Notes from the Chair

This fall marks the Department of Geography’s 6th year in Old Main. We have robust numbers of Geography and Environmental Studies undergraduate majors and 22 graduate students in the Geography MA program. We also have 17 students in our new GIS Certificate program, directed by alumna Dr. Nuala Cowan. The Geography Suite in 1922 F street continues to be a place where faculty, staff and students bond and learn together, united by their love of geography.

Our students formed the Humanitarian Mapping Society (HMS) at GWU with a mission to provide geospatial support for international development and international disaster preparation/response efforts. On November 21 HMS members organized a successful Mapathon to map areas in the city of Harare, Zimbabwe and fields in Guinea using Open Street map. These maps will be used by the International Services Branch of the American Red Cross.

Our graduate students are presenting their research at national conferences such as the Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco and the Association of American Geographers’ (AAG) annual meeting in Chicago. We are thrilled that the GWU team won the Geography Bowl for the 5th year in a row at the AAG-Mid-Atlantic Division’s meeting in Frostburg, Maryland on November 1, 2014. The geography senior seminar camping trip to Mason Neck, led this year by Professors Marie Price and Lisa Benton-Short, continues to be a highlight of the semester for final year geography majors.

Dr. Streletskiy and Dr. Price have organized a wonderful slate of talks for our Speaker Series, which is listed at the back of this newsletter. Geographers and friends of Geography alike are invited to attend. All of these activities are possible in part due to the generous donations of alumni and I thank you for supporting our work.

We congratulate Prof. Mona Atia for getting tenure this year and also on her prestigious NSF career award. While Dr. Atia is on sabbatical leave, her classes will be taught by Dr. Lindsay Naylor, who is a Visiting Assistant Professor with us for a year. We are happy to have with us Dr. Tim Heleniak and Dr. Thomas Opel. Dr. Heleniak joined the department as research faculty, while Dr. Opel is a Visiting Research Scholar. The last new member on Team Geography is Andrii Berdnyk, who joined as Operations Supervisor at the start of the fall 2014 semester. A very warm welcome to all our new faculty and staff!

Given the growing numbers of our faculty and research staff, we are lucky that the Department was able to expand into space adjoining our original suite. This annex houses the offices of professors, a post-doctoral fellow and an office for graduate teaching assistants to meet with their students.

The following pages highlight the activities and accomplishments of faculty, staff, students and alumni. Please continue to share important events in your lives with us. Special thanks to Andrii Berdnyk and undergraduate Socorro Lopez for compiling, editing and publishing this newsletter.

— Elizabeth Chacko, Chair
Dr. Lindsay Naylor joins the faculty in the Department of Geography and the Elliot School of International Affairs as a Visiting Professor for the 2014-2015 academic year. Dr. Naylor received her MA in International Development (American University, 2004) and PhD in Geography (University of Oregon, 2014). Her research is focused on agriculture and food production in the U.S. and Latin America.

Dr. Naylor’s recent research examined agricultural practices used by subsistence and fair trade coffee farmers in self-declared autonomous indigenous communities in Chiapas, Mexico. Naylor uses this work to contribute to understandings of the role of food sovereignty, autonomy and fair trade in the context of neoliberal globalization and development in indigenous communities. Previous research by Dr. Naylor on the West Coast of the U.S. investigated businesses that could be hired to install, maintain and harvest fresh vegetables from personal, residential, private property, what she termed “hired garden” services. In this research, Naylor analyzed the practice of lawn removal, participation in alternative food movements, and the procurement of hired garden services as a transgressive practice.

Naylor hopes to continue working on critical issues in the geography of food and agricultural systems and to produce research relevant to improving the equity and sustainability of such systems.

Andrii Berdnyk

Born in Russia but Ukrainian by origin, Andrii absorbed the cultures of two countries and is proud of his bilingual identity. He spent his early childhood in Magadan, Russia near the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk and the Kamchatka Peninsula. Even though his family moved to Ukraine when he was very young, he still remembers growing up in harsh subarctic climate where summers felt like mild winters.

Andrii completed his BA degree in Kiev with a major in Linguistics and Education, and a minor in Spanish. While in college, he briefly worked as an ESL teacher for a language school and as a translator for one of the entertainment TV channels. Andrii comes from the visa and passport industry where he mainly worked with government agencies such as Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol, Office of Comptroller of the Currency, and the Smithsonian Institution. Academic environments have always appealed to him and when the opportunity to work for GWU presented itself he was thrilled to join the Department of Geography as Operations Supervisor. As a flexible, responsive and proactive person, Andrii believes that working with faculty and students will be enriching and enjoyable.

Andrii enjoys hiking, camping, spending quality time with friends, watching indie movies, and meeting interesting people. He plans to be involved in the department’s outreach programs and activities to promote environmental awareness and appreciation, and potentially become an MA student at GW.
New Research Professor: Dr. Timothy Heleniak

Dr. Timothy Heleniak is a new Research Professor in the department. He has researched and written extensively on population change, migration, and regional development, mostly focusing on Russia and the Arctic. Dr. Heleniak is a recipient of a grant “Polar Peoples: Past, Present and Future” from the National Science Foundation (NSF) as well as a grant on Arctic Urban Sustainability in Russia in collaboration with University of Tromso, Norway. He will be collaborating with researchers in the Department whose focus is also on the Arctic.

Dr. Timothy Heleniak is the Editor of the journal Polar Geography. He also previously worked at the U.S. Census Bureau, the World Bank, and UNICEF. He has an MBA in Finance and PhD in Geography from the University of Maryland. He was also a research fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars from 2001 to 2002.

Visiting Research Scholar: Dr. Thomas Opel

Dr. Opel shows a sample of permafrost ground ice in Cape Mamontov Klyk, Laptev Sea Coast, Russian Arctic during his fieldwork.

Dr. Opel is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Potsdam and Bremerhaven, Germany. His research focuses on the reconstruction of the climate and environmental dynamics of the High Northern Latitudes during the Late Pleistocene and Holocene, primarily in the Russian Arctic, but also in Alaska. It uses an interdisciplinary approach (Physical Geography, Climatology, and Geochemistry) and combines Arctic fieldwork and laboratory studies.

After his diploma (2004) in Geography at the Humboldt University (HU) in Berlin, Germany, Dr. Opel received a PhD in Geography from HU (2009). Studying glacier ice cores contributed to his interest in permafrost studies. In 2007 he participated for the first time in an expedition to the Siberian Arctic and started with ground ice investigations. Every year since 2010 he spends about one month in summer or spring doing fieldwork in the Russian Arctic.

After his PhD Dr. Opel was involved in several international research projects such as the ESA DUE Permafrost project and the EU funded INTERACT project. In 2012 he started a three-year research project on Late Holocene climate and environmental changes in the Russian Arctic, funded by the German Research foundation. An increasing part of his research addresses processes of permafrost degradation and aggradation, coastal erosion as well as stable-isotope based hydrology in permafrost areas.
New Geography Graduate Students

Qi Yang
Qi Yang is originally from Beijing where he received his BS degree in GIS. His academic interests go beyond GIS field and include the social side of Geography. His primary research goal is to apply geospatial techniques in the Human Geography field. In his spare time he listens to rock music and plays flag football.

Jamee Ernst
Jamee grew up in South Carolina and attended college at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating in 2012. She earned degrees in anthropology and urban studies and planning which she hopes to apply to her MA work in geography. Jamee is most interested in urban and cultural geography particularly in issues regarding public space and public transit as community building entities. In her spare time Jamee likes to run, tap dance and explore DC's music scene.

Stephen Ross
Stephen is from Kansas City, Missouri. He received his BA in Environmental Studies and Geography from The George Washington University. After graduation, he spent part of his summer in Siberia working with the International Course on Permafrost. His interests include Arctic systems, biology, biogeography, environmental science, and applied GIS. In his free time he enjoys camping, fishing, hiking, playing guitar, and traveling.

Shiyan (Shaun) Zhang
Shiyan (Shaun) Zhang graduated from Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture with a BS degree in GIS. During her undergraduate studies she mainly focused on practical applications of GIS and remote sensing software. Shiyan’s interest lies in the theoretical side of Geography. She considers herself an introvert but her respectfulness should not be taken for shyness. Shiyan is proud of her heritage and calls herself a real Chinese girl.

Natalie Armstrong
Natalie Armstrong grew up in Dayton, Ohio and graduated from Ohio University in 2014 with a BS in Urban and Regional Planning and minors in Environmental Science, Spanish and Global Leadership. Natalie's interests are urban sustainability, historic preservation and environmental justice issues. In her free time, she spends time with friends, her cat and thinks of future travels.
Gloriana Sojo

Gloriana Sojo grew up in Costa Rica and got her B.A. in International Affairs from GWU. After witnessing discrimination towards Nicaraguan immigrants in her home country and moving to Washington for her studies, Gloriana became interested in migration. She has conducted fieldwork on immigrant and refugee populations in four countries and now plans to study the migration-development nexus and populations that are under ambiguous legal statuses. She also believes in the power of merging academic knowledge with multimedia storytelling to bring about social change. Aside from her interest in migration, Gloriana rock climbs and wakeboards whenever she can get near mountains or the water.

Su Jung Lee

Su Jung Lee is from South Korea where she obtained her BA in Geography. She is very interested in Urban Geography, Sustainability, and GIS. As a geographer, she really enjoys traveling and camping. She is very outgoing and loves meeting new people.

Veronica Miniello

Originally from Cleveland, Veronica earned her BA from New York University in 2012 with a major in economics and a minor in Spanish. While at NYU, Veronica interned with the Horticultural Society of New York where she performed market research on New York's emerging green roof industry. Her fields of interest include urban sustainability, resource management, and GIS. In her free time, Veronica enjoys traveling, cooking, and learning new languages.

Ziqi Li

Ziqi’s hometown is in Beijing, China. He pursued his study in Wuhan University (China) and University of Waterloo (Canada) and got his Bachelor’s degrees from both schools in 2014. He is interested in utilizing GIS and remote sensing technologies to address urban sustainability issues as well as Arctic climate change problems. His undergraduate thesis estimated active layer depth of permafrost in Alaska using remotely sensed data and CALM field measured data. He will continue to strengthen his research skills at GW. Ziqi devotes most of his spare time running around Rosslyn and playing League of Legends.

Zhainhui Li

Zhainhui Li graduated from Inner Mongolia Agriculture University with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Urban Planning. His areas of interest include GIS application in Urban Planning and Urban Geography. He wants to conduct his research primarily in the Urban Geography field. During his leisure time he enjoys traveling, riding a bike and cooking.
Congratulations to Professor Mona Atia.

NSF CAREER Grant

Professor Atia was awarded a 5-year NSF CAREER on the Impact of Poverty Mapping on the Geography of Development. The CAREER award is one of the most prestigious awards made by the National Science Foundation and it is the first CAREER award for both the department of geography and the Elliott School of International Affairs. Professor Atia is currently on sabbatical conducting the fieldwork portion of the research in Morocco and Egypt. The project investigates the forms of measurement, the types of knowledge and expertise mobilized, and how these maps may capture or mask layers of scaled politics regarding the poor. It is informed by relational poverty, critical cartography and actor network theory. Atia approaches poverty mapping as a network consisting of a tool, a set of actors involved in its production, and specific sites and subjects of intervention.

Congratulations to Gloriana Sojo.

Best Poster Award

First year Geography MA student Gloriana Sojo won First prize in the poster-paper session at the 7th Race, Ethnicity and Place conference held in Fort Worth, Texas, October 22-24, 2014. Gloriana was delighted with the award but says that she realized that she owes much of her success to the supportive community in the Geography Department at GWU and is happy to be part of a department and a community that supports students and their aspirations.

Aside from presenting her research about differentiated mobilities and identity in the Costa Rica-Nicaragua border region, Gloriana was introduced to professors and graduate students from different departments across the country (most of whom shared her interest in migration and ethnicity), by Professors Chacko and Price, who were also at the conference. Among the highlights for Gloriana was meeting Brookings Institution researcher Jill Wilson (also a graduate of the GWU MA Geography program) whom she had cited in a paper for her Population and Health Seminar just a week before the conference. Another was being in a session with James Tyner, the author of one of the assigned books for the Migration and Development seminar. She met Master’s students, PhD students, and professors, and had amazing time talking about migration over dinner.
Congratulations to Reisser Brothers.

New Textbook on Energy Resources

Wesley Reisser (MA 2007) and Colin Reisser (MA 2012) have signed a book contract with Oxford University Press for a new Energy Resources textbook, based on Prof. Reisser's GWU course. The book, titled "Energy Resources: From Science to Society" will be the first energy textbook to cross disciplines and cover everything from the science and engineering to the social science impacts of energy in a single volume aimed at undergrads in Geography, Economics, International Affairs, Business, and Public Policy. The book is expected to be released in 2015.

Prof. Wesley Reisser was named a National Councilor for the American Geographical Society (Prof. Price is also on the Council) in late 2013. He has also been named to the Executive Committee of the Association of American Geographers World Geography Bowl, where he is a regular contributor of questions and moderates rounds of the national championship.

Announcing the Dorn C McGrath, Jr. Lecture Fund

Professor Emeritus Dorn C McGrath, Jr. led the Department of Geography from 1996 to 2003. In retirement he continues to be an active contributor to the life of the Department and the University. Professor McGrath taught for 35 years at GWU, first in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and later in the Department of Geography. He also founded the Center for Urban and Environmental Research (CUER), an active research center housed in the Department of Geography. Throughout his tenure at the university he worked closely with area neighborhoods, the District of Columbia government, as well as state and federal agencies, addressing planning concerns in the city that he loved. He trained many students about the art and craft of urban planning, several of whom are planning professionals today.

The Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. Lecture Fund will support an annual lecture from a prominent urban planner or geographer. The intent of this lecture fund is to honor the contributions of Professor Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. and to insure a high-level discussion about planning innovations and best practices in the United States and abroad. Invited speakers will give a public lecture as well as meet with undergraduate and graduate students with urban interests. Our hope is to have the inaugural lecture in April 2015. We are seeking $25,000 to make this happen. If you would like to contribute to the Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. Lecture Fund, please visit go.gwu.edu/dornmcgrathfund. If mailing a check, please make it out to The George Washington University, with "Department of Geography, McGrath Fund" in the memo line. If giving online, please make sure you check the box that says "Honor or Memorial Gifts" All monies are tax deductible and will go into the Department of Geography’s Endowment earmarked for the Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. Lecture.
Geography & Environmental Studies Senior Awards 2014

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

Award Recipient: Arzoo Malhotra

Arzoo was born in India, where she spent the first half of her childhood before her family moved to the Middle East and Africa. Arzoo was unclear of the academic path she would pursue prior to her arrival at GWU. During her first semester, Arzoo took a wide variety of classes, and one of them was in the Geography Department. In Geography, Arzoo found a discipline where her interests in both the sciences and the humanities could be encouraged and developed. After her first semester, Arzoo declared an Environmental Studies major, and subsequently, a second major in Geography and a minor in GIS. Under the tutelage of the departmental professors, Arzoo was able to learn the skills to inform her internships at a variety of international development and environmentally focused organizations. After graduation, Arzoo is planning to pursue a summer internship in Africa, after which she will seek employment in the fields of International Development and Environmental Resource Management.

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

Malcolm Fouhy

Strong natural and environmental science programs in his early education reinforced Malcolm’s commitment to the environment and sustainable practices and drove him to study the subject at GWU. His classes in the EVST program were complemented by a year and a half internship in the government affairs office of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). Malcolm’s time at NPCA and his EVST classes taught him important skills related to environmental advocacy, gave him a broad background in conservation policy, and brought him friends who have started guest lecturing in EVST classes.

Marietta Gelfort

After living in California for four years, Marietta started her undergraduate studies in Environmental Studies at GWU in spring 2013. Originally from Germany, she realized that many environmental issues in the United States were handled in a very different manner. Thus, she became interested in how she could become a leader in the environmental field and, especially, how to make use of her international skills. Environmental Studies at GW enhanced her science background and place her in close range to international organizations working on environmental issues. Since coming to GW, Marietta also volunteers at Aguayuda, a non-profit organization which works on enhancing access to clean water, sanitation and education in Colombia. Working with Professor Melissa Keeley she researched stormwater management strategies in Germany for future implementation in the United States. This summer she went to Germany to interview key people in the stormwater management field with help of the CCAS’s Research Enhancement Fund. Finishing her Bachelor degree in December, she plans to apply to the Geography MA program and the GIS certificate here at GW.
**Robert D. Campbell Prize**

*Presented to a Geography Senior for Outstanding Leadership & Scholarship*

**Award Recipient: Kean McDermott**

Kean McDermott has been a Geography and Environmental Studies major since freshman year, making the switch after taking Building Cities with Professor Lisa Benton Short where he first experienced the critical analysis of Geography as an academic discipline. Some of his experiences as a major have been studying abroad at the University of Edinburgh and interning with National Geographic Maps Division. Currently, his best terrible (or awesome) tattoo idea is a quote from Professor Joseph Dymond’s World Regional Geography course, "Geography is Destiny". He currently plans to work at the Gelman Library for the remainder of 2014 and enter geography graduate school in Fall 2015.

**Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. Award**

**Recipient: Jennifer Rowland**

In May 2013 the Department of Geography created the Dorn C. McGrath, Jr Award to recognize outstanding scholarship by a graduate student in the Department of Geography. The Award is named for the former Department Chair, Dorn McGrath, who led the Department of Geography from 1996 to 2003. The recipient of the 2014 Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. Award is Jennifer Rowland.

Jenny Rowland has always had a passion for the environment and was introduced to Geography during her time at University of Delaware where she earned her undergraduate degree. Jenny’s academic and professional interests include many diverse aspects of sustainability, equity and urban planning. Her Master’s thesis concerning planning for urban green space is titled: Conceptualizing Urban Green Space within Municipal Sustainability Plans: Parks, Tree Canopy and Urban Gardens. During her time at GWU, she additionally served as a teaching assistant for the Sustainability 1001 course and interned for the non-profit Alliance for Community Trees over the summer of 2013. She hopes to apply what she has learned to improve the sustainability and equity of urban environments.

**2014 Campbell Graduate Summer Research Awards**

Three MA students were awarded the highly competitive Campbell Graduate Summer Research Grants. The grants assist with travel and other support for graduate research.

**Kelsey Nyland** was awarded a research grant for her work: Change Detection using Landsat Dense Time Stacks in the Russian Arctic: Applications for Evaluating Urban Morphology and Sustainability

**Avery Sandborn** received a research grant to support her work “Quantifying Spatial Features of Built-Up Areas and Their Relationship to Quality of Life Indicators in Accra, Ghana

**Madeline Hale** received a research grant to conduct research on “Illuminating the Black Box: Establishing Consumer Advocates’ Goals for the Sex Toy Industry”
Friday Night Mapathons

Fall 2014 featured our third departmental Mapathon in conjunction with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). On October 17th, students from both graduate and undergraduate geospatial classes worked with USAID GIS professionals, visiting from over 20 countries, to map aquiculture infrastructure in Bangladesh.

The goal of this project is to help farming villages in Bangladesh better manage their lands and prepare for the adverse effects of a changing climate. USAID is investing significant resources into both their “Feed the Future” & “Mapping for Resilience” programs in the Khulna Division of Bangladesh, and many of the ground partners are in need of current and detailed GIS data to maximize development impacts. Creating this base data in OSM is the first step in helping achieve this goal.

GWU Geography & USAID will work with Khulna University in the Spring of 2015 to develop data collection tools to facilitate field validation of the information generated during this mapping event. Professors Michael Mann, Nuala Cowan & Richard Hinton are beginning to work with colleagues from Texas Tech (Dr. Patricia Solis) and West Virginia University (Dr. Brent McCusker) to bring this initiative to other institutions.

Mason Neck Senior Field Trip, October 2014

On October 24th the geography seniors headed out to Mason Neck, Virginia for the annual Senior Seminar camping trip. While there, small groups of students conducted field work for research projects centered around the region's parks and urban areas. Their projects embraced the full spectrum of geographic inquiry from community revitalization to invasive species.

Senior students’ interest in an arts community at a former prison complex took them to Lorton Hill where they accidentally participated in a zombie 5K race. A group looking at park use and management went on a guided hike with a park ranger. Four very dedicated fishermen spent the day trying to catch snakehead fish to gauge the progress of the invasive species removal program. There were also several teams looking at different aspects of area streams such as water quality or fluvial geomorphology.

In addition to research, the trip included campfires, star gazing and an excursion to Gunston Hall, the home and plantation of George Mason. The weather that weekend was beautiful and the s’mores were delicious; the biggest complaint was the poor cartography of the Pohick Regional Park map.
Long Awaited Degree. Murray K. Lee Receives His MA From GWU 63 Years After Starting Graduate School

Murray Kent Lee began classes at GWU in the fall of 1947 after leaving the Merchant Marine. He took all of the required courses in Columbian College and decided to major in Geography in his junior year. At that time, GWU was a commuter school and very few students lived on campus. Murray studied under the mentorship of Dr. Robert Campbell and became the first member of Phi Beta Kappa honors society from the Geography Department.

When Murray was a junior he was offered a job by Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruiters. The CIA was tasked to develop and coordinate a study of all countries of the world, and geographers and cartographers were vital in the production of such an undertaking.

Murray Lee had a very successful career first as a cartographer, researching and compiling base maps for the NIS, and later as the head of the Cartographic Research Center, which included all the units creating maps and atlases worldwide. His second assignment was to head up a unit of graphic designers and cartographers to produce maps, graphics, and photos used by CIA for the President’s daily intelligence briefings. His last assignment was as a Special Assistant for Advanced Concepts, researching new computer technology applied to maps and graphics, and making recommendations for developing new methods and acquiring labor-saving devices.

Murray Lee retired in San Diego, CA in 1983. He joined the Chinese Historical Society a few years after moving to San Diego and later became the Curator for Chinese American History. Murray made numerous presentations on San Diego’s Chinese American history and gave papers at national conferences. His contributions to understanding the history of Chinese Americans are truly significant.

In 2011, based on his research of the local Chinese community, Murray Lee published a book titled: In Search of Gold Mountain, A History of the Chinese in San Diego, California. He sent two copies to GWU—one for Gelman Library and the other for the Department of Geography. In 2013, Profs. Chacko and Rain met with Murray and his wife, Gladys in San Diego. On finding out that Murray only lacked 3 credits for the Master’s degree, Prof. Chacko investigated whether it would be possible to have Murray reinstated as a graduate student so that he could complete his degree. Prof. Chacko supervised Murray’s academic work from Singapore and after almost a year his thesis titled Geographic Factors that Affected the Growth of San Diego’s Chinatown Relative to Los Angeles and San Francisco was accepted. Murray Lee graduated with an MA in Geography in May 2014.

Murray Lee was one of five residents of San Diego to be selected by the county library to be recognized as a “Living Legend.” The Department of Geography at GWU is very proud to count him among its alumni.
The Eurasian Arctic is one of the regions requiring immediate attention in association with global warming. Numerous studies indicate that climate change in Northern Eurasia has already exceeded the level of natural climate variability.

In order to study the diverse impacts of climate change, a GW Geography team led by Dr. Dmitry Streletsky traveled to Central Siberia where Geography Master’s students Kelsey Nyland and Stephen Ross, and undergraduate Jennifer Young joined twelve students from Russia, Norway, Germany, and the UK on a multidisciplinary Arctic quest.

This field course is held each summer as part of field work for several NSF grants awarded to GW Geography, IERES, Moscow State University (Russia), and the Barents Institute (Norway) to study various aspects of the Arctic System.
Field Research in Alaska

During August 2014 GW Geography Professors Shiklomanov and Streletskiy led field investigations in Arctic Alaska as part of the Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) project funded by the NSF Arctic Observing Networks program. This long-term project is designed to monitor the response of permafrost-affected landscapes, characteristic of the Polar Regions, to climatic variability and change.

Geography graduate students Kelsey Nyland, Evan Watson, Emmalee Dolfi, and undergraduate Sophia Dahodwala participated in the 2014 Alaskan expedition where they gained valuable field research experience. The students worked alongside professors from GW, University of Montana and Northern Michigan University in two teams. One team drove the Dalton Highway servicing sites on the Prudhoe Bay oil fields and in the Foothills of the Brooks Mountain Range. A second team went to Barrow (the northernmost point in the US at 71°N) and Atqasuk (small primarily indigenous communities) as well as other remote sites. Lastly, several of the participants traveled to Nome to service sites on the Seward Peninsula.
The Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) Network

In May 2014, GW received an NSF grant for $1.3 million to conduct a five-year project entitled "The Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring Network-CALM IV (2014-2019): Long-term Observations on the Climate-Active Layer-Permafrost System." This award will support the continuation of the Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) program as an integral part of the Arctic Observing Network (AON) and the Study of Environmental Arctic Change (SEARCH).

The project is to be directed by GW Geography Profs. Nikolay Shiklomanov and Dmitry A. Streletskiy, in collaboration with the University of Montana, Northern Michigan University, and six Russian institutions. The CALM network consists of more than 200 sites and represents the only coordinated network of observations using standardized measurement protocols designed to observe and detect decadal changes in the dynamics of seasonal thawing and freezing in high-latitude soils. The 'Intellectual Merit' of this study lies in the need for long-term data on active layer thickness, ground temperature, and subsidence measurements at consistent locations across diverse terrain types and regions. This data is used to identify scales of spatial variation, establish trends, and validate models. The data will also contribute to detailed process studies, and validating and developing climate change, ecological, hydrological, and geocryological models. Education and outreach are essential components of the 'Broader Impacts' of CALM. The project will provide opportunities for field experience and educational participation for GW students at both the undergraduate and graduate level and will utilize local connections with predominantly indigenous peoples to assist with the observations at more remote locales.

Polar Peoples: Past, Present, and Future

Research Professor, Timothy Heleniak, was recently awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation titled “Polar Peoples: Past, Present, and Future”. The $577,000 grant will run for four years from 2014 to 2018. This award will support a project to examine population trends across the Arctic in the past, the present, and into the future, using tools of demographic and geographic analysis.

The project will describe temporal and spatial trends in the size and composition of the Arctic populations, examine the causes of these changes, and the implications of these trends for the economies and societies of the Arctic regions and countries. Three different time periods will be examined, each using different data and methods and exploring different question. The three time periods are: The Past, which examines the period from the first International Polar Year (IPY) in 1882-1883, the time of increased exploration of the Polar regions and start of intense interaction between the indigenous peoples of the Arctic and outsiders, to the most recent IPY of 2007-2008; The Present, which is an analysis of current population trends in the Arctic is based on data from 2010 round of population censuses and other current demographic statistics; and The Future, which is an examination of future population trends in the Arctic that projects out one generation to 2050.

With globalization, climate change, technological advances, as well as drivers of demographic change, which are occurring elsewhere in the world, the populations of the Arctic regions are poised to undergo considerable transformation over the next generation. The project will result in articles in academic journals, a book, and policy briefs. This project will make these important analyses and data easily accessible to researchers, community members, and policy makers. By making these data and analyses easily accessible by these diverse Arctic stakeholders, the project ensures that future decision making can be based on actual data and analysis not just perceived trends. The research under the grant is part of a growing number of projects focusing on the Arctic within the Department of geography. The project will support two graduate students over its duration.
In 2013 Professor Elizabeth Chacko was awarded a Research and Teaching Scholarship by the Fulbright Commission to work in Singapore. Most of her Asia-based research had been in India and she was eager to spend time and work in another Asian country and expand her regional expertise. The research for her Fulbright grant focused on the intersection of continued immigration to Singapore and the inclusion of newcomers from India into the economy and society of this island nation. In particular, Prof. Chacko wanted to see whether the Singaporean government’s efforts to integrate old and new immigrant streams from India, which differ in socio-economic status, languages spoken, and source regions was effective. In the course of doing her research, Prof. Chacko met with and interviewed leaders in the Indian community, high and low-skill immigrants from India, journalists, Singaporeans of Indian ethnicity and members of ethnic Indian groups, all of whom helped her better understand the issues she was investigating.

During her six months in Singapore Prof. Chacko was affiliated with the National University of Singapore (NUS), where she taught a course, “Immigrants and the City”. The students in the course were undergraduates in NUS’ honors program, the University Scholars Programme. Most of them were majoring in the hard sciences, engineering and mathematics and none had taken a geography course before, which made it rewarding to introduce geography’s synthetic way of examining and analyzing the effects of immigration on cities to smart and diligent students. The students were enthusiastic to research the relationships between migrants and the city of Singapore for their class projects. As long-term residents of the city, NUS students offered insights into the Singaporean ethos and the dynamics between the different ethnic and population groups in the country.

In January 2014 Prof. Chacko went to Punjab, India where she worked with colleagues from Western Illinois University, USA and Panjab University, India and students on an NSF funded project. The research team (which included undergraduate Gloriana Sojo, who is currently a 1st year MA student) studied the effects of check dams on channel morphology and the livelihoods of the local populations in a degraded and poorly developed area in the Shiwalik foothills. The team was in the field for two weeks, visiting villages and collecting data.

Being on sabbatical leave for a year also allowed Prof. Chacko to attend conferences in Vancouver, Kuala Lumpur and Malta, focus on reading and writing and spend time with her family in India. The Department is glad to welcome Prof. Chacko back home in Washington, D.C. where she was greatly missed by her academic family at the George Washington University.
Faculty Leadership Roles in 2013-2014

Lisa Benton-Short
Lisa serves on the College Board AP Human Geography Development Committee. AP Human Geography is the fastest growing AP exam in the Country.

Elizabeth Chacko
Population Reference Bureau, Member of the Board of Trustees
Executive Board of the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers

Melissa Keeley
Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) Syllabus
Project Organizer, Chair

Nikolay Shiklomanov
Elected Board Member of the Polar Geography Specialty Group – Association of American Geographers
Elected Member of the Steering Committee of the International Geographical Union Commission on Cold Region Environments
Co-Chair for the Permafrost Modeling Working Group of the International Permafrost Association.

Marie Price
Vice President and Council Member of the American Geographical Society
Invited Participant for the Geo-Reasoning Assessment Workshop held at National Geographic Society.

Mona Atia
Chair of the Middle East Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers.

Dmitry Streletskiy
Executive Committee member of the Global Terrestrial Network on Permafrost.

Faculty Publications

Books


Chapters in Books

Heleniak, T. 2014 “Migration in the Arctic”, Arctic Yearbook 2014, Northern Research Forum, Edited by Lassi Heininen (http://www.arcticyearbook.com/)


Journal Articles


Student Publications & Research

Undergraduate students

Marietta Gelfort was awarded the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Enhancement Fund (UREF) to work with Professor Keeley on transatlantic (Germany-US) research examining urban stormwater management policies.

Molly Seltzer presented a poster at the OVPR “Research Days 2014”

Mitch Langley received a GW Undergraduate Research Award. He conducted his field work during the summer of 2013. Professor Joe Dymond mentored Mitch during the current academic year (2013-2014) writing up his research findings. He presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Tampa, Florida: April 2014. Mitch, GW Geography Professor Michael Mann, and Joe Dymond are working on an article/publication from Mitch's research.

Stephen Ross, a geography senior, conducted research in Alaska with Professors Shiklomanov and Streletskiy. In April he presented an illustrated paper at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting titled “Long-Term Observations of Active-layer Thickness in Characteristic Landscapes of Northern Alaska.” This fall he began graduate study at GW in Geography.

Michelle Stuhlmacher, a geography major, presented a paper at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in April. The paper was titled “Land-use factors influencing plant similarity between forests and agro-forests.” In April she also received the news that she was a recipient of the prestigious Udall Scholarship for sophomore and junior level college students committed to careers related to the environment.

Kean McDermott, a geography senior, presented an illustrated paper at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in April. The poster was titled “The 17th Century Baltic Grain Trade: A Cultural Exchange.” McDermott was also given the Department’s Robert Campbell Prize.

Peter Joyce, a geography senior, was a research assistant with Michael Mann on his California wildfire research.

Aurora Echavarria, a senior who majored in Geography and International Affairs, was supervised by Marie Price in writing her thesis titled: “State Presence through Social Urbanism in Medellín, Colombia. She received an Undergraduate Research Enhancement Fund (UREF) from CCAS and a GW SURE Award to support her field research in Colombia in 2013-14. This fall she is studying Urban Planning at the London School of Economics.

Kenton Slaughter, an ESIA undergraduate, was mentored by Mona Atia on her research paper titled “Religion and Politics in Post-Arab Spring Egypt”.

Jesse Schaeffer, an ESIA undergraduate scholar, was mentored by Lisa Benton-Short on her paper titled “The Impact of Syrian Refugees on Socio-ecological Resilience and community Tensions in the Northern Badia of Jordan.”

Brendan Buckland (BA 2014), an ESIA undergraduate scholar, was supervised by Marie Price on his paper titled “National Identity and Contentious Narratives of Territorial Exchange: Bolivia, Chile and the Legacy of the War of the Pacific.” This project was inspired by this junior year abroad studying in the GW Chile program. Currently he is teaching Spanish at an outdoor leadership school, The High Mountain Institute, in Leadville, Colorado.

Graduate students

Bartlett Bickel. “Mapping the evolution of the cultural landscape of the Great Dismal Swamp – 18th century to present”. Annual Meeting of the
Geography Master’s Thesis Completed in 2013-2014


Kristen Pyne, “Relation between Snow and Winter Soil-Surface Temperatures in Tundra Landscapes: Results of Observations in Northern Alaska”


Jennifer Rowland, “Conceptualizing Urban Green Space within Municipal Sustainability Plans: Parks, Tree Canopy and Urban Gardens”

Amber Boykin, “B’more Creative: Street Art and Urban Redevelopment in East Baltimore”

Geography Bowl Champions

The Geography Bowl Team from GWU won the Mid-Atlantic Division Geography Bowl Competition held at Frostburg State University on November 1, 2014. GW Geography Team won every round they participated in including the crucial final round that marked their victory. This is the 5th year in a row that the GW team has won. Raynell and Chris will be on the MAD team that will compete for the national geography bowl at the AAG meeting in Chicago in April, 2015. The team members on the photo from left to right are: Katherine Cann, Allison Carr, Christopher Hart, Raynell Cooper, Rachel Dimston and Gloriana Sojo. They are all undergraduate students except for Gloriana who is a Master’s Student.
Congratulations to Prof. Ivan Cheung and Mr. Duane Flemming, who were married in the District of Columbia on September 7, 2014. The couple lives in Falls Church, Virginia. Dr. Cheung has been teaching at GWU since 1999 and has been integral to the development of our spatial analysis courses.

This year’s Senior-Alumni Dinner was held in the Department on Geography on November 13th. Some 30 Geography Seniors chatted and dined with 11 Geography Alumni who offered career advice and internship opportunities. Many told stories about finding their first job and strategies for moving up the career later. They also spoke about being part of a GW-based...
geographic family, one that they continue to stay in touch sending news of job openings and internship possibilities. We had alumni visit from as far away as Westerville, Ohio and Smyrna, Georgia, representing classes from 1995 to 2013. The participating alumni work for various government agencies including the Agency for International Development, Department of State, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency and Arlington County. Others work in the non-profit sector including the Educational Testing Service, National Democratic Institute, Association of American Geographers and the National Geographic Society as well as private sector companies of Booz Allen and Delta Airlines. Our special thanks to Jon Moore, Victor Ecarma, Sophia Fisher, Ekrem Dimbiloglu, Alex LeFevre, Alex Pommer, Pete Tchoukaloff, Laura Kline, Andrew Wiseman, Marcela Zeballos, Alex Stegmaier who participated in the event. Every year we invite different alumni to participate. If you are an alumnus and would like to be involved please contact Marie Price or Lisa Benton-Short.

Alumni Notes

Alex Stoicoff (BA 2010) begins her Masters in Landscape Architecture at the University of Arizona this fall.

Aren Sparck (BA 1999) is now a project coordinator at the Urban Indian Health Institute in Seattle. Aren and his wife have a daughter, Ariana, and are expecting another baby next year. In October 2014 Aren was in DC to speak with legislators on Capitol Hill.

Daniel Kirkwood (BA 2008) released his first Album, Kill Olympia, in November 2013. His music is inspired by his years living in Alaska.

Nick McClure (BA 2011) is at the Yale School of Forestry this fall in a Masters program in environmental management.

Andrew Kerr (BA 2014) is pursuing a MS in GIS with the Department of Geography at San Diego State University. He writes that he is in class nearly identical with proseminar, so it feels a bit like Groundhog Day. As a research assistant he is working on NASA and NSF funded projects.

Anna Mae Green (BA 2010) recently moved to New York City and is pursuing a Masters in Public Health at NYU.

George Hoffman (MA 2004) and his wife Judith are enjoying seaside living in Sarasota, Florida. A retired Marine Colonel, Professor Hofmann taught the popular Military Geography course for many years. He is pictured with the newest family member, Kilimanjaro.

Matt Wallach (BA 2004) Since Graduating from George Washington University with a BA in Geography (2004), Matt Wallach has gone on to earn a Masters in Urban Planning from Hunter College and, until 2011, has worked on environmental issues in NY including promoting sustainable solutions to a county’s water needs, conducting outreach and education on hydraulic fracturing, and advocating measures to protect our waterways. Since 2011, Matt has returned to the Washington DC region and is now the Project Director for the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Health Care Facilities Project, a partnership of Maryland Pesticide Network (based in Baltimore) and Beyond Pesticides (based in Washington, DC). As Project Director, Matt works with health care facilities on implementation of IPM plans and procedures in order to reduce pest pressures and eliminate the need for harmful pesticides. Matt coordinates an IPM consulting team and provides educational presentations on the dangers of pesticides, proper IPM procedures, and safer alternatives to harmful products.

Hannah MacMillan (BA 2014) writes that she has moved to California to work for Apple Maps in Cupertino. “I am working on a year-long contract for them as a GIS tech and it’s been a great experience so far.”

Dana Thomson (BA 2008) is living and working in Kigali, Rwanda. In case you are interested she is keeping a blog: danathomson.com. This summer Professor Joe Dymond visited her and was deeply impressed.

Richard Barad (BA 2014) is working for HIP Consult, a small international consulting firm that focuses on infrastructure and IT development in Africa. He is helping with mapping and GIS work for a web application HIP Consult is building to visualize telecommunications infrastructure on a continental scale. The company works with open-source software and I have learned a lot about...
new cutting edge mapping tools. The office is on Washington Circle, so he has right next to campus.

**Stephen Ross (BA 2014)** is enrolled in the Geography MA program at GW, where he will also earn a GIS Certificate. Stephen went with the CALM team to Siberia this summer, which was a highlight.

**Cary Fukui (BA 2012)** will complete his studies at NYU Wagner this year, earning a Master of Urban Planning with a concentration in Housing and Economic Development. For his capstone project he will be working on a team for NYC Department of Transportation to assess the impacts of the freight traffic routes in East Williamsburg. He is also starting a part-time job as the Storefront Improvement Coordinator with the NYC Small Business Services Neighborhood Development Division.

**Aurora Echavarria (BA 2014)** is earning a MA in Urban Development Planning at the London School of Economics.

**Kirk Scheffler (BA 2011)** writes that “I was accepted into the geography program at the University of Wyoming. I am very happy to start doing graduate level coursework and if it wasn’t for the wonderful experiences I had at the GW Department of Geography I don’t know where I would be at this point. I was also offered an assistantship with the Wyoming Geographic Alliance which is sponsored by the National Geographic Society, so hopefully I will be able to visit DC again soon.”

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**Geographers with Natitude**

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**HMS Inaugural Mapathon, November 21, 2014**
Phil Satlof (BA 1992) works in Arlington for Blue Raster, a GIS firm. He has been working in GIS and mapping 1999. Phil is busy with two children, Parker who is 5 and Nate who is 3. And he writes that “I still use concepts and methods that I first learned at Quigley’s DAILY! So keep up the good work!”

Genevieve Parente (MA 2012) defended her comprehensive exams in the spring and begins her dissertation research at UBC this fall.

Kaitlin Yarnall (MA 2008) is the Managing Art Director at National Geographic Magazine. In 2014 she was recognized as a Distinguished alumnus at Humboldt State University in California.

Anna Findley (MA 2013) married Sean Timothy Keenan this September. The couple lives in Reston, Virginia and Anna works at SYNCAAD, a consulting firm.

Nate Jackson (MA 2014) married Eileen Jackson this summer and moved to Richard, Virginia where he is teaching social studies at the Washington Academy.

Nathaniel Lewis (MA 2007) on his new position as Lecturer in the Population, Health and Wellbeing cluster in Geography and Environment at the University of Southampton in the UK! Nathaniel also recently received an Endeavour Australian Fellowship at the University of Western Sydney and published articles in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers and Health & Place, two leading geography journals.

Marina Medina (MA 2014) returned to San Juan, Puerto Rico where she is enrolled in law school at the University of Puerto Rico.

Aurora Echavarria (BA 2014) is off on another great global adventure. She is currently living in London and going to graduate school at University College London (UCL) in the Urban Development Planning Program.

Camille Fisher Glades (MA 2012) is working at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, DC.

Colin Reisser (MA 2012) is working for an energy company in Denver, Colorado. He became a geological technician at EOG Resources in February 2014. Exactly the company and position he wanted!

Corrie Drummond Garcia (MA 2006) is living in Bogotá and working for US AID. She was in Washington this summer where she gave birth to a baby girl, Ava.

Kelly Cornell (MA 2005) married Steve Lew this November. The couple, who lives in D.C., had their nuptials in the Yucatan peninsula. Kelly works for Arlington County as a transportation planner. She also teaches a human geography course at Marymount University.

Gillian Acheson (BA 1994) is currently Department Chair at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville where she is an Associate Professor. She earned her MA from the University of Delaware and her PhD from Texas A&M in 2003.

GWU Geography Students inducted into Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) The International Geographical Honor Society For the 2013-2014 Academic Year

Richard Zlotsky Barad
Alisha Marie Camacho
Patrick Thomas Cero
Ellen Christiansen
Jenlain Alexandra Coyle
Lauren Nicole Dauphin
Justyna Marie Felusiak
Taggart M. Galvin-Darnieder
Andrew Kerr
Christopher Lindscott Kibler
Mitch Langley
Arzoo Sanjiv Malhotra
Kean Thomas McDermott
Rachel Catherine Gail Patton
Michael Andrew Phillips
Dana Plucinski
Amelia Chancery Prior
Jacqueline Elizabeth Stewart

Corrie Drummond Garcia, Kelly Cornell and Marie Price lunching in the patio of Tonic this summer. Tonic Restaurant (aka Quigley’s Pharmacy) was the home of Geography until 2003.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2014!

M.A. in Geography

Amber Boykin
Nate Jackson
Murray Lee
Haldon Lindstrom
Jing Lu
Marina Medina
Kristen Pyne
Jennifer Rowland
Jillian Sherman
Marnie Valdivia

B.A. in Geography

Sarah Andrews
Richard Barad
Alisha Camacho
Patrick Cero
Susan Charlop
Ellen Christiansen
Clayton Cohen
Lauren Dauphin
Aurora Echavarria
Jamie Fanous
Maggie Frey
Tag Galvin Darnieder
Ryan Hickey
Andrew Kerr
Chris Kibler
Taylor Knox
Mitchell Langley
Hannah MacMillan
Cathryn Magilson
Arzoo Malhotra
Kean McDermott
Ellyse Murphy
Addison Pettit
Michael Phillips
Olivia Pietrantonio
Amelia Prior
Dana Plucinski
Hannah Robinson
Stephen Ross
Philip Ryan
Aja Shives-Sellars
Jacqueline Stewart
Valentine Umans
Brandon Wooten

B.A. in Environmental Studies

Sarah Andrews
Samantha Bachert
Pinthip Bauer Huynh
Peter Berini
Daniel Boff
Julia Bragdon
Anthony Bucci
Alisha Camacho
Jeffrey Clare
Mari-Claire Dart
Clayton Cohen
Lauren Dauphin
John Erickson
Jamie Fanous
Malcom Fouhy
Abigail Gross
Ryan Hickey
Peter Joyce
Hannah MacMillan
Arzoo Malhotra
Keinan Marks
Taylor McCandless
Kean McDermott
Anne Milewski
Lindsay Moore
Robert Mulvaney III
Dana Plucinski
Amelia Prior
Hannah Robinson
Stephen Ross
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Jacqueline Stewart
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Ms. Valentine B. Umans  
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Mr. John A. Weiss  
Dr. John & Mrs. Elizabeth Westfall

Donations received between October 2013—October 2014

Semester Events

Geography Fall 2014 Speaker Series

**November, 7:** Dr. Robert Kaufmann “Should the US reduce oil imports: unreliable suppliers and other choke-points”

**November, 21:** Dr. Lindsay Naylor “A Window to Better Money: Perspectives on Fair Trade Production and Diverse Economies in Rebel Chiapas”

**January, 23rd:** Dr. Mona Domosh, Dartmouth College and AAG President, "From the U.S. South to the Global South: Practicing Development at Home"

**March, 20:** Dr. William Wyckoff, Montana State University, "Producing Public Geographies: The Creation of How to Read the American West: A Field Guide"

All events are scheduled for 4pm in the Department, Room 219 of Old Main and are followed by a reception. All are welcome.

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