



College of Social and
Behavioral Sciences

Geography and Environmental Studies Alumni Newsletter 2017-2018



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“ELECTRONIC” GEONOTES

Geography and Environmental Studies Alumni Newsletter



DEPARTMENT ≧ NEWS ≦

This past year was another busy one for geography and environmental studies. We hired a new faculty member, Dr. Jennifer Alford, partly to replace the expertise lost by the retirements of Jeff Hackel and Ted McDowell. Jennifer comes to us from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and she relocated here during the summer with her husband, two small children and two dogs. Dr. Jennifer Alford will teach mainly in the environmental studies program, and she specializes in hydrology, water quality, sustainability and environmental education. This quarter she will teach her first class, which focuses on sustainability in the 21st century. Welcome, Jennifer.

This hire means the full-time faculty have increased from four to eight in my six-year tenure as department chair. On the other hand, our long-term “part-time” instructor, Dr. Renee Jacobsen, retired at the end of the summer. Renee has been a fixture of the department for more than 25 years, and we will miss her wry British humor and tireless efforts to educate our students.

At the end of August, I voluntarily stepped down as department chair. In my place, Dr. Kevin Grisham has been appointed as the new department chair. In 1997, Kevin graduated from CSUSB with a B.A. in criminal justice, and he then completed his master’s and doctoral work at UC Riverside. Kevin returned to CSUSB as a full-time lecturer in PSCI, and administered the B.A. program in social sciences. He then inherited the distinguished and very successful Model U.N. program that is now housed in our department. Thus, he is already well-known across the campus and has substantial experience running university programs. This is a particularly important time for us because, by 2020, we will convert to the semester system, revamping all of our classes, our participation in the G.E. program, and transforming our three majors (i.e., geography, environmental studies and global studies). Much like Jennifer, he is taking this on while raising a family that includes small children.

Best wishes, Norman Meek

Jennifer Alford

Greetings GEOG/ENS family. I am the newest member of the Coyote Pack, and I am very excited to meet many of you in the coming year. I am originally from the coastal area of North Carolina, and more recently, I lived and taught at colleges in Winston-Salem and Elon, North Carolina. I moved my family here this summer, which was an adventure to say the least. We were able to sell our house in just under four hours and above asking price, so needless to say, everything happened very fast. Although the thought of driving across the country with two dogs, my husband and my two kids (ages three and nine months at the time) seemed adventurous, we decided that he would drive and I would fly with the kids (another adventure in and of itself). We finally settled into a house in Crestline and have really enjoyed exploring Southern California. I even found myself chasing after thunderstorms just so I could stand in the rain when I needed a reminder of North Carolina summers.



On a more academic note, I have been developing a new special topics course for the fall quarter entitled Environmental Sustainability in the 21st Century. This course will include student participation in the launch of Resilient CSUSB, a sustainability-based plan developed by the CSUSB Office of Sustainability. I have also been getting back into the swing of my current research, which focuses on the spatial relationships between surface water resources and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in the Cape Fear River Basin of North Carolina. This research endeavor is in partnership with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington's Center for Marine Science and has been a very hot topic in southeastern North Carolina for some time, not only environmentally, but from a social-environmental justice standpoint. We are hoping that the results of this research will support more sustainable land-use and agricultural practices that could be replicated in other river basins that are struggling with CAFO waste management and surface water quality issues.

Andrew Bodman

No update was received. Dr. Bodman is presently on leave.

Brett Goforth

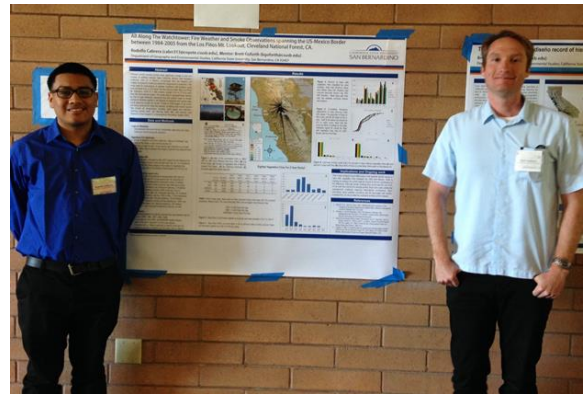


Photo of Rodolfo Cabrera (left) and Dr. Goforth (right) at the 2017 CGS conference.

Environmental studies has experienced substantial growth as a program since I was hired four years ago. We now have over 90 students in the B.A. degree and minor, with three full-time faculty including Dr. Meek and Dr. Alford teaching the department's expanding repertoire of environmental courses. This year, we are busy preparing plans for the campus transition to the semester system, effective fall 2020. My role as the environmental studies coordinator keeps me in touch with students throughout their time in the major, through teaching, advising, as well as mentoring many internships and independent study projects. I look forward to meeting the next new class this fall and working with seniors who will be graduating soon.

Last fall, students in GEOG 370 helped me complete the fourth year of my biogeographic research surveys for Coulter pine cone dispersal at Forest Falls and Mill Creek Canyon in the San Bernardino Mountains. I attended the American Association of Geographers 114th Annual Meeting in Boston last April and presented results of this research in a talk titled, "Serotinous pine cone opening and dispersal by debris flows in the Transverse Range, California." In spring, environmental studies major Rodolfo Cabrera and I attended the 71st annual conference of the California Geographical Society held in El Cajon. Rodolfo presented a poster based on his independent study project with me that used GIS to analyze wildfire patterns along the U.S.-Mexico Border from reports of a U.S. Forest Service

watchtower that used an alidade to record the azimuths and distances of sighted smoke plumes. I also presented a poster based on my study of the Mexican rancho diseños (sketch maps) in Northern California for records of historical plant geography. It was really neat visiting the UC Berkeley Bancroft Library Special Collections to see firsthand some of the oldest cadastral maps of "Alta California" dating back to the 1830s. My latest publication is an article on fire effects to soils in California forests and woodlands that I co-authored with Dr. April Ulrey at New Mexico State University and Robert Graham at UC Riverside, published in the journal *Geoderma*.

Kevin Grisham

This past year has been very exciting for me. I had the chance again to travel with our internationally award-winning Model UN students to compete in the 2017 National Model UN (NMUN) Conference in New York City. The students won the top award of Outstanding Delegation for representing Amnesty International, and the other team representing Ireland won the second place prize of Distinguished Delegation. This means CSUSB has won over 25 top awards in the past 25 years while competing internationally and nationally. We were selected as a program to compete this coming fall in the 2017 NMUN-Canada conference to be held in Banff National Park in Canada. We are only one of three colleges/universities west of the Mississippi to compete in this international conference. The focus of the conference will be sustainability and indigenous issues – how appropriate for a MUN program housed in our department. At the end of the year, I was honored to be selected by my colleagues to serve as the new chair for our department beginning September 1, 2017. This means the year to come will be exciting as we continue to build the new curriculum for our three majors as we convert to semesters in fall 2020.

Rajrani Kalra

The 2016-2017 academic year was a very exciting year with travel, conference presentations and fun activities. I was busy teaching and was the president of our local Phi Beta Delta chapter and also the national Phi Beta Delta organization. I had the opportunity to invite and meet scholars of international repute and had a very successful conference, which we hosted at California State University, Long Beach. I also attended and presented at the Association of American

Geographers (AAG) meeting at Boston in April 2016, and attended the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) User Conference at San Diego in the summer of 2017. Additionally, I visited India to present at the National Association of Geographers India (NAGI) during December 2016 in Mysore, India. I was thrilled to meet my former geography professors and interact with fellow Indian geographers. Also, I visited my favorite places and spent time with my family. In addition, I visited several cities and universities (Delhi, Chandigarh, Chennai, Mysore, Bengaluru, Tirupati, Patna, and Ooty, a beautiful hill station in South India.) The 350th birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh guru was celebrated in Patna and I was fortunate to be there. It attracted several thousand tourists from around the world.

My son, Yashasvi, turned five in January 2016 and is a chatterbox. He is in kindergarten, and I can't believe the pace at which time is passing. He has already started asking me, "Mom, can I have some privacy please?" So, it is quite an experience raising an American-born son as an Asian American mom. I am all set for fall 2017 with travel plans to Vancouver, Canada. I also plan to attend and present at the World Regional Science conference in Goa, India during May 2018.



Photo of Rajrani, her son Yashasvi, and her husband Sudhir at Mysuru Palace, Mysuru, India (December 28, 2016).

Michal Kohout



Dr. Kohout and his students in Xochimilco, Mexico City

Last academic year before the Christmas break, I finally got to take students to Mexico City after years of travel bans to Mexico. We spent two weeks studying the human geography of Mexico by visiting different parts of the city and the surrounding region. The highlights of the program were a VIP visit to the Presidential palace, the pyramids of Teotihuacan, the Basilica of the Virgin Guadalupe, and riding the Mexico City metro. The best part of the program was that by the end of the two weeks, most students felt very comfortable in the megalopolis, and many of them returned in subsequent months for fun or to do internships. I plan on organizing new study abroad opportunities to Mexico in the upcoming year, which will include a stay in the southern state of Chiapas hosted by local indigenous groups.

Also this past year I gave a couple of talks on the current events in Europe to geography students and to the international scholars forum on campus. I plan on continuing my work in Europe through my recent research project on green spaces in European cities and by developing a future study abroad program to Europe that will teach students about regional planning in a multinational context. I am developing this program with my colleagues at the Western Bohemia University in the Czech Republic. If all goes well, I will take the first group of students to Europe in September 2018.

Norman Meek

This was my last hurrah as department chair. I'm now looking forward to teaching more classes again. One of the highlights of my year was a driving trip to visit my family in Kansas. Amazingly, I experienced a real "shit storm" when we drove on I-76 in northeast Colorado just downwind of a gigantic feedlot when a large thunderstorm was

hitting. The strong, gusty winds carried the abundant manure downwind to coat my truck as we drove by. Our dog, Pepin, with his sensitive nose, particularly enjoyed the experience.



The trip was marked by lots of visits to quilt shops — the new hobby of my wife, Joy. The most interesting aspect of this change to me is that we see lots of old downtown districts of many remote midwestern and western towns/villages/hamlets that I would not see otherwise. There's a lot of depopulation going on in the rural parts of America, and what was once a vibrant region when I was young is now slowly disintegrating. In one part of our trip through west-central Kansas, we couldn't find an open gas station in more than 75 miles where the maps show several small towns that once existed. In each case, the former town was essentially permanently closed down for any commercial activity!

Jim Mulvihill, emeritus

Jim, who retired completely in 2012, still serves on the City Council of San Bernardino. He was elected in May to serve as the District 7 representative to the Southern California Association of Governments' Regional Council. District 7 includes San Bernardino and Highland. He reports that two geography/environmental studies grads, Chantel Powers and Mike Rosales, are moving up in their careers in San Bernardino's Planning Department. Jim's daughter, Carolyn, delivered him a grandson in June. She continues as a transportation planner with the Environmental Protection Agency in San Francisco.

Richard Rowland, emeritus

I am continuing to investigate population geographical data, especially census data, for various countries. I also continue to walk long distances daily, play tennis, and participate in fantasy baseball and football.

Bo Xu

Last year was a crucial year for our department, and I attended most of the meetings where the crucial decisions were made. I was on both the New Faculty Search Committee and the Department Chair Search Committee. I was also working with other faculty to prepare for the quarters to semesters (Q2S) transition for our

department. Besides normal teaching, I collaborated with four geographers at CSULB on the chapter 'Spatial Data Uncertainty' for the book "Comprehensive Geographic Information Systems." The book was just published in August 2017.

As usual, I spent my summer holiday at my hometown in northeast China. My parents are very happy that I can stay with them for about two months each year. During this period, I also traveled around China. This year, I went to Beijing, Hangzhou, and Huangshan Mountain. Holidays and travel always make people relieved and refreshed, and that is true for me too. Now it's time for me to go back to work!

Jenny Zorn, former dept. member

Jenny Zorn is in her third year as provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at CSU Bakersfield. Her husband, Andy Copeland, works in the Department of Social Work at CSUSB, so they still maintain their home in Highland and she is seen on campus now and again. For those of you who remember her little children, son Mark Copeland is married and an 8th grade math teacher in Colton. Daughter Michelle Copeland is a 5th grade teacher in Santa Rosa. She stays connected with some CSUSB geography alumni on Facebook, so look her up if you're in that social media scene.

ALUMNI & GRADUATE NEWS

Julianna Strong Tillquist writes: "After 18 years, I left my firm for a variety of reasons. I am now back in San Bernardino at the County Transportation Authority (formerly SANBAG). I am very happy to no longer be doing litigation! ...Hope all is going well in Geography and Environmental Studies. In June, it will be 25 years since I graduated. Hard to believe."

John (Jack) Ainsworth (B.A. 1981) was named executive director of the California Coastal Commission in February 2017. Many believe that this agency may be the most powerful environmental agency in the state of California.

The following students received awards at the Honors and Awards Ceremony held at the Santos Manuel Student Center in June 2017.

Outstanding Geography Graduate:

Clarissa Manges

Outstanding Environmental Studies Graduate:

Jonathan Moreno

Outstanding Global Studies Graduate:

Brittany Negrete

The preceding three students were also presented a substantial financial award from the Rick and Brenda Garcia Family Scholarship fund.

K.B. Homes Scholarship:

Nicole Montano

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Geography and Environmental Studies
Alumni Newsletter

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



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PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

≧ Alumni Response ≦

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nmeek@csusb.edu (Alumni responses 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):



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