Notes from the chair

The year 2011 marks several milestones for the Department of Geography at GWU. It has been five years since Geography became the institutional home of the Environmental Studies Program. Geography and Environmental Studies are both thriving with almost equal numbers of majors, and increasing numbers of students are declaring a minor in Geography and GIS.

Prof. Ryan Engstrom joined the ranks of tenured professors in the Department, raising that number to five. This is the first time in the last decade that more than half of the regular faculty in Geography is tenured. During 2010-2011, Geography faculty made a total of 39 scholarly presentations of their research at academic conferences, workshops, as keynote and invited talks and to the GWU and DC communities. Faculty were also featured in the media: Prof. Mona Atia was interviewed about the Arab Spring on NPR and KCBS radio, while Prof. Marie Price did an interview on Fox News 5 about the growing ethnic and racial diversity in the United States.

Prof. David Rain embarked on his year-long sabbatical and is traveling the country collecting material for a book on “Place Effects”. While he is away, Prof. Melissa Keeley is in charge as the Interim Director of the Environmental Studies Program. We are very pleased to welcome Brent Olson, a graduate of Syracuse University as Visiting Professor during 2011-2012.

The Department remains steadfast in its commitment to building the best possible programs in geography and environmental studies. Prof. Joe Dymond won a Student Choice Teaching Award in Spring 2011, once again validating Geography’s excellent record in teaching. Our students are gaining valuable field experience in classes and through their research.

Prof. Marie Price and Joe Dymond took Geography seniors on a weekend field trip to Mason Neck once again as part of their capstone seminar. Undergraduate and graduate students accompanied Profs. Nikolay Shiklomanov and Dmitry Streletskiy to Russia to do field work on topics ranging from permafrost to minority migration and settlement. Prof. Joe Dymond and Elizabeth Chacko led the CCAS Dean’s Scholars excursion to Singapore, where they learned about local, national and global manifestations of identity and tourism along with their National University of Singapore counterparts. Geography also offered four very well received service learning courses taught by Profs. Melissa Keeley, Lisa Benton-Short and Amanda Huron during 2010-2011.

Although we bid farewell to Jeremy Stadelman, our Executive Aide from 2006 until 2010, we are very glad to welcome Will Nicholls, his replacement. We owe Jeremy a debt of gratitude for assisting in the smooth running of the Department during these many years. We wish him well in his new career.

I hope that you enjoy catching up with what is going on in Geography & Environmental Studies in this newsletter. Please stay in touch and let us know about important events in your life and career.

With best wishes for a wonderful semester and a great year.

Elizabeth Chacko
New Visiting Faculty: Brent Olson

Professor Brent Olson is a visiting assistant professor. His research interests include environmental history, political ecology, and the cultural landscapes of the American West. Brent completed his BA in English from Carleton College (1998) and a Masters of Liberal Studies (2002) from the University Denver. His master’s thesis built upon the conversations and experiences associated with his solo kayak trip from Yellowstone National Park to the Pacific Ocean on the Snake and Columbia Rivers and explores the way that people know, represent, and fight over the river from its headwaters in Yellowstone to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean. His 2011 Ph.D. is from Syracuse University and his dissertation research examines the environmental history of recreational resource production and amenity development in the Post-War American West. His research seeks to understand the ways we come to know, value, and manage the natural landscapes and resources that surround us, the conflicts associated with that management, and its effects on ecosystems and our communities. In both his teaching and his research he hopes to inspire conversations about our political, cultural, and historical relationships with the natural world.

New Staff: Will Nichols

Will Nichols joined our staff as the new Executive Aide in January 2011. He received a BA in International Studies from Emory University in 2009 and is currently pursuing an MA in Middle East Studies at GWU’s Elliott School of International Affairs.

A native of the Washington, D.C. suburbs, Will hopes to spend much of his post-GWU life abroad. His enthusiasm, work ethic, and invaluable assistance to students and faculty make him a great addition to the Geography team. Welcome, Will!
Sleepless in Siberia:
How We Spent Our Summer Vacation
Genevieve Parente, Kelsey Nyland, Colin Reisser

Where were we? To reach the field research site in Russia’s Central Northern Siberia we traveled from Moscow for three days and nights on the Trans-Siberian railroad to Krasnoyarsk, and four more days and nights on a boat up the Yenisei River to Igarka. After a week in Igarka we went further up the Yenisei to Dudinka, from there we drove to Norilsk. Arriving in the Arctic Circle, we were so far north the sun never set during the rest of the trip- the famous midnight sun shone on all our geographical adventures.

For almost six weeks this summer, Professors Nikolay Shiklomanov and Dr. Dmitriy Streletskiy led two graduate Geography students and one undergraduate geography student from The George Washington University in a field research program in Russia with their counterparts from the Department of Geography at The Moscow State University (MSU).

The trip included both physical and human geographical research related to permafrost, cryolithology, and glaciology in the Norilsk Region of Krasnoyarsk Krai. Students studied the geocryologic conditions of North Siberia and assessed ecologic changes in a remote area characterized by extreme climate. Students learned about the history of the region, the socioeconomic impacts of climate change, and the engineering challenges of building on permafrost. The research program was sponsored by the International Permafrost Association (IPA).

Kelsey Nyland, an undergraduate, participated as a student in the field course in order to advance her overall understanding of Arctic studies and, in particular, to learn how to properly collect and handle soil samples for Coefficient of Cryogenic Contrast analysis. Kelsey was awarded the Rice Fellowship in order to conduct this analysis in Alaska and the Mid-Atlantic region in order to investigate North American active and pastcryogenic weathering and soil structures. She was also able to meet with Professors Konishchev and Rogov of the MSU Geography Faculty in Moscow (who developed this method of analysis) to discuss her research.

Two graduate students, supported by the Campbell Graduate Student Summer Research Awards conducted research in support of their Master’s theses. Genevieve Parente is comparing urban strategies to manage population flows in various cities in Russia, using Norilsk and Igarka as case studies. During the trip, Genevieve gathered firsthand research by conducting more than a dozen interviews and site visits with city economic development bureaus, federal migration services, employment centers, and local elected officials about migration trends in Russia. Colin Reisser is researching diverging trends in post-Soviet economic and industrial development, evaluating the success or failure of free market transition and its larger political implications in Igarka and Norilsk. Colin visited mines, factories, and other important economic engines of the region as well as meeting with local industrial and political representatives.
GW Students Participate in Global Exchange with the National University of Singapore

Six George Washington University (GW) undergraduate students engaged in a semester-long global exchange with their peers from the National University of Singapore (NUS). The six GW students “went global” by enrolling in Professor Joe Dymond’s Geography 3198: Singapore: National Image and Identity for the spring 2011 semester.

The Singapore-focused Geography course was part of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Scholars in Globalization program. The program encourages GW students to work together with a peer group from the University Scholars Program at NUS to further their understanding of the connections and relations between the United States and Singapore AND to understand and compare the global influence and global roles played by each country. Professor Lo Mun Hou of the NUS - University Scholars Program led the Singaporean cohort which also consisted of 6 undergraduate students. The two student groups were quickly “linked” through video conferencing and blogging. The NUS students and Professor Lo visited GWU in February of 2011. Events during their visit included guided and interpreted tours of the National Mall, Anacostia, U-Street corridor, a meeting with the Executive Director of Cultural Tourism D.C., and a special surprise “behind the scenes” video and talk at renowned D.C. eatery - Ben’s Chili Bowl.

The GW student’s semester of reading and discussing dozens of peer-reviewed journal articles and establishing the framework for individual Singapore-based field research projects culminated in a two week trip to Singapore! Professor Lo and his undergraduate student team planned and hosted an amazing cultural and global experience for their GW guests. Numerous talks from NUS scholars, award-winning documentary film directors, and Singaporean government officials enabled the GW students to garner both an academic and pragmatic appreciation of life in Singapore, and the role Singapore plays in a globally-connected world, in ways unattainable through normalized international travel. Professor Dymond, and GW’s Geography Department Chair, Professor Elizabeth Chacko, led additional excursions for the GW students to neighboring Indonesia and Malaysia.

GW sophomore and Geography major, Susie Charlop, said of the journey “Singapore was one of the most important experiences of my life. Not only did it take me across the world to see a place and culture fundamentally different from the U.S., it gave me the opportunity to learn and explore with Singaporean students and professors. Engaging in academic dialogue, but also discussing issues relevant to our daily lives was one of the best parts of the experience. Additionally, the places we had the opportunity to see were incredible. One of my favorite places was Pulau Ubin, a tiny fishing island just off the coast of Singapore, where we rented bikes and explored the island’s nature. Additionally, I loved going to Indonesia and Malaysia. Even though both were only weekend trips, it was an incredible experience to move outside of Singapore and develop a better understanding of its regional context.” Anita Davidson, GW junior and Geography major contributed “I truly enjoyed my experience in the global scholars program. Beyond the obvious benefits of making lifelong friends from the other side of the world, conducting my own research in the actual location I was studying, talking to the experts who wrote the articles and papers that I used for my paper, and getting to experience a new and rich culture, I also had the opportunity to learn more about my city. While organizing events for the Singaporean students’ visit to DC I had the unique chance to get to explore and learn about Washington D.C. on a much more intimate basis. Another added advantage to this course is that, being a geography major, I was able to form relationships with many of my professors that go beyond the classroom. I now have a dream to create an authentic and relatively representative Singaporean restaurant in partnership with one of the students from the exchange. Who knows if it will happen, but the fact that this program gave me the chance to look beyond the semester’s grades is rather remarkable.”
GW Geography Students take 2nd Place at Nationals World Geography Bowl 2010

On Wednesday April 13th in Seattle Washington, four GW Geography students representing the Mid-Atlantic region competed in the national championship of the World Geography Bowl Competition at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers. The team played seven rounds and made it to the finals where they came in 2nd place. The team members included: GW graduate student, Colin Reisser; GW undergraduate students Bonnie Epstein, Trevor Tisler and Victoria Roman, who were seniors. In addition Sean Atkins and Wes Skeeter from Salisbury University in Maryland were also on the team. GW Geography professor David Rain was the faculty sponsor. The team competed against seven other regional teams in Seattle. The Rocky Mountain/Great Plains team won the competition.

The Mid-Atlantic Division team members are shown after winning 2nd Place at the World Geography Bowl Nationals in Seattle, Washington on April 13th, 2011. They include (left to right) Wes Skeeter, Trevor Tisler, Colin Reisser, Victoria Roman, Bonnie Epstein, and Sean Atkins.

GW Geography Team Wins MAD-AAG World Geography Bowl 2011

On Saturday October 29th in College Park, Maryland, the GW Geography team competed against three other universities to win the MAD-AAG World Geography Bowl. The team included captain Colin Reisser (MA student), Kate Schindler (MA student), Alex Pommer (Junior), Kelsey Nyland (Junior) and Raynell Cooper (Freshman). The two highest scorers on the GW team (Reisser and Cooper) will join players from Towson and Salisbury to form the MAD team that will compete in New York City at the end of February in the national championship.

Congratulations to all the players! Go Geography!

Pictured from left to right are GW Geography team members Alex Pommer, Kelsey Nyland, Colin Reisser, Raynell Cooper and Kate Schindler
NEW GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE STUDENTS

Andrew Burdick
Drew is an environmental photographer and writer from Portland, Oregon. He is interested in environmental geography, political ecology, climate change and fresh water resources. He has a BA in Creative Writing from St. Lawrence University (2003).
http://www.andrewburdickphotography.com

Jason Burgdorfer
Jason is from Santa Clarita, CA, a suburb just north of Los Angeles. In California he attended College of the Canyons where he attained an A.S. before moving on to UC Santa Barbara where he received a B.A. in 2011 with a major in geography and minor in geology. His interests within geography reside in population and urban geographies, human-environment relations, and geospatial techniques. When he is not busy with school, he enjoys camping, exploring local geology, traveling, and seeing the sights in and around DC.

Jessica Dell
Jessica graduated in 2007 from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with a degree in Social Sciences, and have since worked in the non-profit sector along the California Central Coast. Her geographical interests include human migration and displacement, the regions of Central Asia and the Middle East, and GIS. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, exploring the DC area, and being near the ocean.

Anna Findley
Anna grew up just outside of DC, and then moved to Virginia Tech for her bachelors in Geography. She is currently working toward her masters and has interests in health geography, global development, women and population issues, and the use of remote sensing. When not reading papers and writing long research assignments, Anna likes to go hiking and camping (especially in Shenandoah NP), read, watch Futurama, meet new people, and travel.
Timothy Swales

Tim is from Boulder, Colorado, where he did his undergraduate degree at the University of Colorado in mathematics and international affairs. He was accepted to the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia as part of the inaugural class, where he did graduate coursework in applied mathematics and computational sciences. His interests in geography include the application of math to human geography, political geography, maps, climate change, military geography, the Arctic and the Basque country.

Amanda Osborne

Amanda is originally from a rural area in Ohio known as Columbia Station, located outside of Cleveland. She recently received a B.S. in Environmental Geography from Ohio University. Her interests include urban geography, cities, environmental justice, urban gardens, and sustainability. Her hobbies include cooking, hiking, and playing the guitar.

Kate Schindler

Kate grew up outside Philadelphia and got her BA in international affairs from GWU in 2007. Since then she has worked primarily as a defense contractor. In her free time she likes to cook, dance, read, and knit.

Julianna Kuhn

Julianna, who was born in Philadelphia and raised in Maryland, graduated in 2011 from University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) with dual degrees in Political Science and Geography. She hopes to explore her interests in health and disease geography, urban and population issues, global development and political geography. Although she enjoys research and learning new methods, Julianna also likes to take long walks outside, experiment with photography, draw whenever possible, and travel to fascinating new places both nationally and abroad.

Eileen Miller

Eileen graduated from George Washington with a BA in Sociology and a course focus in urban development. She grew up in both Monterey, California and Rhode Island, and has spent the last several years living in DC. Since graduation, she has been working at a conflict resolution firm. Eileen is interested in smart growth, transportation planning, sustainability and is excited to be back at GW to study geography!

Amanda Osborne

Amanda is originally from a rural area in Ohio known as Columbia Station, located outside of Cleveland. She recently received a B.S. in Environmental Geography from Ohio University. Her interests include urban geography, cities, environmental justice, urban gardens, and sustainability. Her hobbies include cooking, hiking, and playing the guitar.

Kate Schindler

Kate grew up outside Philadelphia and got her BA in international affairs from GWU in 2007. Since then she has worked primarily as a defense contractor. In her free time she likes to cook, dance, read, and knit.

Timothy Swales

Tim is from Boulder, Colorado, where he did his undergraduate degree at the University of Colorado in mathematics and international affairs. He was accepted to the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia as part of the inaugural class, where he did graduate coursework in applied mathematics and computational sciences. His interests in geography include the application of math to human geography, political geography, maps, climate change, military geography, the Arctic and the Basque country.
Congratulations to Geography and Environmental Studies

Class of 2011 - Senior Award Recipients!

**Muriel H. Parry Award**
Presented to a Geography Senior in Recognition for Scholarly Excellence

Recipient: James Springer
James grew up in Kailua, Hawaii where he spent every day outside developing a curiosity and appreciation for the natural world. He “discovered” Geography and Environmental Studies at GWU and “from then on it was geography all the way” for James. The spatial nature of Geography allowed James to view the world through a new lens, and fostered academic and intellectual curiosities in him which he appreciated for not being restricted to a narrow focus. Next for James is a Juris Doctorate at University of California, Hastings. There James hopes to “bridge the gap between geographical thought and public policy and law.” James believes “change can only be brought about through the political arena, which is why I chose law. But to effectively and responsibly administer change, informed and practiced individuals are needed, both of which have been provided to me through the coursework in geography and environmental studies.”

**Robert D. Campbell Prize**
Presented to a Geography Senior for Outstanding Leadership and Scholarship

Recipient: Gregory Kuzmak
Greg was “hooked” on geography after his first geography class at GWU. He credits his geography coursework with helping him develop impressive analytical skills and using spatial perspectives to solve difficult problems. While at GW, Greg interned on Capitol Hill, worked with the Americorps Program, and studied abroad in the land of Ghenghis Khan. He plans to use these skills at his new position with Chemonics International, where he is currently working on development projects in their Latin America and Caribbean division.

Recipient: Peter Tchoukaleff
Pete’s deep-rooted interest in Geography and International Affairs at GWU led to internship opportunities with the U.S. House of Representatives, the National Geographic Society, and the Department of Defense. After graduation, Pete began full-time employment with the Department of Defense as an Imagery Analyst, where he appreciates the opportunity to apply his geographic skill-sets on a daily basis. Pete asserts that geography became a lens through which he sees the world. He believes that the geographic discipline’s pragmatic and rational scientific approach sparked his interest in investigating and analyzing the world from a spatial perspective.

**Thomas Foggin Award**
Presented to an Environmental Studies Senior in Recognition for Scholarly Excellence

Recipient: Michael Aloi
Mike discovered his passion for the Geography department after taking the now retired Professor Tom Foggin’s Physical Geography class. Since that class, Mike pursued study In Environmental Studies, Geography, and G.I.S. During his time at GWU, Mike applied his course knowledge and skill sets working at The National Geographic Society and the National Association for Environmental Management. Mike also participated in a semester long intensive field study program on sustainable farming and development with the International Center for Development Studies in Costa Rica. Mike will be using the skills he learned at GWU and applying them to his future position next year at the Red Cross's mapping department.
Gamow Award Winner: Chloe Shields

During the summer (of 2010), International Affairs student Chloe Shields was awarded a Gamow Sustainability Research Fellowship from GW to study trans-boundary water issues related to irrigation and damming on major world rivers. In conjunction with DHI, an environmental consulting/research firm in Copenhagen, she compiled and evaluated data in a report examining trans-boundary water issues in four major rivers basins: the La Plata, St. Lawrence, Tigris-Euphrates, and Maputo.

This research was completed with the support of Professor Ryan Engstrom. After graduating in May, Chloe worked with Professor Melissa Keeley over the summer. She is currently working at the Department of State's Global Partnership Initiative, which facilitates the creation of strategic public-private partnerships in developing countries.

2011 Gamma Theta Upsilon


Congratulations to the above GWU Geographers for their recent induction into Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the International Geographical Honor Society. These bright GWU Geographers were inducted into GTU at the end of the Spring 2011 semester by faculty sponsor Joe Dymond, based on the number of geography credits they earned and both their overall and Geography major GPAs.

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.

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 Geographical Society. New initiates will be inducted into GTU prior to the conclusion of this current fall, 2011 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.
Luther Rice Fellowship Recipient: Kelsey Nyland

This past April Geography Junior Kelsey Nyland was awarded the Luther Rice Fellowship to study relict permafrost landscapes in Mid-Atlantic region. Her study is based on the Coefficient of Cryogenic Contrast (CCC) analysis developed in Russia to link the rate of soil weathering under severe climatic conditions to ground temperature. This past June and July Kelsey went to Russia in order to meet with Professors Konishchev and Rogov of the Moscow State University (MSU) Geography Faculty who developed the CCC analysis. While in Russia she participated in an MSU international Permafrost field course in order to learn how to collect and prepare samples for analysis as well as to enhance her general knowledge of contemporary periglacial environments.

The field trip took Kelsey and Professors Shiklomanov and Dr. Streletskiy of the GW Geography Department and two GW graduate students on the Trans-Siberian Rail Road and up the Yenisei River to Northern Central Siberia. While on the field trip Kelsey was able to develop skills for describing landscapes at range of geographic scales and for describing profiles of soil affected by cold climates. In addition, she was able to enhance her knowledge of the lab analysis to be conducted during a meeting with Professors Konishchev and Rogov in Moscow. It also become apparent during that meeting that for comparative purposes Kelsey would need soil samples from a current North American periglacial environment which are presently occurs in Alaska.

In August Kelsey went back to the Arctic, this time to Alaska as a returning field assistant on the NSF-funded Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) project. While in Alaska she was able to take samples at three of the CALM sites, creating an Alaskan control transect to complement the transect in the Mid-Atlantic region. Kelsey will be spending this semester defrosting from a summer of traveling around the Arctic and continuing work on her research. She also plans to make several more trips out to sites in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. In the spring she will be presenting the progress of her research in the form of a poster at two forums; the Luther Rice colloquium and at the Student Association’s Research Day. She will also prepare a presentation for the Association of American Geographers.

Scottish Rite Scholarship Recipient: Leslie Jones

Leslie Jones, second year graduate student was awarded a Scottish Rite Scholarship for the 2011-2012 academic year. Created in 1927 by a gift from the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, the Scottish Rite Endowment is one of the oldest endowment funds at The George Washington University.

Congratulations, Leslie!
Ghana Project Update

The Ghana project run by professors Ryan Engstrom and David Rain has just finished its fourth out of five years of funding from the National Institutes of Health. This year the team did not get to walk the streets of Accra due to budget limitations and the fact that the 2010 Ghanaian Census was not yet available earlier this summer. After having walked nearly the entire city over the last few years it was nice to let the feet relax and enjoy the summer in DC. However, we did miss the smell of open sewers and the sounds of cabs beeping at us. The plan is to use the travel funds from last year to head to Ghana this year in order to obtain the 2010 Census data and put the final touches on the fieldwork portion of our work.

While the team did not head out to Accra we did head to San Diego last fall for a project meeting. Along with Ryan and David, graduate students Caetie Ofiesh and Eric Ashcroft were able to attend the meeting. This meeting was set up to plan our final year of the project and develop our next steps. While it was a working trip, Ryan went surfing the day before the meeting started and Caetie and David got in some quality beach time. On the trip we were graciously hosted by the San Diego State investigators on the project including John Weeks, Douglas Stow, and Arthur Getis.

Over the course of the year Caetie finished up her thesis work on her research in Malawi and graduated in May (Congratulations Caetie!). She is now working for a small start-up company that develops apps for android phones to do geospatial research. As part of her new job, she just went to Ghana again, this time the northern portion of the country. Meanwhile, our second year MA student Eric Ashcroft continues to utilize every piece of software available in the Spatial Analysis Lab to perform his change detection work using remotely sensed data for the city. Eric is back at GW after taking two years off after finishing his undergraduate degree here at GW. During his years off he was doing remote sensing research in Australia at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. Using some of Eric’s work, Ryan headed off to Munich, Germany and presented the findings at an urban remote sensing conference. In addition to the Master’s student work, we have recently had a paper accepted to the Annals of the Association of American Geographers, in a special issue on the geography of health where Ryan, David, and Caetie are all coauthors. The paper, “Connecting the Dots between Health, Poverty and Place in Accra, Ghana” will be published in the special issue in 2012. Another paper in which Ryan was the co-author was recently accepted at the Annals of GIS looking at the vulnerability of the people living in the slums of Accra. Finally, this year we hired Jason Burgdorfer to take over Caetie’s research assistant position. Jason recently finished his BA in Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara where he was awarded the Chair’s Award for Excellence in Geography, the Distinction in the Major Award, and the Outstanding Achievement in Geography Award. Welcome Jason!

The primary focus for this upcoming year’s field research is to obtain the 2010 Ghanaian Census data from the Ghana Statistical Service. This will allow us to determine the population change over the last 10 years in Accra by comparing this data to the 2000 census data that we have already obtained. While we are still waiting for the census data to come in, we have been able to acquire a second mosaic of Quickbird, high spatial resolution image data from Digital Globe that covers the entire city of Accra for 2010. Using our image data from 2002 and 2010 in conjunction the census data from 2000 and 2010 we will be able to examine changes in land cover and population within an urban setting at an unprecedented spatial scale for a Sub-Saharan, African city.
National Science Foundation CALM Grant Update

FIELD RESEARCH IN THE ALASKAN ARCTIC

We have continued our field investigations under auspices of the NSF-funded Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) project. In August 2011 two teams of researchers led by GW Geography faculties Dr. Shiklomanov and Dr. Streleskiy conducted annual observations at an array of field sites distributed over the North Slope of Alaska. The work included detailed observations on arctic climate, near-surface permafrost parameters and vertical position of the ground surface. This year three GW undergraduate students Kelsey Nyland (Junior), Jacob Butler (Senior), and Clayton Cohen (Junior) took part in the CALM research.

The students worked as field assistants and participated in a range of educational activities. They learned about arctic environments, field methods, and communicating with diverse groups of researchers from different sub-disciplines of Geography. Although the work was primarily related to physical geography, we also visited several indigenous Arctic communities such as Barrow and Atquasok as well as areas of major oil production (e.g. Deadhorse and Prudhoe Bay). This exposed the students to different lives of Arctic residents and provided an opportunity to observe and discuss problems associated with Arctic development.

This was a second CALM-related trip to the Alaskan Arctic for Kelsey Nyland. Over two field seasons she was able to develop her individual research project related to mapping the effects of tundra vegetation on the ground thermal regime. The preliminary results of her research were presented last spring at the meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Seattle. After collecting additional year of data, Kelsey is working on her first peer-reviewed publication.
Service Learning Classes

Increasingly, Geography faculty are committed to integrating Service-Learning into geography courses. Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities. (Corporation for National and Community Service). Last year there were more than 6 Geography courses that offered students an opportunity to work with community partners, to ground theory in practice, and to become more engaged with the DC community. These included:

**FALL 2010**

Lisa Benton-Short and Melissa Keeley developed a collaborative Service-Learning effort that included two courses: the undergraduate **GEOG 143: URBAN SUSTAINABILITY** class and its graduate seminar counterpart, **GEOG 244: URBAN SUSTAINABILITY**. Service-learning was a central component of both courses, used to help students understand the real-world complexities of the urban environmental policy challenges that cities currently face. Students in both classes worked with two community partners, the Urban Land Institute and The American Institute of Architects, two non-profit organizations that provide planning and policy guidance to US municipalities. These partners asked students to gather information about a current trend in sustainability policy making: the development of “sustainability plans.” Each student was assigned a US city which they studied throughout the semester. Students composed “white paper” briefings on key topics, wrote a term paper which synthesized this material, and created comparative posters and presented these findings to our project partners. Students’ presentations were additionally featured on the Planet Forward website and video festival.

In **GEOG 132: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND MANAGEMENT**, students investigate the drivers of environmental change, their effects on specific resources and upon the ecosystem services that impact human well-being. In Fall 2010, Professor Melissa Keeley redeveloped this course to include a partnership with the National Park Service. This provided students first-hand experience with multiple and interacting scales of environmental management. Students engaged in management activities in the Archbold-Glover Woods adjacent to the GW Mt. Vernon Campus and developed management strategies for this area to facilitate both the long-term stewardship of the land and the engagement of GWU students.

Also in Fall, Professor Amanda Huron’s **GEOG 198: DC PLANNING AND POLITICS** worked with Empower DC to create an inventory of closed D.C. public schools and to determine their current use. They also mapped community resources near each school. The students made this data available to the public on GoogleMaps. The students then selected three closed schools in Ward 5 and worked with local communities to find out what residents wanted these buildings to become in the future.

**SPRING 2011**

**GEOG 3810: BUILDING CITIES**. Professor Lisa Benton-Short designed an urban planning Service-learning project in conjunction with the Brookings Institution. The course explores urban planning, urban planning theory and urban planning history in US cities. As a class, we worked on a “walkability and land use” project for Brookings. It consisted of cataloging land use and employing a “walkability index” to determine how “walkable” more than 40 DC neighborhoods are. This project introduced students to cutting edge research in urban planning.
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
Undergraduate students


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
Graduate students


FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS


CHAPTERS IN BOOKS


PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES


FACULTY PRESENTATIONS


Chacko, Elizabeth. "New Immigrants and old neighborhoods: Traversing tensions in the Washington Metropolitan Area". Invited speaker to the Department of Geography and Environmental System Colloquium, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. September 15, 2010.


FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Rain, David. “Seven Things to Know about Africa”: Invited lecture to the CIA University, Reston VA (9-21-2010).


Shiklomanov Nikolay, F.E. Nelson, D.A. Streletskiy, 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 (June 2010).


Streletskiy 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 (June 2010).


STUDENT GRANTS AWARDED

CAMPBELL SUMMER RESEARCH

Three geography graduate students received grants from the Department of Geography Campbell Endowment to support Masters-level field research. The students worked in Siberia and California.

Colin Reisser and Genevieve Parente received support to travel with Professor Kolia Shiklomanov and his research team to Siberia. Colin’s work is on climate change and energy development in the Russian Arctic. Genevieve’s thesis will examine internal and international migration to towns in the Russian Arctic.

Maianna Voge journeyed to warmer climes this summer to conduct her research. Maianna will work with Professor Mona Atia on understanding the impact of recent home foreclosures in Stockton, California, an epicenter for the housing crisis.
The George Washington University (GWU) Department of Geography continued its ongoing relationship with the National Geographic Society (Nat Geo) in the form of several undergraduate student internships for Geography and Environmental Studies majors.

Geography students participate in semester-long internship programs while earning Geography internship credits under the guidance of GWU Geography faculty advisor, Joe Dymond, at GWU. Students work in the Nat Geo Maps Group on various map and atlas projects including a significant contribution to the National Geographic Atlas of the World (9th Ed.), the National Geographic Bee—a nationwide competition where 4th-8th grade students from thousands of schools across the United States compete in an entertaining and challenging test of geographic knowledge, National Geographic Traveler magazine, and in the National Geographic Education Department.

As part of an ongoing relationship with the Network of Geographic Education Alliances (through the Nat Geo Education Dept.), GWU geography students worked with the teacher in residence to create an Atlas of Washington, D.C. for Washington D.C. 4th Grade public School children.

Geography major and recent GWU graduate Pete Tchoukaleff (CCAS ’11) commented on his experience as a GW Geography Intern at Nat Geo: “I was fortunate to have the opportunity to intern with National Geographic’s Education Department and Network of Alliances through a significant and lasting partnership between the Society and The George Washington University Department of Geography. I collaborated with fellow geographer and GWU graduate, Peter Gray Smith (CCAS ’10) throughout the initial phases of a new Atlas of the District of Columbia for D.C. Public Schools. The project allowed us to really explore a vibrant, local community that is integral to understanding Washington’s rich history. I kept in touch with the team who completed the Atlas at National Geographic and I look forward to seeing the publication woven into D.C. Public School curricula, furthering National Geographic’s mission of “geographic literacy” in the classroom.
Alumni Notes

Lara Fisher Crampe (MA 2000) stopped by the Foggy Bottom campus to eat dinner in what was formerly the Chair of the Geography Department’s office at Quigleys! She is working at the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (an organization focused on community-led development including schools for pastoralists’ children, bio-intensive school gardens, and disaster risk reduction through community asset mapping.) In October she will be in Ethiopia and Kenya visiting field programs. Lara lives in NYC with her husband (Philippe) and children (Julien, 4 and Isabelle, 2) and says that she hopes to see all of you at the next AAG Meeting.

Nathaniel Lewis (MA 2007) will be defending his dissertation, entitled, “Moving ‘Out,’ Moving On: An Analysis of Gay Men’s Migrations Through the Life Course,” at Queen’s University this semester. He is also teaching his first university course, Regional Development Theory and Practice. Earlier this year, he was elected co-chair of the Sexuality and Space Specialty Group in the Association of American Geographers. In early 2012, he will begin a 2-year Canadian Institutes of Health Research postdoctoral fellowship in the Gender and Health Promotion Studies Unit at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Watch for forthcoming publications from his dissertation research in Gender, Place and Culture and Social & Cultural Geography!

Jennifer Morton (BA 2003) is a Captain in the United States Air Force and is currently based in South Korea at the Air and Space Operations Center, where she is posted for a year. Her previous assignment was flying F 15Es in North Carolina, a position she held for five years. Jennifer is looking to return to school and get a Ph.D.

Matt Jennings (MA 2003) and wife Andrea are happy to announce the arrival of their daughter Ajabi Jennings who was adopted from Ethiopia. Matt continues to work at the US Census Bureau.

Rebecca Hays (BA 2010) is working at Our Energy Policy Foundation.


Matt Kamisher-Koch (BA 2010) works for Cicero, a financial consulting firm based in London. He is in the Washington office but regularly travels to London.

Continuing with her interest in Brazil, Jamie Worms (MA 2009) is pursuing a PhD at LSU in Geography.

Michael Ray Huerta (BA 2008) is running for Mayor of his hometown, Las Cruces, New Mexico. The election is in full swing with voting in November.

Many recent GW Geography graduates work at the World Bank in various units doing GIS-related projects. They include Alex Stoicof (BA 2010) Katie McWilliams (MA 2010), Henry Jewell (MA 2010) Sarah Antos (BA 2006, MA 2008) and Chris Marques (MA 2011).

Kaitlin Yarnall (MA 2008) has been promoted to Deputy Creative Director for National Geographic magazine.

Kimberly Angus (BA 2011) spent in the summer in Europe (Madrid, Barcelona and London) where she vacationed and volunteered at a nursing home. She is in New York seeing employment as a communication assistant.

Karisa Booth (BA2011) is working with AmeriCorp. This summer she was the Lead Site Coordinator for “For Love of Children” an educational non-profit. Now she is Coordinator for Corporate Development of KaBOOM a non-profit that support the building of playgrounds.

Michael Zucker (BA 2011) leaves in October for assignment in Mali with the Peace Corps as a Health Education Extension Agent.

Jeff Gustafson (BA 2008) is earning a MA in Environmental Management at Duke University. He writes after “intense political wrangling with Duke’s administration, I came out on top with three major projects: (1) a course on climate negotiations that I’ve designed and recruited a team of great faculty to teach, (2) launching a professional journal on environmental security in the spring, and (3) a great research project with the Army Corps of Engineers this summer that will serve as the foundation for my thesis next year.”

Charlotte Schou (BA 2011) is pursuing a Master’s in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability Programme at Blekinge Tekniska Hogskola in Karlskrona, Sweden. The course work is based on the writings and teachings of the co-founders of the organization The Natural Step (both of whom we met and heard lectures from). She was in London for a couple of days and stumbled into the Museum of London where they had an exhibit of hand drawn maps! The exhibit showcased parts of London from a Londoner’s point of view. Attached is one of the maps she found particularly interesting.

Ricardo Muniz (BA 2011) is study International and Comparative Law at Duke Law School.

Tylar Greene (BA 2011) is working for the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a Public Affairs Specialist. As a student she was a GIS intern in the Arlington office and then was hired fulltime.
Jill Wilson (MA 2003) is happy to announce the birth of Eli James Wilson. He arrived on December 11th 2010 weighing 9 pounds 4 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches. Jill and Eli are doing well and the two big brothers are doting.

Robert Banick (BA 2010) works across the street from the Department of the Geography at the American Red Cross where he produces maps for disaster relief. Attached is one of his products mapping the outbreak of Cholera in Haiti.

Steven Miller (BA 2011) is in New York and working for the Department of Homeland Security as a Language Specialist.

Greg Kuzmak (BA 2011) is living in Washington DC and working as a USAID contractor. As part of his job, he travelled to San Martin, Peru this summer to gather information about the cacao growing project AID supports.

Hilary Swain (BA 2011) is in New York and working for the Department of Homeland Security as a Language Specialist.

Cathy Cooper (MA 1999) earned a PhD in Geography from the Texas State University, San Marcos. Dr. Cooper’s dissertation focused on geographic education. She is also currently the President of the Mid-Atlantic Division of the Association of American Geographers.

Anna Mae Green (BA 2010) is a second year Peace Corps volunteer in eMbilaneni, Swaziland where she works on an HIV/AIDs educational and outreach program. She writes “My hopes for the success for this project remain high, but implementing everything has proven to be harder than I ever could have anticipated. The application for funding in it of itself is intense—our funding for HIV/AIDs related projects comes from PEPFAR (President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief), which has what feels like several thousand guidelines to meet.” She will finish her program next summer but writes that “The situation in Swaziland is as precarious as it sounds. Economically, the government is continuing to have trouble meeting its payroll. There were widespread protests in the country throughout March and April, but have seemed to subside for now. Winter has officially descended upon the region, as can be bitingly cold at times.”

Alec Stewart (MA 2011) finished his thesis and did a summer internship with the US Green Building Council. He is currently working on an urban research project for the Brookings Institute.

Lily House-Peters (BA 2005) is earning a PhD in Geography at the University of Arizona. She presented some of her research on water management at the AAG meeting in Seattle this April.

Dana Thomson (BA 2008) just earned her MS in Public Health at Harvard University. As part of her thesis research she spent the summer of 2010, with a multidisciplinary team of Harvard graduate students studying the health conditions of Idjwi, D.R. Congo. Idjwi is located in Lake Kivu, which separates D.R. Congo from Rwanda. Although there has been limited violence on the island, it is affected by the ongoing conflict in eastern D.R. Congo and suffers from high fertility, high child and infant mortality, and under nutrition in the general population. There were no contemporary maps of Idjwi so one of the outputs of the project this map, in which Dana took the cartographic lead. Dana is currently working with a public health research group at Harvard. (I’ll send you the map separately)

Victoria Roman (BA 2011) is in Tajikistan on a Fulbright grant for one year. She is living in Khujand, a city in the Fergana Valley of northern Tajikistan. While there she will work with a local orphanage. School supplies are particularly expensive, which greatly affects the ability of teachers and students. Any donation you make will go directly to the orphanage. To read more about the project visit: http://centralasiaporphanages.chipin.com/dehmoy-orphanage
Faculty Honored

Dr. Marie Price
The 21st Carl O. Sauer Memorial Lecture at the University of California, Berkeley

Marie Price gave the 21st Carl O. Sauer Memorial Lecture at the University of California, Berkeley on October 6, 2011. The talk was titled "Diffusion, Deflection and Diversity: A Geographic Perspective on Contemporary Migration" and was attended by 100 guests. Previous Sauer Lecturers include J. B. Jackson, Donald Meinig, James Parsons, William Denevan, Yi-Fu Tuan and Ian Simmons. Carl O. Sauer was a Professor Geography at the University of California, Berkeley from 1923 to 1957 and Emeritus Professor from 1957 until his death in 1975. As a scholar of the interrelatedness of land and life, of people and places throughout the full course of human history, Sauer urged a responsible, conservative stewardship of the earth. Both through his teaching and published works he left an indelible mark on geography, especially the tradition of cultural geography known as the Berkeley School. Marie earned her BA degree from UC Berkeley in 1984.

Dr. Elizabeth Chacko
The 2011 Foundation for the Defense of Democracies Academic Fellowship

Professor Elizabeth Chacko was awarded an academic fellowship in the summer of 2011 by the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a Washington-based non-partisan policy institute. The fellowship focused on counterterrorism, democracy education, strategic communications and human rights and was built around a 10-day course taught in conjunction with Tel Aviv University in Israel.

Smithsonian Institution’s “The Scholar is In” Program

Dr. Elizabeth Chacko was featured in the Smithsonian Institution’s “The Scholar is In” program, which is a part of the innovative “Let’s talk about RACE” series. In this new program series, visitors can meet and talk with scholars about race, science, history, and society. On July 20, 2011, Dr. Chacko talked with visitors at the Smithsonian’s Natural History museum about issues of race in the United States and Washington, D.C. in particular and also answered questions related to race in a moderated online discussion.
Congratulations to Geography Professor Joe Dymond on winning the George Washington University’s 2010 Service Excellence Student Choice Award for Faculty! The Service Excellence Awards are an annual tradition that celebrate exceptional service throughout the University and illustrate GW’s ongoing commitment to service at the highest level across the University’s divisions. Professor Dymond’s award was announced on November 4, 2010 at GWU’s Annual Service Excellence Celebration. A GW student who nominated Dymond had this to say about the professor: "Professor Dymond is an incredible teacher. His class made me want to become a Geography major and I will graduate this year with Geography as my central area of academic interest. Also, my story is far from isolated. Some of my earliest friends at GWU were in his class with me Freshman year and several of them have also made the change and become Geography majors".

**Faculty Honored**

**Professor Joseph Dymond**

**The 2011 George Washington University’s 2010 Service Excellence Student Choice Award for Faculty**

**Faculty featured in the media**

**Dr. Mona Atia**

**NPR, KCBS Radio San Francisco & Christian Science Monitor**

Prof. Mona Atia did an NPR interview—“Tell Me More with Michel Martin”, January 2011. Prof. Atia also did two interviews with KCBS Radio San Francisco on role of women in Egyptian revolution and responses to Mubarak resignation, January 2011. Finally, Prof. Atia did an expert interview for a Christian Science Monitor article on the Egyptian revolution.

**Dr. Marie Price**

**FOX 5 News**


**Dr. Melissa Keeley**

**The Washington Post**

Prof. Melissa Keeley and her family were featured in the September 27, 2010 Washington Post article: “Colleges' newest dorm dwellers: professors”
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2011

MA in Geography

Kristin Calkins
Lisa Colson
Christopher Marques
Caetlin Ofiesh
Alexander Stewart

BA in Geography

Amir Ahmad Anwar
Michael Aloi
Kimberly Angus
Karisa Booth
Charles Brennan
John Buarotti
Kyle Cole
Tyler Dekemper
Bonnie Epstein
Evan Feeney
Emma Folkman
Tylar Greene
Steven Herzberg
Andrew Kinlock
Gregory Kuzmak
Yasmin Lalani
Ricardo Muniz
Christina Pasanen
Michael Rabinowitz

Meera Ravichandran
Ronald Rivers
Victoria Roman
Kirk Scheffler
Charlotte Schou
Sarah Siegel
James Springer
Hilary Swaim
Peter Tchoukaleff
Nicholas Thulin
Trevor Tisler
Michael Zucker
Katharine Zulandt

BA in Environmental Studies

Michael Aloi
Gabrielle Ciarcia
Michael Coburn
Walter Collins
Molly Eames
Krista Jacobsen
Andrew Kinlock
Jonathan Laynas

Meera Ravichandran
Margaret Rosati
James Springer
Shannon Weigel
Jenna Winer
Megan Zack
LOYAL DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. Tod R. Angus
Mr. and Mrs. Byron Callan, III
Dr. Peter R. Carroll
Ms. Catherine W. Cooper
Mr. Kyle David Cole
Ms. Gretchen Delong
Mr. Paul S. Eisenberg
Mr. Galen Burr Evans
Mr. Charles S. Forbes, Jr.
Mr. Tylar Joi Greene
Ms. Gretchen D. Hasse
Mr. Steven Barry Herzberg
Mr. Robert C. Huston, Jr.
Mr. Benjamin Herbert Hyman
Ms. Julia R. Kaplan
Ms. Deirdre O’Leary
Mr. Murray Logan Pearson and Mrs. Laura Pearson
Dr. Marie Daly Price
Ms. Meera K. Ravichandran
Mr. Michael E. Riccio
Ms. Cadence Roberts
Ms. Minna E. Scholl
Mr. James Oshiro Springer
Mr. Peter Michael Tchoukaleff

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.
Semester Events

Fall 2011 Speaker

Oct. 21 Dr. Juan Pablo Galvis, University of Washington, “Managing Lively Bogota: Urban Governance in the ‘Post-Revanchist’ City”

Fall 2011 Senior Seminar Camping Trip: Mason Neck, VA