Greetings from Boulder to CU Geography alumni and friends! It has been awhile since our last newsletter and there have been many changes here in Guggenheim. For starters, after serving as Chair for two years, Susan Beatty was promoted to Associate Dean for Natural Sciences in the College of Arts & Sciences. Susan now enjoys the view across the quad in Old Main, but we still see her often in Guggenheim for meetings, colloquia, and our Friday afternoon happy hour. She has also been very helpful as I settle, however awkwardly, into the Chair’s role, where I have been since last July. Several other faculty have left CU to pursue other positions, places, and activities. After 39 years on the faculty, Nel Caine retired last year. We miss him and wish him happy skiing! Lynn Staeheli and Rachel Silvey took up new positions at the University of Edinburgh and the University of Toronto, respectively, and Tom Chase moved across campus from Geography to the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering. There are also many new faces among the faculty. In the past two years we have been joined by Mara Goldman, Najeeb Jan, Stefan Leyk, and Fernando Riosmena. More information about them can be found on pages 7-9 of the Newsletter. In addition, Joe Bryan will be joining the faculty this coming Fall. Joe works on the politics of community mapping in Latin America and received his PhD in Geography from the University of California at Berkeley. Finally, Elizabeth Dunn was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, and John Pitlick was promoted to Professor. Congratulations to Elizabeth and John!

Geography faculty continue to be prolific in research and publications. And increasingly, they are being honored and recognized for their work. For his international leadership and work on climate and climate change, Roger Barry was awarded the 2007 Founder’s Medal from the Royal Geographical Society. The RGS medal was the latest and most prestigious of a string of recent awards garnered by Roger (see his news in the faculty highlights section). Tom Veblen was among the first four CU faculty members to be recognized as “College Professor of Distinction” from the College of Arts and Sciences. CRES director Koni Steffen has been in the news recently for his work on the impacts of climate change on the Greenland icecap, as well as for his work with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which last year shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore. Last summer Koni hosted Nancy Pelosi and a Congressional delegation at his Greenland field site. Ken Foote’s work on memorials and public memory was recently featured in CU’s alumni publication, The Coloradan. Geography faculty continue to fund their research with numerous external grants. Over the past two years alone, our faculty have secured over $40 million in external research...
funding! Most recently, Suzanne Anderson was awarded over $4 million from NSF to set up a Boulder Creek critical zone observatory.

The department continues to receive high rankings for both its productivity and its graduate training and placement. A study by The Chronicle of Higher Education last year ranked us 5th in the country in overall scholarly productivity, while Gary Gaile’s in-house analysis of PhD placements between 1980 and 2004 placed us 2nd in the country. That trend has continued through 2006. With some 90 current MA and PhD students, our graduate program continues to grow, and with 197 majors, our undergraduate program remains strong. Peter Blanken and Bill Travis have done an excellent job as Associate Chairs for Graduate and Undergraduate studies, respectively. And Elizabeth Pike has done a great job as undergraduate advisor for Geography. The success of both graduate and undergraduate programs is also attributable to alumni donations, which contribute to undergraduate scholarships and graduate student travel and research funds. Please see the back page of this Newsletter for donation information! Our continuing success as a department, of course, would not be possible without the critical work performed by our staff, and I would like to thank Marcia Signer, Karen Weingarten, and Darla Shatto for making the department such an easy and enjoyable place to work. Darla, in particular, was extremely helpful in putting together this newsletter.

Finally, it has not all been good news. Recently, Al Smith, who taught in the department from 1952 to 1983, passed away, and in October, 2006 Gilbert White died at the age of 95. Since he continued to live in the Boulder area, Gilbert remained an active and inspiring member of our community until his health no longer permitted it. But he was often present at colloquia, new graduate student retreats at the Mountain Research Station, and other departmental social events.

Most tragically, one of our undergraduate majors, David Parrish was killed during a recent Spring Break vacation in Mexico. As CU Chancellor Peterson put it, David was “everything we could hope for from a CU student” and we honor his memory here in Guggenheim.

What’s New With Faculty?

Names and research interests of all Geography faculty members are available on our department website under “Faculty & Staff” www.colorado.edu/geography.

Roger Barry
For Roger it was a period of awards! In October 2006 he received the Goldthwait Polar Medal of the Byrd Polar Research Center, Ohio State University. In April 2007 the Association of American Geographers, Cryosphere Specialty Group presented him with the first Francois Emile Matthes award. In June 2007 he received the Founder’s Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, London. In November 2007 the Nobel Peace Prize was shared by Vice President Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (Roger was review editor for Working Group 1, The Cryosphere, and Working Group 2, The Polar Regions). In August 2007 Roger gave four lectures at a Summer School of the Chinese Meteorological Administration in Beijing and then traveled to Kunming and Guilin.

Peter Blanken
Since the last newsletter, I’ve started a few new projects in new areas with new graduate students. For example, Julie Malmberg is trying to understand issues surrounding the quality of people’s memory and perception of climate change. This “calibrating the human thermometer” is important as researchers have begun to place more reliance on traditional knowledge of climate change. Teresa Legg is using stable isotopes, analytical chemistry, and groundwater well
data to try and identity sources of water to High Creek Fen near Fairplay, Colorado. Pakorn Petchprayoon has finished his MA and has started his PhD research on using remote sensing, GIS, and surface hydrology data to predict flood behavior on the Yom River in his native Thailand. John Knowles, in conjunction with Mark Williams, has begun measuring H2O/CO2 turbulent fluxes from alpine tundra on Niwot Ridge (the first measurements of this type at this site).

In the meantime, research on Great Slave Lake has been summarized in four chapters appearing in a new two-volume book entitled *Cold Region Atmospheric and Hydrologic Studies* (Springer), and I've expanded my research interests in lake evaporation to include Great Bear Lake (NWT, Canada), and various lakes in the Mackenzie River Delta (as an International Polar Year collaborator with Phil Marsh). Further south, a four-year grant from the International Joint Commission (US-Canada) was received to directly measure evaporation from Lakes Superior, Michigan, and Huron.

**Babs P. Buttenfield** I'm working on several research projects which focus on multi-scale geospatial data and base map design. I'm designing pyramid architectures for vector data which preserve topology (funded by NSF) between data layers and across scales. In a project for USGS, I'm integrating NHD data and NHD+ stream attributes to simplify stream details and create intermediate- and small-scale “Levels of Detail” data versions that could be distributed on *The National Map*. A third project called ScaleMaster studies the idea that different kinds of geographic data (roads, lakes, rivers, contour lines, etc.) have differing levels of sensitivity to map scale change. In collaboration with Professor Cindy Brewer (Penn State), and ESRI we've built a ScaleMaster tool that can help individuals, agencies and organizations tailor their map designs to an existing specification, and plan production workflows to anticipate mapping scales where data sets must be simplified.

**Ken Foote** served as president of the National Council for Geographic Education in 2006, following a three-year term as vice-president for research and external relations. Founded in 1915, the NCGE is the largest professional association in the US devoted to enhancing the status and quality of geography teaching and learning.

Ken was awarded the Association of American Geographer’s Gilbert Grosvenor Honors in Geographic Education the year before. The award citation noted that Ken "has been an innovative and effective leader in advancing Geography in education, especially in higher education. He has helped geography faculty reflect on their teaching, on the learning process, and on ways to enhance learning through innovative instructional design and delivery. Ken’s contributions to higher education are multifaceted and include leadership roles in a number of very innovative and effective projects. Among them is the Geographer’s Craft Project which was one of the very first and most successful experiments in Geography to develop multimedia and hypertext teaching materials. The Virtual Geography Department created an online geography teaching/learning community, that through web-based knowledge dissemination changed the way geography is taught in many colleges and universities. The International Network for Learning and Teaching in Geography has fostered international dialogue and collaboration among geography educators, and the Geography Faculty Development Alliance (GFDA) has helped widen and deepen the professional abilities of many early career geographers. Ken has, and continues to, nurture the scholarship of teaching and learning in Geography as a frequent contributor, reviewer, and past editor for the...
Journal of Geography in Higher Education. Through these efforts and many others, Ken has touched the lives and work of myriad geographers."

Ken and CU-alum Michael Solem also received the 2005 Biennial Award for Promoting Excellence in Teaching and Learning for their 2004 Annals article "Concerns, attitudes and abilities of early-career Geography faculty." The article is one of several that have come from the Geography Faculty Development Alliance project for early career faculty. Michael, Ken and Jan Monk have received another large grant from the National Science Foundation for the Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education in Geography Project. The first two books stemming from both these projects will be published in spring 2008 by Prentice-Hall: Aspiring Academics: A Resource Book for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty, and Teaching College Geography: A Practical Guide for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty.

Mara Goldman My first year at CU-Boulder I have two masters degree students, reflecting two different aspects of my research interests: the politics of knowledge and human-wildlife relations/community based natural resource management. I am currently working on a research project (NSF funded) that addresses the politics of participation and communication within five Maasai communities across the Tanzania-Kenya border. I was in the field for ten months prior to joining the department in the Fall of 2007. I will be returning to the field this summer for a brief trip, and then again in January 2009 to finish the project. Unfortunately given the current political instability in Kenya, the project will likely continue in Tanzania only. In 2007 I had an article published in Society and Space on the politics of knowledge related to wildlife in Tanzania. I am also finishing up the final revisions of an article that was just accepted to the Annals of the Association of American Geographers entitled, “Constructing Continuity? Conservation Corridors and Conservation Politics in East African Rangelands”. And I signed a contract with the University of Chicago Press for an edited volume (co-authored with Matthew Turner and Paul Nadasdy of UW-Madison), Knowing Nature, Transforming Ecologies: Science, Power, and Practice. The book explicitly integrates political ecology and Science and Technology Studies (STS) approaches to theoretical and empirical analyses of nature-society relations. Other works in progress include a chapter for an edited volume, ‘Engaged Political Ecology,’ drawing from my work on participatory politics; and an article on community mapping as participation, which will be presented in July at the Conference for the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC), where I was asked to participate in a session on geotechnologies and the commons.

Mara with the ‘mamas’ in Tanzania

Najeeb Jan is a co-recipient, with an interdisciplinary team of CU researchers, of a $50,000 Innovative Seed Grant Program which will lead to a Fall 2008 conference on Transnational Discourses of Islamic Community. Towards this collaborative project he will be conducting research this summer in Pakistan, on the question of biopolitics, emergency, and political Islam. The journal Nations and Nationalism has agreed to publish the proceedings of the Fall conference in a special issue.

During the final weeks of 2007, following the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, Najeeb was interviewed by the local press, television and CU News regarding the implications of political crisis in Pakistan.

Tim Oakes During 2006 and 2007, with the help of the American Council of Learned Societies and CU’s College of Arts & Sciences, I had the pleasure of hosting my friend and collaborator Wu Xiaoping as a...
visiting research scholar in the department. One of the results of our work together was the publication of our co-edited volume *Tunpu Chongsu: Guizhou wenhua luyou yu shehui bianqian* [Reinventing Tunpu: cultural tourism and social change in Guizhou], published in Chinese by Guizhou Nationalities Press. In 2006 I had two co-edited volumes published: *Travels in Paradox* (with Claudio Minca of Royal Holloway University of London) and *Translocal China* (with Louisa Schein of Rutgers University). Another co-edited volume was just released early this year: *The Cultural Geography Reader*, with Patricia Price of Florida International University.

Currently I'm working on yet another edited volume, this time with Donald Sutton of Carnegie Mellon University, titled *Faiths on Display: Religion and Tourism in China*. We're hoping it will be complete by the end of 2008. And another ongoing project, co-authored with Patricia Price, is an interactive regional geography textbook that will be delivered entirely online. Tentatively titled *Connections*, this project is contracted with Prentice Hall. Between these projects, I continue working at snail’s pace on a manuscript on heritage tourism and cultural development in rural China, currently titled *Enterprising Culture: The Production of Heritage in Rural China*. Publication will hopefully occur this century!

I am blessed with a wonderful group of graduate students these days. Their accomplishments are too numerous to list, but it is my privilege to work with each of them: Chris McMorran, Travis Klingberg, Amy Zader, and Afton Sather-Knutsen. In 2007, two of my PhD students finished their degrees. Congratulations to Jamie Gillen and Yu Aloe Luo Rioux!

The highlight of the year for me was introducing my daughter Eva to my Guizhou field sites last summer. She proved remarkably adaptable to roughing it in rural China (but I think she secretly preferred the hotels in Beijing and Xi’an).

**Tania Schoennagel (Postdoc)** I have been working as a research associate in the department focusing on the causes and consequences of western forest disturbances, primarily wildfire and insect outbreaks. I have received two highly competitive postdoctoral research fellowships and am currently a co-PI in collaboration with Tom Veblen on two multi-year projects funded by NSF addressing fire risk and forest restoration in the wildland-urban interface and interactions among wildfire and mountain pine beetle outbreaks. I am a PI on another large project that is spatially analyzing fire mitigation and forest restoration activities conducted across the West by federal agencies under the National Fire Plan since 2004. I actively participate in forest management policy debates at the local and national levels, including provision of congressional testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2006. I employ and train many undergraduate students to conduct lab and fieldwork and I have served on one PhD and three MA committees.

**Tom Veblen** A highlight of 2006 for Tom was the reunion of more than twenty of his former and current graduate students at the time of the AAG meeting held in April in Denver. Celebrations included a festive dinner, a tango performance, and presentation of an album recording more than twenty years of fieldwork with graduate students. Many thanks to Lori Daniels and Ken Young for organizing the event. At the AAG meeting, Tom was honored by receipt of the James J. Parsons Career Award of the Biogeography Specialty Group, and was included as a co-author in the award of the 2005 Best Publication award to Lori Daniels.
Tom was named College Professor of Distinction in May, 2006. Tom was one of the first four CU faculty members to receive the title “College Professor of Distinction” from the College of Arts and Sciences. The honorific title created in 2006 is reserved for scholars of national and international distinction who are also recognized by their College peers as teachers and colleagues of exceptional talent. Recipients are nominated by their respective departments, and their records of teaching, service and research (including evaluations by external reviewers) are thoroughly examined by the College’s Personnel Committee. Referring to the first four faculty to receive this honor, Todd Gleason, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said “These professors are highly accomplished scholars with many books, articles and awards among them. They are also superb teachers and mentors to young scholars pursuing their own studies, and the College is pleased to publicly honor them.” The awards were celebrated at a reception of the College of Arts and Sciences in December 2006 at which Tom spoke about his more than thirty years of research on disturbance ecology and forest dynamics in southern South America.

2007 saw the publication of Tom’s book on the Physical Geography of South America (Oxford University Press) co-edited with Ken Young and Tony Orme. Tom received a CU Faculty Fellowship for 2007 which released him from classroom teaching and committee duties for the calendar year. In 2007 he was in Chile and Argentina for five months working on several research projects. He spent time in northern Patagonia with his long-time collaborators Estela Raffaele and Thomas Kitzberger at the Universidad del Comahue in Bariloche, and also had stints in southern Patagonia with current PhD students Andres Holz and Juan Paritsis. One of the highlights of his time in Chile was a visit to the Forestry School of the Universidad Austral de Chile in Valdivia where Tom taught in the 1970s while a Peace Corps Volunteer. Tom was in Valdivia to give a university lecture and serve on the external advisory committee of the Forestry School where CU graduates Antonio Lara (1991) and Mauro Gonzalez (2002) are now faculty members.

In 2007 Tom was awarded a new grant from the USGS to work on the effects of climate change on tree mortality in subalpine forests in the Front Range. Part of that project involves re-measuring with current grad Jeremy Smith the permanent plots Tom installed near the Mountain Research Station in the early 1980s. Work on fire ecology and fire risk mitigation in the wildland urban interface of the Front Range continues under an NSF grant in collaboration with former students Rosemary Sherriff (2004) and Rud Platt (2004), postdoc Tania Schoennagel and current grad Meredith Albright. In collaboration with Tania Schoennagel and Dominik Kulakowski, Tom was awarded a new multi-year NSF grant to work on the causes and consequences of the large-scale mountain pine beetle outbreak affecting lodgepole pine forests across most of northern Colorado. In 2008 he will be helping out with a new project on the dynamics of Nothofagus (southern beech) forests in New Zealand under an award from the New Zealand Royal Society in collaboration with George Perry and John Ogden of Auckland University.

Mark Williams spent the 2006-2007 academic year on sabbatical in a small cabin in the Sierra Nevada’s. He was supported by a CU Faculty Fellowship to study the Owens Valley water wars with the city of Los Angeles. The real reason for being in the cabin was to write a textbook, the "Book of Snow". And of course, the book is not finished. Mark is working with the Graduate School to form the "San Juan Collaboratory", an effort to extend
CU’s footprint to Southwestern Colorado. The SJC is a formal partnership among CU-Boulder, Fort Lewis College in Durango, and the Mountain Studies Institute. The SJC is a targeted region that is an important step in forming a new program at CU-Boulder to promote “Sustainability and Adaptation to a Changing Climate in the Mountains of the Western US”.

**Emily Yeh** I have been continuing to do several months of field research in Tibet every summer, gathering data for four main projects: (1) an analysis of several new large-scale development projects being implemented as part of Open Up the West and the “new socialist countryside” campaigns, including a massive program of house construction across Tibet and projects of “ecological migration” (resettlement); (2) an examination of the interplay of transnational environmentalism, nationalism, religion, and changing regimes of value through the case study of a dramatic wave of burnings of pelts made of endangered animals, across Tibet in 2006; (3) an investigation of the recent emergence of various forms of environmentalism and environmental subjectivity within Tibet and the way in which they are being produced through contingent translocal and transnational collaborations; and (4) an NSF-funded project on the social and ecological effects of spring snowstorms (predicted to become more frequent with climate change) on the Tibetan plateau, and more generally on vulnerability of Tibetan pastoralists to climate change under a suite of management practices, climate scenarios, and state policies.

In 2007 I published an article in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, “Tropes of indolence and the cultural politics of development in Lhasa, Tibet” about the ways in which Tibetans negotiate development through cultural idioms, including a trope of indolence. I apply a Gramscian analysis to the ways in which the trope both shapes and is shaped by broader political economic forces, and argue for greater attention to the grounded practices through which development is both enacted and contested. I also published a chapter, “Tibetan indigeniety: translations, resemblances and uptakes” in a volume assessing the status of indigeneity around the world today. Most contributors of the book, which came out of a Wenner Gren Symposium, are anthropologists including Anna Tsing, Orin Starn, and James Clifford, but I was asked to contribute specifically for my work on Tibet. Finally, a paper I co-authored with Kunga Lama, “Hip-hop gangsta or most deserving of victims? Transnational migrant identities and the paradox of Tibetan racialization in the US” received an Ashby Prize for most innovative paper published in *Environment and Planning A*.

I have two new Tibetan PhD students, Yonten Nyima and Kabzung, which is quite exciting.

**Welcome New Faculty**

In the past two years, four new faculty have joined the department.

Prior to coming to Boulder, **Mara Goldman**, was living in Nairobi working on a post-doctoral research project looking at the politics of communication and participation in pastoral communities in Tanzania and Kenya. She spent most of her time driving all over Maasailand, and getting stuck in the mud! Eventually the project expanded to look at the ways in which pastoral civil society organizations are communicating about, with, and for their constituencies. Mara has been conducting research on the interface between conservation and Maasai livelihood in Tanzania for more than seven years. She first went to Tanzania as an undergraduate in a study abroad program in 1999, while studying geography at Clark University. She
returned for MA research while at UCLA, and again several times for PhD research while at UW-Madison. Mara’s research focuses on the politics of knowledge and participation as related to wildlife conservation and pastoral development interventions in Maasai communities in particular. Her dissertation, *Sharing Pastures, Building Dialogues: Maasai and Wildlife Conservation in Northern Tanzania*, proposes a way to dialogue knowledge of Maasai and scientific communities to better understand and manage complex natural-social systems in northern Tanzania.

**Najeeb Jan** was hired in 2006 as an instructor in Southwest Asian Studies as part of a Critical Areas Studies grant awarded to the Center for Asian Studies. In 2007 his position was regularized to a tenure-track assistant professor, thanks to Geography's inclusion in a new cluster-hire initiative titled Asia in the Muslim World. Najeeb studied Modern South Asian & Middle Eastern History at the University of Michigan and has written a dissertation on the *Genealogies of Political and Cultural Islam*. Najeeb's research focuses on the cultural politics of contemporary Islam in Southwest Asia and Pakistan. Najeeb brings to Geography an expertise in postcolonial studies, religion, cultural studies, and historical geography. His background in Pakistan also brings an important area studies specialty to our department at a time when both the politics of Islam, and the broader challenges facing Pakistan, are only increasing in significance. Najeeb is also collaborating on a project titled "Religious Pluralism in Modern Indian Society: Islam, Hinduism and Other Religious Traditions," directed by Philip Lutgendorf.

**Stefan Leyk**'s background is in Forestry. Growing up in the northeastern part of Germany he experienced the political switch in 1989 and its impact as a teenager. He studied the subject of trees in beautiful Dresden and obtained his MS degree in 2002. During his studies he spent some time in Sweden for studying and in Brazil for research before ending up in Zurich. There he started his PhD research in Geography & GIScience at the University of Zurich and worked (of all places!) at the Swiss Federal Research Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape. Stefan's PhD research was about the potential use of historical maps for studying changes in the landscape. Very soon he understood why Zurich: To try out the academic field, to meet his future wife and to start a family. It was reason enough to stay for a while. After finishing his degree in 2005 and working as a Geography postdoc in Zurich, Stefan and his family moved to Boulder last year. It was their first time living in the US. Stefan's research interests are centered on the intersection of GIScience, Cartographic Pattern Recognition and uncertainty modeling. He is excited about historical maps but even more about what they can tell us as unique witnesses of the past. He has experience in predictive modeling of uncertainty, fuzzy set theory in GIScience and the development of automatic extraction methods from cartographic images. Furthermore he is interested in dynamic spatial modeling approaches such as cell-based and agent-based models in the context of land cover change and environmental health. Complexity in space and time is what challenges the derivation of knowledge of our environment and what motivates him to do research in this field.
A joint appointment between Geography and the Institute of Behavioral Science, **Fernando Riosmena** received his PhD in Demography at the University of Pennsylvania in 2005 after being introduced to the discipline by his undergrad adviser at the Monterrey Technological and Higher Learning Institute in Guadalajara, Mexico. Since the outset of his studies he wanted to work on issues dealing with understanding the Mexican context in a way that would yield interesting theoretical work but, especially, sound practical implications and—amassed with other work—serve as guidance for policy-making and ultimately fostering social development at large. International migration became a natural topic because of its current and historical relevance for both Mexico and the US. His research interests also intersect the fields of formal and social demography with an emphasis on how demographic processes are associated with the social mobility, well-being, and development in Latin American societies and immigrant communities from the United States. He has done work on the formal demography of labor migration; the role of social ties and their legal status in explaining inter-country differences in US migration dynamics in Latin America; and the role of place/social context in mediating -so to speak- the association between migration and other life course events. He is currently doing research on the association between migration and health. More specifically, he is currently collaborating with other people in and out of CU in projects examining the health selectivity of US-bound and return migrants in Mexico.

**Grants, Fellowships and Awards**

The faculty in our department is a productive lot and their efforts have been recognized through several major awards and fellowships. For fiscal years 2006 and 2007 Geography faculty secured $41,409,719 in external funding. Here is a sampling of some of the major awards granted during 2006 and 2007:

**Suzanne Anderson** is PI on a National Science Foundation grant ($4,249,997) for her research on *Boulder Creek Critical Zone Observatory: Weathered profile development in a rocky environment and its influence on watershed hydrology and biogeochemistry.*

Shari Gearheard and **Roger Barry** won a National Science Foundation grant ($462,323) for research on *The Dynamics of Human-Sea Ice Relationships: Comparing Changing Environments in Alaska, Nunavut and Greenland.*

**Susan Beatty** was PI on a National Park Service grant ($42,000) for her research on *Non-Native Plants in Burned Areas as Function of Burn Severity and Return Interval.*

**Babs P. Buttenfield** is PI on a National Science Foundation grant ($180,000) for her research on *Internal and Relative Topologies for Multi-Resolution Vector Data.*

**Koni Steffen** is PI on a NASA grant ($122,221) to support his research on *Melt-flow Acceleration of the Greenland Ice Sheet.*

**Tom Veblen** is PI on a National Science Foundation grant ($235,000) for his collaborative research with Tania Schoennagel, Rosemary Sherriff, and Rud Platt on *Fire Risk and Ecological Integrity in the Wildland Urban Interface of Colorado Front Range.*

**Mark Williams** is PI on a National Science Foundation grant ($4,920,000) for his continuing research on *Long Term Ecological Research: The Landscape Continuum Model: A Biogeochemical paradigm for High Elevation Ecosystems.*

**Emily Yeh** was a co-PI on an NSF grant ($618,999) on *Extreme Weather Events, State Interventions, and Pastoral Livelihoods: Social and Ecological Impacts of Spring Snowstorms on the Tibetan Plateau.*
Below is just a brief selection of faculty publications over the past two years. Geography faculty have published on a wide range of subject matter scattered over most of the continents of the earth, from the plains of east Africa, the foothills of the Caucasus, and the frontiers of China and Tibet, to the ice caps of Greenland and Antarctica, and the rangelands, tundra, and pine forests of Colorado. Faculty research topics are equally diverse, from E. Coli, pufferfish, wildebeest tracking, rock glaciers, and the impacts of climate change on the cryosphere, to public memory, fuzzy sets, migration, diaspora, and a variety of issues related to economic development around the world. In short, geography faculty continue to be extremely productive and are recognized as leading scholars in their fields.

**Articles or Chapters**


**Books**
**Awards** - Our geography graduate students received some very impressive awards in 2007 and 2008. Two students were awarded National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships for $90,000 each. This marks the first time a CU Geography student has received this highly-competitive award so we are especially proud to have two students among its recipients. Additionally, four students were awarded NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement grants for approximately $12,000 each and three students were awarded Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships.

**Marco Antonsich** was awarded the Department of Geography Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching for Graduate Part Time Instructors, May 2007.

**Naomi Arcand** was awarded a Department of Geography Graduate Student Special Project award, December 2007.

**Ty Atkins** was awarded a Department of Geography Graduate Student Special Project award, December 2007.

**Stephanie Booker** received the Adam Kolff award for Summer 2008.

**Teresa Chapman** received the Adam Kolff award for Summer 2008.

**Ted Holland** was awarded the AAG Political Geography Specialty Group Best Student Paper, April 2007. Ted was also awarded a Center for Humanities and Arts Fellowship for 2007-2008.

**Andrés Holz** was awarded a Department of Geography Graduate Student Special Project award, December 2007.

**Travis Klingberg** was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, 2007-2010. He was also awarded a Beverly Sears Grant, April 2007, an Adam Kolff Memorial Research Fellowship, March 2007, and a Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Summer 2007.

**Eungul Lee** was awarded a Gilbert White Fellowship for 2007-2008. Eungul was also awarded first place in the Climate Specialty Group Competition, April 2007.

**Teresa Legg** was awarded an Adam Kolff Memorial Research Fellowship, March 2007. She was also awarded a Department of Geography Graduate Student Special Project award, December 2007.

**Adam Levy** was awarded a fellowship to attend Indiana University's Summer 2008 Workshop of South Eastern European Languages (SWSEEL).

**Andrew Linke** was awarded a US State Department Critical Language Scholarship for participation in the Arabic Program in Cairo, Egypt, Summer 2007.

**Julie Malmberg** was awarded a Department of Geography Graduate Student Special Project award, December 2007.

**Chris McMorran** was awarded a Gilbert White Fellowship for 2007-2008.

**Joni Palmer** was awarded a Mabel Duncan Memorial Scholarship for 2007-2008.

**Joshua Perdue** was awarded a Mabel Duncan Memorial Scholarship for 2007-2008.

**Adina Racoviteanu** was awarded an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship for 2007-2009

**Afton Sather-Knutsen** was awarded a US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship for Summer 2008. He was also awarded a Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for 2008-2009.

**Jessica Schwarz** was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship for 2008-2011. She also received the Adam Kolff award for Summer 2008.
Nicholas Sitko was awarded an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant for 2007-2008.

Jeremy Smith was awarded the Department of Geography Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching for Teaching Assistants, May 2007.


Eric Wolf was awarded second place in the AAG Great-Plains-Rocky Mountain Division Student Paper Competition, September 2007.

Amy Zader was awarded an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant for 2008-2009, a Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Summer 2008, and an NSF East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes for 2007.

Presentations and Other Accomplishments

Ken Hill is writing his masters thesis while working for the US Geological Survey’s Water Resources Division in Lakewood, CO.

Julie Malmberg gave an oral presentation on her PhD research concerning human memory and perceptions of climate change at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in New Orleans.

Ashley Nielson gave an oral presentation to the annual meeting of the International Society of Wetland Scientists in Sacramento, CA in 2007.

Pakorn Petchprayoon completed his MA thesis entitled The Effects of Land Use and Land Cover Change on River Discharge and River Flood Potential in a Central Northern Watershed, Thailand.

Rebecca Theobald’s research was noted in a January 2008 article in InsideHigherEd.com on “Integrating International Faculty”. The work comes from her dissertation, completed in 2007 with the support of a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Award, entitled “International Early-Career Faculty in American Higher Education: The Case of the discipline of Geography”.

Names, research interests and faculty advisors of all current graduate students are available on our department website under “Current Graduate Students” www.colorado.edu/geography.

New Graduate Students – Fall 2007

Back row (L-R) Daniel McGrath, Christopher Anderson-Tarver, Tony LaGreca, John Knowles, Tyler Roberts, Afton Sather-Knutsen, Erich Mueller; Middle row (L-R) Liam Colgan, David Korn, Stephanie Booker, Kerry Malm, Teresa Chapman, Kabzung; Front row (L-R) Kevin Sharpe, Jessica Schwarz, Kathleen Wiley, Adriana Raudzens-Bailey, Jochen Wendel, Yonten Nyima

MA’s and PhD’s Awarded

Marco Antonsich, PhD Summer 07; Territory and Identity in the Age of Globalization: The Case of Western Europe. Advisor, John O’Loughlin

Lisa Ballagh, MA Summer 07; A first look at comparing ice thickness from two sources, 1996 – 1998. Advisors, Roger Barry and Barbara Buttenfield

Dan Cordalis, MA Spring 07; Hydrologic Characterization of the Mary Murphy Mine and Vicinity, Chaffe County, Colorado Using Multiple Isotope Tracers and Dissolved Solute. Advisor, Mark Williams
Vanessa Empinotti, PhD Fall 07; Re-Framing Participation: The Political Ecology of Water Management in the Lower Sao Francisco River Basin – Brazil. Advisor, Rachel Silvey

Kristina Gibson, PhD Summer 07; Running off the Map: Mobility, Street Kids and Street Outreach in New York City. Advisor, Lynn Staeheli

Eileen A. Hall-McKim, PhD Spring 07; An Analysis of Anomalous Southwest United States Summer Monsoon Precipitation. Advisor, Roger Barry

Ted Holland, MA Fall 07; Nationalism Framed? Homelands, Institutionalism, and the Political Geography of Territoriality in Dagestan. Advisor, John O'Loughlin

Marjorie Holmberg, MA Summer 07; That Good Country Air: The Emergence of Rural Community Wireless Networks in the United States. Advisor, Kenneth E. Foote

Russ Huff, PhD Spring 07; Melt Anomalies on the Greenland Ice Sheet and Large Scale Modes of Atmospheric Circulation. Advisor, Konrad Steffen

Kristen Kaczynski, MA Summer 07; Invasive Species in Wilderness as a Function of Burn Severity: A Case Study of Yosemite National Park, California. Advisor, Susan Beatty

Robin Keith, MA Summer 07; Characterizing Fire Regimes from Understory Vegetation Composition in Ponderosa Pine Dominated Forests of the Northern Colorado Front Range. Advisor, Thomas Veblen

Travis Klingberg, MA Fall 07; The domestic tourist in post-Tiananmen China: A conceptual framework. Advisor, Tim Oakes

Kevin Krasnow, MA Spring 07; Forest Fuel Mapping and Strategic Wildfire Mitigation in the Montane Zone of Boulder County, Colorado. Advisor, Thomas Veblen

Eungul Lee, PhD Fall 07; Land Surface and Ocean Effects on the Variabilities of Three Asian Summer Monsoons. Advisor, Thomas Chase

Mariam Medovaya, MA Summer 07; The Nature of a Nature Park: Friction over a Protected Area in the Altai Republic, Russia. Advisor, Emily Yeh

Clionadh Raleigh, PhD Fall 07; The Political Geography of Civil War: Insurgencies in Central Africa. Advisor, John O'Loughlin

Don Rosenberry, PhD Fall 07; Influence of Fluvial Processes on Exchange Between Ground Water and Surface Water. Advisor, John Pitlick

Rebecca Theobald, PhD Fall 07; Foreign-Born Early-Career Faculty in American Higher Education: The Case of the Discipline of Geography. Advisor, Kenneth E. Foote

Yaffa Truelove, MA Fall 07; On the Verge of a Water Crisis? State Discourses and the Production of Water Inequality in Delhi, India. Advisor, Emily Yeh

Masha Tsukernik, PhD Fall 07; Characteristics of the Winter Cyclone Activity in the Northern North Atlantic and its Impact on the Arctic Freshwater Budget. Advisor, Roger Barry

Frank Witmer, PhD Spring 07; The Effects of War on Land-Use/Land-Cover Change: An Analysis of Landsat Imagery for Northeast Bosnia. Advisor, John O'Loughlin

Alisa Zlotoff, MA Summer 07; Eating Like A Market. Advisor, Elizabeth Dunn

Congratulations and Good Luck to Everyone!
New Positions

**Marco Antonsich** accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Geography Department, University of Birmingham, UK.

**Jordan Clayton** accepted a position as Assistant Professor, Department of Geosciences, Georgia State University.

**Kristina Gibson** accepted a position as Assistant Professor in Residence, Department of Geography at the University of Connecticut.

**Dominik Kulakowski** accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, Clark University.

**Eungul Lee** accepted a position as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**Ian Feinhandler** accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Geography Department, Sonoma State University.

**Jamie Gillen** accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Miami University of Ohio.

**Clionadh Raleigh** accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Government Department, University of Essex, UK.

**Rosemary Sherriff** has accepted a position as Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky.

**Masha Tsukernik** accepted a Postdoctoral position at NCAR-Climate and Global Dynamics Division with Clara Deser.

**Frank Witmer** accepted a Postdoctoral Associate position in IBS and Instructor in GIS and Statistics, Geography Department, University of Colorado at Boulder.

**Rebecca Theobald** accepted a position as Assistant Professor Adjoint, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Alumni News

**Alice Wondrak Biel** (Ph.D. ’02) is a writer-editor-graphic designer for Yellowstone National Park (National Park Service), and associate editor of Yellowstone Science magazine. She telecommutes to Yellowstone from her home in Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, where she lives with her husband, Mark, and two happy dogs. Mark is a natural resource specialist. The University Press of Kansas published Alice’s CU dissertation as a book, *Do (Not) Feed the Bears: The Fitful History of Wildlife and Tourists in Yellowstone*. Excerpts from this book received awards from the Montana Historical Society and the Forest History Society.

**Shari (Fox) Gearheard** (Ph.D. ’04) – Since her completion of a 2-year postdoc appointment at Harvard, Shari continues her studies of Inuit awareness of environmental and climatic changes. In February, *Natural History* magazine featured an article about Shari’s work in Nunavut, “A Change in the Weather”. In May, 2007, she collaborated with Inupiat whalers and Elders in Barrow, Alaska, to assess local sea ice conditions as part of the Siku-Inuit-Hila (Sea ice, people, and weather) project. For more information on Shari’s research, visit: [http://nsidc.org/research/bios/gearheard.html](http://nsidc.org/research/bios/gearheard.html).

**Monica Ogra** (PhD ’06) is Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, PA, where her husband, **Rud Platt** (MA ’01, PhD ’04), is an Assistant Professor as well. Monica and Rud met and married while pursuing their PhDs in Geography at CU. Monica teaches courses on gender and the environment, as well as human geography courses on development, political ecology, and South Asia. She has begun publishing the findings of her dissertation in geography journals, and we will see her work in print in the coming year. In addition to teaching, Rud
is working with Tom Veblen and others conducting research on fire risk and ecological restoration in the wildland urban interface of the Front Range. Monica and Rud do all of this exciting work while taking care of Deven, their beautiful baby boy.

**Undergraduate Student News**

The undergraduate program continues to grow and thrive with 197 geography majors from twenty-four states and three countries. An impressive 25% of our current majors are aggressively pursuing second majors in fields as diverse as Environmental Studies, Communications, Ethnic Studies and Studio Art, to name just a few. Three of our seniors are graduating with a triple major and five students are pursuing double degrees in Geography and Education or Architecture and Planning. A record number of students (21) are pursuing the Hydrology Certificate! Fifty-four students are pursuing a minor in Geography.

In April, we hosted the annual Career Night where about forty students heard employees from several local organizations provide insight on their work and the role that Geography education plays in a successful and fulfilling career. Many of the presenters were Geography alumni! Thanks to everyone who participated in this great event.

Each fall semester, we continue to host the annual “Grad School and Beyond” seminar where faculty and graduate students give useful advise on how to get into, and succeed in, graduate school.

We also continue our long-standing tradition of the weekly “Coffee Break” in the good old Gugg lounge. It’s a fun gathering and provides Geog majors with the opportunity to meet faculty and grad students as well as their fellow majors.

We are in the midst of planning the Spring Commencement and look forward to meeting the families of our graduating seniors.

**Undergrad Achievements**

**Geography Honors**

Evan Apel.................. magna cum laude, May ‘07
Kovi Bessoff................. summa cum laude, May ‘07
Amanda Chesnutt .......... magna cum laude, May ‘06
Otis Critchley .............. summa cum laude, May ‘06
Kristina Fournier......... summa cum laude, May ‘06
Jaclyn Gorman............. magna cum laude, May ‘06
Jimmy Vonesh ............ magna cum laude, May ‘07

Evan Apel..........................member Phi Beta Kappa
Patrick Cecil......................member Phi Beta Kappa
Ezequiel Chalbaud .......invitation to Phi Beta Kappa
Lauren Daniel ..............invitation to Phi Beta Kappa
Kristina Fournier.........member Phi Beta Kappa
Eric Guy.....................invitation to Phi Beta Kappa
Justin Marler ..............invitation to Phi Beta Kappa
Robert Pannebaker..........member Phi Beta Kappa

**Scholarships & Awards – 2006/2007**

Evan Apel....... Theodore C. Myers Memorial Award
Dan Jarvis .................... A. David Hill Scholarship
Natalie Pusey . Mr. & Mrs. J. Tour A&S Scholarship
Nicholas Rising ...... von Dreden Stacey Scholarship
Jimmy Vonesh ........... Albert W. Smith Scholarship
Jimmy Vonesh Theodore C. Myers Memorial Award

**Scholarships & Awards – 2007/2008**

Ezequiel Chalbaud ........ A. David Hill Scholarship
Lauren Daniel ........ von Dreden Stacey Scholarship
Dan Jarvis .... Mr. & Mrs. J. Tour A&S Scholarship
Justin Marler ........ Albert W. Smith Scholarship

**Hydrology Certificate**

Brandon Davis ................ May 2006
Matt Kruse ..................... May 2006
Evan Levine ................. May 2006
Nicholas Rising ............ May 2007

Commencement Spring 2007
Where Are They Now?

Submitted by Mark Rikkers

I received my master’s degree from CU-Boulder through the Geography department. I worked for Dr. Mark Williams as a Research Assistant at the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR) throughout my time there, and my research focused on snow hydrology.

I’ve been working for the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) for six years now. For the first four seasons I was based in Silverton, CO, forecasting for Highway 550 on Red Mountain, Molas and Coal Bank Passes – one of the most avalanche prone stretches of highway in the world. For the last two seasons I have been based out of Ophir, near Telluride. I helped design and implement a hybrid forecasting program for the CAIC that includes backcountry forecasting for the Northern San Juan zone as well as highway forecasting for Lizard Head Pass on Highway 145. I also work for Telluride HeliTrax, Colorado’s only helicopter skiing operation.

There are relatively few avalanche forecasting jobs out there, and openings are not only rare but highly sought after as well. It’s a competitive field and there are a lot of experienced people looking for work in it. The opportunities I had and the relationships I developed at CU-Boulder gave me the edge I needed to get the jobs I wanted!

We want to hear from you! Drop us a line and let us know what you’re doing darla.shatto@colorado.edu

MA / PhD Survey Coming Soon!

Our graduate program remains a vital part of the department and, largely due to the quality of our graduate students, we continue to be ranked as one of the most productive graduate programs in geography. For example, according to the most recent (2007) survey by the Chronicle of Higher Education, our department was the most productive on the entire CU-Boulder campus. We believe that a large part of our success has been because of our graduate students, however, the “hard data” such as numbers of journal articles, books, awards, grants, etc. is much harder to track after graduation. As many of you know, the effectiveness of mentoring and teaching students is usually not realized until several years later. If you have an MA or PhD from CU Geography, you will receive an email invitation from Peter Blanken to complete a short web-based survey. We encourage you to complete the survey as this will help us “blow our own horn” by being able to quantify how productive our graduates are. Our ultimate goal is to make the geography graduate program even better than it already is. Please contact Peter blanken@colorado.edu if you do not receive a survey by the end of August.
Donor Support

Thanks for your support of the Geography Department Scholarship Programs

I would like my gift to support:

☐ A. David Hill Scholarship  ☐ Albert W. Smith Scholarship
☐ Karl & Barbara von Dreden Stacey Scholarship  ☐ Earl & Virginia Mosley Achievement Award
☐ Theodore C. Myers Memorial Scholarship  ☐ Gilbert F. White Dissertation Fellowship

Read about Geography scholarships at www.colorado.edu/geography

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to University of Colorado – Geography in the amount of $__________________.

☐ Charge my credit card: $____________   (circle one) Visa  Mastercard

____________________________________________________________________________

Credit Card Number   AND   Expiration Date

____________________________________________________________________________

Authorized Signature

Please cut and send to  Department of Geography, 260 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309-0260

To give online: www.cufund.org; select GIVE ONLINE; in the “Getting Started” section, select University of Colorado – Boulder; in the “Colleges and Schools” section, select See listing of additional…; in the “College of Arts & Sciences” section, select See listing of additional…; scroll down to “Geography Department” and click Give Online. If you want your gift to go to a specific scholarship, please provide scholarship name in “Comments” section.

Thank You to Alumni and Friends of the Department of Geography, 2006 - January, 2008

Honor Roll of Donors to the Department of Geography
