



Student's Research Leads to Local Recycling Program



It's not often that our department has a Bronze Tablet winner, so to have winners in consecutive years is extraordinary. Last year's two

Bronze Tablet recipients, Francis Levy and Alexander Beata, were followed up this year by **Stephanie Baliga**, an undergraduate who majored both in geography and economics. Stephanie graduated from Auburn High School in Rockford and joined the Department of Geography after taking Colin Thorn's GEOG 210: "Contemporary Social & Environmental Problems" course. She always loved economics in high school, and after that course she found geography to be just as intriguing. As she tells people, "Economics is the study of resources and geography is the study of the distribution of resources across space." Thus, it was a natural fit for her.

Stephanie used her knowledge and ambition early in her undergraduate studies to pursue an idea that eventually led to a positive environmental change in the local community. Sitting at a friend's apartment one day, she realized that, unlike in Urbana, there was no recycling program to accommodate the multi-family housing units in Champaign. Knowing that she needed a capstone project for her minor in the Environmental Fellows Program, Stephanie focused on the lack of recycling in Champaign both as the topic of her senior research thesis and as a way to make a difference. She devised a research plan, applied and received a Special Undergraduate Research on the

Environment (SURE) grant, and spent three years and countless hours on data collection and community outreach. Stephanie's efforts did not go unnoticed. Community leaders acknowledged the significance of her research, and as of December 2010, a recycling program is scheduled to begin in Champaign. The new program will require all private waste haulers in Champaign to collect materials for recycling from all multi-family housing units as opposed to the previous practice of only collecting such materials from single-family housing units. "A change in the community was the aim, but the reality of it happening so quickly was a little unexpected," Stephanie says. However, she does not give herself full credit for the implementation of the project. "I definitely wasn't the only one who worked on this; there were several people involved to make it happen."

Stephanie's future plans include making an impact on yet another community. Sometime in 2011, she will be engaging in poverty relief efforts as a religious sister with a new Franciscan community in Chicago. "You can't just keep throwing food and clothing at them and expect the problem to be resolved. You have to get to the root. Part of fixing it is teaching them the basics of economics." She says that her background in geography will help her better understand a wide range of relevant issues. "I will

basically be applying everything I learned in 'Urban Geography' (GEOG 483)."

Stephanie has excelled both academically and athletically. She has been an avid runner since she was nine. Her passion for running and hard work earned her an Academic All-Big Ten honor in



cross country for three consecutive seasons, and she was a member of the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic Team in 2008 and 2009. "Running is what helped me get through; it was my passion and my way of releasing the stress of university life."

In addition to the Bronze Tablet and her athletic achievements, upon graduation Stephanie was also recognized by the University as a Chancellor's Scholar, a James Scholar, Summa

Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Highest Departmental Distinction in both economics and geography, and the recipient of the 2010 John Thompson Prize in the Department of Geography. Inscription on the Bronze Tablets requires students to have at least a 3.5 cumulative grade-point average through the academic term prior to graduation, and rank in the top 3 percent of the students in their graduating class. Upon her graduation in May 2010, Stephanie wants to thank the entire faculty for constantly being available for assistance, helping her to achieve her goals, and making her time at the University of Illinois the best time of her life.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



What a year! Although the past 12 months have been among the most challenging the department and the University of Illinois have faced, I am pleased to say that we have made it through this period without major impacts on the quality of our undergraduate and graduate programs. Despite faculty furloughs, budget cuts, and a hiring freeze, we are moving forward toward a promising future. The new interdisciplinary major (Earth, society, and environment) in the School of Earth, Society, and Environment continues to grow, and at the beginning of its third year has over 150 majors. As a result we are seeing increases in enrollment in geography courses, especially at the advanced level, as these majors seek to fulfill course requirements. Our assistant professors, who represent the long-term future of the department, continue to excel, both in the classroom and through their scholarly pursuits. Overall faculty productivity, in terms of grantsmanship, publication, and public outreach, has been maintained at a high level.

Our endowment funds are a great resource for the department and allow us to maintain excellence in times of financial uncertainty. You, our alumni, are the source of these funds. We greatly appreciate the support you have provided in the past, but our needs continue to grow and we look to you to help us sustain excellence in our undergraduate and graduate programs. Our funds include the Graduate Fellowship Fund (used to award fellowships to graduate students), the Joseph and Marion Russell Fund (established by Professor Joseph Russell and his wife, Marion, and used both for graduate-student fellowships and for critical department initiatives), the Beatty Fund (endowed by Dr. George Beatty, an alumnus of the department, for graduate-student fellowships), the Howard Roepke Scholarship Fund (established from the estate of Professor Howard Roepke for undergraduate scholarships), and the General Fund (used to support critical department needs not met by University funding). Perhaps you benefited directly from support from one or more of these funds when pursuing your undergraduate or graduate degrees in geography at the University of Illinois. Please consider a contribution to help sustain these funds. You can make a donation (tax-deductible or course) online through the department website (www.geog.illinois.edu/giving).

To enhance our communication with you, and for you to communicate with one another, we have created a Facebook page for the department (search for "University of Illinois, Department of Geography"). We encourage you to explore this page and post information that you think is of interest to the department and other alumni. For those of you who enjoy online social networking, we are using the page as another way to keep you updated on what is happening in the Department of Geography at Illinois.

On behalf of the entire department, we hope you enjoy this newsletter. Stay in touch!

Bruce Rhoads
Head

Fall 2010

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

This newsletter is produced by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of Communications and Marketing (11.023). Correspondence to the Department of Geography may be sent to:

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

Building Green, City by City



Research is being conducted to find out how local governments use different justifications to encourage or require the public and private sectors to produce green buildings, among other things.

Green buildings are hot! The construction of buildings designed to achieve high energy efficiency is increasing rapidly. Currently there are over 2,000 such buildings in the U.S., with another 10,000 under construction.

Green buildings are designed to have less of an impact on the environment compared to standard construction methods and materials. While concern over energy use and pollution in the 1970s led to some green buildings, it was mostly done by individuals building their own homes. However, since the year 2000, there has been growing concern over global warming, water availability, and sustainability that has translated to growing interest in green build-

ings. Buildings are designed as “green” if they meet criteria such as those established by the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Although LEED is a voluntary program, more and more cities and states are either requiring or encouraging buildings to become green.

Dr. Julie Cidell is currently mapping the landscape of green building regulation across the U.S. With graduate research assistants Miriam Cope, Trevor Fuller, Steve Radil, and Matt Anderson, this project has identified where and what kinds of policies are in place and how these policies correspond to the locations of LEED-certified buildings. A Web-based survey

of municipalities with green building policies was completed over the summer, and coupled with interviews and virtual focus groups, it will explain the motivations and reasons for enacting these policies at the municipal level. Dr. Cidell is most interested in how local governments use different justifications to encourage or require the public and private sectors to produce green buildings, how they negotiate with the private sector to create and implement these policies, and if and how this varies from place to place.

The research team has already analyzed nearly 200 policies produced by local governments (including Chicago, Evanston, and Normal, Ill.) and found that multiple justifications for building green are very much in evidence. Cities include environmental, economic, and social justifications for implementing a green building policy, from conserving water to saving taxpayer money to promoting public health. They are also often motivated by the desire to become known as a leader within their region or state and encourage their citizens and local businesses to follow their lead. As research continues, Dr. Cidell hopes to determine to what extent public policy at the local level both helps and hinders the building industry in building green, with important implications for improving urban sustainability.

Chhatre Receives NSF Award, Named a Fellow in the Center for Advanced Study



How and when do ordinary citizens come to care about the environment? This basic question forms the focus of research by Professor Ashwini Chhatre that recently was

funded by the National Science Foundation. Collaborators on this research include Professors Elisabeth Gerber and Arun Agrawal at the University of Michigan. In recent years, a large number of policy interventions have sought to improve environmental outcomes in the developing world. The effectiveness of such interventions depends critically on people's participation and their environmental attitudes. Individuals' views about the environment and their willingness to protect and conserve natural resources have a significant impact on the success of conservation policies. Policy interventions for environmental protection that do not find supportive attitudes are likely to require continuing and prohibitively high enforcement expenditures. Furthermore, environmental attitudes are also important in themselves: as an index to gauge whether people care about things other than narrow material interests and as the foundation for understanding how different social groups vary in their valuation of the environment.

One school of thought maintains that poor people do not have the time nor the inclination to care about the environment, which is a luxury of the affluent, and thus the rich care more about the environment. Still another group of intellectuals asserts that women are inherently predisposed towards caring for the environment, following their

nurturing social roles. In the context of rural areas of developing countries, where the environment is perhaps in greater need of protection, scholars debate whether greater dependence on natural areas for local livelihoods—such as for fuelwood, livestock, food, and timber—leads to positive or negative attitudes towards environmental protection. Still other scholars swear by the power of literacy in improving attitudes towards the environment, while others point to the role of modern education systems in alienating individuals from their environments. It is indeed a raging debate, and Professor Chhatre's research team seeks to test these competing hypotheses through rigorous analysis. More importantly, his team is examining one under-explored aspect of the process through which individuals come to care about the environment: the role of local management institutions. In a global context where numerous developing countries claim they are decentralizing decision making and enforcement related to environmental resources (such as forests and water), as well as development domains (such as health and education), knowledge about the drivers of individual attitudes and behaviors is crucial to the success of decentralization policies.

The specific project funded by NSF is focusing on how individuals' exposure to, and involvement in, a new local resource governance program affects their environmental attitudes and behaviors. The geographic location of this project is the Indian Himalayas, a region where Professor Chhatre has conducted research for more than a decade. In early 2006, he surveyed more than 2,000 randomly-selected individuals to ascertain baseline attitudes towards the environment through a series of questions,

in addition to gathering information about their demographic, socio-economic, and livelihood profiles. Respondents were chosen so that approximately half of them were located in villages where a new environmental management program was implemented beginning in December 2006. In January 2010, his research team returned to interview the same respondents and ask roughly the same questions as in the first round, in addition to questions relating to their participation in the new program. Since half of the sample includes villages that did not experience the new program, this research design enables Professor Chhatre to explore the extent to which changes in environmental attitudes can be attributed to participation in the new program. The data also allows him to test whether socio-economic status, gender, education, dependence on natural areas, or other variables indeed help to explain changes in citizens' attitudes towards the environment. In addition to addressing fundamental questions about the relationship between institutions and environmental attitudes, the results of his research are relevant to issues such as how to design and target institutions to produce significant impacts on attitudes and behavior.

In recognition of the quality of his research, Professor Chhatre has been selected as a Fellow in the Center for Advanced Study at the University of Illinois for Spring 2011. He was one of only seven junior faculty members campuswide to be chosen for this honor. Fellows are provided with one semester free of teaching to explore new ideas and pursue the highest level of scholarly achievement.

Susan Houston Joins the Geography Staff



I came from the Institute of Aviation to the Department of Geography in September 2009. Prior to coming to the University of Illinois, my past work experiences included being a customer service team leader, a credit and collections specialist, and an industrial engineer. In 2000, I earned my bachelor's degree in industrial technology from Southern Illinois University. Although I have lived the majority of my life in Illinois, I have also lived in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, and Florida. To me, my most notable experience has been being the mother of two wonderful boys. Outside of the office I enjoy reading, writing, hiking, swimming, solving puzzles, traveling, spending time with my family and friends, and of course, entertaining my two boys. Thus far, I am learning a lot about the University and am thoroughly enjoying my time in the Department of Geography.

COURSE PROFILE

Big Rivers and Big Issues: Learning through Small Pop-Ups



From Lindsay Bazzetta's pop-up report: Old damming projects in the Congo River basin are components of large industry schemes to gain revenue.

Big rivers have been vital throughout human history as both the centers for the first civilizations, such as along the Tigris-Euphrates and Nile, and as homes to a substantial portion of the world's population. The contemporary significance of these huge channels is also becoming more important as stresses on water usage, political boundaries and fragile habitats have grown in the past 50 years. The geomorphology, ecology, and management issues faced by the world's big rivers have formed the backdrop for a new 200-level course taught by Jim Best over the past two years. The course aims to give a broad insight into the world's largest rivers—where they are, why they are

there, their characteristics and geomorphology, and the major management issues now facing these river basins—from pollution to water usage to ecological threats. This year, the course looks at a wide range of rivers, including the Amazon, Parana, Nile, Congo, Ganges, Jamuna, Lena, Mekong, Huanghe, Danube, Orinoco, Niger, Amur, Indus, Volga, and Mississippi, as well as considering some overarching issues such as the politics of big rivers and efforts to dam some of them.

The course uses different formats for assessment, including traditional exams, group seminars and short Scientific American-style

“public science” articles. Part of the assessment has also sought to encourage students to look into contemporary issues facing the world's river basins through a series of voluntary “pop-ups” (that gain extra credit); these are very short one- to two-paragraph articles that can be submitted each week and are based on a search of the news media online, journal papers, or the “gray” literature. All students have the opportunity to present their work as a minute-long “pop-up” talk at the start of each lecture, producing a fascinating array of information on over 50 rivers in high quality “snippets,” two of which are illustrated here. Curiosity, online investigation, and a flair for presentation have all flourished in this work—and they provide a resource on the course website that benefits the entire class.



From Sean Zelenka's pop-up report: The Tungabhadra River in India overflowed in October 2009 due to monsoon-like rains, killing hundreds and displacing millions.

Faculty News

Thorn Retires



Colin Thorn retired from the department after the spring of 2010. Colin entered the department in 1979, primarily teaching geomorphology courses and eventually serving as the department head for six of his 31 years in the department. In recent years, Professor Thorn taught undergraduate courses that focused on contemporary social and environmental problems with a particular emphasis on developing nations. His teaching in upper division courses emphasized geomorphology and environmental ethics. His research in geomorphology explores landscape development in periglacial regions, particularly in Scandinavian countries like Sweden and Norway. He has also been engaged in developing theories of geomorphology and larger conceptual issues related to philosophical issues in physical geography. Colin's plan for retirement is, succinctly, "to be retired," having no grandiose plans. Many faculty and students have benefitted over the years from Professor Thorn's insightful commentary on an incredible range of topics, always delivered with satirical, penetrating wit.

Hannon Retires



Bruce Hannon retired from the department after the summer of 2010. Professor Hannon has been affiliated with the University of Illinois for almost

50 years as an undergraduate and graduate student, and faculty member. He joined the department in the early 1980s, and his research focuses on spatial dynamic modeling and its applications to environmental and urban planning issues. He enjoys "being on the cutting edge" of creating knowledge and has taken advantage of exponential increases in computing power over the past 30 years to pioneer the implementation of spatial modeling on desktop computers. Professor Hannon primarily taught upper division and graduate spatial modeling courses that delved into fields as varied as biological, ecological, and atmospheric issues. Although formally retired from the department, he will continue to teach courses on spatial modeling and collaborate on an ongoing research project related to the aquatic ecosystem of the Mississippi River. His choice to continue his involvement with the department reflects his enjoyment of teaching and his commitment to the University.

Wilcock Transfers Departments



Long-time department stalwart Chris Wilcock left geography after the summer of 2009 to pursue a higher-level staff position as an admissions and

records officer in the Department of Architecture. As a department alumnus, Chris provided a high level of continuity not only because of his personal familiarity with the people and inner workings of the department, but also because of his vast knowledge of its history and

traditions over the years. He worked in the office for six years and was essential to the day-to-day operations of the department, performing duties as varied as admissions and records, informally (and for one semester formally!) advising students, and offering a welcoming presence in the office. His fondest memories of his time working in the department involve hosting the 2007 West Lakes conference, where he assisted in coordinating with other geography departments across the Midwest to organize the event.

As an undergraduate student, Chris recalls being "sucked in" to geography by Professor Geoffrey Hewing's introductory course in economic geography. Chris was an economics major at the time but felt that geography was more relevant since it paid attention to space and location, so he added geography as a second major. After graduating in 1980, Chris spent more than a decade working in university admissions and records and lived in Colorado for a few years before returning to the department in 2003, which he says felt "almost like coming home." He replaced Barbara Bonnell, who worked for the department for over 20 years, and his favorite part of the job was meeting with students and reconnecting with other department alumni and finding out where they had gone. The department greatly appreciates Chris's dedicated service and wishes him well in his new position.

RESEARCH PROFILE

A Public Participation GIS for Biofuels: A Case Study in Macon County

by Miriam A. Cope, PhD Candidate

In a world hungry for energy, changes in agriculture are taking place to grow not only food crops but also energy crops. In spring 2009, PhD candidate Miriam Cope, Professor Sara McLafferty, and department head Professor Bruce Rhoads conducted a Public Participation GIS (PPGIS) with farmers to discuss the potential of developing an energy grass biofuels market in central Illinois. The research was supported through a Community Informatics Initiative grant awarded by the University to investigate the role of geoinformatics in community-based decision making. PPGIS details how Geo-

graphic Information Systems (GIS) can be used for collaborative decision making, where local knowledge can be used alongside spatial data sets to help officials and community members make decisions about public policy issues. The case study in Macon County involved examining how PPGIS approaches influence public policy debates among local stakeholders (such as conservationists, venture capitalists, and farmers) regarding the possible development of an energy grass (biofuels) market in central Illinois. Using ArcGIS 9.2 and several GIS data sets (e.g. crop cover, soil, streams, slope) to share spatial data among participants, two PPGIS sessions were held, one with conservationists and one with

farmers affiliated with the local conservation district.

far as replacing food crops with energy crops, there was a clear interest on the part of farmers in preserving existing landscapes and retaining an attachment to established cropping patterns and ways of life.

This PPGIS opened up an important conversation for local farmers and environmentalists. It was clear that the conservationists and farmers, while in two separate groups, brought different worldviews, values, and knowledge for discussions about biofuel production in central Illinois. This project highlighted the need to integrate



Conservationists and farmers brought different worldviews, values, and knowledge for discussions about biofuel production in central Illinois.

Neither the farmers nor the conservationists saw central Illinois as the best location for developing a biofuels market. One conservationist remarked that transportation and shipping costs might make Chicago's collar counties, not central Illinois, a more economically sound region to start producing biofuels. Among farmers, one simply stated, "I can't take corn out for something questionable," and another added that, "If it was prime [farmland] I wouldn't [plant biofuels]." While the conservationists used objective scientific criteria to assess suitable landscapes, farmers relied more on firsthand experience and personal concerns in discussing their options. On the surface, these comments suggest risk aversion in a strict economic sense. As

local knowledge and values within the GIS data to improve decision-making outcomes in PPGIS. Value systems played a role equal to "objective" criteria in ascertaining optimal locations for growing biofuels. With farmers, there were certain everyday practices and cultural barriers that preceded the question of where to grow biofuels. In their case, the question was whether to grow them, and if so, what economic and cultural conditions would instigate such production. PPGIS revealed in this case study that the criteria for developing an energy grass market extended beyond the economic. The emergence of an alternative energy market in central Illinois will require further conversations amongst farmers, conservationists, and marketing groups.

FACULTY PROFILE

Sivapalan: One of the Greatest Hydrologists of Our Time

In the summer of 2010, Professor Murugesu Sivapalan was awarded the International Hydrology Prize by the International Association of Hydrological Sciences for being one of the “greatest hydrologists of our time” and defining the research agenda of his discipline. This fall he received word that he also will receive the Hydrological Sciences Award from the American Geophysical Union for his “outstanding contributions to surface hydrology.” These awards reflect his lifetime efforts to better improve our ability to predict how nature or human-induced factors affect water in rivers and drainage basins. Siva, as he is popularly known, holds a joint appointment in both geography and civil and environmental engineering, something emblematic of his decidedly interdisciplinary approach as a geographer. Understanding hydrology and its complex interaction with climate, soil, and human-influenced change at different scales animates Siva’s quest to bring together knowledge from different academic disciplines in creating predictive models. For Siva, geography plays a central role in this endeavor since the discipline embraces both the natural

and social sciences. He believes that “future problems of hydrology, including predictions, are extremely complex and cannot be solved using narrow disciplinary perspectives.” For example, when climate change occurs, these changes are propagated throughout an entire ecosystem that affects “everything that touches water, including soils, vegetation, topography, and especially humans,” which requires bringing together disparate disciplines such as geomorphology, ecology, meteorology, and social sciences.

Siva is regarded as a leading expert on hydrology and scale, having published well over 100 articles in journals, many of which have been widely cited by other academics. His previous work incorporated the variability of scale and thermodynamics in developing models that predict change in watersheds. He currently participates in a variety of NSF-funded projects that range from studying how soil properties affect watersheds in sites in New Mexico and Arizona, to measuring the effect biofuel crops have on the water supply and aquatic ecosystems in the Midwest, to

developing new spatial models that meld emerging vegetation patterns with global and regional climate change. Siva was instrumental in founding the Hydrologic Synthesis Summer Institute, which has been held the past two years in Vancouver, British Columbia. As part of a Hydrologic Synthesis Project funded by the National Science Foundation, the summer institute brings together a diverse array of professors and graduate students who are interested in fostering an interdisciplinary approach to hydrological

science. The ultimate aim, of course, is to eventually develop accurate hydrological models that can improve predictability, especially in instances of environmental change. Improving predictability is, Siva says, “an overriding theme in everything I do.”

The global reach of Siva’s research is reflected in his training. He obtained an undergraduate degree in civil engineering in Sri Lanka, a master’s degree in Thailand, worked as a civil engineer consultant in Nigeria, and finished a PhD program in hydrology at Princeton University. Before coming to the University of Illinois in 2005, he taught at the University of Western Australia for 17 years while serving as a visiting professor at universities in Austria and the Netherlands. Having lived and worked on five different continents, Siva considers himself a “global citizen,” which has given him a broad outlook and scores of friends from around the world. As a hydrologist, conducting research in Australia, Austria, Malaysia, and the United States has given him a “better perspective of the differences in hydrology between different places.”

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE

Bringing It All Back Home

By Richelle Bernazzoli

I came to the Department of Geography in 2006 by way of Kosovo (then a province of Serbia), where I had been deployed for a year as part of NATO's KFOR peacekeeping operation. Given my fresh experience of military service, I was inspired to pursue graduate work in political geography to explore the social geographies of militarization—how civil-military relationships unfold in a society, and how these relationships shape a multitude of perceptions and attitudes regarding citizenship and the state for scores of everyday people. My master's thesis, supervised by Professor Colin Flint, entailed a comparative study of three U.S. military communities and found that many diverse state and non-state actors advance processes of militarization, shaping notions of security, patriotism, gender roles, and local and national identity that are thoroughly intertwined with military values, culture, and imperatives.

As I completed my master's work, I knew that I wanted to remain in Urbana-Champaign to earn my PhD, and continue the fulfilling work I had begun with Dr. Flint. I also knew that I wanted to apply my background in international politics and firsthand experience in international security to my doctoral research. Following my year in Kosovo, I have become increasingly interested in the countries of the former Yugoslavia and the paths they have taken from dissolution to conflict to integration into NATO and the European Union.

In particular, Croatia's current status—it is a new member of NATO and poised to become the 28th member of the European Union (EU), just 15 years after the conclusion of a violent conflict there—presents an exemplary case in which to explore how regional integration, particularly in a post-conflict and post-communist context, impacts notions of identity, security, and sovereignty for members of a society.

I plan to complete six to nine months of dissertation fieldwork in Zagreb, the capital city of Croatia, asking members of various governmental and nongovernmental organizations about their experiences with the integration process, and how these experiences shape and are shaped by their sense

voice to members of Croatian society beyond political, cultural, and economic leaders, thus shifting the focus from elite representations of integration to the daily practices and processes of integration. Hence, I hope my work will provide better understandings of how and why international integration advances,

and the ways in which it is experienced and perceived by a multitude of actors with diverse identities, security imperatives, and social and political objectives.

Along the way, I look forward to nurturing my preferred hobby, cooking, by learning how to prepare some of the region's culinary specialties while I am there. I also hope to occasionally escape the rigors of fieldwork by taking advantage of Croatia's burgeoning music festival scene. Happily, some of my favorite pastimes—travel, cooking, and music—have been greatly enriched by my life as a doctoral student.

As I prepare to conduct preliminary fieldwork in September 2010, I am grateful for the support I have received for my dissertation project so far, including research grants from the Political Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers and the University of Illinois

Graduate College, as well as the Charles S. Alexander Fellowship from the Department of Geography. With this support and the research skills I have gained as a geography graduate student, I hope to bring my graduate study at the University of Illinois to a very successful conclusion.



Grad student Richelle Bernazzoli draws on peacekeeping military experience in Kosovo to study civil military relationships.

of self as Croatian, European, and Western. Moreover, I am interested in what they identify as salient threats to their security, and how they feel these threats may or may not be addressed by membership in the EU and NATO. The project seeks to build on existing social scientific work on integration by giving

ALUMNI PROFILE

From GI Joe to GIS

It was during Tony Adduci's (AB, 2004) time as an avionics technician working on F-15E Strike Eagles for the U.S. Air

Force that he was first exposed to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) because military aircraft depend heavily on navigational technology like GPS. Through this experience he became interested in "geography and its application to technology." When he arrived as an undergraduate at the University of Illinois, majoring in geography was

a natural fit. He took courses related to his military experience, such as the geography of international conflicts, as well as GIS-related courses like spatial analysis and remote sensing. These classes, and professors who taught them, played a formative role in molding his career path toward GIS and its applications to real-world scenarios. In fact, Tony encouraged his younger brother Michael (AB, 2008) and his cousin, who entered the program in the Fall 2010, to also major in geography.

Today, Tony works as a consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton, applying his GIS skills in support of the Department of Homeland



Alum Tony Adduci's geography degree was inspired by his military experience.

of Homeland Security and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) to the Regions project. HIFLD to the Regions provides field personnel who support the HIFLD mission with collecting, processing, sharing, and protecting infrastructure geospatial data, and build and enhance regional infrastructure data partnerships. Assigned to the Great Lakes region that stretches from Minnesota to Illinois to Ohio, Tony works to enable these states and their local governments to better understand shared infrastructure risks, including man-made threats and natural hazards. In his own words, Tony chose GIS as a career path since it is a "highly desired and highly utilized application," relevant to all industries and subject matter. Originally from Glen Ellyn, Ill., Tony today lives and works in the Chicagoland area.

NEW GRADUATE



Dan Dong

Dan Dong is a new PhD student in the department and is now working with Professor Shaowen Wang in the CIGI lab. Her research focuses on CyberGIS.

She earned her BS in GIS at China University of Geoscience and her MS in ecology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. In the fall of 2009, Dan served as a volunteer in the 6th International Symposium of Digital Earth. She was very excited to have this opportunity to become familiar with cutting-edge research and technologies in GIS and remote sensing. Meanwhile, she strongly feels that CyberGIS is becoming a new focus of GIScience, and she is interested in combining GIS with computer science and environmental science to explore new applications of GIS. Dan decided to pursue her PhD in geography at Illinois because she thinks it is the best department and university in her research field.



Michael Minn

Michael is a first-year PhD student who received an MA in geography from Hunter College in New York City, and degrees in

computer science and music education from North Texas State University. His primary research interest is intercity passenger rail as a potentially important component of America's sustainable future. His advisor will be Professor Julie Cidell; he was attracted to Illinois by her interests in transportation geography. Associated research topics include renewable energy, urban infrastructure, and the geography of food. Outside of academia, he is an avid musician and enjoys urban exploration and silent film.

GRADUATE STUDENTS



Luis Escobedo-Paredes

Lucho, as he likes to be called, is a new PhD student from Peru interested in economic geography and regional analysis. During his stay in Champaign, he will develop research based on the time-space analysis of the dynamics of poverty in uncertain scenarios caused by economic shocks. Lucho received his BA from the Pontificia Universidad

Catolica del Peru, and has received awards for his research both at the national (CIES, Lima, Perú) and international (CLACSO, Buenos Aires, Argentina) levels. He is also a Fulbright Scholarship Grantee.



Aron Flynn

Aron is a first-year master's student who received his undergraduate degrees in biology and psychology from the University of Minnesota. After completing his undergraduate education, he pursued a career in microbiology research but increasingly found his interests moving towards politics, economics, and social issues, as well as the history of these

issues. After becoming aware of geography as a field that encompassed his varied interests, Aron decided to pursue graduate studies and will be working with Professor Jesse Ribot on issues of environmental policy and social vulnerability.



Charles Fogelman

Charles is a first-year PhD student who received an MA at the CUNY Graduate Center. His research interests include political ecology, food security, and HIV/AIDS with a regional focus on East and Southern Africa. A native of Chicagoland, Charles is excited to return to his home state after 12 years away from the Land of Lincoln. Outside of the academy, he enjoys baseball, distance running and lowbrow literature.



Su Han

Su is a master's student who completed her undergraduate study in geography at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While seeking her bachelor's degree, she combined a concentration in GIS with a minor in computer science. Through this experience she decided to pursue graduate studies that allow her to integrate her geographic knowledge and computer skills. Her research interests focus on Geographic Information Science and Systems, GIS programming,

computational geography, and geospatial analysis and modeling. She is looking forward to working under the supervision of Professor Shaowen Wang.



April Colette

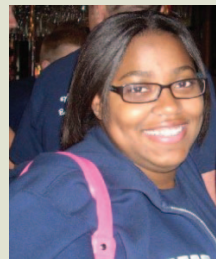
A first-year PhD student, April's research interests are related to the social dimensions of environmental change, particularly the role of popular participation in urban environmental policy making and how local government responsiveness and accountability can help structure the impacts of environmental change.

April has a MSc. in Contemporary Urbanism from the London School of Economics and Political Science and before coming to the University of Illinois worked as a consultant and project administrator on international donor-funded projects in a variety of countries, including China, the Dominican Republic, and India.



Pushendra Rana

Pushendra is pursuing his PhD in geography to holistically understand and analyze the linkages among forestry, agriculture, and people in human-dominated landscapes. He will study the role of democratic institutions and local democracy in shaping the adaptive capacities of local communities to climate change. Professor Ashwini Chhatre will supervise his work.



Alisa Shockley

Alisa is a new master's student from Philadelphia, Pa. Alisa received her BS in geography from Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pa. Her personal interests are drawing, reading, trying new things, and being in good company. Her academic interests include geography of health and health care, spatial analysis, and GIS and urban geography. "I always had a

liking for the physical and natural sciences, as well as culture, people, and place, so I was drawn to the subject of geography."



Devon Lechtenberg

Devon Lechtenberg is a first-year PhD student who received his MA in Russian, East European and Eurasian studies at U of I in August 2010. He came to Illinois after completing his BA in German and Russian at Oklahoma State University. Devon is interested in transportation geography, and specifically in the government administration of transportation infrastructure in Central Europe. Devon is also interested in language geography. He wanted to continue at Illinois because of its tremendous library resources and for the supportive and innovative faculty. Devon believes that the geography program at U of I has the rare capability of allowing for diverse research interests while helping students form a definite specialty and focus in their activities.

WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT!

Show your support for the Department of Geography at the University of Illinois by contributing to the Department of Geography Annual Fund. www.las.illinois.edu/giving

Department of Geography

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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #75
Champaign, IL



Let Us Know What You Are Doing

Email your information to geograph@illinois.edu or mail this form to the Department of Geography.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Please indicate all U of I degrees:

BA year _____ major _____

MA year _____ major _____

PhD year _____ major _____

Current position and employer (if retired, list position prior to retirement):

Personal and professional news:
