As I write this, the Department of Geography at GWU has completed two successful years in Old Main and is embarking on a third. I am proud to report that the Department is healthy, productive and growing. During 2009-2010, we taught over 1700 students and had 71 majors in Geography and 51 majors in Environmental Studies. Our students did internships with organizations such as the World Affairs Councils of America, National Geographic Society, Climate Institute, Earth Day Network, USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and United States Environmental Protection Agency. Both graduate and undergraduate students presented their research at local and national conferences. The only department on campus that offers multiple courses in Geographic Information Systems, we attract students who wish to gain expertise in spatial analysis from departments and programs across the campus. We currently have over 30 students in our GIS Minor.

In May 2010, ten students graduated with an MA in Geography. Most of them stayed on in the DC area, working for federal, multilateral and private organizations and think tanks, including USAID, the World Bank, CoreLogic and the Brookings Institution. We currently have 22 students in our MA program, having admitted a record number of 13 in Fall, 2010.

The faculty in the Department of Geography continues to be research active, excel in teaching and engage with our students and alumni in various ways. Professors obtain grants, publish on a regular basis, collaborate on research with each other and with colleagues at GWU as well as U.S. and international universities. They have also mentored undergraduate and graduate student research. During the last academic year Geography faculty made a total of 43 scholarly presentations of their research at academic conferences, workshops, and also to the GWU and DC communities.

During 2009-2010 we hosted visiting scholars Gerald Teng, Assistant Professor of International Relations and Section Chief in the Foreign Affairs Office, Wuyi University, China and Tamaz Zubiashvili, Professor in the Department of Geography at the Tbilisi State University in Georgia. We were lucky to have post-doctoral fellow Dr. Santiago Lopez with us for a second year. A valuable addition to our department, Santiago taught one of our required graduate courses and collaborated on research with Geography faculty. We congratulate Dr. Lopez on his appointment as Assistant Professor at the University of Washington in Bothell although we were sorry to see him leave. We are delighted to welcome a new post-doctoral fellow, Dr. Dmitry Streletskiy, to Geography this year.

Taking advantage of the D.C location of the 2010 Association of American Geographers’ annual conference, the Department of Geography hosted a reception at the Lebanese Taverna for alumni on April 15, 2010. We were thrilled to have a wonderful turnout of nearly 60 alumni from both Geography and Environmental Studies as well as current professors, Professor Emeritus Dorn McGrath and recently retired professor Tom Foggin. It was a joyous occasion and we hope to have many more such reunions in the future.

Before signing off, I would like to thank all of you for your good wishes and support of the Geography Department at GWU. Your financial contributions help us aid student research and professional development and obtain the best technology for our Spatial Analysis Lab. We are grateful to our alumni who continue the tradition begun in Prof. Tom Foggin’s Senior Seminar of meeting with our graduating class and offering students advice on job opportunities and careers. Please continue to share news of your accomplishments and adventures as well as information on internships and jobs with us. We would also like to see you in person and encourage you to visit us in 1922 F Street.

With many thanks for your continued support of the Geography Department at GWU,

Elizabeth Chacko
New Faculty Addition

Dr. Dmitry (Dima) Streletskiy is a post-doctoral research scientist. He will be working closely with Dr. Nikolay Shiklomanov on the implementation of CALM III project. Dima's research interests include cold region climates, permafrost and human-environment interactions in the Arctic. He is originally from Moscow, Russia where he completed his B.S. (2003) and M.S. (2005) in Geography from the Moscow State University working on snow cover, glaciers, and permafrost. Dr. Streletskiy recently obtained his Ph.D. in Climatology from the Department of Geography at the University of Delaware. His dissertation focused on problems involving spatial and temporal variability of climatic and permafrost parameters at range of geographical scales, and effects of climate-permafrost interactions on northern infrastructure. This work was a result of several years of field work conducted in Arctic regions. Dr. Streletskiy strongly believes that field work is essential component of geography at both educational and research level. That is why he was pleased to assist three GWU students doing field work in Alaska this summer.

Geographers in Residence

Dr. Melissa Keeley and her family have moved to the George Washington University's Mount Vernon Campus where they live as faculty-in-residence in the new West Hall dormitory. Dr. Keeley will be working most closely with the 50 freshman who chose to live in a sustainability-themed living learning program “Green Earth”. Thus far, the group has visited the EPA to discuss the federal role in water management, planted a garden featuring native species, and enjoyed a locally-sourced meal, among other activities. We look forward to this group developing close ties with the department of geography, given the nature of these students’ interests and those of the department. Prof. Keeley and her family have been profiled in the GW Hatchet and The Washington Post (http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/26/AR2010092603681.html).
Permafrost Research in Alaska

The Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) program is a global network of sites at which data about near-surface permafrost parameters and their dynamics are collected. CALM was established in the early 1990s to observe and detect the long-term response of the active layer (the portion of the soil above permafrost that thaws and freezes seasonally) and near-surface permafrost to changes in climate. At present the CALM network incorporates 188 sites in Arctic, sub-Arctic, and mountainous regions. Beginning September 2009 the CALM program was funded by the Arctic Observing Networks program of the National Science Foundation and is administered through the George Washington University (GWU) Department of Geography in collaboration with the University of Delaware, University of Montana and numerous research and education institutions from Russia, Canada, and European Countries. GWU faculty and students are responsible for extensive field work at several Alaskan and Russian sites and for analysis, archiving, and distribution of CALM’s long-term observations.

As part of the CALM field research GW Undergraduates Kelsey Nyland and Elliot Upin, Graduate Student Ellen Hatleberg, and Post-Doctoral Scientist Dr. Dmitry Streletskiy embarked on a research trip to the Alaskan Arctic this past August. Participating in the CALM project was an excellent opportunity for the students to gain valuable field research experience. They worked alongside professors from the University of Delaware and the University of Montana and government scientist from USDA. The CALM program has a long history of participation in the NSF PolarTREC (Teachers and Researches Exploring and Collaborating) program. This year we had Josh Dugat as a member of our field team. Josh teaches science at one of the New Orleans’ “Recovery School District” schools which serves the neediest members of the community. Field work included measurements of the active-layer thickness, setting up LIDAR equipment for surface-based remote sensing measurements, collecting temperature data, and performing maintenance on data loggers at various remote field sites all the North Slope of Alaska. Day-to-day description of CALM team’s live and work in Alaska was documented by Josh and is available at http://www.polartrec.com/expeditions/long-term-circumpolar-permafrost-monitoring.

After returning from Alaska the group has begun work on processing and analyzing field data.
GW Gets Its Bearings (and its Focus) in Accra

This past summer was Year Three of the NIH-funded Health, Poverty and Place project in Accra, Ghana, which aims to analyze spatial disparities in health in developing-world cities. Professors Rain and Engstrom along with Master’s student Caetie Ofiesh (and two doctoral students from San Diego State University) continued the urban fieldwork from the previous two summers and gained new insights into population and health dynamics in Accra neighborhoods.

The team was concerned with two main activities for the month it spent in Ghana’s capital. First, we field-corrected satellite images using differential GPS – a technique involving aligning base station data with readings from handheld units that greatly reduces error. Collecting ground control points at roughly 30 spots in a sprawling city of 3 million involved walking, driving, taking taxis and tro-tros (Ghana’s ubiquitous public buses) to remote places, recording sample points, and then uploading files to match to precise base station files. Based on this ground work, the team was able to correct some of the recent high-resolution imagery for the city and will eventually create a precise digital elevation model of Accra to be used for flood modeling.

The second activity the team undertook was conducting focus groups in a cross-section of neighborhoods in Accra, from the leafy expanse of Cantonments to the crowded confines of Jamestown. A total of 11 focus groups were conducted with the help of two able facilitators from the school of public health at the University of Ghana. Topics ranged from work opportunities and local rents, to health issues and recent changes in the makeup of the neighborhoods. Overall the researchers got a rich perspective on social issues in the city which help fill out the picture for the health survey that is also being completed by the project team.

In addition to the work just described, the team also met with local planners, university representatives, the Ghana water company, a slum-mapping NGO, and a girls’ school. We also found the time to get away to the beach a couple of weekends, and of course, watch all of the World Cup matches that were shutting down the entire country during that time. Go Black Stars!
Fresher air, cleaner water, cooler temperatures, and less runoff—there are compelling reasons to promote green space in metropolitan areas. Yet, in many cities, open spaces are often too limited to protect natural resources essential to public and ecological health. Thus, many urban areas are turning toward small scale green infrastructure—such as green roofs, street trees, permeable pavements, and rain gardens—to augment public parks and greenspaces and to help provide these necessary environmental services.

While regulations that mandate open space often exist, the results of these are not necessarily green or sustainable. Thus, to help urban areas encourage and maintain green space in a way that sustains natural resources, researchers have recalibrated a decision support system from Germany for use in the United States. Communities will be able to use the Green Area Ratio (GAR) to set greening targets for new development or redevelopment, and then choose from a menu of techniques to reach these goals. In densely populated Berlin, GAR has been used successfully for more than 10 years.

This work consisted of a detailed, comparative analysis of the contribution of environmental services—such as stormwater management, urban heat island amelioration and urban air quality improvements—of a variety of green infrastructure types. Further geospatial work provided an analysis of how these techniques could be integrated into Washington DC’s urban fabric, including an assessment of costs and distribution of these elements across the city.

Dr. Melissa Keeley together with student researchers has worked closely with DC area stakeholders throughout the duration of a grant funded by the US EPA and the CICEET (the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology). This three-year project has led directly to the DC Office of Planning integrating the GAR into the city’s new zoning codes during their current rewrite, subject to a final hearing by the Zoning Commission this fall.

The above images are screenshots from an interactive GAR interface which allows users to (among other things) visually discern spatial trends in environmental service provision at the parcel-level. Parcels currently contributing higher levels of environmental services (in this case, achieving a GAR score of 0.3 or higher) are green. Those with lower scores are red. The graphic on the left provides an overview of trends throughout the city of Washington DC. The image on the right is a detail of the George Washington Campus area; the Old Main Building is blue (for identification purposes).
NEW GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE STUDENTS

Eric Ashcroft
I am a first year masters student focusing on GIS and remote sensing. I graduated from George Washington in 2008 with a major in geography and a minor in GIS. Though from Boston originally, I have spent most of the past six years in Washington DC.

Bart Bickle
Originally from Washington, DC I have a BA in Africana Studies from Vassar and a Master of Landscape Architecture from Virginia Tech. For the past 10 years or so I have worked in planning and landscape architecture in a variety of capacities. At GW I am interested in cultivating research skills focused on urbanism, sustainability and historic preservation. I am also interested in the role played by maps and other visual media such as film in facilitating an ongoing dialog about the meaning and value of place. I live in the DC section of Chevy Chase and enjoy exploring the varied communities of this area, especially by bike and on foot.

Camille Fisher
I am a native of Austin, TX, but moved to Watertown, MA at a young age and grew up in the Boston area. This experience surely helped to foster my interest in cultural studies and geography. When I’m not studying, I like to sing, cook and spend time with my English Bulldog, Chloe. Besides becoming a geographer, my dream is for Chloe to also move to DC so we can attend Bulldog Club events together.

Emiko Guthe
I grew up in Moorestown, New Jersey, graduated from Macalester College in Saint Paul, MN with a degree in Geography and, most recently, served in the Peace Corps in Kazakhstan for 27 months. I have studied urban geography, migration, and ethnic entrepreneurship and now have added international development and disaster relief to my interests.

Leslie Jones
While I have spent the majority of my life in Leesburg Virginia, my family has recently moved to a small lakefront town in upstate New York called Fair Haven. I attended James Madison University where I received a BA in Communication Studies. At JMU, my focus was on culture and identity, something that I am hoping to expand on through my studies here at GW. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, fishing, wine tasting and touring vineyards, cooking, gardening, enjoying the outdoors, and video games.

Haldon Lindstrom
I was born in the San Francisco Bay Area of California, and grew up in Oakland. I was accepted to the George Washington University for undergraduate in 2004, and graduated in 2008 with a double major in History and Geography. My major interest is historical geography, but I am also interested in the areas of ethnography, sustainability and the long-neglected field of anthropogeography.
Genevieve Parente
I am from Falls Church, Virginia, a DC suburb with great Vietnamese food! I graduated from the University of Virginia with a BA in History. Since then, I have worked for a service sector labor union in Las Vegas for several years, and in Japan through the JET program. I am completing a Certificate in International Migration Studies at Georgetown University. In May, I traveled to Cambodia to help evaluate a U.S. Department of Labor funded program to combat child labor. My research interests include labor migration, job creation, vocational training and immigrant integration.

Colleen Pulsford
I am from Middlefield, Ohio. I graduated last May with a B.A. in Geography with an emphasis in GIS/Cartography and a minor in Recreation and Tourism Management. My geographical interests are Latin American and Asian culture, tourism, and GIS. I want to work in the federal government dealing with foreign relations either here or abroad.

Colin Reisser
I’m from Denver, Colorado, and graduated in 2008 from the University of Colorado at Boulder with degrees in German and History. I’ve worked in the oil & gas industry for the past several years, and energy resources are of academic interest to me. My other interests are geopolitics and migration in Eastern Europe and the former USSR, foreign languages, geology, and Eastern European folk dancing.

Cadence Roberts
I graduated from the University of Utah in 2007 with degrees in Economics and Mass Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations. I grew up in Salt Lake City and in 2008 decided I needed a change of location prompting my move to the DC area. I am interested in urban sustainable development, both in the United States and abroad. While not focusing on my studies, I enjoy talking far too much about my dog, trying new restaurants around town, and taking weekend trips.

Chris Susio
Originally from Perry Hall, MD, I graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park this past spring with a double major in Geography and Government & Politics with a minor in GIS. My main focus has been in human geography, especially urban, population, and political. I hope to find a career that deals with issues with gentrification, specifically finding a balance between growth and affordability, with some incorporation of GIS. Outside of geography, my interests include being the only diehard Orioles fan left in Baltimore and traveling.

Geoffrey Swanson
I am from Lancaster, PA. I attended college at Millersville University of PA, where I had a double major in Geography and International Studies. Since finishing my undergraduate studies, I took a job with Boeing as a GeoINT Analyst, where my team works on contracts from NGA, as well as other agencies within the Intelligence Community. My continued interest in Geography at GWU will be centered in Geospatial Techniques.

Maianna Voge
I am from Berkeley, California and graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Development Studies. I am interested in urban geography and sustainable development. In my spare time I play the clarinet.
Class of 2010 Student Awards

Every year at graduation the Department awards two undergraduate prizes, the Muriel Parry Award and the Robert Campbell Prize. The Muriel Parry Award is given to the graduating senior with the highest GPA. In May 2010, Kate Maude was awarded the prize. The Robert Campbell Prize is given to a Geography senior with an excellent record of scholarship and who has enriched the department through service and leadership. This year’s recipient is Alex Stoicof.

Alex originally came from Bucharest, Romania, but grew up in Colorado. Early on she knew she was interested in the environment; at the age of 8 she called her parents “tree killers” for pruning the trees in the backyard. She also saved up her money for an entire year to adopt 2 acres of rainforest in Bolivia. Since coming to GW, Alex has had numerous internships, including National Geographic Maps, Fannie Mae, and with Congressman Mark Udall, whose family is well known for their commitment to environmental quality in the US. Like many geography majors, Alex spent time studying abroad in Ecuador, where she participated in reforestation work in a cloud forest, and Geneva, Switzerland where she skied the Swiss Alps and traveled throughout Europe. To celebrate graduation, Alex planned this summer to climb Humboldt Peak in Colorado; this will be her 7th fourteener! Alex plans to move to Patagonia, work on an organic farm and teach ski lessons.

The Muriel Parry Prize for 2010 was awarded to Kate Maude. Kate was born in Bristol, Connecticut, but grew up in Wheaton, a suburb of Chicago. And like many of us geographers, she’s loved geography since she was in elementary school and having explored a variety of places on family vacations these experiences piqued her interests in studying places. When asked why she chose geography as a major and she replied, “The geography department offers a wide variety of classes including a number with fieldwork components, so it was an easy fit for someone like me with varied academic interests and a passion for the outdoors. Like many Geography majors, Kate has spent time studying abroad in New Zealand, and has had numerous impressive internship experiences, having worked for he Office of former US Senator Ken Salazar, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, and the Ocean Foundation in addition to working at RAINN, the Peace Corps, and the National Archives and Records Administration. After graduation, Kate is planning on volunteering with AmeriCorps before heading off graduate school. She she hopes to become a Peace Corps volunteer in Latin America.

2010 Gamma Theta Upsilon

Robert Banick, John Buarotti, Kyle Cole, Bonnie Epstein, Elizabeth Ervin, Alissa Ferry, Olivia Krueger, Kate Maude, Christina Pasanen, Katelyn Payne, Michael Rabinowitz, Abby Syverson, and Peter Tchoukaleff

Congratulations to the above GWU Geographers for their recent induction into Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the International Geographical Honor Society. The society, founded in 1928, furthers professional interest in geography, encourages geography student research, awards funds for graduate study in geography, and advances the status of the discipline for study and investigation. These bright GWU Geographers were inducted into GTU at the end of the Spring 2010 semester by faculty sponsor Joe Dymond, based on the number of geography credits they earned and both their overall and Geography major GPAs. The group will be meeting this fall to plan GTU activities such as field trips to the United States Department of State, and The National Geographic Society. New initiates will be inducted into GTU prior to the conclusion of this current fall, 2010 semester. We are very proud of our GTU inductees and wish them well as ambassadors for the Geography Department at GWU and for the discipline of Geography.
Alta Marie Morton (BA Geography – 1999) died July 8, 2010, in Mt. Rainier, Maryland, of complications of a life-long struggle with Sickle Cell anemia. She was born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised in Rockville, Maryland. She is survived by her 21 year-old daughter, Alexandra Morton.

Higher education began with a drafting certificate program and was followed by classes at Montgomery College and the University of the District of Columbia. After 13 years of study, she earned a degree in Geography from The George Washington University and was finalizing plans for graduate work in economic development. At the time of her death, she was Policy Director for Prince George’s County Councilwoman Andrea Harrison, serving her second term as a Councilwoman on the Mt. Rainier City Council, and Board President of Anacostia Heritage Trails. County flags flew at half-mast until the day of her funeral.

Alta and Alex were fixtures around the department when we occupied Quigley’s in the late 1990s. Since graduation, she often frequented pro-seminar/alumni gatherings. Alta always brought joy and mirth wherever two or more were gathered, particularly in the old Cart-Lab. She rarely missed an opportunity to “get her grove on,” and many of us remember her infectious smile and laughter despite all the hardships she was working through at the time. She was opinionated, but she was Alta. She “truly cherished good people and held lasting bonds with so many” of us. Indeed, Alta is Nina Simone’s Fifth Woman.

George Stephens, GW professor of geography and geosciences, died on November 2, 2009 from complications related to a stroke. Professor Stephens was a GW alumnus with bachelors and masters degrees in geology from the University. He joined the GW faculty as assistant professor of geology in 1978, after holding teaching positions at Bryn Mawr and LaSalle colleges.

George joined the Department of Geography in 2005. As the senior-most faculty in Geography, Dr. Stephens was a source of wise counsel and help. He attended two of the geography department’s retreats and was of great assistance in helping plan the future of geography and environmental studies. He had in depth knowledge on how GW functioned having been an Associate Dean at CCAS and serving on the promotion and tenure committee for several years. He delighted in introducing students to fieldwork and had been scheduled to accompany Dr. Marie Price and the senior seminar class on a two-day field trip to Mason Neck before his untimely death.

Professor Stephens also served as deputy director of the University Honors Program. He was an extraordinarily devoted professor who led a legendary fall hike for the honor’s program. He believed that all students should know something about the local environment and geology. The best way to do so was an afternoon hiking with George. Colleagues and students noted his dedication to teaching. When a class went well he was so happy that he almost skipped back to his office. Kathleen O’Siadhail, Stephens’ friend of 21 years and former geology student, called Stephens “one of the warmest and kindest people you’ll ever meet,” adding that he was one of the best teachers she had at GW. “Every student who had him loved him,” she said.

Stephens is survived by his wife Suzanne and two children, Sarah and Christopher.

The flags in front of Rice Hall were lowered in Professor Stephens’ honor on November 5, 2009.
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Four geography graduate students presented single-authored papers at the Association of American Geographers’ Annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in April 2010:

Amy Noreuil. Measuring vulnerability through participatory GIS.

Caetie Ofiesh. Mapping Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation in Urban Slum Communities in Malawi Using GIS and Google Earth.

Robert Sidell. Evolution of the use of public space by Islamist groups in Bangladesh.

Nicole Svajlenka. The Politics of Immigrant Integration and Local Enforcement Strategies in Metropolitan Washington DC.

Additionally, Geography senior Brian Hawthorne was a discussant on a panel on “Geographies of Dispossession” (in the Middle East/Southwest Asia) at the AAG meeting in April.

Robert Banick presented his research at the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers in Bogotá, Colombia on May 27, 2010. His paper was titled, “Invisible but not Unnoticed: Assessing the Integration of Colombian Displaced Persons in Ecuador”.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Books


ARTICLES


Other Publications


FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Atia, M. Middle East Studies Association (MESA),* */Privatizing Charity: Islamic Approaches to Development in Cairo./ Part of organized session entitled /Reconfiguring State-Civil Society Relations Post-9/11/. Boston, MA, November 2009.
Atia, M. Invited, World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists. Part of session entitled /Trans-cultural Representations and Perceptions of Muslim Philanthropy between Past and Present. /Doha, Qatar, March 2010.


Benton-Short, L. Panel Presentation “Author meets critic” on Owen Dywer and Derek Alderman Civil Rights Memorials and the Geography of Memory, Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers, Washington DC, April 2010


Price, M “Gateway Cities, Transnational Networks and Immigrant Politics: The Case of Bolivians Abroad” Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers, Bogotá, Colombia, May 26-28, 2010


Price, M “Immigration in a Global Age: Cities, Ethnicity and the Politics of Place.” Invited keynote speaker for the Race and Ethnicity Conference at Grand Rapids Community College, February 18th, 2010

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS


Rain, D. “Seven Things to Know about Africa”: Invited lecture to the CIA University, Reston VA (2-22-10).


Shiklomanov N.I., F.E. Nelson, D.A. Streletsksiy, and A.E. Klene, Long-term active layer and ground surface temperature trends: results of 15 years of observations at Alaskan CALM sites. The International Polar Year Science Conference, Oslo, Norway (to be delivered in June 2010).


Streletsksiy D.A., Shiklomanov N.I., F.E. Nelson, Ground subsidence and permafrost response to atmospheric forcing: results from field observations on the North Slope of Alaska, The International Polar Year Science Conference, Oslo, Norway (to be delivered in June 2010).


Faculty Honored Internationally

**DR. MARIE PRICE WINS THE 2010 PRESTON E. JAMES EMINENT LATIN AMERICANIST CAREER AWARD**

Dr. Marie Price is the 2010 recipient of the Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award. The award is given in recognition of a life-time achievement towards the understanding of the geography of Latin America. Recipients have strong career-long research contributions that build on the solid foundations of academic Latin American geography, or that have impacts beyond academia in the forms of policy implications and/or education to a broader audience.

**DR. MONA ATIA WINS THE 2010 EMERGING SCHOLAR DISSERTATION AWARD OF MERIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THIRD-SECTOR RESEARCH**

This award is presented biennially for an outstanding dissertation that contributes to the field of comparative study of civil society organizations, philanthropy, voluntarism and related issues. The purpose of the award is to encourage young scholars to enter the field of nonprofit and philanthropic studies throughout the world. Dr. Atia was presented the award at ISTR’s 9th international conference held in Istanbul, Turkey from July 7-10, 2010.

Faculty Retreat 2010, Bethany Beach, Delaware
Faculty Notes

Andrew Millward (Former Geography Faculty) reported that Norah Josephine Millward was born on June 16th, 2010. Andrew and his wife Heather are enjoying their new daughter.

Santiago Lopez (former Research Scientist and Geography Faculty) begins a tenure track faculty position at University of Washington, Bothell where he will be in an interdisciplinary program with social and natural scientists using his GIS and remote sensing skills. Santiago, and his wife Becky, traveled in the Andes for much of the summer.

Tom Foggin (retired Geography faculty) was the star attraction at the alumni reception held in Washington DC during the AAG meeting. His former students keep finding him in his seaside home in the 'other' Washington.

Alumni Notes

Jennifer (Griesert) Hovis (BA 1998) writes that she has been working at the EPA for 12 years spending most of her time in the superfund cleanup program. She lives in Alexandria and serves on the city’s Environmental Policy Commission.

Minna Scholl (BA 2007) that she is working at Sunrise Senior living and is going back to school for a 2nd Bachelors in psychology and pre-med.

Becky Coggins (BA 2008) is in Tsevie, Togo as a Peace Corp volunteer. Inspired by taking People Land and Food with Tom Foggin, Becky is working with women farmers in Togo on Girls Education and Empowerment projects.

Katelyn Payne (BA 2010) has joined Teach for America and will be based in Detroit beginning in August 2010.

Brian Hawthorne (BA 2010) received Presidential Administrative Fellow from GW to pursue a Masters degree in Political Communication. He was one of eight seniors university-wide to receive this prestigious award that provides full tuition and a stipend for graduate study.

Jeff Pietka (BA 2002) works as a Ranger for the National Park Service in Alaska. In May 2010 Jeff and Professor Foggin reunited at Glacier Bay, Alaska.

Abdul Rahim (BA 2009) reports from the Bay of Bengal that is compass, gifted to him by the department to the class 2009, still works but can not provide all the answers he seeks regarding direction.

Devin Keithley (MA 2005) is working part-time as a planning intern for Franklin County, Ohio, while pursuing an MCRP in City & Regional Planning from the Ohio State University. He lives in Columbus with his son Adrian."
Tom Gibbons (BA 2004) is a UVA in the School of Architecture studying green buildings and neighborhoods. He completed a MA degree at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies but decided to pursue his passion for architecture.

Anna Mae Green (BA 2010) is living in Shiselweni, Swaziland as a Peace Corps volunteer for the next two years. We look forward to photos of Anna Mae in her newly furnished hut.

Elsie Kemper (expected BA 2011, EVST) is back from year of study abroad in Senegal and became especially interested in waste management in Dakar. An Environmental Studies major, she is working this year in the department. While in Dakar she wrote “I get to see all the bad waste management, smog, and fishery problems close up, which is pretty awful, but kind of cool at the same time since I’ve only read articles about everything. Next weekend we’re visiting a waste dump where I can speak to some of the locals working there about it!”

Abby Syverson (BA 2010) is back in Minnesota after spending four months in Peru. Not only did she see a lot of the country and drink much Inca cola, she also played for a professional volleyball league in Peru!

Mark Revell (MA 2010) is now on the staff of the Association of American Geographers here in Washington DC. Look for him when you go to your next AAG meeting.

Scott Miller (BA 1995), a double major in Geography and Geology is now a research scientist at MIT in Geology.

Kelly Cornell (MA 2005) continues to work as a planner for Arlington County and will be teaching a world geography course at Marymount University in the spring of 2011.

Adam Eckstein (BA 2009) after a year of teaching English in Thailand, Adam is at NYU in the Wagner School for a Masters in Urban Planning with a specialization in International Development.

Lindsay Vidal (MA 2005) writes that she is working on Capital Hill for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Peter Smith (BA 2010) and Peter Tchoukaleff (expected BA 2011) created Atlas of Washington DC for elementary school children in the District of Columbia. This project was part of there internship with the National Geographic Society in the spring and summer of 2010. In July they presented their work to staff at the National Geographic Society who were impressed by their efforts.

Peter Smith (BA 2010) and Adam Mack, a GW International Affairs student, published a travel blog for National Geographic. NGS runs a website called mywonderfulworld.com through it’s Education Programs. The site is intended to spread the knowledge of geography and get people interested in learning about the planet. Our blog is about the Darién Province of Panama. Our final destination was Sambú, a town about 50 miles west of the Colombian border. We went there in March for our final spring break of college. Go to the website and search for Peter Smith to find the story.

Elizabeth Gordon (BA 2005) an environmental studies major, is at the University of California, Davis as a research assistant in the Transportation, Technology and Policy Masters programs. She plans to study ways to reduce car dependence.

Kristopher White finished several years in the Peace Corps based in Africa. He was a Rural Health volunteer for two years in Mali, then spent another two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer Leader, Assistant to the Health Director (also in Mali). He then spent one year in Senegal as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer, Project Coordinator for the Largest Universal Bednet Distribution in West African History. He has now started graduate school at American University.

Laura Harrington (BA 2010) is teaching Pre-K at a new charter school in Washington, DC called KIPP DC: Grow Academy. I have 25 4-year-olds in my class and they are at school from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm every day. It has been exhausting but I’m really enjoying it and gaining perspective on the city I went to school in (and now live in).

Nicole ’Nikki’ McCloskey (BA 2010) is teaching English to 6th graders at a hagwon (a private after school program) in Daejeon, South Korea. Daejeon is the fifth largest city of South Korean and is the “technology” hub of the county, with large science and engineering universities and government research centers. She will be there until July 2011.

Amy Norueil (MA 2010) works at USAID in the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

Randy Caruso (BA 2010) is pursuing a MA degree at the Yale School of Forestry in Environmental Management. He spent the summer in Louisiana working for a NGO producing low-cost imagery of the oil spill using weather balloons with point and shoot cameras.

Alex Stoicof (BA 2010) is currently an Emergency Preparedness Specialist for Fannie Mae in Washington, DC. After graduation, Alex and classmate Kirk Scheffler (BA 2010) climbed Humboldt Peak in Colorado (elev. 14064 ft.) to celebrate becoming geographers! According to Alex, it was cold!

Nathaniel Lewis (MA 2007) continues his PhD studies in geography at Queen’s University, where he is working with Audrey Kobayashi. His dissertation compares the role of and mental and emotional health concerns in the migration decisions of gay men living in Ottawa and Washington, D.C. He recently published “A Decade Later: Assessing Successes and Challenges in Manitoba’s Provincial Immigrant Nominee Program” in Canadian Public Policy 36(2): 241-264.

Henry Jewell (MA 2010) Katie McWilliams (MA 2010) graduated this May and moved across the street. They are both working at the World Bank using their GIS skills. They join Sarah Antos (BA 2006, MA 2008) and Galen Evans (BA 2009).

Nicole Svajlenka (MA 2010) is working in for Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution where she joins fellow geography alumnae Jill Wilson (MA 2003).

Patricie McMillian writes that she is in DC working at FEMA at the Maryland National Processing Service Center. She processes disaster applications for payment—no small task given the enormity of disasters the US has experienced in the last few years! Patrice often travels to the disaster location to work in the field.

Stephanie Shuff (BA 2010) works for the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, which is the official training center of the Department of State. She is a contracted Training Assistant in the Stability Operations Training Division. This means she trains civilian and military personnel before they are deployed to conflict prone environments such as Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, and Kyrgyzstan.
Ned Russell (BA 2006) has returned from four years of work abroad in exciting places such as Thailand and China! In 2010, Ned lived in Hong Kong and traveled extensively, logging some 100,000 miles during the year. Places visited include Dubai and Qatar, Tokyo and Manila. His highlights included running laps around Tokyo’s Imperial Palace and taking in the crisp fall New England air. He said “I have realized that good running facilities weigh heavily on my opinions of a city—Dubai, poor; Tokyo, good; Qatar, wretched; Manila, impossible!” During the year he wrote for the magazine FinanceAsia. In late summer, Ned left East Asia and relocated in New York where he now writes about project finance for a trade magazine.

Catherine Kedzuf (BA 2008) just finished her second year of law school at the University of Minnesota Law School. She writes that she was fortunate to participate in the year long Environmental Sustainability Clinic. One of the projects she worked on was evaluating what advantages does a property assessed clean energy program offer to homeowners relative to existing private or public financing options. She was also elected Law Council President (our version of Student Government). She reports she’s keeping busy and applying for jobs after graduation.

Elizabeth Ervin (BA 2010) is working for the Florence County Building and Planning Department in Florence, SC in their GIS department. She loves it and has her very own trimble!!

Matthew Kamisher-Koch (BA 2010) spent the summer leading a month-long trip with twelve, 15-year-olds in Vietnam doing school renovation work in the Mekong Delta and engaging in a number cultural exchange opportunities. He is back in Washington, working at J. P. Morgan Chase splitting his time between the Global Government Relations Team and the International Public Sector Group.

Dan Giordano has been working for the FBI as an Intelligence Analyst since 2008. He works on matters of National Security, concerning things we can’t mention in press. Last year, Dan spent 12 weeks at the FBI Academy at Quantico and up through this summer, he was on temporary assignment in Salt Lake City. Dan felt compelled to write to Professor Benton-Short of the “terrible urban planning” he has observed in Salt Lake, including the city’s unusual grid system that is centered around the Temple downtown, the incredibly wide streets, the absence of automobile emissions tests (and hence frequent inversion events), and of the “abundance of Sizzlers and 7-Elevens”.

Adam Eckstein, based in Bangkok Thailand, spent 2009-2010 working and traveling throughout Thailand, Cambodia and India. Adam wrote that he was in Bangkok during the city-wide celebrations for Songkran (Thai New Year) and also for the anti-government protests. After globetrotting, Adam will settle down this fall in at the NYU Wagner School to work on a masters in urban planning with a specialization in international development.

Jennifer Easton (BA 2010) is very happy working for the U.S. Green Building Council in DC as a web-marketing associate. She will make her first-ever business trip to Chicago this November to attend the ‘Greenbuild’ annual conference.

Ben Hyman (BA 2010) is Special Assistant to Baltimore City Council President Bernard C. “Jack” Young. Ben’s primary responsibility is to assist the city’s Director of Business and Economic Development. He staffs the city’s spending board and gets to attend groundbreakings and other public events related to businesses in the city. Geographers interested in conducting research in Baltimore should contact Ben.
Congratulations to the Class of 2010!

**MA in Geography**

Shana Diange
Morgan Gmelch
Henry Jewell
Katie McWilliams
Amy Noreuil

Scott Pospiech
Mark Revell
Daniel Riva
Nicole Svajlenka

**BA in Geography**

Robert Banick
Chandler Bonanno
Margaret Bornstein
Charles Brennan
Randy Caruso
Jennifer Easton
Virginia Ervin
Jenael Falcao
Evan Feeney
Alissa Ferry
Elizabeth Galvin
Anna Green
Laura Harrington
Brian Hawthorne
Rebecca Hays
Benjamin Hyman
Matthew Kamisher-Koch
Nicole Klein
Allison Kraus

Olivia Krueger
Juliana Lam
Andrew Lennox
Kate Maude
Nicole McCloskey
Christopher Norwood
Spencer Olson
Katelyn Payne
Lauren Pessoa
Sara Scoville-Weaver
Stephanie Shuff
Peter Smith
Mariela Stevenson
Alexandra Stoicof
Abby Syverson
Nicholas Thulin
Laura Van De Geijn
Ewa Wieslaw

**BA in Environmental Studies**

Randy Caruso
Emily Chereson
Gabrielle Giarcia
Deirdre Clark
William Collier
Arthur Goodland
Margy Goodman
Elizabeth Galvin

Anna Green
Rebecca Hays
Allison Kraus
Kate Maude
Leah Meadvin
Kelly Moynihan
Spencer Olson
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Fall 2010 Speaker Series:

Sept 15  Dr. Geoffrey L. Buckley, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Program in Environmental Studies, Ohio University “Making the Neighborhood Safe for White Occupancy: Race, Class, and Environmental Justice in Baltimore, Maryland, 1900-1945”

Sept 29  Dr. Marjanne Sevenant, Ghent University, “Is landscape a socio-cultural construct? Variation in landscape perception and preference: experiences from case studies in rural and urban landscapes observed by different groups of respondents.”

Oct 20  Dr. Syed Iqbal Hasnain, Senior Visiting Fellow of The Henry L. Stimson Center. “Himalayan Glaciers, Climate Change and water crisis in south Asia”

Nov 17  Dr. Lester Facey, Program Officer in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Small Business Program "Climate Change & The Caribbean: The Nexus between Politics, Community, and the Idea of Participatory Politics"