



College of Social and
Behavioral Sciences

Geography and Environmental Studies Alumni Newsletter 2011-2012



Dr. Norman Meek, Chair

SB-327H
909-537-5563
nmeek@csusb.edu

Dr. Kevin Grisham

SB-302E
909-537-7569
kgrisham@csusb.edu

Dr. Jeffrey D. Hackel

SB-323
909-537-5562
jhackel@csusb.edu

Dr. Rajrani Kalra

SB-319
909-537-3777
rkalra@csusb.edu

Dr. Michal Kohout

SB-321
909-537-7325
mkohout@csusb.edu

Dr. Bo Xu

SB-315
909-537-5554
bxu@csusb.edu

Dr. Andrew Bodman

AD-101
Provost of Academic Affairs
abodman@csusb.edu

Dr. Jenny J. Zorn

AD-101
Associate Provost of Academic Affairs
jzorn@csusb.edu

Dr. Theodore R. McDowell, Emeritus mcdowell@csusb.edu

Dr. James L. Mulvihill, Emeritus mulvihill@csusb.edu

Dr. Richard H. Rowland, Emeritus rowland@csusb.edu

Department Office

SB-327J (3rd floor, 5 Chair Suite)

909-537-5519

<http://geog.csusb.edu>

“ELECTRONIC” GEONOTES

Geography and Environmental Studies Alumni Newsletter



This has been a tough year for nearly everyone at CSUSB. Upon Jeff Hackel's retirement, I became the most senior faculty member remaining, and was promoted to the position of department chair in a time of major changes for the department, the university, and the whole CSU system.

At the department level, this was the last year Jim Mulvihill and Ted McDowell taught courses as part of the FERP (faculty early retirement program). With Jeff's retirement under the FERP, he is only eligible to teach half the normal class load. That only leaves my half-time teaching assignment and his to cover the Environmental Studies tracks. Fortunately, we have had the services of a UCR post-doc, Professor Brett Goforth, to help keep that program going, and the dean has granted us the rare permission to open a faculty search to rejuvenate the Environmental Studies program. At this point it isn't clear if we will be able to replace Jim's position and keep the Urban Studies Certificate Program going. Fortunately, Jim has said he will apply as if he was a beginning part-time instructor (with the low pay that accompanies such a position) to teach a critical upper division course in the program next year to try and keep it alive a bit longer.

Since I arrived at CSUSB in 1989, I have watched our program go from six tenure-track faculty to just four. With the state and CSU system budgets in such dire straits, most retirees are not being replaced with full-time tenure-track faculty. Much more than 50 percent of the FTEs generated by the department are being taught by three part-time faculty.

But not everything is negative. We are now offering a new track in the major: Global Studies, and the first cohort of majors is working its way through the program this year. In addition, the award-winning Model United Nations program has been transferred to our department from Political Science, and has continued its winning ways. Dr. Kevin Grisham is now a full-time lecturer in our department, and he administers the Model United Nations program. As a lecturer, Kevin has authored two books already, and is actively helping us cover the Global Studies track.

Finally, the new provost of academic affairs at the university is a geographer: Dr. Andrew Bodman. That means both the provost and associate provost in charge of academics at CSUSB are geographers. Given the dire budget situation of the CSU system, and the constant talk of eliminating small programs, I'm hoping that Geography might get some protection by this arrangement! Provost Bodman comes to us from Western Washington University, and is a graduate of both Cambridge (England) and Ohio State (Ph.D.). Although times are tough, we're doing our best to keep teaching our students that Geography and Environmental Studies are two majors where job opportunities exist and the future looks bright. After all, everyone always needs to know where they are, and/or where they want to go.

I encourage you to keep your friends and other alumni informed about what you've been doing, and/or how majoring in Geography and Environmental Studies has helped your career. And if you can spare \$3,000, as Rick Garcia so generously donated to us this year, you will know it is being given at a time when it is critically needed.

Norman Meek, Chair

DEPARTMENT ≧ NEWS ≦

Jeff Hackel

Last year was my last as a full-time faculty and department chair. I have now entered the world of the semi-retired. While not the chair, I have retained the job of environmental studies coordinator. I enjoy the advising and talking to the students about their plans. Because I don't teach as many classes, this keeps me in contact with students. With the reduced teaching load, I plan to travel more. I recently took a trip to eastern Arizona to an area I hadn't been to before, Canyon de Chelly. Of course, the landscape is beautiful, and it was nice to see a new area. This summer, I plan to go to a higher elevation to do some hiking and kayaking.

Rajrani Kalra

I am starting my fifth year at CSUSB and am really enjoying the CSUSB family. This year was excellent--both professionally and personally. I was honored to be nominated for the AAG honors committee this year. On Nov. 16, 2011, we celebrated the Geography Awareness Day in our department and invited Professor Waldo Tobler from the University of California, Santa Barbara. This event was sponsored by Lambda Chi (Gamma Theta Upsilon) Visiting Geographical Scientist Program and SAGES (Students Association of Geography and Environmental Studies). The SAGES actively participated in the event and organized a geography quiz as well. This event was well attended by students, faculty and university administrators. I was also nominated and appointed as the secretary of the Gamma Lambda Chapter (CSUSB) of Phi Beta Delta, which organizes many international events at the university level.

Last summer, I attended the ESRI user and EDUC conference in San Diego and presented a paper at the APCG (Association of Pacific Coast Geographers) in September 2011 at San Francisco. I also presented at the Applied Geographers Conference in Redlands in October 2011. I took my students from GIS Applications (GEOG 402) class in spring 2011 for a field trip to the ESRI campus, which was really useful and an enriching experience for all of us.

In December 2011, a peer-reviewed journal article titled, "High Technology and Socio-economic Transformation in Bengaluru: A Geographical Analysis," was published in *Asian Profile* vol. 39(6) from Canada. I am currently working on two other projects "High Technology and Regional Development in India" and "High Technology and its Impacts in National Capital Territory of Delhi." I am currently in Delhi collecting data for these two projects.

I was blessed to be a mom of our first baby boy on Jan. 21, 2012. His name is "Yashasvi (meaning blessed to be famous) Kalra Thakur. We call him "Yash." Thus, I have been on maternity and family leave since January until the beginning of summer. During the past two quarters my life has changed 360 degrees, trying to balance my new role of a mom and fulfill my aspirations of becoming a successful teacher and an accomplished researcher.

For this summer, I have been granted the 2012 Course Development Grant Award for my proposal titled, "A Geospatial (GIS) Approach to Human Geography." This project entails the application of spatial thinking in human geography at the undergraduate level.

Michal Kohout

I spent part of last year on sabbatical traveling to Mexico's Yucatan peninsula and twice to Mexico City. I gave a paper on anti-immigrant politics in the Inland Empire at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. The same university published a book on anti-immigrant movements in North America and Europe and my paper was one of the chapters included. I have also been struggling with the CSU's ban on travel to Mexico because I really want to take students to the border. For now, we have to stay on the U.S. side. I am also creating a study abroad course in Costa Rica. Hopefully I will take some students there this summer.

Norman Meek

This year, Joy and I purchased a new home in Oak Hills, at the top of the Cajon Pass. It is right on one branch of the Old Spanish Trail, a topic I once mapped in a historical book about the trail. Even though I had recently finished my 15-year project to improve the old mountain home, the opportunity to buy a much larger new home in this economy was too enticing. We are enjoying the privacy of the large lot, and horses are almost as common as people here. Fortunately, the house is in very good shape and so there hasn't been a lot of work to do yet. We're going to keep both houses for the foreseeable future, so I'll always have something or another to keep me busy.

Jim Mulvihill

I remain on the city of San Bernardino's Planning Commission promoting transit-oriented development and smart growth. In May 2012, I was given the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Inland Empire Section – Cal Chapter, American Planning Association. In June, I will have completed 31 years at CSUSB – which was CSCSB when I started in 1981. Although I will be officially retired then, I plan to teach

planning wherever and whenever possible – so, I'll be around and be sure to keep in touch.

Richard Rowland, Emeritus

Jane Rowland, Professor Rowland's wife who worked at CSUSB as an administrative support coordinator in the department of psychology, passed away on Saturday, May 12, at Kaiser Hospital in Fontana following a long illness. Jane retired from the university last year after 35 years of outstanding service. Robert Ricco, professor and chair of the department of psychology, issued the following statement: "Jane was known for her careful, thorough approach to all aspects of her job. She was devoted to our faculty and students. Though battling serious illness in the last year of her career, Jane courageously reported to work, without complaint, and did her absolute best. Her dedication to our department and her genuine affection for each of us are things that we will always remember and treasure."

Bo Xu

Last year was my fourth year as a tenure-track assistant professor in the department. It was also a busy and productive year for me. Besides the routine teaching, I tried to expose my students to the real world and apply their knowledge learned in class to real projects. During the winter quarter, I participated in the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program and Education Collaboration program to offer my advanced GIS class students practical experience in constructing digital maps for national parks. Eight students from my class have joined this project and I will serve as their supervisor to provide technical support, and especially GIS support for the rest of the time.

Research has gained more weight in my work during this year. I published "Spatial-temporal model of hemorrhagic disease in white-tailed deer in south-east USA, 1983 to 2000" in "Veterinary Record" as the lead

author. Another leading-author manuscript – “Spatial and spatial-temporal clustering analysis of hemorrhagic disease in white-tailed deer in Southeast USA: 1980 – 2003” has been accepted by “Preventive Veterinary Medicine” and will be published soon. Currently, I am working on several other manuscripts and hope they will be submitted and published in the near future.

Jenny Zorn

Jenny Zorn is coordinating international programs on campus as associate provost. This year, she traveled to Thailand, India, and China to establish programs and relationships with universities there. Study Abroad opportunities are mushrooming and our international student population has grown to more than 800 students, the highest ever. Faculty in the geography department are key players in international programs, so the internationalization is enriching our geography student academic careers.

Dr. Zorn was elected to the National Council of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) and elected to the Executive Committee, serving as secretary. The AAG meetings are in Los Angeles in spring 2013, and she is the co-organizer of the Local Arrangements Committee.

ALUMNI & GRADUATE NEWS

Gregory Lewis is a program lead at Thousand Pines Outdoor Educators in Crestline, where he has been working with fifth and sixth grade students in outdoor education “science camp.” Part of the curriculum includes Human Geography, as well as basic meteorology and climatology.

Dan Provost joined Walker Parking Consultants in its Los Angeles office. Dan has earned post-baccalaureate certificates in urban planning, and geographic information

systems, and information systems management.

The following students received awards at the 2011 Awards Ceremony held June 2011 in the Santos Manuel Student Events Center.

Departmental Honors: Dustin Wiersma

*Outstanding Graduating Senior
Geography: Dustin Wiersma*

*Outstanding Graduating Senior
Dual Major: A.J. Gerber*

*Outstanding Graduating Senior
Environmental Studies, Track A:
Jonathan Shisler*

*Outstanding Graduating Senior
Environmental Studies, Track B:
Michele Sturgues*

*Outstanding Service to the Department:
Ian Ice*

*K.B. Homes Scholarship:
Tina O’Brien*



*Back row (left to right):
Tina O’Brien, Ian Ice, Jonathan Shisler,
Arnold Gerber, and Dr. Jeff Hackel.
Front row (left to right):
Dustin Wiersma and Michele Sturgues*

The following students received awards at the 2012 Awards Ceremony held June 9, 2012, in the Santos Manuel Student Events Center.

Departmental Honors:
Christine E. Camphuis
Tina L. O'Brien
Mark T. Ulmer

Outstanding Graduating Senior in Geography:
Mart T. Ulmer

Outstanding Graduating Senior with a Dual Major:
Tina L. O'Brien

Outstanding Graduating Senior in Environmental Studies, Track A:
Aaron T. Falk

Outstanding Graduating Senior in Environmental Studies, Track B:
Pete V. Shanta

K.B. Homes Scholarship:
Tara L. McBride



Pictured back row (left to right):
Pete Shanta, Tina O'Brien, Tara McBride,
Mark Ulmer, Christine Camphuis and
Aaron Falk. Pictured (in front): Dr.
Norman Meek, Department Chair

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 Five Chair Suite, SB-327, for announcements concerning internships, job opportunities, and summer field schools offered through other institutions and agencies.

Student Association of Geography and Environmental Studies

S.A.G.E.S., the department's student club, has been pretty quiet recently. Club meetings, field trips, and other exciting events/activities will be announced in geography classes, with fliers available at club events.

ELECTRONIC GEONOTES
 Geography and Environmental Studies
 Alumni Newsletter

Department of Geography and
 Environmental Studies
 College of Social & Behavioral Sciences


 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
 SAN BERNARDINO

5500 University Parkway
 San Bernardino, CA 92407-2397
 909-537-5519

Fall 2011--Summer 2012

Editor: Dr. Norman Meek
 Assistant Editor: Patricia Massei, ASC

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

≧ Alumni Response ≦

Dr. Norman Meek, Professor
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
California State University, San Bernardino
5500 University Parkway, SB-327
San Bernardino, CA 92407-2397

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: _____ Email: _____

Year Graduated: _____ Major: _____ Environmental Studies _____ Geography

Current Job Title: _____

Employer: _____ Location: _____

Describe the company you work for and 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 would like to make a gift to the Geography and Environmental Studies Department, you may make your check payable to the Foundation for CSUSB and in the memo section write "Geography Department." You may send your check to Enrique Gonzalez-Salgado, Director of Development, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, California State University, San Bernardino, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407. For more information on how to make a gift to the department, please contact Enrique Gonzalez-Salgado at (909) 537-7363, or via e-mail at egonsal@csusb.edu.