Dear Friends of the Department of Geography at GWU,

I am very pleased to report that the Department of Geography and the Environmental Studies Program (which is housed within the Department) are flourishing. Numbers of both full-time faculty and students declaring a major in Geography or Environmental Studies are on the rise. We currently have 10 full-time faculty, 84 majors in Geography and 82 majors in Environmental Studies. Our faculty has been active in research, teaching and service. Several of our students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are collaborating with professors on research and presenting their research at regional and national conferences. Eleven students presented their research at the Association of American Geographers’ annual meeting in New York City in February of this year. Still others presented papers or posters at the International Polar Year Conference in Montreal, Canada; at the Race/Ethnicity and Place conference held in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and the Mid-Atlantic Division of the AAG-Pennsylvania Geographic Society meeting held in Salisbury, Maryland. The GWU Geography team competed in the Geography Bowl at the MAD-PGS meeting in Salisbury and won the trophy yet again! Two of our students – Raynell Cooper and Chris Hart - placed first and third overall and will be on the Mid-Atlantic Division Team at the national Geography Bowl which will be held in Los Angeles in April 2013.

Prof. Marie Price will be on sabbatical during the 2012-2013 academic year. We wish her success in her research. Prof. Joseph Dymond and David Rain took the Geography seniors on the much anticipated weekend field trip to Mason Neck, Virginia and were lucky to have returned before Hurricane Sandy struck the Washington area on October 29-30, 2012.

This year, we are joined by two new faculty: Dr. Michael Mann and Dr. Edwin Squires. Dr. Michael Mann, who is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, will be joining us as a tenure-track professor in Spring 2013. We are also very fortunate to have Dr. Edwin R. Squires as a Visiting Professor for the academic year. Prof. Squires comes to us from Taylor University and has a wealth of teaching, research, and administrative experience. Welcome, Prof. Mann and Prof. Squiers!

We are very proud of our students and grateful to our alumni whose contributions help us support student research and professional development. Alumni gifts have subsidized the senior field trip and student travel to conferences and for field work. Former students have mentored current ones and pointed them towards interesting internships, job opportunities and even housed them on occasion.

As always, we’d be delighted to hear from you and have you visit us at 1922 F Street. Please share news of your travels, your work and new developments in your lives with us. We look forward to hearing from you!

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

Elizabeth Chacko
**New Visiting Faculty: Dr. Edwin Squiers**

Born in Bath, New Brunswick, Canada, Dr. Squiers has taught biology, botany, ecology, and environmental science at the university level for 37 years. He completed degrees in geography (SUNY Binghamton, BA 1970), ecology (Rutgers University, MA 1973), and botany (Ohio University, PhD 1976).

Squiers’ research activities include: studies of the spatial/temporal dynamics of terrestrial ecosystems (forests, prairies and wetlands), agro-ecology and weed science, urban forest sustainability, environmental ethics, environmental policy, and the application of geographic information systems in ecological research. In recent years, he has received significant grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to develop a rapid assessment protocol for Indiana wetland ecosystems and to study the use of geographic information systems technology to analyze the impact of agricultural runoff in the Mississinewa River watershed in northeast Indiana. During 2005-2007 he was supported by the Lily Foundation as principal investigator for a study of the impact of increasing automobile traffic on the sustainability of the urban forest of Petrozavodsk, Russia. His research has resulted in the publication of more than 30 professional papers and technical reports as well as the presentation of more than 65 papers at state, national, and international professional meetings.

Awarded emeritus status at Taylor University in the spring of 2011, Dr. Squiers is currently serving as Visiting Professor of Geography at George Washington University where he is teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in environmental science and related areas of study.

**New Faculty: Dr. Michael Mann**

After working in the horn of Africa, Michael Mann received his masters in Environmental Policy and Management and PhD in quantitative Geography from Boston University. His current work at UC Berkeley is looking at the economic and social costs of residential development in fire-prone areas throughout California. This project involves state-wide modeling and projections of housing density and fire probabilities under two housing and climate scenarios. Michael has published in seven peer-reviewed journals including Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, European Central Bank Working Papers, Energy Journal, and Ecological Economics. He has widely applied his modeling skills to topics as diverse as land-use change in the Amazon, oil price determination, and the role of Chinese sulphur emissions on global temperatures.
This summer GW Professors Nikolay Shiklomanov, Dmitry Streletskiy, graduate student Tim Swales, and undergraduate Kelsey Nyland presented papers and abstracts at the Tenth International Conference on Permafrost (TICOP) in Salekhard, Russia. The conference was sponsored by the International Permafrost Association (IPA), the Yamal-Nenets regional government, the Institute of Earth Cryosphere, and the Tyumen State Oil and Gas University. This conference is held every four years and represents the pinnacle of permafrost science and research. The conference was devoted to the changes in the permafrost regions, and how people are mitigating or adapting to it. Salekhard was an ideal location for the conference because it is a thriving urban center, but also a site of changing permafrost. Located at 66.56 degrees North, right on the Arctic Circle, it is at the very center of changing climate and human development.

Professor Nikolay Shiklomanov presented research on the spatial patterns and temporal trends of the Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) program. CALM is the world’s primary source of empirical information about the active layer (uppermost portion of the permafrost which seasonally thaws). Dr. Dmitry Streletskiy presented a paper on “Infrastructure and a Changing Climate in the Russian Arctic: a geographic impact assessment.” This looked at how changes in permafrost and the surrounding thermal regime affects socially important variables such as bearing capacity, winter road accessibility, and heating degree days. Kelsey Nyland presented a paper entitled “Effect of Vegetation on Soil-Surface Temperatures in Northern Alaska,” about the relation of vegetation types to temperature changes in Alaska. Kelsey was one of the only undergraduate students at the conference presenting as the lead author on a paper. Finally, Tim Swales presented an extended abstract entitled “Changing Permafrost and Arctic Population.” This presentation looked at the spatial distribution of the Arctic population in relation to areas of changing permafrost. All of the GW work presented at the conference was published in the peer reviewed proceedings. Tim Swales and Kelsey Nyland also participated in the Permafrost Young Researchers workshops. This series of workshops discussed ways in which young researchers can find new opportunities, present their research, and collaborate with other permafrost scientists.

Dr. Streletskiy, Nyland, and Swales all received competitive scholarships from the Yamal-Nenets regional government. Nyland received support from the George Washington University SURE Award and the George Washington undergraduate research fellowship. Both of these awards are given for outstanding original research and undergraduate achievement. Swales was further supported by the Campbell Graduate Student Summer research award.

This trip to Siberia also included an international field research course organized by Dr. Streletskiy in collaboration with Moscow State University. This course included researchers from the U.S., Russia, France, Germany, China and Poland. Nyland, Swales and Dr. Streletskiy all attended. The course was led by Dr. Valery Grebenets of Moscow State University and covered a range of topics from glacial formation in the Ural Mountains to permafrost effects on local infrastructure. The course involved intensive field work exercises and research in the Eastern Arctic Ural Mountains. After field work there were presentations on the local climate, geography, and human settlements, where Swales gave an award-winning presentation on the transportation networks of Siberia. Nyland used the opportunity to learn more field research techniques that will help her in her current project of ice cellars in Alaska. Swales’ upcoming research involves the impacts of climate change on infrastructure in Siberia, and this course offered invaluable first-hand experience to those processes.
Former GW Geographer Enters the Recording Studio to Produce “The Flyover States”

Pete Tchoukaleff, former GW Geography major and graduate of the class of 2011, spent much of the past spring in a music recording studio in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He and two longtime friends make up the folk-rock band Eliot & Eads, which is in the process of releasing their first studio album, entitled The Flyover States. The record features original music from the group; and while the trio may not provide a map or clearly-delineated description of ‘the fly-over states,’ their music touches on stories and characters that make parts of the United States so memorable.

“‘The fly-over states’ is no one place,” noted Tchoukaleff, “more than anything else, it is the cultural setting--or venue--for our study.”

Pete’s geography background heavily influenced the creative writing process for the group’s music. According to Tchoukaleff, the group “aimed to portray an accurate cultural and geographic landscape of the people and places touched upon in The Flyover States.” He added that “the record investigates the various means by which Americans interact with their native environments--and we hope that message resonates with our listeners.”

The Flyover States will be released this fall, available on iTunes. To hear the record now, please visit the band at www.eliotandeads.com.
George Washington University Freshman Wins MVP in World Geography Bowl in NYC

Two students from the Department of Geography were on the Mid-Atlantic Division (MAD) Team that competed in the World Geography Bowl in New York City on February 27th, 2012. Masters student Colin Reisser and Freshman Raynell Cooper represented GW on the MAD Team along with four other students from the division. The team took third place overall. Raynell Cooper, however, received the MVP Award for the highest average points per round. Congratulations to Raynell and to all the MAD team members!

GWU Geography Team Wins MAD-AAG Geography Bowl

On Saturday, November 3, 2012 in Salisbury, Maryland, the GWU Geography Team competed against other Mid-Atlantic Division Teams to win the MAD-AAG World Geography Bowl. The team (from left to right) includes Chris Hart, Jason Burgdorfer (graduate student), Alex Kemp, Grace Campbell, Raynell Cooper and Alex Pommer. The team's coach was GWU Geography alumnus, Colin Reisser. Cooper and Hart placed 1st and 3rd overall in points awarded. They, along with Burgdorfer will compete on the MAD team in Los Angeles in April 2013 in the national championship. Congratulations to all the players! GO GEOGRAPHY!
NEW GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE STUDENTS

Amber Boykin
After an abrupt change from Biology, Amber received her Bachelor's Degree in International Studies from Old Dominion University. As a graduate student, she looks forward to exploring her interests in political geography, cultural geography, and identity politics. Currently she is specifically interested in topical concepts such as the North-South divide, social movements, and the construction of nations/nationhood under the influence of globalization. Her regions of expertise and research interests are Latin America and the Global South.

Matthew Holden
Matthew, originally from Richmond Virginia, double majored in Geography and Religion at the University of Mary Washington, also completing a certificate program in GIS. Matthew works as a researcher and GIS analyst at Marstel-Day, an environmental consulting firm located in Alexandria, supporting planning projects around the country. Within Geography, his interests revolve around population studies and trends, urban geography, and cultural landscapes.

Nathaniel Jackson
Nathaniel graduated from Yale University in 2006, played a year of professional hockey in Gap, France and has been working at Gonzaga College High School as a Social Studies teacher since 2008. Nathaniel has research interests in applied GIS, urban planning and development, and political geography.

Sarah Jackson
Sarah Jackson is a first year graduate student with interests in Native American cultures, health, and the spatial relationships that exist between Native American reservations. She graduated from the George Washington University with a Bachelors of Arts in Geography and Environmental Studies. She is from and currently resides in Washington, D.C. and hopes to one day work for the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Jing Lu
Jing is from Shanghai, China. She graduated from East China Normal University in 2011. Her interests in geography include economic geography, urban geography and transportation. When she is not busy reading papers or writing, she likes to travel and meet new people.
Jennifer Rowland
Jenny is from Santa Fe, New Mexico. She received her BA in Geography at the University of Delaware. After graduation, she spent time working for a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in the transportation planning field. Her interests within Geography include urban geography, sustainability, urban planning, land-use, environmental justice, and health. In her spare time, Jenny enjoys cooking, camping and traveling.

Kristen Pyne
Kristen graduated from the University of South Florida in Spring 2012 with a BA in Geography. She has interned at the NASA Langley Research Center for the past two Summers and she was part of the USF's Women's Tennis team. Kristen grew up in Brandenton, Florida with her three sisters and she is a twin. Her interest is in physical Geography, which includes disasters and climate. In her free time, Kristen likes to go to the beach, play tennis, and bike.

Jennifer Rowland
Jenny is from Santa Fe, New Mexico. She received her BA in Geography at the University of Delaware. After graduation, she spent time working for a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in the transportation planning field. Her interests within Geography include urban geography, sustainability, urban planning, land-use, environmental justice, and health. In her spare time, Jenny enjoys cooking, camping and traveling.

Jillian Sherman
Jillian graduated in 2012 from The Ohio State University with a double major in Geography and Anthropology. Her research interests within geography include human-environment interactions, issues relating to food, plant and animal conservation, and environmental and social justice, as well as GIS applications within those areas. In her free time, she enjoys doing anything outside, exploring the city, and baking/ cooking vegetarian food.

Marnie Valdivia
Marnie Valdivia is a professional in the field of international development, working for a USAID contractor on a stability program in Afghanistan. Professionally, Marnie seeks to increase transparency and efficiency of international aid programs by promoting the use of GIS mapping and creative visualization of open-source data. In her free time, Marnie enjoys cooking, hiking, and tweeting about development, environmental issues, and international affairs. Her academic areas of interest include natural resources management, sustainable development, and urban sustainability with a focus on the Middle East region.

Marina Medina-Cordero
Marina Medina-Cordero was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, as part of the 2012 class with a B.A. in Geography. Her academic interests are political geography, Latin America and international conflicts. In her free time Marina likes to read, write and go to the movies.
Muriel H. Parry Award
Presented to a Geography Senior in Recognition for Scholarly Excellence
Recipient: Kathleena Mumford
Kathleena was born in Florida, lived in 10 different states, and even called Iraq home during military duty. She discovered Geography when she realized, with the help of her Spatial Analysis Professor Dr. Cheung, that she could study all of her interests in one discipline through the lens of a spatial perspective. Kathleena took advantage of GW's vast professional networks and prime location to secure two internships during her academic career. The first was with Esri, as a Geospatial Analyst where she increased her GIS knowledge and networked in Esri's large GIS-connected community. Her second internship was with Delta Airlines, where she helped to redesign Delta's in-flight map. The Delta internship was a direct result of a networking event sponsored by the GWU Geography Department. Kathleena asserts that her transition to being a focused Geography major was an enlightening experience. She worked on the Bir Madhkur Archeological Project in Jordan this past summer as a GIS coordinator. She is excited for the opportunity to employ GIS in the field toward solving "a real world problem." After her summer field work, Kathleena joined her husband in San Antonio, Texas where she continues her work in Geography and GIS. Her ultimate goal is to teach Geography at the university level.

Robert D. Campbell Prize
Presented to a Geography Senior for Outstanding Leadership and Scholarship
Recipient: Natasha Gregory-Michelman
“I'm not the traditional graduate.” Natasha’s prior professional career in the Thoroughbred Race Horse industry in the Hudson Valley ended abruptly in her mid-thirties by a life-changing accident. She went back to college where – in her words - she "discovered a whole new world, The World really, through the study of Geography. Under the stellar mentorship of my Professors at GWU I've honed a sophisticated focus on the intersection of the need for Development and Conservation throughout Africa," she said. Natasha completed an internship at the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) during her last semester at GWU and she remains there as assistant to the GIS manager. Natasha's role at AWF involves imagery analysis and cartographic responsibilities that support AWF's work in establishing protected areas, wildlife corridors, and conservation management strategies. Natasha is currently enrolled in the GIS Certificate program at Penn State University's World Campus, and she plans to continue graduate study in Geography and GIS. "Geospatial science has truly inspired in me a passion for discovery and a path forward."

Thomas Foggin Award
Presented to an Environmental Studies Senior in Recognition for Scholarly Excellence
Recipient: Julia Byrd
Julia first became interested in Environmental Studies when she took AP Environmental Studies in high school. The next year, she and her family moved to the Dominican Republic where she saw firsthand the issues associated with unsustainable development. At the same time, she was impressed by the level of recycling and energy conservation and began to realize how much the United States and Dominican Republic could learn from one another. She worked on a research project with Professor Keeley and Professor Svoboda examining perceptions of "green" and "green building" by the residents of GWU's newest green dormitory and how those perceptions changed over the course of the year. Julia would like to study urban sustainability further and eventually become a sustainable urban planner.
Congratulations to the above GWU Geographers for their recent induction into Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the International Geographical Honor Society. This group of exceptional GWU Geographers were inducted into GTU at the end of the Spring 2012 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 Geographic Society. New initiates will be inducted into GTU prior to the conclusion of this current fall, 2012 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.

Our special thanks go to the Geography alumni who participated in the November 2011 Senior/Alumni potluck dinner: Mustafa Dimbiloglu (BA ‘05), Victor Ecarma (BA ’98, MPA ’00), Abdul Rahim (BA ’09), Stephanie Shuff (BA ’10), Robert Banick (BA ‘10), Alex Stoicof (BA ‘10), Jarryd Commerford (BA ’08), Pete Tchoukaleff (BA ‘11), Kelly Cornell, Sam Salkin and Kyle Cole (BA ‘11). Please contact us if you would like to share your career experiences with our seniors.
Scholarships, Fellowships, & Awards

Provost/OVPR Undergraduate Research Fellowship:
Kelsey Nyland

This past April Kelsey Nyland was awarded the Undergraduate Research Fellowship in order to map the traditional Iñupiaq ice cellars in Barrow, Alaska.

The indigenous people of the Alaskan Arctic, known as the Iñupiaq, refer to themselves as “the people of the whale” since their society is oriented around the sacred Bowhead whale (A̱g̱v̱iq), hunted for subsistence every spring. An ice cellar (si̱g̱-uaq) is a natural refrigeration unit used for storing large quantities of meat. An ice cellar consists of a room dug into the permafrost (perennially frozen ground) which is below 0°C throughout the year. Warming air temperatures and resulting increases in the thermal regime jeopardize the structural integrity of these ice cellars. Climate change is the suspected cause of cellar failures, including reports of flooding, partial thawing and slumping of walls, and in some instances, complete collapse. The temperature increase in cellars can also result in spoilage of meat. These factors can potentially lead to diminishing traditional food supply, which can undermine indigenous subsistence and cultural practices.

The GW Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) program has been monitoring the temperatures of six cellars in Barrow. Nyland was involved with the monitoring of these cellars in previous years. This led to her independent research complementary to the ongoing temperature monitoring work.

It is commonly known that there are many cellars throughout Barrow. However, there are no complete records of their locations. Nyland’s work involved using indigenous knowledge and other survey techniques to collect location information on the cellars and to then map them using aerial photos. While in Barrow, Nyland and Professor Anna Klene from the University of Montana (another researcher with CALM) worked with the Barrow department of Planning and Community Service, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) personnel to host two community meetings, meet with students at the Barrow High School, and hold interviews with local whaling crew captains.

Nyland’s independent research serves two purposes. First, the work expands upon the ongoing temperature monitoring of cellars. This new spatial information facilitates future research into the failures experienced in the community. Second, she is currently working to produce a product, a GIS map layer of cellar locations, to make publicly available and particularly to share with the Barrow GIS department. Uses of the map include permitting construction projects, snow removal awareness, and protecting these historically significant structures.

Congratulations to Kelsey Nyland on Winning the Poster Award at IPY!

Kelsey Nyland was awarded First Place in the poster competition at the International Polar Year (IPY) conference in Montréal, Canada this past April. The motto of the conference was “from knowledge to action”. This conference accomplished this by bringing together more than 2,000 Arctic and Antarctic researchers, policy makers, indigenous peoples, industries, and other stakeholders in an effort to facilitate application of scientific findings to polar region policies on management and development.

Kelsey’s poster was in the category “Cryospheric changes in polar regions”. Her poster was titled, “Effects of Vegetation on Ground Temperature: Results of Long-Term Observation, Alaskan North Slope, USA”.

Kelsey Nyland (right) and Geography Master’s student Timothy Swales aboard a helicopter during field research in Alaska

Kelsey Nyland (center) takes temperature data in Barrow, Alaska
FIELD RESEARCH IN THE ALASKAN ARCTIC

This August, Geography Master’s student Tim Swales, undergraduate Kelsey Nyland, and recent graduate, Casey Rudick, participated in permafrost monitoring field work in Arctic Alaska with Geography professors Shiklomanov and Streletskiy of the GW Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) program. CALM is a circumpolar network of sites where data is collected about near surface permafrost parameters.

The research team traveled to a number of different sites. This took them up the famous Dalton Highway known for its ice road truckers, to an arctic research field station and to the oil fields of Prudhoe Bay. Some continued to Barrow, the northernmost city in the US well known for the Iñupiaq subsistence whalers. And lastly, a few visited sites in Nome on the Seward Peninsula.

The students gained technical experience and were able to work with several other professors and researchers from a variety of universities while in the field. In addition to the adventures of driving up the Dalton Highway, taking helicopters, and hiking, the students gained valuable field technique skills. Techniques included measuring the active-layer (the portion of the soil above the permafrost which thaws each warm season), downloading temperature data for the soil surface and air, installing cameras for snow depth monitoring, and Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) measurements. In addition, the students organize, process, analyze, and archive the data to then make it publicly available through the CALM website (http://www.gwu.edu/~calm).
Geography Professors Scale Mount Kilimanjaro

Prof. George Hofmann and Prof. Joseph Dymond climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in 2011 and 2012 respectively. Both of them trained for the arduous climb in the Blue Ridge Mountains near the Shenandoah Valley and in the case of Prof. Hofmann, in the Cascade Mountains as well. Mount Kilimanjaro is located in Northern Tanzania, near the border of Kenya, just a few degrees south of the equator. It is about 19,330 feet in height. The mountain is a stratovolcano, or composite cone, with three principal volcanoes- Kibo in the center, Mawensi in the east, and Shira in the west. The area in which it is located has two wet seasons: November to December and March to May, clearly not the ideal times to climb the mountain. Both professors scaled Mt. Kili (as it is affectionately called) during the drier summer season. They came back with lots of photographs and wonderful stories of camping in desolate, wind-swept areas, meeting like-minded people, experiencing and seeing the temperature and vegetation changes along their ascent and how great it felt to be finally on the crest of Mt. Kili.

Congratulations, George and Joe!

Dymond Wins GWU’s 2011-2012 Writing in the Disciplines Distinguished Teaching Award

Professor Joseph Dymond was the recipient of The George Washington University 2011-2012 Writing in the Disciplines (WID) Distinguished Teaching Award. Dymond has been teaching WID classes at GWU for seven years. Shortly after the WID program began at GW, Professor Dymond revised his Cultural Geography class, now Geography 2145W, to incorporate the WID approach and goals and he has been teaching it as a WID class since. Also, for the past three years, Dymond taught the Geography Department’s capstone course, Proseminar in Geographic Thought, Geography 4195W, as a WID class.

The Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes excellence, dedication, and innovation in service of the Writing in the Disciplines program and in service of GWU students. The award selection committee reported that they had a remarkably strong pool of nominees for the award, from across the university. However, Professor Dymond’s dossier stood out, even among so many other excellent candidates, as manifesting all of the WID program goals regarding the teaching materials and practices being employed in WID classes.

The committee was particularly impressed with Dymond’s creative and clear communication of disciplinary expectations of writing in the field of geography. They were also impressed with the high ratings Professor Dymond receives from students for extensive feedback. This feedback enables student writers to see the intrinsic connections between effective critical thinking and effective communication. Dymond’s connection of theoretical and empirical aspects of the field to projects that engage discipline-specific forms of writing with multiple audiences – professional, peer, and community – demonstrates the best of what writing in a discipline, as an approach to teaching and learning, can achieve.

In September 2012, US News College Rankings recognized twenty-one colleges and universities in the United States, including Harvard, Princeton, and Yale, for particular excellence in their Writing in the Disciplines programs. The GWU WID program was selected for recognition among this small and prestigious list of U.S. colleges and Universities.
Normally when professors take sabbaticals, they sequester themselves somewhere comfortable to write up their research. They do not usually set off in an old Honda to find the heart of “Flyover Country.”

After years spent mapping cities of the developing world, David Rain felt moved to use his sabbatical to explore his own backyard. Always fascinated by the process of ‘place-making’ (whereby people put their own distinctive spin on the settings they know best), Rain sought to find that magic mix in his travels.

He also wanted to test a hypothesis about the connection between widespread geographic illiteracy in the US and the ways that Americans actually use their land. To do this, he had to experience the country himself, putting more than 20,000 miles on his car and seeking out both famous (think The Alamo) and not-so-famous (think George W. Bush’s boyhood home in Midland, Texas) places, turning them into short vignettes which he calls ‘site bites’ that describe his experience there.

Finding these places took Rain to about 40 states, including the remaining five (ND, ID, MT, MS and AL) that he hadn’t been to yet. He stayed with friends, camped, couchsurfved, and spent about six weeks at the family cabin in the Rockies. The map at left includes a second trip he made in the summer of 2012 following the Ohio River to the confluence with the Mississippi in Cairo, Illinois. He plans an additional trip from Charleston around the Florida peninsula in December.

Following geographer Peirce Lewis’s adage “The more you know, the more you see,” Rain sought answers to his questions about landscape, tourism, and the ways we memorialize historical events. His first-person impressions of the Minnesota State Fair, the Civil War memorial in Vicksburg Mississippi, and his encounters with international students working in the shadow of Mt. Rushmore, as examples, provide ample color for the narrative.

Reviving interest in geography, Rain will argue, will require awakening human place sense. And the place to start is where people spend most of their time. The book will be a blend of travelogue and thematic chapters of the geographies of home and work, the 24-hour news cycle, and what a globally-warmed world will mean for the ways Americans value their land.

Rain wrote up his road notes in a series of entries in his blog [placeeffects.blogspot.com](http://placeeffects.blogspot.com). His manuscript will be completed by September 2013.
Amanda Osborne

Amanda’s research examines several community gardens within Washington, D.C. She wanted to explore the issue of insecure land tenure, as well as what populations have access to these urban green spaces. This summer Amanda took a mixed methods approach to examining community gardens that have been closed or are currently under threat for redevelopment. She conducted semi-structured interviews with garden members to understand the complexities of obtaining secure land tenure, as well as how each garden has reacted to the threat of redevelopment. In addition, Amanda used participant observation methods to assess what subsets of the population have access to these gardens. The observations will be compared to U.S. Census Bureau Data to determine if there is a difference between social access and geographic access, as well as the potential for an environmental injustice.

Timothy Swales

Tim Swales received support to travel to Siberia and present research at the Tenth International Conference on Permafrost in Salekhard, Russia. He also took part in a field course covering topics of permafrost change and infrastructure in Siberia. His research is on the impact of climate change on infrastructure in the Siberian Arctic.
The Geography Department at The George Washington University (GWU) enjoys an ongoing relationship with the National Geographic Society (Nat Geo). A significant part of the GW-Nat Geo relationship is an internship program where GWU Geography and Environmental Studies students intern each semester in several departments at Nat Geo. Geography student interns participate in semester-long internship programs while earning Geography internship credits under the guidance of Geography faculty advisor, Joe Dymond. Student interns work for the National Geographic Maps Group on various map and atlas projects, 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 the National Geographic Education Department, among other Nat Geo departments.

The Geography internships at National Geographic include working with the Network of Geographic Education Alliances (through the National Geographic Education Department). Geographer Michael Lewis, Class of 2012, worked on numerous projects during the academic year including the expansion of the D.C. Geographic Alliance (DCGA) and Teacher And Geography Students of D.C. (TAGS) websites. Lewis also worked with students from Washington D.C.’s public and private schools on several Nat Geo initiatives to increase geographic awareness and promote the continuation of geographic concepts in the classroom. He and a group of interns helped conduct a hands-on GPS & GIS workshop to allow students the opportunity to work with handheld GPS units, record waypoints, and then upload their data to Arc programs for analysis. Lewis said that “Working at The National Geographic Society Headquarters was one of the most memorable experiences I had during my four years at GW. One of the most important factors in my positive experience at National Geographic was the support by the staff. Nat Geo Headquarters is filled with some of the brightest, most innovative thinkers, motivators, and adventurers.”

Geography Senior, Joe Reynolds, class of 2013, interned in both the Nat Geo Maps group and in the Education department during the 2011-2012 academic year. Reynolds said of his experience that “National Geographic has an enormously high institutional standard of excellence and dedication to their map and geographic education products” and that “Both of these departments are on the cutting edge of geographic and environmental education and offer students, like myself, the opportunity to gain real life experience using mapping tools and to learn about how the information learned in class translates into the professional world.”

Geographer Anita Davidson, class of 2013, served as the Editorial and Cartographic Research intern in the Maps group. Her projects included editing the new Compact Atlas, various destination maps, and leading the research for a new adventure map of the Texas Hill Country. A number of the projects that Anita worked on were eventually published and printed for sale, including an anniversary map on the Titanic, and a map of the national parks of Canada. Davidson said she appreciated that the National Geographic internship gave her the opportunity and responsibility to actively participate in the ever changing realm of geography. She asserted the significance that an internship offers in gaining knowledge and skills outside of the classroom. Davidson summed up her internship experience saying “I am infinitely grateful for this experience as it has helped to shape my path as a professional geographer.”

The GWU Geography Department is very proud of its student interns and its relationship with the National Geographic Society.
**STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**Undergraduate students**


**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**Graduate students**


**FACULTY PUBLICATIONS**

**BOOKS**


**CHARTERS IN BOOKS**


**PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**


Chacko, Elizabeth and Marie Price. 2011 “The Role of the Diaspora in Development: The case of Ethiopian and Bolivian Immigrants in the USA.” Migration 5:5-19 (Tbilisi, Georgia)


**Alumni Notes**

Devin Keithley (MA ‘05) is a research associate at Community Research Partners in Columbus, Ohio. His organization just published *Global Report 2012* which focuses on the international assets of greater Columbus. The report stresses the importance of immigration and diversity in building strong global communities. Here’s the link [http://communityresearchpartners.org/14651.cfm?action=detail&id=170](http://communityresearchpartners.org/14651.cfm?action=detail&id=170)

In June, Lara Fisher Crampe (MA ‘00) conducted training and a field visit in Awassa, Ethiopia as part of her work as a Development Officer for the her International Institute of Rural Reconstruction. The pilot project focused on population and family planning and was supported by the Gates Foundation. It’s her second trip in Ethiopia.

Susan Wolfinbarger (MA ‘06) received her PhD in Geography from the Ohio State University in May 2012. Susan works for American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington, DC and lives in Arlington, VA.

Bonnie Epstein (BA ‘11) is a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Geography at the University of South Carolina.

Tripp Corbett (BA ‘12) is working for ESRI on the Federal Defense team in metropolitan Washington.

Tara Messing (BA ‘12) is at University of Maryland Law School this fall, focusing on environmental law. This past summer she internted at the National Audubon Society working on policy-related issues such as fracking and how Audubon could partner with EPAs National Estuary Program.

Anna Mae Green (BA ‘10) has spent about a couple of months travelling after finishing her two-years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Swaziland. She travelled the South African Coast, visited Victoria Falls, and toured around Zimbabwe and Malawi. She is happy to report that she survived bungee jumping and white water rafting down the Zambezi!

Alex Stoicof (BA ‘10) will spend the fall months travelling and working in Chile. To follow Alex on her adventure, see her blog [http://www.llamasenchile.blogspot.com/](http://www.llamasenchile.blogspot.com/)

Gareth Wishart (BA ‘08) is working for Conservation International in Washington DC. This summer he summited Mt. Rainier in the Cascades.

Please take the survey regarding your experiences as a student in Geography and Environmental Studies and help us in our assessment of these programs. Thank you.

The Department of Geography is currently going through a Self Study. Alumni, you will receive an e-mail asking for your input. Please take the survey regarding your experiences as a student in Geography and Environmental Studies and help us in our assessment of these programs. Thank you.
Colleen Pulsford (MA ’12) is working as a GIS analyst for a contractor at the US Agency for International Development.

Kaitlin Yarnall (MA ’08) married Alvaro Valiño this summer. The couple is living in Washington DC. Kaitlin continues to work for the National Geographic Society where she is the Deputy Creative Director for National Geographic magazine.

John Wright (BA ’12) is working as a Business Development Operations Analyst at Palantir Technologies in their office at Tysons Corner.

Gabriela Farias (BA ’12) is working as a graduate admissions counselor for the University of Southern California’s Rossier School of Education. She works at a USC satellite office in Landover, Maryland and is still living in DC!

Genevieve Parente (MA ’12) has received funding to pursue her doctorate in geography at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Genevieve had the lead article in the summer issue of Focus magazine with her essay titled “Living in the New North: Migration to and from Russian Arctic Cities” co-authored with Nikolay Shiklomanov and Dmitry Streletskiy.

In the same issue of Focus, David Cochran (MA ’96) wrote the article “Using Historical Newspaper Accounts to Reconstruct the Impacts of 19th Century Hurricanes in Central America”. David is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Geology at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Alana Bryant (BA ’12) started law school this fall at the University of Hawaii. She plans to study Environmental Law and Native Hawaiian Law. The photo below is of the William S. Richardson Law School class of 2015 in front of the Hawaii State Supreme Court.

Cary Fukui (BA ’12) had a summer internship with the Transportation Division of City Planning in New York City. He hopes to move over to the Housing, Economic, and Infrastructure Planning team this fall.

Evan Feeney (BA ’11) is working as an Operations Associate at an international non-profit called Avaaz. He joined Avaaz just in time to take part in a staff retreat in Italy. Vita dolce!

Trevor Tisler (BA ’11) is working with an environmental consulting firm called MDB, Inc.

Meera Ravichandran (BA ’11) is living in Washington DC and working for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Julia (De Sevo) Kaplan (BA ’07, MPH ’09) is now a Senior Programmer/Analyst at the World Trade Center Health Program at Mt. Sinai Medical Center. Julia co-authored an article in The Lancet titled “Persistence of Multiple Illnesses in World Trade Center Rescue and Recovery Workers: A Cohort Study”.

Ben Hyman (BA ’10) has just taken a new job as Executive Director of Pigtown Main Street, a small business association in Baltimore.

Evan Perkins (BA ’12) is living in Washington, D.C. and working for the Alliance to Save Energy, an NGO that focuses on energy efficiency.

Summer Newman (BA ’12) worked this summer as a planning assistant for GW’s office of campus planning. In October she begins her new job in DC as a Research Analyst with Jones Lang LaSalle where she will focus on the DC commercial real estate market.

Mark Butman (MA ’09) works for Courage Services, Inc., a DC-area-based cultural and geographic research company. He uses his understanding of displacement, migration, cultural geography and GIS he learned completing his Master’s at GW in order to analyze historical, field and census data in order to map people groups in the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. He has worked on projects focusing on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Iran, Syria, Libya and Mozambique.

Wesley Reisser (BA ’04, MA ’07) published his first book, The Black Book: Woodrow Wilson’s Secret Plan for Peace (Lexington Books, 2012) about the maps and plans used by the American delegation to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference and the lasting legacy of American involvement in World War I. Reisser is an assistant professional lecturer with the GW Geography Department. He also serves at the U.S. Department of State, working on multilateral diplomatic issues, and is a regular lecturer on Middle East geography and multilateral diplomacy at the State Department’s Foreign Service Institute.

Lindsay Withers (MA ’09) is working in Santa Fe, NM, as a GIS Analyst at the Trust for Public Land, an organization that conserves land for people. She also continues to contract part-time in the community health field as a Mapping Specialist.

Allison Bybee (BA ’09) is a Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Department of State. She was recently posted to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico where she is putting her knowledge of political geography to good use.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2012!

MA in Geography
Eric Ashcroft
Camille Fisher
Grace Guthe
Christopher Marques
Genevieve Parente

BA in Geography
Tyler Baggerly
Ariana Baldomero
Harry Bergmann
Alana Bryant
Rachel Eisenberg
Gabriela Farias
Cary Fukui
Grace Hearty
Kristi Huckabone
Sarah Jackson
Lauren Jacobson
Hae-Youn Lee

BA in Environmental Studies
Michelle Arvin
Erin Bosetti
Ariana Baldomero
Alana Bryant
Troy Burbank
Julia Byrd
Sarah Cahan
Juliana Campbell
Katherine Constantini
Alyssa Edwards
Cary Fukui
Warren Hayford
Corinne Haynes
Nishan Hooda

Colin Reisser
Robert Sidell
Christopher Susio
Maianna Voge

Michael Lewis
Tara Messing
Matthew McDermott
Kathleena Mumford
Benjamin Nathan
Summer Newman
Evan Perkins
Molly Ray
Casey Rudick
Nicholas Thulin
Gloria Verhey
John Wright

Christian Howard
Jeremy Iloulian
Sarah Jackson
Michael Johnson
Jeanette Kaiser
Eric Lara
Chinazo Okpalanma
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Mr. Evan Daniel Perkins  
Dr. Marie Daly Price  
Ms. Lindsay L. Withers

*Donations received between October 2011—October 2012

Semester Events

Fall 2012 Speakers

Sept. 28 Dr. Edwin R. Squiers, George Washington University, “Why Science is Under-valued in the Public Arena: Confronting the Four Horseman of the Apocalypse”

Nov. 9 Juan Jose Valdes, National Geographic, “Being a National Geographic cartographer, or...So, you take pictures for the magazine?”

Nov. 30 Dr. Wesley J. Reisser, U.S. Department of State, “The Black Book: Woodrow Wilson’s Secret Plan for Peace”

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