Geography Awareness Week

Who knew Geography Awareness Week could be so fun? Ming Tsou had a vision and formed a team of faculty, staff and students to pull off the fun filled week in November. The plan included bringing awareness to the department along with keeping students interested in Geography. Flyers, brochures and banners were created to detail the dynamic department and as you pass through Storm Hall 3rd floor, you will now see, stand up banners representing the Department of Geography.

Undergraduates were tasked with creating and ordering giveaways, which included water bottles and a sticker design contest. Students also manned the Geography Awareness table which was located outside Storm Hall.

This table attracted students and offered some giveaways and information about the department.

Along with SDSU students, there was a day dedicated to our surrounding high schools. The high school students took part in a drone presentation, geography trivia hour and the Bio Blitz. The drone presentation was on the back patio outside of Storm Hall, which attracted many students. The geography trivia hour used questions created by Kate Swanson’s GEOG 586 class, which was also presented as extra credit to a few SDSU Geography classes later in the week. Then Students participated in the Bio Blitz where they were able to find and identify as many species as possible, this was also a weeklong event.

The annual photo contest brought a spotlight to the geography Facebook page. This year the contest was created online through Facebook, there were 24 submissions and 8 prizes to award. The top 8 photos with the most likes were awarded Aztec Shop gift cards.

To finish off the week, faculty held a luncheon at the Faculty-Staff Club for over 15 counselors and professors that work in the surrounding community colleges. This brought many fresh ideas and a new sense of collaboration between SDSU and the community colleges that cater to many transfers.

Overall Geography Awareness Week was a success because without geography, you are nowhere!
Coastal Cleanup Day ~ Saturday, September 16, 2017

Coastal Cleanup Day is an international event organized by the Ocean Conservancy. California Coastal Cleanup Day is the largest volunteer event in the US and International Coastal Cleanup Day is the largest volunteer event on the planet. Not only are people helping to keep the beaches clean, but they are protecting the wildlife in and outside the water. This is a great environmental activity for everyone to take part in.

As the SDSU undergraduates select events to help acclimate incoming students to the Geography Department, participating in San Diego's largest cleanup day of the year was an easy choice. The community came together to clean and beautify 100+ beaches, canyons and neighborhoods. As of September 29, 2017, there were 6,500 volunteers who helped remove over 120,000 pounds of trash and over 5,000 pounds of recyclables. Thank you undergraduates for being a part of this day!

Geography 575 ~ Campus Redesign

Over the past three years, Geography 575 classes participated in designing a space for relaxation, shade and integration of more native and drought-tolerant plants on campus. The trees are young, but over time they will provide much needed shade. The project was recently completed in 2017 with funds from campus as a Living Lab grant and is now located across the road from Starbucks and the Arts and Letters building.

Creating an environment designed by students is an excellent way to showcase the geography department and the many projects we care about and invest in.

The pictures represent the project space before, the project design and the project completion.
SDSU gathers information about innovative work that is inspiring students and improving society, this information is put together in a research highlight brochure. Dr. De Sales was chosen for the 2015-16 edition.

A specialist in regional climate modeling, physical geographer Fernando De Sales studies the effects of surface-atmosphere interactions on the climate and ecosystem of East Asia, in particular of the Tibetan Plateau. Also known as the “Roof of the World,” the land mass is the world’s highest and largest plateau, with an area about four times the size of France. Its snow pack feeds ten rivers that provide water for irrigation and human consumption to more than 1.4 billion people.

Dr. De Sales and his colleagues are utilizing an atmosphere-ocean-land modeling system to investigate the causes of climate variability and change in the region. The study considers both natural processes like natural vegetation and snowfall variations, as well as human impacts like agricultural expansion and greenhouse gas emissions. This work will produce more reliable East Asian regional future climate prediction and help assess the impact of climate change on the region’s water and land resources. Dr. De Sales research is supported by UCLA and the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Arielle Levine ~ Receives NSF Award

Data Visualization and Analytics. The inauguration was held on October 26th, hosted by the University of Life Sciences’ Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management and the Vice Dean for R&D.

CENDAI will serve as a research, consultancy and project platform for developing new ideas and innovative solutions addressing current challenges in technology, security, trade, finance and public affairs.

Among the facilities that will be provided to CENDAI are the Human Behavior Research Unit (HUBRU), a world-class laboratory for collaborative usability studies and virtual reality, the Laboratory of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data (opening in 2018), and the Laboratory of Mathematical Modeling and Simulation (opening in 2018).

UPDATE—CICS’ latest international venture is the Center for Data Analytics and Intelligence (CENDAI), located on the campus of the Czech University of Life Sciences (CULS) in Prague. CENDAI was established at the CULS Faculty of Economics and Management in cooperation with CICS. Akshay Pottathil will serve as CENDAI Co-Director, while Dr. André Skupin has been appointed as its Associate Director for Data Visualization and Analytics. The inauguration was held on October 26th, hosted by the University of Life Sciences’ Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management and the Vice Dean for R&D.

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Dr. Levine was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Coastal SEES (Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability) grant to study climate impacts on key fisheries in the California Current ecosystem. This collaborative project (with co-PIs from Biology, Scripps Institute of Oceanography and UCSD) will examine how fishing behavior, income, jobs distribution, and livelihood viability will be altered by climate change. The focus is on three key commercially harvested species that are known to respond to environmental change: Pacific sardine, California market squid, and California spiny lobster. Each of these supports an economically important fishery and represents a different type of organism in terms of marine habitat, latitudinal range, and time scale of response. The approach will include global climate model projections, regional ocean modeling, fisheries modeling, economics modeling, plus studies of management scenarios and fisher behavior. The goal will be to help develop sustainable management strategies under future climate scenarios given predicted ecological, social, and economic outcomes for these three fisheries. Dr. Levine’s research will focus on fishermen’s vulnerability and ability to adapt to predicted climate impacts, looking in-depth at lobster and squid fisheries in the California Bight.

“There are no coincidences, only undetected patterns”
Akshay Pottathil
KATE SWANSON: In recent years, Kate has worked extensively with unaccompanied migrant children from Latin America, both as a researcher and a volunteer. In recognition of her volunteer work screening child asylum candidates, she was awarded a Casa Cornelia Law Center La Mancha Award in 2016. She was also recently interviewed for a CalArts documentary, which will accompany the profoundly impactful play Shelter - a “theatrical performance that shares stories of the massive human crisis of unaccompanied minors crossing the U.S. border and passing through the U.S. deportation shelter system, unraveling the painful truths of immigration.” She has forthcoming papers on Latin American migration in the Annals of Association of American Geographers and the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, as well as a recently published paper on child migration and violence in the Journal of Latin American Geography. Notably, her work on crime and policing in Latin America was also featured in the Washington Post.

FERNANDO BOSCO & PASCALE JOASSART MARCELLI: Fernando and Pascale completed the data collection stages of their Food, Ethnicity and Place project (http://fep.sdsu.edu) as their grant from the National Science Foundation ended. A significant part of this project focused on understanding how young people relate to food and navigate their complex food environments, including contradictions between home, school and neighborhood. They recently published an article based on this research with Blaire O’Neal in the Annals of the American Association of Geographers (http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/24694452.2017.1310019?needAccess=true).

TOM HERMAN: As Project Director for the YESS Research Center, Tom has been leading the Community Consulting Program (CCP) since 2004. The program provides applied research services to non-profit and government entities in support of programs addressing family and child well-being in community settings. Tom heads the effort, but two full-time staff members are the backbone of the consulting program. Rhianna Maras (MA in Women’s Studies from SDSU) joined the team in 2013 and currently serves as Program Manager. Alejandra Chaidez (BA in Poli. Sci. from UC Berkeley) was hired in 2016 to fill the role of Data Analyst. This year, the CCP will be working to support some important work by serving as an external evaluator for: a state-funded program providing mental health prevention and early intervention services for children in primary grades; a federal Office of Minority Health grant addressing the impacts of community-level stressors on young children in San Ysidro; and two programs coordinated by First 5 of San Diego County – one providing in-home support for newborns and their parents and another resolving behavioral and developmental concerns in young children so they arrive at school ready to learn. We value the opportunity to bring a geographic perspective to these important projects and contribute to the well-being of children and their families.

This year, four papers appear in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers based upon work coming out of YESS.
YOUTH, ENVIRONMENTS, SOCIETY and SPACE (YESS)
The YESS research center (formerly ISYS) continues with its mission to promote geographic work on children, youth, their families and communities.

STUART AITKEN: Stuart’s current focus is on youth and children’s rights. His forthcoming book uses past theoretical and empirical work from Slovenia (erasure), Romania (dispossession), Brazil (Rolezinhos), Chile (Pinguinos) and the USA (Dreamers) to argue that rights, and particular the universal child rights advocated by the 1989 UN Convention on Children’s Rights work only partial, and what is needed are localized sustainable ethics similar to those suggested by Spinoza and elaborated from a feminist/post-humanist perspective by Rosi Braidotti.

At about the same time, Springer will publish Stuart’s edited collection with Tracey Skelton entitled Theories and Concepts: Establishing Geographies of Children and Young People. This is Volume 1 of a 12 volume series. The series includes over 400 authors writing about a variety of topics related to children’s and youth geographies.


In Fall 2017 Stuart is working with Adriana Cordeira, a PhD student from Recife, on the impact of the Brazilian Right to the 2001 City Statute (part of Brazil’s constitution) on children and youth for a chapter in Afua Twum-Danso Imoh, Michael Bourdillon and Sylvia Meischner (editors) Global Childhoods Beyond the North-South Divide. In spring 2018, Stuart will keynote at a conference on Children’s Rights in Brasilia, before traveling to Recife.

In addition, for those of you still wondering what this subfield is all about, Stuart’s paper entitled “Children’s Geographies: Tracing the Evolution and Involution of a Concept” is available as a forthcoming publication in the Geographical Review.

BLAIRE O’NEAL: Blaire is broadly interested in urban agriculture. Her dissertation research focuses on different forms of urban farming (e.g., community gardening, urban farms, and vertical farms) and their relationship to issues of food justice. She engages with topics across the subfield of Food Geography, including research on children’s food experiences. She recently co-authored a paper in the Annals of the Association of American Geography with fellow YESS members Pascale Joassart-Marcelli and Fernando Bosco on children’s food journeys in an urban, low-income, minority neighborhood in San Diego.

JASMINE ARPAGIAN: Jasmine’s PhD project focuses on how the return of communist-era confiscated private properties impact Bucharest’s urban fabric, specifically low-income families informally living in those homes.

Congratulations! Student, Faculty, Emeritus

**JIE DAI & MANNY STOREY** ~ Congratulations to Jie Dai, whose proposal “Mapping and Modeling the Invasion of Mikania Micrantha in the Chitwan Community Forests, Nepal: A Coupled Human and Natural Systems Approach” and Manny Storey whose proposal “Uncoupling Fire and Drought Impacts on Chaparral” were selected for the very prestigious NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship (NESSF) for two years (2017-2019)! According to NASA program officer Dr. J.A. Kaye, this fellowship is very competitive and only the top 18% candidates were selected this year. Great job and well done Jie and Manny!

**DARA SEIDL** ~ Dara was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) grant in 2017 (with co-PI Dr. Piotr Jankowski) to study geoprivacy attitudes and behavior of internet users. This award is co-sponsored by the Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) and the Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) programs within NSF. As part of the grant, Dara is currently deploying a statewide survey within California that tests the degree to which internet users attempt to obscure or mask their personal locations when engaged in online activity. This project will provide insights into the relationship between privacy attitudes and behavior when responding to location requests, as well as enhance understanding of the factors associated with the propensity to mask location.

**Dr. ALAN OSBORN** ~ Congratulations to Dr. Osborn, he was recognized by residential students as a Favorite Faculty member during the 2016-2017 academic year. This was awarded by the Residential Education Office and Division of Student Affairs. Well done!

**Dr. LI AN** ~ Dr. Li An had a successful trip to several Chinese sites for combined research and family purposes between May 4 and May 19, 2017. He visited scholars at Capital Normal University and the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, initializing new collaboration opportunities. He also visited Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve (FNNR) in Guizhou Province and did a couple of experiments regarding the use of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)-borne thermal infrared (TIR) sensors in detecting wild animals.

**Dr. ARTHUR GETIS** ~ Dr. Getis was honored by the North American Regional Science Council with the Jean Paelinck Award. This award underscores the lasting contribution of Dr. Getis to the development of spatial science. The Jean Paelinck Award recognizes and honors the truly outstanding scholarly achievement of a senior and internationally recognized regional scientists in the field of Regional Science Methods and it is awarded with the nominations of five RSAI fellows, with the selection of the Jury and with the approval by the RSAI Council. Congratulations Dr. Getis on this well deserved honor!

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**Retirement 2017 ~ Professor Edward Aguado**

Professor Edward Aguado retired in Spring 2017 after 35 years in the Department, the last five of them in the Faculty Early Retirement Program. He began as a full-time lecturer in 1982 and two years later was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor. He served as Department Chair from January 1997 to August 2004, did multiple stints on the SDSU and CSU Senates and just about every university committee there is, and served as assistant dean in the Office of Graduate Affairs. Aguado's primary interests were in physical geography, climatology and meteorology, and in later years taught a regional class on California.

He was a great colleague and remains a great colleague to the department. Congratulations!
SDSU Geography graduates, Scott Munroe (PhD ’99), Marilyn Stowell (MS ’14, BA ’10) and Sean Taugher (MA ’17, BA ’11) work for Citibank – one of the largest banks in the nation and world. While Citi is headquartered in New York, all three are happily based in San Diego.

Their work focuses on Distribution Strategy – optimizing the bank’s network of branches and ATMs through wide ranging analyses from evaluating large markets down to individual physical locations. The team has designed a custom GIS and analytical infrastructure that leverages a wide range of spatial, demographic, and business data to support their research. With billions of dollars invested in branch & ATM real estate and an evolving need for it brought on by increased digital banking capabilities, their work is a critical and dynamic application of spatial analysis to real world business challenges.

2017 Geography Graduates

Our geography community grew in 2017. Congratulations to all our graduates!

Bachelor of Arts ~
ENVIRONMENT and SOCIETY:
Kelli Ann Boling
Gabriel Antonio Carrillo
Blake Francis McCormick
Sean Michael McDowell
Sean Michael Rhodes
Shayne Nicole Zack

FOUNDATIONs of GEOGRAPHY:
Jakob Leo Daoust
Richard Nicholas Fagan III
Falisha Marie Field
Torri Dee Mowery
Mariusz Wlodzimierz Piotrowski
Anthony John Raustadt
Carl Finis Leslie Reed
Joseph Patrick Reilly
Bailey Ann Schrader
Kenneth John Sutherland
Aaron Ramos Weber
Jameson Bryant Young
Pejvak Zaimaran
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY and GLOBAL STUDIES:
Juan Pablo Moreno Alamos
Teresa Ramos

INTEGRATIVE GEOGRAPHY:
Danill Lee Shirazi
Gerardo Solano Jr

METHODS of GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS:
Ardeshir Alexander Beheshti
Jeremy Harris
Chelsea Anne Thompson
Nevin John Valles

URBAN STUDIES:
Ismahan Ali Abdullahi
Faisal Abdulaziz Alhassan
Adam Richard Campbell
Amy Alexis DeNinno
Jacob Andrew Diimmo
Stephanie Marie Estrada
Skylee Celeste Holliday
Brendan Robert Irish

Madison Bailey MacRobbie
Kaden David Martz
Cindy Vanessa Muro
Victoria Lynn Newman
Jessica Rose Relucio
EvaLillian Sanchez Rubio
Noor Tozy
Arvin Vega

Bachelor of Science ~
ENVIRONMENTAL and PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY:
Bryon Makai Biggig
Emily Faye Erlewine
Kevin McDonald Fanshier
Daniel Scott Hall
Thomas Ryan Sumstine

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE:
Ryan Rommel Binene
Eduardo Cordova
Corey William Evans
Kenneth Oliver Denzo Gervais
Damien Travis Herndon
Frank Archiel Mowery

“Anatomy is to physiology as geography is to history; it describes the theatre of events.”
— Jean Fernel
2017 Geography Graduates ~ continued

Congratulations to the 2017 graduates!

Doctoral Degree ~
Jiue-An Yang
Sory Ibrahim Toure

Master of Arts ~
Sean Robert Taugher, Bridget Mary Hicks,
Eduardo Delgado
Kelly Elise Salamone

Master of Science ~
Andrew David Kerr
Eugene Andrew Schweizer Jr
Jason William Allen
Yelena Granovskaya
Gregory Richard McCormick

Alejandra Coronado
Christina Pankey Grant
Ying Lee
Hao Zhang
Maegan Antoinette Salinas
Cheng-Chia Huang
Rachel Anne Snavely
Gardner William Thompson

Giving ~ Support Geography

Gifts from alumni, parents, students and other friends help the Department of Geography at San Diego State University make a lasting impact on our world. By donating to the department, you are helping students achieve excellence, encouraging knowledge and discovery while supporting teaching and learning.

Every gift makes a difference. Your support enriches the experiences of our students, and through them, our community and our world. All donations are tax-deductible, private and secure.

There are two convenient ways to support Geography; online or by mailing a check.

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1. Go to the Department of Geography home page
2. Lower right hand corner click on “Giving to Geography”
3. Click on the link inside the second bullet point titled “College of Arts and Letters Giving site”
4. Please Follow the directions regarding who to contact to make a donation