Krzysztof Janowicz Wins the Harold J. Plous Memorial Award

The Harold J. Plous Memorial Award is given annually to a faculty member of the rank of Assistant Professor from the fields of the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences who has demonstrated outstanding performance as measured by creative action or contribution to the intellectual life of the college community. Established in 1957 to honor Harold J. Plous, an Assistant Professor of Economics at UC Santa Barbara from 1950 until his death in 1957, it is the highest honor the College of Letters and Science can bestow upon a junior faculty member.

The 2014-15 Plous Award recipient is Krzysztof Janowicz, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography. Jano is the first member of the UCSB Department of Geography to win this award in its 57 year-long history. Professor Janowicz will deliver the annual Harold J. Plous Lecture in winter or spring quarter, 2015. Professor Janowicz works on computational methods to improve the publishing, retrieval, reuse, and integration of data without the need to restrict the semantic heterogeneity of these data which results from different cultures, backgrounds, perspectives, granularities, and so forth. His STKO lab investigates the role of Space and Time for Knowledge Organization. Within the realm of the Semantic Web, Linked Data, Web Science, and ontology research, Jano is especially interested in studying what human behavior reveals about place categories and how to leverage similarity and analogy reasoning models from cognitive science to improve geographic information retrieval. Methodologically, his niche is the combination of theory-driven (e.g., semantics) and data-driven (e.g., data mining) techniques.

Jano feels very honored and would like to thank the Geography Department, his colleagues, and his students for their support and the research collaborations that made this award possible. They, in turn, consider it an honor and a privilege to have Jano as part of the Geography team.
What I Did for My Summer Vacation

It is my pleasure to offer this, my first “Letter from the Chair.” I started in my new position as Chair of the Department of Geography last July. My duties started right away; thus, last summer was even busier than summer normally is. Like for other faculty members, summer for me is typically an opportunity to push my research along, including designing studies, collecting and analyzing data, conferring with collaborators, and writing, writing, writing. Since July, I have certainly spent more of my time carrying out the myriad administrative tasks that are part of being Chair.

So, of course, the title of this letter is a little misleading. I did not really take a summer vacation. But I did manage to combine some vacation time with a research trip. During the last week of July, I traveled to West Point, New York, home to the United States Military Academy (USMA), the Army’s main school for training officers for over 200 years (and long an estimable engineering school as well). Along with Ian Irmischer, doctoral student in Geography, and Mary Hegarty, Professor in Psychological & Brain Sciences, I have started researching the navigation training that takes place at the USMA and the navigational abilities of its cadets (undergraduates). Our major scientific goals are to improve our understanding of how and why people differ from each other in navigational reasoning and abilities, how the training procedures and materials used by the Army work (or don’t), and how we might improve this training. Each summer, over 1,000 incoming Freshman cadets go through intensive training in land navigation techniques (among other skills and knowledge). This training is not about using a computerized GPS-enabled navigation system. It’s two days of training in the detailed reading of topographic maps (that show landforms, water bodies, and so on); the precise use of the magnetic compass, coordinate scale, and protractor; the assessment of walked distances; the planning of efficient routes; and more.

The thousand-plus cadets are organized into several smaller groups, each undergoing the same four days of training, but staggered to start on different days. The first two days involve classroom study and lecture, including using coordinates (derived from the lat-long system) to plot the control points they will later search for in the field. Among other things, cadets are trained to imagine 3-D landforms when presented with a pattern of contour lines on a flat topo map. At the end of the second day, they spend time in a virtual-reality training lab, which is essentially a first-person shooter video game without the shooting but with simulated travel over a landscape, using virtual versions of the same tools they will use the next day in the field. (Researchers in my area of study have been using virtual reality as a research tool since the early 1990s.) On the third and fourth days, the cadets find themselves in the field setting, which is on the 16,000-acre semi-wilderness “campus” that is part of West Point but away from the central campus buildings and football stadium. They bivouacked outside the previous night...
(yes, in the rain) and ate MREs for all their meals (I tried them—they’re much better than some of the food I have had in more than one cafeteria or diner). In the field, cadets are tasked to walk with backpacks to the control points they previously analyzed in the classroom. The points are marked with 3-ft sticks topped with flags; they are fairly inconspicuous until you get pretty close to them. Although the cadets’ locations are constantly tracked by their supervisors with GPS-enabled phones while they hike around the several-km long course, the cadets themselves do not use the GPS to localize. They are awarded credit for quickly and accurately finding the required control points. Meanwhile, a GPS-derived record of their travel routes, with time stamps, is recorded. That provides a rich and important source of data for me and my colleagues.

And my vacation? Part of it took place Sunday morning, when I tried my hand (and my eyes, mind, and feet) at hiking to control points, as the cadets were doing. That was really mixing business and pleasure! But after finding the second point, a storm rushed over Ian and me (that too is pleasant when you’ve come from a dry Mediterranean summer), and so we called it a day. Also enjoyable was the chance to learn about such an interesting procedure from the officers in charge of this program and some helpful cadet informants. I found it appealing to consider that I might be able to help improve the training. But probably most pleasurable was just visiting West Point itself. George Washington, who established the army post at West Point that became a military academy in 1802, enthusiastically promoted what is fairly obvious to any observer of the campus, even one like me with no military training—the site of the campus makes it very defensible and highly strategic, and it also makes it beautiful to visit. It sits on a high plateau overlooking the Hudson River, flowing south to New York Harbor about 50 miles away. The fort’s original purpose was to prevent the British from sailing north along the river to cut off the Americans during the War for Independence. Besides the generous Hudson that bends beguilingly at West Point, the central campus is full of historic granite buildings, including the impressive Thayer Hotel, where Violet and I stayed (I had convinced my wife to accompany me, another good idea). It was fun to hang out in the hotel (see me in the photograph by the George S. Patton Tavern) and tour around the eastern deciduous woodland, the army museum, and the little towns on both sides of the river. A highlight came on our second night when we drove north for 40 miles to dine at The Bocuse Restaurant, one of several restaurants for students at the Culinary Institute of America (yes, the CIA) to practice their skills (we didn’t charge this meal to my grant). The CIA is the oldest cooking school in the U.S. and surely one of its best. It has personal significance for me, as no fewer than three of my siblings went to school there.

In a modest way, I see the West Point project as an opportunity to examine some fascinating research issues at the same time I more directly serve others. Without sounding too dramatic, the project might well help save lives one day, not only of the sons and daughters who make up today’s cadets, but for many others in the future—after all, today’s cadets are most of tomorrow’s officers. This is reminiscent of virtually all the research we conduct in the UCSB Department of Geography—in a great variety of ways, it is interesting but also promises directly to help individuals and society at large. Indeed, much of it already does. In my next Letter, I intend to make this case by providing details of some of the other geographic research being done by my faculty and student colleagues. In the meantime, I hope we can count on your support for these efforts, financially and otherwise.
Dr. Susan Cassels, an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Global Health at the University of Washington, joined the department of Geography faculty in July 2014. Cassels received her PhD in Demography from Princeton University in 2005 and an MPH (Master of Public Health Degree) in Epidemiology from the University of Washington in 2010.

Susan’s research interests are in the areas of migration and mobility, sexual risk behavior, and infectious disease epidemiology. She has been using mathematical modeling and social network analysis to address research questions in these areas. Recently her focus has been on social and behavioral determinants of HIV transmission dynamics, and she has published her research in AIDS, The Journal of Population Research, AIDS and Behavior, Current Opinion of HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, AIDS Care, Globalization and Health, and Human Ecology. She is currently finishing a research project aimed at understanding the role of internal migration on the structure of sexual networks, sexual risk behavior, and HIV in Accra, Ghana.

When asked why she decided to join the UCSB Department of Geography, “Susie” (as she prefers to be called) replied: I wanted to be part of a supportive academic community that uses advanced research methods to address interesting questions in human geography. The department feels like a perfect fit for me and my research interests. Plus, I received my B.S. from UCSB, and I jumped at the chance to return to Santa Barbara.”

Timothy DeVries, a Postdoctoral Scholar from UCLA’s Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the UCSB Department of Geography, effective July 1, 2014. When asked about his interests, academic and otherwise, Tim shared the following:

“My research interests center on examining processes in the marine carbon cycle. I am interested in the interactions between chemical, biological, and physical processes in the marine carbon cycle, and in feedbacks between these processes and the Earth’s climate. Much of my research involves building improved representations of these processes in numerical models of the ocean carbon cycle, so that past and present climate changes can be better understood and future climate change can be better predicted.

I’m looking forward to joining the Geography Department at UCSB because of the intellectually stimulating atmosphere, the great research and teaching opportunities, and the friendly people there. I’m also excited to be involved in the IGPMS program, and I look forward to working with faculty and graduate students from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds through that program. I myself have a varied educational background, having received an undergraduate degree in Economics, having taught high school Earth Science, and, most recently, receiving my PhD from UC Irvine in the multi-disciplinary Earth System Science Department.

Oh yeah, the great UCSB location doesn’t hurt either!
The State of Rain - The USGS “Top Story” for May 2014

The U.S. Geological Survey has released a satellite-based rainfall monitoring dataset specifically designed to support the early detection of drought around the world. Developed as a partnership between the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center and the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) Climate Hazards Group, this new dataset allows experts who specialize in the early warning of drought and famine to monitor rainfall in near real-time, at a high resolution, over most of the globe (from 50°N to 50°S).

Monitoring rainfall from space with modern weather satellites has become a robust, widely-practiced technique, but establishing a reliable context for relating space-based rainfall observations with present-day and historical ground-based rainfall data has been difficult. The new dataset, named the Climate Hazards Group Infrared Precipitation with Stations (CHIRPS), reaches back to 1981 to place rainfall observed from space into the historical setting of over three decades of collected rainfall data at ground stations worldwide. CHIRPS data can be incorporated into climate models, along with other meteorological and environmental data, to project future agricultural and vegetation conditions.

Explicitly designed for drought monitoring, CHIRPS is already being used to identify possible hot spots of food insecurity. Much of East Africa is still recovering from a series of poor rainy seasons in 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2012. Food prices remain high, especially in South Sudan, where civil war has led to the displacement of more than a million refugees.

Kenya relies heavily on highly productive farms located in the Rift Valley by Lake Victoria where abundant spring rains usually support high crop yields that feed millions of people. This year, however, the CHIRPS dataset has identified a very poor start to the growing season. CHIRPS’ long historical record indicates that this April’s rainfall was the lowest in 34 years — about two inches for the entire month, less than a third of the long-term monthly average. This information has been passed along to the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), prompting on-the-ground assessments of potential crop failure.

In addition to providing high resolution, near real-time information to support early warning, USGS and UCSB scientists are also using the CHIRPS data to explore recent trends in rainfall. This information can help guide “climate smart” development. It can also help water managers, hydro-electric power companies, natural resource managers, and disaster relief agencies to prepare for a changing climate.

Long-term rainfall has been declining across both the southwestern U.S. and eastern East Africa. Figure 2 shows the 1981-2013 correlation with a linear trend in March-August CHIRPS precipitation for the United States and East Africa. Red areas in these maps denote places where rainfall has been decreasing. Blue areas indicate places where rainfall has been increasing.

USGS and UCSB scientists are working with USAID to incorporate this information into development and adaptation strategies in Africa. At the same time, the scientists are exploring possible links between rainfall declines in these regions and warming in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The CHIRPS dataset is described fully in a recent USGS data document. The CHIRPS data archive is hosted both by USGS EROS and the UCSB Climate Hazard Group. The development of CHIRPS has been funded by USAID, USGS, NASA, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
UC Santa Barbara’s David López-Carr has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). One of 20 elected for distinguished contributions to the field of geology and geography, he was recognized specifically for advancing the scientific understanding of the coupled process of human population dynamics and environmental change.

Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon scientifically or socially distinguished AAAS members by their peers for efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications. López-Carr, who is the sole AAAS fellow from UCSB this year, joins more than 70 faculty members who have been so recognized since 1960. “I’m honored to receive this award from my peers,” said López-Carr, a professor in UCSB’s Department of Geography and director of the campus’s Human-Environment Dynamics Lab. “I consider it a reflection on the quality of UCSB and our geography department.”

López-Carr also is currently the systemwide chair for the Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity for the UC Faculty Senate and is an associate director of the UC Global Health Center of Expertise on Migration and Health. He holds affiliate positions in three UCSB interdisciplinary programs: Latin American and Iberian Studies, Global and International Studies, and Marine Studies.

“I am delighted that David López-Carr has been recognized as a fellow of the AAAS, the largest scientific society in the world,” said Pierre Wiltzius, the Susan and Bruce Worster Dean of Science. “Being a faculty member in the Department of Geography as well as contributing his expertise to multiple centers on campus makes David an excellent representative of the quintessential interdisciplinary, collaborative scientists at UCSB.”

In 2012, López-Carr, also director of UCSB’s program in Latin American and Iberian Studies, was one of three UCSB faculty members to share in a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support a Sawyer Seminar on the Comparative Study of Cultures titled “Sea Change: Integrating the Historical Study of Human Cultures and Marine Environments in Three Pacific Regions.” He was also a lead author of the United Nations Environment Programme’s Fifth Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-5). GEO-5 represented the United Nations position statement on global environmental change and suggested policy directions for the 2012 Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, a world summit held in Rio de Janeiro.

López-Carr’s work focuses on population dynamics, particularly links between migration and fertility and terrestrial and marine resource use in Latin America and between population and health vulnerabilities to climate change in Africa. His research integrates diverse data sources from United Nations and World Bank socioeconomic and demographic data to remotely sensed imagery with field-based surveys.

López-Carr received a bachelor’s degree in Spanish literature (with a minor in geology) from Bates College and a Ph.D. in geography from the University of North Carolina, where he also held a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellowship in biostatistics in the School of Public Health and the Carolina Population Center. In addition to Spanish, he speaks Portuguese, Italian, French, and rudimentary Q’eqchi Maya.

López-Carr has received various academic honors, including the 2002 Nystrom Award for outstanding paper based on a dissertation in the field of geography. In 2013, he was one of a select handful of geographers and social scientists chosen as Kavli Frontiers of Science fellows.

This year, 401 members were named AAAS fellows. Each new fellow will be presented with an official certificate and a gold and blue (representing science and engineering, respectively) rosette pin at the 2015 AAAS annual meeting in San Jose, California, in February. (Source: The UCSB Current - see http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/events/department-news/1539/david-lopez-carr-named-aaas-fellow/)
Time ticks away, and I am staring out my window. In 59 hours, 49 minutes, and 50 seconds, I will be passing the baton on to Dan Montello – but who’s counting? I can say with confidence that the past five years (minus two months) has without question been a period of greater change in the Department than any one before it. When Oliver Chadwick passed the baton on to me, the country was in a state of crisis – embroiled in the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. This impacted us all – many staff had to be let go, departmental budgets were cut brutally, and class enrollments climbed while TA support declined. A recent faculty search for a new human geographer was canceled, and faculty and staff took a pay cut, otherwise described as a furlough. As the ancient Greek dramatist, Menander (341/342 to 290 BCE) once stated, “Time heals all wounds” (or more precisely, “Time is the healer of all necessary evils”), and five years down the line, the Department is, in my opinion, as healthy as it has ever been. My tenure as Chair could be best characterized as a period of immense change...

The success of a department does not depend upon a single individual but, rather, the collective efforts of all members. The fact that UCSB Geography has been so successful and has continued to flourish is a testimony to the excellence of our faculty, staff, and students. While I cannot say that being Department Chair has been easy, I can say that it has been made easier, and far more successful, by the help of so many colleagues, a staff that works wonders, and graduate students who make us proud. It has been an honor to serve the Department as its Chair. However, the clock is still ticking, and the time has come for me to move on. Dar Roberts (The complete article is at http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/events/department-news/1460/a-last-letter-from-our-chair/.)

Waldo Tobler Receives the 2014 Pomerance Award

Each year, the Archaeological Institute of America presents a number of awards to archaeologists, educators, authors, and others whose work has had a positive impact on the field of archaeology.

“The Archaeological Institute of America is pleased to present the 2014 Pomerance Award for Scientific Contributions to Archaeology to Waldo Tobler. The Pomerance Award is the first recognition he has received from archaeologists for the impact of his research on our field. Tobler’s 1971 article “A Cappadocian Speculation,” published with S. Wineburg (Nature [1971] 39–41), used place-name references from the Kültepe cuneiform texts dating to the Old Assyrian Trading Colony period and attempted to situate them in geographic space using models of movement and interaction. It continues to be cited and used within archaeology today. His work on modeling human movement, notably “Tobler’s hiking function,” frequently forms the mathematical basis for archaeological least-cost path analyses. For all these reasons, we honor Waldo Tobler with the 2014 Pomerance Award for Scientific Contributions to Archaeology.” (Complete article at http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/events/department-news/1412/waldo-tobler-receives-the-2014-pomerance-award-for-scientific-contributions-to-archaeology/.)
Chaowei Yang, Chair of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) Research Committee, made the following announcement in April: “As Chair of the UCGIS Research Committee, I am honored to announce that Dr. Richard Church was selected for the 2014 UCGIS Research Award for his highly-cited “Maximal Covering Location Problem” paper and relevant fundamental contribution to GIScience. The selection was made by a committee chaired by Dr. Luc Anselin with Drs. Ming Tsou, Jochen Albrecht, and Ross Meentemeyer. We are honored to present this award to someone with Dr. Church’s distinguished record and career accomplishments (as evidenced by the following award citation).

2014 UCGIS Research Award Citation for Professor Richard Church:

Richard Church, currently Professor of Geography and Associate Dean of Mathematical, Life and Physical Sciences at the University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading figure in scientific efforts to use and integrate spatial analytical methods with GIS. He has made seminal and sustained academic contributions to GIS, location analysis and modeling, natural resource management, and transportation. His findings have impacted a range of disciplines and enhanced planning and decision making for urban, regional, and environmental management.

He has authored over 230 publications during his 39-year career, with a vast array of co-authors representing a wide range of disciplines, including geography, business, environmental science, civil and industrial engineering, operations research, management science, mathematics, and statistics, among others. His research has had a major influence on the field of GIScience. According to Google Scholar, his work has been cited over 7,900 times, giving him an h-index of 43 (ISI Web of Science indicates over 2,500 citations and an h-index of 27).

Professor Church has made seminal contributions to location analysis, most notably by introducing the “Maximal Covering Location Problem” in a 1974 article in the Papers in Regional Science. This article and the problem it formalizes has become crucial to siting and facility location in that it operationalizes notions of central place theory in an optimization model that considers budgetary constraints. This work and its later extensions constitute a major contribution to the theory and application of location analysis, evidenced by over 1,350 citations to date. It has also made the transition to location software packages included in commercial GIS, such as ArcGIS and TransCAD.

A second influential aspect of Dr. Church’s research pertains to the integration of GIS and location modeling, evidenced by a large number of highly cited articles and book chapters. The culmination of this perspective on GIScience is his recent book on Business Site Selection, Location Analysis and GIS. In this work, he demonstrates how GIS and location modeling are intimately linked in a number of ways – abstraction, data quality, model specification, computational requirement, and geo-visualization. In addition, he has made significant contributions to natural resource management, transportation, and system vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure.

He was elected Fellow of the Regional Science Association International (2009) and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2009), and he received the Lifetime Achievement Award, Section on Location Analysis of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS – 2012).

Editor’s note: While Professor Church’s article has been cited in a variety of contexts, ranging from conservation biology to the siting of emergency services, perhaps the most surprising one is that of dentistry.

In 2009, the Journal of Oral Rehabilitation published an article about determining color compatibility between dental shade guides (Cocking, C, Cevirgen, S., Helling, M., et al. Colour compatibility between teeth and dental shade guides in Quinquagenarians and Septuagenarians. 36; 848–855). The article deals with calculating an optimized shade guide and states, “The problem of designing a shade guide was solved using discrete optimization techniques. The task was modelled as a maximal covering location problem ... To solve the optimization problem, it was formulated as an integer linear program according to the formulation of Church and ReVelle and solved to optimality using ... a commercial integer program solver.”

“Without geography, you’re nowhere” (Jimmy Buffett). Ain’t it the tooth!
Joel Michaelsen: All Star Athlete, Academic, and Administrator

Geography Professor Joel Michaelsen was one of four UCSB alumnae honored at the 2014 Annual Alumni Awards Luncheon on October 11. Joel was honored with the Graver University Service Award which was presented to him by Chancellor Yang for his exemplary service as a scholar, faculty leader, and distinguished administrator.

According to the Alumni Association: “In 1991, the Alumni Service Award, named after influential Association board member Chuck Graver, was created to honor those who demonstrated exceptional leadership and service to the University through involvement with the Alumni Association. In the last 50 years, the Alumni Association has honored more than 200 individuals. As the excellence of UC Santa Barbara and its alumni has grown, these awards have highlighted the men and women who have brought distinction to their alma mater” (source).

UCSB Chancellor Henry Yang made the following announcement about Michaelsen’s appointment as Interim Executive Vice Chancellor: “Following broad consultation with our Academic Senate and administrative and faculty colleagues, I am pleased to announce that Professor Joel Michaelsen has graciously agreed to serve as our Interim Executive Vice Chancellor, effective Friday, January 17, 2014, pending Presidential approval, until the next EVC is in place.

As a UCSB alumnus and distinguished faculty member since 1982, Professor Michaelsen has lent his wisdom and expertise to help our university in countless ways over the years, including as chair of our Academic Senate from 2006 to 2010 and as department chair of Geography from 1991 to 1997. He is an exemplar of the importance and value of shared governance at UC Santa Barbara and has chaired or served on a broad range of campus committees, including the Chancellor’s Coordinating Committee on Budget Strategy, Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Faculty and Staff Housing, Campus Planning Committee, Design Review Committee, Chancellor’s Campus Sustainability Committee, and many more.

Dr. Michaelsen is a dedicated teacher and mentor and an outstanding researcher, renowned for his expertise in climatology, climate change, and statistics. Within our Department of Geography, he founded the UCSB Climate Hazard Group, which specializes in looking at the climate-related components of food-security in developing nations through the lens of geography. We greatly appreciate Professor Michaelsen’s long-standing devotion to our campus and his willingness to help ensure a smooth transition by taking on this critical interim role.”

To quote Professor David Lopez-Carr regarding the Alumni Awards Luncheon: “Representing Geography, Dan Montello, Ray Smith, and I were at the table with Joel. The others seated with us, in addition to Joel’s wife, were Henry Yang and our new EVC David Marshall, which suggests how much Joel’s contributions are valued by our campus administration. Dan noted that the bottles of wine at our table were VIP level juice.” Dan commented: “Joel gave a very charming speech that was warmly received. We all felt proud and just a little sad at the passing of time marked by this ceremony. Yes, I could see that our table had some really nice bottles of wine (a little pricey), while the othertables had only serviceable bottles. Too bad I had to return to my office afterwards - nothing but ice tea for me!”

Faculty Kudos continued on p. 10
CaGIS Distinguished Career Award Presented to Keith Clarke

“The Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS) is composed of educators, researchers and practitioners involved in the design, creation, use and dissemination of geographic information. CaGIS provides an effective network that connects professionals who work in the broad field of Cartography and Geographic Information Science both nationally and internationally (www.cartogis.org). The CaGIS board met at the annual Association of American Geographers Meeting in Tampa, Florida, April 8-12, 2014, and awarded UCSB Geography Professor Keith Clarke the 2013 Distinguished Career Award. The following is the announcement of the award by Terry Slocum, Vice President of CaGIS:

“As Past President of the Cartography and Geographic Information Society, I am pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Career Award is Keith Clarke. The Distinguished Career Award is awarded each year to honor the accomplishments of senior professionals who have contributed substantially to the advancement of the fields of cartography, GIS or GIScience, or the interface between cartography and GIScience. I would like to thank Lynn Usery and Mike Goodchild for nominating Keith and for providing the material that will enable me to introduce Keith.

Keith received his BA from Middlesex Polytech in London and his MA and PhD from the University of Michigan. He was a faculty member at Hunter College from 1982-1986 and has been on the faculty at UCSB since 1996.

In the research realm, Keith has been highly thought of for his work in four areas. His early work dealt with terrain modeling, where he used the techniques of fractals and spectral analysis to develop a novel method for estimating the fractal dimension of terrain. A second theme of Keith’s research has involved an examination of the history of geographic information technologies and their roles in military and intelligence applications. An example of his work here is his controversial argument that a large proportion of technical developments that now underpin geographic information technologies originated in issues surrounding the Corona spy-satellite program in the 1960s.

Perhaps Keith is best known for his pioneering work on the application of cellular automaton models to urban growth. Urban growth models are often difficult to calibrate, but Keith’s work has produced major advances. Finally, Keith is known for his novel work in field GIS. In collaboration with others at UCSB and Iowa State, he has promoted the use of mobile computing technologies and wireless connectivity to exploit the use of GIS tools in the field. For example, he has promoted the use of computers embedded in user’s clothing. These research ideas have been published in more than 100 refereed journal articles and book chapters, and supported by numerous grants from NSF, NASA, and USGS.

In the teaching realm, Keith has supervised 21 PhD and 40 Master’s students, and he has frequently published papers with these students. Although certainly successful with graduate students, he also has been active in undergraduate teaching. He is author of the widely known text Getting Started With Geographic Information Systems (now in its fifth edition) and is the author of the just released e-book Maps & Web Mapping: An Introduction to Cartography. It is not surprising that in 2003 UCGIS recognized Keith as Educator of the Year.

In the service realm, Keith has been active at a variety of levels. For example, he chaired the department at UCSB for six years, served as President of CaGIS, served as North American editor of the prestigious journal IJGIS, chaired several National Research Council Committees, and has edited the book series in Geographic Information Science for Pearson over a 22-year period.

Reflecting these achievements, Keith has been the recipient of numerous awards – particularly noteworthy is the John Wesley Powell Award, the USGS’s highest award for achievement. Clearly, Keith is more than worthy of the Distinguished Career Award from CaGIS.”
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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“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, Professor, UCSB Department of Geography
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☐ Geography Department Support: Unrestricted support.
☐ Landon Romano Textbook Scholarship: Landon Romano, 1999 alumnus, established textbook fund to give back to the department that made a positive difference in his career.

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

☐ <Your Name Here> Scholarship Fund:
See: http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/about/giving.php
☐ The Nicholas Bourdakis Memorial Fund: The Bourdakis Fund was established after the tragic death of Nicholas, who died in February 2001 when struck by a car in Isla Vista. He had just declared Geography his major.
☐ Jack and Laura Dangermond Fund: Jack Dangermond is the founder of ESRI (1969), a GIS and mapping software company. He is considered one of the most influential people in GIS worldwide.
☐ The Jack Estes Memorial Fund: Jack Estes was a Geography faculty member for over thirty years. He built a thriving remote sensing research unit and mentored many students.
☐ The Reginald G. 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.
☐ The 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 alumna, this award supports undergraduate student(s), based on the criteria of academic achievement, compelling family/personal circumstances, and membership in the UCSB Geography Club.

Descriptions of the above gift options & other gift opportunities are found at: http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/giving/

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End of Term Grad Awards

The Geography Excellence in Teaching award is given to the graduate student who has shown exceptional ability as a teacher, as demonstrated through course evaluations, written comments from students, and/or outstanding course and activity design. This year's winner of the annual award was Sarah Harris (shown below with then Vice Chair Phaedon Kyriakidis).

The Geography Excellence in Research award is given annually to the graduate student who has shown exceptional ability in the field of research, as demonstrated by outstanding presentations at national meetings, important publications, significant research results, or outstanding performance in lab or field experiments. The recipient of the award was Song Gao who scored a double by also earning The Jack & Laura Dangermond Graduate Fellowship.

End of Term UGrad Awards

The Jack and Laura Dangermond Undergraduate Fellowship award is a significant honor given to the most accomplished student or students in geographic information science in the department of Geography. Jack and Laura Dangermond are the co-founders and President and Executive Vice President respectively of the Environmental Systems Research Institute, or ESRI. ESRI is the major designer and industrial supplier of software in the field of Geographic Information Systems, or GIS. This year’s Jack and Laura Dangermond Undergraduate Fellowship is awarded to Collin McGrath (pictured above).

The Chair’s Award for Excellence in Geography is awarded to the graduating senior who has majored in Geography and has attained the highest overall grade point average: Matthew Conway is this year’s recipient.

Distinction in the Major is awarded to students who are graduating with an overall GPA of at least 3.5, with a Geography GPA of at least 3.6, and who have undertaken an independent study project and/or graduate-level studies. This year’s awardees are Matthew Conway, Terrell Beesley, and Sarah “Sadie” Gill.

Recognition of Outstanding Achievement in Geography is awarded to students who are graduating with a grade point average of at least 3.5 in upper division geography classes or have otherwise been nominated by a faculty member for demonstrated academic performance. The 21 students receiving this award are: Javier Anguiano, Terrell Beesley, Matthew Conway, Ryan Fallgatter, Evan Farbstein, Brittany Gale, Sarah “Sadie” Gill, Austin Grove, Trenton Hagedorn, Ryan Hanni, Claudia Knudson, David Liu, Collin McGrath, Michael Mroczek, Matthew Murchison, Emily Owen, Jessica Pepper, Tom Tran, Charles Wachob, Andrew Wolf, and Qingyun Zhang.
UCSB Department of Geography: Student Kudos, contd.

GRF AWARDS

The National Science Foundation (NSF) announced this year’s recipients of Graduate Research Fellowships (GRF), and the UCSB Department of Geography would like to congratulate our own Kate Voss (above left) for being offered a fellowship and Michelle Oyewole (below left) for receiving an honorable mention. There were over 14,000 applications for this highly competitive program which awarded 2,000 fellowships and 1,992 honorable mentions this year.

JAMES ALLEN WINS GRAD SLAM

Open to all graduate students, the Grad Slam is a campus-wide competition for the best three-minute research talk. The Grad Slam format consists of a 3-minute talk, and criteria for judging include clear and effective presentation, being geared for a general university audience, and having intellectual significance. James G. Allen, whose research uses satellite imaging to model ocean ecosystems, came away with the top prize of $2,500.

MATT CONWAY - BEST PAPER AWARD

Matt Conway, a UCSB undergraduate majoring in Geography, took first place in the Tom McKnight Undergraduate Paper awards at the 68th Annual Conference of the California Geographical Society, May 2-4, 2014, for his paper presentation titled “Predicting the Popularity of Bicycle Sharing Stations: An Accessibility-Based Approach.” The conference was co-hosted by the Los Angeles Geographical Society and was held in Hollywood at Los Angeles City College.

YANG LIN AWARDED DDIG

Yang Lin has been awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG) from the NSF Division of Environmental Biology for his proposal, “Quantifying Changes in Lignin Chemistry During Photodegradation Versus Biotic Decomposition Using 2D NMR Spectroscopy.” These grants are highly competitive, with a funding rate of less than 15% in this competition. The award will help support the costs of Yang’s dissertation research on photodegradation of plant litter.

ELIZABETH KENNEDY AUTHORS POLICY PIECE ON CHILD IMMIGRANTS

Elizabeth Kennedy is a doctoral student in the UCSB/SDSU Joint PhD program, and her name keeps coming up in relation to media interviews regarding the influx of unaccompanied child migrants to the U.S., as well as in print, radio, and television outlets like Univision, Time, Al Jazeera, and the Spanish language equivalent of the Associated Press. On July 1, 2014, the American Immigration Council in Washington, DC published a policy piece written by Elizabeth and titled “No Childhood Here: Why Central American Children are Fleeing Their Homes.” She has a BA in Government & Humanities from the University of Texas, Austin, and an MSc in Refugee & Forced Migrations Studies from Oxford University. Kennedy has over 10 years work experience with child and youth migrants, and for the past six years, has conducted international research with underserved youth in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, the UK, and the U.S.
KATE VOSS RECEIVES EDITOR’S CHOICE AWARD

UCSB Geography graduate student Kate Voss just received the following announcement from Alberto Montanari, Editor in Chief of Water Resources Research: Dear Dr. Voss: Starting in 2011, Water Resources Research has instituted the Editor’s Choice Awards. Editors’ Choice Awards are given to about 1% of published articles in any calendar year to provide professional recognition to scientists and students for their outstanding work. The selection is made by the Editors of WRR based on technical significance, novelty, originality, presentation, and broader implications of the publication. Awards made in a given year are for publication in the previous calendar year, the “award year.” I am delighted to let you know that for the 2013 award year your publication listed below is being recognized as a recipient of this award.

GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS LAND TOP INTERNSHIPS

Ansel Lundberg, a UCSB senior who is majoring in Geography and in English, has landed an internship with the Association of American Geographers. His interests include geographic information systems, urban and transportation geography, and environmental literary criticism and theory. After graduating, he is interested in living and working in an American city for a few years and eventually returning to university. He plans to work towards a master’s in public administration or to teach high school English. With his degrees, he hopes to incorporate processes of time and place into better managing municipalities and regional governments so that all citizens have fair access to resources, no matter their location. As an intern at the AAG this fall, he will be working on the Association’s guide to geography programs and various Eye on Earth projects to better utilize environmental data from national governmental agencies.

Geography graduate student Song Gao landed a Software Engineering Summer Internship at the Apple Maps Group. He was inspired to apply by an Apple job posting for a Data Scientist on LinkedIn. The job description was a good match for Song’s research interests and skills, particularly regarding large-scale data mining and GIS processing. Song first applied in November 2013, he got his first reply from Apple HR in February 2014, and, after three rounds of interviews by Apple engineers and managers, he got a job offer. Song says that he’s excited about getting this competitive offer and hopes to contribute to the new version of Apple Maps with his geospatial knowledge and GIS expertise.

Grad student Yingjie Hu landed a summer internship with Esri: “I will be working in the Application Prototype Lab (APL) located at Esri’s headquarters in Redlands. APL is a research lab which focuses on designing the prototypes for Esri’s next-generation products. During this summer, I will be working on a project to develop a Linked-Data-driven framework for ArcGIS Online. This prototype framework could also be applied to facilitate the content organization and map-based resource discovery in general geportals. Hopefully this work will contribute not only to Esri but to the general GIS community as well.”

Olaf Menzer will also be interning this summer. Olaf says he will be in Berkeley at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL), for their Advanced Computing for Science Department: “In this internship, I will be participating in research leading to development and evaluation of flux processing codes in support of building the AmeriFlux and FLUXNET datasets which are used by researchers across the globe for climate and biome understanding studies.”
Alumnus Kirk Goldsberry has scored big time with his use of spatial and visual analytics as a means to enhance basketball expertise. “All maps simplify reality - that’s the nature of the geospatial beast. My basketball maps expose the general tendencies and spatial shooting behaviors of NBA players and teams; they are not intended to explain every aspect of basketball reality.” However, “the things Goldsberry, the USC team, and others are looking at — finding ways to measure and visualize stuff that we might think or believe, but not know for sure — can not only help teams make better decisions; they can open the door to a whole new way of seeing the game” (source).

Kirk’s “CourtVision Analytics” were originally presented in a research paper at the 2012 MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference in Boston which was one of two finalists for top paper amongst over 100 submissions and was featured in the New York Times blog “Off the Dribble.” His analytics were then featured again in an interactive N.B.A. Finals preview which was posted in both the New York Times and USA Today (see the June 12, 2012 article, “Alumnus Kirk Goldsberry Featured in New York Times – Again!”). Those write-ups were followed by an article in The Boston Daily which noted that “This year, after a lot of trial and error, he began producing astonishingly information-rich maps (precise to the square foot) that show the spots on a court where a shooter’s attempts are most likely to be successful. Nine NBA teams have approached Goldsberry about using his maps to find their players’ strengths and weaknesses.”

Recently, Wired.com devoted a major business article about Kirk’s CourtVision which was written by Mark McClusky and posted October 28, 2014, with the title “This Guy’s Quest to Track Every Shot in the NBA Changed Basketball Forever.” Some extracts:

- All through his education, Goldsberry didn’t just watch basketball; he played it too—recreationally, in pickup games. And as he played, he started to think about the game and how it differed from other sports. Analytics—breaking down play and performance with statistics—was starting to supplement more traditional coaching and evaluation methods like watching videotape and working on physical fundamentals.
- Goldsberry began to focus on the locations and movement of objects—specifically, the players and the ball. It was a mapping problem. From that perspective, and with the help of some massive new data sets, he could do more than merely quantify what people thought they knew about the game. He could discover hidden truths about hoops, shining light into dark corners that no one even knew were corners.
- One of the people intrigued by Goldsberry’s work was Brian Kopp, then an executive at Stats, located just outside of Chicago. A group of baseball researchers started Stats in the 1980s to gather the best statistical information they could about the game. Now the company is a behemoth, providing statistical information about professional sports in the US to teams, leagues, and the media. In 2012, Stats was working on basketball too—messing around with a new kind of data-gathering it called SportVU. Shortly after that 2012 presentation at the Sloan conference, Kopp called Goldsberry and asked if he would be interested in taking a look.
- This is no longer a part-time hobby for Goldsberry. He has parlayed his work into a job writing about analytics for the sports website Grantland, and although he won’t confirm it, there are reports that multiple NBA teams have consulted with him. And he’s still at Harvard, where he’s organized a group of students that call themselves the XY Hoops after the mathematic shorthand for the coordinate system. “This wasn’t my idea—it came from my students,” Goldsberry says. “It’s like I’m the Foo Fighters, and they’re the hot new band. I’m almost a nostalgia act already.”
Alumna Janet Franklin Elected to National Academy of Sciences

Arizona State University professor Janet Franklin, who was recently elected to the National Academy of Sciences, does research that addresses the impacts of human-caused landscape change on the environment, and its long-term implications for the environment and all things living in it. Janet received her PhD in the UCSB Department of Geography (Fall 1988) for “Canopy Reflectance Modeling in a Tropical Savanna” (Simonett, Chair).

Alumna Yihong Yuan Receives Prestigious Chinese Award

Alumna Yihong Yuan successfully defended her dissertation in November 2013 (Chair: Adjunct Geography faculty member Martin Raubal at ETH Zurich), and she recently received a major government award, the “Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-financed Students Abroad.” Since 2003, the Chinese government has been awarding grants to outstanding students who study in a foreign country on their own accord. The awards are given to students who are able to study abroad without government-funded sponsorships under the umbrella of the China Scholarship Council. The selection is based on students’ research achievements, publications, academic merits, and career potentials. This is one of the highest honors the Chinese government can award to students who study in a foreign country. Only around 500 young talents are selected each year all over the world, and each recipient receives an award of $6000.

Alumnae Max Moritz and Alexandra Syphard Advise Us To Learn To Coexist with Wildfire

Many fire scientists have tried to get Smokey the Bear to hang up his “prevention” motto in favor of tools like thinning and prescribed burns, which can manage the severity of wildfires while allowing them to play their natural role in certain ecosystems. But a new international research review led by UC Berkeley says the debate over fuel-reduction techniques is only a small part of a much larger fire problem that will make society increasingly vulnerable to catastrophic losses unless it changes its fundamental approach from fighting fire to coexisting with fire as a natural process.

The paper, “Learning to Coexist with Wildfire,” published in the Nov. 6 issue of the journal Nature, examines research findings from three continents and from both the natural and social sciences. The authors conclude that government-sponsored firefighting and land-use policies actually encourage development on inherently hazardous landscapes, amplifying human losses over time.

“We don’t try to ‘fight’ earthquakes — we anticipate them in the way we plan communities, build buildings and prepare for emergencies. We don’t think that way about fire, but our review indicates that we should,” said lead author Max Moritz [PhD 1999], Cooperative Extension specialist in fire at UC Berkeley’s College of Natural Resources. “Human losses will only be mitigated when land-use planning takes fire hazards into account in the same manner as other natural hazards, like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.”

Describing wildfire as “one of the most basic and ongoing natural processes on Earth,” the authors call for a paradigm shift in the way society interacts with it, changing to an approach that achieves long-term, sustainable coexistence that benefits the planet’s ecosystems on the landscape scale, while minimizing catastrophic losses on the human scale.
Willie McBride graduated in 2012 with Outstanding Achievement as a Geography Major (awarded to students graduating with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher), and his quest for outstanding achievements continues - he’s now in training with a friend, Dane Wilson, to make the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team of the 49er Skiff. “The 49er’s name comes from its hull length of 4.99 meters. The young duo have gathered a serious following, not just because their training videos have gone viral within the global competitive sailing community, but because of their goals surrounding their Olympic dream. Both athletes have had a lifelong love affair with the ocean and are on a mission to share that experience with others. Their plans are to compete for an Olympic medal, and through the process of training, coaching, and competing, they are endeavoring to establish an Olympic training center right here in Santa Barbara.

Alumnus Willi McBride Goes for Olympic Gold

Alumnus Kyle Cavanaugh Tracks Giant Kelp from Space

In collaboration with colleagues at UCSB, Jarrett Byrnes, a former postdoctoral scholar at the campus’s National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), is trying to determine whether and how climate change is impacting giant kelp forests. To accomplish this, he needs to identify the green patches of kelp forest that appear in photos taken from space. Because of the sheer number of images — 100,000 in all — Byrnes and his team are soliciting assistance from the general public.

In the satellite photos, taken between 1983 and 2013, giant kelp forests appear as little green blobs in a big blue ocean. “What people are actually seeing is the kelp forest canopy floating on the surface of the water,” Byrnes said. “Computers have trouble distinguishing between sea foam and kelp forest, but to the human eye, it’s easy to see the difference.”

As a result, Byrnes and UCSB alumnus Kyle Cavanaugh (PhD 2011), an assistant professor in UCLA’s Department of Geography, developed Floating Forests for exactly this purpose. The project will launch Aug. 7, with participants focusing on approximately 10,000 images from California and Tasmania. Once these images are classified, additional sets from other locations will be added.

Identifying the kelp forests is simple: Click to get a new photo, circle the kelp and submit the result to the research team. Floating Forests was created in collaboration with Zooniverse, a citizen science Web portal owned and operated by the Citizen Science Alliance (CSA). Projects supported by CSA have involved tracking wildlife on a preserve and counting galaxies.

The NASA Landsat images that Byrnes and Cavanaugh have collected of kelp canopies floating on the ocean’s surface could tell scientists a lot about how kelp forests have fared through the past three decades of climate change. “Our first effort will be an examination of changes in global area coverage of the giant kelp canopy,” explained Byrnes, now an assistant professor of biology at the University of Massachusetts Boston and former principal investigator of an NCEAS working group called Global Impacts of Climate Change on Kelp Forest Ecosystems. With the kelp forest in the images isolated, Byrnes and his colleagues will analyze the results to help estimate how much total carbon over time across the globe is locked up in giant kelp.

NASA has selected a proposal developed by the University of Maryland and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFCC) for a new instrument that will join a growing suite of technologies deployed on the International Space Station (ISS), providing key observations about the Earth’s environment. The new instrument will provide unprecedented observations of the Earth’s forests and their response to changes in climate and land use.

“GEDI will provide the first global data set on forest structure sufficient to accurately map forest above-ground carbon. These data can then be used to estimate the emission of CO2 into the atmosphere that occurs from forest loss, say through fire, and the sequestration of CO2 from the atmosphere as forests grow,” said UMD Department of Geographical Sciences Professor Ralph Dubayah (PhD 1991), the Principal Investigator of the project.

Alumnus Ralph Dubayah Heads NASA Project To Monitor Forest Carbon from ISS

Alumnus Kyle Cavanaugh Tracks Giant Kelp from Space
Brazil didn’t do very well in the last World Cup, but it scored big time with admissions to the UCSB Department of Geography this fall. Not counting the joint PhD program with SDSU, 5 of the new international grads are from Brazil - outscooring China which only accounted for 4. The Geography Department’s Fall 2014 Graduate Orientation was held on Monday, September 29, 9:00 to 5:00, and our new grad cohort only had two 15 minute breaks and a working lunch during their hectic schedule. Needless to say, a 7:00 pm happy hour arranged by “senior” grads was welcomed. Tuesday’s activities consisted of a campus-wide Teaching Assistant orientation for graduate students and a TA workshop for those in the Department. That was followed by a campus-wide new grad student orientation and another Geography TA workshop on Wednesday, all leading up to the first day of UCSB instruction on Thursday, October 2.

Meet Nicole McCoy, Our New Graduate Program Assistant

I am thrilled to be in the Geography department, serving students! I came to UCSB in 2010 with a new career path in mind, along the lines of student affairs management, and everything is falling into place. I started out at the Biomolecular Science and Engineering program as the graduate program assistant (GPA), and six months later, I took on an additional position as the GPA for Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology. I thoroughly enjoy working with graduate students and am grateful to continue in that role in Geography!

Before coming to UCSB, I was a GIS professional for almost 20 years. I received my BA in Geography with an emphasis in natural resource management from Central Washington University, WA. My first job in my field was as a GIS technician for Kittitas County Conservation District in Ellensburg, WA where I did a lot of cool things in the GIS world. In 2002, I moved to Santa Barbara with my husband, teenage son (at the time), dog, and cat (all crammed in a U-Haul) to be close to my husband’s family and to make a go of it in what I refer to as “vacation land.” I continued my career in GIS for the County of Santa Barbara at URS Corporation (Goleta), then with Dudek (environmental consulting), and, finally, with my own business, until my new career at UCSB unfolded.

I have become more involved on campus through service on the Chancellor’s Staff Advisory Council and through the Gaucho U professional development program, where my cohort is coordinating a campus-wide event called “Concerts on the Green” for staff and faculty. In my spare time, I have volunteered at the Ty Warner Sea Center as a docent since 2006. Nothing brings me more joy than sharing nature with people of all ages, especially children. For fun, I thoroughly enjoy live music; all outdoor activities; family and friend get-togethers; good food, beer, wine; and all life has to offer!