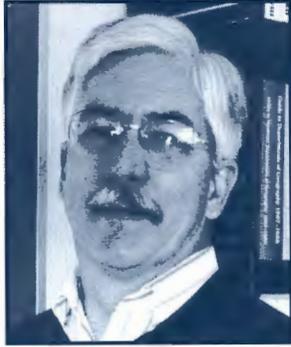


# Geography Connection

University of Utah Department of Geography

Volume 3, Issue 1 ♦ Spring 2001

## Letter from the Chair



*Dr. Tom Kontuly*



The semester system is well in place and most of the bugs have been worked out. The department has tried to keep a diverse offering of courses, which has only been possible because of the many wonderful Adjunct Professors and Associate

Instructors we have in our department. The department is lucky to have such a group of dedicated and talented individuals in our community who take the time out of their busy lives to instruct our students in their areas of expertise. They do this for very little pay. I would like to thank the following individuals for their service to our department this academic year:

**Beth Dudley-Murphy, Ph.D.** teaches our on-line and correspondence course in World Regional Geography. Beth is a scientist who works for the Energy & Geoscience Institute in Research Park.

**Ralph Becker, JD** teaches our Public Lands and Environment Policy class. He is an attorney as well as co-owner and co-founder of the planning, environmental assessment, public involvement, permitting, conflict resolution, government affairs and policy analysis consulting firm of Bear West Company in Salt Lake City. He is also a Representative in the Utah State House of Representatives.

**Joan Degiorgio, JD** co-teaches the Public Lands and Environmental Policy class with Ralph. She is a Planning Manager for the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission.

**Pamela Perlich, Ph.D.** instructs our Regional Planning Analysis course. Pam is a Senior Research Economist for the Bureau of Economic and Business Research here at the University of Utah. She was previously a research economist for the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.

**Sumner Swaner, B.S.** teaches Grafik Teknix in Design. Sumner is a licensed landscape architect in the state of Utah and also a certified member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He is Principal of Swaner Design, Inc., a successful landscape architecture firm.

**W. Paul Thompson, JD** teaches Planning Administration & Law. He is the South Jordan City Attorney. Previously, he was in private legal practice specializing in municipal law, as well as a former Mayor of Sandy City.

**Toby A. Ross, Ph.D.** teaches our City Dollars class. He is the City Manager for Park City and has an excellent background in urban geography, urban planning and city management.

**Keith Bartholomew, JD** teaches the Community and Environmental Change course. He is currently Associate Director of the U of U

Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources and the Environment in the College of Law. His previous service as LUTRAQ Project Director and Legal Staff to 1000 Friends of Oregon has been the occasion for several awards and much publicity.

**William Harrison, Ph.D.** teaches our Snow and Avalanche course. Bill spends his summers in Quebec, Canada and his winters here in Utah where he is the Director at the Center for Snow Science at Alta Resort. Bill is known internationally in the snow and avalanche community.

**Fred May, Ph.D.** teaches Utah/U.S. Quakes and Floods, Modern Natural Disasters and Natural Hazards. He is the Interagency Team Coordinator for the Utah Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM) which is a technical team that responds to disasters.

**Hal Johnson, M.S.** teaches our Community Planning Workshop course. He currently works for Utah Transit Authority as an engineering and construction planner and is specifically interested in transit and land use.

**Robert Farrington, M.S.** teaches Urban and Environmental Planning Issues. He is presently the Executive Director of the Salt Lake City Downtown Alliance. Bob was kind enough to take a group of visiting university faculty and students from Germany on a half-day tour of our city earlier this year.

**Steven McCutchen, B.S.** instructs our Planning Methods course. He is a Principal and Director of Land Planning at Blake McCutchen Design.

**Elliott Lips, M.S.** teaches the Colorado Plateau Field Seminar and Natural Hazards course. Elliott decided to enter our Ph.D. program as well and is interested in paleoclimate reconstruction and geomorphic system response to climate change.

Specials thanks to **Eugene Carr** who recently retired from teaching after 18 years. He still coordinates the Urban Planning Internships and works for the University of Utah Center for Public Policy and Administration. He provided an invaluable service to our department and we miss him.



*Eugene Carr and wife Katherine*

## Exciting Research at ECO

The Environmental Change Observatory (ECO), established in 1998 by **Katrina Moser** (Assistant Professor), is now in its' third year at the University of Utah. The ECO is dedicated to improving our understanding of environmental change. In particular, research has focused on determining past climate change and understanding impacts of such changes in the western United States. Katrina explains, "From our own research and research like ours, we know that climates have been very different in the past. For example, 20,000 years ago the Great Basin was much wetter and colder than it is today. Vegetation around the Great Salt Lake—even as recent as 14,000 years ago—looked more like the forests at the Brighton Ski Resort than the desert we see there today. We also know that it has



*Dr. Katrina Moser holding a surface-sediment core recovered from a pool near Moab, Utah.*

been warmer in the past. Between approximately 9,000 and 4,000 years ago, tree species now only found south of Salt Lake City were present in the foothills behind the University of Utah campus." Such information is critical to predicting the impacts of future climate change, particularly those changes related to increasing greenhouse gases in this region.

In order to infer past environmental change the ECO relies primarily on the analysis of lake sediments ("mud"). Lake sediments are deposited continuously, year after year, on the bottom

of lakes. Within these sediments, microfossils and geochemical signals that contain a wealth of information about past environmental conditions are preserved. These "finger prints" of the past, or paleoindicators, provide clues of past climate, hydrologic conditions, lake water chemistry, vegetation and fire history.

Although the ECO uses several paleoindicators, most of our research relies on the analyses of fossil diatoms. Diatoms are microscopic algae possessing an opaline silica cell wall. The cell wall is well preserved in lake sediments. Because of the worldwide distribution of diatoms, their great abundance and their sensitivity to environmental conditions, they are widely used to understand global and environmental change. The ECO lab is equipped with sample gathering devices (e.g., coring equipment) for a wide range of aquatic environments, a sediment processing station and a state-of-the-art microscope with differential interference contrast optics and digital video camera.

There are currently five "lively" graduate students working at ECO, all on projects in the western United States. **Amy Bloom** (Ph.D.) is using diatoms from Sierra Nevada lake sediments to infer past drought conditions in California; **Jim Davis** (Ph.D.) is studying diatom communities in pools in the Moab area of Utah; **Pat Kimball** (Master's) is using diatoms from lake sediments to infer past climate change over the last 20,000 years at Bear Lake (Utah/Idaho); **Andy Byerly** (Master's) is studying diatoms from lake sediments to infer drought at Pyramid Lake, Nevada and **Megan Walsh** (Master's) is presently determining fire history using lake sediments from the Uinta Mountains, Utah.

## The Voyage of a Lifetime: Wyoming to Buenos Aries in a Hand-build Riverboat

What do you do if you find that life is getting to be a little too predictable? Well, if you're **Arthur "Spike" Hampson** (Professor/Lecturer and Undergraduate Advisor), you decide to build a riverboat and take it on a cruise through the Americas. He hopes to use the boat as a platform for conducting a web-based geography course that will be, in effect, a virtual field trip through the Americas.

Back in the 1970's when Spike was a graduate student in Hawaii he became interested in building a sailboat to live on and sail around the world. His family and work made the dream unrealistic, so instead he built a small sailing catamaran that he used for cruising between the Hawaiian Islands.

After leaving Hawaii and arriving in Utah, Spike's dream suffered from lack of water. Then, about five years ago, he struck on the idea of building a riverboat instead and sailing it from Wyoming to Buenos Aires using rivers and protected waterways. He bought boat plans from a California company and built an additional deck onto his house so that boat construction could proceed year round in a partially protected environment.

For the past two years, Spike has been working on the boat in his spare time. The hull is finished and turned, the deck is completed, the sole (the floor for landlubbers) is built and a small cabin is now under construction. This spring, Spike plans to insert a jet propulsion system and—finances permitting—an engine will be installed in the summer. If all goes according to plan, a launching could occur this coming fall!

Spike anticipates that the journey itself will take about eighteen months to complete. Because of such seasonal concerns as ice in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway, hurricanes in the Caribbean and wet season floods in Venezuela, Spike will need to adhere to a predetermined schedule of travel which requires an early spring departure from Wyoming. His hope is that he can start the voyage in May 2003.

Spike visualizes the web-based course as being oriented towards landscape interpretation—interpretation of both physical and human features on the land. His course would have him communicating with the campus en route using a laptop and satellite phone connection to the internet. Twice a week, Spike would transmit imagery and narrative text to a server and would use that material to pose a series of questions to students. For example, Spike might post a digital image of the boat being transported around the Garrison Dam on the Missouri River in South Dakota as well as a narrative describing the nature and extent of its Sakakawea Reservoir. The students would then be asked to find out when and why the dam was built as well as who was affected by its construction. Spike also hopes it will be possible to have one brief class each week in which the students—meeting in a classroom equipped with a speaker telephone—would be able to talk to Spike on the boat for 20-30 minutes. This new course still needs to be approved by the University, but the Geography Department is supporting Spike's efforts to get this web-based course officially recognized.

# Faculty Affairs

**Tom Cova** (Assistant Professor) currently teaches courses in transportation and hazards, GIS and location analysis. He recently received research funding from FEMA for modeling human vulnerability to environmental risks. In his spare time he enjoys skiing and snowboarding and says, "I'm almost ready for Brighton's Half Pipe."

**Don Currey** (Professor) studies Quaternary environments of the Great Basin, specifically Lake Bonneville. For the last two summers, Don has enjoyed being on the teaching staff of the University of Utah Archaeology Field School in Utah and California. Don continues his work on a NSF project on Utah Geoaquities Heritage Areas as well as a second NSF project on Lake Bonneville hydrodynamics.

**Trevor Davis** (Assistant Professor/Lecturer) is the Director of the GIS Professional Education Program. He is interested in web-based instruction, spatial data uncertainty and GIS/GSP/RS integration.

**Philip Emmi** (Professor) focuses his research on urban planning, system dynamics and environmental policy. He is the Director of the Urban Planning Program and is excited to announce that he has successfully launched two new courses in sustainability and system dynamics. These new courses will serve as the core of a proposed certificate program in Environmental Systems and Management Policy. Phil's hobbies include skiing, biking and exploring ancient cities.

**Rick Forster** (Assistant Professor) is currently using remote sensing to study changes in the spatial and temporal extent of snow and ice as they relate to climate change. He recently received funding to study the St. Elias Mountains of Alaska using SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar). Rick likes to ski and snowshoe and is a die-hard Philadelphia Phillies fan.

**Arthur "Spike" Hampson** (Professor/Lecturer) is the Advisor for Undergraduate Studies and teaches courses in regional and human geography. Spike is currently building a riverboat to sail from Wyoming to Buenos Aires and has proposed a virtual fieldtrip course that follows his journey (see article on page 2).

**George Hepner** (Professor) is the Director of Graduate Studies. His research interests include the environmental assessment of the U.S. and Mexico Border Region, hyperspectral remote sensing and GIS transportation hazards. George has received research funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation to establish the Center for GIS/Remote Sensing Applied to Transportation Hazards and from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to perform GIS analysis on the Tijuana River Watershed. George also serves as the President of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) 2001-2002.

**Thomas Kontuly** (Professor) is kept busy as the Chair of the Department of Geography. His research is centered on regional urban change in Europe and the importance of employment change in explaining human migration in developed countries. In May, Tom conducted research at the German Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning in Bonn, Germany. Tom enjoys cross-country skiing and playing racquetball.

**Chung-Myun Lee** (Professor) is interested in human migration, specifically Korean Migration into Ancient Japan during the 4th to 9th Centuries and Korean Migration into the Intermountain Western United States (1900-1930). In December 2000, Chung-Myun received a letter and medal from the President of Korea honoring him for his academic and community service. He likes hiking and golfing.

**Harvey Miller** (Associate Professor) is Director of the Geographic Information Science Certificate Program. His current research focuses on GIS, transportation and telecommunication; and he recently developed the new undergraduate course "Geography of Cyberspace". In addition, Harvey is the North American Editor for the International Journal of Geographic Information Science. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, mountain biking, skiing and watching films.



*Dr. Harvey Miller & Dr. Chung-Myun Lee relaxing at the Annual Department of Geography Picnic.*

**Katrina Moser** (Assistant Professor) is the Director of the Environmental Change Observatory (ECO) (see article on page 2). Katrina is interested in reconstructing past environmental and climatic conditions in the western United States and the Canadian Arctic from diatoms and other paleoindicators. When not writing grant applications, she likes to hike and snowshoe in the Wasatch Mountains with her husband Desmond and smiling 3-year-old daughter Mireille who proudly says, "Mom, diatoms are planktonic algae."

**Merrill Ridd** (Professor) is the Director of the Center for Natural and Technological Hazards. His main research interests include urban environmental characterization and dynamics through remote sensing and GISci and urban/wildland interface hazards to development. Merrill is the Chief Organizer/Editor for the Manual of Remote Sensing, 3rd edition, "Remote Sensing of Human Settlements" for the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS). He enjoys wilderness backpacking and riding his Arabian gelding in the mountains and deserts of Utah.

# Graduate Students and Their Interests



**Nobbir Ahmend** (Ph.D.), a native of Dhaka, Bangladesh, is interested in GIS and urban travel analysis. His dissertation is entitled, "Time-space Transformation of Geographic Space for Analyzing and Visualizing Transportation Systems". Nobbir is a Research Assistant for the DIGIT Lab and a true computer techie who considers computer programming and graphic design his hobbies.

**Genevieve Atwood** (Ph.D.) of Salt Lake City is nearing completion of her dissertation. Her research centers on GIS and geomorphology, more specifically, analyzing shorelines of Great Salt Lake, Utah. This semester, Genevieve is teaching GEOG 3300: Urban Environmental Geography.

**Chris Barney** (Master's) of Arizona expects to finish his Master's thesis, "Modelling Hierarchical Service Center Networks along the Wasatch Front", next fall. In addition to his studies, Chris works as a GIS Coordinator for Sandy City Public Works. In his spare time, he likes to snowboard, ski and bike.

**Lynne Baumgras** (Ph.D.), originally from Baldwinsville, New York is a Research Fellow on a NASA Earth Science Enterprise Fellowship. Her dissertation is entitled, "Snowmelt Onset Detection on the North Slope of Alaska using Spaceborn Passive Microwave Data". Lynne is a big fan of bluegrass guitar and likes to spend time with her dog Mack.

**David Baxter** (Ph.D.), a native of Cape Town, West Cape, South Africa, specializes in migration geography. He hopes to complete his dissertation, "The Emerging South African Professional Migrant Community", within the next year. In addition to his studies, David is a socio-economic consultant. He is an avid bicyclist and has also begun running. He is overly excited about becoming a citizen of the United States this past February.

**Amy Bloom** (Ph.D.) of Oak Park, Illinois recently defended her Master's thesis, "Diatoms from Sierra Nevada Lake Sediments: Indicators of Past Temperature and Salinity Conditions in California". She will continue this research for her Ph.D. dissertation. Fall Semester, Amy taught GEOG 1000: Global Change and Mountain West Environments at the Bountiful satellite campus and this semester she is a Teaching Assistant for GEOG 3963: Field Excursions in Utah. Amy has recently taken up mountain biking and has the bruises to prove it.

**Andy Byerly** (Master's) considers Moose, Wyoming his true home. His research involves studying diatoms from Pyramid Lake in order to reconstruct past climatic conditions. This year, Andy is a Teaching Assistant for both the Environmental Studies and Geography Departments. Andy always makes time for rock climbing and trail running. During summers, Andy works as a Climbing and Rescue Ranger for the Grand Tetons National Park.

**Kraivut Charoensiri** (Ph.D.) of Bangkok, Thailand is interested in studying GIS and environmental science. He is a rock and mineral collector and also plays badminton.

**Che-Ming (Jeremy) Chen** (Ph.D.) is a native of Taipei, Taiwan. He plans to complete his dissertation, "Investigation of Imaging Spectroscopy for Discriminating Urban Land Covers and Surface Materials", this summer. In addition to working as a Research Assistant for the DIGIT Lab, Jeremy maintains the Geography Department website (<http://www.geog.utah.edu>). Jeremy started raising tropical fish two years ago and now maintains a tank with forty fish!

**Jim Davis** (Ph.D.), originally from Bellingham, Washington, continues his work on diatoms of Colorado Plateau pools. He is currently teaching GEOG 1000: Global Change and Mountain West Environments at the Bountiful satellite campus. Jim enjoys playing intramural soccer and cross-country skiing.



*Jeremy Chen, George Hepner, Rick Forster and Elias Deeb prepare for lift-off in Park City, Utah. They will be gathering field spectrometer data as part of a U.S. Department of Transportation - funded project on remote sensing and hazards assessment. This data will be integrated with AVIRIS hyperspectral imagery as part of Jeremy Chen's Ph.D. dissertation research.*

**Brad Dearden** (Ph.D.) hails from Killingworth, Connecticut and expects to defend his dissertation, "Changing Internal Migration Systems in Western Germany, 1982-1997: A Demographic Shift-Share Analysis" in the next year. He currently teaches GEOG 1400: Humans in an Uncertain World and will begin interviewing for full time academic positions this fall. Brad likes to travel, play golf and ski.

**Andrea Dion** (Ph.D.) is a Research Assistant for a NSF project studying Utah geoantiquities and heritage areas. In her spare time, Andrea enjoys hiking, biking and gardening.

**Ellias Deeb** (Master's) is a native of East Greenwich, Rhode Island. His academic interests lie in glaciology, remote sensing/inferometry and GIS. During the Summer of 2000, Eli was awarded an ERSI Student Assistantship. He is currently a Research Assistant on a NASA funded grant using InSAR data of Antarctica to monitor glacier dynamics as well as a part-time Database Engineer in the GIS group at Evans and Sutherland. Eli is an outdoor enthusiast who likes exploring Utah.

**Renee Gluch** (Ph.D.) was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. She plans to complete her Ph.D. this summer. Her dissertation is entitled, "Mapping the Urban Thermal Pattern in Salt Lake City Using ATLAS Remotely Sensed Data". Renee is a Teaching Assistant for GEOG 5140/6140: Methods in GIS. Renee enjoys skiing, hiking and playing the piano.

**Joo-Yup Han** (Ph.D.) is from Pusan, Republic of Korea. His studies focus on GIS and geomorphology. He is an avid stamp collector and enjoys exploring Salt Lake City.

**Ming-chih Hung** (Ph.D.) is a native of Taoyuna, Taiwan. He is a Research Assistant for the DIGIT lab and his research centers on monitoring and visualizing urban growth by subpixel remote sensing.

**Jan Husdal** (Ph.D.) was raised in Germany and lived in Norway and England before recently arriving in Salt Lake City. He is interested in studying the applications of GIS in crisis, disaster, and risk and emergency management. Jan is currently a Research Assistant on a project aimed at developing models and algorithms for assessing the vulnerability of transportation infrastructure lifelines to hazards.



**James Patrick Kimball** (Master's), a Salt Lake City native, expects to complete his thesis on the paleoenvironmental reconstruction of Bear Lake based on diatoms this summer. He is a die-hard trail runner and will never admit his addiction to ebay.

**Lora Koenig** (Master's) hails from Eugene, Oregon. She is interested in the environmental applications of GIS. In addition to being a Teaching Assistant for GEOG 3140: Introduction to GIS, Lora is currently the department SAC chair and social events planner.

**Justin Johnson** (Master's) of Price, Utah is interested in GIS development and evacuation modeling and is currently a Teaching Assistant for GEOG 3020: Spatial Data Analysis. Justin enjoys camping and "road tripping".

**Phoebe McNeally** (Ph.D.), a native of Gorham, Maine, is continuing to build on her Master's thesis research on avalanche slide path stability modeling using GIS. For her dissertation, she will advance the model to include more aspects of avalanche forecasting. Phoebe is a Research Assistant for the DIGIT lab and in her spare time loves skiing at Alta.

**Dan Moshin** (Master's) was raised in Los Angeles, California and is interested in natural resources and environmental science. He currently teaches a section of GEOG 1000: Global Change and Mountain West Environments at the Sandy satellite campus. In addition to his studies in geography, he is working toward a second B.S. in Environmental Science. Dan can often be found cheering for the Jazz at basketball games at the Delta Center.

**Shizuo Nishizawa** (Ph.D.) of Yokohama, Japan studies volcanic ashes and their deposition in basins. He is currently a Teaching Assistant for GEOG 1000: Global Change and Mountain West Environments. Shizuo is often seen cruising campus looking for the ultimate parking spot.

**Etsushi Shumano** (Master's) is from Osaka, Japan. His research interests lie in migration and population geography. More specifically, his research concentrates on the longitudinal migration and cohort analysis using the panel study of income dynamics. Etsushi is excited to announce that he has recently landed a job working for Frontier Airlines.

**Nermin Shoukry** (Ph.D.), a native of Giza Egypt, is using remote sensing and GIS to monitor urban growth expansion in the eastern part of the Nile Delta region in Egypt. She is excited that her family, currently living in Egypt, will be joining her in Salt Lake City this May.

**Greg Smith** (Master's) is currently studying the application of passive microwave snowpack data to current water supply forecast techniques in the Green River Basin of Wyoming. Greg is a Hydrometeorological Analysis and Support Forecaster for the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center of the National Weather Service. He is an angler and huge Green Bay Packers fan.

**G. Brad Thein** (Master's) of Oakbrook, Illinois is interested in Quaternary studies and natural hazards. In addition to his studies, he is a field technician for a geotechnical consulting firm. In his spare time, he enjoys ice hockey, snowboarding, mountain biking and fishing.

**Megan Walsh** (Master's) of Omaha, Nebraska intends to complete her thesis, "The Use of Macroscopic Charcoal Analysis to Study Fire Frequency in the Uinta Mountains, Utah" this spring. Megan teaches a section of GEOG 1600: World Regional Geography and loves to sing, go camping and watch Nebraska football games. Megan is looking forward to her upcoming field session in the Uintas.

**Rich Warnick** (Master's) anticipates completing his thesis, "A Digital Atlas of Utah Wilderness", within the next year. His academic interests lie in wilderness and public land management. This past summer, Rich developed and taught a new geography course, "Wilderness in the West". In addition, Rich is a Remote Sensing Analyst at the USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC) and is proud to have played a roll in the effort to establish a new Forest Service policy on roadless areas.

**Yi-hwa** (Eve) Wu (Ph.D.) of Taipei, Taiwan studies GIS and transportation.

**Thomas Zajkowski** (Master's) hails from Wichita, Kansas. Tom hopes to complete his thesis, "Using GIS and Demographics to Analyze Incoming Freshman at the University of Utah", this semester. Tom is a Remote Sensing Analyst and Instructor for the USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC). He and his family just welcomed their third child, a daughter, in March.

Other graduate students include **Katie Andrews** (Master's), **Vicki Backus** (Ph.D.), **Andrea Bair** (Master's), **Sara Castle** (Master's), **Cindy Clark** (Master's), **David Davis** (Master's), **Heidi Hadley** (Ph.D.), **Li Lin** (Master's), **Janet Malek** (Master's), **Lorraine Nelms** (Master's) and **Tammy Wambeam** (Master's).

## Staff Stuff

Our staff members **Angela Burton** (Secretary), **Lisa Clayton** (Executive Secretary), **Susan VanRoosendaal** (Administrative Assistant) and **Melissa Warner** (Administrative Assistant for DIGIT) are essential to the success of our department. They keep the department running smoothly day-in and day-out and we thank them for all their hard work.

In addition to her job with the department, **Angela Burton** is also pursuing a degree in Family and Consumer Studies. When not on campus, she likes to go hiking, play volleyball and make "crafty things". In June 2000, **Lisa Clayton** completed a series of DCE courses and earned a Management Certificate. Lisa is also busy with her two children, **Jessi** (age 8) and **Jayde** (age 12).

As well as being their personal chauffeur to soccer and basketball practices and games, she is a room mother and the art instructor at their school. Somehow she still finds time for scrapbooking and gardening. Although her children are all grown up, **Susan VanRoosendaal** and her husband **Mike** are kept quite busy with their playful 2-year old dog Maggie. She invites you to stop by her office to see photos of beloved Maggie anytime. You'll notice there are more photos of Maggie than of the rest of her family. **Melissa Warner** is a secretary by day and singer/songwriter by night. She is excited to announce the release of her second album this spring and invites you to check out her band website at <http://member.tripod.com/melissawarner>.

# Graduate Student Spotlight

**Renee Gluch** is a Ph.D. candidate with research interests in the application of remote sensing and GIS to urban environments. Her dissertation research involves using ATLAS airborne data to study the Urban Heat Island phenomenon in the Salt Lake Valley. ATLAS (Advanced Thermal and Land Applications Sensor) data were collected over the Salt Lake Valley in the summer of 1998 as part of the EPA Urban Heat Island Pilot Project (UHIPP). Salt Lake City was chosen as a pilot city for this project along with Sacramento, California and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The focus of UHIPP is to determine what role excess heat a city plays in air pollution and to disseminate this information to local planners and policy makers. Renee is using the ATLAS data to study thermal properties of individual land covers that make up the urban environment. While NASA collected thermal data in the air, Renee and a team of researchers collected air temperature data on the ground. Air temperatures were measured both two inches and three feet above the surface of a variety of land covers throughout the valley. The air temperature readings will be compared to the data collected by the ATLAS sensor. Preliminary results show that some of the hottest places in the valley are rooftops. For example, afternoon air temperatures above the Matheson Courthouse measured over 140°F.

## Congratulations!

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Ph.D. student **Vickie Backus** a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Award of \$10,000 to assist Vickie in the completion of her Ph.D. dissertation, "Assessing the Spatial Connectivity Among Grizzly Bear Populations Near the U.S.-Canada Border."

## Our Condolences

The Geography Department would like to send our condolences to the family and friends of **Chad Schwartze**. Chad graduated from the University of Utah in May 2000 with a major in geography and a minor in Spanish. He was a recipient of the 1999-2000 Lewon Scholarship. While at the University of Utah he was a volunteer at the Lowell Bennion Community Service Center, teaching students English at a local school. A scholarship fund has been set up in Chad's memory. All donations may be sent to:  
University of Utah Development Office  
201 South Presidents Circle Room 304  
Salt Lake City UT 84112  
Please include a note with your contribution.

## Alumni News

**Natalie Anderson** ('95) is currently working for Sun Microsystems, in Broomfield, Colorado. She works for Sun Educational Services in a group that provides web-based training including Solaris, Java and other IT curriculum.

**Chris Beynon** ('00) is a project manager for an urban planning consulting firm in Berkeley, California. He is currently working on a number of projects including a general plan to update land use, transportation and growth management for the City of Brentwood, California. Chris also manages projects for the revitalization of downtown Los Angeles, Long Beach and Sacramento. This involves planning circulation patterns, streetscape design and enhancements, land use planning and the development of key opportunity sites to stimulate further development.

**Dick Chin** ('60) retired from the U.S. Army Reserve in 1990 at the rank of Colonel. In 1993 he retired from his second job as a Supervisory Cartographer for the Defense Mapping Agency (National Imagery and Mapping Agency). Since retirement, travel has been a primary focus and he has made frequent trips to Utah to visit relatives.

**Chuck Clark** ('80) has spent most of his career at Evans & Southerland and is currently involved in a new business unit that has created a 3D-visualization solution called E&S RAPIDsite. It was developed for planners, civil engineers and architects to use during the approval process for urban and suburban developments. RAPIDsite enables professionals to create a photo-realistic 3D model of a proposed development site. The users can explore the development site and present this visualization interactively on a desktop computer. The visualization will help elected officials and the public quickly understand development plans. For more details, see <http://www.es-rapid.com>.

**Jim Hipple** ('97) is an Assistant Professor in Department of Geography at the University of Missouri, located in Columbia, Missouri. His research is focused on the remote sensing of urban lands. His current projects include looking at Kansas City, Springfield and St. Louis, Missouri. In addition, he has been working on agricultural remote sensing projects funded through NASA and Raytheon Corporation. Jim is still the Web Page Editor for the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (<http://www.asprs.org>), a task he has continued since he was a graduate student at the University of Utah.

**Jamie Hoffman** ('99) is working for HNTB Companies, one of the largest engineering, architectural and planning companies in the world. This company consistently ranks in the top two or three in transportation, aviation and sports arena projects. Jamie is a GIS Project Manager in their North Dallas office, responsible for implementing GIS for the North Texas Tollway Authority. This project will lay the groundwork for tollway authorities throughout the country.

**You-Lee Kim** ('98) is presently in Washington, D.C. working for the Department of Transportation (DOT) in the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS).

# Department of Geography Awards 1999-2000

- Outstanding Undergraduate Student:  
**Michelle Harley-Lloyd and Dianna Openshaw**
- Outstanding Undergraduate Urban Planning Student:  
**Sandra Kuehni**
- Outstanding Graduate Student: **Justin Johnson**
- Outstanding Service to the Department of Geography:  
**Andy Byerly, Dan Moshin and Megan Walsh**
- Outstanding Adjunct: **Pamela Perlich**

## Gifts to the Department 2000-2001

Thank you for all of the generous donations made to the Geography Department this year. Gifts were donated by the following:

Dick and Nancy Chin	Cheryl Parsons Marzec
David G. Clark	Roger and Sue McCoy
Michael D'Angelo	Newell and Lavon Roberts
Teri Gee	Kathryn and Stephen Seninger
Melvin Haman	Geraldine H. Shaw
Wayne and Dorothy Johnson	John Storm
Min-Boo Lee	Randall Tolpinrud
Don and Sue Lewon	Milan Uremovich
	Lotti Ann Wann



Department of Geography Chair Tom Kontuly and wife Pam (left) with Sue and Don Dewon (right), Friends of Geography

## Geography Department Alumni We want to hear from you!

Let us know what you are up to—your latest career changes, hot research topics, any personal news or suggestions. Also be sure to include any change of address so we can keep in touch.

There are several ways for you to contact the department:

- Stop by the department next time you are on campus. We are in Orson Spencer Hall (OSH) Room 270.
- Give us a call at (801) 581-8218
- Send us a FAX at (801) 581-8219
- Drop a note or donation to our campus address:  
260 South Central Campus Drive, Room 270  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

## GEO DATA

The largest earthquakes in Utah in modern times were a magnitude 6.6 earthquake on the northern end of the Great Salt Lake in Hansel Valley in 1934 and a magnitude 6.5 earthquake near Richfield in 1901.

About 1200 earthquakes are recorded and located in Utah each year. Only about 1% of those are felt by us.



The Wasatch fault is a normal fault likely to slip vertically, with mountains rising relative to the valley floor. The famed San Andreas fault is a strike-slip fault and slips horizontally.

When was the last earthquake? In the last minute, somewhere in the world. Within the past 24 hours, somewhere in the state.

Thanks to Lorraine Nelms for providing this data.

## SAC News

This semester the Department of Geography's Student Advisory Committee (SAC), under the leadership of SAC Chair **Lora Koenig**, is trying to increase undergraduate involvement. Currently SAC is constructing a bulletin board to keep students informed on departmental resources and happenings. Fall semester's SAC Chair **Dan Moshin** helped graduate students obtain funds from the Associated Students of the University of Utah (ASUU) for presenting papers at conferences. A large portion of the money was used to help Ph.D. students **Amy Bloom**, **Jeremy Chan** and **Renee Gluch** present at Association of American Geographers (AAG) meeting in New York City. SAC continues to host bimonthly colloquiums, which have been a tremendous success this year. Recent presenters have included: **Dr. Max Moritz** (Associate Professor of Geography at California Polytechnic State University), **Dr. Phil Emmi**, and Ph.D. students **Brad Dearden**, **Ming-Chih Hung** and **Yi-Hwa (Eva) Wu**.

The SAC committee would like to extend an invitation to anyone who is interested in attending the colloquia or considering presenting one to contact us at (801) 581-8218.



# Geography Connection

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## Have you been to our website lately? Log on and Take a Look.

The Department of Geography web site is the host of all the information one needs to keep up with departmental happenings. Our webmaster, Che-Ming 'Jeremy' Chen, has been hard at work keeping the department web page current and adding new features and links.

**<http://www.geog.utah.edu>**

While you are logged on, check out the following geography web sites:

- <http://www.nationalgeographic.com>
- <http://www.census.gov>
- <http://www.nasa.gov>
- <http://www.usgs.gov>
- <http://www.geographynetwork.com>
- <http://www.mapquest.com>

