NOTES FROM THE CHAIR
By Marie Price

We begin classes this fall in a brand new space. The Department of Geography moved to 1922 F St, Old Main, on August 21, 2008 just in time for the new semester. We have a suite designed for our needs with 16 faculty offices, a new spatial analysis lab that has 30 work-stations, and a large seminar room for classes, talks and special events. On Friday September 26th during the GW Alumni Weekend we will host a Departmental Open House from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. You are all invited.

Our new departmental home on the corner of F and 20th streets gives us room to grow. And we are growing. Currently we are a department of 11 faculty, two staff members, and over 120 majors in Geography and Environmental Studies! Three new colleagues joined our department this fall.

Dr. Mona Atia is an economic development geographer with a focus on the Middle East and North Africa. She was recently honored with the 2008 Distinguished Dissertation Award given by the University of Washington for the best dissertation. Mona’s dissertation is “Building a House in Heaven: Islamic Charity in Neoliberal Egypt”. It is based on one year of field research in Egypt, conducted in Arabic. Dr. Atia will teach the Geography of the Middle East this fall and economic development courses in the spring.

We also welcome Dr. Santiago Lopez as a post-doctoral research scientist. Santiago received his PhD in Geography this August from the University of Texas at Austin. His dissertation, “From the Household to the Community: A Resource Demand and Land-Use Model of Indigenous Production in Western Amazonia” is based on his field research in Ecuador. In addition to various research projects, Dr. Lopez will be teaching GIS courses for the Department of Geography and the School of Public Health this year.

The final addition to our team is Dan Kirkwood, a geographer who graduated this May from our department. Dan has been hired to manage the Spatial Analysis Lab while Nuala Cowan is on maternity leave attending twin boys. As an undergraduate, Dan worked as a research analyst for USGS and as a summer park ranger for the C & O Canal National Historical Park. We also have been authorized to conduct two tenure track searches this year: one in physical geography and GIS and the second in environmental geography with a natural resource and policy focus.

Throughout the newsletter you’ll see the various accomplishments of our faculty and students. It has been a banner year. One of our seniors, Dana Thomson, was honored as the Distinguished Scholar of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences among all the graduating seniors. We also were able to support six graduate student summer research projects through the Campbell Endowment.

Collectively our faculty published 4 books, 8 research articles, 6 book chapters and gave 16 professional talks the past academic year. We also taught over 1,800 students. In November 2007 we spent a splendid fall weekend in Luray, Virginia on a faculty retreat to discuss our program’s needs and areas of growth. We also managed to have some fun hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains and sipping ‘dark and stormys’ at sunset.

Let me also take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of Jeremy Stadelman, the executive aide in geography. This is the beginning of Jeremy’s third year with the department. He is also pursuing a MA degree in Public Policy. Not only is he the editor of this newsletter, he also oversaw the relocation of the Department of Geography to Old Main. It was a Herculean task.

Much of our Department’s success comes from the support of our alumni who generously offer their time to mentor students as they step into exciting careers in geography. We also are grateful for financial support that has allowed us to expand our lab, provide research opportunities for our students and support conference attendance. You are welcome anytime to visit us in 1922 F St. and we look forward to hearing from you and your continued support.
Mona Atia, a native Washingtonian, joins the Department of Geography and the Elliott School after completing her PhD at the University of Washington in Seattle. Her dissertation "Building a House in Heaven: Islamic Charity in Neoliberal Egypt" was awarded the 2008 University of Washington Distinguished Dissertation Award. Her research explores contemporary practices of charity and philanthropy in the Middle East and her areas of expertise include international development, neoliberalism, Islamic economics, NGOs and the global war on terror. She holds an MSc in Cities, Space and Society from the London School of Economics and a BS in Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley.

Santiago Lopez’s research interests include spatial analysis, modeling, and the application of geospatial technologies such as remote sensing, global positioning systems (GPS), and geographic information systems (GIS), to advance the understanding of human-environment interactions. Santiago recently obtained his Ph.D. from the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of Texas at Austin. His dissertation focused on the analysis of land use and land cover transformations related to the processes of deforestation, agricultural expansion, and the demand for land and food resources in Western Amazonia. He is originally from Quito, Ecuador where he completed his Bachelor of Engineering degree in the Department of Geographical and Environmental Engineering at the Army Polytechnic College. His thesis looked at vegetation changes in the Ecuadorian mainland and he used gap analysis to evaluate the state of biodiversity conservation in the Machalilla National Park. He received his Masters of Art degree in May 2002 from the Department of Geography at Arizona State University.

Daniel F. Kirkwood is the manager of the Spatial Analysis Lab. He is a graduate of GW's Geography Department, class of 2008. Daniel worked as a National Park Ranger for three summers. He is currently a Senior Guide for Georgetown Outdoor Education. His interests include fisheries, Arctic climates and geopolitics, and exploration; specifically mountain and wilderness travel.
Nuala and Steve Cowan
Welcome Twins

On August 3, 2008 Spatial Analysis Lab Manager, Nuala Cowan and her husband, Steve, became parents to identical twin boys. Cillian and Eamon were born two minutes apart and are now at home with mom and dad, happy and healthy.

GW Geographers in the World Geography Bowl

On April 16th, 2008 geographers from the Mid-Atlantic Division competed in the World Geography Bowl in Boston, Massachusetts at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. The team was mostly GW students from Geography and International Affairs. We also had one student from Georgetown, Sean O’Connor, and one from George Mason University, Orrin Konheim. Marie Price was the MAD coach. This was a team of rookies, with only one person having participated in the competition before. The team came in 5th place out of nine teams. With the experience of a national competition behind them, they are eager to compete next year when the World Geography Bowl is in Las Vegas, Nevada.
Campbell and Parry Award Winners

In 2000 the first Muriel Parry Award was given to the graduating senior with the highest GPA. This year we recognize two seniors with this award.

**Derrick Hiebert-Flamm** is a double major in Geography and International Affairs. Like many of our double majors from IA, he found something in geography courses that filled the gaps left by his International Affairs courses. Rather than seeing the world in terms of dichotomies, Derrick is especially drawn to geography’s more nuanced interpretation of place and ‘interconnectedness’. He first became interested in geography in high school after reading a “World Regional Geography” textbook by Lydia Pulsipher. He decided to become a geography major after studying abroad in Costa Rica and Chile where he took multiple geography courses.

Derrick is from Texas. He was born in College Station but grew up on a cut flower farm in Central Texas (near Austin) that his family owned and operated. His mother is a plant geographer by training. Derrick found a mentor in Professor Tom Foggin, who helped him define himself as a geographer. Derrick reports that his favorite GW moment as been ‘most of his senior year’ because he took lots of geography classes and had many ‘hilarious moments’ with his senior classmates. He plans to move to Seattle, Washington where he hopes to get a job in Land Use Planning for local government and then go to graduate school for development geography or planning.

**Dana Thomson** is a geography major and she is also the ‘distinguished scholar’ from among all the graduating seniors in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. This is the first time a geography major from our department has been recognized with this award.

Dana was born in her parents’ home in Wilmington, Vermont, where her parents still reside. According to Dana, she grew up in a family of ‘tree-huggers.’ Early on Dana knew she had to explore the world. At the age of 8 her mom explained the Peace Corps to her; it was at that moment she decided she wanted to ‘travel, save the world and get paid to do it.’

Geography is exactly what Dana came to GW to study, except she didn’t know it at the time. It was in David Rain’s Geography of Africa course that Dana discovered her passion. She wrote “I love that geography is the study of change; the study of a confluence of factors in a particular place in time.” Some of her memorable experiences over the past four years include a 3-week Environment and Development program in the Brazilian Amazon, a GIS internship at the Robert Graham Center, backpacking through Mozambique with three friends, and ‘driving in circles through torrential rain in the dark with a canoe strapped to her truck and three other classmates while trying to find Professor Foggin and Co. at Mason Neck Park last fall.

In 2000 the Robert Campbell Prize was established. It is given each year to a Geography senior with an excellent record of scholarship and who has enriched the department through service and leadership.

**Russell “RJ” Ober** is a Geography major by day and a thrash-punk musician at night. He was born and raised in Pittsburg, PA.

As a freshman he enrolled in a Dean’s Seminar that ‘sounded interesting.’ The seminar was one that Prof. Price taught, Global Perspective on Immigration. After taking Intro to Human Geography with Professor Benton-Short (and several elevator rides later) he declared his major as Geography.

While at GW he had a semester-long internship with the National Geographic Society and he self-orchestrated a summer abroad experience by touring Eastern Europe in 2007 with his band. Ask him about Macedonia or Bulgaria.

In addition to being an excellent scholar, his brand of leadership is exhibited in his low-key but always thoughtful contribution to classes and labs. He is a leader by example, who graciously shares his ideas with others but is never over powering. RJ wrote that “the Department exposed me to new topics and classes that built upon and expanded my initial interest in geography. The interdisciplinary nature of geography and the diversity of courses offered exposed me to new fields that were suddenly linked through the ideas of space, landscape and movement. I started off interested in how people interacted with their environment and how individuals were controlled or achieved agency across space and somehow ended up with the same interest in rocks and rivers.”
Over last summer, two Geography faculty, Professors Ryan Engstrom and David Rain, along with two graduate students, Sarah Antos and Christi Ludlow, traveled to Accra, Ghana. With funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), their mission was to conduct research on modeling spatial inequalities in health within cities using geospatial techniques such as remote sensing and geographic information systems.

Accra is typical of West Africa in that it has experienced rapid growth in recent decades due to in-migration and continued high birth rates. Once a quiet ocean-side capital, Accra now has over 3 million people and all the problems associated with rapid growth, including air and water pollution, endemic malaria, severe traffic, and crowding in many of the older neighborhoods.

The specific task of the GW team was to field-test outputs from multiple spatial aggregation models of neighborhood definitions derived from socio-demographic and housing data. The team also used satellite imagery to verify conditions on the ground. For about a week, the GW team was joined by Professor Doug Stow of San Diego State University, a remote sensing expert and partner on the NIH grant, along with Raphael Arku, a graduate student who has done his own research on urban air pollution in Accra.

Most of the GW team’s work consisted of visiting Accra neighborhoods, usually on foot. Local forms of transportation, including Accra’s taxis and “tro-tro’s” or the equivalent of city buses, were used. Some days the team walked 5-10 miles, circumnavigating various neighborhoods, interviewing local residents, and gathering data points. Some of the neighborhoods the team found interesting were the oceanfront neighborhoods inhabited by traditional fishing people who now find themselves in an urban-based service economy.

In addition to their neighborhood boundary work, the team made numerous contacts in the city. They visited the campus of the University of Ghana, including the Geography Department and the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services. They also made visits to the Ghana Statistical Service, the Survey Department, the Geological Survey, the Water Research Institute, and SAMBUS Ltd., a local geographic consulting company.

The GW team did more than just walk around and sweat in the tropical heat. About halfway through the trip, Sarah, Christi and Professor Rain were joined by two of the teenaged Rain children, Lydia and Callen, and together they travelled to Cape Coast and Elmina. They visited two slave forts dating back to the 15th century where captives were held for six weeks before being shipped off to the new world. They also visited Kakum National Park north of Cape Coast and did the famed canopy walk, the only one of its kind in Africa.

For fun the team took advantage of Accra’s restaurant offerings, which include Indian, Lebanese and Argentinean food. Everybody tried the local cuisine, which leans heavily toward starchy dishes like fu-fu (pounded yam), kenkay (fermented corn mush), plaintains, and groundnut soup. Professor Rain impressed everyone with his ability to inhale fu-fu. Of all the eateries, it was Ryan’s Irish Pub that the team frequented the most, especially for its Castle Milk Stout and its fish and chips.

In all, a great time was had by all. The GW team got its bearings in Accra, and the research will continue to determine the link between neighborhood amenities and health in the coming years.
Geography Receives Grant to Work in Vietnam

Professors Elizabeth Chacko and Ryan Engstrom are academic advisors and speakers at the Leadership Institute on Creative Responses to Global Climate Change in Hanoi. The Department of Geography has formed a partnership with the Program for International Studies in Asia (PISA) an international nongovernmental organization with executive offices at GWU and the Institute for World Economics and Politics of the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences and the World Wildlife Fund. The Leadership Institute will offer a two-week course in Hanoi on Creative Responses to Global Climate Change for a select group of 35 public servants, business leaders, influential members of civil society organizations and members of the press corps in Vietnam.

This project will also draw on the expertise of geography faculty and the up-to-date facilities of the Department of Geography’s spatial analysis lab at GW University when these leaders come to Washington for a month long course of study during the summer of 2009. They will learn to employ spatial data and become familiar with state-of-the-art techniques of spatial analysis. The team from Vietnam will also have the opportunity to meet with officials in government, non-government and private sector agencies while in Washington, D.C. with the view to help them develop ongoing relationships with these organizations, and better understand the national and global ramifications of global climate change. This project is funded by the Ford Foundation.

Transnational Washington: Immigrant Entrepreneurship and Development Linkages in a Global City

Elizabeth Chacko and Marie Price received a grant from the Center for International Business and Research (CIBER) to do a study of immigrant entrepreneurship in metropolitan Washington. The goal of their study is to examine business strategies and trade linkages of Ethiopian, Bolivian and Indian immigrant entrepreneurs in the Washington metropolitan area with their respective countries and to shed light on how they use their social networks and cultural connections to start new business ventures, build business relationships, and to gain market share. Building on prior CIBER research, this research will deepen our understanding of how immigrants’ investments in their home countries are linked to U.S. enterprises and the extent to which such connections have contributed to the firms’ success and U.S. competitiveness.

The Washington metropolitan area is an overlooked setting to study immigrant entrepreneurship. A relatively new immigrant destination, it is now the sixth largest immigrant city in the United States with an estimated 1.1 million foreign-born in 2006. The metropolitan area maintains a remarkably diverse mix of highly skilled immigrants in the labor force. In the past two decades many immigrants have been attracted to the region’s robust telecommunications, information, security, and biotechnology sectors. Unlike more studied immigrant destinations such as New York, Los Angeles and Miami, relatively little is known about the myriad transnational linkages that tie Washington to hundreds of sending communities around the world. Hence, Washington provides an ideal site for understanding diasporic cultural and social networks, their influence on investment patterns in the immigrants’ countries of origin and the effects of these linkages on U.S. business competitiveness.
Images of the Year

Marie Price and Kaitlin Yarnall in Bolivia

2008 Graduating Seniors

2008 Geography Bowl Team

David Rain and Emily Sciarillo

From left: Henry Jewell, Zachary Schulman, Katie McWilliams, Nicole Svajlenka, Dan Malessa, Lindsay Withers and Mark Butman
**Current Graduate Student Activities**

**Zach Schulman** has been spending his summer working at the Altarum Institute as a GIS analyst doing work for the Military Health System. He is continuing his research on the implications of Arctic warming for geopolitics.

**Christi Ludlow** spent a month in Accra conducting research on flood modeling. In addition, she’s been working for a local satellite data provider company.

**Jamie Worms** has been living in Botafogo, a neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil since July. She’s been working closely with two different NGOs trying to determine how social capital functions within these community development projects. She’s also vigorously learning Portuguese and have been able to go on several hiking and climbing trips.

**Lindsay Withers** remained in the D.C. area this past summer, with the exception of an end-of-summer jaunt to the sunny beaches of California. In May she began working as a GIS intern/assistant at the Robert Graham Center for Family Medicine and Primary Care Policy Studies. This summer Lindsay started putting together materials for her thesis’s literature review and collecting health data. She was also able to visit a local community health center and worked with their director of advocacy and communications to develop the questionnaire she hopes to give as part of her thesis.

**Tom Buckley** spent the summer working at Geocommons in preparation for their release of the online mapping application Maker. He also had the chance to ride some busted Velib's around Paris.

**Dan Malessa** enjoyed a summer of cross-continent travel, including visits to Yellowstone and Banff NPs and Denver for the DNC, and odd jobs in the DC area.

**Danny Selik** spent some of his summer in Hawaii supporting the Rim of the Pacific exercise, which brings navies from around the world to the state to conduct a multitude of joint at-sea and in-port exercises. It's the largest naval exercise in the world. For his thesis he’s going to focus on GIS solutions for solid waste management in Karachi.

**Sterling Johnson** has been quite busy this summer. He spent a month at the USGS mapping impervious surfaces in New England as well as working on a project geo-coding AIDS patients from the Whitman-Walker Clinic. Most of his time was spent at the State Department as a program analyst working with declassifying documents. He continues that work as well as working with the GW Sociology Department on a project concerning fair housing practices.

**Mark Butman** is planning to go to Liberia over the winter holiday to do field research on post-conflict resettlement of internally displaced persons.

**Shana Diagne** is conducting thesis research on the economic and cultural impacts of the new Washington Nationals stadium in Southeast DC. She is taking the migration and development seminar this fall.

**Patrick Phillips** continued work at Securing Americas Future Energy a non profit organization which advocates improving US energy security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil. He also went fishing in the Thousand Islands for two weeks during August.
Eating My Way Across the Country
By Richard Villadóniga

This past summer I was honored to be selected as the recipient of the Geoffrey Roberts Award (www.geoffreyrobertsaward.com), a travel grant given to one person in the world whose project most demonstrates a positive impact on the world of food, wine, and travel. My project focused on traveling across our country in search of endangered American foods and traditions to bring attention to their tenuous status. I put together a list of threatened foodstuffs that I wanted to highlight, including Carolina Gold rice, handmade gumbo filé, Chimayó chiles, the Capitol Reef apple, Charbono grapes, geoducks, Navajo-Churro sheep, and stoneground heirloom grits, among others. After driving 14,611 miles across 27 states in six weeks, I returned home with a greater appreciation for the bounty of America and the people who are working to preserve these wonderful foods. My trip garnered media coverage across the USA and I kept an online journal of the adventure on my website (www.eat-american.com). Along the way, Bon Appétit magazine and a few other publications took interest in my project and asked me to write for them, bringing even greater public awareness of the peril these endangered foods face. Upon arriving back home, I realized that writing about this issue was not enough and that I wanted to mobilize my local community with the aim of supporting our own local food traditions, thus organizing the Slow Food First Coast Convivium in the St. Augustine (FL) area. In addition, I continue to write about foods of interest on my website and in a number of publications with the hope of increasing the demand for artisanal products from across our country and honoring the people who make these hand-crafted items.

BIO: Richard “Cheech” Villadóniga is a geography teacher in St. Johns County, Florida. He was awarded the Geoffrey Roberts Award (www.geoffreyrobertsaward.com) for 2007 to fund the Endangered Foods Tour project. In the past, he has also received two Fulbright fellowships to study in Japan and South Africa. He received a BA in Geography from the George Washington University and a Master’s Degree in City Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology. His interests include traveling, cooking, and spending time in the great outdoors. He is a contributing food and travel writer for the St. Augustine Record (www.staugustine.com), Water's Edge magazine (www.watersedge.com), and Palm Coast Lifestyles magazine (http://www.palmcoastlifestyles.com/new/). His articles have also been featured on the Bon Appétit Editors Blog (http://www.epicurious.com/bonappetit/blogs/editor).
Henry Jewell - I graduated in 2004 with a BSc in Marine Geography from Cardiff University in Wales. To put this academic knowledge to the test I went to South Africa to work in the Social Ecology department of South African National Parks. While there my passion for African issues flourished, so to pursue this I wanted to undertake a masters degree focusing my studies on development, natural resources, population and health. Coming from England, I thought that doing this in the US would be an unbelievable experience and a great opportunity.

Katie McWilliams - I am from Fort Wayne, Indiana and graduated in 2007 from Ball State University. My undergraduate degree is in Operational Meteorology and Climatology, as I have always had a bizarre fascination with the weather. As a masters student at GW, I hope to focus on climate change and the impacts it is having on both humans and the environment, and the emergence in popularity of "green" or sustainable living.

Scott Pospiech - I am a first year master's student in the geography department. I recently graduated from the Catholic University of America in D.C. with a history degree. I am initially from Ocean City, New Jersey and hope to return to the shore after gaining my degree. The fields of geography I am most interested in pursuing are in the environment, weather, and landforms.

Mark Revell - Hi everyone, my name is Mark Revell. I was born and raised in Virginia Beach, Virginia and have had a lifelong interest in geography. I attended the University of Virginia and Radford University as an undergraduate, and received my bachelor's degree in the fall of 2006. After this I worked at a regional planning commission in southwest Virginia. As a graduate student I hope to focus on issues related to urban and population geography.

Daniel Riva - I'm from New York. I graduated from Georgetown University in '05 in business; I served in the Peace Corps on a rural development and micro-finance project in Eastern Europe until 2007, spent a short time traveling in Indonesia afterward, and then went on to ESL education in West Bengal. While I love maps and historical geography, I plan mainly to pursue population studies.

Nicole Svajlenka - Originally from Chicago, I graduated in May 2008 from Colgate University with a BA in Environmental Geography. While at GW I plan to study US immigration issues, hopefully focusing on Central American communities. In my free time, I enjoy rock climbing and outdoor activities, as well as (like most geographers) traveling.
Sophia Fisher (BA 2003) is currently working as a Planner in Loudoun County Virginia. Professor Marie Price saw her at an American Planning Association Meeting in Reston, Virginia last March. Sophia joins another GW alum, Patrick Ryan (BA 2005, MA 2007) who also works for Loudoun County. Patrick purchased a 5 acre ‘farm’ in Taylorstown, Virginia (settled in 1734). He is enjoying country living and now has chickens, ducks and geese on his property.

Derek Azar (BA, 2004, MA 2006) recently left his job at the cartography division of the National Geographic Society to begin a new job with the US Census Bureau. In the spring he will teach a GIS course for us.

Jill Wilson (MA 2003) contributed to a Population Reference Bulletin on “Immigration and America’s Black Population” which was released in December 2007. She continues to work at the Brookings Institution as a Research Analyst in the Metropolitan Policy Program.

Ivey Wohlfeld (BA expected 2009) was a 2008 Summer Intern with the National Geographic Society working with the Education and Children’s Program Division. She will continue working at NGS this fall on the same program.

Sarah Antos (BA 2006, MA 2008) is working for US AID in their Geography Division in Washington DC. She also traveled with Christianna Ludlow (current MA student) and Professors David Rain and Ryan Engstrom to Accra, Ghana this summer as part of a research team.

Mustafa Dimbiloglu (BA 2005) writes that he is beginning a MBA program at Michigan State this fall. This past summer was spent in Turkey: spending time with family in Istanbul and visiting Cappadocia.

Stefanie Garry (BA 2007) is half way through her Masters in Urban Planning at Columbia University. This summer she interned with the Urban Justice Center working as a research and policy analyst on a project on the East River Waterfront. This summer was not all toil for Stefanie, however, as she and sister Katie Garry (BA 2007) went to Istanbul in August.

Jon Moore (BA 1995) begins a new job this fall as an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Akron in the Department of Geography and Planning. Jon’s wife Amy works as a veterinarian in Akron and they have a young son, Sutter Moore. Jon is legendary in World Geography Bowl circles for winning the MVP prize four years in a row.

Scott Miller (BA 1995), who was a double major in Geography and Geology, has a PhD in geology with a focus on fluvial and tectonic geomorphology. He is currently a research scientist in the Department of Earth Sciences at Syracuse University.

Courtney Lamb Whitworth (MA 2001) and Travis Whitworth (BA 2000) welcomed their baby daughter Naomi Louise on May 12, 2008. Naomi’s big brother Will (now 3) is sure to entertain her.

Suzanne Bratis (BA 2000) is working as an Assistant US Attorney in Portland, Oregon. She dropped by the Department this summer when she was in town for a workshop with the Department of Justice. She continues to be amazed by how much the place has changed and grown.

Lillee House Peters (BA 2005) is moving to Portland, Oregon to pursue a Masters degree at Portland State University after working in Arkansas for two years with the Teach for America program. She will focus on the interaction between climate change, land use change and water management. Enjoy the Pacific Northwest!

Kesha Christoph (BA 2003) just earned dual degrees in Law and Urban Planning from Cleveland State University. She took the Ohio bar exam this spring and begins work as a Army JAG lawyer this fall. Congratulations Kesha!
Cathy Choy (BA 2008) began work with Meltwater Group, an IT company, in February. She credits her Geography 195 portfolio as an important element in landing her new job.

Tom Gibbons (BA 2005) left ESRI and Virginia to begin a Masters program in Environmental Management at Yale. Enjoy New Haven, Tom!

Samantha Carter (BA 2008) is also headed to the Yale Forestry School this fall to pursue a Masters degree.

Wesley Reisser (MA 2007) is preparing for his doctoral comprehensive exams doctoral in Geography at UCLA. This past year Wesley won the Ristow Prize for academic achievement in the history of cartography. His paper “Mapping for Peace: The American Inquiry and the Paris Peace Conference, 1918-1919” was the lead article in the spring 2008 issue of The Portolan.

Lt. Slade Thorpe (BA 2006), a geography minor, went to Iraq in March. His geographic training has been put to use, practicing a great deal of spatial analysis and surveying techniques in preparation for his 17-month tour of duty in the Middle East. He writes “Surveys, remote sensing, land use, urban population distribution, military geography, environmental geography are all critical elements of shaping our area of operations. He sends his best wishes to all his geography professors—especially Professors Benton-Short, Foggin, Hofmann, Engstrom and Dymond. We wish you well and a safe return.

Javier Nolasco (BA 2008) is living in DC and working for Kirland & Ellis LLP on their Legal Assistant Program. Eventually he would like to pursue a joint degree in law and urban planning.

Miriam Seldon (BA, 1999) is in training for her second Walt Disney World Marathon in January 2009. Proceeds go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, a movement to which she has become personally dedicated. We wish her much support and the wind to her back.

Nicolas Schiller had a gallery exhibit in Washington this February at the Ann Loeb Bronfman Gallery in the DC Jewish Community Center. The featured map is titled “Israel/Palestine 1993.” Nick’s map is designed as a hexagon quilt projection map. The source is a 1993 CIA map of Israel and Palestine.

Dana Thomson (BA 2008) is working for Macro International doing GIS work on a global health project. After working for a while, she plans to pursue a Masters in Public Health.

Mike Jeffe (MA 2003) plans to marry his girlfriend, Magdelena, this Thanksgiving in San Diego.

Aren Spark (BA 2000) writes that he will marry Irene Tang of Orange County, California in beautiful Seattle, Washington on September 28th, 2008. Aren completed a MA at the University of Washington in Planning. He works for a non-profit urban Indian health organization.

Robert Sidell (BA 2005) was married on September 20th in Philadelphia, PA to his finance Sharon.

Emily Sciarillo (MA 2008) was married on September 9, 2008 to Enrique Zudaire.
2008 Graduates

Congratulations to the 2008 Graduates of Geography and Environmental Studies!

M.A. in Geography

Sarah Antos  
Brianne Barrett  
Gina Cappelletti  
Emily Sciarillo  
Kaitlin Yarnall

B.A. in Geography

Eric Ashcroft  
Kimberly Barnashuk  
Bobbie Bittle  
Allison Bybee  
Catherine Choy  
Rebecca Coggins  
Jarryd Commerford  
Ryan Derstine  
Stephanie Dolloff  
William Dujardin  
Rebecca Dunner  
Adam Eckstein  
Jonelle Gingrich  
Jesse Goldman  
Jessica Harig  
Aaron Harris  
Colin Herron  
Derrick Hiebert-Flamm  
Melissa Hooper  

Grant Johnson  
Catherine Kedzuf  
Daniel Kirkwood  
Lyle Leitelt  
Haldon Lindstrom  
Christopher Marques  
Javier Nolasco  
R.J. Ober  
Megan Overbey  
Michael Riccio  
Ben Robinson  
Sam Sarkin  
Tim Shea  
Mike Shyavitz  
Lawrence Slocum  
Steven Smith  
Dana Thomson  
Isabelle Willson  
Gareth Wishart

We Would Also Like to Thank…

The Deans of CCAS and ESIA and the members of MAD for their continued support of the Geography Department

ALUMNI, FORMER FACULTY & STAFF,  
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

Email us at… geog@gwu.edu

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A  
CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEPARTMENT?

If you are interested in giving a gift to the Department, please visit our website www.gwu.edu/~geog and click on the “Support the Department” link for instructions.
Books


Refereed Articles and Book Chapters


Faculty Talks and Presentations


Marie Price was an invited presenter at a Conference on Immigration and the 2008 Presidential Election in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico organized by the Graduate School of Political Management at GWU. Her talk was entitled “Immigration to the United States: A Geographical Perspective.”
The Department of Geography is now located in Old Main, 1922 F Street, NW

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