To quote Dar Roberts’ farewell speech to the Class of 2013, “Graduating from college is something I am sure all of us remember well. For students, graduation represents the end of one part of your life that started in kindergarten; extended through grammar school, high school, and, finally, college; and is the beginning of another that will ultimately lead to a career. It has probably been a long, but very interesting road, with many adventures on the way, a few wrong turns, some great choices, and also a few lucky ones. Your decision to come to UCSB and earn a degree in Geography was a good one.”

Geography has also travelled a long and interesting road since it was granted autonomy as a UCSB Department back in 1974. Since then, the Department has blossomed in size and stature. The National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis was established in 1988 and led the worldwide boom of geographic information science (GIS); the joint PhD program with San Diego State University was launched in 1991; Michael Goodchild received the Prix Vautrin Lud, considered the Nobel Prize of Geography, in 2007; Goodchild became director of spatial@ucsb, a multimillion dollar, interdisciplinary research center devoted to spatial thinking in 2008; the National Research Council ranked UCSB Geography between number 1 and number 6 in the nation in 2010, depending upon the criteria one uses for evaluation; and our first endowed chair, The Jack and Laura Dangermond Endowed Chair in Geography, was established in 2010 with Goodchild at the helm and Werner Kuhn succeeding him in 2013.

Yep, we’ve come a long way, and your decision to come to UCSB and earn a degree in Geography was definitely a good one. UCSB Geography’s 40th anniversary coincides with the Gaucho Reunion and the Earth Day weekend, April 25-28, 2014. Join us in celebrating our “Past, Present, & Future” event, featuring a catered barbecue at Rancho La Patera & Stow House, local tours and activities, a geocaching scavenger hunt, and a chance to meet up with fellow alumnae and friends of Geography!
Charles Jones Joins Geog Faculty

A warm welcome to Dr. Charles Jones, who has joined UCSB Geography faculty as an Associate Professor. His appointment officially began on July 1, 2013, and he will provide welcome support in the field of climate, particularly insofar as the recent retirement of Catherine Gautier has left that field of UCSB Geography expertise under-represented.

Dr. Charles Jones received a BS degree in Meteorology from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. He then moved to the United States to study at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and received a MS degree from the Department of Meteorology. His research thesis focused on an observational analysis of low-frequency variations in the South American monsoon. Dr. Jones received a PhD degree from the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources at the University of California, Davis. His PhD thesis investigated the mechanisms of the Madden-Julian Oscillation. Dr. Jones’ research focuses on a broad range of weather and climate processes, with an emphasis on precipitation variability, extreme events, weather forecasts, predictability studies, regional modeling, monsoon systems, and climate change.

Dr. Jones, along with Professor Leila Carvalho, runs the UCSB Climate Variations and Change (CLIVAC) research group. CLIVAC is dedicated to further understanding the Earth’s present and future climates on different temporal and spatial scales. With this goal in mind, CLIVAC has been developing observational and modeling analyses in atmospheric sciences.

Werner Kuhn Joins Geog Faculty

Werner Kuhn (Ph.D. ETH, Zurich; professor, Institute for Geoinformatics, University of Münster) has accepted the position of professor in the Department of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as well as an appointment to the Jack and Laura Dangermond Endowed Chair, and directorship of the Center for Spatial Studies (with Mary Hegarty).

Kuhn has been a professor of Geographic Information Science at Münster, teaching geospatial semantics, reference systems, and cartography (among other subjects), since 1996. Beginning in 2002, he led the Münster Semantic Interoperability Lab (MUSIL), working on semantic interoperability, data integration, and ontologies for geospatial information. Kuhn is also one of the founding members of the Vespucci Initiative for Advancing Geographic Information Science, organizing annual summer institutes and specialist meetings.

Kuhn is a leading expert in the area of geospatial semantics and is especially known for his work on Semantic Reference Systems, as well as his work on desktop metaphors for Geographic Information Systems. His research, teaching, and service activities are directed to the improvement of the usability of spatial information for individual, organizational, and societal problem solving.

We welcome Werner Kuhn as the new director of the Center for Spatial Studies beginning November 1, 2013 and look forward to the new programs and initiatives he will bring with him.
Engineer Extraordinaire Derek Manov Retires

After a remarkable 40-year career as a geophysical and oceanographic engineer, Derek Manov of the Ocean Physics Laboratory (OPL) recently retired. A farewell party held in honor of Derek and attended by many of Derek’s friends was held September 27, 2013.

Derek completed his B.S. degree at Cal State Northridge University and shortly thereafter was hired by the University of Southern California (USC) Department of Geological Sciences where he developed and deployed scientific instruments for 22 years. He worked with seismologists in developing new instrumentation and deploying them in the field. One of his major accomplishments was the invention of seismic sensors capable of detecting very small earthquakes. In particular, geophysicist Rachel Abercrombie needed a device that could spend months suspended deep underground in the San Bernardino Mountains listening for faint mini-earthquakes. In response, Derek designed a seismic instrument package to fit in a slender cylinder of titanium, hardened to withstand high temperatures. Another of his instruments, designed and built almost 40 years ago, is still recording and sending back data from 4,700 feet beneath the Baldwin Hills.

In 1987, Derek switched from geophysical measurements to ocean science measurements as his primary focus when he joined Professor Tommy Dickey’s USC Ocean Physics Group (OPG). In 1996, Derek and Professor Dickey came to the UCSB Geography Department and formed the Ocean Physics Laboratory (OPL) at an off-campus site on Los Carneros Road before moving to the UCSB campus within the past few years.

One of the early ocean engineering problems that required Derek’s expertise was to develop instrumentation that could simultaneously collect physical, chemical, biological, and optical data at minute-scale sampling intervals for several months at a time from ocean moorings. The Multi-Variable Moored System (MVMS) developed by Derek was very successful as it enabled collection of interdisciplinary data associated with a host of ocean processes, including currents and temperature structure as well as biogeochemical variability associated with hurricane forcing, ocean mesoscale eddies, inertial and internal gravity waves, and sediment resuspension.

Geographically, Derek’s instruments were deployed in the North Atlantic off Bermuda, south of Iceland, and on the New England shelf. In the Pacific, they were deployed off Japan, Canada, Hawaii, and California. Other memorable deployments took place in the Mediterranean and Arabian Seas. These collective observations were key to unraveling mysteries, such as how the upper ocean responds to hurricanes and how nutrients are uplifted into the euphotic layer in the cores of mesoscale eddies. Well over 100 field experiments were executed by the OPG and OPL, taking Derek to sea for most of these. Significantly, Derek often simultaneously managed three or more major ocean field experiments with annual lab budgets of well over a million dollars. The OPL led several national and international ocean projects, taking Derek to many meetings around the world. Well over 150 refereed publications resulted from Derek’s engineering work. Derek also successfully mentored visiting scientists, postdocs, and students from the US and other countries.

In 1994, USC reporter Eric Mankin wrote an apt summary description of Derek’s engineering skills and ingenuity: “All around the globe, from Bermuda to the Sea of Cortez, from Iceland to the Arabian Sea, from Palmdale to Hawaii, Derek Manov’s handiwork is on the job in difficult places. Some of his creations spend years buried deep inside the earth; others faithfully report from the depths of the ocean.”

Derek has always been modest and a model team player with an engaging dry sense of humor. While most here at UCSB know Derek only as an ocean engineer, he has many other skills and interests. For example, he was an aerobatic pilot in his younger years. Derek has also showed horses and has served as a crew member for historic tall ships and participated in Civil War re-enactments. He also is an antique expert, specializing in the Civil War Period. With all of these interests, Derek will hardly be bored in retirement. We thank Derek for his generosity and friendship. He will be greatly missed. We wish him a well-deserved happy retirement!
Krzysztof Janowicz Awarded Hellman Family Faculty Fellowship

Krzysztof Janowicz, an Assistant Professor for Geographic Information Science and Geoinformatics in UCSB’s Department of Geography, has been awarded a Hellman Family Faculty Fellowship. The award provides him with funding to support his project entitled “ADL Linked Data Gazetteer” and to fund a graduate student researcher for 2013-2014.

According to Dr. Janowicz, “The project will revive UCSB’s dormant ADL Gazetteer (a place name dictionary) by transforming it into a semantics-enabled Linked Data gazetteer encoded using the Recourse Description Framework (RDF). The project will research place ontologies for the semantic annotation of gazetteer data and linking frameworks to connect the ADL data to other Linked Data sources. The new gazetteer will be hosted by UCSB’s library and act as research enabler by supporting stable and globally accessible place identifiers to georeference scientific data at UCSB and beyond. More information about gazetteers and georeferencing can be found in Linda Hill’s wonderful book: Hill, Linda L. (2006). Georeferencing. The MIT Press.”

Established by F. Warren Hellman in 1995, the purpose of the Hellman Family Faculty Fund is to provide substantial support for the research of promising assistant professors who show capacity for great distinction in their research. At least two-thirds of the funds allocated each year support assistant professors in the physical and life sciences and engineering; up to one-third can support assistant professors in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. The maximum award is $50,000.

The quality of the research proposed is the most important criterion for selection. Awards are made without regard to the apparent timeliness or popularity of the field of study and without reference to ethnicity or gender; preference may be given to research not supported substantially by other sources and to faculty who have not previously received an award from the Fund. Mr. Hellman has observed that junior faculty are often well-funded when first hired. Problems arise in 2-3 years when start-up funding is exhausted and before first grants are obtained. The Fund is designed to assist promising young faculty at this point in their careers.

Professor Emerita Catherine Gautier

A celebration of Catherine Gautier’s career and outstanding contribution to science and education was held on June 7, thanks to the organizational efforts of fellow faculty member Leila Carvalho. Dr. Gautier will formally retire at the end of June, or, as Leila puts it, ‘Catherine will be beginning another exciting phase of her life.’

Professor Gautier received her doctorate degree in Physics/Meteorology from the University of Paris in 1984. She spent several years in Quebec as a professor of Physics at the University of Quebec, Rimouski, and then accepted a position as the Associate Director for the California Space Institute at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography of the University of California, San Diego, where she worked as a Research Meteorologist. She has also served as the CEO for two independent businesses (Metsat Gautier and Planet Earth Science Inc.) and worked at the Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Catherine served as the Director of the Institute of Computational Earth System Science (now the Earth Research Institute) at UC Santa Barbara for eight years. During that time, she continued to be a professor at UCSB in the Department of Geography where she has taught for the past twenty three years.

Dr. Gautier recently published two books with Cambridge University Press: Facing Climate Change Together and Oil, Water and Climate: An Introduction. Her main research areas are Global Climate Change Science and Education. With over 200 scientific publications in atmospheric and climate science, her education research addresses issues such as learner-centered pedagogy, misconceptions about climate change, and the utility of various pedagogical approaches (e.g., mock climate summits). She has developed computer modeling software that provides students with an interactive approach to climate alterations and predictions, and she focuses on the use of concept maps to evaluate learning and misconceptions. Professor Gautier regularly gives talks about climate change in various local, national, and international venues. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).
The following “letter from Seattle” is from UCSB Geography Professor Emeritus Michael Goodchild, the first director of the Center for Spatial Studies (originally posted in the seventh issue of the Center’s Newsletter, Vertices, with the title above):

In Suzhou, an ancient Chinese city that—like all Chinese cities—is now bursting with construction, there is a garden known as the Humble Administrator’s Garden (zhuozheng yuan in Pinyin). It was established in the 16th century by Wang Xiancheng, who had experienced a tumultuous official life before retiring to Suzhou. The garden was named from a verse of the poet Pan Yue, who wrote “I enjoy a carefree life by planting trees and building my own house . . . I irrigate my garden and grow vegetables for me to eat . . . such a life suits a retired official like me well.”

I retired from UCSB in June 2012, and in October my wife, Fiona, and I moved to a new house in Seattle, planning to live closer to the family, enjoy the amenities of a big city, benefit from a very walkable location, and explore a new environment. After 24 years of enjoying the paradise of Santa Barbara, it was time to buck the trend and move to damp, rainy, gritty Seattle.

It is now July, and the garden is blooming and producing vegetables in the improbable quantities typical of gardens in the Pacific Northwest. But after a year I still find myself chasing that elusive retirement rainbow. Despite all my efforts to say “no,” I am traveling as much as ever (this is being written in a hotel room in San Diego), and have a longer backlog of email and writing commitments than ever. Whether that is because of the things I took on in anticipation of being bored in retirement, or whether it is because people simply assume that retirees have plenty of time available, I cannot say. I still have five active research projects at UCSB and several graduate students to advise. My current hope is that by the end of 2013 I will finally have received a bare passing grade in Retirement 101, and will have found the carefree life of Wang Xiancheng.

Krzysztof Janowicz, an Assistant Professor for Geographic Information Science and Geoinformatics in UCSB’s Department of Geography, has been awarded a Regents Junior Faculty Fellowship (RJFF). The award provided him with funding to support his project entitled “N-Degrees of Spatial” over the summer.

Places play a central role as nexuses on the Web of Linked Data. They act as glue between data about actors, physical objects, and events. Therefore, it is not surprising that Linked Data repositories that serve geo-data rank among the most interlinked and central hubs. Krzysztof’s project surveys the quality of these geo-data and their spatial and temporal patterns. He is especially interested in systematic errors and methods to correct and conflate the data. The project will focus on applying visual analytics and geo-statistics to understand these quality issues.

“The purpose of the RJFF program is to help junior faculty members develop a substantial record in research and creative work necessary for advancement to tenure. Non-tenured faculty members are eligible for only one RJFF award. Applications may be submitted by faculty members who are currently under review for tenure or security of employment.”
Imagine your life recreated in data, every car trip, bus ride, grocery store stop, and burrito run — including when, why, and with whom you went — represented by blips on a computer. It’s recently been done in Southern California, the daily to-do’s of 18 million people tracked, logged, mapped, and analyzed. Baltimore is now getting the same treatment, and Seoul, Korea, may be next. Why?

The massive undertaking is all in the name of sustainable transportation, and some UC Santa Barbara geographers are central to the mission. With colleagues from the University of Texas at Austin and from Arizona State University, they’re collaborating with some of the nation’s most crowded municipalities to inform emissions policy through data collection, synthesis, and analysis. Using a state-of-the-art, microsimulation system dubbed SimAGENT, for Simulator of Activities, Greenhouse (gas) Emissions, Networks, and Travel, their ultimate aim is to transform the transportation habits of the very people whose movements are being mined for insight.

“In essence, this is a new method to reflect the activities, and show how those activities change, in the everyday life of people — how their behavior changes, and how a change in land use is going to provide more incentives for people to walk and bike and not use their car,” explained UCSB geography professor Konstadinos Goulias, who directed and helped develop, design, and institute SimAGENT. “We do this by recreating human beings in their households, one by one, which we did in the whole Southern California region — 18 million people represented on a computer. We recreated their behavior on the network and developed scenarios of land use and demographics, and scenarios of economic development, from now to 2035, to simulate life and predict what changes in greenhouse gas emissions we might have.”

In its California pilot outing, SimAGENT culled demographic, land use, and transportation data to simulate a day in the life of every resident in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region. The nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, SCAG covers six counties, 191 cities, and more than 18 million people. Augmenting sources such as the U.S. Census and the California Household Travel Survey with direct surveys that put diaries in participants’ hands — and GPS recorders in their cars — the researchers were able to map and predict movements and activities down to the mile, land parcel, and minute.

“If I know what time and how you drive your car — or if you went on the bus or a bicycle — I can tell what you emitted in terms of greenhouse gases,” Goulias explained. “So the intent is to recreate the life of every person like in a daytimer, and add to that their movements from one location to another. We are literally looking at everything they do. A big part of this is trying to figure out the motivation and what people will do under different circumstances. The more information we have, the better off we are.”

That information includes specifics on task allocation and car use within households, and market penetration data for electric cars and related technologies based on car ownership data. Land use sensitive accessibility indicators account for the within-a-day dynamics of activity opportunities and transportation level of service.

The project also does a wide range of what Goulias called “scenario building” meant to benefit local governments and agencies. The SimAGENT team’s work with SCAG, for example, looked at several scenarios related to ongoing considerations whether to turn part of Interstate 405 — the nation’s busiest freeway — into a toll road. The same approach could be used to examine how an increase in the density and diversity of businesses in an urban environment, say downtown Santa Barbara, might affect land use. Does the data support a bump in parking fees, which may discourage driving, and therefore decrease total emissions?

“It’s not always positive news,” Goulias said. “In the case of the 405 toll road, we found that if you create a toll road, more people will use the frontage roads, which is actually worse. More stop and go means more emissions. The model has to be able to tell you that, and ours did.”

The same framework can be adapted for use at any level of jurisdiction or geographic scale, with scenario simulation enabling the study of policies to curb greenhouse gas emissions for cars, trucks, and buses. According to Goulias, it may also point toward the “optimal policy portfolio” to meet desired targets of emission reduction by 2020 and 2035.

“For this to happen, many things in our everyday life need to change,” he said. “We need to drastically change land use density. That alone will make a big difference because if you squeeze a lot more people into the same urban environment, a majority of trips will be done in shorter distances, which will reduce total emissions.”

“If you build something that works in the most complex network, it will work in simpler networks,” he added of SimAGENT’s efforts in Southern California. “We were so confident in our methods that we went straight for the biggest, and it worked. This is a nice study to have.” (Source: UCSB News Release, dated August 20, 2013.)
THANK YOU, DONORS!

The UCSB Department of Geography would like to thank the following people and institutions for their generous support during the past 12 months:

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Dar Roberts, Chair, UCSB Department of Geography
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- Geography Department Support: Unrestricted support.
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- The Akella Family Scholarship: The Scholarship will be used to support undergraduate student(s) based on the criteria of compelling family/personal circumstances and academic achievement.
- 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 Scholarship Fund: The Scholarship will support undergraduate and graduate UCSB students who are planning or are engaged in scientific field research.
- The Samantha C. Ying Gamma Theta Upsilon Scholarship: Named in honor of one of our distinguished alumnus, this award supports undergraduate student(s), based on the criteria of academic achievement, compelling family/personal circumstances, and membership in the UCSB Geography Club.

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Thank you for your generous support!
Alumnus Kirk Goldsberry (PhD 2007) is a visiting scholar at the Harvard Center for Geographic Analysis and an assistant professor of Geography at Michigan State University. He is also the creator of many analytical tools that emphasize data visualization, including a “CourtVision” series of maps that chart scoring data for NBA basketball players. The following is an article he wrote for the Harvard Business Review on September 30, 2013, titled “The Importance of Spatial Thinking Now”:

In its 375 years, Harvard has only ever eliminated one entire academic program. If you had to guess, what program do you think that was and when was it killed off? The answer: Harvard eradicated its Geography Department in the 1940s, and many universities followed suit. The timing couldn’t have been worse, really. Shortly after the elimination of Geography here at Harvard, the discipline underwent a quantitative and computational revolution that eventually produced innovations like Google Maps and global positioning systems, to name just two. Seventy years later we are paying for a prolonged lack of spatial thinking at American universities. There are too few classes that enable learners to improve their spatial reasoning abilities, with maps and visualizations being of course the most central artifacts to such improvements. The problem is simple: not enough people know how to make maps or handle spatial data sets.

In the meantime, spatial thinking, visualization, contemporary cartography, and the other core competencies of geographic education have never been more relevant or necessary. As this forum has made clear, data visualization is an emerging, important discipline, and spatial thinking—geography—is a fundamental skill for good data visualization.

When talking about data visualization, many begin with the assumption that it’s a new thing, freshly formed in this big data era. Visualization is not new, and it’s much older than the “Napoleon’s March” example cited by Edward Tufte as the best information graphic. For centuries, people have measured and mapped out worldly phenomena. We were collecting and mapping information long before the printing press. Libraries supply us with limitless evidence of visualization masterpieces that predate any automated computation, let alone big data, like Gerardus Mercator’s revolutionary map of the world in 1569.

That’s not to say nothing’s new about this moment in time. What is new is the recent integration of spatial thinking and computing. The current rise of what I prefer to call computational visualization is an obvious and logical extension of human practices that are as old as lines in the sand. But this idea that visualization is new hinders teaching and learning about the act of visualization. Without the proper context, “dataviz” discussions and “data science” curricula neglect the important lessons and huge contributions from the past, contributions that can inform everything from design principles to teaching and learning.

As I look out on the world of data visualization, I see a lot of reinventing of the wheel precisely because so many young, talented visualizers lack geographical training. Those interested in a 21st century career in visualization can definitely learn a lot from 20th century geographers like Jacques Bertin, Terry Slocum, and Cynthia Brewer, and they will identify pre-existing principles, cognate scholarship, and countless masterpieces that are extremely useful guides.

Which brings us back to the sheer lack of geographical training available. Recommittal to a geography curriculum in both our high schools and universities will be crucial to effectively developing a generation of great data visualizers who can tackle our challenges. Quantitative spatial analytics offer vital insights into the world’s most important domains including public health, the environment, the global economy, and warfare.

Without geography—or any teaching that emphasizes spatial thinking—the focus will remain on the data, and that’s a mistake. Yes, data are undeniably important but they are not holy. Data are middlemen. Even the term “data visualization” overemphasizes the role of the middleman, and mischaracterizes the objective of the activity. Nobody wants to see data; nobody learns from that. The best visualizations never celebrate the data; instead they make us learn about worldly phenomena and forget about the data. After all, who looks at the Mona Lisa to think about the paints?

Addendum: Don Janell, Researcher and Program Director for the UCSB Center for Spatial Studies, wrote to say, “I should note that Kirk is no longer at Harvard and has resigned his position at Michigan State. He has signed up with one of the sports channels (not sure which one -- there was a bidding war), and he now has a major presence in the sports blog world” - see www.grantland.com.
Alumnus Michael Marshall Featured in Weather Channel Documentary

The U.S. network “The Weather Channel” has acquired the U.S. rights to Tipping Points, an international coproduction exploring the tipping points of changing climate. The documentary series follows a group of scientists as they “venture off the grid to explore the perilous tipping points making our weather systems more extreme and unpredictable,” according to the network.

The 6 x 60-minute series is being produced by Australian prodco Unboxed Media and had its premiere on October 19, 2013 at 9 pm EDT. Other networks on board the doc include NHK in Japan, the ARD Group in Germany, Canvas in Belgium, VPRO in Holland and The Australia Network. “We believe this is one of the most important series being produced today, and The Weather Channel is in the unique position to be an authority on changes in climate and weather,” said Michael Dingley, senior VP of content and development at The Weather Channel Companies.

“Tipping Points will not only show how our changing climate system affect local communities in exotic and distant locales like the Amazon or Siberia, but how it impacts and is relevant to people even right here in the U.S., be it Portland, Maine or Portland, Oregon and every community in between. “We need to explore and understand what can be done to stem the tide of change before we do irreparable damage, and ultimately put our own lives at risk.”

Hosted by climate journalist and adventurer Bernice Notenboom, Tipping Points embraces commentary from leading climate scientists surveying the complexity of the major tipping points affecting our current climate and their impact on changing weather patterns around the globe. UCSB Geography alumnus Michael Marshall (PhD 2010) recently wrote to say, “The series titled “Tipping Points” premiers on the Weather Channel in the US this Saturday. Dutch and German versions are also available - the series will be broadcast in over 20 countries. I will be in the episode dealing with Floods and Droughts in Africa, which I think is episode 5.”

Join the world’s pre-eminent scientists [including our own Michael Marshall] as they go off the grid to explore the dangerous new tipping points making our weather systems more extreme and unpredictable. Discover the elements destabilizing our climate system and how these changes impact weather systems around the world.

Alumna Dawn Wright Receives Distinguished Teaching Honors

The AAG announced that “The AAG Honors Committee has selected nine nominees to receive [2012] AAG Honors for outstanding contributions to the advancement or welfare of the geography discipline. Each year, the AAG invites nominations from the membership, which are then presented to the AAG Honors Committee for consideration.” The AAG Honors were conferred at the AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles during a special awards luncheon on Saturday, April 13, 2013.

“Dawn J. Wright is Chief Scientist for ESRI, developing their ocean GIS initiative, as well as Professor of Geosciences at Oregon State University. Dr. Wright views herself as a scientist working within and between the areas of geographic information science, marine science, and ocean informatics. Dawn is a leader in her outreach to the larger community, including her interactions with school children and her interest in encouraging more young women to pursue careers in science. She has been featured in the national media and in Leon Lederman’s Portraits of Great American Scientists.

‘Deepsea Dawn’ delights in serving as a role model, encouraging female and minority students to consider a career in ocean science. She has attracted a large contingent of students to her classes, and she has supervised an unusually high number of theses and doctorates. Dawn offers a strong and thoughtful commitment to teaching and mentoring of students. She has attended a number of short courses to stay up-to-date with current techniques in the rapidly changing fields of GIS and ocean science and has applied those to her teaching. She also has served on a multitude of local, regional, national, and international committees in geography and in marine science—experiences that have been communicated to many students. Her professional seagoing experience is remarkable and affords her the opportunity to bring first-hand experience into the classroom, a critical element of successful teaching.

In recognition of her classroom teaching and mentoring of students in GIS, marine science, and ocean informatics, and her recruitment of young students into geographic sciences, the Association is honored and pleased to confer upon Dawn Wright the AAG Distinguished Teaching Honors for 2012.”
Welcome To Our New Graduate Students

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 2013, 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 is updated with photos and details of our new grad’s goals and prior academic backgrounds. 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, 3 of whom are in our Joint Doctoral Program with San Diego State University
- Eight of the 19 have a master’s degree in subjects ranging from Geography and Statistics to Biology and Engineering
- Ten of the 19 are women
- Countries represented, apart from the US, include China, Columbia, South Korea, and Mexico

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. We need not remind you how important such studies are in our troubled times, but we would like to urge you to help. Yep, We’re talking about donating money to the Department of Geography at UCSB.

We aren’t begging (well, maybe a bit). We are 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 2013 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:

- You can help yourself by obtaining a tax write-off if you want it,
- You can help some very bright kids pursue studies that will impact the future,
- You can help our Department maintain its commitment to excellence,
- And, just maybe, you also can make a difference to the future of mankind in the process.

Don’t just think about it, do it!

“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 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.”
Dar Roberts, Chair

Editor’s Note: The articles included in this edition of the Geography Newsletter are only a small sampling of about 140 postings made on the News & Events page of the UCSB Geography web site since the Spring Newsletter was sent out last March - see http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/events/department-news/ for more.