



College of Social and
Behavioral Sciences

Geography and Environmental Studies Alumni Newsletter 2016-2017



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"ELECTRONIC" GEONOTES

Geography and Environmental Studies Alumni Newsletter



DEPARTMENT ≧ NEWS ≦

2016 has been another busy year for Geography and Environmental Studies. We have a new dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Rafik Mohamed, and he is supportive of Geography and Environmental Studies. Nearly simultaneously, the former provost of the university, Dr. Andrew Bodman, rejoined the department as a professor.

The university is making an effort to increase the number of permanent tenure-track faculty, meaning that most geography classes will soon be taught by full-time faculty. Last year we were given permission to search for a replacement faculty member with a specialty in hydrology before Jeff Hackel fully retired, but all three finalists turned down the job. We will be repeating the search again this year. If it succeeds, that means we will have eight full-time permanent faculty at the start of the next academic year when I step down as chair. This also means that the full time faculty will have increased from four to eight in the last five years.

Other notable events are that Dr. Jenny Zorn has accepted the position of provost at CSU Bakersfield, Jeff Hackel has completed the fifth year of his FERP (Faculty Early Retirement Program) and now resides in Ventura, Professor Michal Kohout has returned from a year-long Fulbright appointment in the Czech Republic, and this is Renee Jacobsen's last year as a part-time instructor in the department. Renee has been with the department for more than 26 years.

Finally, the award-winning Model United Nations program is now housed in our department, and the director, Professor Kevin Grisham, was recently granted early tenure and promotion to associate professor.

Compared to some of my previous Geonotes summaries, Geography and Environmental Studies now seems to be on a very positive and healthy course.

Norman Meek, Chair, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

Andrew Bodman

Andy Bodman is simultaneously the newest and oldest member of the department. He joined the department in 2016, having served as the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at CSUSB for the previous six years. He had previously taught at Western Washington University and the University of Vermont. He is teaching Introduction to Human Geography, Political Geography, Research Methods and the Senior Seminar and was enjoying a welcome return to the quiet life of a faculty position, before being elected to the Faculty Senate, and then serving as chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee (inheriting a position held by Jeff Hackel for a number of years) and as a member of the Quarter to Semester Transition Task Force. The transition to semesters is scheduled to occur in 2020. Andy continues to work on projects looking at the most frequently cited articles in geography and the waxing and waning influence of individual journals, continuing work he started more than two decades ago and interrupted by long spells in administration.

Brett Goforth



Field Methods Class of Spring 2016 in Mill Creek Wash next to Coulter Pine seedlings.

Hi all! I am looking forward to another great year with the next class of students. I have many field trips planned for my courses in the local San Bernardino Mountains. Environmental Studies has continued to grow, which has kept me and Norm really busy teaching. The department is searching for another professor to hire that will help us expand the major with nature-society-water topic courses. On behalf of the department, I applied for and received a \$60,183 grant from the campus vital technology initiative, which purchased 35 Trimble GPS devices with survey-grade accuracy

used in GIS (30 Juno3B handhelds, 5 GEO7x sub-meter receivers with external antennas). These new GPS devices are packed with some remarkable features! Each receiver is a small tablet computer running the Windows Mobile OS, with touch-screen color display showing your position overlaid on digital maps and imagery, and is capable of taking geo-tagged photographs with a built-in digital camera. Students can operate the GPS using ArcPad GIS software to create and edit shapefiles and attribute tables while in the field. GIS data can be downloaded onto classroom computers in the computer lab or uploaded onto the GPS devices, giving students a new ability to collect geospatial data in our GIS classes. Good times!

I've also kept very active with research. Students from GEOG 304 Field Methods and GEOG 370 Landscape Analysis have helped me continue surveys of Mill Creek Wash twice a year for Coulter Pine Cones in my long-term dispersal-biogeography project (see photo). In 2015, I presented a paper based on my ongoing tree-ring research titled, "Adding the Z-axis to Dendrochronology by Sampling Tree Branch Fire Scars" at the International Association of Landscape Ecology 9th World Congress in Portland, Oregon. An article I co-authored with Dr. Richard Minnich at UC Riverside was published in the journal *Aliso* (Vol. 33, pages 5-76), titled: "The Spanish and Mexican baseline of California tree and shrubland distributions since the late 18th century." This monograph provides historical geographic maps of 31 tree species, chaparral, and coastal sage scrub vegetation described by Spanish land explorers in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries (1769–1806) and in land grant diseños (1784–1846) at 634 localities across central and southern California. The Spanish baseline predates state botanical surveys by nearly a century, allowing for assessment of vegetation change over the broadest time frame for comparison with pre-historical evidence and future distributions shaped by climate change. In 2016, I presented a paper based on my long-term study of fire effects on Coulter Pine forest, titled: "Pyriscence Risk in Drought-killed Serotinous Pine Forest" at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Protracted drought and severe wildfires have taken quite a toll on much of California's forest landscapes. It's sad to see such abrupt and lasting change, but also fascinating to witness the confluence of factors at play. My latest work is a co-authored chapter titled, "Follow the Water: Extreme Drought and the Conifer Forest Pandemic of 2002-03 Along the California Borderland" in the edited book: *Insects and Diseases of Mediterranean Forest Systems*, published by Springer.

Kevin Grisham



Professor Grisham in Prague, Czech Republic

The most important thing that has happened to me recently was the birth of my two beautiful twin girls, Isabella Grisham and Emily Grisham. Both were born on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2014. Logan, my son, started kindergarten in August 2016. I was lucky enough to be awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor with the department this past academic year, 2015-16. We again had success with our internationally award-winning Model UN teams. Awards were obtained at the 2015 NMUN-Europe Conference in Olomouc, Czech Republic, and then again at the 2016 NMUN-New York Conference.

Rajrani Kalra



Hindu Temple in Chino Hills with Summer SSCI 321 class

The AY 2015-16 was my eighth year at CSUSB, and the year before I was on sabbatical. The sabbatical year was very productive, as I travelled for field work and accomplished several research goals. I spent three months in India for data collection on a project titled, "Tourism and regional development in India." I submitted a book entry titled "Defining Travel and Tourism (general definitions, trends, historical perspective)" to the

SAGE International Encyclopedia of Travel and Tourism (forthcoming) project. I also worked on two manuscripts, which will be published in 2017. The AY 2015-2016 went by fast as it was exciting to teach as well wear new hats as the president of the university's Gamma Lambda Chapter (Phi Beta Delta) and chair of the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group (AAG, 2015-16). I was also voted to be the conference planner for the national Phi Beta Delta's 30th conference in Denver, Colorado, which was a great learning experience. In Denver, I was voted as the president of the national Phi Beta Delta organization for the next two years (2015-17). This position will be a great learning experience in building partnerships in a globalized world.

I tinkered with new teaching tools in my courses and invited a guest lecturer from Sam Houston State University in Texas during Spring 2016 through Zoom. I invited several guest speakers from campus who spoke on issues such as Islamophobia and conflicts in the Middle East. I took my classes on a field trip to the Hindu and Sikh temples, which the students liked as they learned about different cultures.

This past year I attended and presented at many conferences like the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Palm Desert (October, 2015); Lily West Teaching Conference in Newport Beach (February, 2016); Annual Association of American Geographers in San Francisco (March, 2016); Annual Phi Beta Delta national conference at Denver, Colorado (June, 2016); and Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) user conference, San Diego (June, 2016). I received several awards from: office of summer research program (2015); TSSA grant from teaching resource center; summer fellowship (2015); and was a recipient of the Faculty Learning Community of Diversity and Inclusion in the Classroom. I look forward to a new and enriching academic year during 2016-17.

Michal Kohout

I spent all of the 2015-16 academic year in the Czech Republic as a Fulbright professor. I was at the Department of Geography at the University of West Bohemia, which is a regional university in the west part of the country. I taught and lectured on the geography of the United States, participated in several conferences, including a public forum on immigration, which became a hot topic in Europe last year. I also traveled extensively throughout Europe gathering material for future lectures and courses. My family and I had a very interesting and exciting year and I look forward to sharing my

experiences with students and colleagues on our campus.

Norman Meek

Even though we relocated to the High Desert where the vegetation is much smaller, Joy and I got chased from our home again by the fast-moving Blue Cut Fire in August 2016. We had a similar experience in Crestline during the Old Fire (2003) when the fire stopped in our yard. It is very stressful to pack everything you want to keep into two vehicles with about two hours of warning, and I hope not to do it again.

Academically, I'm the second coauthor on an upcoming article about "How Rivers Cross Mountains" in the *Annals of the AAG*. Last year I published an article: "Evidence for middle Pleistocene surface uplift of the northern Cady Mountains, California," p. 223-232 in Reynolds, R.E. (ed.), *Mojave Miocene*, 2015. Two CSUSB students, Kellie Carnohan & Sean Carson, assisted with the field work, as well as my wife Joy. This spring I am planning on stepping down as department chair after six years.

Jim Mulvihill, Emeritus

Jim Mulvihill continues to serve on San Bernardino's Common Council. He successfully ran for a full four-year term that began last March. He writes, "I'm sorry to hear the Certificate in Urban Planning was suspended, but times change and the overall program has to adapt. But I still teach the Introduction to City Planning course and several students from each class opt to do internships in local planning organizations which, as many of you know, often lead to careers. If anyone would like to contact me: mulvihill_ji@sbcity.org"

Richard Rowland, Emeritus

Although I have now been retired for 10 years, I still enjoy gathering and investigating population geographic data for various countries of the world, especially census data and the number-crunching thereof. In addition, I am continuing to play fantasy baseball and football, and non-fantasy tennis as well.

Bo Xu

Although I've been in the department for eight years, the last two years were still exciting for me both in teaching and research. For teaching, with the ArcGIS software upgraded from version 10.0 to version 10.3 during the summer of 2015, I revised almost all the lectures and labs for my GIS and remote sensing classes. In Spring 2016, I opened a new course, "Web GIS," to let students keep pace with the leading trends in GIS.

Research-wise, I coauthored two papers in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Natural Hazards*. One is "A geospatial information quantity model for regional landslide risk assessment" published in August 2015. The other is "Scenario-based community flood risk assessment: a case study of Taining county town, Fujian province" published in May 2016. Now I am collaborating with a colleague in China on a manuscript: "Multi-feature classification approach for high spatial resolution hyperspectral images." I am planning to submit it to the peer-reviewed: "International Journal of Remote Sensing." I am also working on a chapter on "Spatial Data Accuracy and Uncertainty" for the book *Comprehensive Geographic Information Systems*. My part of this chapter is about the modelling of spatial accuracy and uncertainty. In addition, I presented at the AAG conferences in Chicago in 2015, and in San Francisco during 2016. My 2015 topic was "The Issues of Social Media in Emergency Management" and my 2016 topic was "A Geospatial information quantity model for regional landslide risk assessment."

Jenny Zorn

Dr. Zorn left Cal State San Bernardino in June 2014 for a one year interim provost and vice president of Academic Affairs position at Humboldt State. She had a wonderful year living in the stately Redwoods and on the pristine Humboldt Bay. In July 2015 she headed south and began a position of provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at CSU Bakersfield. She finds it to be very similar to CSUSB and the San Bernardino area. She and Andy maintain dual residencies in Bakersfield and Highland, so she is around campus from time to time because she misses CSUSB! However, she is loving her new job, the campus, and the community. While CSU Bakersfield doesn't have a geography department, it is starting a GIS certificate at her encouragement. Upon her arrival, URISA quickly contacted her to develop more GIS training opportunities.

ALUMNI & GRADUATE NEWS

Maria Aranguiz is the branch chief of Forecasting and Traffic Analysis for CalTrans District 8. She uses GIS skills and transportation analyses to examine demographic trends, and to research and review "tons of Traffic Impacts Analyses" that have landed on her desk for the past seven years.

She writes: "I am very grateful for the opportunities I had as an undergraduate student in Geography at CSUSB. It was (and still is) a small group, but I received the training skills, and guidance required to accomplish my professional goals. I will never forget my planning classes with Dr. Mulvihill, geomorphology with Dr. Meek, and population analysis with Dr. Rowland. I have also never forgotten about my classes in remote sensing with Dr. McDowell, and the encouragement I received from Dr. Zorn. It was a great experience!"

Fred Gomez writes: "I was just wondering if you (Meek) still take that desert trip with students? I still know and see **Dave Whitney** quite often and that class is still mentioned between us on occasion. I sure would like to know that route so I could perhaps someday take my sons. I am now a math and science teacher and Dave Whitney is a captain in the Forestry Service."

Joseph Klein (a history major) was awarded the Indigenous Student travel scholarship to attend the 2016 APCG conference in Portland, Oregon, from Oct. 5-8, 2016. Joseph has a strong interest in spatial thinking and GIS, and has taken Dr. Kalra's Urbanization and the Urban Environment course and her GIS workshop. Congratulations Joseph!

Julianna Strong writes: "The only real news in my life is that I remarried in June and changed my name...it's now Julianna Tillquist. Workwise, this has been a difficult year for our firm, and we are trying to do some rebuilding. Say 'Hi' to Dr. Hackel for me."

Dustin Wiersma worked for as the GIS analyst for the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program for Ft. Irwin, and then as a lead developer for a GIS project for the National Park Service Law Enforcement at the Mojave Preserve. When those projects ended he moved to Washington state. There he provides GIS support for the Department of Public Works at Joint Base Lewis McChord. Dustin spends his free time mountain biking, salmon fishing, hiking, and seeking out microbreweries.

He writes: "I want to thank all of my professors that I had at CSUSB. I never thought I would have the opportunities in life that I have had since graduation.

Right out of college I was hired on with a military contractor and traveled the world as a tactical surveyor for the DoD. My education has taken me to Italy, the Netherlands, Japan, South Korea, and now has allowed me to relocate to a new state...all in less than five years time."

The following students received awards at the 2015 and 2016 Awards Ceremonies held at the Santos Manuel Student Events Center.

Departmental Honors:

2015: *David Eppelheimer*

2016: *Robert P. Dalbeck*

Outstanding Graduating Senior in Geography:

2015: *David Eppelheimer*

2016: *Robert R. Williams*

Outstanding Graduating Senior in Environmental Studies:

2015: *Megan Clement*

2016: *Sarah J. Bailey*

Outstanding Graduating Senior in Global Studies:

2015: *Kristen Ramos*

2016: *Rachel A. DeLoza*

Outstanding Service to the Department:

2015: *Reyna Mendoza*

K.B. Homes Scholarship:

2015: *Robert P. Dalbeck*

2016: *Clarissa M. Manges*

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Editor: Dr. Norman Meek
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PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

≧ Alumni Response ≦

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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 CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation and in the memo section write "Geography/Env. Studies Department." You may send your check to Director of Development, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, California State University, San Bernardino, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407.