



Geography Joins New School of Earth, Society and Environment

Geography at the University of Illinois is going to School—the School of Earth, Society and Environment. In the fall semester of 2005 faculty in the department voted to join this new School, which is being formed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and will include two other departments, atmospheric sciences and geology. The School complements, but does not replace, the departments—each department will still have its own faculty, a head of department, and an independent undergraduate major and graduate program. The proposal to form the School was approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2007 and became “official” at that time.

The formation of the School serves four major purposes. First, it serves as the stimulus for exciting new interdisciplinary interactions among the three departments. The theme of the School—Earth, society and environment—is one in which

all three units have a strong interest, but approach from different perspectives. Geology and atmospheric sciences are primarily natural science units, whereas geography includes social science and natural science viewpoints. A major goal of the School is to integrate perspectives from the natural and social sci-

been established and includes faculty from all three departments.

Second, the formation of the School establishes an administrative unit with a larger “footprint” in the College than the individual departments. It will allow the three departments to collectively compete more successfully for limited campus resources than was possible as small, separate units. The

School model is well established at the University of Illinois and has been encouraged by the college administration.

Third, the School serves as the basis for coordinating instruction and course offerings across the three departments. This effort will provide new programmatic opportunities for under-

graduate and graduate students. It will also be the anchor for a new interdisciplinary undergraduate major that should appeal to a broad range of liberal arts and sciences students. The new major is additional to existing departmental majors.

Lastly, the School will establish a much larger group of faculty and students than exists within each department. School-level activities, such as colloquia and social events, will provide opportunities for shared intellectual and social interaction, thereby extending a sense of community beyond the individual departments. For more information visit the School’s website at www.earth.uiuc.edu.



“A major goal of the School is to integrate perspectives from the natural and social sciences to examine and seek solutions to critical environmental problems confronting society.”

ences to examine and seek solutions to critical environmental problems confronting society. Geography obviously has an important, central role to play in this endeavor. Plans call for collaborations to develop around new research centers and one center, the Center for Water as a Complex Environmental System, has already

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Greetings alumni and friends! It has been a while since our last newsletter, but we hope to renew our commitment to staying in touch with all of you. Since I became Head in August 2001, the department has undergone many changes. Most recently, the department has agreed to be part of a new School (see page 1)—a decision that places it within a larger administrative unit that can represent our interests more effectively on campus. This decision

has already paid dividends in terms of faculty development. We've come a long way in seven years. Back then, when John Jakle and Donald Johnson retired, we were not able to replace them and were down to 10 faculty members. In the aftermath of 9/11, the University experienced fiscal constraints and staff positions had to be eliminated, resulting in the departures of Jane Domier, our staff cartographer, and Althea Jones, a longtime mainstay in the department office. But we also gained a graduate of our department. After Barbara Bonnell retired, we hired Chris Wilcock as her replacement. All in all, we are now in an exciting period of growth and development.

Over the past three years, the department's growth spurt has energized the faculty and brought in a new mix of students to our graduate program. We added three senior faculty members: Murugesu Sivapalan, a preeminent watershed hydrologist with a 25 percent appointment in civil and environmental engineering; Jim Best, an internationally recognized process sedimentologist who has a 50 percent appointment in geography and a 50 percent appointment in geology; and Colin Flint, a rapidly rising star in the field of political geography. This year we added three new assistant professors to the department: Shaowen Wang, a specialist in geocomputation and high-performance computing approaches to GIS; Ashwini Chattrre, who studies the influence of democratic politics on resource management in southeast Asia and Africa; and Julie Cidell, who has research interests in transportation geography and in the geography of "green" buildings. We are also engaged in a faculty-excellence hiring initiative that we hope will bring to the department a senior scholar in the field of environmental policy. The department is now in a much healthier position than it was several years ago and we very much are looking forward to the future.

We plan to keep you up to date on our progress through an annual newsletter. Current information on the department is available at our website: www.geog.uiuc.edu. We want to hear from you and include information about alumni and friends in future newsletters. Please write, or email us at geograph@illinois.edu. Also, if you happen to be in the Champaign-Urbana area or plan to visit, please let us know. You are always welcome to stop by the department for a tour or to meet with faculty and students.

Bruce Rhoads
Head

Summer 2008

Department of Geography
School of Earth, Society and Environment
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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220 Davenport Hall
607 S. Mathews Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-1880
Fax: (217) 244-1785
geograph@illinois.edu

www.geog.uiuc.edu

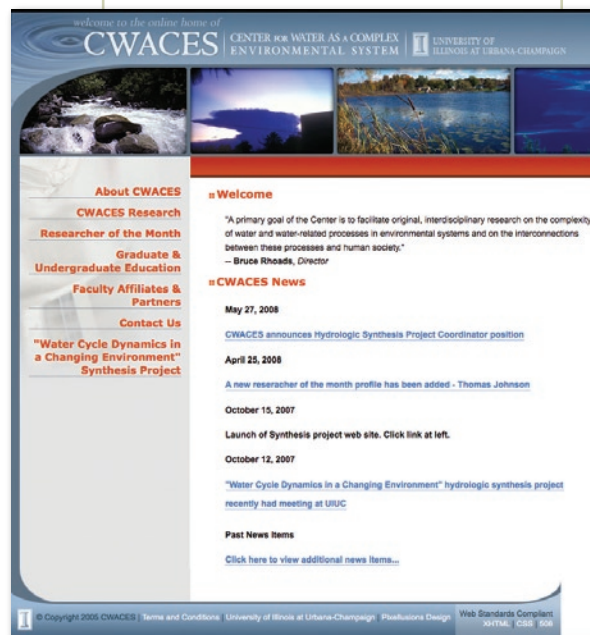
Geography Collaborates on New Water Research Center

The development of new interdisciplinary research centers is a key component of establishing the School of Earth, Society and Environment (SESE) that will include the Department of Geography. These centers will include faculty from the three departments in SESE and their purpose is to stimulate interdisciplinary, collaborative research. The centers will also forge linkages with faculty with related research interests across campus.

The first such center, the Center for Water as a Complex Environmental System (CWACES), was established in fall 2005. Bruce Rhoads in the Department of Geography is serving as the director. The main focus of CWACES is on fundamental research questions related to the hydrological cycle, the connections of this cycle to atmospheric, ecological, geomorphological and biogeochemical systems, and the interconnections between society and all aspects of water-related environmental processes. Complexity and sustainability are central research themes. CWACES provides an administrative framework to support activities for enhancing research productivity and for generating innovative ideas or approaches via collaborative interaction among participating scholars. It seeks to organize research initiatives that require interdisciplinary teams for success and that transcend the domain of any individual department, school, or college. CWACES also serves to connect University expertise with interdisciplinary expertise at the Illinois state scientific surveys. Specific aims of CWACES are to:

- provide leadership in the organization of interdisciplinary research teams and in the management of interdisciplinary research projects related to water in the environment;
- provide an infrastructure for effectively coordinating institutional commitments that may be required or expected as matching components of external grants;
- help to coordinate campus-based research with research conducted by federal, state, and local agencies, such as the Illinois Water Resources Center, Illinois State Geological Survey, Illinois Water Survey, Illinois Natural History Survey, and the Illinois Water Science Center of the U.S. Geological Survey.

CWACES developed around a hiring initiative in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences that initially involved four new positions, but that has resulted in the hiring of nine new faculty members through related hiring opportunities. The hiring initiative involved the Departments of Geography, Geology and Atmospheric Science. The initial focus of hiring was to seek a leadership-caliber senior scholar to help put CWACES on the map as an emerging center of excellence in water-related environmental research. This focus led to the appointment of Murugesu ("Siva") Sivapalan in the Department of Geography. Professor Sivapalan, who considers himself a watershed hydrologist and has a background in engineering, also holds a 25% appointment in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at U of I, a unit with which the physical-geography program maintains strong ties. Subsequent hires have focused on adding junior faculty in the Departments of Atmospheric Sciences and Geology who are committed to the goals of CWACES. For more information see <http://cwaces.geog.uiuc.edu>.



- stimulate multidisciplinary approaches to water research through seminars, workshops, colloquia, and lectures by faculty, affiliated scientists, and visiting scholars;
- serve as a clearinghouse for information about water research opportunities for faculty and students;
- promote integration of research on water across campus by providing opportunities for interaction and exchange of ideas among faculty;
- provide support facilities for proposal development, preparation, and submission; and

Geography Participates in New Interdisciplinary Major

A new interdisciplinary undergraduate major, Earth System, Environment and Society (ESES), received approval from the University and Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2007 and already has attracted many new majors during its first year. The new major is administered by the School of Earth, Society and Environment, which includes the Department of Geography. The major is intended to complement existing majors in the three departments by providing a cross-cutting educational option for students in the new School. Development of the major was supported by a grant from NASA.

The major contains two options: Earth Systems Science, which has a strong natural science orientation and emphasizes complex interactions among geophysical and ecological aspects of environmental systems; and Environment and Society, which adopts a social-science perspective to highlight political, socio-cultural, and economic dimensions of environmental problems.

Geography is an important component of both options. In particular, all students in the major are expected to develop basic skills in the use of Geographic Information Systems to analyze environmental problems. ESES is the first dedicated “environmental science” major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and has great potential to attract students interested in pursuing careers in this field. More information on the ESES major can be found at www.earth.uiuc.edu/students.

Department Creates Graduate and Undergraduate Programs in Geographic Information Science

Perhaps no area of contemporary geography is as visible within society and as popular in public and private sectors of the job market as the field of geographic information science (GIS). Graduates with expertise in GIS are in high demand and Departments of Geography need to take the lead in meeting that demand. Although geography at Illinois was not one of the early leaders in GIS training, over the last few years we have made a strong move to become such a leader. We have created a new GIS option for our undergraduate major and have restructured our graduate program to include an area of specialization in GIS for advanced training at the master's- and PhD-degree levels. We now offer a full suite of courses focusing on GIS, spatial programming, spatial statistics, and spatial modeling that are taught by a group of several faculty members, including Julie Cidell, Shaowen Wang, Tom Frank, Luc Anselin, Sara McLafferty, Bruce Hannon, Geoffrey Hewings, and Bruce Rhoads. Details on these programs can be found on the department website (www.geog.uiuc.edu) or by requesting brochures.

To support GIS instruction, the department maintains two computer-based teaching laboratories. The main teaching facility contains 30 computer workstations. A satellite laboratory contains 15 additional workstations for out-of-class access by students. Both laboratories are connected to a common server allowing students to work seamlessly on assignments using the same software and data files. The laboratories are maintained by staff at ATLAS—the college computer-based learning technical support group—who frequently upgrade the computer hardware, install the latest software, and provide routine technical support. Through the development of these two laboratories, the department has created a state-of-the-art facility for GIS instruction.



FACULTY PROFILE

David Wilson Publishes New Book on Cities and Race

In his new book, *Cities and Race: America's New Black Ghetto*, Professor David Wilson sets out a compelling case for the worsening plight of black ghettos in cities of the American Rust Belt, including Chicago, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and New York. Wilson lays blame for this situation on neoliberal policies and programs that began in the 1990s. Such

policies typically focus on attracting resources to blighted areas to accomplish urban "renewal," rather than on redistributing existing resources from one part of a city to another. The result is the spawning of a "growth machine"—a group of local agencies and institutions, including builders, developers, government officials, real estate agents, the media, and local utilities—that seek to attract business and industry, revitalize neighborhoods, create vibrant downtowns, and stimulate affluence. As such initiatives take place within city centers, they increasingly isolate and marginalize black ghettos, drawing attention and resources away from these parts of the city. As a result, unemployment, a sense of hopelessness, and poverty among residents of black ghettos have all worsened. Moreover, revitalized urban landscapes of consumption, pleasure, and affluence tend to deepen negative perceptions of black ghettos, which have inferior schools, decrepit homes, isolated social spaces, and underfunded institutions. This growing disparity in urban conditions means that leaders and residents of black ghettos face an increasingly formidable task in trying to improve their circumstances. Wilson also examines the influence of other policies and programs on the black ghetto, including the Faith-Based Resource Provision and Workfare and the No Child Left Behind education initiative.



Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE

AMY SCHULTZ

As the recipient of a Roepke Research Fund Scholarship Internship, I worked with Professor Thomas Frank as a member of his Mojave Desert research team during my junior year. New to the geography program, I was able to gain knowledge of the science, as well as learn how research is conducted in the context of environmental issues. It gave me the opportunity to apply classroom skills to real-life studies, and learn how environmental problems are identified, and how data and analysis methods are developed. Over the last two years, we have finished the assessment of aerosols (or particles in the air) in Death Valley National Park and our manuscript is being edited for



journal submission. We are currently looking at the spatial and temporal variability of aerosol optical depths throughout California and its air districts and air basins. I used remote sensing and GIS skills I learned from geography courses to conduct the research. Aerosol optical depth data was collected from NASA's Multiangle Imaging Spectro-Radiometer satellite and compared with Environmental Protection Agency particulate matter data collected by ground stations. The results were compared with topography, land cover, and population data throughout the state as we analyzed the observed patterns of aerosol optical depths from 2001-2006. I organized and presented a poster of our research at the regional meeting of the American Association of Geographers in November 2007. I also

received grant money from the Environmental Council, and Professor Frank and I flew to some of the air districts in California to familiarize ourselves with the study site. Our assessment of aerosol optical depths throughout California concluded in April, when I presented our final product at Environmental Horizons. This research has also enabled me to write a Senior Thesis, and the manuscript will be sent to editors for publication in hopes of spreading new awareness to address environmental and health issues concerning the distribution of aerosol content. I graduated in May 2008 and the research experience I gained through the Roepke Research Fund internship was a valuable part of my education in the Department of Geography.

Geography Honorary Society Recap

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the Geography Honorary Society, is an organization honoring outstanding geography students, their dedication, and their academic achievements. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. Any geography student maintaining a 3.0 GPA may become a member. Inaugurations for new members are held at the end of the spring semester.

GTU events are organized by student officers from the department. They plan events every semester that are open for all geography students to attend. These events enable students to meet other geography students, to know their professors better, and to provide connections for future opportunities in the department. One of the most popular GTU events is Café Chats. Café Chats are usually held at Café Giuliani on Green and Sixth streets, and a professor casually meets with geography students over coffee in a relaxed environment. Students can ask questions about his or her career, hobbies, research, travels, interests, etc. They are really an enjoyable experience. Last semester the students heard fascinating stories of Professor Ashwini Chhatre's experiences working for unions in India. GTU also offers movie nights for students and faculty to watch a popular movie that has some connection to geography. If you would like to see more events happen, have any ideas, or would like to become involved, please email Amy Schultz (aschult3@illinois.edu). Non-members, especially alumni, are welcome at our monthly meetings, and all geography students are encouraged to participate and attend meetings and events.

Geography Student Goes to the Rose Bowl

By Andrea Hail

At Marching Illini band camp this year—back in August—Pete Griffin, director of the Marching Illini, explained the schedule for the coming months: A game this weekend, a roadtrip that weekend, an extra performance or two, and the possibility of a “post-season game” (a bowl game). Everyone snickered and rolled their eyes. If anyone had said we were going to the Rose Bowl, they would have been laughed at.

After an amazing season of football, we were definitely on our way to a bowl game, but we still didn't think it would be the legendary Rose Bowl. Sure enough, the right teams lost, leaving the Fighting Illini to play against the University of Southern California Trojans.

On Saturday, Dec. 29, two chartered airplanes flew the Marching Illini to California, where we settled into our Woodland Hills hotel. On Sunday, a pep rally at Universal Studios and a parade at Disneyland were followed by free time in the park, ending with the signature Disneyland fireworks. Monday, New Year's Eve, was spent at Universal Studios. New Year's celebrations would have to be postponed—breakfast was at 4:30 a.m. on New Year's Day.

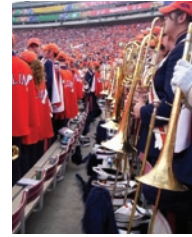
The Rose Parade was longer than I expected; luckily the television cameras were within the first few minutes so that the floats and bands are looking their best. By the end of the parade, we never wanted to play Illinois Loyalty again—28 times was enough for a while. The Illinois fans that appeared every so often always put a spring into our step, however.

Next was the event itself—the renowned Tournament of Roses. Playing Oskee-Wow-Wow as the team ran out onto the field made the crowd erupt into cheers, making us realize how much support there is behind our Fighting Illini. The Three-in-One was showcased on the national stage. The song that is loved by Illinois students, past and present, was at its finest, with many singing the Alma Mater to our accompaniment.

Although the game itself, as you probably know, was a little disappointing, knowing USC's record prepared us for that disappointment. The experience of being in the Rose Bowl and being able to march half-time on the field overshadows the result of the game. Sitting in the stands and watching the sunset behind the scoreboard at the Rose Bowl, with the Goodyear blimp floating over the 93,000 people in the Rose Bowl, is a sight I will never forget.

For our last day in California, we traveled to Santa Monica Pier to say goodbye to the 70-degree weather. We again boarded our chartered airplanes to return to Illinois, from which our traditions, loyalty, and pride come.

I have never done so many uniform changes or eaten so many boxed lunches in three days. The schedule was tight but all of us would repeat the experience in an instant. To go to the Rose Bowl is the epitome for a college marching band, and we all feel fortunate to have been a part of that tradition.



GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE

BETSY BEYMER

The decision to be a geography student has enabled me to travel to my favorite place in the world—East Africa. My first experience in East Africa was through an undergraduate study abroad program that focused on conservation issues and wildlife ecology in Tanzania. Watching the sunset over the plains of the Serengeti or coming face to face with a chimpanzee and being completely humbled by our similarities creates a longing desire to return to East Africa that continues to this day. As I write this essay, thoughts of hopping on a plane bound for Tanzania overwhelm me. One of the most rewarding aspects of my experiences during this abroad program was building lasting friendships with the host families that I lived with. Each time I return, I visit with my host families and laugh at some of my experiences adjusting to the Tanzanian way of life. One experience in particular that always seems to come up in our conversations is the time on a safari that I walked out of my tent without my glasses and looked at what appeared to be a giant gray rock, when in fact, it was a hippopotamus. Luckily, I was escorted back to my tent by our security guard without either of us being harmed in the process.

An opportunity to go back to Africa came about as a graduate student at Miami University in Ohio. I was able to return as a teaching assistant for a summer workshop that focused on Kenya's natural history, ecology, and human-environment relation-



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ships. During this workshop we visited rural villages at the base of Mt. Kasigau in the Taita wildlife corridor between Tsavo East and West National Parks (home to the largest herds of elephants in Kenya), as well as the shore of Lake Naivasha in the Great Rift Valley. As a TA on this trip, I was able to help undergraduate students think about the impacts that different conservation practices in protected areas have on the people who live in them. Despite the fact that many of our Kenyan guides on these trips had not had any formal educational training, I found that their extensive knowledge of East Africa's natural history and ecology rivals many of the ecology experts working in those same areas.

My most recent trip back was for my master's thesis fieldwork on the different experiences of men and women in the community forests in Mazumbai, Tanzania. Mazumbai is an area located in the West Usambara Mountains, which are part of the larger Eastern Arc Mountain chain that has been designated as a "biodiversity hotspot" by Conservation International. This research

enabled me to spend time with women living in Mazumbai. But living and working with these women I was able to understand what they did at home and at work. Collecting fuel wood is essential for these communities. I spent many days collecting fuel wood with the women of Mazumbai. Even

though I came nowhere close to carrying over 80 pounds of fuel wood on my head as many women did, I remember being exhausted by the tasks of cutting, collecting, and carrying home fuel wood. This research showed me that these women possessed a staggering knowledge of their environment, and a strong desire to use resources sustainably in order to secure their livelihoods and protect their families.

As is probably apparent, my love for East Africa has not weakened and I plan to return to Tanzania in the summer of 2008 for my doctoral research at the University of Illinois (advised by Dr. Thomas Bassett). My experiences at U of I, including intensive Kiswahili language training and other coursework, has made me feel confident and excited about returning again to Tanzania to conduct my fieldwork.

NEW FACULTY PROFILES



Russell Seminar Room Remodeled

Many of you may remember time spent in the Joseph Russell seminar room, otherwise known as 219 Davenport Hall. Over a period of many years this focal point of the department, the place that provides space for colloquia, receptions, and other gatherings, progressively fell into a state of disrepair. In 2003 the room received a major facelift. Remodeling included installation of a suspended ceiling, ceiling fans, carpet, an overhead LCD projector, and an automatic projector screen. The room was also painted and new furniture was purchased. The room is now an attractive forum for department events.



Ashwini Chhatre

I am currently working on the role of democracy in mediating human-nature interactions, in order to approach sustainable development as a problem of governance of mixed-use landscapes. Specifically, I am developing a project to explore the relationships between government policy, governance institutions, land use, and land cover change. A subset of this larger project will investigate the drivers of human-wildlife conflict in densely settled areas in the Indian Himalayas. I have a degree in economics from University of Delhi and a PhD in political science from Duke University, and I spent 11 years working in India on issues related to natural resource management in between the degrees, mostly in the Himalayas. Living amongst the highest and most densely settled mountains in the world provides for an exciting backdrop to any kind of work, especially my own forays into forest management and wildlife conservation. Living in Illinois, I miss the mountains, so I am working on computer simulations of agent-based models that recreate the landscape on my flat-panel screen!



Julie Cidell

I'm a third-generation Illinois geographer: both my father and grandfather taught middle school geography in the Chicago suburbs. I went to college in Chicago, then grad school in Minneapolis (interrupted by a brief stint working as a transportation planner in Boston), and I've spent

the last four years in California. My blood seems to have thinned; I'm still getting used to temperatures that fluctuate more from one day to the next than they did over the entire year in L.A.! Other than that, I'm thrilled to be back in the Midwest and to be part of such an active and diverse geography department, where I'm researching freight distribution and land use as well as the emerging green-building industry.



Shaowen Wang

Shaowen Wang joined the Department of Geography in the fall of 2007 as an assistant professor.

He grew up in Shanxi Province, the largest coal-mining region of China. He received his BS in computer engineering from Tianjin University, China, in 1995; MS in geography from Peking University, China, in 1998; and an MS in computer science and PhD in geography from the University of Iowa in 2002 and 2004 respectively. He got interested in GIS from working on an undergraduate research project, and his study of the subject has persisted ever since. Currently, his research focuses on cyberinfrastructure-based GIS, algorithms and applications of computationally intensive geographic analysis, and performance and visualization of geographic information analysis based on high performance and Grid computing. His teaching interests broadly cover GIS. He is the founding director of the CyberInfrastructure and Geospatial Information Laboratory (CIGI), and Senior Research Scientist at the National Center of Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). In his spare time, Shaowen likes playing basketball, reading, watching sports games, and listening to music.

Department Hosts West Lakes Meeting of AAG

The 2007 annual meeting of the West Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) was held in the Illini Union of the University of Illinois on November 8-10. The meeting was attended by over 120 participants drawn from Departments of Geography and allied disciplines in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. In addition to paper and poster sessions, the meeting featured a number of special events such as plenary speakers, student paper competitions, and field trips focused on the historical and urban geography of Urbana-Champaign and Illinois agriculture, which is poised to become the biofuel belt of the 21st century.

Dr. Tom Baerwald, president of the AAG, presented the opening keynote address titled "Broadening Our Connections," while Dr. William Brustein, the associate provost of International Programs and Studies at

U of I was the featured speaker at the West Lakes Division Banquet where he presented a speech titled "It Takes an Entire Institution: A Blueprint for the Global University." The papers and posters presented at the meeting fell under a diverse set of themes. In total there were 85 paper presentations and 19 posters. A significant proportion of these presentations were by graduate and undergraduate students. The following were the major themes under which the program was organized: mobility and migration; historical geography; place and cultural landscapes; political geography; geopolitics, war, and terrorism; perspectives in economic geography; innovative environmental research; green buildings; ecosystem and forest dynamics; geospatial analysis; public health; geographic perspectives on HIV/AIDS in Africa; neoliberalism and urban landscapes; gentrification and environmental justice in U.S. cities; agriculture; water and geomorphology (dams, levees, and flash floods); and modeling in physical geography.

The meeting was largely sponsored by the Department of Geography and the newly formed School of Earth, Society and Environment at U of I in collaboration with other units on campus, including the Center for Advanced Study, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, the Office of the Provost, the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, the Illinois State Water Survey, the Illinois Geological Survey, and the Illinois Water Science Center of the United States Geological Survey. The organizers of the meeting wish to extend their gratitude to the generous financial support from these sponsors that ultimately resulted in a very successful and exciting gathering of geographers. The meeting was also honored by the presence of the Council of the Association of American Geographers, which held its meeting concurrent with the West Lakes Division meeting in the Illini Union.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



William A.V. Clark, professor of geography at UCLA, received an Alumni Achievement Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for his contributions to urban geography. Professor Clark was honored at a dinner on October 6, 2006, that included several members of the faculty and at which Dean Sarah Mangelsdorf presented him with his award. Clark received his PhD in geography from the U of I in 1964 and went on to make his mark as one of the leading experts on population movement. The LAS Alumni Achievement Award is his latest among numerous awards, which includes his recent election to the National Academy of Sciences and the Decade of Behavior Research Award in 2005.

Clark's research on population movement has been the basis of more than 250 research papers and several books. His work has also influenced some of the most critical and often most contentious public policy issues of the day, from the busing issue of the 1970s to the illegal immigration controversy of today. California's population is now more than one-quarter foreign-born and about 30 percent of all immigrants in the U.S. live in that state. Clark has done some of the most comprehensive analyses of migration to California, captured in his 1998 book *The California Cauldron* and his more recent work, *Immigrants and the American Dream*. He says it is vital we understand these complex patterns of migration because, as he writes in *The California Cauldron*, "What happens in California tomorrow is likely to happen in the nation as a whole the day after tomorrow."

STUDENT LIFE

GLOBAL ATTIRE

Geography students map the origins of their own clothes.

By Andrea Lynn

Geography students in LAS have literally mapped the clothes on their backs to examine regional patterns in apparel manufacturing.

So, what did they discover about where their jeans, sweatshirts, and socks were made?

The top supplier of the students' clothing was China, a blowout competitor at 16 percent of the items the students considered. Mexico was a distant second at 8 percent. The three other contenders were Honduras and Vietnam, tied for No. 3 at 5 percent; and Indonesia, in last place at 4.5 percent.

Only 7 percent of the items the students examined were made in the USA.

The project was the final computer mapping exercise for 515 students in Thomas Bassett's Geography of Developing Countries class this fall. About 400 of the students fully participated, by pulling 10 items of clothing from their closets or dressers; the whole class worked together to report on where the items were made.

"We then mapped the data—about 3,750 items—and talked about its

meaning in light of the end of the Multifibre Agreement and the prospect of China becoming the apparel factory of the world," says Bassett, a professor of geography.

Bassett also says that the class's discussions were informed by reading Pietra Rivoli's *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy* to put these patterns in a political-economic perspective.

The students were required to write papers based on their research, considering questions such as: What regional patterns in apparel manufacturing stand out? What percent of imported clothes originate in East Asia, South Asia, Central America, and other world regions? And what factors help to explain these regional patterns?

Bassett asked his students in 2004 to do the same project. So, with that data—and with their own—his 2007 students could follow trends.

They found that in 2004, China also ranked as the top supplier of student clothing, but it was only 14 percent of the market. Mexico was a close second at 13 percent. Honduras was still ranked No. 3 at 5 percent;

Indonesia, and Vietnam were tied at 4 percent. Thus, in the past three years, China, Indonesia, and

Vietnam have trended up in supplying clothes to U.S. college students, according to this study, while Mexico has trended down, and Honduras has remained the same.

How does the professor explain these trends?

"The data for China are surprising," Bassett says, noting that the Multifibre Agreement, which ended in 2004, had established

quotas on the number of apparel items each country could export to the U.S.

"Many thought that China's share would dramatically increase with the end of this agreement. But our data show a surprisingly small 2 percent increase in apparel imports from China between 2004-2007. Now it's possible that the clothes students are wearing are two to three years old, but this would require more research to determine."

Bassett says he believes that the biggest lesson students got out of the mapping exercise is "the realization that we are connected in rather intimate ways with people from around the world, many of whom earn less for a 12-hour day in a factory than students earn per hour at the minimum wage."

"The maps on our backs trace the links in global commodity chains," Bassett says. "Seeing these links gives form and meaning to the abstract notion of economic globalization."

He also believes that through readings, videos, and the mapping exercise, "students realize that geographies of globalization are enabled by advances in communication and transportation systems, but also by trade agreements, outsourcing, and subcontracting that have turned the world into a global assembly line."

Bassett has asked his students to do a similar mapping exercise for the past seven or eight years. What is unique about his project, he says, is the large number of students who are learning how to make maps.

"By learning how to make maps, students learn that all mapping is subjective—it depends on variables you choose to map, how you display them, and the number of classes you use. At the end of the exercise, students appreciate the power of maps to show this and not that.

"Now *that's* something to take away from this class."



Geographer Maps Global Frontiers

This past summer, I found myself in Houston working for Shell Exploration and Production, as an intern on a research team called "Global Frontiers." I must admit, I arrived at Shell wondering what had qualified me for this internship in the first place. Surprisingly, it was my background in geography, and not my current status as a geology master's student, that was the key to my being fortunate enough to obtain this position.

Global Frontiers is a unique research team in the sense that it approaches exploration on both a truly global and regional scale. The team relies heavily on mapping and ArcGIS technology, and interestingly constructs their own paleomaps within ArcGIS. During my time as part of Global Frontiers, I worked on several projects using ArcGIS. One of these projects involved constructing a "Phanerozoic secular variation chart," or, in other words, a global time chart, that focused on the main changes in spatial patterns of carbonate sedimentation through geologic time. These charts were then used to correlate global changes in other variables, such as atmospheric and oceanic composition and tectonic events, to the spatial changes in carbonate deposition.



All of my work at Shell required a basic knowledge of geology, but more importantly, geography. I incorporated the very same skills into this internship that I had previously learnt as an undergraduate within the Department of Geography at the University of Illinois, as well as within the Illinois State Geologic Survey working as a GIS technician. After a successful internship at Shell last summer, I was invited to return to continue and expand the second project, which I did during my winter break.

Working within the hydrocarbons industry has shed light for me on the growing shift in skill sets now needed by today's geologist. Whilst mapping has always been an essential tool for any geologist, new mapping techniques require exposure to programs such as ArcGIS, in addition to knowledge of underlying mapping concepts. My Shell experience was unique in that it offered a chance for me to exercise my strong geographical skills within a truly geological context. I left Shell with some amazing experiences, a new set of skills, new friends, new perspectives on geology, and a newfound appreciation for my geographical background.

Jessica Palmer, BA geography, 2005

Faculty Guidance Leads to "X Factor"

Last spring, the graduate student body in geography expressed an interest to the faculty for a venue to learn more about their academic career paths and insights on professional development. The faculty responded positively and a weekly seminar, Geography 595X, was organized in which different geography professors held informal discussions with graduate students. To provide some guidance for the discussions, the graduate students collectively put together a loose format including topics such as developing research ideas, publication strategies, and grant solicitations. While the professors touched upon these issues and more, perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the seminars was the varied approaches and perspectives we received—making the "X Factor" a suitable nickname. Some highlights were the professors' focus on navigating the difficulties of obtaining and succeeding in tenure track positions, while maneuvering the specific quirks of the discipline. Other perspectives included the importance of collaborative work, interdisciplinary research, and gaining exposure outside of geography. Additionally, useful discussions involved juggling academics with personal life, dual career households and the important of "living a 360-degree life." The organization of this seminar benefited from Dr. Hewings' willingness to coordinate the professors' schedules, and of course the professors themselves who dedicated their time and energies into preparing thoughtful discussions.

Coryn Shiflet

2007-2008 Geography Graduate Student Association President

TOM FRANK RETIRES

Tom Frank announced that he will retire in June 2008 after nearly 30 years of service to the department. Tom joined the faculty at University of Illinois in fall 1979 as an assistant professor and the director of the Spatial Data Analysis Lab. He developed and taught three courses to support the technical interests of geography: 477 Introduction to Remote Sensing, 478 Techniques for Remote Sensing Image Analysis, and 476 Environmental Applications of GIS. Over the years, students from many disciplines across campus learned from Tom how to use these technologies in geography, environmental sciences, forestry, and geology. These classes served as the foundation for creation of an undergraduate GIS major in 2005.

As Director of SDAL, Tom developed a GIS research lab through grants and



contracts from IBM, CERL, NASA, and the EPA. In the mid-1990s he joined with Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning to establish the first campus GIS facility, which was housed on the third floor of Davenport Hall.

Tom's research has focused on the consequences of disturbance on arid ecosystems using field methods, remote sensing, spatial analysis, and GIS. He has had approximately \$2.2 million in grants and contracts to support this work. Most of his research has taken place in the Mojave Desert of southern California, primarily Death Valley, Mojave, and Joshua Tree National Parks. The emphasis of this work has been on studying the effects of military training, off-highway vehicles, and grazing on vegetation degradation and succession, carrying capacity of arid rangelands,

and most recently, the spatial and temporal variability of aerosols in the Mojave Desert.

Tom's daughter was married last year, and he now has a 3-month-old granddaughter, with whom he intends to spend a great deal of time over the coming years. He'll also be spending his time playing golf, biking the trails of the Black Hills of South Dakota, and hiking the Mojave Desert. He and his wife plan to remain in Urbana where they built a new home a few years ago, but will be traveling for leisure now that they have more free time and less of a commitment to the University. Tom appreciates the support of his colleagues over the past 29 years, and sends a special thank you to all of his former graduate students, and more recently undergraduates, who have worked on research with him in the Mojave. We in turn say thank you, Tom, for all of the important contributions you have made to the department, and we wish you a happy, healthy retirement.

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Department of Geography
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
220 Davenport Hall
607 S. Mathews Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801

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