Professor Mike Goodchild has been awarded the Prix Vautrin Lud, regarded by many as Geography’s equivalent of the Nobel Prize. The international award is named after a 16th Century French map maker who is credited as being the first to name the New World “America” on a map (exactly 500 years ago in 1507, in honor of the Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci). The award was presented at this year’s Festival Internationale de Géographie (FIG), held in the French town of Saint-Dié-des-Vosges where Vautrin Lud was born. The prestigious annual award is given to a scientist or scientists who has/have significantly advanced the field of geography, and Mike becomes the 19th scholar to have won it. Previous recipients include Peter Haggett (UK), 1991; Torsten Hägerstrand (Sweden) and Gilbert F. White (USA), 1992; Peter Gould (USA), 1993; Milton Santos (Brazil), 1994; David Harvey (UK), 1995; Brownish Roger and Paul Claval (both from France), 1996; Jean-Bernard Racine (Switzerland), 1997; Doreen Massey (UK), 1998; Ron Johnston (UK), 1999; Yves Lacoste (France), 2000; Peter Hall (UK), 2001; Bruno Messerli (Switzerland), 2002; Allen Scott (USA), 2003; Philippe Pinchemel (France), 2004; Brian J. L. Berry (USA), 2005; and Heinz Wanner (Switzerland), 2006.

Professor Goodchild received a BA in Physics from Cambridge University and a PhD in Geography from McMaster University. He joined the UCSB Department of Geography in 1988, and he has served as Chair of the Department (1998-2000); chair of the Executive Committee of the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis since 1997; Associate Director of the Alexandria Digital Library Project since 1994; Chair of the Mapping Science Committee, National Research Council, 1997–1999; and Director of NCGIA’s Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science since 1999. His research interests include urban and economic geography, geographic information systems, and spatial analysis. Considered the father of GIScience, Goodchild’s many honors include being elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences and Foreign Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2002, being awarded the Founder’s Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 2003, and being elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2006.

Mike was selected as the recipient of the Prix Vautrin Lud by an international committee last May, and he received the award at FIG on October 4th. It is referred to as the Nobel Prize of Geography with the tacit approval of the Nobel Committee (whose statutes do not permit the creation of a category not originally approved by Alfred Nobel). Needless to say, the entire department, as well as the university, is extremely proud of Mike’s achievements and honored that our “laureate” has decided to stay at UCSB, despite overtures from Harvard.
This year’s massive Zaca Fire in Santa Barbara County and the recent devastating fires in Los Angeles and San Diego were a poignant reminder that geography matters and that the study of the discipline of Geography helps us to comprehend and cope with living on planet Earth. While knowledge about the discipline of Geography certainly wasn’t the only thing that prevented the fires from becoming even more disastrous to human life and habitation, such knowledge was essential to fighting the fires and maintaining public awareness of evacuation routes and local dangers. “Geographic Information Science,” “Remote Sensing,” “Statistical Principles and Practice of Analyzing Geographical Data,” and “Hazards and Risks” are topics routinely taught in our department—and their application played a critical role in the fire fighting techniques employed, in modeling the advance of the fires, in advising the public, and in planning for emergency contingencies.

Current research in the Department of Geography also has impacted such contentious subjects as global warming, depletion of marine resources, the likelihood of famine, and even the proof and consequences of genocide and mass displacement of ethnic populations. Recent research by Dr. David Siegel indicates that the amount of atmospheric carbon that the ocean can sequester varies greatly depending on location, thus complicating scientists’ ability to predict the ocean’s role in offsetting the impacts of greenhouse gases. This year’s combination of climate research, analysis, and modeling by Dr. Joel Michaelsen’s Climate Hazard Group has enabled the transition of new science into better decisions, helping to save lives in southern Africa in the process. The Department of Transportation recently awarded Dr. Mike Goodchild and Dr. Rick Church a major grant to support their intention to achieve a 10% reduction in truck traffic from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach (which accounts for more than 30% of the nation’s containerized imports) which will reduce logistical and security vulnerability and incidentally help air quality and perhaps address some social issues. One final example is that of alumnus Sean O’Connor (BS, 2005) who recently completed an internship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s “Science and Human Rights Program” which applies geospatial technology to human rights issues. Amnesty International’s Crisis Prevention and Response Center joined forces with AAAS to use high-resolution satellite imagery to document atrocities in areas that are inaccessible to humanitarian and watchdog groups, and Sean was specifically involved in identifying human rights violations in Myanmar.

On the home front, the Department is proud to announce the unveiling of a new Graduate Fellowship scheme which will enable any donations made to existing Geography graduate scholarship funds to be matched by the Graduate Division. For every dollar you give to established, designated graduate gift funds in Geography, the University will now match it. This funding will be used to build a fellowship reserve that will help those graduate students with high academic standing and financial need. The Geography Department has always been blessed with excellent Teaching Assistants, Instructors, and Researchers. With a simple donation to this program, you can double your support and help us preserve and improve graduate student education in the Geography Department. For more information, contact our new Graduate Student Affairs Officer, Karen Barteld at (805) 893-8789 or barteld@geog.ucsb.edu.

The Department is acutely aware of its need to adapt to changing conditions in order to fulfill its vision of building an extraordinary community for creating new knowledge about planet earth and its inhabitants, of creating new methods and models to advance geographic information science, and of using integrated science to better understand spatio-temporal dynamics. With that in mind, I would like to welcome our new graduate students to our distinguished Department in the hope that they will ensure the continuity of our vision.

Sincerely,
Oliver Chadwick
What do 20 square miles of snow and ice, India Pale Ale, and Sir Gilbert Walker have in common?

Chris Funk is an associate researcher with the Geography Department’s Climate Hazard Group (CHG). The CHG’s eight scientists and four graduates focus on the remote sensing and prediction of hydrologic extremes that impact poor people in Africa, Asia, and Central America. The CHG has field scientists stationed in Botswana, Kenya, Niger, Guatemala, and Afghanistan. These scientists work in their regions to identify and help prevent encroaching famine conditions. New work by Prof. Michaelisan and Dr. Greg Husak uses high resolution satellite imagery to map cultivated area from space. Dr. Funk’s work specializes in developing geospatial models of environmental variables, climate modeling and forecasts, and climate change analysis of tropical moisture transports and precipitation. The CHG’s combination of climate research and application can sometimes quickly transition new science into better decisions, helping to save lives in the process.

Despite the fact that some 100 billion people have lived and died on planet earth, not many people have asked this question. Sir Gilbert Walker was the Royal Meteorologist in India from 1904 to 1934. He first identified the important climate pattern known as the ‘Southern Oscillation.’ This large scale pressure difference between Darwin and Tahiti is now known to be tightly coupled with changes in the Pacific Ocean circulation associated with El Niño and La Niña. Old Sir Gil dreamed of being able to use these climate variations to predict drought in India, thus saving lives. This has largely remained an unrealized dream. Over the past 30 years though, satellites, models, and improved ocean monitoring have dramatically expanded our ability to monitor and predict the large scale climate.

Geography and remote sensing have a great deal to offer Sir Gil, as a recent EOS article summarizing some of our work details. For example, it is possible to build large numbers of spatially-varying statistical models that relate observed sea surface temperatures (SSTs), winds, and precipitation to future rainfall. For eastern and southern Africa, these models link seasonal rainfall variations to changes in the tropical oceans, synoptic circulation patterns, and patterns of diabatic forcing. We used this approach in the fall of 2006 to forecast November-to-March standardized precipitation across eastern and southern Africa. The regional climate was pretty exciting, in a Kosovo sort of way, with positive Indian Ocean dipole conditions coinciding with a modest El Niño and warmer than normal Indian Ocean SSTs. Our modeling suggested that drought across southern Africa and flooding across eastern Africa were likely, and that these hydrologic anomalies could, respectively, be associated with failed crops and outbreaks of mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and Rift Valley Fever. Unfortunately, this came to pass.

Geography can also assist in climate forecasting by adding additional spatial information to coarse probabilistic estimates. For example, climate specialists in Africa routinely assemble at Climate Outlook Fora (COFs) to discuss, you guessed it, the climate. These scientists combine models and expertise, deriving polygons associated with the probabilities of rainfall being above or below normal. By associating these probabilities with maps of gamma distribution parameters, maps of precise rainfall anomalies may be generated and linked to likely food security outcomes.

Recently, scientists gathered in Nairobi this August and prepared a forecast for the September-December ‘short’ rainy season. Climate Hazard Group scientist Gideon Galu, stationed in Nairobi, translated this forecast into rainfall anomalies and worked with food security experts to prepare high level overviews summarizing likely outcomes. In this way, information travels from climate experts in Africa to decision makers in D.C. Dr. Galu also works to send the information, via radio, to farmers and pastoralists in remote, drought-prone regions of Kenya.

Careful readers are probably wondering where the beer went. And what that has to do with twenty square kilometers of snow and ice. Well, as you probably know, India Pale Ale was invented in the 18th century by industrious Englishmen (bless them) as a hoppy, more alcoholic brew that could withstand the long hot voyage around the Cape of Good Hope to India. These early voyages would need to be carried by the seasonal monsoon winds that sweep from the southeast to northwest during the summer. These winds also carry moisture to eastern and southern Africa, helping to sustain rainfall and agriculture. As the Indian Ocean warms, however, tropical oceanic convection disrupts these transports, and this increases the frequency of drought. We’ll be presenting this material at the AGU in January and at the American Academy of Sciences in February.

Oh – the ice. Well, as you may know, Kilimanjaro’s glaciers have decreased dramatically since the 1880s (from about 20 square km to about 2.5 square km). One very plausible explanation for this is a decrease in atmospheric moisture, which could be related to decreasing onshore moisture transports from the Indian Ocean – and more frequent drought in eastern and southern Africa. This means that our friends in eastern and southern Africa may be getting the short end of the climate change hockey stick.
KUDOS: Student Awards and Fellowships

Park Williams Receives Outstanding Paper Award

Grad student Park Williams, who is currently doing climate/fog/biogeography research on nearby Santa Rosa Island, sent the following:

I was one of 10 students who did talks or presentations at the Biogeosciences session of the Fall AGU (American Geophysical Union) meeting in San Francisco to receive an Outstanding Student Paper Award. The award was announced in the April 17 2007 edition of the EOS newsletter (Vol. 88, No. 16). My poster was titled ‘Teasing foggy memories out of pines using tree-ring width and stable isotope approaches’. The poster can be viewed at http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/~williams/2006_AGUposter.pdf.

On the poster, Chris Still, Doug Fischer, Steve Leavitt (University of Arizona), and I show that Torrey pines on nearby Santa Rosa Island experience relatively more growth during years with frequent summertime cloud cover, known locally as “June Gloom.” We discovered this, because Torrey pines contain a clear record of annual summertime fog and stratus-cloud cover, in addition to a record of annual winter rainfall, in their tree-ring widths. Joel Michaelsen and others have previously shown coniferous trees in more inland areas of central and southern California to document very accurate records of annual rainfall totals, but the discovery of a significant effect of cloud cover on ring widths, independent of any effect of rainfall, is the first of its kind. While populations of conifers such as Bishop pines, Douglas firs, and coast Redwoods once existed much more uniformly along California’s coast during the previous ice age, species distributions have crept northward and towards the coast in response to increased drought stress during the transition to interglacial, warmer conditions in the past several thousand years.

This research provides evidence that the few remaining pockets of conifers growing at the southern extent of their species ranges have been helped along through this non-ideal transition to a warmer and drier Mediterranean climate by abnormally frequent summertime fog and cloud cover that provides much-needed water and shading during the rainless summer months. My future Ph.D. work will include using stable isotopic chemistry of vegetation and satellite imagery of daily cloud cover over the United States’ west coast to further test this hypothesis.

Kudos to Park for his award, his research, and his brilliant poster title!

Graduate Student Fellowship Funds to be Matched by the University

The department is pleased to announce the creation of a new donation program to support graduate student education in Geography. Graduate students are critical to the health of education. Very likely the most important instructor you had at UCSB was the graduate student who lead your lab sections, graded your papers, and answered those tough questions left over after lectures and reading. Graduate students are also crucial to the future of science and education in this country - they are the researchers, teachers, and leaders of tomorrow.

Now is your chance to give something back, indirectly, to the students who helped you so much. For every dollar you give to established, designated graduate gift funds in Geography, the University will now match it. Thus, 25 dollars will provide 50 dollars of support. This funding will be used to build a fund that will help those graduate students with high academic standing and financial need. The Geography department has always been blessed with excellent Teaching Assistants, Instructors, and Researchers. With a simple donation to this program, you can double your support and help us preserve and improve graduate student education in the Geography Department. For more information, contact our Graduate Student Affairs Officer, Karen Barteld at (805) 893-8789 or barteld@geog.ucsb.edu.
The annual Geography Graduate Awards were announced on June 1, following the last colloquium of the 2006-2007 year (presented by Tom Dunne, Professor of the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management: “Floodplain Sedimentation Processes in the Amazon Basin”). A reception in the Ellison Hall courtyard was held for the recipients of The Leal Ann Kerry Mertes Scholarship Awards, The Geography Excellence in Teaching Award, and The Jack and Laura Dangermond Graduate Fellowship Award. Professor Stuart Sweeney presented the awards, and carrot cake, brownies, fresh fruit, and coffee were served afterwards, thanks to the efforts of staffers Laura Harrison and Bernadette Weinberg and undergraduate work study assistants Devon Kelly and Derrick Tyler. In attendance were James Wells (Leal Mertes’ husband), Sharon Mertes (Leal’s mom), and Melinda Glasgow, Director of Development for Science and Engineering.

The Leal Anne Kerry Mertes Scholarships: This fund was established to honor Leal Mertes by supporting UCSB students (graduate or undergraduate) who are planning or are engaged in field research. The Leal Anne Kerry Mertes Scholarship is awarded to talented and deserving UCSB students enrolled in any UCSB department where fieldwork in natural science is conducted. For the purposes of this scholarship, “field work” is defined as any off-campus activity devoted to studying, observing, sampling, investigating or measuring natural or human phenomena. The fund supports both the scholarships and the expenses associated with the awarding of these scholarships.

Geography graduate student Amy Lerner (left) won a scholarship for her research proposal, The impact of urbanization and global food policy on the future of maize livelihoods and land-cover in the Toluca de Lerdo Valley, Mexico.

Undergraduate Geography major Mary K. Donovan (below, left) won a scholarship for her research proposal, Coral Reef Structure Across a Human Impact Gradient: The role of biodiversity and the implications for human welfare.

Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology student Natalie Doerr also received a Mertes Scholarship for her research proposal, Do male great bowerbirds minimize the costs associated with acquiring bower decorations by re-using decorations acquired in previous breeding seasons?

Meri Marsh (above, right) received the annual Department of Geography Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is presented to Geography graduate students who are making satis-
program is funded by a National Science Foundation GK-12 program (Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education) grant which Dr. Elisabeth Gwinn of the Physics Department and Dr. Fiona Goodchild of the Materials Research Laboratory successfully applied for in 2002. “The UCSB proposal earned a three-year grant of $1.2m, the only such award granted to a California university. In local schools, LEAPS aims to increase the number of investigative activities and experiments conducted by local students and to encourage more Grade 8 students to complete science fair projects. On campus, LEAPS hopes to develop research scientists, engineers, and educators with the knowledge and experience to effectively interface with K-12 schools and communicate scientific ideas to the public” (http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/gradnews/content/0601/articles/leaps.htm). The full NSF Graduate Fellowship of $30,000 per year includes tuition and fees, as well as health insurance. Congratulations and kudos to Reggie Grad students Stacy Rebich Hespanha (below) and Kat Grace are both recipients of a 1-year continuing Graduate Opportunity Fellowship (GOF). According to http://www.cs.ucsb.edu/~ravenben/ucsb/fellowships.html, “For this 1-year award, the Graduate Division provides a stipend, and payment of fees and health insurance for all awardees. Nonresident tuition is not included in the award package. Departments may supplement with a TA appointment up to an average of 35% time over the course of the academic year (with included benefits of appointment), or a GSR appointment up to an average of 35% time over the course of the academic year (with included benefits of appointment). New and continuing domestic doctoral (or M.F.A.) students are eligible for nomination for this diversity fellowship. Students may receive the fellowship twice during their academic careers but must be re-nominated, as it is not an automatically renewable award.”

Felipe Murthinho won a James D. Kline Award for International Studies. The award is intended to “provide support to University of California graduate students to further their interest in or commitment to programs of study that promote international understanding. This grant recognizes excellence in the selected project or program of studies that promotes international understanding and world peace. This fund is dedicated to James D. Kline, who was active in the Fulbright Program and the Education Abroad Program and devoted a lifetime to international education. The award will be disbursed by the end of June of the current year” (http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/academic/handbook/financial.htm).

Nina Kilham received a UCSB Affiliates Graduate Dissertation Fellowship: “The UCSB Affiliates is a community-based support group for the University of California, Santa Barbara. This group, with matching support from Graduate Division, will award fellowships of $3,000 each to graduate students in any discipline who are advanced to doctoral candidacy and in the final stages of the degree. In most years at least one fellowship is reserved for a qualified graduate student whose research has an environmental focus. Students in all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Awards are intended to assist students in the completion of their dissertations (http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/pubs/financial/pdf/affiliates0708.pdf).

Incoming Geography graduate student Pamela Dalal is the recipient of a coveted Cota-Robles Fellowship which provides five years of financial support “to assist students from diverse backgrounds to successfully pursue and complete a graduate degree. This fellowship is awarded to students who have overcome significant obstacles to achieve a baccalaureate level degree, and whose economic, educational, or social background contributes to the intellectual diversity among the graduate student population” (http://graddiv.ucsc.edu/admissions/reqs.php). The award is used “to release highly meritorious recipients from employment or loan obligations that
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Mail to: Newsletter Editor, Geography Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-4060

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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.

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Kudos: cont’d.: Student Awards and Fellowships

might delay progress in graduate study and to place students interested in careers in academic teaching and research on a fast-track towards achieving their doctoral degree, thereby increasing the number of qualified candidates for faculty positions within the University of California.”

Pamela comes to us from the University of Tennessee where she received her BA in Geography and was a Research Assistant with the Geographic Information Science and Technology group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Her Cota-Robles Fellowship demonstrates UCSB’s confidence in Pam’s “abilities and promise of productive scholarship,” and the Geography Department is honored to have her on its team.

Graduate student Shaunna Burbidge was recently selected for two 2007 American Planning Association Awards by the APA’s Utah Chapter. The first is the George Smeathe Student Planner Award, given to an outstanding student in a planning-related field (only awarded when warranted—this is the first time it has been given since 2004). The second is an award for Excellence in Plan Development, given for a technical report Shaunna authored which was titled “Public Health and Transportation: Planning for active modes along Utah’s Wasatch Front.” This document was later abridged and included as the first “public health” component of any Regional Transportation Program in the US. Both awards were given on September 28 at the annual Utah APA conference.

Shaunna wrote to say: “I am currently in Salt Lake City completing my dissertation project studying the impact of active infrastructure development (neighborhood trails) on travel behavior and overall physical activity. I will be finishing my project and defending my dissertation in May 2008. While in Salt Lake City, I have had many opportunities to work with local transportation organizations on incorporating public health (i.e., more bicycle and pedestrian planning) into their plans. It was this interaction that led to my ‘plan development award.’ I was asked by the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (The Wasatch Front Regional Council) to write a technical report outlining ways that the MPO could incorporate public health planning into their long range transportation plan. It was this public health report and the subsequent ‘public health component’ of the long range plan that was recognized by the American Planning Association.” Congratulations and kudos to Shaunna!

The Principality of Sealand

In The Devil’s Dictionary (1911), Ambrose Bierce defined “boundary” as follows: “BOUNDARY, n. In political geography, an imaginary line between two nations, separating the imaginary rights of one from the imaginary rights of the other.” In Geography 5 (People, Place, and Environment: Introductory Human Geography), Professor Dan Montello is fond of citing the case of the “microstate” of Sealand as an example of political geography, the study of the spatial organization and distribution of political phenomena. Dan points out that almost the entire land surface of the earth, and much of the water, is claimed as being under the territorial control of some country, and he uses Sealand as “an hilarious case study for the principles of political geography”:

The Principality of Sealand is a self-declared, unrecognized country-like entity that claims for its territory Roughs Tower, an abandoned WWII artillery platform in the North Sea about 6 miles off the east coast of England. Sealand was formed in 1967 by Englishmen Roy Bates. He proclaimed it an independent state and named himself Prince Roy of Sealand; his wife became Princess Joan. Sealand measures 550 square meters, and its population has rarely exceeded five people. In 1967, Britain extended its territorial waters from 3 to 12 miles—but so did Sealand!

Although its claim to sovereignty and legitimacy are generally not taken seriously, it is nevertheless sometimes cited in debates as an interesting case study of how various principles of international law can be applied to a disputed territory. Clearly, it also provides an hilarious case study for the principles of political geography. No other state explicitly recognizes the sovereignty of Sealand, but judges in a couple British court cases have refused to rule on it because it was outside of British sovereign waters. Sealand has fired guns on a couple of occasions to defend itself.

MORAL

Invented countries exist mostly in the minds of their citizens. But then real countries are essentially the same — shared notions about how to divide control of the world’s surface and people. In a sense, all you have to do to establish a state is stake your claim and then convince the rest of the world to accept its legitimacy. There are several principles of international law that have been established to determine state sovereignty, but recognition by other states is the main one.
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Thank you for your generous support!
Alumnus Sean O’Connor (BS in Geography, 2005) won an internship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s “Science and Human Rights Program” which applies geospatial technology to human rights issues. Amnesty International’s Crisis Prevention and Response Center joined forces with AAAS to use high-resolution satellite imagery to document atrocities in areas that are inaccessible to humanitarian and watchdog groups.

The high-resolution imagery has only been commercially available since 2001, but, since that time, it has proved invaluable in providing incontrovertible proof of the burning and destruction of settlements, the immigration flows and concentration camps of the homeless, and movements of military forces in such war torn areas as Sudan and Burma. Such images are effective in refuting, for example, the Sudanese government’s refusal to acknowledge or admit complicity in what amounts to genocide. “What this satellite technology does, it makes it possible to break down those walls of secrecy. Not only to get information, but to get information in a way that’s irrefutable,” says Larry Cox, executive director of Amnesty International USA.

But such images don’t come cheap – AAAS/Amnesty has had to pay up to $2,500 per shot for images taken by QuickBird, a satellite launched in 2001 by DigitalGlobe, and other similar commercial vendors. Furthermore, such images require careful analysis. This is where Sean O’Connor comes in—he interned with AAAS/Amnesty’s Burma conflict monitoring center, working to document the Burmese government’s persecution of the Karen, an ethnic minority group that lives along the country’s mountainous border with Thailand. In a recent email to the department, Sean commented:

I’ve been working with AAAS for about 5 months now—it was a great next step for me. I’ve been leading the way with this Burma project you may have read about. Prior to working w/ AAAS I didn’t know much about Burma. But now I am the resident AAAS expert on human rights issues there. Tomorrow I get to go over to Congress for a Congressional Human Rights Caucus/U.S. Campaign for Burma reception for Burmese democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi’s birthday. Her house arrest, by order of Burma’s ruling military junta, was just extended, as was expected from the oppressive government. We’ve got lots more information on the project website at AAAS. It’s the Geospatial Technologies and Human Rights (GeTHR) program, and its URL is http://shr.aaas.org/geotech/index.shtml

I am starting a grad program at Georgetown in the Fall. It’s called Communications, Culture and Technology (CCT). I plan on researching how emerging mapping technologies are influencing the way we communicate and their effects in the media. It’s really exciting stuff. And there are new developments every day. It’s tough to keep abreast!! I can’t be thankful enough for my exposure to the wonderful world of geography and mapping technologies at UCSB. It’s taken me on one amazing adventure after another. All the best to my friends in the geography department. Keep it up!

Sean graduated with honors that included Outstanding Achievement as a Geography Major, Distinction in the Major, and being awarded the Jack and Laura Dangermond Undergraduate Fellowship. To top that, he also landed a National Geographic Internship which he followed up with full time employment at Bridges.org, “an international organization with a mission to promote the effective use of information and communications in the developing world for meaningful purposes.” See http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/05/AR2007060501701.html?hpip=topnews for a Washington Post article about the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program’s use of satellite imagery to track human rights violations around the globe, including an intimate peek at Sean’s daily activities as part of the team. Sean represents the best of our department, and we are proud to have facilitated his endeavors to make the world a better place.
Akella, Mamata (BA, 2006) is alive and well at Pennsylvania State University and recently sent the Department a letter describing her first year as a grad student in Geography. You may remember Mamata as the 2006 winner of the Jack & Laura Dangermond Undergraduate Scholarship which is awarded to the most accomplished undergraduate student in Geographic Information Systems in the department of Geography. Mamata is also responsible for the 2006 establishment of The Akella Family Scholarship which is funded by her parents. The scholarship is awarded each year to talented and deserving undergraduate student(s) enrolled in the department and is used to support undergraduate student(s) based on the criteria of compelling family/personal circumstances and academic achievement. Read Mamata's letter at http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/events/news/#a176.

Butterworth, Joel B. (BA, 1987) is a self-employed environmental consultant. (Editor's note—a bit of Googling also found the following: Joel Butterworth, Soil and Wetland Scientist, Mitigation Design. Mr. Butterworth has more than 14 years of experience in wetland restoration site evaluation and design and erosion control planning. He has prepared creation, enhancement, and restoration plans for a variety of projects, including the Los Vaqueros Reservoir project in Contra Costa County. During Phase 1 of the project, Mr. Butterworth was responsible for completing the wetland delineation report for the project area, as well as beginning the conceptual mitigation plan for wetland and special-status species impacts).

Fischer, Gina (BA, 2007) has been leading an exciting life since graduation. What do you do with a double major in Geography and Political Science (and a minor in History)? How many maps are housed in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress? How and why did George Washington choose the site of what was to become the nation's capital? Is Dar Roberts the best professor at UCSB? Why are UCSB Geography t-shirts so popular at the Library of Congress? What does a Bonne projection look like? Read all about Gina’s UCDC experiences at http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/events/news/#a194.

Gerrard, Ross (PhD, 1995) writes to say: “I recently moved to Davis to take a job with the U.S. Forest Service. Hope things are good with you and around the department. I miss everyone there.”

Guillermo, Rob (BA, 1968) has retired after 35 years in the Santa Barbara High School District. He’s now “Teaching part time at Laguna Blanca School in Santa Barbara—World Geography! Kept a promise to never work a summer.”

Hill, Rodney S. (BA, 1993) writes to say: “Fourteen years after graduating, it has become apparent that I am a lifelong snowboard bum. My favorite perk about this lifestyle choice is that my wife Susan and I are able to take off twice a year during our off-seasons and explore the world around us. So, while I’m not exactly using my degree in a professional sense, I certainly take all that I learned from the UCSB Geography Department along on each of our journeys!”

Massa, Thomas G. (BA, 1968) comments: “Retired in June 2006 from Los Altos Middle School in Camarillo, CA after teaching 36 years of 7th-8th grade Math. You have interesting articles in the Newsletter. I would like to see some on Dr. Gosenfeld and “Dr.” Swami, who were there in 1968! I may even be able to add some things.” (Editor's note—see http://archive.geog.ucsb.edu/photos/photo_pages/historic.htm and http://archive.geog.ucsb.edu/more/history_articles/early_history.htm).

Mohr, Gregory (BA, 1976) recently contacted the Department in order to make a generous donation to the David S. Simonett Memorial Fund and to share some memories of his work in the Geography Remote Sensing Unit (GRSU) in the late 1970s. Greg retired this year after 28+ years as a planner and environmental specialist with Santa Barbara County. During that period, he was a lecturer in the UCSB Environmental Studies Program, was a founding member (and is a current Co-President) of the UCSB Environmental Studies Associates, and, immediately after “retirement,” accepted an offer to join Ryerson, Master & Associates, a small local firm, to help prepare and verify carbon emission inventories for clients as large as SoCal Edison. See the complete news article about Greg at http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/events/news/#a188.