



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN BERNARDINO

College of Social and
Behavioral Sciences

Geography and Environmental Studies Annual Alumni Newsletter 2010-2011 GEONOTES



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Geography and Environmental Studies Department Update

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies is looking forward to another productive year. It appears that the recent approval of the California budget will improve the general situation for higher education. Last year was one that saw faculty and staff taking furloughs to save the university millions of dollars. However, while the savings were substantial, it was very disruptive for faculty and students because it required faculty to take mandatory days off, or even cancel some classes. This year began with no furloughs and California committing more money to higher education. We all hope the era of reduced classes and general deteriorating conditions for the university will end. Time will tell.

Two other positive developments occurred in the department. The first one is that Michal Kohout earned tenure and was promoted to associate professor. The second is that we have added a full-time lecturer. His name is Kevin Grisham and he is familiar to many on campus; he received his PhD at UC Riverside, and has research interests in the Middle East. He is known on campus for his very successful work as the faculty adviser for the Model United Nations and the Model Arab League programs. He will continue with this work, and help to promote the new Global Studies option in the geography degree. Last year I reported that a Global Studies minor was in the works to compliment the Global Studies option. I'm happy to report that the minor has now officially been added, and it should be a good choice as a minor for students who are taking other, related, majors. One final note: Ted McDowell is inching closer and closer to full retirement. This year he will teach only one class for us: Geog 470: Hydrology and Water Resources. I'll try to talk him into teaching it again next year, but it gets harder and harder to bring him back from his retirement activities.

Last year we had two colloquia. One was by Jim Mulvihill on China, which he had visited. He was assisted by Dr. Bo Xu. Then, Dr. Rajrani Kalra gave a talk in the winter quarter on India. She used a multi-media approach, and all who attended enjoyed it very much. It has really added a lot to the department to have Dr. Xu and Dr. Kalra's expertise on China and India, respectively. This year we expect to have a colloquium each quarter. Dr. Xu will do the first one. She spent the summer in China, and her talk should be relevant for anyone interested in China. Check the department web page for further details.

Finally, I would again like to thank everyone who has donated to the department. Such contributions are greatly appreciated, and they are especially helpful to us now because of the budget problems.

Jeff Hackel, Department Chair

GEONOTES

Geography and Environmental Studies Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2010



DEPARTMENT ≧ NEWS ≦

Jeff Hackel

Departmental chair duties kept me busy last year. Instead of reducing the work, the furlough and budget cuts seemed to make it worse. Changes in teaching schedules increased the clerical work, and disrupted the normal procedures. It was also challenging trying to make less departmental money go further. With the help and cooperation of the faculty, we managed to make it all work out in the end.

The summer was a quiet one. The weather was, of course, unbelievable. I kept waiting for summer to start, but the cool weather just continued on and on. It was a rare day that temperatures reached 100 degrees, with most in the 80 and low 90s. I'd be surprised if we have another one like that for a while. Although I didn't get out of California for any trips, I did take up a new hobby: kayaking. I bought an inflatable kayak and tried it out on Lake Gregory. I then expanded my horizons and went to Silverwood Lake. My end-of-the-summer goal was to go around the whole perimeter of the lake, and I did do it. I like Silverwood because it has several rest stops around the edge. I found that the only thing I couldn't get used to when kayaking was sitting in the thing for more than an hour. I just can't

imagine going out on the ocean where one can't get out of the thing for several hours.

I have continued my work on migration in southern Africa, with a focus on Swaziland. Now that the university's budget situation has improved, some travel money might be available so that I can present some of my findings at a regional conference.

Rajrani Kalra

This is my third year at CSUSB and I am really enjoying my teaching and research experience. This summer, I visited India for the first time in several years. I was pleased to see my family and a rapidly changing India. I noticed that although spatial inequality exists in India, there has been a considerable improvement in transport infrastructure and the business climate. Real estate is booming and there is a considerable increase in wealth of the growing middle class. The economic reform of the 1990s has truly unleashed a pent up commercial energy that is driving the economy at a rapid pace. I travelled to New Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata (north, south and east respectively) and also visited Tirupati (south), a religious city, along with a short visit to small cities in the state of Punjab. I noticed the economic and social transformation which India has undergone in the recent past while taking pictures and making video films. "I received a travel grant from Professors Across Borders Program from the International

Institute (CSUSB) to travel within India collecting secondary data for my research on *High technology and regional development in the national capital region of Delhi*. I also received a professional development grant for my research on *Spatial Income Inequality in India*". During February 2010. I gave a talk to inaugurate Geography's Global Studies option on *India in a Globalizing World: Prosperity amidst Turmoil* in the geography department. Further, I was awarded the winter (March) 2010 *Teaching Skills Study Award* to attend the Annual Lily West Conference where I conducted a workshop on *Web Mapping in Social Sciences: Exploring and learning some free Web mapping skills*.

I have published a book chapter titled, *Changes in Linguistic Diversity in India*. At the Association of American Geographers meeting I conducted a walking tour to Columbia Heights in Washington, D.C., during April 2010; and chaired the AAG's Regional development and planning specialty group meeting. I am also associated with CSUSB's *India Initiative Program*, which is working with Indian universities to promote an academic and cultural exchange initiative with CSUSB.

Michal Kohout

I spent the last academic year working on two projects that will bear some fruit this year. The first project is on immigration politics in the Inland Empire. Currently many cities in the region are passing or attempting to pass ordinances aimed at enforcing immigration within their boundaries. My project is to keep track of these ordinances and to understand how they fit into the national debate on immigration. The second project is on assessing regional development policy here in the Inland Empire as well as in the border region of

northern Mexico. I am analyzing the impact of economic planning and policy on regional development of the IE. At the same time I am doing a similar analysis on the impacts of the maquila (export manufacturing) industry on the economic development of Mexican border cities. Unfortunately, I was not able to take students to the border last year because of the CSU ban on travel to Mexico. But I hope that this year we will be able to resume our customary border field trip.

Norman Meek

The highlight of the past year was not breaking a bone or having another serious medical problem. I did have to deal with the mandatory furloughs which entailed a 10% pay cut. I didn't reduce the content for any class, and did not cancel any classes (to the dismay of students).

During the summer Joy and I drove back to Kansas via Arches and Rocky Mountain National Parks. The latter is choked with massive numbers of dead trees and will soon see some large, catastrophic fires.

I also published an interview I did with Elmer Ellsworth in 1988 before he died. Elmer was the first person to study the Pleistocene history of Afton basin back in the early 1930s. He was also the first person to examine North Afton beach ridge, a landform that hundreds of CSUSB geomorphology students have since visited.

Jim Mulvihill

I presented a paper titled "Locating Renewable Power: Placing Limits on Choice," at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Washington, D.C. in April. I was awarded "Citizen of the Year," by the San Bernardino City Council in January 2010. I was a featured speaker and panel moderator on the "Capacity Building/Closing Session" at the San Bernardino Green Alliance Community

Visioning Conference 2010 held on campus May 21, 2010. I continue to be Mayor Patrick Morris' appointee to the San Bernardino City Planning Commission. I spent much of the summer remodeling my home on 25th Street.

Adios!

Richard Rowland, Emeritus

I am continuing to do research on the population geography of the countries of the former Soviet Union.

In particular, I am currently processing data from censuses that were recently conducted in 2009 as they become available (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan).

Bo Xu

This year was my second year in the department, and I have enjoyed my work so far. Based on my first year experience, I continue to polish my teaching skills and have revised the course materials to better meet the students' interests. During the last year, I developed two new courses: Spatial Analysis and Transportation Issues and Development.

In February 2010, I attended the 2010 ESRI California/Hawaii/Nevada Regional User Group (CA/HI/NV RUG) Conference held in Redlands. This conference introduced new and updated functions for the newly-released ArcGIS version 10, which is the mainstream software in GIS teaching and research.

In March 2010, I participated in the 22nd Annual Lilly Conference on College & University Teaching at Cal Poly Pomona. This conference featured different teaching technologies and issues, as well as a discussion about excellence in college and university teaching and learning.

In April, I presented a paper at the AAG conference in Washington, D.C. It was titled: "Spatial-Temporal Prediction Model of Hemorrhagic Disease in White-tailed Deer in Southeast USA: 1982 – 2000." Now I am revising the manuscript for publication. I also got a faculty international travel grant (Professors Across Borders) to do some summer research in China. This research deals with the geomorphological mapping of karst landforms from digital elevation data and remote sensing imagery. I traveled to Yunnan, Guangxi and Sichuan provinces in Southwest China, which boast the unique Karst landforms in China (seen in many Chinese paintings and an old James Bond movie). Hopefully, this research will lead to another manuscript.

Jenny Zorn

I'm beginning my seventh year as associate provost. I have added a new element to my portfolio: International Studies and Programs. It is exciting to develop our international programs around the world. I was elected to serve on the AAG's National Council, representing the Pacific Coast region. Connecting with alums on facebook has been fun for me; it's interesting to see where you all are and what you're up to these days.

ALUMNI & GRADUATE NEWS

Linda Stockham, former secretary for the departments of anthropology and geography/environmental studies, who lives in West Virginia, will have her latest play-“Do Pigeons Cry?” performed as a radio production by Shoestring Radio Theatre of San Francisco. It will air in 2010 on KUSF Radio, Lighthouse For the Blind, at their website, and the Public Radio Satellite System. In addition, Linda’s play, “Divorce Sale,” is to be produced as a senior show by the Mingus Union High School in Cottonwood, Ariz., in the spring of 2010. This play was first produced Off-Off-Broadway by the Manhattan Players. It has had productions since its New York premiere in Australia, the Bahamas, the Solomon Islands, and in Oklahoma. This is its first production by a high school drama group.

Linda has also had her short one-act play on Alzheimer’s “Forgotten Souls” accepted for publication in the 2010 edition of The Bluestone Review, Bluefield College, Bluefield, W.V.

The following students received awards at the 2010 Awards Ceremony held June 12, 2010 in the Santos Manuel Student Events Center.

Departmental Honors:

Robert D. Williams
John R. Clow
Erin E. Chester
Timothy D. Moore

Outstanding Graduating Senior Geography:

Robert D. Williams

Outstanding Graduating Senior Dual Major:

Erin E. Chester

Outstanding Graduating Seniors Environmental Studies:

Gail S. Newman
Timothy D. Moore

Outstanding Service to the Department:

John R. Clow

K.B. Homes Scholarship:

Ricardo Delgado

THINKING ABOUT GRADUATE SCHOOL?

If you are considering going further in geography, you may need a graduate degree, either an M.A. or Ph.D. If that is the case, it's not too early to think about where you might want to go. Any of the geography faculty can give you advice and provide information on the different programs available at various universities.

INTERNSHIPS, JOB OPPORTUNITIES, & SUMMER FIELD SCHOOLS

Check the bulletin board outside the 5 Chairs Suite, SB-327, for announcements concerning internships, job opportunities, and summer field schools offered through other institutions and agencies.

**Students Association of
Geography
and Environmental Studies
(S.A.G.E.S.)**

S.A.G.E.S. is an ASI- chartered campus organization, where any CSUSB student may join! We have our own web site named SAGESLB, along with a new Facebook group page, which will facilitate communication between members.

S.A.G.E.S. objective is to promote geographic and environmental awareness on the campus and in our communities.

We aim to be a forum for students interested in learning about geography and environmental studies; to organize outreach activities for the purpose of applying the tools of geography and environmental studies to solve problems in our communities, to organize field trips to hone

our geographic and environmental skills, and to disseminate student research by

participating at professional/academic conferences.

<http://sites.google.com/site/sagesclb/home>

Current officers for S.A.G.E.S:

President: Ian Ice
V. President: Christine Camphuis
Sec/Treas: Daniel McElroy

Some of our past activities include: Catalina Island volunteer trip, ESRI Conference, and hiking/camping. Future activities include: tree planting, geocaching, cross country skiing, and possibly Catalina Island!

***IMPORTANT: ANNUAL
Department Scholarship!!!***

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies would like to thank those alumni who have sent monetary gifts to the department. They are much appreciated and really help. An idea that faculty have been discussing is giving alumni the opportunity to direct monetary gifts to a student scholarship fund. Thanks to alumni generosity, we now have two annual scholarships for the top juniors majoring in geography or Environmental Studies.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

≡Alumni Response ≡

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nmeek@csusb.edu (Alumni response can be posted to this email address, too.)

Name (include maiden name, if appropriate): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Year Graduated: _____ Major: _____ Environmental Studies _____ Geography

Current Job Title: _____

Employer: _____ Location: _____

Describe the company you work for and what if your duties include geography and environmental studies: _____

Additional comments or information for the next advising guide and newsletter (this can include job promotions, awards, projects, or activities; and personal milestones, events or travels):



If you wish to make a donation to the Geography and Environmental Studies Development Fund, please make the check payable to the Geography and Environmental Studies Department and return it directly to the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies with this information sheet. Please do not send cash. Thank You.