

Geography Connection

University of Utah Department of Geography

Volume 6 ❖ Spring 2005

Letter from the Chair



Dr. Harvey Miller



It is an exciting time for the geography department. We have a young and dynamic faculty, and excellent undergraduate and graduate students. The Department of Geography is on the move!

During the past year, **Phillip Dennison** (Ph.D., UC-Santa Barbara, 2003) and **Bing Xu** (Ph.D., UC-Berkeley, 2003) joined our faculty, adding strengths to the remote sensing, spatial analysis and spatial epidemiology dimensions of our program. This follows the addition of **Andrea Brunelle** (Ph.D., University of Oregon, 2002) and **Paul Torrens** (Ph.D., University College London, 2004) to our faculty during the previous year; they contribute their considerable talents to the biogeography, urban geography and GIS components of the program. These recent additions add luster to the already top-quality geography faculty. All of our faculty have earned national and international reputations for their excellent scholarship. They are also hardworking teachers, and contribute much to the university and scientific communities. And, if that is not enough, they are pleasant and selfless individuals who are dedicated to making the department and university a better place for all.

We also have great auxiliary faculty who give much to the program. **Spike Hampson** continues to teach our much-needed and well-subscribed regional geography courses. **Elliott Lips** contributes time and energy to the Earth system science program beyond his high-quality teaching. And I am pleased to welcome **Larry Coats** to our cadre of adjuncts; Larry will be teaching physical geography and hazards courses, as well as collaborating on faculty research projects. And finally U of U alumni **David Wilkins** has also joined our adjunct faculty staff, helping to fill the enormous gap left by the passing of Donald Currey.

And don't get me started about our excellent students! U of U geography students have been winning their share of prizes and awards, both locally and nationally. During the past year, **Edward Pultar** won an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Assistantship from the University of Utah, **Scott Bridwell** won the Association of American Geographers' GIS spe-

cialty group student paper competition, **Alex Hogle** was awarded 1st place in the student poster competition at the Utah Geographic Information Council annual meeting, and **Jeff VanLooy** took first place in the student paper competition at the Annual Meeting of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the AAG. These are only the most visible of an exceptional group of undergraduate and graduate students.

The people who help make it all happen are our excellent departmental staff. During the past year, **Lisa Clayton** received a promotion to Administrative Assistant, and **Maryann Golightly** joined us as Executive Secretary. Both work tirelessly to make our lives easier (especially mine!), and I don't want to think about what we would do without them. And of course I inherited this fine department from **Tom Kontuly**, who served as Chair for the previous six years. Thanks for keeping the place in good shape, Tom!

Of course, the news over this past year has not been entirely happy. We were very saddened by the loss of long-time faculty Professor **Donald Currey**. Professor Currey was a valued faculty member for over three decades, as well as an outstanding colleague and friend. He will be missed by the faculty and students of the U, as well as the many people whose lives he touched through his teaching and scholarship.

None of this can happen without you! Although the bad budget times seem to be over, at least for now, the general trend is still for less and less state support for the university. We must rely more and more on alumni and others who generously support student scholarships and other activities. Every donation, no matter its size, makes a positive impact on the geography program.

Well, I apologize for gushing so much about the department. It really is an outstanding program with a growing, international reputation for excellence in scholarship and teaching. I am proud to be departmental Chair.

I invite you to visit the department webpage at www.geog.utah.edu. Surf over and see what's happening in the Biggest Little Geography Department in the World!

Harvey J. Miller
Chair, Department of Geography

New Faculty

We would like to welcome the new faculty who joined the department over the last two years. Paul Torrens and Andrea Brunelle joined us in Fall 2003. Phillip Dennison and Bing Xu joined the department Fall 2004.



Andrea Brunelle received both her Bachelors degree in Environmental Geology in 1993 and her Master's degree in Quaternary studies in 1997 from Northern Arizona University. She earned a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in Geography in 2002. She is director of the RED Lab (Records of Environment and Disturbance) and her research

interests focus on paleoecology, particularly long-term records of disturbance regimes in the desert South West and Northern Rockies. Andrea teaches Cartography, Global Climate Change, and Pyrogeography (a new course on the interaction of fire and ecosystems which she developed). Andrea is doing research funded by a couple of EPA SCERP grants and an instrumentation grant. Andrea enjoys hiking, reading, knitting and jewelry making. She and husband Todd have just welcomed their second son, born March 2005.

Phillip Dennison earned a B.S. degree from Penn State University in 1997. He received his Master's (1999) and his Ph.D. (2003) from UC Santa Barbara. Phil's research interests include using remote sensing to map wildfire fuel properties and how they change over time. He is also interested in modeling the behavior and spread of wildfires. Phil is currently teaching two remote sensing courses, the Earth from Space and Measuring Global Change from Space, and a seminar on hyperspectral remote sensing. Phil developed a new course for next year on Environmental Optics. He is currently working on two grants from NASA North American Carbon Program



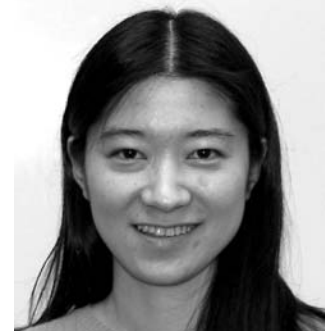
Paul Torrens received his B.A. (Mod.) Hons. degree in Geography from Trinity College Dublin in 1996. He earned a Master's degree from Indiana University in 1998 and a Master's degree from Trinity College Dublin in 1999. Paul received his Ph.D. from University College London in 2004, where he was a Research Fellow at the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis. Paul's research interests include GIS, geosimulation, geocompu-



tation, spatial modeling, urban simulation, agent-based models, urban geography, residential location theory, suburban sprawl, and planning support systems. He is currently working on a suite of advanced models of urban growth and crowd behavior, as well as mapping the geography of WIFI signals in dense urban areas. His work has received funding

from the UK's Economic and Social Research Council, the University of Utah, and Alias, Inc. Paul is teaching an agent-based modeling seminar, spatial statistics, spatial modeling with GIS, and the Geography of Cyberspace at the University of Utah. He has been invited to lecture at several Universities, including the University of Copenhagen, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, the International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences, Cornell University, the University of Michigan, Tel Aviv University, and the State University of New York in Buffalo. Paul has written over 20 publications and has just published a new book, entitled, *Geosimulation: Automata-Based Modeling of Urban Phenomena*.

Bing Xu received a B.S. degree in Economics from the Beijing Polytechnic University in China in 1993. She went on to be a Ph.D. candidate in Industrial Engineering at Lund University in Sweden. She received her M.S. degree in Environmental Science, Policy and Management from the University of California, Berkeley and earned her Ph.D. in the same field from UC Berkeley in 2003. Bing's research interests are remote sensing, spatial epidemiological modeling as well as GIS applications. Bing teaches Medical Geography (a course she developed covering GIS and remote sensing in public health), Geocomputation, and Aerial Photograph Interpretation. Bing received the Early Career Award, Remote Sensing Specialty Group, from the AAG in 2004. Bing has secured a grant from the US Geological Survey to examine cheat grass habitat modeling and distribution using LANDFIRE data in Central Utah. Bing enjoys reading and writing in Chinese, cooking, playing badminton and table tennis.



Faculty Affairs

Tom Cova's (Assistant Professor) research interests are hazards, transportation and GIS. In 2005, Tom received two awards from the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS): the 2005 John I Davidson award for practical papers (2nd place) and the Leica Geosystems award for best scientific paper (3rd place). Tom directs the Geography Information Science Certificate program and is developing a certificate program for hazards. He recently received funding from the National Science Foundation to develop new geographic data models and analysis methods to handle dynamic geographic phenomenon. Tom enjoys hiking, skiing, movies and traveling.

Rick Forster (Associate Professor) received promotion and tenure in 2005. He serves as the Director of Graduate Studies for the department. Rick's research interests are remote sensing of seasonal snow pack and glaciers. Rick is offering a new class, Geography 3292/5292 Snow & Ice, which surveys topics on snow and ice from a physical geography perspective. He attended the American Geophysical Union (AGU) conference in San Francisco, Earth System Scholars symposium, the ASPRS and the Association of American Geographers (AAG) conferences this year. He enjoys skiing, biking and backpacking.

George Hepner (Professor) continues to act as the director of the Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy which supports environmental research on the US/Mexican border region. His research interests are the use of geographic information science in urban analysis, land capability and use analysis, and applications for GIS in homeland security. George developed a timely new course, "Geography of Terrorism and Homeland Security."

Tom Kontuly (Professor) is on academic leave for the year 2004 – 2005. Tom's research interests are urban and regional development in Europe with a focus in Germany and Estonia. Next year Tom plans on teaching Urban, Economic and Population Geography. This summer Tom will conduct research at the German Ministry of Building and Planning in Bonn, and work with Professor Franz-Josef Kemper at Humboldt University in

Berlin and Professor Tiit Tammaru at the Institute of Geography at the University of Tartu in Estonia. In addition, he will attend the meeting of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in Tours, France in July. Tom enjoys racquetball, walking and cross-country skiing.

Harvey Miller (Professor) is the department Chair. His research interests are Geographic Information Systems for Transportation (GIS-T), Geographic Information Science, time geography and activity theory, spatial analysis and geocomputation. He received the 2004 Superior Research Award from the College of Social and Behavioral Science. Harvey gave a plenary address at the "Access to Destinations" symposium sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies in October 2004 and is giving a keynote address at the GISPLANET 2005 conference in Portugal in May 2005. Harvey recently published papers in journals such as the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Geographical Analysis* and *Geografiska Annaler B*. He is also co-chair of the Committee on Spatial Data and Information Science of the Transportation Research Board, U.S. National Academics. Harvey enjoys bicycling, rock climbing, backpacking and skiing.

Katrina Moser's (Assistant Professor) research interests include paleoclimatology, paleolimnology and biogeography. Katrina currently directs the Environmental Change Observatory (ECO). Presently, the lab's main focus is the use of diatoms for studying a variety of environmental concerns, including climate change, landscape processes, terrestrial disturbances, heavy metal pollution, and lake water acidification and eutrophication. Katrina received two National Science Foundation grants in 2004 – one to look at drought in the Western US and the other to determine climate change and its impact on Arctic ecosystems and humans. She attended the AGU in December 2004, presenting work on drought in the Sierra Nevada. She recently published a book on Wood Buffalo National Park, NWT diatom taxonomy and ecology. In her spare time Katrina enjoys cross country skiing, hiking and snowshoeing with her family in the Wasatch Mountains.

Emeritus Faculty

Donald R. Currey (Deceased)
Albert L. Fisher
James W. King
Chung-Myun Lee
Roger M. McCoy
Merrill K. Ridd
Leroy H. Wullstein

Auxiliary and Assistant Instructors

We would like to thank our auxiliary and assistant instructors for all the hard work they do for our department.

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Larry Coats | Tom Hale | Spike Hampson |
| Bill Harrison | Elliot Lips | Beth Murphy |
| Greg Nash | Pam Perlich | Joe Thornton |
| Dave Wilkins | Desmond Moser | |

Graduate Students

Franz Amussen (M.S.) grew up in Logan, Utah and South Bend, Indiana. Franz is the CEO of Amussen, Hunsaker & Associates, Inc. His research interest is tourism geography. Franz enjoys sailing, skiing, biking and travel. In 1997 Franz sailed his sailboat "Sea Dream" across the Atlantic and has spent two months every summer since sailing around the Mediterranean.

Genevieve Atwood (Ph.D.) is from Salt Lake City. Her research interest is process geomorphology, specifically the processes of shallow, closed-basin lakes. Genevieve is currently an associate instructor and is teaching Urban Environmental Geography and Geography of Utah. She is also the chief education officer of Earth Science Education, a not-for-profit group supporting the development of Earth science curriculum.

Shawn Blissett (M.S.) was an Air Force child and grew up mostly west of the Mississippi. Her research interests are Paleocology and Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction. Shawn is currently an RA for Dr. Andrea Brunelle. Shawn enjoys gardening. She has two cats that happen to be the two smartest and handsome felines in Salt Lake County.

Scott Bridwell (Ph.D) comes from Chandler, AZ. Scott recently completed his master's here at the "U" and then joined our Ph.D. program. His research interests are GIS, transportation and urban geography. Scott has presented papers at the Centennial meeting of the AAG and GIScience 2004 at the University of Maryland. Scott is an RA with Dr. Harvey Miller and will teach Humans in an Uncertain World this summer. He enjoys snowboarding and walking his dog.

Robert Bunkall (M.S.) is from Salt Lake City. Robert's research interests are remote sensing and rock glaciers. His thesis involves mapping rock glaciers in Utah. Robert is the editor of this fine newsletter and a TA for the Geo-excursions class. He enjoys snowshoeing and hiking.

Elias Deeb (Ph.D.) comes from East Greenwich, Rhode Island. Eli's research interests are remote sensing of snow and ice, Microwave remote sensing and Interferometry. Eli completed his Master's degree last summer and continues his education here as a Ph.D. student. He presented papers at the USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Conference (RSAC) and American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS). Eli also presented posters at the AGU and the AAG Conferences. Eli is currently a research assistant on a NASA grant. He enjoys skiing, mountain biking and traveling.

Tim N. Edgar (M.S.) comes from Torrance, CA. His research interests are remote sensing, the cryosphere and the Andean South America. Tim currently serves as the Graduate Student Advisory Committee Chair. He enjoys traveling and climbing big mountains. Tim has climbed several different mountains in South America. He also enjoys experiencing other cultures through their food.

Tina Gillman (M.S.) is from Salt Lake City. Her research interests are transportation planning and space-time theory. She is hoping to develop a model to measure accessibility between different transportation alternatives. Last October Tina presented at the American Society of Landscape Architects national annual conference about context sensitive solutions in transportation. Tina currently works as a landscape/planning consultant for Carter/Burgess. Tina enjoys mountain biking, ultimate Frisbee and cooking.

Deanna Halseth (M.S.) is originally from Eureka, California. Her research interests are paleolimnology, remote sensing and hydrology. She works as a graduate assistant in our department office. In addition, Deanna organized some outstanding and successful SAC fundraising projects. She arranged for printing and selling tee shirts, sweatshirts, and water bottles with student-designed logos as well as selling candy, soda pop and snacks. The proceeds funded a couple of student activities. When not at school, Deanna enjoys swimming, playing with her kids, and reading.

Jessica Hartman (M.S.) comes from Mechanicsburg, PA. Jessica's interests are paleolimnology, pollution, climate change, and diatoms. Her thesis deals with atmospheric inputs in Uinta lake sediments. Jessica is the Geography Undergraduate Advisor. She also teaches the political geography class as well as working as a lab assistant to Katrina Moser in the ECO Lab. Jessica enjoys hiking, running and snowshoeing.

Tae H. Kim (Ph.D.) is from Los Angeles, California. Tae's research interests are visualizations, natural hazards and human geography. Tae recently attended several conferences including UGIC in 2004 where he won 3rd place in the poster competition. Tae is currently a research assistant on two NSG grants, a Geographic Dynamics initiative and mapping southern California wildfires. Tae also has papers under review in Natural Hazards Review and in Transactions in GIS. When Tae isn't busy with his research he enjoys art, design and surfing.

Aaron McDaniel (M.S.) comes from Vail, Colorado. His research interest is urban geography and Geosimulation. Aaron plans to com-

plete his thesis, "An Agent-Based Model of Civil Unrest" this spring. He is working in the DIGIT Lab and assisting Paul Torrens with agent-based crowd modeling research. A member of the Utah Freeskiers Society and the U of U Tae Kwon Do Club, Aaron also enjoys snowboarding, mountain biking, fixing old Saab's and climbing.

Phoebe McNeally (Ph.D.) comes from Gorham, Maine. Phoebe's research interests are snow science, data visualization and spatial data systems. Her dissertation is entitled "Holistic Geographic Visualization of Spatial Data with Application in Avalanche Stability Modeling." Phoebe has recently attended the International Snow Science Workshop in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. When not in school Phoebe enjoys skiing, biking, hiking and travel.

Jesse Morris (M.S.) hails from Asheville, North Carolina. Jesse's research interests are Paleocology. Jesse was awarded the Sterling Pack Scholarship from the College of Social Behavior Science. He is a TA for the department and is involved in the RED Lab. He enjoys playing music, singing and backpacking.

Adam Naisbitt (M.S.) lives in Salt Lake City. Adam is working in the DIGIT lab as well as a bootfitter and Ski technician at Alta. His research interests are Snow and Avalanche. Adam is glad that he survived his first semester as a graduate student. He enjoys sailing, backcountry and alpine skiing, rock climbing and mountaineering.

Atsushi Nara (M.S.) comes from Tokyo, Japan. Atsushi's research interests are agent based modeling for simulating urban dynamics and human behavior and its impact on environment issues. His thesis is entitled "Simulating Inner-City Gentrification Using Hybrid Models of Cellular Automata and Multi-Agent Systems". Atsushi enjoys going out on the slopes and snowboarding.

Lee Nuckolls (M.S.) is from St. Louis, MO and Pine Bluff, AR. Her research interests are GIS applications and education. Lee is the assistant director of College Counseling at Rowland Hall St. Mark's school. Lee enjoys alpine skiing, backpacking, river running and makes a mean Coca-Cola cake.

Shela Patrickson (M.S.) comes all the way from Pretoria, South Africa. Shela's research interests are Paleocology and climate change. Her thesis is a paleoenvironmental study of a sediment profile from Stansbury Island, Lake Bonneville. Shela is currently a lab technician in the Biology Department. She enjoys paragliding, hiking, swimming, yoga and backpacking.

Greg Smith (M.S.) is from Kearns, Utah. Greg's research interests are GIS applications to

surface water Hydrology and Snow. Greg is working as a Hydrometeorological Analysis and Support Forecaster for NOAA. Greg enjoys fishing, backpacking, skiing, traveling and going to blues festivals.

Katie Smith (M.S.) hails from Gallup, NM. Her research interests are remote sensing with applications in vegetation or water resources. Katie TA's the Biogeography and Geographical Analysis classes. She enjoys going camping and hiking and plays both the piano and flute.

Adam Sobek (Ph.D.) comes from Billings, Montana. He completed his Master thesis, "U-Access: A Web-Based Navigational System for the disabled Community" and is pursuing a patent for his thesis project. Adam has joined our doctoral program and is the current DIGIT Lab director. He enjoys playing in the outdoors along with his wife and sons.

Carrie Spruance (M.S.) is a native of Salt Lake City. Carrie's research interests are Paleoclimatology and Paleoecology. Her thesis work is on a vegetation and fire history of Mimbres Lake, NM. She has recently presented at ASLO and AAG. Carrie TA's the Cartography class and assists Dr. Brunelle with research. She enjoys fly fishing, reading, snowboarding and dancing.

Jeff VanLooy (Ph.D.) comes from Grand Forks, North Dakota. His research interests are remote sensing and glacial geomorphology. He teaches the World Regional Geography class. Jeff recently won the "Best Student Paper" competition at the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Regional AAG meeting. He also presented a paper at the regional AAG meeting. Jeff enjoys backpacking and skiing when he is not busy with his school work.

Tom Wussow (M.S.) calls Salt Lake City home. His research interest is loss estimates for Salt Lake County in the event of an earthquake. Tom recently has accepted a job with Monsen Engineering as a GIS/GPS salesman. Tom enjoys skiing, but has to sit this season out due to a knee injury.

AAG 2005 Report

U-geography graduate student Elias J. Deeb won the R.S. Tarr Student Paper Competition award from the Cryosphere specialty group of the Assoc. of Amer. Geographers during the recent AAG meeting in Denver, CO. Eli won the award for the illustrated poster "Monitoring Changes in Snow Water Equivalent Using Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR)" co-authored with his advisor Dr. Richard Forster.

Gifts to the Department

We wish to thank the following individuals for the generous donations made to the Geography Department over the past two years. Every gift, no matter how small, has a positive impact.

Gifts to the Department 2003-2004

Michael Barnhardt
Wallace Brown
Elizabeth K. Burns
Elizabeth Callon
Dick K. Chin
Loy Dale Cruse
Michael J. D'Angelo
Renee Gluch
Melvin J. Haman
Hal R. Johnson
Wayne H. Johnson
James Knell
Lora Koenig

June Krambule
Chung-Myun Lee
Jiajun Liu
Kenneth W. Nelson
Charles & Marlene Norcross
Terry W. Massoth
Mervin & Ethna Reid
Ying Fan Reinfelder
Newell K. Roberts
Myrna C. Spratling
Lotti Ann Wann
David E. Wilkins

Gifts to the Department 2004-2005

Anonymous
Jay & Frances Banta
Larry V. Benson
Shawn Blissett
Dane R. Boggs, Jr.
Larry & Margo Bonnette
Joseph V. Borgione
Ted Burr
Deborah J. Callender
Richard C. Company, Jr.
Marjorie Chan
Gary E. Christenson
John F. Clark
Stanley R. Currey
Jeffery & Karam Edwards
Glen J. Ellis
Richard Ford & Sarah George
Teri Gee & Michael Stoker
Ennis J. Gibbs
William R. Hadley
Ming-Chih Hung
Hal R. Johnson
Paul Kelley & Susan Olson
Christopher & Renate Kesler
James & Jane King

Robert & Suzanne Larson
E. Steve Leatham
Chung-Myun Lee
Karl D. Lillquist
Elliott Lips & Hazel Coffman
Jiajun Liu
Malcolm MacLeod
Terry W. Massoth
Duncan Metcalfe
John W. Middleton
David M. Miller
J. Steven Ott
Bud & Joan Pate
James F. Petersen
Norbert P. Psuty
Richard G. Reider
Dorothy Sack
Susan Savage
Peter & Althea Staks
Lee Sturgill & Nanette Newberg
Gary Tackman
Charles & Tracey Vandommelen
Lotti Ann Wann
David E. Wilkins
Reynold & Jane Willie

K-12 GIS Educational Program

Master's student Lucinda Clark is working on some important initiatives that will bring GIS and spatial awareness to K-12 students in the state of Utah.

In 2002 the Utah State Board of Education purchased statewide licensing for ArcView, ESRI World Atlas and Image Analysis, beginning a project to introduce students and teachers to GIS and to enhance learning in schools. The project includes a two-day training for teachers of all grades. The project strives to give students early and repeated exposure to GIS. The technology is exciting to students, creating a new interest in subjects that currently offer stagnant lessons.

The state project introduces GIS as a profession to 7th grade students in a one-day lesson during the Technology, Life, and Career (TLC) course. Students open an aerial photograph of the neighboring community, locating home, school, and a favorite place with a graphic marker. They bring in local roads and label them, then put the map into a layout template and print it out. The project is intended to entice some students to choose GIS as a career and introduce all students to using GIS as tool in their chosen profession.

In July of 2004, teachers and district trainers attended a workshop at Alta. The teachers used GPS to map areas around Alta, then learned how to bring the GPS data into the GIS. They created attributes for the data and learned the importance of creating metadata for all the collected data. The results were given to Alta's town manager to include in the city database. The information will be used in town planning and conservation. The workshop was the first of a two-year commitment to produce core curriculum lessons that include GIS for the 3rd through 6th grade classes. The second year will be directed at creating lessons for the secondary disciplines. The final phase of the state project plans to develop a high school technology program. This program will train students to enter the GIS field after graduating. In addition, it will allow colleges and universities to offer more in-depth geospatial education.

Scholarships

2003-2004

UNDERGRAD

Departmental:

Jeff Philips
Alana Brand
Edward Pultar
Janette Bracken

GRAD

Hiatt Supplemental:

Shela Patrickson
Donal A. Lewon Scholarship
Shawn Blissett

2004-2005

UNDERGRAD

Departmental:

Jeff Philips
Edward Pultar
Daniel Schmidt
Brandi Dunlap
David and Dorothy Watkiss
Scholarship

Glenn Symes

Kennecott:

Victor Dokukin

GRAD

Stirling Pack Scholarship

Jesse Morris

Hiatt Supplemental:

Kathryn Whitaker

Research Symposium on Societies and Cities in the Age of Instant Access

10 November – 12 November
2005

University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah USA

We are on the verge of what many are calling the "second information revolution," based on ubiquitous access to both computing and information. The technologies of instant access have potential to transform dramatically our lives, cities, societies and economies much like the automobile changed our world in the previous century. This research symposium will bring together leading international experts who will address and discuss issues surrounding the impact of instant access on social organization, institutions, urban morphology, health and well-being, social justice and social exclusion.

In cooperation with the College of Social and Behavioral Science's Rocco C. and Marion S. Siciliano Forum, the Department of Geography will be hosting a research symposium on Societies and Cities in the Age of Instant Access. Highlights include a keynote address by Howard Rheingold, computer visionary and author of *Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution*, and plenary lectures by Professor Michael Batty (University College London), Professor Helen Couclelis (University of California Santa Barbara), Professor Susan Hanson (Clark University) and Dr. Anthony Townsend (New York University).

For more information, see www.geog.utah.edu/instant_access/



Great Basin Seminar March, 2005
Sierra Nevada, Alabama Hills

The 2004-2005 Department of Geography Student Advisory Committee (SAC) was headed by Tim Edgar. Tim has done a great job organizing the weekly colloquiums, the student reviews for Dr. Moser and Dr. Cova's tenure cases and the annual Geography Open House on November 17. The open house was a great success, offering panel discussions with professionals from the community, research poster presentations and interactive displays of GIS software and projects. On November 18th, The University of Utah *Chronicle* featured a front-page article, "Get rich ... with a geography degree?" highlighting the benefits of earning a Geography degree.

This year SAC conducted a fund raiser selling T-shirts, sweatshirts and water-bottles. We would like to thank Deanna Halseth who worked so hard organizing the project and dealing with the printer to produce these products. The shirts and bottles are for sale in the Department office.



Staff Stuff

There have been Geography staff changes over the past two years. **Angela Burton** (Secretary) left us during April, 2003 to have a baby and be a stay at home mom. She had a darling baby boy and is very happy. We miss her and wish her well. **Susan VanRoosendaal** (Administrative Assistant) left us during March, 2004 for a new job in Research Park after 13 years of service to the Geography Department. She was an asset to the Department and is greatly missed.

Maryann Golightly (Executive Secretary) began working for Geography in May 2004. She has been able to jump in and learn things quickly, and is doing a great job! She is a real asset to the Department. When not at work she enjoys reading and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Lisa Clayton (Administrative Assistant) replaced Susan after 9 years serving as the Department Executive Secretary. She is working hard to learn everything there is to know about her new position. When not at work she enjoys watching movies, gardening, making jewelry, scrap booking, and spending time with her friends and family. **Melissa Warner's** (DIGIT Office Assistant) submitted the following haiku:

Melissa's music
drifts away like autumn leaves
art school trickles in

Donald Rusk Currey 1934-2004

We are saddened to note the passing of Professor Donald R. Currey on Sunday, June 6, 2004, the 60th anniversary of D-day, his favorite holiday. Professor Currey was a valued faculty member for over three decades, as well as an outstanding colleague and friend. He will be missed by the faculty and students of the U, as well as the many people whose lives he touched through his teaching and scholarship.

Almost 400 graduate students were mentored by Don. As a variety of professionals, they are all over the world. Don's "Geo-excursions" class, has turned out to be immensely popular for undergraduate students. In the last few years it has become quite common to see students declare geography as a major after taking Don's Geo-excursion class. As the most dedicated researcher (he loathed a term "expert") of Lake Bonneville, some consider Don's accomplishment in the Bonneville research the greatest in the twentieth century.

Those who were fortunate enough to spend some time in the field with Don will remember him saying, "The field is a natural laboratory," and know exactly what he meant. In honor of Don, Elliott Lips took Don's ice axe on the 2005 Great Basin (Death Valley) field seminar held over spring break. The Donald R. Currey Paleoenvironmental Research Group was formed in his memory, which comprises the Environmental Change Observatory (ECO) and the Records of Environment and Disturbance (RED) Lab. As



Photo taken May 1, 2004

a tribute to Don, a special session was held at the AAG Conference in April 2005, which took place in Denver, Colorado. The special session was organized by Dorothy Sack, Shizuo Nishizawa and Jim Petersen.

In August 2004, University of Utah President Michael Young posthumously awarded Emeritus Professor status to Donald Currey for his substantial contributions to the University and the scientific community at large. We are very certain that Don's legacy will live on. We greatly miss him.



Geography Connection

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Department Alumni We Want to Hear from You!

The Department of Geography web site is the host of all the information one needs to keep up with departmental happenings.

www.geog.utah.edu

The primary purpose of this newsletter is to inform our alumni about recent developments in the Department and what individual faculty members have been doing over the past year. In return, let us know what you are up to—your latest career changes, research topics, any personal news or suggestions. You can send a letter or a postcard to:

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260 South Central Drive, Room 270
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112.

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Fax(801) 581-8219

Or visit our website

