Greetings from Boulder to CU Geography alumni and friends! It continues to be my privilege to serve as Chair of the Geography Department – an extraordinary group of talented and wonderful people to work with. We have been fortunate, during this time of economic contraction, to be growing. Last Fall, Waleed Abdalati and Joe Bryan joined our faculty (see p. 5 for more about Waleed and Joe). And this coming Fall we will be joined by Elisabeth Root (PhD 2009, Geography, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill). Also hired in 2009 were Holly Barnard (PhD 2009, Forest Hydrology, Oregon State University), Noah Molotch (PhD 2005, Hydrology and Water Resources, University of Arizona), and Mark Serreze (PhD 1989, Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder). Both Holly and Noah will have research appointments at the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR). Holly currently holds an NSF postdoctoral fellowship and will join us in the Fall of 2010. Mark has been a long-time adjunct professor in Geography, but was offered a formal faculty position as part of his new appointment as Director of the Snow and Ice Data Center. Both Waleed and Mark received their PhD’s in this department, so we’re especially fortunate to have them back again.

We’ve also been able to weather the economic storm thanks to the success of our faculty in winning external funding for their research. No other geography department in the country receives as much external research funding as CU Geography. According to the AAG and the Chronicle of Higher Education, we also rank 2nd in the nation in publications and 3rd in honors and awards. A few of these are listed on p. 6 of this newsletter. Our graduate and undergraduate programs also remain strong. This year we learned that we have the highest completion rate and the shortest time-to-degree of any graduate program in CU’s College of Arts & Sciences. This year two of our graduate students – Natalie Koch and Michelle Olsgard – won prestigious NSF Graduate Research Fellowships. These are two of only five awarded in all of Geography in the US and are two of the fourteen awarded to CU-Boulder and the only two awarded in the social sciences to CU (see p. 9 for other graduate student awards and honors). And this year, six of our undergraduates graduated with honors and four graduated with distinction.

The awards and honors won by our faculty this past year are far too numerous to list here, but there are some standouts: Ken Foote was elected Vice President of the Association of American Geographers, Roger Barry won the Alexander von Humboldt Forschungspreis Award, Tom Veblen was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, John O’Loughlin won an Arts & Sciences College Scholar Award, and Emily Yeh won a CAREER grant from the NSF.

All of this growth and good news, however, was offset by the loss of Gary Gaile, who died on February 13th, at the age of 63, after complications following surgery to remove a brain tumor. It is to his memory that I dedicate this newsletter. Gary brought an irreverent wit and a sense of whimsy to our department that was irreplaceable. He was a great cook, and was extremely well-traveled, working in or visiting some 108 countries over his three-decade career. Gary was famous throughout Geography for owning what is perhaps the world’s largest collection of air sickness bags. He poked fun at our pretentiousness. A great example of this was an article he wrote...
Gary taught Geography at Colorado for 25 years, and was a tireless supporter of our discipline and our department. He inspired many of his students to become geographers in the fullest sense of the word, and worked hard to promote the relevance and status of the discipline within and beyond academic institutions. We will miss him dearly. Please see the last page of this newsletter for a sample of comments left in Gary’s memory on our department web page this Spring. Finally, those wishing to honor Gary Gaile’s memory might consider contributing to the African Watoto Charitable Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded by his CU PhD student Dr. Helen Ruth Aspaas to help women and children in Kenya, Uganda, and in Sudanese refugee camps (c/o Mrs. Diana Boland, Exec. Dir, 13917 State Hwy. 140, Hesperus, CO 81326, phone 970-259-3762, diboland@frontier.net) and/or to the Gary L. Gaile DART Field Research Fellowship to support MA and PhD students at CU Boulder doing field research in developing areas (checks to CU Foundation, with note: for Gary L. Gaile DART Fellowship, attn: Bev Stokes, 1305 University Avenue, Boulder, 80302.)

**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.

**Waleed Abdalati** - I received my Ph.D. from CU’s Geography Department in 1996. After working at NASA for the last twelve years, I have returned to CU as an Associate Professor of Geography and director of the Earth Science and Observation Center (ESOC) in the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES). ESOC is an Earth System science research center that focuses on the development and application of remote sensing capabilities to understand our changing Earth, and I have spent much of my first year back at CU working to build up the center. My own research focuses on understanding changes in the Earth’s high-latitude glaciers and ice sheets, primarily through remote sensing techniques. In 2008, I was selected to be the Science Definition Team leader for NASA’s Ice Cloud and land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2). ICESat-2, planned for launch in 2015, is a satellite mission that uses precise laser measurement techniques from space to determine the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets’ contributions to sea level and the underlying mechanisms that control it. In addition, I have been working with remotely sensed data from other satellite and airborne sensors to understand the nature and character of the Earth’s rapidly changing ice cover. Transitioning from government to academia and from greater Washington DC to greater Boulder has been a bit of an adjustment, but I am very excited to be back “home” and to return to an academic environment as rich and vibrant as that at CU.

**Suzanne Anderson** - Boulder Creek CZO is ramping up its activities, with work by the team of 15 faculty and senior scientists and numerous graduate students and technicians underway on the following topics: long-time scale geomorphic evolution of the watershed, glacial retreat history in the headwaters, geochemical characterization of soils and weathered rock, stream dissolved organic matter characterization, controls on the invasive diatom Didymosphenia geminata, microbe-mineral interactions, snowpack observations, surface water-groundwater interactions, and geophysical surveying of subsurface structure. In summer 2009, we hope to undertake our first deep coring and well-drilling in the CZO, an activity that should provide insight in the groundwater flow system, as well as provide samples of the full weathered rock profile, and ground truth for geophysical surveys. A group of students in the Keck Geology Consortium undergraduate research program will join us in July for a month. NSF Earth Sciences Post-doctoral Fellows Becca Barnes and Eve-Lyn Hinckley have joined the Boulder Creek CZO team. Barnes is studying in-stream processing of nitrogen, and Hinckley is studying nitrogen dynamics and hydrology of hillslopes.

**Roger Barry** – Roger stepped down as Director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center in April 2008. He went to half time in January 2009. The World Data Center library was named the Roger G. Barry Resource Office for Cryospheric Studies (ROCS). Roger was awarded a Humboldt Fellowship for Geophysics for 2009-10 and will spend mid-May to early November at the
Glaciology Commission of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences in Munich, Germany. He took an upper division German language class in the Fall and is currently taking a course on “Germany in an integrating Europe.”

**Peter Blanken** spent time last summer on a new project designed to make direct measurements of evaporation from Lake Superior. Although evaporative water losses likely play a large role in controlling lake water levels, evaporation had been until now estimated as a residual of the water balance, or modeled using shore-based data. Preliminary results are showing that evaporation doesn’t begin until late August, and reaches a maximum in December. Nearly 90% of the evaporative water loss occurs after September 1. All of the summer-time energy goes into warming the massive lake, and only late in the year is the energy released to fuel evaporation. Plans are to install a similar station on Lake Huron this summer, and to couple CO\(_2\) measurements with model estimates to help understand the role of the lakes in the regional carbon budget.

Results from the flux measurements on Niwot Ridge described in the Spring 2008 newsletter were published in *Biogeochemistry*. The paper shows that flux measurement of CO\(_2\) and H\(_2\)O can be made in complex, high elevation terrain, and that the alpine tundra plays a major role in the regional carbon budget.

Last fall, undergraduate student Annie Pepper was invaluable with her help in getting the Geography Department's weather station up and running. For the first time, real-time weather data obtained from our station on the roof of the ARC building on east campus are broadcast on the department’s home page. Annie helped overcome major communication and web-design issues to make this possible, and I have already used the web site in several classes. Please take a look at the site to check on the weather when you’re not on campus.

**Joe Bryan** – I am currently developing a new research project on the legacy of the Contra war in Nicaragua that builds on my prior work with "excombatants" from the Miskito insurgency in the 1980s. This new work will build on my concern with contemporary forms of indigeneity, human rights, and political geography. I also continue to work on various mapping projects with indigenous organizations in the Americas, using those experiences as a means to develop a critically informed approach to mapping and experiment with new forms of representation.

**Elizabeth Dunn** is in the Republic of Georgia this year, working with people displaced by the war last August. She is in the refugee camps three days a week, talking to people about how the war and the massive displacement has affected their health. The other two days a week, she’s interviewing humanitarian aid agency workers, traveling with a mobile medical team, or talking to people at the UN and the World Health Organization. Georgia is still in a state of political upheaval, and the recent round of protests kept
things interesting. Russian troops less than 10 km from her fieldsite add to the intrigue. She'll be back in December, and is looking forward to being back in the classroom!

**Tim Oakes** helped speed global warming by jetting across the Pacific Ocean six times, with workshop and teaching trips to Tianjin, Osaka, and Vientiane. His collection *The Cultural Geography Reader*, co-edited with Patricia Price, was published early in 2008, and over the summer he and Patricia worked on their other collaborative project, an online world regional geography text. Long-time Guizhou collaborator Wu Xiaoping returned to Boulder in the Spring of 2009 to complete her grant through the ACLS; she and Tim continue to work on other projects together.

**Fernando Riosmena** – During the past year I continued to do research on issues related to immigration from Latin America. Some of the most interesting issues I looked at relate to the effects and consequences of immigration policies in the migration dynamics of several Latin American groups. For instance, a colleague from Princeton and I looked at how U.S. immigration policy may influence emigration and return from Mexico, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic, confirming the notion that enforcement-only approaches do not curb emigration from places with well-established migrant networks and suggesting increased enforcement may have further motivated migrants to delay returning home (or circulating between their places of origins and the U.S. at the very least). I took some of these lessons a bit further in a piece I wrote for a volume edited by the Mexican Population Council (the government body in charge of designing the country’s population policy). In said paper, I describe recent changes in the migration dynamics of Mexicans and lay out the policy implications of these changes. I discuss the policy implications of these changes in general (whether potentially affected by policies or not) and make specific policy recommendations that could help fix the immigration system. In addition to echoing some recommendations put forth by other scholars with regards to creating a temporary worker program with a clear (but non-definite) avenue for permanent residence/citizenship, I also suggest measures within this program that would promote the return of laborers to, along with their insertion in, the formal economy of their places of origin, which would be in line with some of the main migration-return motivations of people.

**Bill Travis** became director of the Center for Science and Technology Policy Research, in the university’s Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), joining several other geography faculty with links to CIRES. His research focus has returned to questions of human response to natural hazards and climate change, and he taught natural hazards, land use, and introductory environmental geography.

**Tom Veblen** – In April 2008, Tom and collaborators Tania Schoennagel and Dominik Kulakowski initiated a new multi-year NSF-funded study of the mountain pine bark beetle outbreak that has killed approximately 2 million acres of lodgepole pine in recent years in Colorado. Under the NSF award, which also supports grads Jeremy Smith, Teresa Chapman, and Kerry Malm, they will be examining a series of questions about how the bark beetle-caused tree mortality may alter fire risk under different climate scenarios as well as the effects of past fires on the susceptibility of trees to beetle attack. In 2008-2009 Tom also continued his research in Patagonia on fire and impacts of introduced animals, spending three weeks in Nahuel Huapi National Park in Dec.-January. In March Tom spent two weeks in New Zealand where as a postdoc researcher with the NZ Forest Service he had conducted research in 1979-1981. With George Perry and John Ogden from the University of Auckland he is currently working on a project on the regeneration ecology of *Nothofagus* species in Nelson Lakes National Park with funding from the NZ Royal Society.

In November 2008, Tom visited Montana State University in Bozeman to give a colloquium to the Ecology and Earth Sciences Departments, and to interact with paleoecologists in Cathy Whitlock’s lab conducting research in Colorado, the southern Andes, and New Zealand. The colloquium was reported to set an attendance record. In November Tom learned that he was one of four CU-Boulder faculty members recently honored by being elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (http://www.colorado.edu/news/r/7d300f70e88b1ad87e93006000d25451.html). In December, *Science* published a paper co-authored by Tom that shows that tree mortality has increased across the Western U.S. in concert with warming temperatures in the past few decades. This study, funded by the USGS and led by USGS scientists Phil van Mantgem and Nate Stephenson, is based on the largest published dataset on tree mortality from long-term permanent plots in old-growth forests in western North America, and included data from plots in the Pacific Northwest, California, and Colorado. Among the group of eleven authors three were Tom’s current or former students (Alan Taylor, Ph.D. 1987; Lori Daniels, Ph.D. 2000; and current grad Jeremy Smith).
News stories about the Science paper were carried by hundreds of national and international print and other media including the New York Times, Washington Post, and USA Today (for example: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/environ ment/2009-01-22-drought-heat-trees_N.htm)

Emily Yeh – In 2008 I received a new grant from NSF’s Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems Competition, “Collaborative Research: Determinants of grassland dynamics in the Tibetan highlands: Livestock, wildlife and the culture and political economy of pastoralism,” which will run for 5 years and which is currently supporting one of my PhD students, Kabzung. I am also still working on another NSF funded project on vulnerability of Tibetan herders to climate change, especially to spring snowstorms, a project which PhD student Yonten Nyima is closely involved in. In addition to these two NSF projects, I have kept myself busy working with five PhD students, four of whom are working in Tibetan areas of China. This year I also received a Social Science Research Council Book Fellowship to support work on my book manuscript, Development as Gift: Migration, urbanization and Tibet’s economy of appearances, which I hope to complete soon. My other major long-term project right now is a study of the emergence of environmental identities among Tibetans in China, at the conjuncture of translocal and transnational forms of collaboration. This includes an examination of a number of new grassroots environmental groups in Tibet as well as an analysis of the Chinese environmental movement was formed in relation to biodiversity concerns in Tibet. It also includes the making of a film about one particularly interesting grassroots environmental group, for which I received some funding from National Geographic Society. I’ve gathered a significant amount of footage and will continue to do so next summer, while also beginning the editing process. In the meantime, I’ve remained involved in helping grassroots groups in Tibet find funding, as well as advising various NGOs and initiatives here in the US; most recently, I have joined the steering committee for the University of Virginia Tibet Center Governance Program. I’ve also remained active on the College of Arts & Sciences diversity committee, and have done other outreach including a radio show about the 2008 unrest in Tibet. Finally, I continue to try to squeeze out some spare time to play capoeira.

Welcome New Faculty

Two new faculty joined the department in 2008. Waleed Abdalati (PhD Colorado, 1996) was hired to take over as director of what is now known as the Earth Science and Observation Center (ESOC). Waleed is one of our own PhD’s, so we’re particularly happy to have him back! His research focuses on the use of remote sensing observations to understand the Earth’s changing ice cover, but his interests span many aspects of Earth system science and the use of remote sensing as a tool to understand our changing Earth. In December, 2008, he was selected to lead NASA’s Ice Cloud and land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2) science definition team, which defines the mission’s science objectives and requirements. ICESat-2 is a laser altimetry mission that precisely measures elevation changes of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheet to determine their contributions to sea level rise. Other research projects for which he has recently received funding include: the analysis of data from the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) satellite mission to determine how and why the glaciers of Alaska, Canada, Patagonia and Greenland are changing, studying the behavior of melt and the movement of melt water on the Greenland ice sheet, and examining flow history of some of Greenland’s more dynamic outlet glaciers.

Joe Bryan (PhD Berkeley, 2007) also joined the department last Fall. Joe works in Central America on issues of indigenous mapping, human rights, and political geography. His research, broadly construed, is driven by questions of social change. And questions of social change also inform approach to teaching, as means to help students in developing their analytical skills to find and engage with topics that they care deeply about. Joe takes full advantage of geography’s disciplinary emphasis on synthetic analysis, multiple research methods, and ‘field work’. This approach allows him to find
ways of integrating his analytical and creative interests in photography, map-making, and writing, that allows him to be in "geography" rather than simply describe it, finding new ways of writing about the world and making geographies through research, cartography, and political engagement. Joe enjoys the Dead Kennedys as much as Talal Asad, reading Thomas Pynchon and Roberto Bolaño as much as Rebecca Solnit and Doreen Massey, and riding his bike as much as being in the "field."

**Grants, Fellowships and Awards**

**Waleed Abdalati** is PI on numerous grants from NASA, totaling nearly $1.5 million, including a grant to lead NASA's new ICESat-2 Science Definition Team.

**Roger Barry** won the Alexander von Humboldt Forschungspreis award.

**Peter Blanken** won an IJC grant for work on "Direct Observations of Lake Superior and Lake Michigan Evaporation"

**Babs Buttenfield** was named a USGS Faculty Affiliate at their Center of Excellence in GIScience (CEGIS). She's the first such faculty affiliate and the distinction comes with a $100,000 budget. Babs also won a grant from the US Geological Survey's National Geospatial Program Office.

**Elizabeth Dunn** won Fulbright and IREX Fellowships to support her sabbatical year in the Republic of Georgia. Elizabeth is also co-PI on a Canadian SSHRC grant: "Humanitarianism as Politics: Displaced People, Bodies, and the State in Postsocialist Georgia."

**Ken Foote** was invited to give the Journal of Geography in Higher Education lecture at the 2008 Royal Geographical Society-IBG annual meeting in London. Ken was also elected Vice President of the Association of American Geographers.

**Mara Goldman** won research grants from the Council on Research and Creative Work and the Center for Advanced Research and Teaching in the Social Sciences.

**Stefan Leyk** is PI on an IPA award from the Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in Health Sciences, for $27,601 funded by the US NIH.

**Tim Oakes** won the University Provost's Faculty Achievement Award.

**John O'Loughlin** received a $749,970 NSF grant on "AOC: The Dynamics of Secessionist Regions: Eurasian Unrecognized Quasi-States after Kosovo's Independence." Johno is also PI on several other ongoing NSF grants, won the Arts & Sciences College Scholar Award, and was presented the Honor Code’s Faculty Integrity Award.

**Fernando Riosmena** won a Dean's Fund for Excellence Award, a Junior Faculty Development Award, and a research grant from the Center for Advanced Research and Teaching in the Social Sciences. He also was awarded a Visiting Scholar position at the University of California San Diego.

**Koni Steffen** is PI on numerous grants from NASA, NOAA, and NSF, totaling over $1.6 million (not including the $25 million in support from NOAA he manages on an annual basis as director of CIRES).

**Bill Travis** is co-PI on a $94,426 NSF grant on "Human and Ecosystem Responses to Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreaks in the Colorado Front Range."

**Tom Veblen** was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, for “major research contributions that document how stand-scale and landscape-scale forest patterns result from interactions among natural disturbances, human activities, and recent climatic variation.” Tom is also PI on several grants from NSF totaling nearly $600,000.

**Mark Williams** won the Denali Recent Accomplishment Award in Mountain Geography from the Mountain Geography Specialty Group for “a significant cumulative impact in understanding mountain aquatic systems, mountain ecosystems, mountain hydrologic systems and mountain microbial life in rock glaciers.” Mark is also PI on numerous grants funded by NSF, NASA, the BLM, and the San Juan Collaboratory.

**Emily Yeh** is co-PI on a $203,200 5-year NSF grant on “Determinants of Grassland Dynamics in Tibetan Highlands: Livestock, Wildlife, and the Culture and Political Economy of Pastoralism.” She also won an NSF CAREER Award, a grant from the National Geographic Society Conservation Trust, a research grant from the Center for Advanced Research and Teaching in the Social Sciences, a Book Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council, and an IMPART research grant.
Recent Selected Faculty Publications

**Articles or Chapters**


Books


Juan Paritsis checks his GPS and gets ready to paddle to one of his sampling sites, Rivadavia Lake, Los Alerces National Park, Patagonia, Argentina. March 2007. Macki Paritsis photo.
**Graduate Student News**

**External Research Awards**

**NSF Graduate Research Fellowship** – Natalie Koch, Michelle Olsgard (These are 2 of the 5 awarded in all of Geography in the US and are 2 of the 14 awarded to CU-Boulder and the only 2 in the social sciences to CU.)

**NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants** – Afton Clarke-Sather, Adam Levy, Jeremy Smith, Yonten Nyima

**NSF IGERT Associate Award** - Jennifer Dinaberg

**Fulbright-Hayes Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Scholarship** – Afton Clarke-Sather

**Individual Advanced Research Opportunity (IARO) from the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)** – Natalie Koch

**Social Science Research Council Dissertation Research Award** – Yonten Nyima, Ga er rang (Kabzung)

**Social Science Research Council Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship** – Andrew Linke

**AAG Political Geography Specialty Group Dissertation Enhancement Award** – Afton Clarke-Sather

**Trans-Atlantic Summer Institute in European Studies (TASI) Fellowship** – Cole Akeson

**University Awards**

**Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship** – Adina Racoviteanu

**Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship** – Jennifer Dinaberg

**Departmental Awards**

**Gilbert White Doctoral Fellowship** – Andrés Holz, Juan Paritsis, Nicholas Sitko, Lucas Ward, Amy Zader.

**Department of Geography Excellence in Graduate Teaching GTPI Award** – Joni Palmer

**Department of Geography Excellence in Graduate Teaching TA Award** – Abby Hickcox

**Adam Kolff Memorial Research Fellowship** – Kendle Wade, Adam Williams

**Mabel Duncan Memorial Scholarship** – Cole Akeson, Naomi Arcand, Jennifer Dinaberg, Abby Hickcox, Galen Maclaurin, Joni Palmer, Kathleen Wiley

**James A and Jeanne B DeSana Graduate Research Fellowship** – Galen Maclaurin, Kathleen Wiley

**Presentations and Other Accomplishments**

**Preston Cumming** gave a poster presentation on the potential invasion of spotted knapweed in Missoula, Montana with predicted climate change at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the AAG in beautiful Las Vegas, NV.

**Andrés Holz** gave a presentation about “Climate-Fire Relationships in Patagonia” at the 2009 AAG in Las Vegas, April 2009.
Natalie Koch gave a presentation about gender and geopolitics in Uzbekistan at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the AAG, Las Vegas.

Julie Malmberg gave birth to a baby girl, Eleanor, on March 12, 2009.

Atsuhiro Muto gave a poster presentation about the multi-decadal scale East Antarctic surface temperature trends at the 2008 Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union in December 2008 in San Francisco.

Jochen Wendel gave a presentation about “Characterizing GIS Commands: Spatialization with Self-Organizing Maps” at the GIScience 2008 in Park City, UT. He also gave a presentation about “Cartographic Generalization by Physiographic Regions” at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the AAG in Las Vegas.

Rory Cowie and Zan Frederick brave high winds to work on a foundation for a time-lapse camera, Niwot Ridge. Bob Anderson photo.

Ashley Nielson, “Hydrology and Hydrochemistry of an Alpine Green Lakes Valley, Colorado Front Range, USA.” Advisor: Mark Williams

Pakorn Petchprayoon, “The Effects of Urbanization on River Discharge and River Flood Potential in a Central Northern Watershed, Thailand.” Advisor: Peter Blanken


PhD Degrees 2008

Michael James Gillen, “Competing Claims on Culture in the Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Tourism Industry.” Advisor: Tim Oakes

Nancy Hoalst-Pullen, “Soil Properties and Hydrologic Processes in Tropical Forest Dynamics Plots of Panama, Ecuador and Malaysia.” Advisor: Susan Beatty


Leora Nanus (Gurdak), “Regional Assessment of the Sources and Effects of Acidic Deposition on Lake Chemistry in Alpine and Subalpine Watersheds of National Parks in the Rocky Mountains, United States.” Advisor: Mark Williams


MA’s and PhD’s Awarded

MA Degrees 2008


Zanden Frederick, “Water and Solute Export from the Yukon River and its Tributaries.” Advisor: Suzanne Anderson

Christopher Helm, “Glacier Change in Franz Josef Land, 1952-2004.” Advisor: Roger Barry


Andrew Linke, “The Localized Political Geographies of Somalia’s Landscapes of Violence.” Advisor: John O’Loughlin


New Positions

Zan Frederick is now a Professional Research Assistant at CU, running lab and field operations for the Boulder Creek Critical Zone Observatory.

Chris Helm is employed as a Scientist at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, CO where he works on solar resource assessment projects.

Chris McMorran accepted a position as Research Faculty at the Center for Asian Studies at the University of Colorado.

Catalina Segura Sossa accepted a position as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Forestry, North Carolina State University.
Alumni News

Zan Frederick (MA 2008) and Sarah Truitt are proud parents of Atlin Frederick, a son born on December 8, 2008.

Research by Eungel Lee (PhD 2007) (now at the University of Wisconsin, Madison) on the East Asian Summer Monsoon was featured in press releases by the AGU and CIRES, and was featured in the ‘Research Highlights’ section of the journal Nature. “By including the land cover in our monsoon forecast models, we were able to explain about 80% of the variation in monsoonal rainfall. That’s a huge improvement in how well models successfully predict the strength of the monsoon several months out,” said Lee in the press release.

Matt Larsen (PhD 1997) has been promoted from Chief Scientist of Hydrology to Associate Director for Water. That’s two steps away from the top job at USGS!

Colorado AAG Party, Las Vegas, 2009
(Tim Oakes photos):

Leigh Miller Villegas and Mike Longan

Hannah Gosnell, Sarah Halvorson, Don Friend

Undergraduate Student News

The undergraduate program continues to grow and thrive with 198 geography majors from twenty-eight states and four countries. An impressive 25% of our current majors are aggressively pursuing second majors in fields as diverse as Environmental Studies, Communications, Studio Art, History and Economics to name just a few. One of our seniors is graduating with a triple major and eight students are pursuing double degrees in Geography and Architecture/Planning, Business, Education, and Engineering. Fifty-one students are pursuing a minor in Geography.

In March, we hosted the annual Career Night where about fifteen 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 advice 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 wrapped up the 2008/2009 school year with the Spring Commencement on May 8. Our celebration included a brief tribute to honor the memory of David Parrish, a dear friend and student who would have graduated this year. Degrees were awarded to more than fifty undergraduates, many with honors. Most importantly, we had the opportunity to meet with a spirited group of families and friends to collectively honor the many accomplishments of our graduating seniors.

### Undergrad Achievements

This year we saw a significant increase in the number of students graduating with honors. We would like to thank the faculty who supervised individual honors theses, and recognize the following undergraduates for their superior academic performance.

#### Geography Honors

- Ezequiel Chalbaud .................. cum laude, May 09
- Kelsi Coia ................................ cum laude, May 09
- Dan Jarvis .............................. cum laude, May 09
- Cody Lollis .................... magna cum laude, May 09
- Justin Marler .................... summa cum laude, May 09
- Joel Parker ....................... magna cum laude, May 09
- Jennifer Perry .............. summa cum laude, Dec 08
- Connor Sheehan ........ summa cum laude, May 09

#### Graduated With Distinction

- Dylan Eiler ................................ May 09
- Lilit Gertner ................................. May 09
- Cody Lollis ................................ May 09
- Justin Marler .............................. May 09
- Matt Martinich ............................... Dec 09

#### Members Phi Beta Kappa

- Lilit Gertner ................................. May 09
- Justin Marler .............................. May 09
- Jennifer Perry ............................... Dec 09

The department is pleased to be able to offer a number of scholarships to deserving students. We sincerely thank the individual sponsors for their generous support, without which the geography scholarships would not be possible.

### Scholarships & Awards – 2008/2009

- Lauren Daniel ......................... A. David Hill Scholarship
- Jessica Drozd .................. Albert W. Smith Scholarship
- Dan Jarvis .............................. Ted Myers Memorial Award
- Kyla Schieck ........................ von Dreden Stacey Scholarship

### Scholarships & Awards – 2009/2010

- Nathan Diaz .................... von Dreden Stacey Scholarship
- Jennifer Perry .................... Ted Myers Memorial Award
- Sarah Storm .................... Albert W. Smith Scholarship

### Hydrology Certificate

Student interest in the Hydrology Certificate continues to be strong with eight certificates awarded this past May, and one in December:

- Miles Daly ............................................ May ‘09
- Jessica Drozd ........................................ May ‘09
- Daniel Gallen (ENVS) ......................... May ‘09
- Lilit Gertner ................................. May ‘09
- Justin Marler .............................. May ‘09
- Paul Matthews ............................... May ‘09
- Elissa Monahan (ENVS) ...................... Dec ‘08
- Jennifer Morse ............................... May ‘09
- Joel Shute (ENVS) ............................ May ‘09

Snow Hydrology Students Assembling Snow Guillotine

Ben Arlington Photo
Where Are They Now?

We recently received a note from Peter Birkeland, Professor Emeritus of Geology, regarding one of our alumni. Pete wrote, “Quaternary alums of the 70's in geography and geology will remember Bill Mahaney, a geography Ph.D. student of Nel Caine and Pete Birkeland. Bill pioneered the study of alpine soils in the Front Range. He went to York University in Toronto and spent decades studying soils and glacial deposits at many sites overseas (see his book: Ice on the Equator). Lately he has tried to match up written accounts of Hannibal's 218 BC military march across the Alps with the geology to try to find the true route, even where did Hannibal burn rocks to reduce their size, so they could be cleared out before the army moved through! Thousands of men and 37 elephants were involved. Now retired, Bill has written a fictional account of the trip: The Warmaker: Hannibal's Invasion of Italia and the Aftermath (available at Amazon.com). It’s a good read of a monumental military adventure.” Here’s the cover of Bill’s book:

Hull Mclean sent us the following note: “I graduated from CU in June 1966 with a BA in Geography. In September 1966 I started my Federal Government career with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), where I remained for over 40 years before retiring in February 2007. During my career I took a year's leave of absence from the US Government and worked on my MA in Latin American Geography at the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville. I received my MA from UF in March 1970, after completing my thesis on the Corn Islands of Nicaragua, where I did three weeks of field work in July 1969. I retired with my wife to Millsboro, Delaware (far southern Delaware near the Atlantic Ocean) in February 2007. I enjoy reading, riding my bike, doing a bit of volunteer work, and hopefully some travel now that my wife is retired from the State of Maryland in July 2008. I have one son, a graduate of CU in International Affairs and French in 2002, who resides in Longmont, CO with his wife and my first grandson.”

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

Climate/Veg field trip, Chautauqua Park, spring 09
Naomi Arcand Photo
Gary Gaile 1945-2009

Some of the comments left on Gary’s memorial page, Spring 2009

“I fondly remember learning that in many of his large undergraduate classes he’d grade on a 10,000 point scale and whenever a student would come in to discuss a grade and that his or her score should be adjusted, Gary always kindly offered to increase their score by 5, or 10 or, gasp, even 25 points! The students always seemed very impressed and thankful for his generosity.”

“Although I am a physical geographer, I felt a real kinship with Gary. I worked with him as an author on Geography In America In The 21st Century, and he was supportive, encouraging, and I always looked forward to seeing his broad smile at AAG meetings. He has left a large void in our discipline, and I miss him.”

“Over the years he has been a huge supporter of the AAG, one of those people who understood the value of national and international association, always willing to work on behalf of geographers everywhere, always reminding us of how our work can contribute to the world.”

“Gary recognized the importance of service to the discipline. He was especially adept at discussing the full breadth of geography, at professional meetings to be sure, but even more so over a home-cooked meal with a glass of fine wine. Watching (and otherwise benefitting) from Gary and Susan cooking a gourmet meal together in their kitchen was something not to be missed. The two Geography in America volumes (1989 and 2003), co-edited with Cort Willmott, constitute a huge contribution to the discipline that will be long-lasting. His academic work in Africa coupled with his activism in reducing poverty is an inspirational model to follow. Honestly, I was in awe of his intellect, and already miss his friendship.”

“I was honored to have Gary as my advisor. The first time I met him, he kept going on about this guy from Nairobi who had found a solution for the sanitation problems in Nairobi’s largest slum, Kibera. He had realized that he could put up many public toilets all over Kibera if they were paid for by advertising. Gary loved the idea that advertisers could put up their ads right inside the portable toilet for a very captive audience. He was in love with the ingenuity and efficiency of this idea.”

“Gary was a person who always made me smile. He was a generous host - I especially remember a visit years ago to Nairobi when he was living there and he picked me and a friend up at the airport and drove us straight into the National Park at dawn and laughed at our excitement as elephants, cheetahs and other animals and birds loomed out of the mist.”

“After all of the lights in a very full 250 person lecture hall went completely out, the room went black, and then, after 15 seconds, inexplicably come back on again, Gary said, ‘Was it good for you?’

“While in Boulder, Gary would often forget which country he was driving in and would drive for extended periods of time on the wrong side of the road. When reminded he was in the US, he would continue to drive on the wrong side of the road.”

“Gary liked to name poor golf shots after the people who repeatedly committed them, such as the ‘Jim Huff’, the ‘Sitko’, and the ‘Gillen’. Had a couple of different shots of his own that he called ‘Gailes.’”
Donor Support

Thanks for your support of the Geography Department Scholarship Programs

I would like my gift to support:

☐ A. David Hill Scholarship
☐ Karl & Barbara von Dreden Stacey Scholarship
☐ Theodore C. Myers Memorial Scholarship
☐ Gary L. Gaile DART Field Research Fellowship
☐ Albert W. Smith Scholarship
☐ Earl & Virginia Mosley Achievement Award
☐ Gilbert F. White Dissertation Fellowship
☐ James A. and Jeanne B. DeSana Graduate Research Fellowship

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

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to University of Colorado Foundation 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 “Boulder Campus” in the GIVING OPPORTUNITIES section. Select “Arts & Sciences” in the Colleges and Schools section. 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

There is always a real need for funds to support academic departments. As we strive for higher standards and more and better opportunities for our students, we depend on the caring and generous nature of alumni and friends like you to meet these ever increasing financial needs.