If this column alludes to anything, it references how well Geography is doing at SDSU. I took over the Chair of the department in 2008, which is also the official beginning of the current CSU economic crisis. After four years of what is reportedly the worst financial stretch in the university’s history, we are girding our loins for the nastiest upcoming budget year. With stories of gloom and doom all around, we in Geography are not doing too badly. Indeed, it might be worth reporting that we are flourishing in most of the areas within which it is important to flourish: we have more majors than ever, faculty and student publication numbers are really quite overwhelming, grants are coming in nicely, and we have not lost any lecturers or tenure-track faculty (indeed, we’ve had a net gain these last four years) and morale seems to be at a high. The one thing that has seen a bit of a decline is the number of Master’s students we can accommodate, but that is in part because of a new policy on sponsoring from a faculty that was feeling a bit overwhelmed.

The two biggest departmental stories since the last newsletter are our move to the Geography Annex in Spring 2012 and our external review in Fall 2010. For several weeks prior to Spring Break this year all you could hear in the 3rd floor of Storm Hall was the throwing out of rubbish, the packing of boxes, and the tearing and placing of packing tape. We were a veritable hive of activity – just a wee bit busier than normal – as faculty, staff, and students sorted, threw-out, stacked, and packed. During Spring Break, I told everyone to take off for a nice holiday (AKA stay away from the department) as the movers came in to cart boxes and furniture off to our temporary abode in the Geography Annex (formally East Mall). For those of you who have not been following the protracted story of our remodel, we’ve been preparing for this move for the last eight years. And yes, there were several faculty members who held off packing until the last minute, saying it would never happen. We have had false starts in past.

Although everyone was busy for the move, special thanks go to our administrative and technical staff members, who put out a Herculean effort to get us moved with ease. The chaos that everyone expected did not arrive as a direct result of their careful planning and hard work. We got to walk into our new offices to find boxes neatly stacked and furniture in more or less the right place and our computers ready to
The STACS Group (Space-Time Analysis of Complex Systems; http://complexity.sdsu.edu/) at SDSU is currently focusing on several research areas thematically geared towards understanding land dynamics as they relate to policy, socioeconomic, and demographic factors. One focus of the group is on how to statistically identify urban growth factors given time-series spatial data. This project uses simulation and empirical data to reveal land change mechanisms through choosing the most defensible statistical models and sampling strategies, contributing to land change modeling methodology.

Another study area (under Dr. An’s NSF PIRE project), the Chitwan Valley, Nepal supports a rapidly growing rural population, and is home to Chitwan National Park, an internationally recognized biodiversity hotspot. Our agent-based modeling of the population, livelihood, and habitat dynamics indicates that local-scale consumption patterns and habitat change are affected by external factors, such as migration decisions. We have also been using household surveys, remote sensing, and statistical modeling to explore connections among environmental policy, livelihoods, and land change in Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve. A high priority conservation area in Guizhou, China, the reserve is the last habitat for the Guizhou golden monkey. Finally, we are also working on a comparative study involving our study sites in Chitwan, Nepal, Guizhou, China, and Wolong Nature Reserve (Sichuan, China). Building on the field, remote sensing, and census data we have collected from the three reserves, we are using spatial analysis and modeling to test whether the establishment of protected areas successfully preserves and maintains critical habitat areas. To support our work we will be making a field visit to the Wolong Nature Reserve.

Under professor Trent Biggs’ supervision, research began in American Samoa, where Ph.D. student Alex Messina spent three months investigating sedimentation on coral reefs in a project funded by NOAA and the EPA. In summer 2011, Alex, fellow student Raymond Lee, and adviser Dr. Trent Biggs, conducted a research trip to the Indian Himalaya in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to study climate change impacts to the hydrology of a high altitude wetland (15,000 ft.). Activities included mapping the depth of the lake by raft, gauging streams, and installing monitoring equipment in streams, and at a Buddhist temple atop the second-highest pass in the world, 17,582 feet!

Closer to home, in collaboration with the San Diego River Conservancy, Dr. Matt Rahn of Biology, and Dr. Ming Tsou in Geography, a series of internships to both undergraduates and graduate students helped launch work on the water quality of the San Diego River. Over the past year, several master’s students working in the Biggs’ Lab graduated including Cleopatra Neculae, Emily Perkins, Alex Messina, and Rebecca Lesher. Congratulations! Past Master’s theses by Terressa Whitaker: Snowmelt in the Sierra Nevada and Heather D’Anna: Copper in San Diego Bay were published in peer-reviewed journals. Terressa and Heather
both now work for environmental consulting groups in San Diego.

Professor Fernando J. Bosco continues working and publishing on several of his research projects. In the last year, he was invited to give talks on his work on the relation between politics and places of memory in Buenos Aires, Argentina, including presentations at the University of Toronto, University of California, Santa Barbara and at a Memory and Place Interdisciplinary Symposium organized by the Art Gallery at SDSU. He has published several articles, chapters and co-edited books. The second edition of Bosco’s co-edited book “Placing Latin America: Contemporary Themes in Geography” (with Professor Ed Jackiewicz of CSU Northridge) has just been published by Rowman and Littlefield. The book has been widely adopted in universities across the U.S., and the new fully revised edition contains several contributions by SDSU geographers, including Professor Kate Swanson, Adjunct Professor Giorgio Curti (SDSU Ph.D. 2010), and current Ph.D. student Zia Salim, who is the co-author of a chapter on urbanization in Latin America with Professor Bosco.

Professor Bosco is also involved in several collaborative research projects in San Diego, including a new NSF funded three-year project on food, ethnicity and place with professor Pascale Joassart Marcelli and another ongoing project on “sacred places” with professors Joassart Marcelli and Aitken. Many of the activities of these projects are making their way into classrooms and seminars and all the projects involve graduate students in the department, building on the department’s strength on combining research, teaching and training.

Anne-Marie Debbané received her Ph.D. in Geography from York University in 2010 and joined the Department this past fall. She has been teaching World Regional Geography, and has also developed a new course: Power, Nature, and Society. Her research interests are broadly situated within the field of urban political ecology, which places questions of social power at the forefront of investigations on environmental issues and socio-environmental change. Her doctoral dissertation examined the role of water politics and governance in shaping processes of agrarian change in post-apartheid South Africa, focusing specifically on the Ceres Valley, one of the country’s major fruit producing centers. Her research brings attention to relationships between access to and control over water and the production of socio-spatial inequalities within rural and urban contexts.

This spring, she presented a paper at the AAG meeting in New York on how market-based water reforms have deepened socioeconomic and racial inequalities in access to water while simultaneously undermining rural livelihoods. More recently, she attended the Dimensions of Political Ecology conference at the University of Kentucky and presented a paper exploring the relationships between the politics of race and nature through a study of dam-building projects in South Africa, from the colonial to the post-apartheid period. While Anne-Marie is currently focused on writing and publishing her findings from her dissertation work, she is excited about expanding her research horizons. An SDSU Critical Thinking Grant that she received in the fall will allow her to develop a new project on water and platinum mining in South Africa, building on her current work. She has also begun advising Jessica Simms, a Master’s student working on the political ecology of wetlands in Louisiana.
Professor **Piotr Jankowski** and Ph.D. student **Grant Fraley** developed a generative-exploratory approach for optimizing sensor network design. In the first phase of the approach, a spatially adaptive multi-objective genetic algorithm is utilized to generate robust sensor network alternative solutions and next, an exploratory multi-criteria decision analysis technique is deployed to identify salient solutions. This is followed by further evaluation of the selected solutions using ancillary spatial criteria. The triphase, generative-evaluative workflow was applied for a problem of selecting a geographic configuration of an environmental sensor network in a trans-border region including the state of Lower Saxony in Germany and the Netherlands. The tri-phase workflow offers a robust and comprehensive approach to spatial decision support starting with diverse option generation, through trade-off analysis, to evaluation of the selected non-dominated decision alternatives.

Dr. Jankowski has also been working with a team of researchers from Fraunhofer Institute in Sankt Augustin, Germany on using graph theory to discover new structures related to urban centers as a manifestation of photographing activities of thousands of volunteer photographers uploading their georeferenced photos to Flickr. Graph theory measures of centrality have been applied to the network of movements extracted from sequences of georeferenced photos revealing similarities and differences between the movement patterns of photographers and connectivity between urban landmarks afforded by a transportation network.

Along with **Arika Ligmann-Zielinska** from Michigan State University he has been working on developing a methodology of spatially-explicit sensitivity analysis in multiple criteria evaluation. The objective of this research is to develop new methods of accounting for an uncertainty inherent in spatial multiple criteria evaluation modeling process.

During the past couple of years, **Pascale Joassart Marcelli** has expanded her work on food justice. Her new course on the geography of food (Geog. 340) has been growing in popularity, from just 8 students the first time she taught it to over 70 last fall. With Professor **Fernando Bosco**, she was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to study the relationships between food, ethnicity and place in three San Diego neighborhoods. Together, they also received a President Leadership Fund award to develop new undergraduate courses on community-based research and service learning. Starting in the fall, students will have an opportunity to work with local nonprofits and conduct policy-relevant research on community food security in San Diego. In addition, she has continued to work on issues related to immigrant integration and social exclusion. She is currently involved in a collaborative project (with professors Aitken and Bosco) entitled “Public Spaces, Sacred Places” at the Jackie Robinson YMCA. This longitudinal research focuses on the role of public space in shaping communities and the affects of participation in park design, development and activities on children. The work builds on her research on public parks in Los Angeles and San Diego, which she recently published in *Health and Place, Urban Geography* and *Environment and Planning A* and presented at several conferences including a sustainability workshop in Sweden last spring.

**Dr. Arielle Levine** has been working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State of Hawaii’s Division of Aquatic Resources to better understand human use patterns in coastal regions prioritized for coral reef conservation. She served as PI on a collaborative project that used participatory GIS workshops to generate
maps of extractive and non-extractive activities taking place in coastal waters in Hawaii's priority sites in the Kahawihae – Keahole region of the Big Island of Hawaii, as well as Maui's Honolua – Wahikuli region. Local resource users and residents provided expertise that was converted into detailed maps indicating the spatial range and intensity of human uses in the region. She also gathered qualitative data regarding resource use patterns, conflicts, and cultural significance. The information will feed directly into state planning processes, and serve as a baseline for future monitoring efforts in the regions.

Dr. Levine will lead a new participatory mapping project to document human uses of the coastal and nearshore marine environment in American Samoa this summer. In addition, she is collaborating with local resource agencies in American Samoa to conduct village-based surveys to document local residents’ knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the territory and better understand the social impacts of these MPA programs. She will also be working with Ph.D. student Jaime Speed Rossiter this summer to analyze local stakeholder groups’ understanding and perceptions of the various types of MPAs on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Dr. John O’Leary continues to teach courses in introductory physical geography (recently renamed ‘Earth’s Physical Environment’), the geography of natural vegetation, regional climatology, teaching of college geography, and last fall developed a new seminar entitled the terrestrial vegetation of California. He also continues to supervise the teaching assistants who teach the eight Earth’s Physical Environment labs. During winter and spring of 2012, he has been working with a doctoral student Kellie Uyeda and maste...
delineating urban neighborhoods, predicting their socio-economic status, and monitoring land cover changes. Pete and I are the main SDSU participants in the BORDERS Center of Excellence on Border Security and Immigration, funded by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and housed at University of Arizona. We are developing image-based tools for detecting vehicles and people in the border zone. Another DHS-funded project with Monterey Naval Postgraduate School involves research on rapid assessment of post-earthquake damage based on low-cost, flexible airborne imaging systems. This is in collaboration with TerraPan Labs, LLC, a start-up company whose principals are SDSU Geography CESAR alums Grant Fraley and Chris Lippitt.

In addition to teaching, mentoring graduate students, and conducting and managing research, I have continued to serve as the adviser for the SDSU-UCSB joint doctoral program. About 14 months ago I also took on a part-time administrative position as a Special Assistant for Enrollment Management, in the Academic Affairs office.

Dr. Kate Swanson has been conducting research with indigenous Ecuadorians, both in Ecuador and in New York City. She recently received a CAL Microgrant and a CAL Critical Thinking Grant to help her develop a larger research project on transnational indigenous migration in the Americas. She is also involved in local center for unaccompanied minors. This center works with mostly Latin American youth between the ages of 6-18 who have been detained for crossing the U.S./Mexico border without documents.

Dr. Swanson is gaining notoriety for her research on urban exclusion, migration, and poverty in Latin America. In June 2012, she will travel to Paris, France to give an invited talk at the Urban Marginality and the State conference at the Collège de France. She was recently a Gamma Theta Upsilon keynote speaker at the Grand Rapids Community College 2012 Race and Ethnicity Conference and an invited speaker at Michigan State University. In 2011, she was also an invited speaker in the anthropology department at the University of Michigan for a conference that brought together leading scholars on Ecuador. Finally, she recently gave the Association of American Geographers Graduate Student Affinity Group plenary keynote at the AAG annual meeting in New York City.

In spring 2013, Dr. Swanson will be teaching a new course titled, Global Social Justice. The course will explore compelling social and environmental issues around the world in order to help students develop the skills necessary to become more socially aware global citizens.

Ming-Hsiang Tsou
The major research project I am currently working on is “Mapping Ideas from Cyberspace to Realspace” (http://mappingideas.sdsu.edu/). This project is a multidisciplinary collaboration at San Diego State University. I am the Principal Investigator and collaborating with Co-PIs: Dr. Dipak K Gupta (Political Science), Dr. Jean Marc Gawron (Linguistics), Dr. Brian Spitzberg (Communication), and Dr. Li An (Geography) (Funded by National Science Foundation: CNS-#1028177, $1.3 million, 2010 - 2014). We employ an interdisciplinary approach to track and analyze publicly-accessible websites and social media (Twitter) for characterization of actual and potential networks of social processes. With our project prototype, the Spatial Web Automatic Reasoning and Mapping System (SWARMS), researchers can visualize the spread of ideas in cyberspace over time and space. This project seeks to map the geography and chronology of the dynamic information landscape on the Internet to provide insight into how and why ideas spread and the role of new media in influencing personal, social and political uses of such information.
I also collaborated with the San Diego Foundation to create a multi-functional, Web-based GIS Mapping Tool (http://mappingideas.sdsu.edu/health/viewer/) showing older adult services and demographics in San Diego County. The objective of our research is to produce a readily accessible, interactive mapping tool which provides timely and useful information to agencies that provide services to older adults in San Diego County (both non-profit and government). Agencies will utilize the map to collaborate with other service providers, understand which areas lack various services, and develop strategies to reach out to underserved populations.

Professor John Weeks and former Ph.D. student Debbie Fugate have just published a coedited volume on *The Youth Bulge: Challenge or Opportunity* (New York: IDEBATE Press, 2012). The book is a project of the Open Society Institute of New York City, funded by George Soros, and provides an introductory overview chapter by Weeks and Fugate followed by a compilation of the key readings on the topic. It is available through Amazon.com. Dr. Fugate is currently a Geographer/Demographer in the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues of the U.S. State Department in Washington, DC.

During the spring, Professor Weeks organized three back-to-back sessions on “Health, Poverty and Place in Accra, Ghana” for the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers held in New York City. Papers at the session highlighted the research that his NIH-funded team has been doing in Accra, the capital of Ghana, along with other researchers conducting related research there. Later this year Springer will publish an edited volume of these papers titled: *Spatial Inequalities: Health, Poverty and Place in Accra, Ghana*. The book is being co-edited by Weeks and Dr. Allan G. Hill of the Harvard School of Public Health, and Dr. Justin Stoler, who just completed his doctorate working with Dr. Weeks. The book features chapters by SDSU faculty including Drs. Arthur Getis, Douglas Stow and Li An, and SDSU graduate students including Marta Jankowska, Magdalena Benza-Fiocco, Alex Zvoleff, and Chris Lippitt.

**EMERITI**

Dr. Arthur Getis received the Founders Medal of the Regional Science Association International on May 9 in Timisoara, Romania. This award is given once every four years. Dr. Getis will be the 8th recipient of the award. Previous awardees include Walter Isard, William Alonso, and Peter Nijkamp.

Over the past two years, Dr. Getis has steadily been working on a number of projects. Along with Manfred Fischer of Austria, he co-edited *Handbook of Applied Spatial Analysis: Software Tools, Methods and Applications* (Springer: Berlin, 2010). He has also published numerous articles, the most recent of which can be found in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, and the *Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*. He has also given numerous lectures and presentations, including talks at Queen’s University, Cornell University, and Ohio State.

Professor Philip Pryde received the Gilbert F. White Distinguished Public Service Honors from the Association of American Geographers.
presented at the 2011 AAG Annual Meeting in Seattle. The award recognizes the exemplary use of geographic principles for the betterment of the recipient’s community or region.

For the past four decades, Dr. Pryde has been involved with local governmental bodies and regional conservation groups, frequently serving as their chair or president. He has also chaired the San Diego County Planning Commission, and served on the Board of the San Diego County Water Authority. In such ways he has always sought to blend teaching, research, and community service towards the goal of regional environmental sustainability. During his 32 years in the Department, Dr. Pryde authored several books and over a hundred publications in scholarly journals. He also received a Distinguished Teaching Award from the National Council for Geographic Education, and was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Auckland.

Dr. Frederick Stutz reports that his new release, *The World Economy: Geography, Business and Development, 6th edition* (Pearson, 2011) is doing well and commands 65% of the economic geography market, and some market share in international business.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Geography Loses One of its Own**

Dr. James D. Blick, an old colleague and friend of the Department, passed in March this year. He was 89 years old.

Jim was hired into the Geography Department in 1966; he retired in 1985. His Ph.D. was from UCLA. From 1972-1975, he served as Departmental Chair.

Jim published on land-use in the Carpinteria area and on cotton production in the San Joaquin Valley. He was instrumental in setting up the Central California Geographical Society, based in Stockton. In 1989, he won a California Geographical Society’s Outstanding Service Award.

While at SDSU Jim taught courses on California, Europe, Latin America, and Cultural Geography. He also helped to organize study abroad summer programs in Mexico and Europe. For the latter, students travelled to Italy, France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and Germany. As director of the summer session in Mexico, Jim led a trip that was based in Mexico City in collaboration with the University of the Americas. He also led field-trips around California, including a renowned one to San Francisco that was held every year for 14 years.

Jim’s was a kind and gentle soul. He will be missed.
go. So thank you Patti, Lilia, Allison, Harry, Marcus, Pete and Dave.

The 3rd floor of Storm Hall is to be remodeled over the next 18 months. In 2014 (hopefully) we will return to occupy the whole of the 3rd floor of Storm Hall, with ISYS and the Physical Lab joining us from the 2nd floor, and CESAR and the Finch laboratory moving over from Nasatir Hall. There also is room for more labs and research units including Geotech and Visualizations centers and a qualitative methods lab. 2014 is also the year of our centenary, so we are keeping our fingers crossed that everything comes together for us in a big celebration (more on that in the subsequent newsletters).

For the next year and a half, we are occupying our own building in a very different part of campus. No-one currently working in the department remembers anything but Geography on the western periphery of campus. We moved from the 2nd floor of Nasatir Hall over to the 3rd floor of Storm Hall in 1990. This move brought all faculty members and graduate students into one place for the first time since the department started building its graduate program. We are now moved to what feels like the heart of the campus. Just across the lane from us, students busy themselves in and out of East Commons and Aztec Shops.

For the most part, it seems that folks are happy with the Geography Annex. “This is fantastic,” extols a Master’s student, “we have windows.” “Much better than the three-person offices in Storm Hall,” muses a PhD student, “… lots more people to party with.” Professor Bosco is ecstatic to have an office that is geographically the furthest from the Chair’s office. “Is this my own personal kitchen and restroom,” asks Professor Swanson from her office on the second floor. “Wow,” cheer the office staff, “these are big offices.” Harry Johnson might bemoan that he misses his tech buddies over in CESAR, but he seems to like his workshop/cave. There is no doubt that our temporary accommodations are tight, and they will be even tighter when the SAL and Physical labs move over to join us in the summer. Teaching faculty and students are getting lots of exercise walking here, there and everywhere for their classes. And yet most everyone is saying, for temporary offices we could have done a lot worse.

After eight years, the administration finally got around to our five year external review in Fall 2010. A substantial document was put together that extolled our virtues in teaching, research and service (I am happy to send a .pdf of this to anyone who wants a copy). Professor John Agnew (UCLA) and Ken Foote (Boulder) came to spend three days with us as part of the assessment; they were joined by Professor Roger Caves (Urban Planning) as our internal reviewer. The National Research Council (NRC) rankings for PhD programs were just out at the time and we looked pretty good in terms of research productivity (ranked 17th out of 65 departments). In addition, our joint Ph.D. is ranked 7th in the country by Academic Analytics. The numbers really are quite impressive. During the evaluation period (2002-2010) faculty members have published 24 books, 100 chapters in books, 247 journal articles, and nearly $11 million in new grants and contracts. We’ve continued with a steady state of 25 Ph.D.’s and about the same number of Master’s students. With the addition of the Interdisciplinary Urban Studies program we now have 135 undergraduate majors. Our undergraduate curriculum is changing hugely with the addition of new courses focusing on a variety of environmental, sustainability, and policy issues. New popular courses include Geographies of Food and Geographies of Poverty. Joining them are new courses on California, World on Fire and revamped Europe and South America (combining Latin and Middle America) offerings.

To bolster our environments offerings, the department was happy to welcome Professors
Arielle Levine and Anne-Marie Debbané in Fall 2011. Arielle's research area is in marine and coastal environments with a particular focus on participatory mapping and policy making in a variety of South Sea Islands. Anne-Marie's research area is in political ecology, urban nature, and social justice. Her main research interests are in South Africa where she works on water rights in black townships.

The local and global reach of the department’s research is really quite impressive. The rather crowded diagram [http://geography.sdsu.edu/Research/ResearchPoster2012.pdf] represents the global reach of our research, currently in over 27 countries on all continents with the exception of Antarctica. The map represents faculty research primarily, although many projects also involve graduates and undergraduates. On the map you will find small scale projects on film in Australia and gypsies/travelers in Northern Europe to large scale multi-year projects on monkey habitats in China and community health in Africa, from child labor in Ecuador to Himalayan glacial melt-waters and hydrological systems in the Amazon. Other faculty research is global in scale but difficult to map, such as projects relating to cyber technologies and quirky self-organizing mappings of knowledge.

Nor do we neglect the local area. The next map is of some of our local projects in San Diego County and Northern Baja California. These projects range from food and border security to independent child migrants to community activism, fire evacuation and earthquake damage assessment. If you are interested in the specifics of any of these research projects I invite you to get in touch with me and I’ll happily get you more information or put you in touch with the research team.

Our work is published in all the top journals of any note in Geography and its cognate disciplines. Our books gain wide recognition and result in invitations to give keynote talks at prestigious academic gatherings. Our textbooks are adopted for a multitude of courses in the English and Spanish speaking world.

Geographic research at SDSU is funded by well known state, federal, and international granting agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Health, the Department of Defense, and the United Nations. This brings me back, in closing, to our budget situation. I’ve painted a rosy picture of where we are and how well we've done these last four years, even with a financial situation that is the worst it has ever been. State support for the CSU is down to 14%, and the competition for grants and contracts is severe. We continue to show up well, and we work hard to support our research and our students. We are currently seeking new revenue streams and are forging ahead with innovative and efficient ways to manage our programs. At the end of this newsletter you’ll find one way that you can help. We are also looking for ways to partner with agencies, institutions, NGOs, non-profits, and corporations. If there is something you think we can do for you, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I may be biased, but I think that our department is home to some of the brightest geographers on the planet. How can we support you with your interests and ideas? Let me know.
Ph.D. Student Rep.
Sarah Wandersee
Greetings to all the students (current, future, or eternal) out there! This past year, I had the pleasure of being Ph.D. Representative. It’s been a strange and winding road from growing up collecting rest stop maps, to geographic inspiration in Zoltan Grossman’s Native Geographies course at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, to living near burial grounds while working on a GIS internship for a tribal environmental coalition, to studying Environmental Security and Peace at the University for Peace in Costa Rica with 150 other students from 50 different countries, to researching Golden Monkey habitat in China. I’ve been lucky to be able to pursue my interests in policy, livelihood, and environment in SDSU’s unique program, which welcomes diverse interests while emphasizing theoretical depth and advanced analytical methods.

Being Ph.D. Representative has helped me see how a department runs and better understand the challenges it faces. This experience has been incredibly useful for me, since I plan to continue my career in academia. In addition to being a valuable learning experience, it has also been an inspiring way to contribute to the department by providing feedback and suggestions. This has been an exciting year. Our newly-formed Graduate Student Group has worked with faculty and staff to prepare and participate in brown bags and workshops on several academic, professional, research, and teaching themes. We’ve also continued mentoring new students and focused on sharing our research with each other and the public. I think sharing our ideas and concerns has helped us grow as a department, and I’m looking forward to working with the high caliber geography professionals that I know will continue to graduate from the programs here at SDSU.

Ph.D. Student Rep.
Sarah Wandersee

ABOUT THE MASTER’S PROGRAM
Allan Hope, Master’s Advisor
The Geography Masters program offers both MA and MS degrees. Students wishing to specialize in Watershed Science or Geographic Information Science register for the MS degree. While many students are working on research problems the San Diego region and other locations in the US, the Department has provided opportunities for students to conduct research abroad including India, South Africa, Ghana, China and Ecuador. Of the 36 students in the program, 18 have paid research/teaching assistantships. These assistantships are vital to the quality of the program and students play a vital role in supporting the teaching and research mission of the Department.

National and international interest in the program is very strong. There were 36 applications for admission to the program this year. Twelve of the applicants were California residents, 17 were from elsewhere in the US and 7 from abroad. The academic quality of the applicants was very high with offers of admission being made to 22 students and offers of research/teaching assistantships extended to 8 students.

Master’s Student Rep.
Marilyn Stowell
Hi! My name is Marilyn Stowell and I am a second year Master’s Student working towards my Master’s of Science in Geographic Information Science, under the direction of Dr. André Skupin. My personal research interests
are in Cartographic Design and Geovisualization, and I’m currently working on my thesis research, which involves creating interactive spatializations of the Geographic Information Science and Technology Body of Knowledge 1, with the intent of testing four different spatial layouts in order to assess their performance and effectiveness for completing particular cognitive tasks. Last year, I was elected as the Master’s Representative for the 2011/2012 school year, which ended up being a rewarding position and a great addition to my experience within this Master’s program. Over the past year, I have enjoyed interacting with both students and faculty members on a regular basis, communicating any ideas or concerns between both groups, collaborating on various department activities and

GRADUATING Ph.D. STUDENTS

Leah Lodge Bremer
Dissertation: Land-use Change, Ecosystem Services, and Local Livelihoods: Social and Ecological Outcomes of Payment for Ecosystem Services in Ecuadorian Paramos
Advisor: Kathleen Farley

Sean Crotty
Dissertation: The Geographic Dimensions of Day Labor in the San Diego Metropolitan Area
Advisor: Fernando Bosco

Ick Hoi Kim
Advisor: Ming-Hsiang Tsou

Caitlin Lippitt
Dissertation: Remote-sensing Based Characterization and Detection of Native and Nonnative Herbaceous Vegetation in California Coastal Sage Scrub
Advisor: Douglas Stow

Christopher Lippitt
Dissertation: Time-Sensitive Remote Sensing
Advisor: Douglas Stow

Justin Stoler
Dissertation: Spatial Patterns of Water Insecurity in a Developing City: Lessons from Accra, Ghana
Advisor: John Weeks

being in touch with potential incoming students regarding our Graduate Program. A cohesive student body is an important part of the experience of being a Graduate Student (since we do spend quite a bit of time together!), and I think having this open line of communication between faculty and students is an extremely important component in determining how this time will be spent, and how we can make the most of our Graduate School experience. After graduating, I’m looking forward to traveling and relaxing as much as possible, before starting the hunt for a job as a GIS Analyst or Cartographer, preferably in the realm of Corporate Real Estate or Urban Planning.

GRADUATING Ph.D. STUDENT NEWS

Christopher D. Lippitt, CMS-RS, successfully defended his dissertation and accepted a tenure track Assistant Professor position within the Department of Geography at the University of New Mexico. His research will continue to focus on general remote sensing principles and methods, with a particular focus on the use of GIScience technology for time-sensitive applications.

Caitlin Lippitt accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of New Mexico, and will start in Fall 2013.

Justin Stoler’s doctoral work, mentored by John Weeks, focused on the evolution of drinking water access in Ghana’s urban center and capital, Accra. Water shortages in the city result in municipal water rationing, which varies drastically by space and time. The private sector has stepped in to fill service gaps, but has also introduced a new set of social, economic, human health, and environmental trade-offs. Justin will continue his international research program as an Assistant Professor in Geography and Regional Studies, and Epidemiology and Public Health, at the University of Miami.
GRADUATING MASTER’S
STUDENTS
Chad Dragan
Rebecca Grover
Cristiano Giovando
Daniel Hickox
Nao Hisakawa
Cleopatra Neculae
Emily Perkins
Audrey Porcella
Diane Rachels
Gabriel Sady
Joseph Saltenberger
Nicole Stotz
Marilyn Stowell
Sory Toure
Madeline Tuller
Yu-Hsin Tsai
Doug Wylie

STUDENT NEWS
Gabe Sady
My thesis, entitled: Monitoring Land Cover Change in Chitwan, Nepal from 2001-2010: Implications for Indian Rhinoceros Habitat will utilize remote sensing products, data from past studies, and ground-based fieldwork to quantify the change land cover related to potentially suitable Indian rhinoceros

Nicole Stotz
Adopting User-Center Design (UCD)Methods for Cloud-based GIS Mapping Services: A Usability Study of Google Fusion Table Mashups”
This summer, between finding a job and finally going to the beach, I will be catching up on my napping.

Doug Wylie
Compositional Changes in Vegetation on San Clemente Island Following Feral Herbivore Removal.
Aim: Feral goats and sheep destroyed much of the native vegetation on San Clemente Island until their eradication in 1992. My research has been to assess trends in island vegetation post-herbivore removal.
The Undergraduate Program from a student perspective: Landon O’Donnell, Fall 2012 graduate

San Diego State University offers 82 undergraduate majors, so why might you consider Geography as the focus of your upper division coursework on campus? Geography is an applicable, multifaceted discipline which encompasses physical, biological, social sciences, and humanities as these studies relate to global, national, regional, and local scales. Environmental and geographic features of a region play an important role in economic activity, weather, and overall quality of life which are important factors to ponder when identifying a location to work or raise a family.

The Geography major offers several areas of emphasis which include Physical Geography, Natural Resource and Environmental Studies, Urban and Regional Analysis, Methods of Geographical Analysis, and Geographic Information Science. A full description of each subclass within the major is available on the Geography website and in your student manual. Physical Geographers study climate, landforms and geomorphic changes over large and small time scales. Natural Resource and Environmental Studies as well as Urban and Regional Analysis are centered around land use patterns, urbanization and the orientation and distribution of people on the earth’s surface. The Methods of Geographical Analysis and Geographic Information Science concentrations offer similar coursework computer mapping techniques to depict a variety of statistical and regional phenomena for visually representing geographic data and chronological changes in a digital, cartographic software program called ArcMap. The B.S. Degree in Geographic Information Science requires additional preparatory and Computer Science coursework. Because the Geography Department offers such a diverse curriculum of varied and interconnected, real world processes, undergraduates have vast career options and specialties to further explore in the event Graduate School is to follow the Bachelor’s Degree.

Dynamic, intuitive, and expanding are several terms to highlight SDSU’s Geography Major. Instructors from across the world engage students and challenge them to think about global functionality. There are several activities to pursue while completing your degree including internships, the Geography Club, and The Association of Environmental Professionals. Get ready for a major that will keep you educationally thirsty for an understanding of physical, social, and resource characteristics of territory influence human activity and the environment. With an interest in living abroad in New Zealand in the years to come, my degree in Geography will open doors for career opportunities and provide analytical tools for realizing cause and effect relationships of human and non-human adaptation.

Diana Richardson, Undergraduate Advisor
On Sustainability and Geography

As ever a leader in sustainability, the Geography Department worked with the Center for Regional Sustainability on campus to bring together an event which explored the challenges and issues affecting communities nationwide from West Virginia to San Diego. Our specific contribution to “The Way Forward: Regional Perspectives on Sustainability”, was hosting one of the participants, a resident of West Virginia, who lives in the region of mountaintop removal, where over 500 mountains have been blasted apart to get to coal, destroying not only the entire environment, but also ruining residents’ health, lives and economy. This absolutely unsustainable practice was highlighted at the panel presentation, as well as in classroom discussions, in order to initiate dialogue and plans for restorative measures.

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Having Dustin White tell his personal story was profoundly moving, delivering the very real issues of severe environmental and human impacts that are found in these more remote regions of the U.S. and the world. In order to complete the message of sustainability, students learned what can be done, and what is emerging as windows of hope in this particular issue, so that their knowledge, combined with their passion for morality and ethics in creating a better world, would provide some traction for positive change.

**On a New Undergraduate Course**

Engulfed in swirling sandstone walls, anxiously watching baby Big Horn Sheep scamper across vertical cliffs, swiping away tears as the story of the Navajo unfolds from the gentle, yet powerful words of an elder Navajo woman, viewing the massive engineering of Glen Canyon Dam that changed an entire region..... and more. Nothing compares to being actively engaged and immersed in the multi-faceted world that we study in Geography. Thus, the Regional Field Studies course takes students into the field to examine and experience the physical, cultural, economic and environmental topics of a particular region. This spring marked the 4th year students have travelled via 15-passenger vans to the Colorado Plateau region, heading to the national parks and monuments of the region – Zion, Bryce Canyon, Grand Staircase/Escalante, Lake Powell, Grand Canyon, to the Navajo Nation, small Mormon towns and the Colorado River. “Life changing,” according to one student’s recent reflection, sums it up pretty nicely. We all know that nothing compares to actually experiencing something in order to really know it, and that is the point of this course, to take the concepts learned in class and really see, touch, smell, feel and hear the beauty, intricacies, profound time dimensions, devastations and accomplishments, and absolute wonders of this world. Students depart the course inspired and invigorated, ready for further research, and have a deep appreciation for all aspects of the natural environment and human dimensions that mingle to create this fascinating place. The logistics of this course are handled by the very competent on-campus Aztec Adventures, so that we can concentrate on the teaching and learning; the rough part for the students is the very reasonable, yet necessary cost to handle these logistics of lodging, meals, transportation, and assorted fees. Despite working extra hours, making payments, and other financial maneuverings, each and every student has expressed that it was the best way to spend money in their college experience. As I watch the students open up and bond with each other, share in the amazement of all that we see and experience, and stand alone atop a ridge to absorb all that is around them, I am also inspired and invigorated, and know that we are providing for them an unequalled experience in learning, not only in Geography, but also in life.

**GRADUATING STUDENTS**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS**

Sarah Brown  
Rex Brunner*  
Jonalee Cabacungan*  
Brett Cannon  
Jess Commuso  
Randy Deodat  
Shawn Hawkins  
Tim Hettinger  
Megumi Hibi*  
Mark Huntley  
Nadege de Lajudie  
Michelle Lanning

Vassilena Lerinska  
Marcos Lopez*  
Sean Losee*  
William Magner  
Jimmy Mejia  
Slade Oran  
Anna Ouezada  
Sean Putnam  
Tyler Reeves  
Samuel Romer  
Laura San  
Andrew Shearer*  
Austin Smith  
Katie Smith

Amber Stillman  
Gerardo Tellez  
Jessie Tolentino  
Karl Ulm  
Giovanni Vaglietti  
Sheryl Vaughn  
Aaron Wade*  
Dana White

**GRADUATING STUDENTS**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Rodrigo Miramontez  
Zhitong Su

*distinction in the major
GRADUATING STUDENTS’ NEWS

Sarah Brown
Beginning with getting my teaching credential and Master's degree, I will continue exploring both the fields of music and geography around the world.

Rex Brunner
I am planning to look for an entry position in the field, possibly with a non-profit organization or with the city, and get a year or so of experience and travel. Then I am hoping to join Peace Corpse with my fiance.

Jonalee Cabacungan
I am hoping to find a career doing some kind of environmental work including conservation, restoration, research, and/or other geography related fields. One day, I’d like to join the Peace Corps and travel around the world.

Randy Deodat
I’m currently working for the Department of Fish and Game as a Scientific Aide where I’m 1 of 2 people providing GIS support to Region 5, which includes the 5 southern most coastal counties in California from San Diego to Santa Barbara.

Megumi Hibi
I am planning to go on to graduate school in Japan.

Michelle Lanning
Michelle is trying to stay positive in this down turned economy and hopes to get a full-time job as a law firm assistant before continuing on with law school in the next few years. Until then she has embraced a forced “early retirement” in Palm Springs waiting out the bad job market!!

Nadege de Lajudie
I plan on being an intern for the city of San Diego until December, then wish to travel somewhere tropical to celebrate all that I have accomplished the past four years.

Sean Losee
After graduation I hope to find a job with a company or government body that provides remote sensing/image processing and GIS support to this country’s war fighters and first responders. Ultimately I would like to provide real time tactical intelligence to soldiers in the field that will allow them to more safely and successfully accomplish their missions.

William Magner
My plans are to find a job in the environmental field and to master the native California flora. And to become a professional musician!

Rodrigo Miramontez
I will be seeking a Geospatial oriented career and working part time for SD Parks & Rec.

Samuel Romer
I plan on spending a year or two working part time and traveling as much as possible while I still have the time. After some travel, I plan on searching for a career in the environmental/economic field.

Andrew Shearer
I hope to get a job where I can use my skills - anything having to do with spatial analysis or human geography. I’ll either stay in SD or move up to LA.

Katie Smith
After graduation I started working with AMN Healthcare in Del Mar, as an Education Program Coordinator. I am still currently employed with them, and planning on starting a Master’s Program sometime in the near future.

Amber Stillman
I am moving back home for an internship in Hawaii

Gerardo Tellez
My plans are to get a teaching credential in the future and become a middle or high school teacher.

Jessie Tolentino
My projected plans are to find a profession in my related field of geography. My focuses are land management and planning in low income communities to improve the local environment.

Giovanni Vaglietti
I will be attending Grad School at the University Of San Francisco for Sports Management. I hope to intern at either the L.A Lakers or the L.A Galaxy (USF has a SoCal campus) in the coming months.

Sheryl Vaughn
I’m currently working as a contractor for the Dept. of Defense in the Environmental Policy Dept. I hope to use the knowledge I learned about the globalization of people and cultures and how their life style, tradition, and religious interaction relates to the well being, continuity, and security of one’s environment by enhancing my knowledge and working in national security.

Aaron Wade
Aaron is going to work on getting certified as a german translator this summer, and move onto graduate studies in the fall.

Dana White
After graduation I will be continuing with the City in the Park and Rec, Open Space department as an intern until October. I will be looking at becoming a park ranger for the city or anywhere else that will have me.
Colloquia Series 2011-2012

Wildfire GIS Modeling
Dr. Joaquin Ramirez,
University of León, Spain

‘A Thousand Points of Light’: Exploring the Geographies of Nonprofit Activity.
Dr. Pascale Joassart-Marcelli,
San Diego State University

An Observation-driven Geospatial Semantics.
Dr. Krzysztof Janowicz,
University of California, Santa Barbara

Qualitative Geographic Sample Size in the Presence of Spatial Autocorrelation.
“The Getis Lecture”
Dr. Daniel A. Griffith,
University of Texas at Dallas

The Spatial Political Demography of Carolatinos in Charlotte.
Dr. Gregory Weeks,
University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Mapping Ideas from Cyberspace to Realspace - A New Research Frontier for Geographers.
Dr. Ming-Hsiang Tsou,
San Diego State University

Conflict over Land and the Local State-Society Relations in China and India

Dr. Lei Guang,
San Diego State University

Youth and Citizenship: Struggles On and Off the Street
Dr. Lynn Staeheli,
Durham University, U.K.

Climate and Climate Change and Infectious Disease Risk in Thailand: A Spatial Study of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever Using GIS and Remotely-sensed Imagery
Dr. Kris Kuzera,
Clark University

From Recalcitrant Bodies to Recombinant Selves: How Disabled Children Renegotiate Body and Self in Home, School, and Neighbourhood Settings
Dr. Sue Ruddick,
University of Toronto, Canada

Hydrologic Gradients, Climatic Extremes, and Surface Erosion in the Himalaya
Dr. Bodo Bookhagen,
University of California, Santa Barbara

The Map is Not Which Territory?
Dr. Brian Spitzberg,
San Diego State University

Estimation of Vegetation Water Content from Remote Sensing: A Potential MODIS/VIIRS Product
Dr. David Raiño,
University of California, Davis

Los Angeles and the Politics of Oil, Air and Flooding
Dr. Sarah Elkind,
San Diego State University

Spatial Patterns of Water Insecurity in a Developing City: Lessons from Accra, Ghana
Justin Stoler,
San Diego State University

Cow 54, Where Are You: Monitoring Animal Movement and Behavior Under Index-Based Livestock Insurance Programs in East Africa
Dr. Stephen DeGloria,
Cornell University

Time-sensitive Remote Sensing
Christopher Lippitt,
San Diego State University

Living with Difference: Making Communities out of Strangers in an Era of Super Mobility and Super Diversity
Dr. Gill Valentine,
University of Leeds, UK
Dr. Levine's daughter Sierra enjoying field work in American Samoa

1st year doctoral student Alex Messina measuring sedimentation on reefs in American Samoa at -45 feet

Geography Brown Bag: Career Paths

Graduating students

Geography camp out in the Anza Borrego Desert

Geography National Parks trip 2012

The Annex
LET US HEAR FROM YOU.

Making a donation to the Geography department will help our graduate and undergraduate Geography students. Your donation will be used to purchase equipment and computers, maintain the laboratories and other facilities, as well as support the numerous scholarships awarded by the department.

There are many ways to give to Geography. The simplest way is to send a check. You may also use a credit card or set up an endowment. Please see http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/calweb/giving/index.htm for more information on the types of gifts.

If you choose to send a check, please make it payable to The Campanile Foundation and mail it and the attached form to:

The Department of Geography
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-4493

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