

Geography Connection

University of Utah Department of Geography

Volume 8 ❖ Spring 2007

Letter from the Chair



Dr. Harvey Miller



This year finishes my first three-year term as Department Chair, and I've volunteered (so the Dean tells me) for another term. This midpoint in my administrative tenure seems like a good time to reflect upon the department, its history and its people.

The fifteen years since my arrival at the University of Utah have seen momentous change in the department. It seems like only yesterday that I was a young Ph.D. being interviewed and hired by then-Department Chair George Hepner and the others who comprised the faculty in 1991 (Don Currey, Al Fisher, Phil Emmi, Jim King, Tom Kontuly, Chung Lee, Roger McCoy, Merrill Ridd and Chuck Wullstein). I decided to accept the job offer for two reasons. First, I sensed a department that wanted to aggressively meet the changes, challenges and opportunities that were occurring in the field of geography as well as in the University of Utah and more generally higher education. Second, sunny and spectacular Salt Lake City seemed like a welcome improvement over the drab and flat Midwest where I'd grown up. So, I thought, what the heck? I'll give Utah a try for a year or two.

Well, one or two years have turned into fifteen. I am very pleased to say that my hunch was right. The department was poised for greatness, and Salt Lake City has turned out to be a fantastic place to work and play.

At this point in time, I have transitioned from the newest Assistant Professor in the department to one of three "old-timers" in the department (decorum suggests that I do not name George Hepner and Tom Kontuly as the other two, so I won't). The demographic change has greatly transformed the department. The pre-1990s department was a strong one; the faculty recognized the discipline of geography was going to see some tremendous changes at the end of the twentieth century, and that new faculty would be the ones to lead these changes. To their great credit, they facilitated building a new program that reflected and leveraged the tremendous opportunities available in the new geography that has emerged in the early twenty-first century.

As many of you know, the department faculty made a wise decision in the early 1990s to focus on three major areas in geography: Earth System Science, Urban and Economic Geography, and Geographic Information Science. The theory was, given our size, we could never be an across-the-board, top ten geography department. Rather, we would concentrate our efforts and be

competitive with any program in the world in our three foci. Now, in the spring of 2007, I am very pleased that we have achieved our goal. Our faculty are productive and highly respected scholars in their fields, our new faculty hires are the best among stellar applicant pools, and our students are the finest anywhere. In addition to excellence in the three foci, we have also developed very strong integrative research and teaching programs in climate change and natural and technological hazards.

My column has concentrated implicitly on the regular faculty, but we are only part of the story. Our adjunct faculty such as Larry Coats, Elizabeth Dudley-Murphy, "Spike" Hampson and Vince Salomonson are essential to our department's research and teaching missions. Also essential is the Digitally Integrated Geographic Information Technologies (DIGIT) Laboratory, flourishing under Adam Sobek's able leadership; our GIScience program would not be nearly as strong without DIGIT technical expertise and activities. And, the people that really make things happen: Lisa Clayton, MaryAnn Golightly, Melissa Warner, and our new addition Jill Eubanks – what would we do without them? Utah Geography is a team effort, and what a great team we have!

Of course, we still face challenges. Like any public university, the University of Utah faces declining state support for education, with increasing competition from the for-profit education industry, and flattening research budgets at the federal level. As we are constantly reminded, we must try to do more with less. But, we have chosen this profession because we love teaching and scholarship, and I am confident that the capable women and men of Utah Geography are up to the task.

Alumni, former colleagues, friends – we want to hear from you! Tell us what you're doing and about your experiences. Give us feedback – how are we doing? What can we do better? Visit us at www.geog.utah.edu.

Institute of Public and International Affairs

The University of Utah has created the Institute of Public and International Affairs (IPIA), housed within the College of Social and Behavioral Science. The IPIA mission is to expand and enhance the University's activities and programs in several interdisciplinary areas of excellence including public policy, applied politics, international socio-political economics and cross-border security, government, and governance. IPIA programs include facilitating interdisciplinary research through seed grants, a working papers series, seminars, and the sponsorship of special research forums and workshops that bring scholars together to exchange ideas on important, timely issues. IPIA also supports interdisciplinary teaching and outreach to public and non-profit organizations. Geography faculty George Hepner and Thomas Kontuly have been named IPIA Affiliate Faculty and are busy with interdisciplinary research on global terrorism and the effects of migration on Utah (respectively). For more information see IPIA's website, www.ipia.utah.edu.

Faculty Affairs

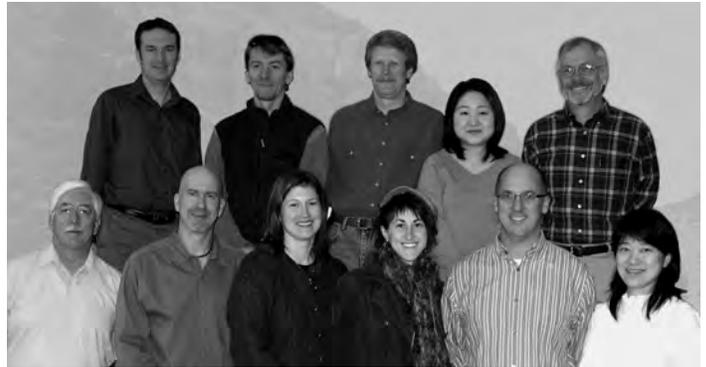
Andrea Brunelle (Assistant Professor) is from Mesa, Arizona. In her spare time she enjoys playing with her two young sons, knitting, making jewelry, reading and coring lakes. Andrea is currently working on several research interests that include sedimentological proxy (pollen, charcoal, macrofossils) to reconstruct past environments. She is particularly interested in disturbance history (fire and beetles) and the vegetative responses in the western U.S. Andrea recently received funding from the Joint Fire Sciences Program for research titled *"Holocene records of fire in the subalpine forests of Utah: Linkages to climate change, forest composition and beetle infestations."* Andrea presented at the American Quaternary Association (AMQUA), in Bozeman, Montana, and recently returned from the 2006 EPA SCERP Annual Technical Conference in Tucson, Arizona. She teaches Cartography, Pyrogeography, Global Climate Change and her graduate seminar, Recent Research in Global Change. She was recently nominated for the College of Social and Behavioral Science (CSBS) Superior Teaching Award.

Larry Coats (Adjunct Assistant Professor) teaches Biogeography: Global Patterns of Life and Earth Environments, Introduction to Natural Hazards, Quaternary Environments, Geography of Antarctica, Modern Natural Hazards, and Paleo Field Methods. He is from New Mexico and Arizona. His research interests include paleoecology, with a focus on reconstructing past environments in arid regions of the desert Southwest, primarily, alluvial exposures, caves, sandstone shelters, and archaeological features. Larry is currently conducting research in collaboration with Andrea Brunelle on *"Fremont Settlement Patterns in Range Creek Canyon, UT: developing high-resolution climate records to address human behavior."* Also, he has participated in a film produced by the Discovery Channel *"Natural Wonders: Grand Canyon."* He was brought in as an earth scientist/climber. The film should come out in the fall of this year. Larry recently published an article, *"A 45,000 yr record of Adélie penguins and climate change in the Ross Sea, Antarctica"*.

Tom Cova (Associate Professor) is on sabbatical this academic year but will be back for Fall 2007. He is the Director of the Center for Natural and Technological Hazards (Cnth). Tom's research interests include hazards, transportation and GIS; especially topics where all three meet such as simulating the evacuation of populations threatened by wildfire. He currently has three proposals in review. Tom recently participated on a panel at the Firewise conference, Backyards & Beyond in Denver. The panel focused on the question of when to evacuate or shelter people threatened by wildfire. Recently, Tom traveled to Australia and New Zealand to learn more about life down under and to visit a few collaborators. Also, he has presented a paper at a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) workshop on developing egress (exit) codes to make communities in fire-prone areas safer. When Tom returns from sabbatical he will teach Introduction to GIS and Human Geography.

Philip Dennison (Assistant Professor) is from Illinois and Pennsylvania. His hobbies include home renovations, hiking, and riding around on his recumbent trike. Phil's research interests are remote sensing of vegetation and wildland fire. In 2006, Philip was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for mapping wetlands in Uganda. This research is the first step in determining methane emissions from central African wetlands. Phil will present at the AAG conference, in San Francisco, this year. He teaches Measuring Global Change from Space, The Earth from Space: Remote Sensing of the Environment, Environmental Optics and his graduate seminar, Optical Remote Sensing of Vegetation.

Rick Forster (Associate Professor) has recently attended the 2006 EPA SCERP Annual Technical Conference in Tucson, as well as the



Top Row: Phil Dennison, Larry Coats, Rick Forster, Ikubo Yamada, George Hepner Bottom Row: Tom Kontuly, Harvey Miller, Andrea Brunelle, Kathleen Nicoll, Tom Cova, Bing Xu

American Geophysical Union Conference in San Francisco. He is from Westmont, New Jersey, and enjoys skiing, hiking, camping and mountain biking. Rick's research interest is in snow pack and microwave remote sensing, glaciology, hydrology and radar interferometry. Rick teaches Advanced Remote Sensing, Snow and Ice, Environmental Analysis through Remote Sensing, and his graduate seminar, Glaciers and Climate Change. He will also be teaching a new course, Water in Utah.

Spike Hampson (Professor Lecturer) teaches Geography of North America, Geography of the Middle East and Earth Surface Environments. Almost all his teaching is done online, and the flexibility of the arrangement has left him free to pursue his interest in becoming a writer. So far, he has completed a travel book about Corsica and the Russian Caucasus, two thirds of a mystery novel set in Utah and Mexico, a short piece on bicycling in Costa Rica, and a couple of dozen essays about various aspects of North American Geography. Spike is in the process of making a riverboat voyage from Wyoming to Buenos Aires. Last summer he got as far as Prince Edward Island, where he stored his boat for the winter, and this coming summer he hopes to get far enough south on the eastern seaboard to carry on during the cold months. The log of his voyage is posted online (www.spikehampson.com).

George Hepner (Professor) is the U of U Director for the Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP). His research interests include urban land use resource and analysis, GIS, satellite and airborne remote sensing, and geography of terrorism and homeland security. George teaches The Geography of Terrorism and Homeland Security, World Regional Geography, and is currently teaching Patterns of Global Terrorism: Law, Policy, and Supranational Institutions with Wayne McCormack of the S. J. Quinney School of Law.

Tom Kontuly (Professor) serves as the Graduate Advisor. He is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He enjoys racquetball and walking. Tom's research interests include human migration and urbanization in Germany and Estonia, relationships between employment change and internal migration in Germany, and assimilation and integration of immigrants into Utah. Tom presented Changing Relationships between Urban and Rural Places in Germany in the Population Specialty group sponsored at the AAG conference in Chicago. Tom is teaching Urban Geography, Global Economic Geography, Geographical Analysis and Population Geography this year.

Harvey Miller (Professor and Chair) is from Cleveland, Ohio, and enjoys rock climbing, skiing, backpacking, bicycling, good books and

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films, as well as being ignored by his cats. Harvey's research interests include Geographic Information Systems for Transportation (GIS-T), time geography, spatial analysis, and geocomputation. He has attended several conferences recently, including: the 2006 GIScience Conference in Munster, Germany, as a Program Co-Chair, the Transportation Research Board Annual meeting in Washington D.C., as Co-Chair for the GIScience and Applications Committee, and the AAG meeting in Chicago. Harvey also participated in a lecture tour in China, May 2006, where he lectured at several venues including: the Chinese Academy of Sciences at Peking University, Tsinghua University in Beijing, East China Normal University in Shanghai, and Nanjing University in Nanjing. His recent publications include papers in *Journal of Transport Geography*, *Journal of Geographical Systems*, *Classics from IJGIS* (edited by Peter Fisher) and *Moving through Nets: The Social and Physical Aspects of Travel* (edited by Kay Axehausen).

Vincent Salomonson (Research Professor), serves as the Science Team Leader for the NASA Earth Observing System (EOS) Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS). Vince's specific interest within that scope is to analyze snowcover observations and other land and atmosphere processes observed by MODIS and apply them to studies of the Great Salt Lake Basin. Vince received a grant for research titled "*Science Team Leader of the NASA Earth Science*

System (EOS) Terra and Aqua MODIS Science Team and Associated Research". Vince recently attended several conferences and organized and led a MODIS Science Team meeting held in Adelphi, Maryland where he presented an overview of MODIS status and progress. Other conferences he has presented research at include: the Spring Runoff conference, in Logan, Utah, the ASPRS Annual Conference, in Reno, and the IGARSS (International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium), in Denver. Vincent also attended an ASIC-3 workshop in Virginia that dealt with the calibration of spaceborne instruments, attended the Western Snow Conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and a Data Workshop for MODIS held at the University of Maryland/Baltimore County.

Bing Xu (Assistant Professor) is from Beijing, China. She enjoys cooking, playing badminton and table tennis, and reading and writing in Chinese. Bing's research interests include spatial epidemiology and remote sensing image analysis. She has received a research grant funded by the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences for work on "*Major Bird Population Dynamics and Habitat Environment Analysis along Poyang Lake*." This summer, Bing organized a CPGIS workshop on Environmental Change, Globalization and Human Health, at the Chinese Academy of Sciences at Tsinghua University, in Beijing. She teaches GIS and Environmental Health, Geocomputation, and her graduate seminar, Modeling Infectious Diseases and Globalization.

New Faculty

Three dynamic scholars have joined "The Biggest Little Geography Department in the World!" We would like to welcome them. Kathleen Nicoll and Ikuho Yamada joined us in Fall 2006. Thomas Painter will be joining us in Fall 2007.



Ikuho Yamada (Assistant Professor) calls Tokyo, Japan home. She has a Ph.D. in Geography from University at Buffalo and previously was on the faculty at Indiana University/Purdue University-Indianapolis. Her research interests include spatial statistics and quantitative methods, GIS, transportation, spatial epidemiology and public health issues. Ikuho has received a 2006-2007 Research Support Grant from SCERP for her project titled "*Spatial Distribution of Teen Pregnancy Incidence in California and Baja California:*

Comparison between the Border and Non-border Regions." Ikuho recently presented at the 134th Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association in Boston, on "*Exploratory Modeling of Teen Pregnancy Prevalence using a GIS-based Community Information System.*" Ikuho teaches Spatial Statistics, Spatial Modeling with GIS, Network-based Spatial Analysis and, her new course, Introduction to Medical Geography.

Kathleen Nicoll (Assistant Professor) has a Ph.D. in Geosciences from the University of Arizona. She previously served a post-doctoral fellowship at Oxford University in the UK. Kathleen's research interests include geomorphology, quaternary science, and geoarchaeology with emphasis in arid lands, including the Sahara, the Namib, and the U.S. Southwest and Great Basin. Recently, she presented at the Geological Society of America Conference, in Philadelphia. In addition, Kathleen presented research at the Geoarchaeology of the Americas Conference, in Tucson, that included observations from a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey along an archaeology site located along the north Tigris River, in Turkey. She is teaching Introduction to Geomorphology and a graduate seminar on Topics in Quaternary Science. She will also be teaching GeoExcursions Fall 2007.

Thomas Painter (Assistant Professor) has a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of California-Santa Barbara. He is joining us after a post as Research Scientist II for the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado. Tom's research and teaching focus is on cryospheric (snow and ice) science, snowmelt hydrology and climate change. He will be teaching courses in introductory and advanced physical geography, cartography and snow hydrology.



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 Associate Instructors

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

Clayton Brough	Tom Hale	Val Halford
Elizabeth Dudley-Murphy	Ralph Patterson	Matt Petersen
Genevieve Atwood	Dave Wilkins	Pam Perlich

Geography Department News

Jill Eubanks Hired as Office Assistant

Jill Eubanks is the newest addition to the Geography Department. Jill is from Cambridge, Ohio. She is taking Continuing Education classes where she is exploring interests in Creative Writing. Jill received her Bachelor's degree from Kent State where she majored in Conflict Management, and is married to Ammon; he attends BYU and is pursuing a degree in Landscape Management. She enjoys hiking, camping, excursions in southern Utah, and reading books and gossip rags.

Tenure-Track Faculty Position - Joint with Museum of Natural History

The Utah Museum of Natural History and Department of Geography at the U of U invited applications for a tenure-track joint position as Curator of the Garrett Herbarium and Assistant Professor of Geography beginning 1 July 2007. The Garrett Herbarium includes more than

126,000 specimens with an emphasis on the intermountain region. The successful candidate will maintain a strong field- and collections-based research program involving students. In addition, duties include overseeing the curation and continued development of the herbarium, teaching one formal course per year in Geography, participating in Museum public programs and exhibit development, supervising graduate students in the Department, and participating in departmental governance.

Ed Pultar Finalist in Student Paper Competition

U-Geography masters' student Ed Pultar was selected as a finalist in the 2007 AAG GIS Specialty Group's student paper competition. His paper "*EDGIS: a dynamic GIS based on space-time points*" presents a new method for implementing a dynamic GIS based on representing objects as a collection of points embedded in space-time. An associated

interface includes a widget, called a "time slider", that allows a user to easily cycle through successive object histories. Ed received \$500 and will present his paper in San Francisco next April. Congratulations Ed!

Eli Deeb Awarded NASA Fellowship

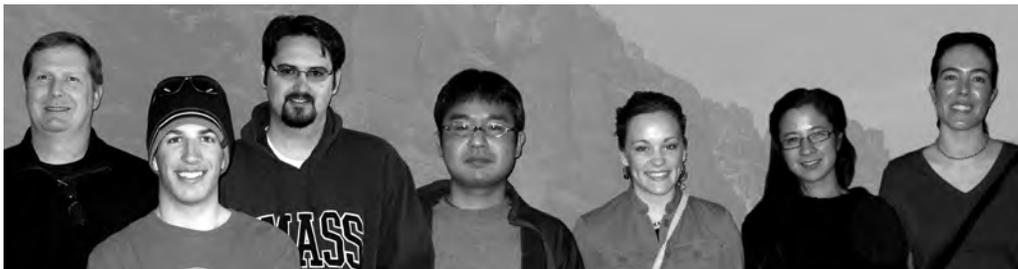
Ph.D. student Eli Deeb was awarded a NASA Earth System Science (ESS) Graduate Student Fellowship. The fellowship is renewable for up to three years totaling \$72,000. The title of the project is "*Measuring Snow Water Equivalent Using Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR)*". This is a competitive and prestigious award that speaks highly of Eli's work, as well as his advisor, Rick Forster.

Jeff VanLooy Awarded Fellowship

U-Geography graduate student Jeffrey A. VanLooy has been selected as a 2006 U of U

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Graduate Students



Entering Graduate Students 2006-2007

Evan Burgess (M.S.) hails from Boulder, Colorado and enjoys hiking, mountain biking, skiing, camping and climbing. Evan's research interests are glaciology, climate change and GIS. In 2005, Evan presented at the Arctic Workshop in Edmonton, Canada. He was a Teaching Assistant (TA) in Cartography last fall, and is currently a TA in Biogeography.

Rob Baskin (Ph.D.), in his spare time, enjoys skiing, gardening and traveling. By profession, Rob is a Supervisory Hydrologist for the USGS. His research interests are in benthic environments of the Great Salt Lake, hydrology, remote sensing, and ArcGIS data model integration. Rob presented at the U.S. Geological Survey Hydroacoustics Workshop, in St. Louis, and is presenting, and attending as Session Chair, the AAG conference in San Francisco. Rob is from Branchville, New Jersey.

Suparna Das (Ph.D.) was recently awarded the National Eligibility for Lectureship (India), as well as the state level Eligibility for

Lectureship (West Bengal, India). She is from Kolkata, India, and enjoys reading and traveling. Her research interests include urbanization and migration patterns. Suparna is a Research Assistant (RA) for IPIA. Also, she will be serving as an Executive Member for the Steering Committee of Congress 2007, held in Salt Lake City, August 2007.

Naomi Kisen (M.S.) is from Newark, Delaware. Naomi's thesis proposal is titled "*Phenological Forecasting of Upper Colorado River Basin Range Vegetation*." Her research interests include physical geography, biogeography and remote sensing. Naomi hopes to graduate Spring 2008. Currently, she is working as an RA with Dr. George Hepner.

Zachary Lundeen (Ph.D.) is a Donald Lewon Scholar. His dissertation is titled "*Paleoecological and Sedimentary Records of Climate Change and Environmental Disturbance, Bear River Range, Southeastern Idaho*." His research interests include paleoclimatology and paleoecology. Currently, Zach teaches Earth Environments and plans to

teach it again in the summer, as well as GeoExcursions. Zach is from Cottonwood Heights, Utah. He enjoys skiing, snowboarding, riding his motorcycle, and backpacking.

Ryo Michishita (Ph.D.) is a TA in Remote Sensing. He is from Hakusan, Ishikawa, Japan. His hobbies include skiing and wine. Ryo's research interests include modeling vector-borne disease spread with remote sensing, geosensor networks, and GPS tracking. He has presented at several conferences, including the ASPRS 2006, Reno, and 2005, Baltimore, conferences.

Marissa Taddie (Ph.D.) is a native of Salt Lake City, Utah. Her hobbies include traveling, hiking, reading and cooking. Marissa is the newest graduate student; she began her studies this spring. She is concurrently working on her Masters of Public Health. Marissa's research interests include spatial epidemiology, medical geography and GIS. By profession, Marissa is a geomorphologist for Western GeoArch Research.

Marquessa Van Drimmelen (M.S.) is serving as SAC Chair. She coordinated the GIS Day events during Geography Week. She organizes colloquiums, social and service events, and fundraisers. Marquessa is from Kaysville, Utah. She is researching natural hazards and evacuation planning. Marquessa enjoys dancing, mountain biking, snow and water skiing, visiting Lake Powell, and spending time with her husband, Matt.

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In the past year, we have had several students receive their Masters and Doctoral degrees. We would like to extend warm wishes to the students who have persevered through their course of study here.

Genevieve Atwood (Ph.D.) “*Shoreline Superelevation: Evidence of Coastal Processes of Great Salt Lake, Utah*”

Vicki Backus (Ph.D.) “*Comprehensive Conservation Modeling: A Spatially Explicit Individual-Based Approach Using Grizzly Bears as a Case Study*”

Amy Bloom (Ph.D.) “*A Paleolimnological Investigation of Climatic and Hydrological*

Conditions during the Late Pleistocene and Holocene in the Sierra Nevada, California, USA”

Brad Dearden (Ph.D.) “*The Impact of Employment Change on Internal Migration Trends in Western Germany: A Multivariate, Demographic Shift-Share Analysis*”

Justin Johnson (M.S.) “*Microsimulation of Neighborhood-Scale Evacuations*”

Tom Lind (M.S.) “*Developing a Pattern Selection Heuristic for the Internal Configuration of Nature Reserve Designs*”

Aaron McDaniel (M.S.) “*An Agent-Based Model of Civil Unrest*”

Jessica Mordecai (M.S.) “*Atmospheric Inputs Recorded in Uinta Mountain Lake Sediments*”

Shela Patrickson (M.S.) “*Shoreline Superelevation: Coastal Processes of Great Salt Lake, Utah*”

Daphne White (Ph.D.) “*Chronic Technological Hazard: The Case of Agricultural Pesticides in the Imperial Valley, California*”

Nobbir Ahmed (Ph.D.) “*Time Space Transformations of Geographic Space, for Exploring, Analyzing and Visualizing Transportation Systems*”

RED Lab



Diligent RED Lab members dedicated to contributing to and enhancing research in global climate change.

The RED (Records of Environment and Disturbance) Lab was founded in 2003. It is part of the “Donald R. Currey Paleoenvironmental Research Group” and located in the Kennecott Building on the University’s campus. Research in the RED Lab focuses on reconstructions of past environments with a strong focus on studies that contain possible management applications. These projects currently include:

reconstructions of fire and vegetation regimes from ecologically sensitive areas, studying past insect outbreaks in the mountain west, restoration and preservation of water resources in the arid southwest, combining lake sediment and speleothem records of climate, and human paleoecology (specifically focused on research in Range Creek Canyon, Utah). See our website for more information on the exciting research projects (www.geog.utah.edu/redlab).

RED Lab members include:

Dr. Andrea Brunelle, Director
Larry Coats, Research Faculty
Thomas Minckley, Research Faculty
Shawn Blissett, Grad Student
Stephanie Cobabe, Grad Student
Jesse Morris, Grad Student
Stacy Morris, Grad Student
Shizuo Nishizawa, Grad Student

Carrie Spruance, Grad Student
Zach Lundeen, Grad Student
Jim Davis, Grad Student
Shela Patrickson, Grad Student
Nancy Carruthers, Grad Student
Brenda Guzman, Undergraduate
Sharon Leopardi, Undergraduate
Jessica Spencer, Undergraduate

Gifts to the Department 2006

We wish to thank the following individuals for the generous donations made to the Geography Department over the past year. All gifts are welcome and have a positive influence.

Azteca Systems
Gary E. Christenson
Albert J. Copley
Stanley R. Currey
Zhaodong Feng
Hadley and Hadley, L.C.
William R. & Shelley R. Hadley

Brian L. Haslam
George F. & Predeara Hepner
Hal R. Johnson
Chung-Myun Lee
JiaJun Liu & Tong Zheng
Terry W. Massoth
Mark G. & Cindy I. Poirier

Ying Fan Reinfelder
Newell K. & LaVon I. Roberts
Susan C. Savage
Gary Tackman
David & Margie Wilkins

We would like to thank everyone that has donated to the Donald R. Currey Graduate Research Scholarship. In addition, we would like to extend a special thank you to Stanley R. Currey for his sizeable donations and his help to set up this scholarship in the memory of his brother Donald R. Currey. Donations we have received for the Donald R. Currey Graduate Research Scholarship to date total \$21,293.34. Great Job! However, we still need your help to reach our goal of \$30,000.

Geography needs your support!

Any donation, no matter the size, will make a huge impact.

Enclosed is a donation envelope for your convenience.

Alumni Spotlight: Richard C. Company, Jr. (B.S. 1968; M.S. 1972)

After leaving the University of Utah, Richard earned his Ph.D. in International Relations from American University (1984). He is currently employed as Senior Advisor to the Director of the Counterintelligence Law Enforcement Center, Counterintelligence Field Activity (CIFA) for the Department of Defense (DoD) in Springfield, Va.

Richard spent twenty-one years in the U.S. Air Force (USAF). He started out as a Nuclear Weapons Safety Officer in a Minutemen Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Wing; but, the majority of his time was spent serving as a Federal Agent in the USAF Office of Special Investigations. During this service in Special Investigations, he served in and/or deployed to Turkey (fluent in Turkish), Iran (while the Shah was in power), Lebanon, Jordan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Greece, Spain and Germany. He retired as Chief of Plans for the Defense Logistics Agency in 1988. Since then, he has worked for the DoD as Inspector General, as a contract Terrorism Analyst for the USAF, and, for the last six years, at CIFA.

Dr. Company has taught university level courses such as: Terrorism in the Modern World, Terrorist Threats to Nuclear Weapons, Reporting and Analyzing Counterintelligence Information, Terrorism in the Middle East, Diplomatic History of the US, US Foreign Policy, and South Asia and US National Security. Also, he is the author of *"US-Turkish Relations in the Arms Embargo Period,"* New York: Praeger, 1986, and several other articles, the most recent being *"Communism and Islam,"* in Martin, Richard, ed. *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World.* New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2004.

While at the University of Utah, Richard was a TA for Dr. Fisher and Dr. King and enjoyed working with students. He found the relationships he made here in the Geography Department to be invaluable both personally as well as professionally. When asked about the impact his geography degree played in his profession, "It is amazing how many people think they can point at a spot on a map and make sweeping statements without understanding that there are no roads in the area because of impassable mountains and streams. As a Counterintelligence Analyst, geography helps put things in context."

Scholarship Awards

2006-2007

Department of Geography
Continuing Student Tuition Waiver:

Victor Dokukin

Sharon Leopardi

Julia Valenzuela

Sierra Holz

CSBS Graduate Honor Roll
Scholarship:

Zachary Lundeen

Graduate Research Fellowship:

Jeffery VanLooy

NASA GSRP Fellowship:

Elias Deeb

Geography Department News

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Graduate Research Fellow (GRF). This highly competitive award allows Jeff to pursue his dissertation project full-time during the 2006-2007 academic year. His dissertation research addresses issues surrounding climate change and its impacts. Specifically, Jeff is attempting to measure the impact on glacial melting in Alaska on sea levels. His research is rigorous, innovative and has great importance for studies of global climate change and human-environment relationships. Congratulations, Jeff!

Bing Xu Wins Superior Research Award

Bing Xu has won the 2006 Superior Research Award, Junior Category, from the CSBS at the U of U. The Superior Research Award recognizes CSBS faculty who achieve very high standards of scholarship and recognition from their peers. Awards are given each year in the junior (untentured) and senior (tentured) categories. It is a highly competitive award obtained only by the best and brightest researchers in the college. Congratulations, Bing!

Tom Kontuly Achieves Finalist Status

Professor Thomas Kontuly achieved Finalist

status for the 2006 Superior Research Award, Senior Category, from CSBS at the U of U. Achieving Finalist status in the Senior Category indicates international recognition for Professor Kontuly's research. Congratulations, Tom!

New Books from U-Geography Emeriti

Retirement does not mean relaxation for U-Geography emeriti! Emeritus Professor Roger McCoy's second book has just been published by Oxford University Press – *"Ending in Ice: The Revolutionary Idea and Tragic Expedition of Alfred Wegener."* Emeritus Professor Merrill K. Ridd's and James D. Hipple's (Ph.D. 1997) edited volume *"Remote Sensing of Human Settlements"* (Manual of Remote Sensing, 3rd Edition, Volume 5) was also published by the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in Fall 2005.

New Geography Courses

—GEOG 3090/5090 - Intro to Medical Geography: This course is designed to provide students with a broad introduction to medical geography. Topics include history of

medical geography, environments, and health, developmental change and human health, diffusion of disease, human modification of the environment and health, inequalities in health outcomes, inequalities in provision and utilization of health care resources, and methods for spatial epidemiology ranging from GIS-based visualization to statistical analysis.

—SBS/UGS 2000 - Patterns of Global Terrorism: Law, Policy and Supranational Institutions: The course examines the philosophical, policy, legal and tactical issues of the recent rise of terrorism and the international responses to the rise in terrorism. Particular attention is placed on the global geography issues related to terrorism. Dr. George Hepner co-teaches the class.

—GEOG 5810/6810 Analysis of Utah Landforms: This course was designed by Genevieve Atwood and teaches skills and concepts in geomorphology and applies those skills to reading Utah's landscape. Analysis of landscapes includes identifying landforms, describing them, observing clues of the origins, and interpreting their tectonic setting and the erosional and depositional



Will Clark Presenting Lesson on Utah's Physical Geography

This year has been a successful one for Gamma Theta Upsilon Honor Society (GTU) and Geography Club as we have welcomed many new members! Both GTU and Geography Club have been busy organizing fundraisers, from selling geography T-shirts and sweat-shirts during GIS Day events to selling roses on Valentines Day. Also, the clubs have been hosting a number of geography related activities. Club members enjoy geocaching, hiking and mountain biking together.

Service is a big focus for both clubs. We just had an exciting opportunity to participate in a service project at Foothill Elementary School. Members taught a 4th grade class a lesson about physical geography and helped them make 3-D topographic maps of Utah with home-made play dough. It went so well the kids asked for autographs! We will soon host a bilingual 1st grade class at the U of U. GTU plans to extend service projects into area high schools. These projects would invite various classrooms to visit the Geography Department on the U of U campus. We want to get the word out about how great geography is and encourage future geographers!

We would like to invite students to join GTU and Geography Club. Applications can be found online, in the SAC office (OSH 180C) and at the Geography Department (OSH 270).

GIS Day/Geography Awareness Week

During Geography Awareness Week, the Geography Department celebrated GIS Day with an open house and career panel discussions. The events were held on November 15, 2006 and helped promote both the field of Geography and the U of U Geography Department. GIS Day was the perfect opportunity for community members and University faculty, staff, and students to explore the adventures and excitement geography has to offer everyone.

Many local geographers donated their time to be part of a very successful career panel discussion. Each panel member gave a brief presentation. They spoke of their career fields, both government and private sector, and gave a description of how they use GIS. They also answered questions regarding geography related jobs.

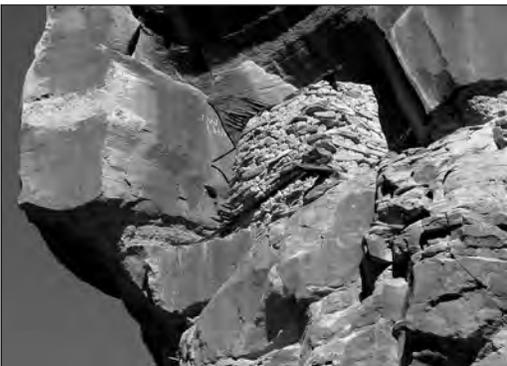
We would like to thank the many members of the community who volunteered their time. We appreciate your time and knowledge and look forward to your participation next year!



RED Lab Display of Physical Geography Field/Lab Methods

Course Spotlight: Paleoenvironmental Field Methods

This summer (June 4-13) students will have the opportunity to learn about the methods paleoecologists use to reconstruct the environments of the past while participating in one of the most exciting archaeological projects in Utah. Paleoenvironmental Field



Locomotive Rock Granary, Range Creek

Methods (GEOG 5712) will be conducted in conjunction with the Uof U's summer program in archaeological field methods. It will be held at Range Creek Canyon, a remote tributary to the Desolation Canyon stretch of the Green River. This ten-day field course is designed to teach methods used by paleo-researchers for reconstructing past environments on a local to regional scale. Students will receive training in a variety of field techniques including survey, mapping, site description, and soil identification, as well as field methods of packrat midden analysis, bog and sediment coring, and alluvial stratigraphy. Students will participate in actual data collection contributing to the goals of the current Range Creek Project. The course fee of \$150 will cover all meals and transportation costs for the entire field session.



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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:

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

Phone(801) 581-8218
Fax(801) 581-8219

Subscribe to the alumni email list for news and job opportunities at <http://lists.csbs.utah.edu/> and select Geog-alumni.

Or visit our website www.geog.utah.edu

