Geography Professor Reginald G. Golledge passed away on May 29, aged 71. Reg was a giant in the fields of Human Geography and Disabilities Geography, the second chair of the UCSB Department of Geography, and the recipient of a staggering number of national and international accolades and awards.

Shortly before his death, Professor Golledge was interviewed by a science journalist with Nature magazine. The following interview, published in the June 10 issue on its Career View page, is a fitting tribute to Reg:

Professors Golledge was a founding member of our department, a prodigious scholar, a leader in the field of human geography, and an inspiration to his students. His fortitude in the face of physical adversity was legendary, and the academic legacy that he leaves behind has made the department a stronger unit, the university a more prestigious institution, and geography a richer discipline.

Reginald Golledge, Geographer, University of California, Santa Barbara
1977 – present: Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara
1971 – 1977: Professor, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Reginald Golledge found his career path in the 1960s when he discovered that a theoretical and quantitative revolution was transforming the previously descriptive field of geography. Golledge, now a geographer at the University of California at Santa Barbara, helped contribute to that revolution with his research on how people acquire spatial knowledge and cognitively develop “mental maps” of their surroundings. Golledge’s research took on greater personal significance in 1984, when he went blind from a degenerative disease of the optic nerve. In March, Golledge was named Faculty Research Lecturer for 2009, the highest honor the University of California at Santa Barbara faculty can award a peer. Golledge tells Nature how his colleagues inspired his ongoing work.

What is your greatest scientific achievement? I pioneered a behavioral approach to human geography to study how humans find their way in the world. More than anything else, I think I opened the field’s eyes to the fact that the geography you carry in your mind, your mental map and the way you process spatial information, is equally as important as recording the facts of human existence on the surface of the Earth. In addition to an objective reality, there is also subjective reality – which is what is stored in your mind’s mental model of the world.

How did going blind impact your career? After I lost my sight, I was completely lost. I had no idea how I was going to teach without access to notes, prepared lectures, or overheads. Figuring out how to continue my research was even more difficult. One day, two psychologists – Jack Loomis and Roberta Klatzky, both then at UCSB, asked if they could help. Roberta suggested I find ways to build on my previous mental-map research. They agreed to meet with me weekly and discuss papers. That began 25 years of intense collaboration, which took my research in a new direction towards dissecting spatial cognition. In the process, I became more competent and was able to continue my academic life, while helping other blind people around the world.

continued on page 4
As we head into the next decade, the global community faces an ever expanding array of challenges and opportunities. As Chair of the Geography Department, I feel honored to be asked to direct a department that is so well poised to help the international community address the issues we face today and in the future. Issues such as climate change and its impacts, habitat loss, reserve design, efficient transportation, improved urban design, renewable energy, and natural hazards are all areas where Geography is relevant and, in fact, given our multidisciplinary focus, necessary to understand the scope of the problems and to solve them. Even the way we think about space, visualize spatial problems, and design our maps is critical as more and more of us navigate the world using iPhones, Google Earth, and software – this too is a domain of Geography. I cannot imagine a better place to be than in the UC Santa Barbara Department of Geography (currently ranked # 2 in the United States), and each year I look forward to the opportunity to teach, mentor, and train our next generation of scientists, teachers, and workers – many of them who use their expertise to solve problems on a global level. Our department is highly international, both from a faculty and student perspective, which makes our mission even more exciting and enjoyable. The best defense against an uncertain future is an education. Unfortunately, even as the issues grow in complexity and the need for an educated workforce becomes more apparent, our public institutions are being underfunded.

The generous support of alumni and friends has been important to the advancement of the Department in the face of the State budget crisis and uncertain economy. External support is ever more critical in providing the best education and training for our students, and maintaining the excellence of our world-class research. We hope you will consider a gift to support the education of our talented and deserving students in the Department. Whether you have a preferred gift fund, such as the Leal Anne Kerry Mertes Scholarship Award or the Jack Estes Memorial Fund, or would prefer an unrestricted gift to the Department, all will be valued highly. Our Geography faculty continue to excel in research and teaching, our undergraduate and graduate students remain some of the best I have known, and I firmly believe that an education from the Department of Geography at UC Santa Barbara is a ticket to a bright future for students from all over the world. That future can only be brighter with your help.

Your ongoing support is vital to our undergraduate and graduate programs. One reason the Department of Geography at UC Santa Barbara is able to deliver on its promise to students is because of the support of international alumni and friends like you, which is why I encourage you to consider making an investment in the Department. These gifts enable us to recognize our best students and support their educational and research expenses. You, as alumni and friends of the Department, have a lot to be proud of. We, in turn, are grateful for your continued involvement with our educational mission.

Sincerely,
Professor Dar Roberts
Chair, Department of Geography
UCSB Geography and Chaparral Fires

Recent US Wildfires are burning record amounts of acreage and are becoming increasingly expensive - currently, about $3 billion a year in federal funds. Santa Barbara County alone has experienced five major fires in the last 2 years: the Zaca Fire, which broke out on July 4, 2007; the Gap Fire, which began July 1, 2008; the Tea Fire, which started November 13, 2008; the Jesusita Fire that erupted on May 5, 2009; and the La Brea Fire that originated on August 7, 2009.

The national trend towards increasing area burned is largely due to the unnatural accumulation of fuels due to fire suppression, logging, and other factors. However, Santa Barbara County is dominated by “chaparral” wildland. “Chaparral is a shrubland or heathland plant community found primarily in the U.S. state of California and in the northern portion of the Baja California peninsula, Mexico. It is shaped by a Mediterranean climate (mild, wet winters and hot dry summers) and wildfire...The word chaparral is from the Spanish chaparro, which means both small and dwarf evergreen oak, and comes from the Basque word txapar, with the same meaning. A typical chaparral plant community consists of densely-growing evergreen scrub oaks and other drought-resistant shrubs. It often grows so densely that it is all but impenetrable to large animals and humans. This, and its generally arid condition, makes it notoriously prone to wildfires” (Wikipedia).

Fire in chaparral is different from fire in forested areas. Large chaparral fires are more dependent on weather conditions than fuel conditions. For instance, the southern California firestorms of 2003 and 2007 were accelerated by Santa Ana winds and burned hundreds of thousands of acres. They are not without precedent - the 1889 Santiago Canyon Fire, which burned for three days under Santa Ana wind conditions, is likely the largest fire in the history of the state.

The recent Santa Barbara fires have destroyed hundreds of homes, burned thousands of acres, and have cost millions of dollars to fight. Why? Here are some of the reasons: 1) More and more people are living in the wildland-urban interface—which increases both the number of ignitions and potential property damage. Most chaparral wildfires, and all five recent, large Santa Barbara County wildfires, were of human origin. 2) California is currently in a three year drought. Most wildland fires primarily burn through dead vegetation, but chaparral fires are dependent upon living shrubs for fuel, which burn more readily when the vegetation is dry. The 2007 Zaca Fire grew so large because live fuel moisture was the driest it had been since record keeping began in 1981. 2008 was also a particularly dry year. The Jesusita Fire burned under high live fuel moisture conditions, which likely led to less property loss than if the fire had occurred later in the year.

Wildfire is important to the Earth’s carbon cycle, because it restores carbon removed from the atmosphere by vegetation that uses carbon dioxide to produce organic matter via photosynthesis. Chaparral vegetation is adapted to and dependent on wildfire—fire triggers the release of seeds, stimulates flowering, increases soil nutrients, and reduces competition from plants not adapted to fire. The return interval of wildfire in chaparral ecosystems is highly variable: probably between 30 and hundreds of years. We can’t stop wildfires from occurring. But we can learn to live with them and their effects on the landscape.

Because three of these recent fires (Gap, Tea, and Jesusita) burned within the Santa Barbara Coastal LTER (long term ecological research) site, researchers from several departments/schools across campus (including Geography, EEMB, Bren, and Environmental Studies) are collaborating to study the effects of these fires on our terrestrial, riparian, stream, and coastal ecosystems. The proposed research will track sediment transport overland and through streams, as well as vegetation recovery, and is especially important given that El Nino conditions, which may result in high winter rainfall, are expected this year.

Fire-related research is a long standing interest of Professor Dar Roberts and his graduate students in his Visualization and Image Processing of Environmental Resources Laboratory, or VIPER Lab, for short. Aside from the above-mentioned LTER proposal, Seth Peterson’s research interests include mapping live fuel moisture and fuel amount, which correspond to fire risk. Keely Roth is interested in if/how the timing of the fires (early season vs. late season) will impact plant phenology and thus, the species distribution of recovering vegetation. Other members of the VIPER Lab are studying methane plumes from natural and anthropogenic sources (Eliza Bradley and Andrew Thorpe) and agricultural crop type and yield in Brazil (Michael Toomey).

The mission of the Department of Geography is to build an extraordinary community for creating new knowledge about planet earth and its inhabitants, to create new methods and models to advance geographic information science, and to use integrated science to better understand spatio-temporal dynamics. Inherent in this mission is a commitment to share this knowledge with others to solve problems. The research carried out in the VIPER lab (not to mention the entire Department) exemplifies this mission and commitment, insofar as Santa Barbara firefighters and planners depend on the geographic information provided by such experts in GIS, remote sensing, and environmental research.

(Article contributed by Seth Peterson)
What has given you the most career satisfaction? I’ve been developing a personal guidance system for blind travelers that allows them to be completely independent of guides or guide dogs. Now, companies in many different countries are producing these guidance systems. They are similar to vehicle guidance systems, which use GPS and spatial databases or electronic maps.

Do you have any advice for disabled persons who want to be scientists? Disabled people can make long-term career plans, but it takes a strong commitment to their work.

What does this faculty award mean to you? This is the best because it is given from your peers. It is so nice to know that what I’ve been doing has not gone unnoticed.

What is your motto? You don’t have to have sight to have vision.

Excerpts from the UCSB Media:

“Professor Golledge was a highly respected and beloved member of our faculty, and our campus community will miss him dearly,” said UCSB Chancellor Henry T. Yang. “His innovative research in behavioral geography and spatial cognition was internationally recognized. Although his eyesight was impaired, Reg was a true visionary who always saw great possibilities and provided the insight and leadership to take advantage of them and help others. We have lost a model teacher and a superb scholar — a giant in his field — and our hearts go out to his family, his students, and his colleagues.”

Dr. Oliver Chadwick, professor and chair of geography stated: “Professor Golledge was a founding member of our department, a prodigious scholar, a leader in the field of human geography, and an inspiration to his students. His fortitude in the face of physical adversity was legendary, and the academic legacy that he leaves behind has made the department a stronger unit, the university a more prestigious institution, and geography a richer discipline.”

- A PDF of Chancellor Henry Yang’s campus announcement can be found at http://wwwgeog.ucsb.edu/events/department-news/upload/Yang Campus Statement re Golledge.pdf.
- A PDF of Reg’s CV is available at http://wwwgeog.ucsb.edu/events/department-news/upload/CURRICULUM%20VITAE_final.pdf.
- Photographic tributes to Reg are at http://wwwgeog.ucsb.edu/events/event-photos/golledge-memorial/ and http://reggolledgeslidecollection.blogspot.com/.

Because Reg passed away before his Faculty Research Lecture could be delivered, UCSB Professors Dan Montello (Geography), Helen Couclelis (Geography), and Jack Loomis (Psychology) presented a retrospective of his most significant research accomplishments. Their presentation, covering Reg’s early, middle, and late career research, respectively, was titled “Reginald G. Golledge: A Research Career” and took place in the UCSB Corwin Pavilion on November 2.
Church and Golledge Elected Fellows of the RSAI

Profs. Richard Church and Reginald Golledge were elected Fellows of the Regional Science Association International this year. RSAI has an international membership of over 3,000, more than one third of whom are Europeans. According to its web site, “Founded in 1954, RSAI is an international community of scholars interested in the regional impacts of national or global processes of economic and social change. The work of RSAI draws on the expertise of many different disciplines and this multi-disciplinary approach helps to facilitate new theoretical insights for tackling regional problems. In turn, this provides an increasing opportunity for academics within the Association to engage more fully with planners and policy makers. Building on a strong foundation of quantitative methods, regional science is at the cutting edge of research into new model design for regional analysis and impact assessment. The Association fosters the exchange of ideas and research within regional science through its publications and the international scientific conferences it hosts.”

The RSAI Fellows Award was initiated in 2001 “to honor a select group of members of the Association who have made important scholarly and research contributions to the field of regional science.” Church and Golledge are two of only 50 recipients of this prestigious award to date and are the only RSAI Fellows at UCSB; their awards will be presented at the November 2009 annual meeting of The North American Regional Science Council (a supranational section of RSAI) in San Francisco. Other Fellows in the field of Geography include Luc Anselin (Arizona State University), Arthur Getus (San Diego State University), Manfred Fischer (Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Austria), Yorgos Papageorgiou (McMaster University, Canada), T. R. Lakshmanan (Boston University), and Antoine Bailly (Université de Genève, Switzerland).

The Waldo Tobler Distinguished Lecture in GIScience

The Waldo Tobler Distinguished Lecture in GIScience was instituted by the Geographic Information Science and Systems Specialty Group of the American Association of Geography in order to honor Professor Tobler and his contributions to the Discipline. The first lecture was presented by Dr. Marc Armstrong (Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of Iowa) at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the AAG in Boston; David Mark (Department of Geography, State University of New York at Buffalo) presented the second lecture at this year’s Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

Emeritus Professor Waldo Tobler retired from teaching in 1994, but he continues to publish work related to his research interests of cartography and computational geography. Waldo received his PhD in Geography from the University of Washington in Seattle and joined the UCSB Department of Geography in 1977. Until his retirement, he held the positions of Professor of Geography and Professor of Statistics. He has used computers in geographic research for over forty years, with emphasis on mathematical modeling and graphic interpretations. Well known for his publications, he formulated the “first law of geography” (1970) which states: “Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related to each other.”

“If any one paradigm within cartography has an ‘intellectual leader,’ it is analytical cartography. Waldo Tobler originated (in the 1960s) and nurtured (in the 1970s and 1980s) the idea of mathematical, transformational, or analytical approaches to the subject. Tobler laid out the agenda for an analytical cartography in his seminal 1976 paper, “Analytical Cartography,” published in the American Cartographer. This paper, and Tobler’s ideas, had a profound effect on American academic cartography” (A History of Twentieth Century American Academic Cartography: McMaster, Robert B, Susanna McMaster, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, Cartography and Geographic Information Science, 29 305-320, 2002).

Faculty Kudos continued on p. 6
Goulias’ GeoTrans Lab Lands Major Contract

GeoTrans has signed a contract of approximately $1,040,000 to develop the Simulator of Activities, Greenhouse Emissions, Networks, and Travel (SimAGENT). Professor Kostas Goulias (the project director), in partnership with Dr. Chandra Bhat (Adnan Abou-Ayyash Centennial Professor in Transportation Engineering) from the University of Texas, Austin, and Dr. Ram Pendyala from the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Sustainable Engineering at Arizona State University, created a vision of a travel demand forecasting system that will be developed for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in the next 27 months in two phases.

This new model system merges three model building traditions in the three participating universities to use synthetic population generation and dynamic evolution to create synthetic schedules of activities and travel for the approximately 19 million residents of the SCAG region. In the first phase, model components developed for Dallas Fort-Worth are transferred to California and tested extensively to provide a first approximation of greenhouse gas emissions and impacts of land use policies. In the second phase, a new model system is created that is tailored to the region and has an expanded repertory of policies. The model developers expect the model to have an unprecedented spatial, temporal, and social resolution and to account for human interactions that were never taken into account in past applications for travel demand forecasting. This brings Southern California to the forefront of transportation modeling and simulation. This project is also a unique opportunity for our students to gain knowledge, skills, and experience with policy issues and modeling techniques that redefine the state-of-the-practice and are used for major investments under the pioneering, “green” legislative agenda of California. (Further details at http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/events/department-news/564/goulias-geotrans-lab-lands-major-contract/).

King Coauthors Important Article on Photodegradation

Associate Professor Jennifer King recently coauthored an important paper published in the Journal of Geophysical Research - Biogeosciences. The paper, written in conjunction with her graduate student and an undergraduate student, reports experimental results showing that solar radiation directly results in degradation of plant litter and fluxes of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. This is important new work that helps to elucidate the mechanisms of photodegradation (decomposition due to solar radiation). The authors show that ultraviolet wavelengths are important to photochemical production of carbon dioxide, and they found that some visible wavelengths also result in photodegradation. The article (Brandt, L. A., C. Bohnet, and J. Y. King [2009], Photochemically induced carbon dioxide production as a mechanism for carbon loss from plant litter in arid ecosystems, J. Geophys. Res., 114, G02004, doi:10.1029/2008JG000772) was selected as a highlighted paper by the Journal’s editorial board. (For the Abstract and further details, see http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/events/department-news/585/jennifer-king-coauthors-important-article-on-photodegradation/).
I was born in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and moved to England shortly after completing my undergraduate degree in Land Surveying at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine. In England, I started my geospatial career as a land surveyor working for Transmanche-Link (TML) on the Channel Tunnel project. The Channel Tunnel (Le Tunnel Sous La Manche) is a 50-km undersea rail tunnel linking Folkestone in England to Coquettes in France. I initially worked underground in the Channel Tunnel UK Tunnels at Shakespeare Cliff, Dover and subsequently on the surface at the UK Terminal site in Folkestone. In the UK Tunnels, I was mainly employed in taking angular measurements and levels to ensure that the tunnel-boring machine remained on alignment in its drive towards France. On the UK Terminal site, I was employed in performing detail (as-built) surveys on the utilities, platforms and other on-site structures. While working on the UK Terminal site I enrolled in the GIS masters program at University College London.

After graduating from University College London I worked as a GIS consultant for Fujitsu-ICL Caribbean Limited on the Jamaica Land Titling Project. I also worked for Trimble Navigation in Sunnyvale, California as a GIS data capture engineer and GIS specialist on their Mapping and GIS products. At Trimble, I had the opportunity to work with the major GIS, CAD and database software packages, ensuring that Trimble’s GPS data could be seamlessly imported into these systems. While at Trimble, I entered the UCSB doctoral program in Geography with Prof. Keith Clarke as my advisor.

My research interests include GPS/GIS data capture, GIS data modeling, and database design. In addition to the required Geography graduate Modeling, Measurement and Computation courses, I took computer programming and database classes in the Computer Science department. I now work for Oracle Corporation as a software engineer on the Oracle Spatial development team in Nashua, New Hampshire. Oracle Spatial is Oracle’s solution for managing spatial data in the database. In May 2006, I joined the Center for Geographic Analysis at Harvard University as a part-time research fellow. This post keeps me focused on research and in touch with the academic world.

Surviving the winter can be a challenge in New Hampshire, but for politics it is the best place to be. As a sign in front of the State Library explains “…the New Hampshire primary has become a critical first step on the road to the White House.” As a result, politicians spend considerable time wooing our vote and we take their attention seriously. I first met President Obama at an ice-cream social in Dover, NH during August 2007. I volunteered for his campaign after the narrow loss to Senator Hillary Clinton in this state. I made trips to Vermont and Pennsylvania to canvas and register voters for the primary and canvassed locally for the general elections. On inauguration day, I stood with the millions at the National Mall in Washington, DC and the millions more around the world, witnessing the dawn of a new day: “Change has come to America!”

Nicole Alexander

Nicole Alexander (PhD 2002) shares an inspiring account about changes in her life and times:
THANK YOU, DONORS!

The UCSB Department of Geography would like to thank the following people and institutions for their generous support during 2008 - 2009:

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“You, as alumni and friends of the Department, have a lot to be proud of. We, in turn, are grateful for your continued involvement with our educational mission.”

Dar Roberts, Chair, UCSB Department of Geography
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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.

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☐ Geography Department Support: Unrestricted support.

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☐ 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.

☐ Leal Anne Kerry Mertes Memorial Scholarship Fund: The Scholarship will support undergraduate and graduate UCSB students who are planning or are engaged in scientific field research.

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Thank you for your generous support!
King and McFadden Receive $0.5 Million NSF-Biocomplexity Grant

Professors Joe McFadden and Jennifer King have been awarded a grant of $499,945 (September 2009 to February 2013) from the National Science Foundation's Coupled Natural and Human Systems Program. Their proposal, “Collaborative Research: Coupling Human Choice and Biogeochemical Cycling in Urban Ecosystems,” was one of only 9 awarded out of 94 projects that were submitted to the competition. The project builds on their work with collaborators at the University of Minnesota to understand the coupling between household biogeochemical fluxes and socioeconomic factors along an urban to exurban gradient in the Minneapolis-St. Paul (Twin Cities) metropolitan region. As part of their ongoing research, a social survey of households (3100 respondents) was conducted along an urban-to-exurban gradient (from 6 to 1200 houses/km2) over two counties. In addition, landscape characteristics were measured in the field for a subset of the households that responded to the survey. Data about key behaviors that influence biogeochemical fluxes (e.g., motor vehicle travel, air travel, diet, pets, lawn care) were used as input to a Household Flux Calculator to generate total and component carbon (C), nitrogen (N), and phosphorus (P) fluxes for each household. The survey also gathered demographic data and linked behaviors with household attitudes, norms, and perceived control.

With the new grant, Professors McFadden and King will extend these analyses to the entire metropolitan region using GIS databases and satellite imagery (including the UCSB SPOT archive). The UCSB contribution to the project will focus on urban biogeochemistry, biophysics, and spatial analysis. Dr. McFadden and Dr. King will be recruiting one or two new graduate students and a postdoc to collaborate on the project. In addition, one of our newly minted Geography B.S. graduates, Cheyne Hadley, has signed on as a researcher for the coming year. The study promises to establish a feedback loop between household choices and elemental fluxes with the aim of developing new approaches for making cities more sustainable, reducing urban pollution, and reducing urban contributions to climate change.

McFadden is also a member of a collaborative research team that has been awarded a grant of $299,429 (October 2009 to February 2012) from the National Science Foundation and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service. The team will study water management and water consumption associated with the urban forest and outdoor landscaping in the city of Los Angeles. The investigators’ goal is to integrate ecohydrology into a comprehensive understanding of both ecosystem services and disservices, and their interactions with the human dimensions of institutional management and organizational structure in the broader Los Angeles region. McFadden, who joined the Department last year, said “For the past few years my research has been focused on urban areas in the central U.S., and I’m excited to start a new project in the biggest city in California.” The collaborators on the project are from UCLA (lead institution), UC Irvine, UC Riverside, Arizona State University, and the Forest Service. Their successful proposal was one of 16 awarded out of 73 submitted nationwide.

Goodchild & Raubal Receive Major NGA Grant

Professors Mike Goodchild (PI, left) and Martin Raubal (Co-PI, right) just received a substantial grant from the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA). The project is titled “Geospatial Feature Conflation: Conceptual, Statistical, and Optimization Approaches” and was obtained through the very competitive NGA University Research Initiatives (NURI) program. Their funding is $288,548 for 2 years, with the potential of a renewal for another 3 years after that. This will result in two graduate students being employed in this project, one of whom will be Linna Li, whose PhD topic is on conflation.

The research will provide a theoretical foundation to the integration of incompatible geospatial data. The increasing and rapid development of remote sensing and other technologies, as well as the growth of the Internet, provide abundant opportunities to collect and access vast volumes of geospatial data. In addition to well-known datasets provided by the government, such as US Census TIGER/Line files, and free data services, like Google Earth, large amounts of geospatial information are being generated by individuals all over the world every day, which creates an increasingly extensive net of volunteered geographic information. Large volumes of geospatial data have the potential to benefit scientific research, decision making, and everyday life. However, it is not always easy to take advantage of this abundance, due to inconsistency, incompatibility, and heterogeneity among various datasets.
Five Geography graduate students have been awarded Dangermond Travel Fellowships this year. The funds are used for students to present GIS related work at conferences and workshops, and the awards can range from $500 to $1,000. The recipients are Ted Eckmann, Karl Grossner, Indy Hurt, Ting Lei, and Edward Pultar.

Ryan Perroy won the Geomorphology Specialty Group Graduate Student Paper Competition (PhD student category) at the recent AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas for his paper entitled, “Quantifying geomorphic processes in a disturbed landscape, southwestern Santa Cruz Island, CA.” G. Burch Fisher, who works with Geography Professors Bodo Bookhagen and Oliver Chadwick but is technically a Geology student, also won an AAG Geomorphology specialty group award called the Reds Wolman Graduate Student Research Award. The AAG geomorphology specialty group gave out 3 student awards in total, and Ryan and Burch (who share an office part-time) won 2 of them. UCSB geomorphologists rock!

Mike Marshall of Geography’s Climate Hazards Group (FEWSNET) has been selected to participate in the 2009 American Meteorological Society’s Summer Policy Colloquium, May 31-June 9, 2009, in Washington, DC. Enrollment in the colloquium is limited to 50 participants, including “selected graduate students of demonstrated scientific and leadership potential.” Mike’s selection is even more impressive, given the fact that he is one of just ten students given full financial support to attend the colloquium. Way to go, Mike!

Indy Hurt has been awarded the UCSB Academic Senate’s Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for 2008-2009. Only four Teaching Assistants in diverse disciplines are recognized for their excellence in teaching each year.

Kostas Goulias urged two of his GeoTrans grad students to apply for Eisenhower Graduate Fellowships from the Federal Highway Administration Office of Professional and Corporate Development this year. Not only did Kate Deutsch and Nate Isbell apply, but both received major fellowships of $35,500 and $15,500, respectively. Eisenhower Graduate Fellowships are designed “to attract qualified students to the field of transportation education and research, and advance transportation workforce development,” and they are awarded on the basis of plan of study relevance to national issues, letters of recommendation, leadership, writing ability, and academic excellence.

The NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) Advisory Panel has awarded grad student Felipe Murtinho an 18-month award of $11,950 in support of his proposal “Adaptation in Watershed Management among Andean Rural Communities.” The proposal, with Associate Professor David Lopez-Carr as Co-PI, was one of 110 submitted to the DDRI panel and one of just 35 recommended for an award.

Michael Marshall has been invited to become a Switzer Fellow. According to its web site, “Switzer Fellows are highly talented professionals who have the ability, determination and integrity to effect positive change as environmental leaders in the 21st century. Only the most active, committed and focused individuals will compete successfully to join the network of over 430 Fellows selected since 1986.” The fellowship provides a one-year $15,000 cash award for graduate study and is available only to students enrolled at accredited graduate institutions in California or the six New England states (CT, MA, RI, VT, NH, and ME). Only 25 of the prestigious fellowships are granted each year.

Professor Chris Still notified the editor about grad student Sara Baguskas’ award(s), commenting: “I believe Sara is the first student in the department’s history to receive this Fellowship. In addition, she has also won a Mathias Graduate Student Research Grant from the UC Natural Reserve System and received an honorable mention for the Grant A. Harris Research Instrument Fellowship from Decagon Devices. And she is still in her 1st year of graduate study!”

Michael Marshall has been awarded a Graduate Research Mentorship Program (GRMP) Fellowship. The GRMP selects students with high academic performance who show promise to become fulltime faculty and who are committed to research that advances economically and educationally disadvantaged segments of society. The award provides a $16,000 stipend for the academic year plus payment of fees and health insurance.

Continued on p. 12
Karl Grossner was recently awarded the departmental Jack & Laura Dangermond Graduate Fellowship and a UCSB Graduate Opportunity Fellowship. The Dangermond Graduate Fellowship is awarded annually to a promising graduate in geographic information science in the department of Geography. The recipient will hold the title “The Jack and Laura Dangermond Fellow” in residence and receives a $5,000 stipend, allowing its holder to devote more time to imaginative and creative research. Karl’s UCSB Graduate Opportunity Fellowship is a 1-year award, for which the Graduate Division provides a stipend of $16,000 and payment of fees and health insurance for all awardees.

“I love this year – awards, projects, and fellowships have kept coming non-stop since January. Seo Youn Yoon won the 2009-10 Graduate Division Dissertation Fellowship, and Kate Deutsch won the 2009-10 Brython Davis Endowment Graduate Fellowship” (Professor Kostas Goulias).

Six UCTC Dissertation Grants were awarded so far this year, and UCSB Geography graduate students Kriste Henson and Tom Pingel took home two of them: “I am very proud that our students received 2 out of the 6 fellowships granted during this cycle. There were 12 submissions total, and the judges are former recipients of these awards” (Professor Kostas Goulias).

Leah Bremer and Nathaniel Royal have both won a prestigious Fulbright fellowship. Leah, a member of the SDSU joint doctoral program, will use her fellowship to continue field work in Ecuador, and Nate will be traveling to Niger in West Africa sometime in early January of next year to work on his predictive model for the spread of Guinea worm.

Stacy Rebich Hespanha has been awarded a President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship which includes a stipend, plus payment of in-state fees, health insurance, and an allowance for research expenses during her final year of study. “This diversity fellowship is funded by the Office of the President and is designed for meritorious students who plan careers in academia. The program is designed to identify doctoral candidates whose research or planned career focuses on problems relating to disadvantaged segments of society, or who have been educationally or economically disadvantaged.”

Tom Pingel was one of four graduate students from The University Consortium for Geographic Information Science’s member institutions to receive a UCGIS Student Paper Award. Tom presented his paper at the UCGIS Summer Assembly this month, and it was selected for the Best Paper Award by Transactions in GIS, consisting of $200 and the fast-tracking of the paper into the peer-reviewed process for publication in the journal CaGIS.

Chris Lippitt, a grad student in the UCSB-SDSU Joint Doctoral Program, has been selected to receive an Inamori Fellowship for 2009-10 from San Diego State University. The award is for $5,000. Competition for Inamori Fellowships in this inaugural year was intense. There were 179 applicants representing master’s and doctoral candidates from every college of SDSU.

Graduate Fellowship Support

Graduate fellowship support is a high priority of the Department, as it enables us to compete with the very best universities in the Nation to recruit and retain top scholars. For information on how you can support graduate students, please contact Melinda Glasgow Douglas at 805-893-2580 or melinda.glasgow@ia.ucsb.edu.

- Named Endowed Fellowship: A gift of $200,000 or more establishes a permanent named scholarship.
- Named Quarter Fellowship: A gift of $10,000 will fully support a graduate student for one-quarter of their career. This type of fellowship is extremely helpful for graduate students as it allows them to take a quarter off from teaching and focus solely on their research and dissertation.
- Named Full-Year Fellowship: A gift of $50,000 or more fully supports a graduate student for one-year of their career.
- Named Fellowship Award: A gift of $5,000 or more establishes a one-year named award which allows the Department to offer supplemental incentive (top-off) support for the recruitment or retention of an outstanding graduate student.
A Warm Welcome To Our New Grads

The UCSB Department of Geography is proud to announce the induction of 19 new graduate students into its program. These gifted students are the academic cream of the crop of applicants for 2009, and we are both honored and privileged to have them join our Department.

The Grad Student bulletin board in the Department’s main office area will be updated with photos and details of our new grad’s goals and prior academic backgrounds this week. But, for those of you without access to the hallowed corridors of our Department, here are a few stats regarding our “newbies”:

* We have 19 new grads this fall, 8 of whom are in the SDSU/UCSB Joint Doctoral Program
* Twelve of the 19 have a master’s degree in Geography or a related discipline, and one has a PhD in Business Administration
* Nine of the 19 are women
* Countries represented, apart from the US, include Afghanistan, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, India, Italy, South Korea, and Peru

This is the next generation of scientists, thinkers, and teachers that will impact your children and their children regarding the study of Earth in relation to mankind. I need not remind you how important such studies are in our troubled times, but I would like to urge you to help. Yep, I’m talking about donating money to the Department of Geography at UCSB.

I’m not begging (well, maybe a bit). I am asking you to consider investing in our immediate future and the future of those who will inherit what we have left behind. That future depends upon the youth of today, and they deserve, indeed, are owed, our support. The new class of UCSB Geography 2009 graduate students can make a difference to the world’s quality of life—and you can help them do it by giving to a good cause. It’s called a win-win situation.

An Angst of Dissertations

A collective noun is one that is singular in form but refers to a group of people or things (e.g., “a faculty of academics”), and I’m sure that our Geography grads can empathize with such collective nouns as “a fortitude of graduate students,” “a doggedness of doctoral candidates,” “a dilation of pupils,” and, particularly, “an angst of dissertations.” Please join me in congratulating the following “slate of candidates” for overcoming the angst and successfully (and collectively!) completing their PhDs in Geography in 2008-2009:

* DILLEMUTH, Julie (Fall 2008; Clarke & Montello, Co-Chairs): “Map Use and Spatial Knowledge Acquisition with Small, Mobile Map Displays”
* LEGLEITER, Carl (Fall 2008; Dunne, Chair): “Alternative Representations of In-stream Habitat”
* NISHIMOTO, Mary (Winter 2009; Washburn, Chair): “Effects of Coastal Circulation on the Distributional Patterns of Pelagic Juvenile Fishes and Otolith Chemistry, and on the Timing of Juvenile Reef Fish Settlement”
* ROBINSON, Michael (Winter 2009; Siegel, Chair): “The Impacts of Heterogeneous Behavior on Fishing Fleet Location and Performance”
* ECKMANN, Ted (Summer 2009; Roberts, Chair): “Measuring Subpixel Fire Properties to Improve Global Monitoring and Understanding of Fires”
* KILHAM, Nina (Summer 2009; Chadwick, Chair): “Floodplain Sedimentation on the Feather River, California: Combined Use of Remote Sensing and Numerical Modeling to Analyze Contemporary Deposition Patterns in a Historically Mined Basin”
* LOPEZ, Annacarla (SDSU) (Summer 2009; Weeks, Chair): “Spatial Patterns of Urban Food Security in Accra, Ghana: A Geographic Analysis of Household Hunger in an African City”
* PERROY, Ryan (Summer 2009; Chadwick, Chair): “Quantifying Land Degradation and Vegetation Recovery on Southwestern Santa Cruz Island, California”
* WILLIAMS, Park (Summer 2009; Still, Chair): “Tree Rings, Climate Variability, and Coastal Summer Stratus Clouds in the Western United States”

For details of all dissertations from 1982 on, see our web site under Graduates/Ph.D. Dissertations.