THE AZTEC GEOGRAPHER

The SDSU Spring Geography Newsletter brings news of faculty, staff, emeriti, graduate students, and alumni. The editor is Art Getis, who follows the convention of adding comments here and there in italics. All those mentioned who are or were affiliated with SDSU are shown in large font or boldface. The photos come from a variety of sources. The editor sincerely thanks everyone who participated in this enterprise including the support from the Department’s Shared Vision Fund.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT: Stuart Aitken

SDSU’s Geographic Community

In 1993, Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben wrote a short book entitled The Coming Community in which he described an amorphous set of ideas for describing a community that was not contained within one place, one set of principles, one idea, or one academic discipline. One of the exciting things about SDSU geography is our evolving community of students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends. Given that we are rooted in geography as an idea and a practice, we nonetheless resemble what Agamden sees as the most important form of community: one that is emergent and yet difficult to tie down. Let me take some time to highlight what are, for me, some of the important events that comprise SDSU’s geography community.

In Fall 2008, the Geography Department continued a tradition of inviting Community College geographers on campus to share pedagogy and to discuss ways that San Diego’s geography community might grow. These Community College lecturers and professors -- some of whom are SDSU alumni coming from as far away as Orange County -- met with faculty and graduate students from the Geography Department. The ensuing discussion was lively and hopeful, suggesting a number of ways in which relations between Community College and SDSU geography could be tightened and grown.

At another level of educational practice, a number of SDSU faculty members and students work with local Elementary-, Middle- and High-Schools to help educate students in the importance of geography to their lives. This work runs the gamut from giving talks during Geography Awareness Week, to running GIS workshops, to conducting environmental focus groups, and to inviting students on campus to tour our facilities. Some of our connections with schools such as Helix High, Hoover High and High Tech High continue from strength to strength, and from semester to semester.

Every now and again, I meet with SDSU geography alumni who are now involved in geographic work not only in San Diego but also around the world. These former students have fond memories of SDSU and continue to use their geographic background in environmental consultancy, planning,
education, architecture, internet-design, GIS mapping and a host of other professions. It is a great joy for me to connect with these professional geographers engaged in vibrant careers, and also with school children who have an excitement for learning about their world. These connections – from elementary school through community college and university to professional geographers working at large – suggest an important continuum for geography within our region and across the globe.

It is my hope that SDSU can provide some kind of forum or meeting place within San Diego for our evolving geographic community. One way this may happen is through our weekly Colloquia Series, a public event open to all friends of geography.

In Fall 2007, SDSU’s Geography Colloquia Series evolved into a weekly forum for local speakers (including SDSU’s geography faculty) and for invited guest speakers from around the world. An enthusiastic committee comprising faculty and graduate students invites stimulating and thought provoking speakers. This event occurs every Friday at 3:30pm in Storm Hall 337 followed by a reception on our balcony. A list of current speakers can be found on our department web-site (http://geography.sdsu.edu/News/colloquia.html), and all are welcome.

Another gambit for connecting San Diego’s geography community is through workshops and conferences. This last year has seen a number of workshops and seminars hosted by SDSU geography, including an international workshop on children and another on border issues and the American Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Southwest U.S. Region Technical Meeting. We are eager to welcome the annual conference of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG) in September 2009 (http://geography.sdsu.edu/apcg/). The meeting promises to involve a large swathe of SDSU’s geographic community and to show off what we have here to delegates from all over the Pacific Coast Region (this includes not only the states bordering the Pacific Ocean but also Arizona, Utah, Nevada and Idaho). We are expecting 300-400 participants and a host of sessions that will run the gamut of geographic interests, both academic and applied.

A brief column does not do justice to the geographic work going on at SDSU and our local community. I have mentioned only a few examples that seem pertinent in terms of bringing together our emergent community. You can read about many more examples in this newsletter and on the SDSU geography web-site. I hope that you join with me in recognizing the vitality of our geographic community and that you will continue to support its activities, however they may show up.
Another sunny day draws faculty, staff, and emeriti out of their offices for a group photo. See if you can name them.

Did you know that San Diego State University was founded in 1897, and is the largest and oldest higher education facility in the greater San Diego area, and is one of the oldest universities in California? Proudly part of its role in the California State University system, SDSU has a student body of more than 33,000.
FACULTY

Stuart Aitken

"I continue working with children, youth and families using, for the most part, qualitative methods. Last year, I published an edited collection entitled Global Childhoods: Globalization, Development and Young People (Routledge, 2008) based on an international workshop I organize in Trondheim, Norway. With the current economic crisis, I may be writing a follow-up book on children and de-globalization.

I am very happy to announce that two book-length manuscripts went off to the publishers very recently and are due out (I hope) this year.

The first, entitled The Awkward Spaces of Fathering (Ashgate Press, 2009), is based on ten years of ethnographic research with fathers in San Diego. The work is an outgrowth of the Family Fantasies and Community Space (Routledge, 1998) project and is perhaps the most joyful research and writing event that I have ever experienced. The ‘family fantasies’ project left me with a number of questions about the role of fathers in families and communities, and I got to explore these questions with some wonderful men these last ten years.

The second book was five years in the making and is an edited collection of twenty-three cutting-edge papers on qualitative geography. The editors are myself, Dydia DeLyser (Louisiana State University), Steve Herbert (University of Washington), Mike Crang (Durham University), and Linda McDowell (University of Oxford). The book is entitled The Handbook of Qualitative Geography (Sage, 2009)."

Trent Biggs

Professor Trent Biggs has been in the field with students, mainly Tijuana and Nepal. In Tijuana, Emily Atkinson mapped land surface types and has submitted the work to a journal. Meanwhile, students Mike Beland and Emily Perkins have been bravely installing equipment to measure sediment yield in Goad Canyon. The research is part of a grant from the Southwest Consortium of Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP) awarded to Trent in 2008. Shannon Webber, in collaboration with Rolf Aalto of Exeter University, has been busy extracting sediment cores from the Tijuana Estuary for 210Pb analysis. Ed Beighley of the Civil Engineering Department of SDSU has been working...
with Trent on a hydrologic model of the Krishna Basin, which they will use to understand natural and human controls on basin hydrology of southern India.

In December 2008, Trent was in Kathmandu, Nepal attending a UNEP workshop on Glacial Melt and Downstream Impacts, and managed to fit in a couple of weeks of scientific tourism to gather water samples in the Himalaya. The workshop was hosted by Scripps and attended by climate and water resources professionals from the US, Europe, and Asia (China, India, Nepal). Preliminary contacts were made with Kathmandu University, the International Water Management Institute, and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). Chun-Ta Lai of the Ecology Department of SDSU is helping Trent with 180 analyses of the water samples, which show promise as a check on hydrologic models. A follow-up meeting is being hosted by Scripps and Cambridge University in San Diego in May, 2009. Stay tuned!

Fernando Bosco


“Placing Latin America” takes a thematic approach to the study of the diverse human geographies of Latin America. Avoiding pre-defined ideas about this rapidly globalizing region, the volume focuses on the dynamic connections between people and places and examines the nexus of economy, politics, society, and culture from an explicit geographic perspective. The book includes coverage of many traditional topics but also approaches themes not commonly found in other textbooks, such as the geographic dimensions of the drug trade, tourism, social movements, and Latin American cinema.

The book has many connections to our department. Beside the editorial work and the chapters written by Professor Bosco, the book includes contributions by other professors and alumni of the department. For example, Professor Larry Ford is the author of a chapter on architectural icons and urban form in Latin America, and James Craine (SDSU-UCSD Ph. D. 2006) and Joel Jennings (SDSU MA 2003) are contributors to chapters on Latin American cinema and on the Latino experience in the United States.
Molly Costello

"In 2008, I was pleased to see the culmination of ongoing research with Professor Christina Tague in a publication in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers on 'The Potential Utility of Physically Based Hydrologic Modeling in Ungauged Urban Streams.' We are also currently working with San Diego County, investigating the potential impacts of upstream urbanization in Ramona and river restoration on the hydrology and flood dynamics of Santa Maria Creek.

I expanded my classroom and field teaching experience in 2008. I had the opportunity to teach Climate and Weather (Geography 103) for the first time, which was a rewarding experience. I also thoroughly enjoyed joining Diana Richardson and her geography students for the annual Yosemite National Park trip in April. I brought my students and my family along, although it was probably entertaining to watch me chase my four-year old (who had to "be first") and carry my two-year old while trying to explain river dynamics and park policy. Never daunted, I look forward to my second annual Yosemite trip with Diana this spring."

Kathleen Farley

Professor Farley is continuing her research on the causes and consequences of land-use change, with projects in the Tijuana River Watershed (TRW) and in the Ecuadorian Andes. In collaboration with an SDSU master's degree student and researchers at Colegio de la Frontera in Tijuana, the TRW work focuses on understanding the links between policy and land-use change in the watershed. This work is being funded by the Southwest Consortium on Environmental Research and Policy.

Along with an SDSU doctoral student and a colleague at the University of Tennessee, Kathleen also will begin a new project in the high-altitude grasslands of Ecuador, which serve as the primary water catchments for much of the country. This research is intended to provide a better understanding of the effects of land-use change on the production of ecosystem services related to carbon and water. While in Ecuador last summer, Kathleen finally got to visit the Galapagos Islands, which lived up to their promise. She married Ben Wolf on November 22, 2008 and is enjoying married life and attempting to get prepared for the San Diego Rock and Roll Marathon on May 31.

Thomas Herman

Tom is enjoying a second year on Storm Hall’s 2nd floor. The Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Youth and Space (ISYS Center, for short) continues to develop projects that connect to the interests and talents of SDSU faculty and students.

- In the summer of 2008, ISYS welcomed visiting researcher Vicky Plows, a PhD student in Social Policy at the University of Edinburgh. Vicky was a great addition to ISYS, contributing to our projects and also giving an entertaining colloquium on her
dissertation research on youth clubs in Scotland.

- In August, ISYS hosted a workshop entitled “Mapping North American Youth Cultures: Local Contexts of Global Lives.” The workshop was funded by the Canadian government and attended by researchers working in Mexico and Canada, as well as geography graduate students and faculty from geography, sociology, and anthropology at SDSU. Participants in the workshop are now preparing papers for inclusion in a themed issue of the journal *Children’s Geographies*.

- **Stuart Aitken**, **Fernando Bosco**, and **Tom Herman** concluded a study on the interrelationships between parenting and citizenship among immigrant mothers participating in neighborhood advocacy in Chula Vista. A paper entitled “Women and Children in a Neighborhood Advocacy Group: Engaging Community and Refashioning Citizenship” was submitted to *Gender, Place and Culture*.

- During 2008-09, ISYS Project Director **Tom Herman** is also providing technical assistance to several community-based projects through contracts with Sweetwater Union High School District, South Bay Community Services, and City of San Diego Environmental Services Department. **Brian Richter** contributes to these projects in his role as Graduate Assistant at ISYS.

Allen Hope

**Allen Hope** will be travelling to Vienna, Austria, in April to attend the HydroEco 2009 international conference. He will present a paper entitled “Effects of Land-Cover Variability on River Flows in Mediterranean-Type Ecosystems”. This paper summarizes research findings from a NASA sponsored project that Dr. **Hope** has conducted with his Co-Investigator (Dr. **Douglas Stow**) and graduate students (**Ryan Bart**, **Dillon Fitch**, **Daniel Hawtree**, **Anders Burvall**, **Noah Albers**, **Gary Conley**, and **Jordan Deker**). This project has examined how changes in vegetation due to fires and invasive exotic vegetation have affected river flows in California and the Western Cape region of South Africa. Computer-based mathematical models and satellite data have been used in the investigation.

Piotr Jankowski

In Fall 2005, the inaugural group of students went to study at the Institute for Geoinformatics (IFGI) in Münster, Germany. Taking GIS classes in English and participating in research projects, the students had the opportunity to work with renowned GIS professors and study at one of the most reputable GIS schools. The students also participated in German language courses at the University of Münster. Between classes and home-work, the students traveled all around Europe, visiting Christmas markets in Germany and Prague, and then the
Amalfi Coast in Italy, Dublin, Switzerland, Paris, London, and more. The Münster exchange program allowed the students to get an international perspective on GIS, as well as travel and experience different cultures. A student from SDSU, Grant Fraley, spent the fall semester 2008 in Münster.

Pascale Joassart-Marcelli

Pascale Joassart-Marcelli joined the faculty in the fall 2007. She has been teaching courses in economic and urban geography and, this year, developed two new exciting courses: Geographies of Poverty and Rethinking the Economy. Her current research focuses primarily on urban poverty and issues of geographic disparities in access to economic opportunities and resources. One of her projects, funded by the SDSU University Grant Program, investigates the role of nonprofits in providing services to immigrants and their relationships to ethnic enclaves. Another project, undertaken with colleagues at USC and Berkeley and sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, considers how intra-metropolitan socio-economic and fiscal disparities contribute to an uneven landscape of parks and recreation opportunities in southern California, with important environmental and health consequences. She continues to work on low-wage labor markets and immigration. She recently presented a paper at UCLA at a conference on new entrants in the labor force. Extensions of that work were presented at the AAG meetings, where she also chaired a session on immigrants and economic integration.

John O’Leary

John O’Leary returned to full-time teaching and research after serving as department chair from 2004-2007. He continues to teach courses in introductory physical geography, the geography of natural vegetation, regional climatology, teaching of college geography, and a seminar on human-impacts upon Mediterranean-type ecosystems. He is currently concluding a lengthy research project funded by the Department of Defense that involves the vegetation component of long-term ecosystem monitoring for Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, California. He and research assistants sampled vegetation and analyzed data taken from 82 permanent plots located on the installation. Last May, he was one of two SDSU faculty annually elected to honorary membership in the Phi Beta Kappa national honor society based on their record of “distinguished professional activity, much appreciated teaching, and service.”

John’s wife Marla continues to teach mathematics at Pershing Middle School. His daughter Heather graduated last May from SDSU with a degree in art,
and his son Greg currently attends Grossmont College. John continues to enjoy swimming, hiking, and crossword puzzles as time permits.

Diana Gauss Richardson

In addition to teaching, Diana continues to be the academic adviser for the undergraduates in the Department. She is also the internship coordinator, promoting student involvement in local businesses and agencies in order to gain relevant career experience. In addition, she organizes field trips, open houses, and activities associated with Geography Awareness Week.

Douglas A. Stow

"For the past few years I have had the pleasure of collaborating with my colleagues and some of our brightest graduate students on two research projects that involve studies in and have enabled me to travel to Africa. One is a NASA-funded project that is led by Prof. Allen Hope, in which we are exploring watershed modeling and satellite image analysis techniques to enable estimates of runoff and evapotranspiration for ungauged water-sheds. The geographic emphasis of the project is on Mediterranean climate zones, with a specific focus on southern/central California and the Cape Province of South Africa. In the summer of 2006 I was able to visit some of the study watersheds and collaborating scientists in South Africa. My family joined me and we managed to add a few safaris in the Eastern Cape and Eastern Transvaal to my watershed touring itinerary for the Western Cape.

The other project is supported by NIH and is a study of health and socio-economic distributions and disparities within Accra, Ghana. Professors John Weeks (Principal Investigator) and Art Getis and several graduate students and I are collaborating with faculty at George Washington University (GWU), Harvard, and the University of Ghana. My role has been to explore advanced image processing techniques for delineating urban neighborhoods and predicting their socio-economic status, based on very high spatial resolution satellite imagery. This past June I traveled to Accra to join Prof. Ryan Engstrom (former SDSU MA and PhD student) of GWU and his colleague and students, where we laid the groundwork for a field verification and validation component for the project.

In addition to these projects, I have been working with: (1) several other graduate students on projects pertaining to vegetation and habitat monitoring, and wildfire management in southern California, (2) other SDSU faculty and graduate students on geospatial technology research for border security applications, and (3) with Raghuram Narasimhan (a MS student) on satellite time series analyses of Arctic tundra regions of Alaska and the Russian Far East to analyze vegetation growth and snowmelt responses to recent climate changes in the northern polar regions.

I encourage SDSU Geography alumni to keep in touch and come visit the Department. You will be amazed at the changes in the SDSU campus and impressed by the fine group of young
faculty that we have been able to hire.”

Kate Swanson

Kate Swanson happily joined the department in August 2008. She previously worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. Her PhD is from the University of Toronto, Canada, and she specializes in urban geography and Latin American studies. 2008 has been a busy year for Kate: not only did she move countries and start a new job, but she also had a baby. Kate is looking forward to conducting some new research in the San Diego region. In 2009 she will use funds from a recent University Grant award to begin a research project on indigenous street vendors in the border region.

Ming Hsiang Tsou

Ming-Hsiang Tsou used his first sabbatical leave in Spring 2008 to visit several universities in Asia, including University of Tokyo, National Taiwan University, National Taiwan Normal University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and National University of Singapore. He gave colloquium talks at these universities, experienced three different subway systems (Tokyo, Taipei, and Hong Kong), exchanged four different currencies (Yen, NT dollar, RMB, and the Singapore dollar), and took more than two thousand pictures during his trip. Ming would like to express his appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Atsu Okabe for being a great host in Japan, to Dr. Lin Hui for showing him the beautiful Victoria Harbour night view in Hong Kong, and Dr. Chen-Chieh Feng for eating yummy seafood in Singapore.

In Tokyo, Ming is 3rd from left, Kayo Okabe (5th from left), Professor Cindy Brewer (4th from right), David DiBiase (3rd from right), and Professor Atsu Okabe (2nd from right).
GEOGRAPHY STAFF

Marcus Chiu

Marcus is busy keeping the technology side of the department going smoothly.

Pete Coulter

Pete is a project manager/-coordinator for several of Professor Doug Stow’s research projects. A remote sensing specialist, he currently is evaluating commercial digital camera systems and image processing techniques for monitoring the land borders of the United States. Pete is also the proud father of two year old daughter and a son born in September 2008.

Bonnie Golden

Bonnie continues to be the Graduate Programs Coordinator for the MA/Ph.D. programs. If her wish comes true, she will be retiring in 2010 after 39 years of service to the Department and University.

Harry Johnson

“Over the past year, I’ve continued as Department Web Master and Macintosh System Administrator. A redesign of the department website was completed to meet the specifications and deadlines of the Accessibility Technology Initiative for the CSU system. Cheers.”

Please see the Department’s web site. It is terrific. Google it at SDSU Geography.

Dave McKinsey

As the Director of CESAR, Dave has his hands full ordering and directing the setup of the new equipment that seems to come in daily.

GEOGRAPHY EMERITI

Art Getis

You wouldn't know that Art retired in 2004. He continues to come into the Department nearly every day to work on an NSF and an NICHD project, consult with graduate students, and prepare an edited book (with Manfred Fischer of Austria) on approaches to the analysis of spatial data. He also consults on a couple of projects and participated in 2008-2009 workshops at UCSB, UT-Dallas, and UC San Diego. His recent publications can be found in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, PLOS-Medicine, and Geographical Analysis. His 1978 book with Barry Boots has been reprinted by Cambridge University Press, and the 12th edition of his McGraw-Hill textbook, Introduction to Geography, with Judy Getis and Jerome Fellmann was published in 2009.

Phil Pryde

In 1972, Cambridge University Press published Phil’s doctoral dissertation under the title “Conservation in the Soviet Union”. It remained as the main reference work on environmental issues in the USSR for the remainder of the
Soviet period. In 2008, thirty-six years later, Cambridge selected certain books from the past to re-issue in a paperback series, and “Conservation” was one of the ones chosen (proving once again that if you live long enough, you become an historical object). Also in 2008, Phil indulged in his occasional role as a destination lecturer for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, on a two week trip through Scandinavia, the Baltic Republics, and St. Petersburg. He notes that the windmills of Holland have been upstaged by the wind machines of Copenhagen, which now festoon its harbor and offshore areas.

Phil’s destination: The summer palace near Saint Petersburg

Fred Stutz

“I have now been at SDSU for 40 years - 39 years teaching and 1 year looking for a parking place! I will be retiring after this semester, but will not retire from tennis. I am teaching World Regional Geography and Urban Transportation Geography and Urban Transportation Geography in Spring of 2009. I have put the final touches on my 4-color, 500 page, hardbound textbook, The World Economy, 6th ed, Prentice Hall, set for 2010. I gave a paper at the AAG Meeting in Las Vegas on sustainable energy resources vis-a-vis efficient travel behavior, with many San Diego traveler spatio-temporal GIS maps. But people don’t really want to travel efficiently, and I can’t make them.

I led a field trip of 30 brave souls to Greece, Turkey, Israel, and Egypt in June of 2008. I am to host, with my wife, to groups going to Scandinavia, Russia, and the Western Mediterranean in the summer of 2009. My oldest daughter, Christa, is working on her Ph.D. in Geography, and she teaches at Mesa College. Her husband is a Navy diver, and a student at SDSU. My youngest son, Weston, is good at HS football, and was named All-state...in 2008!! His coach, is my other son-in-law, Greg Giles, an eye doctor in La Mesa, by day. Derek, my other son, lives in Indiana. My five small grandchildren are God’s way of showing me that the world must go on!”

Richard Wright

During the past year I have continued to be involved in efforts to enhance environmental quality in the lower Tijuana River Valley. This has been accomplished largely through two initiatives in which I have been a participant as chair of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. The first is a lawsuit by the Regional Board against the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) which resulted in an agreement by IBWC to upgrade the processing of sewage conveyed from Tijuana to the treatment plant on the U.S. side of the border. The second is the creation of the
Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team, the purpose of which is to protect the valley from future accumulations of trash and sediment; identify, remove, recycle or dispose of existing trash and sediment; and restore the lower Tijuana River floodplain to a balanced wetland ecosystem. Also, this year I am serving my fourth term as chair of the AAG Nystrom Award Committee. This committee is responsible for selecting the outstanding research paper based on a recent Ph.D. dissertation at a special session at the annual meetings of the AAG.

Did you know that in 2009 the Department has over one million dollars in support for thirteen projects funded by local, state and national agencies such as NSF, NICHD, International Community Foundation, and San Diego Parks and Recreation?

**JOINT DOCTORAL PROGRAM**

**Ph.D. Student Rep, Sean Crotty**

Caitlin Chason

Caitlin has an MS in Geography, from SDSU and a BA in Geography from UC Santa Barbara. Her research focus is on vegetation change in Mediterranean-type ecosystems, and her technical focus is on biophysical remote sensing.

“I love to travel and have tried to visit as many places as possible in the last few years. Presenting at professional conferences has given me the opportunity to travel to many parts of the United States. In the last year I have traveled to the following cities to speak at conferences: Fairbanks, Alaska; Portland, Oregon; Madison, Wisconsin; and Boston, Massachusetts.”

Recent awards: SW-ASPRS Academic Achievement Award in GIS, and APCG’s William and Shirley Bailey Award for Outstanding Paper in Physical Geography.

“I am involved with the SDSU branch of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS). As the secretary of the branch, I have been busy planning lecture series, workshops on field methods in remote sensing, and more recently, organizing the Volunteer Hazard Mapping Corps, a student-based volunteer group that is involved with providing GIS and remote sensing support to local agencies during hazard events.”

**Mary Pyott Freeman**

Mary has been working on her dissertation examining conifer mortality including object-based remote sensing analysis and doing summer fieldwork in the local mountains (Palomar, Volcan, Laguna), and she taught the Introduction to Remote Sensing course in the Fall.
Denise Goerisch

Denise is a first year PhD student. “Coming from Women’s Studies, I did not know what to really expect from Geography. In the past few months, I feel that I have significantly expanded my knowledge as a geographer as well as becoming a part of this great, supportive community. I look forward to beginning my fieldwork soon (hopefully beginning this summer) on teenaged girls trying to create sustainable communities in rural areas of the United States.”

Ryan Goode

Ryan is in the second year of an ethnographic study on a Brazilian informal community, or favela, in Rio de Janeiro. He is tracing the changes that have occurred in the community since the local narcotics trafficking organization was removed in the year 2000.

A Rio favela

Anna Carla Lopez

“My research interests are in household nutritional health and food security in Accra, Ghana, with broader interests in global food ecology. I plan to continue my work with a recently awarded post-doctoral fellowship from the National Institutes of Health beginning Spring 2009.”

Christopher Moreno

“My dissertation research floats in and around intersections of health, media, and critical geography. Specifically I am using different ontological and epistemological understandings of space and the body to help develop new geographical and social science insights into drug addiction, treatment, and recovery. I work with media and film, families and neighborhoods, Family Treatment Drug Courts, and on drug policy. I have published a few papers related to these topics in this past year. One paper, entitled, “Body Politics and Spaces of Drug Addiction in Darren Aronofsky’s Requiem for a Dream” in Geo-journal and two other collaborative papers: Telling Young Lives: Portraits of Global Youth with fellow PhD student Sean Crotty and Professor Stuart Aitken, and another in the edited volume The Geography of Cinema: A Cinematic World with Professor Aitken.

In 2008, I finally advanced to candidacy and plan to be defending my work this summer. Around the department, I have been working with Professor Aitken and Dr. Thomas Herman at ISYS (Center for Inter-disciplinary studies of...
Youth and Space) as well as helped Professor Aitken in the fall coordinate a symposium with representatives of some of the regional community colleges. I have also been somewhat active as a member of the editorial board on Aether: A Journal of Media Geography and review articles for other journals as well. Finally, I have spent some time traveling in and around Costa Rica, Colombia, and Canada with my wife Sara.

Justin Stoler

Justin Stoler used spatial frameworks to research infectious diseases and other issues of public health. He has conducted field work in Mexico, Jamaica, and most recently Ghana, where he studies health disparities in its capital city, Accra, with John Weeks’ research team. Recently Justin had an article on urban malaria (Accra, Ghana) published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Martin Swobodzinski

During 2008, Martin continued his work on the PGIST project (Participatory Geographic Information Systems for Transportation) under the supervision of Professor Jankowski. His work and interest mainly focused on the analysis of the decision-making behavior of individuals in the context of online transportation planning.


Martin currently is preparing for his oral exams and hopes to advance to candidacy in the next couple of weeks.

Sarah M. Wandersee

"A new doctoral student, I am working with Professor An to use remote sensing in documenting illegal mining impacts on golden monkeys in China as part of the Golden Monkey Project collaboration.

Xinyue Ye

"I have a book chapter forthcoming with Professor Rey entitled 'Comparative Spatial Dynamics of Regional Systems.' I also presented a paper with Professor Rey at the AAG meeting, in which we announced a formal release of PySAL (Python Spatial Analysis Library): A framework for Comparative Space Time Analysis.

Alex Zvoleff

Alex is getting started in the Ph.D program, and is working on a project in southern Nepal with Professor Li An studying population-environment interactions. He presented a paper at the AAG meeting, and is looking forward to traveling to Nepal next fall.
Alex will be presenting at the US-IALE conference in April, 2009, after having received a NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Award. The Awards are designed and supported by NASA and Michigan State University to assist outstanding students in attending US-IALE annual conferences. Alex will be presenting preliminary work investigating the impacts of climate variability and change on the human population in the Chitwan Valley, Nepal.

Did you know that our Ph.Ds are among the faculty of the following: Clark University, University of Minnesota, University of Texas at Austin, East China Normal University, University of Queensland (Australia), New Mexico State University, Arizona State University, University at Buffalo, University of Oklahoma, Northridge State University, Queens University (Canada), Morehead State University, George Washington University, Michigan State University, and San Diego State University?

MA/MS STUDENTS

Will Anderson

"I'm currently writing up the findings of my thesis project, a case study of ethnic economies and post-Fordist production schemes that focuses on Guatemala City’s textile maquila industry and Korean ethnic community. I had the opportunity to conduct eight weeks of fieldwork there last summer, thanks in part to a grant from the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG). I'm also jumping headfirst into applied GIS-what a trip!"

William Bredemeyer

"I am working on investigating how ethnic enclaves produce varying poverty and health rates in the Boston area.

I have also been working with Professor O'Leary on data analysis of vegetation for long term ecosystem monitoring at MCAS Miramar."

Ryan Burns

Congratulations go to Ryan, who was awarded the Cartography and Geographic Information Society’s Master’s Scholarship.

Norman Carter

"The research for my dissertation is focused on the residential renaissance in downtown Los Angeles. I am examining the urban regimes that have facilitated the recent housing development surge beginning in 1999. My most recent paper presentation was at the AAG Annual Meeting in Boston in 2008. The topic dealt with the slowing sales of
lofts and condos in the downtown LA market. I presented my work at the AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas this year as well.’

Sarah Champion

"I am a second semester MA student from Fort Worth, Texas, studying urban geography and working with Professor Ford. I plan to do my thesis work in the neighborhood of City Heights."

Heather D’Anna

"I have been doing research on “A Spatial-Temporal Analysis of Copper and Zinc from Antifouling Paints in Pier 32 Marina, National City, Ca.” I have also been awarded a summer internship at the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC."

Marta Jankowska

"My research is focused on defining neighborhoods in Accra, Ghana, using various clustering algorithms, including k-means and AMOEBA. I presented a subset of this research concerned with geodemographically classifying slum areas in Accra at the Population Specialty Group student paper competition during the AAG meetings in Las Vegas. Marta won a first prize from the Population Specialty Group for her paper. Recently, she chose SDSU’s joint doctoral program to further her education.

Ick Hoi Kim

Ick Hoi has been researching a geospatial Web portal that can provide geosimulation and visualization tools by utilizing cyber-infrastructure.

Chung-Rui Lee (Ray)

"I am from Taipei, Taiwan. The focus of my research is using GIS to visualize inequalities and add contextual meaning of neighborhoods derived by remotely sensed imagery. Emily Powers and I are the student representatives of the colloquium committee. I make posters for the talks, and I am in charge of the receptions. Many of you are my guinea pigs for my visualization experiment. I’m seriously considering offering “stinky tofu,” my favorite food, sometime this semester in the reception. Don’t believe the rumors; it tastes awesome."

Raghuram Narasimhan

“I am very excited and highly motivated to be involved in remote sensing research of snow and vegetation dynamics in the frontier land: the Arctic tundra. I finally got the opportunity to watch “Iron Maiden!” Jeff Lamantia and I drove to Irvine on May 30, 2008 to watch them perform."

Wyson Pang

Wyson recently had his thesis-based paper, “Comparative Spatio-temporal Analysis of Fine Particulate Matter Pollution”, co-authored with Professor George Christakos of SDSU and Wang Jinfeng of the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Nature Resources
Research, accepted by the journal *Environmetrics* to be published in 2009.

Emily Perkins

"I am using several modeling techniques and field work to estimate the sediment flux in Goal Canyon, Tijuana."

Emily Powers

"I am currently completing my Master’s thesis: a qualitative study examining the phrase ‘going green’. I presented my findings at the annual meeting of the AAG in Las Vegas. I serve as one of the student representatives on the Geography Department’s speaker series committee and was a 2008 recipient of the Alvena Storm Memorial scholarship."

Brian Richter

"I am in the second semester of the Master’s program. My area of study is disabled geographies. In particular, I am researching the experience of intellectually disabled individuals in sport. I intend to look at the social networks formed and the benefits of these activities in the lives of participants outside the field of play. The end goal is to make a case for a greater amount of funding for organizations devoted to such endeavors."

Jonathan Rossiter

"I am working on my thesis, entitled ‘New Urbanism’s Efficacy in Reducing Automobile Dependence,’ and presented preliminary findings at the AAG. I and three other students, Zia Salim, Sarah Champion, and Caitlin Chason are competing for the Pacific Coast regional team at the GeoBowl at the AAG meeting in Vegas.”

They won! See photo and caption at end of Newsletter. Jon was selected as the Most Valuable Player.

Sharyse Tacy

"I am a first year grad student. I’m interested in issues of urban sustainability; smart growth, new urbanism, new regionalism, community development and participatory GIS."

Jennifer Vaughan

"I am a current Master’s student in Geographic Information Science, advised by Professor Li An, and my thesis research is on the local geography of the Coastal Cactus Wren in Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton."

Gregg Verutes

"I am doing research on participatory GIS, cartography, and information visualization. My SDSU Projects are: 1) Health, poverty and place in Accra, 2) discourse maps, 3) self-organizing maps. I recently defended my Master’s thesis entitled “Discourse Maps: A Usability and Evaluation Study of a Participatory GIS.” This summer I will be working for Baja Directions, a graphic design firm, developing sport fishing and recreational boating atlases.
for Baja California, Mexico, and Northern California. Beginning in September 2009, I accepted a position as an intern for the National Geographic Society in its Mapping Department.”

At the AAG meeting, Gregg won third place prize in the National Geographic Society Mapping Contest.

Did you know that the Department of Geography at San Diego State has 115 undergraduates, 55 master's, and 22 fully funded doctoral students?

GEOGRAPHY ALUMNI

Jared Aldstadt

Jared is completing his second year at the University at Buffalo, where he does research and teaches quantitative methods courses. He has grants from several agencies for which he does research on the spread of dengue fever in Thailand. He recently completed the user-friendly scripts for AMOEBA, the spatial clustering algorithm.

Kurt Baron

“After completing my degree I took a position as GIS Group Leader with WEST Consultants, Inc. in Rancho Bernardo, California. WEST is a civil engineering consulting firm specializing in hydraulics, hydrology, sedimentation, and erosion. My work includes project scoping, acquiring data from projects, preprocessing the data for input into hydraulic and hydrologic models, running the models, post-processing the model results and producing maps and figures, and writing sections for reports. I also do a bit of teaching from time to time, provide technical support for folks in this office as well as our offices in Salem, Oregon, Bellevue, Washington, and Tempe, Arizona. I’m system/network administrator for our Rancho Bernardo office. I’ve also been involved in field surveys on projects, attending conferences and professional meetings, and continuing my education with programming classes. I stay in contact with people in the Geography Department through work contacts, and professional group meetings, and the occasional kayak paddle on the Bay or at the Shores, and dinners out in town.”

I’m working on a global warming/sea level rise/wetland characterization study as a consultant for SDSU. My last refereed co-authorship was in the Journal of Hydrologic Engineering in 2006, for Gridded Snowmelt and Rainfall-Runoff CWMS Hydrologic Modeling for the Red River of the North. I have traveled to Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Portland, Salem, Sun River, Tempe, Sedona, Santa Fe, Hampton, D.C., Vegas, and Mammoth. My title is now GIS Manager. I was promoted to Full member of Sigma Xi. Engaged, no babies, looking to buy a house while the market is down. Still kayaking, downhill skiing, and spending a lot of time at the gym. Best wishes to alums and the Geography Department.”

Christopher Brown

"Things with us are great. Jared is in the second grade and loves math and
geography, and Shelby is raising Cane in day care and really showing her Mom’s smarts (see Carol Placchi below). As will be noted below, I am doing well at NMSU and we are all just great.”

For the last several years, Chris has served as the director of the NMSU Spatial Applications Research Center (SpARC) at New Mexico State University; SpARC is basically a smaller version of CESAR and SAL, and he also teaches classes in GIS applications, spatial analysis, urban geography, research design and the geography of Latin America. Chris will be stepping up as department head in summer of 2009, and he completed an AAG/NSF leadership program at UCLA in summer of 2008 that was helpful in training him for this work. Of note to SDSU, Stuart Aitken was a fellow participant in this workshop, and it was great to connect again with Stuart as he prepared to take the helm at SDSU.

DongMei Chen

DongMei is spending her sabbatical from Queens University (Canada) in China. She is conducting research and collaborating with colleagues in Shanghai and Beijing.

Mike Cohen

"I’m still working at the Pacific Institute (though now in Boulder, Colorado), still working on Colorado River management policy and advocating Salton Sea, restoration."

William E. Granger

“I have been working since 2002 for the Otay Water District as their Water Conservation Manager. In this role, I manage their water conservation, school education, and water shortage response programs. The Otay Water District is currently the third largest water district in San Diego County. My wife, Soren, and I have two boys, ages five and three, and are looking forward to travelling now that they are a little older.”

Philip L. Hinshaw (class of ‘75)

"2008 was another busy year in the environmental consulting field, and I completed an environmental analysis of the effects of expanding a North County cemetery, as well as continuing the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for a habitat conservation plan that has evolved into a multi-year project. The most satisfying part of my activities during the first half of 2008 was organizing the Sons of the American Revolution 3rd Annual Memorial Service at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery for the sailors buried there that died in an explosion aboard the USS Bennington (PG-4) on July 21, 1905. The USS Bennington was named for Bennington, Vermont, where a decisive battle of the American Revolutionary War was fought.”

Mark Janikas

Mark continues his work at ESRI where he has been responsible for much of the
new software ESRI has produced in the area of spatial analysis.

Alicia Jensen, AICP

Alicia is an Associate Planner, University of California, Office of the President.

Christine E. McMichael

"Once the Board of Regents signs off at their meeting in March, I will officially be an Associate Professor (time sure flies)!" Christine is on the faculty at Morehead State University in Kentucky. She is the Director of KentuckyView, Kentucky’s Remote Sensing Consortium.

David Palomino

“Work is going great. I’m a Production Coordinator with ESRI’s Business Analyst Product team in La Jolla. Our product helps companies make wise and profitable decisions regarding site selection (where to put new stores), trade area analysis, traffic flows, marketing analysis, consumer expenditures, and market potential analysis, just to name a few things. My job is data heavy, but I am called in to be our cartographic expert as well. The people here at ESRI are high caliber, and there is a great team atmosphere. Aside from the day to day, I also get to do some business travel. Also, working at our Business Partner, Developer, and the International Users conferences is always enjoyable as we reunite with colleagues and customers from around the world.

On the side, I teach GIS at San Diego City College. It keeps me on my toes.

When I’m not working, I am very involved with long distance outdoor sports, most notably as an open water swimmer, swimming distances from 1 to several miles at a time. I’m often asked if I’ve seen sea life, and the answer is yes. Mostly I’ve seen fish, but I have swum with dolphins, seals, sea lions, rays, a huge squid, leopard sharks (leopards are harmless... blues on the other hand are potentially dangerous if they decide you’re yummy). The most profound swimming experience I’ve had to date was swimming with a pod of Fin whales (the whales showed up and circled us for two hours, making close passes. If you wish to see it, click http://www.10kswimmer.com/ and scroll down to “A Whale of an Escort” or do a find on “Palomino”.

Finally, with all of the blessings I’ve experienced, I’ve felt that I wanted to actually do something to bless others. A couple of friends and I are in the process of creating a foundation for college scholarships for orphans in Mexico. We’re really excited about this, and I’ll try to keep you posted as everything gets finalized."

Stuart Phinn

“Work is good. I’m a professor at the University of Queensland, Australia, and run a research centre and teach, mainly in remote sensing. Amy [form-
erly Amy Bortman, MA Geography 1994] is a policy officer in the Environmental Protection Agency.

We have a daughter, Alana Phinn, who is 4 and reminds us that we need to stop working and have fun as well.

There are not enough suitably qualified GIS and remote sensing people in Australia. My group has 22 PhD students from all over the world, so that keeps me busy and amazed at what they can do. We do work for all levels of government, private industry, and NGO's throughout Australia, Asia, and the Western Pacific. Most of our work is building mapping and monitoring programs using satellite and airborne image data sets, anything from mapping invasive plants, to monitoring states and all of Australia. We have just started a $20million project to build a national terrestrial ecosystem research network and another project to develop a national space program with a significant earth observation component.”

Carol Placchi

Chris Brown, Carol’s husband, writes: "Carol has worked for the Environmental Directorate at White Sands Missile Range for 5 years as their GIS coordinator, and her good work was rewarded in 2008 when she was promoted to GIS Manager for this important directorate. In this work, she is basically the geo-spatial information officer for the Missile Range, and she manages all of the geospatial data for the base.”

Lauren Scott

Lauren continues in her role at ESRI of developing new spatial analysis software, engaging in projects, and making presentations far and wide. She is responsible for many of the innovations found in ARCGIS 9.3, the latest version of ESRI’s software.

Darren Scott Smith

“How is work going? Great. I’m an Ecologist for California State Parks in San Diego. I married Kim (Miller) Smith in Mexico, April 2007. My first son (Jack Lawrence Smith) was born March 18th, 2008.

I am working on the Carmel Valley Road Habitat Restoration Project at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and a number of other restoration and natural resource management projects (I’m looking for volunteers to help with weeding and planting). I’ve been exploring central Baja California and been to Nicaragua twice in the last few years. This summer we’re taking a family trip to Italy. I’ve not won any awards but have been a recent late night and very early morning local public access TV and radio ‘star’ for all those awake between 11:00pm and 6:00am. I’ve been telling of the glory that is State Parks in San Diego.”
Tim Sutherland

“I have retired from SANDAG”.

Joy Weer

Joy runs Goat Mountain View Farm. It has registered Nigerian Dwarf Goats, German Angora Bunnies, Mini Rex Rabbits, and she makes handcrafted goats-milk soap.

Long Gen Ying

Long directs the Spatial Analysis Laboratory and is a Full Professor at East China Normal University. His publications, both in English and Chinese, can be found in regional science and geography journals.
The winners! The triumphant Pacific Coast Geography (APCG) college bowl team who took first place against 7 other US (and 1 Canadian) regional teams. The APCG team had as SDSU members MVP Jon Rossiter (back center left), Zia Salim (kneeling), Sarah Champion (standing, far left), and Caitlin Chason (standing, far right).
AAG Meeting

SDSU had more graduate student presenters than any other geography department at the recent AAG meeting in Las Vegas.

Congratulations to all:

Dominic Abbenante, Will Anderson, Magdalena Benza, William Bredemeyer, Leah Bremer, Ryan Burns, Norman Carter, Caitlin Chason, Samuel Cortez, Sean Crotty, Giorgio Curti, Michael Farrell, Grant Fraley, Mary Freeman, Denise Goerisch, Yuki Hamada, Marta Jankowska, Ick Hoy Kim, Kris Kuzera, Christopher Lippitt, Chris Moreno, Emily Powers, Jonathan Rossiter, Zia Salim, Nicole Simons, Diana Smith, Justin Stoler, Martin Swobodzinski, Sarah Wandersee, Alex Zvoleff

2008 Ph.D. Degrees Granted


Ligmann-Zielinska, Arika. Exploring Normative Scenarios of Land Use Development Decisions with an Agent-Based Simulation Laboratory
Master’s Degrees Granted

2008-2009


Albert, Meredith. Population Mobility and Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Women in

Bart, Ryan R. Impact of Fire on Streamflow in Central California Shrubland Catchments

Berlin, Deborah. The Sensitivity of Southern California Chaparral Net Ecosystem Productivity to Enriched Atmospheric CO2 Conditions.

Dodson, Kimberly D. Designing Web-Based Mapping Tools for Transportation Decision Making: A Case Study of Traffic Census in San Diego

Esperbé, Aude. Towards High-Resolution Self-Organizing Maps of Geographic Features

Gibbons, Philip. Determining Suitable Wildlife Crossing Locations Across a Southern California Interstate. (Pryde, Jankowski, Rahn)

Hauger, Thomas. Estimating the Number and Spatial Distribution of Muslims in the United States. (Weeks, Ford, Osman)

Lee, Ting-Hwan. Visualizing Web-based Information Dissemination and Spatial Diffusion Patterns: A Case Study for the 2003 San Diego Wildfire Event,

Mendenhall, Nathan. Applying User-Centered Design Method for the Development of Web-Based Mapping Services: A Case Study with Biology and Environmental Planning,

Pang, Wyson. A Spatiotemporal Analysis of Ambient Fine Particulate Air Pollution Using the Bayesian Maximum Entropy Model

Petralia, Rosanna. Inner-City Voids, Street Peddlers, and Urban Myths: Cultural Encounters in a Multiethnic District of Catania, Sicily

Polis, Dimitris. The Spatial Identification of Sub-Regional Housing Segmentation: The Case of Coronado, CA.

Schmidt, Charles. Effects of Irregular Topology in Spherical Self-Organizing Maps
**The Aztec Geographer**

**Stephens, Philip.** *Using spatial Analysis to Assess the Distribution of HUBZones in California*

**Verutes, Greg.** *Discourse Maps: A Usability and Evaluation Study of PGIS*

**Wagshall, Adam.** *A Spatial Decision Support System for the Collaborative Identification of Conservative Priorities*

**Whitford, Susan.** *Patterns of Bat Species Richness and Activity Levels: A Monterey County Case Study*

**Colloquia Series 2008-2009**

*Evaluating Reaction Rates in Complex Multispecies Reactive Transport Problems. Is it Really Possible?* Dr. Xavier Sanchez-Vila, Technical University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain

*Fifty Years of Change on the US-Mexico Border,* Dr. James Gerber, San Diego State University

*The Tijuana River Basin: One Area, Two Stories,* Dr. Lina Ojeda Revah, El Colegio de la Frontera, Tijuana, Mexico

*The Annual Getis Lecture in Spatial Analysis. Knowledge Networks and Learning: A Regional Model with Numerical Simulations.* Dr. Kingsley Haynes, George Mason University

*Revisiting Multi-Disciplinary Problem Solving: It's Not Where You Take Things From, It's Where You Take Them To.* Dr. George Christakos, San Diego State University

*What is Your Rational Basis? On the Need of a Canon for Data-Based Plausible Inference in Risk Analysis.* Dr. Alberto Solana, Inst. de Matemáticas y Fásica Fundamental, CSIC, Madrid, Spain.

*Spatial Patterns and Cost Surfaces: Untangling Trends in Species Conservation.* Dr. Rebecca Lewison, San Diego State University

*Don't Tread on Them: The Population Genetics of Timber Rattlesnakes in Fragmented Landscapes.* Dr. Rulon Clark, San Diego State University

*New Research Directions of Internet GIS and Disaster Management and Lessons Learned from the San Diego 2007 Wildfires.* Dr. Ming-Hsiang Tsou, San Diego State University

*Diversity and Journalism: Neoliberalism in the Newsroom.* Dr Minelle Mahtani, University of Toronto, Scarborough

*The Future of the US-Mexico Borderlands. Why Walls Won't Work.* Dr. Michael Dear, University of Southern California

*Some Geostatistical Approaches for Downscaling Spatial Data,* Dr. Phaedon
Kyriakidis, University of California
Santa Barbara.

Object-Oriented CART for Land
Use/Land Cover Mapping
Using ADS40, Lidar, and Ancillary
Data, Kass Green, President, American
Society of Remote Sensing and
Photogrammetry

Fog-ecosystem Interactions in the
California Channel Islands. Dr.
Christopher Still, University of Califor-
nia, Santa Barbara

Participatory GIS and Online
Deliberative Decision Support:
Reflections on a Field Experiment, Dr.
Piotr Jankowski, San Diego State
University

Unpaving Paradise: Tools for Urban
Urban Sustainability and Health, Dr.
Jennifer Wolch, University of Southern
California

Peter Pan Will Not Live Here Anymore:
A Multi-Approach Study of the Relation
Between Neighborhood Design and the
Ability to Age in Place, Dr. Maurizio
Antoninetti, San Diego State University

GIScience and the Holocaust: Spatial
and Temporal Aspects of the Holocaust
in Italy, Dr. Alberto Giordano
Texas State University, San Marcos

“If it rains tomorrow I will...”:
Theory of Complex Systems and
Applications in Geography, Dr. Li An
San Diego State University

Murder Stories and the Hegemony of
Individualism. Dr. Paul Kaplan
San Diego State University

Memory, Trauma and Emotional
Geography, Dr. Anh Hua, San Diego
State University
Taking a break at the AAG meeting in Las Vegas, and seeing the Grand Canyon are: Dominic Abbenante, Brian Richter, Sarah Champion, Diana Smith, Sarah Wandersee, Sean Cook, Ali Hulten (Social Work, SDSU), and Jennifer Vaughn.
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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.

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