will be used to fund an annual scholarship.
- Landon Romano Textbook Scholarship: Landon Romano, 1999 alumnus, established a textbook fund to give back to the department that made a positive difference in his career.

For the following accounts, please make checks payable to: UCSB Foundation

- <Your Name Here> Scholarship Fund: See: http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/about/giving.php
- The Nicholas Bourdakis Memorial Fund: The Bourdakis Fund was established after the tragic death of Nicholas, who died in February 2001 when struck by a car in Isla Vista. He had just declared Geography his major.
- Jack and Laura Dangermond Fund: Jack Dangermond is the founder of ESRI (1969), a GIS and mapping software company. He is considered one of the most influential people in GIS worldwide.
- The Jack Estes Memorial Fund: Jack Estes was a Geography faculty member for over thirty years. He built a thriving remote sensing research unit and mentored many students.
- The Reginald G. and Allison L. Golledge Distinguished Lecture Fund: Twenty years ago, the Golledge Distinguished Lecture was instituted to bring highly respected speakers to campus to share their research.
- The David Simonett Memorial Fund: David Simonett was the first Chair of the Geography Department. He built what has become one of the nation’s finest Geography Departments.

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consulting work in conservation. One project I worked on for the Getty involved converting a CAD map of the Laetoli Trackway in east Africa into a hand-drawn pen and ink map, complete with hominid footprints. After the project was completed, I found out that my old buddy Chase Langford (BA 1985; now staff cartographer at UCLA) had been working on other maps for the same project the entire time! As all good things must eventually come to an end, I was laid off from UCSB in 1996 (my position was funded with soft money). I continued to work as a temp at MSI for another year and then moved north to the San Luis Obispo area to work for a non-profit. Although I have had the opportunity to work on some really great projects in some interesting locations over the years, now that I have a family (Torrey, 11 and Veriamo, 2) I prefer to work closer to home.

To that end I am pursuing a Library Tech degree at Cuesta College. I hope to graduate in 2006 and find a position in a school library and continue to consult on local rock art conservation projects on occasion. Recently I’ve worked in Los Padres National Forest and at Vandenberg Air Force Base. My husband, children and I enjoy hanging out, when we can, with GIS goddess Dawn Wright (PhD 1994), hydrologist and fellow train enthusiast Tim Robinson (MA 1993), SB County cartographer/celestial photographer Mark Bright (BA 1981) and recumbent tricyclist extraordinaire (and former Geography staff cartographer) David Lawson. I encourage all Geography alumni to donate to the 30th Anniversary Scholarship fund, so that this permanent endowment can be established.

**Painter, Thomas H. (PhD, 2002)**

**Reber, Jonathan L. (BS, 2004)**

**Ross, Toby (BA, 1970)**
My wife, Jo Duthie (UCSB Geography 1969), and I traveled to Cambodia this fall to visit our son and daughter-in-law. They moved to Cambodia last year and have established a bed and breakfast and travel company (Journeys Within) in Siem Reap near Ankor Wat. They are expecting their first child in July. Our younger son will open a branch office in Bangkok this summer after graduating from Chapman University in May. We’re planning Christmas in Southeast Asia.

**Schuyler, Peter T. (BA, 1976)**
Moved back to Santa Barbara in November 2004 after spending most of the last 25 years living and working on various islands (Santa Cruz Island, Hawaii, Catalina Island).

**Silva, Derek (BA, 2004)**
Upon my graduation in 2004 from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a B.A. in Geography, I was employed for a brief period of time with the Aerial Photograph Research Company, also known as Geo-Search, in Santa Barbara. The skills and knowledge I gained from this job helped me earn my current position as a GIS Analyst for the Michael Baker Engineering Corporation in Reno, Nevada. Since our office is contracted by SBC GIS West, I use the software programs, GIS and ARES (Automated Records and Engineering System), to map land base developments for both California and Nevada. On a more personal note, as a GIS Analyst, it has been an amazing opportunity for me to apply my educational experiences from UCSB as well as my strong desire and love of geography on an everyday basis.

**Wikle, Thomas A. (BA, 1983)**
Chaired the Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University from 1994-2000. Presently Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. Traveled to Amman, Jordan in the summer of 2004 to teach GPS theory and mapping applications to Iraqi faculty and ministry personnel with USAID funding.

**Wong, Kimberly (BA, 2004)**
This fall I began my program at UC Irvine to receive my Masters in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP). In addition, I work part-time as a current planner for the city of Anaheim.

**Wong, Martin L. (BA, 1985)**
I’ve been working in GIS development at Thomas Bros. Maps/Rand McNally for over 14 years. I was also recently married in May of 2004.

**GEOSPATIALMAN:** Not always sure where he is, but always ready to tell you where to go!

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Notes from the Chair
Meet Our Geography Faculty
Thank You, Donors!
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