

# Geography Connection

University of Utah Department of Geography

Volume 5, Issue 1 ❖ Spring 2003

## Letter from the Chair



*Dr. Tom Kontuly*



Academic year 2002 –2003 was exciting and busy. After many years of dedicated service to the department and the University, Professors Lee and Ridd will retire. Dr. Ridd started at the University of Utah in

1965, while Professor Lee arrived in 1972. A retirement reception was held April 5th at the Memorial House. Thanks to those who attended.

In spite of severe budget cuts this year, we were able to hire replacements for our two distinguished retirees. Dr. Andrea Brunelle-Daines from the University of Oregon, and Paul Torrens from University College London (UCL) will be joining our faculty on July 1st. Andrea is currently a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Geography at Oregon. Paul will complete his doctoral thesis before moving to Salt Lake. He currently works as a Research Fellow at the Center for Advanced Spatial Analysis at UCL.

In addition, the undergraduate Urban Planning program will be transferring to the School of Architecture on July 1st. Professor Emmi and the Urban Planning Adjunct faculty will also move to Architecture. In exchange, the department was given the authorization to hire two Assistant Professors in 2003-2004.

During autumn semester 2002, the department completed a Graduate Council review of our programs. Such reviews are standard practice at the University and are undertaken every seven years. In my opinion, the review was extremely positive. It provided several suggestions for improving undergraduate and graduate instruction in the department.

Please keep us informed about what is going on in your life and career. You can email this information to me at [kontuly@geog.utah.edu](mailto:kontuly@geog.utah.edu).

## Geography Department Loses Two Faculty to Retirement

Dr. Merrill Ridd and Dr. Chung-Myun Lee will be retiring after many years of service to the University of Utah Geography Department. Dr. Ridd started at the University of Utah in 1965, while Professor Lee arrived in 1972.

Dr. Lee graduated from University of Michigan and has worked for University of Utah for nearly thirty years. His research focuses on the study of land use planning, population migration, aerial photography and remote sensing, and the presence of Asians in the Intermountain West.

Throughout his long tenure, Dr. Lee has taught many classes including: GEOGR 3400 - Population Geography, GEOGR 3640 - Geography of East Asia/Southeast Asia, GEOGR 5100/6100 - Aerial Photo Interpretation, GEOGR 5220/6220 & URBPL 5220 - Land Use Planning.

Dr. Lee plans to stay active in the field. He is busy translating his book "The Influence of Ancient Korean Migration upon the Formation of Japanese Culture - from the 4th to the 9th Century" from Korean to English.

In a recent interview Dr Ridd said "The highlights in my career would have to be the students. I've worked with the most remarkable people-graduate and undergraduate. To be around young minds and be a part of their lives and be invested in their future has to be one of the most invigorating and fulfilling opportunities that any career-oriented person could have. Your perspective on life stays young."

The future looks promising for Dr. Ridd. He says "I intend to remain active in some way. In the research realm, I expect I will be teaching part-time somewhere. And frankly, it's scary; the closer this day of retirement comes the scarier it gets. It kind of comes back to geography and students; aside from family (well, in addition to family), geography has been the enrichment of my life. I do know I'll always be a student of the landscape. Everywhere I go, I'm looking, investigating, exploring, and thinking about geography anywhere in the world I go."

Dr. Ridd proves he is an academic by saying in this retirement he "will continue to travel. And I'll just keep on studying and reading. Recently, I've discovered that I've been more of a fan of history and art than I ever was in school. I see geography in all of it."

## Forster and Students Take Part in NASA's CLPX

Assistant Professor Richard Forster and two of his graduate students, Elias Deeb and Lora Koenig, took part in NASA's Cold Land Processes Experiment (CLPX), February 19-25, 2003, in the Front Range of the Colorado Rockies. The mission of the CLPX is to study snow to better understand its role in the hydrologic cycle. The study involved scientists and students from six federal agencies and numerous universities. One goal of the project is to develop a remote sensing instrument that can more effectively determine snow pack properties.

CLPX is a large research experiment spanning three years of study. It includes ground-based snow samples and measurements as well as measurements from ground-based radars and radiometers, three airplanes flying an array of sensors, and nine satellites. It is the largest snow experiment of its kind.

Deeb and Koenig were snow surveyors. They took part in the ground-based snow samples and measurements. Deeb and Koenig used skis to propel themselves through the freshly fallen snow to take measurements of the snowpack and dig snow pits on a predetermined grid. Measurements included snow depth, density, wetness, grain size, stratigraphy, temperature, soil moisture, and surface roughness.

Forster spent his time working with a ground-based radar that can measure snow properties at different depths

within the snowpack. After each radar experiment, Forster and a graduate student from University of Colorado (Hans-Peter Marshall) dug snow pits to validate the radar measurements. The deepest pit, near Steamboat Springs, CO, was 3.4 m (11' 2"). "This type of experiment will allow us to some day measure snow properties from satellite radar images without having to ski through blizzards and dig snow pits," says Forster.

Forster, Deeb and Koenig had such a good time in February, they will be headed back in March for the spring measurement campaign. For more information on the CLPX check out the following websites:

<http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsfc/earth/pictures/2003/0215clpx03/clpxfact.html>

<http://www.nohrsc.nws.gov/~cline/clp.html>



*Rick Forster in a 3.4 m snow pit near Steamboat Springs, CO making measurements as part of a NASA remote sensing of snow experiment.*

## Exciting Research

Andy Ford (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Geography Department), Rick Forster (Assistant Professor, Geography Department), and Ron Bruhn (Professor, Dept. of Geology & Geophysics) have embarked on a fascinating research journey this past fall, culminating in a presentation to the American Geophysical Union (AGU) 2002 Fall Meeting in San Francisco.

The inspiration for this work occurred when two large earthquakes struck central Alaska in October and November of 2002. On October 23rd, a magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck the Nenana Mountain area adjacent to Denali National Park in Alaska. Eleven days later, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck 20 kilometers east of the first earthquake. The 7.9 event is one of the strongest earthquakes to strike North America in recent history.

A triplet of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) images were acquired from the Canadian Radarsat-1 satellite, courtesy of the Alaska SAR Facility (ASF) in Fairbanks. These three images covered the exact same area on the ground, including the earthquake epicenters, but at 24 day intervals. By a

stroke of luck these three images were acquired just before the first event, between the two, and just after the second event. This unique data set has made it possible to use interferometric SAR (InSAR) techniques to reliably separate and study the ground motion caused by each event, something that has never been possible before using satellite data. These results were presented at a hastily convened special session on the Alaska earthquakes during the AGU 2002 Fall Meeting in a poster entitled "InSAR Measurements of the Surface Deformation in the Epicentral Region of the Nenana Mountain and Denali Fault Earthquakes of Oct. 23rd and Nov. 3rd 2002."

The trio of researchers plan to further their work by separating the motion of the many large glaciers in the region from motion of the earthquakes in their observations. The earthquakes may also have had a profound effect on the behavior of these same glaciers (in some places the ground movement was large enough to cause huge cracks in the surface of the glaciers above!), which will also be studied over time using InSAR.

# Faculty Affairs

**Tom Cova** (Assistant Professor) is the Director of the Geographic Information Science Certificate Program and his research interests lie in the areas of transportation and hazards, especially regional evacuations in wildfires. He teaches the Introduction to GIS course, a seminar on Human Vulnerability, GIS Methods, and Locational Analysis. Tom presented a paper at the GIScience 2002 in Boulder, Colorado entitled, "Extending geographic representation to include fields of spatial objects." His recreational activities include skiing and a triathlon class on campus.

**Don Currey** (Professor) For more than thirty years, Don has dedicated himself to studying and reconstructing the histories of lakes in the Bonneville basin, including Lake Bonneville and Great Salt Lake. After countless field expeditions, exhaustive data gathering, and thorough literature review, he is now very excited to present evidence that hydrologic records of the Bonneville basin resulted not only from regional climate changes, but also changes on a global scale. Last year, he founded a special research unit called Long Range Desert Geo-Limnology Group (LRDGLG), which was modeled after the famous British LRDG. In addition to hard-core geomorphologists, this group has attracted a number of archeologists and geologists.

**Philip Emmi** (Professor) is the Director of the Urban Planning Program and teaches Urban Dynamics, System Dynamics and Environmental Policy, Planning Theory/Ethics, and Metro Regional Planning. His research interests include urban planning, system dynamics, urban dynamics, and interaction between landuse and transportation. He recently received funding to study the Systems Dynamics of Utah Welfare Reform and Decision Support Models for Environmental Systems at the USA-Mexico border. Phil's hobbies include skiing, biking, and traveling.

**Rick Forster** (Assistant Professor) focuses his research on the remote sensing of glaciers and snow cover. He recently received a NASA New Investigators Program (NIP) research grant and attended the American Geophysical Union (AGU) annual conference in San Francisco in December 2002. He teaches courses in Remote Sensing, Advanced Multivariate Statistics, and Microwave Remote Sensing. In his spare time, Rick likes to ski, hike, and camp.

**George Hepner** (Professor) is the President of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS). His research interests include Remote Sensing and GIS. He teaches courses in World Regional Geography, Resource Conservation/Environmental Management, and Advanced Spatial Modeling.

**Arthur "Spike" Hampson** (Professor/Lecturer) is the Advisor for Undergraduate Studies and his courses include Geography of North America, Geography of the Middle East, Geography of East and Southeast Asia, and Political Geography. Boat designs and maritime exploration are his areas of interest. Spike enjoys boating and is also a ski instructor at Deer Valley. He finished building his 21 foot riverboat and plans to start his Wyoming to Argentina sail in May 2004.

**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. 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 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 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** (Professor) is the Director of Graduate Studies and the North American Editor of the International Journal of Geographical Information Science (IJGIS). His research interests lie in the areas of GIS for Transportation (GIS-T), Geographic Information Science (GISci), time geography and activity theory, spatial analysis, and geo-computation. His courses include Advanced GIS I, Geocomputation, and a seminar in GIS: Time geography and location-based services. Harvey presented papers at GIScience 2002, Boulder, CO and the 98<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the AAG, Los Angeles, CA in March 2002. He was invited for lectures at the Institute for Transportation Studies and Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of California-Irvine in March 2002; a workshop on Action-oriented Approaches in Geographic Information Science, Holden, ME in November 2002; and the 82<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC to be on the panel on "Rethinking geospatial research" in January 2003. He has been invited to give the keynote address at the forthcoming GIS-T annual Symposium in Colorado Springs, CO to be held in March 2003. Harvey has been recently involved in two National Research Council research and policy committees and will be visiting the Institute for GeoInformatics (IfGI), University of Muenster, Germany in May 2003 as part of the Department's scholarly exchange program with IfGI. He is presenting a paper on "Travel chances and social exclusion" at the International Association for Travel Behavior Research Congress, Lucerne, Switzerland in August 2003. Some of his forthcoming papers and book chapters include "Representation and spatial analysis in GIS" in the *Annals of the AAG*; "What about people in geographic information science?" in David Unwin (ed.), *Re-Presenting Geographic Information Systems*, John Wiley and "Transportation and communication lifeline disruption" in S. L. Cutter, D. B. Richardson and T. Wilbanks (eds.), *The Geographic Dimensions of Terrorism*, Routledge, that are in press. Harvey enjoys desert and mountain backpacking, bicycling, skiing, rock climbing, film and books.

**Katrina Moser** (Assistant Professor) is the Director of the Environmental Change Observatory (ECO). She teaches courses on Life on Earth through Time, Global Change and the Mountain West, and a graduate seminar on Climate Change. Katrina is interested in paleolimnology, reconstructing past events from fossils, and geochemical signals preserved in lake sediments. She recently received funding to study the High Resolution Time-Series of California Climate over the last 12,000 years: Testing the influence of the North Atlantic and North Pacific. She loves cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, camping, and traveling.

**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*, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Profiles

**Nobbir Ahmed (Ph.D.)** of Montreal, Quebec specializes in Transportation Planning and GIS. He is expecting to complete his dissertation, entitled "Time-space transformation of geographic space for visualizing, exploring, and analyzing transportation systems" by the fall of 2003. Nobbir enjoys sports and popular science.

**Genevieve Atwood (Ph.D.)**, born and raised right here in Salt Lake City, Utah, she is interested in coastal processes. More specifically, her research is focused on the coastal processes of the Great Salt Lake. She is currently writing her dissertation, "Geomorphology of the 1986-1987 high-stand shoreline of Antelope Island, Great Salt Lake, Utah". Genevieve gave a poster presentation at the Geological Society of America meeting held in Denver in October 2002 entitled "Linear referencing and GIS used to display multiple shoreline characteristics by reducing spatial complexity." This year she is an associate instructor for Geography 3330 – Urban Environmental Geography.

**Angira Baruah (Master's)** hails from Assam, India. Her research interests include remote sensing of snow hydrology, coastal processes, and water resources. She is expecting to complete her M.S. thesis, "Using active and passive microwave remote sensing to detect snowmelt in the northern slopes of Alaska" this year. When not working on her thesis or performing her duties as a teaching assistant, Angira enjoys music, swimming, and reading.

**Mark Beaty (Master's)**, from Salt Lake City, UT is interested in studying remote sensing. He is expecting to complete his degree in 2004. Mark also works as a remote sensing technician. When not working, Mark enjoys online games, sleeping, and making chain-mail armor.

**Barry Biediger (Master's)** of Orem, Utah is expecting to complete his thesis in 2003. His interests lie in Multi-dimensional GIS. Currently, Barry is the interim director of the DIGIT lab. In his spare time, he enjoys playing guitar and reading about history.

**Amy Bloom (Ph.D.)** is originally from Oak Park, Illinois. Her research interests include Quaternary environments, biogeography, and paleolimnology. Amy presented a talk on her Ph.D. research (using

diatoms recovered from alpine lake sediments to reconstruct drought events in the Sierra Nevada, California) at the AAG conference in New Orleans in March of this year. This year, Amy is a research assistant for the Environmental Change Observatory (ECO) Lab. In her spare time, Amy enjoys hiking, camping, and watching baseball games.

**Jim Bolser (Master's)** was born in Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada, but raised in Stansbury Park, Utah. His research focus is in community development patterns, problems, issues, and alternatives. He expects to complete his thesis on the events, impacts, hazards, preventative measures, community effects, and future planning related to the August 2001 Mollie Fire in Santaquin, Utah and the related September 12, 2002 mudslides in the spring of 2004. Currently, he works with Mountainland Association of Governments, a Utah Regional Planning Agency, as a Community Planner/Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communities Program Regional Advisor. When he has any free time, he likes golfing, doing home improvement projects, watching and attending sporting events, and spending time with his wife Carrie and two sons.

**Scott Bridwell (Master's)** is originally from Chandler, AZ. His research focus is in GIS, transportation, and urban geography. He is expecting to complete his degree by summer 2003. Scott is currently working as a research assistant for the DIGIT lab. When he has extra time, Scott enjoys wine making, watching TV, snowboarding, and hanging out with his wife.

**Nancy Carruthers (Master's)** of Sanford, Maine is interested in the reconstruction of late Pleistocene, early Holocene climate in the Great Basin. Her research focus will be in evaluating paleohydrological changes on lakes, including the Bonneville Basin. Nancy is currently teaching Geography 1000 at the Sandy Campus. In her spare time, she enjoys all outdoor activities available in the west, especially skiing, mountain biking, and rock climbing.

**Weilun Chang (Master's)** comes to the University of Utah from Taiwan. She is expecting to complete her degree and graduate in 2004. Her research focus is

on natural hazards and human-environment interactions. In her spare time, she likes to go hiking and jogging. Tina has been very pleased with her experience of studying abroad, and says that everyone she has met here has been very friendly. Tina is currently learning how to ski, and is impressed with the natural scenery Utah has to offer.

**Andrea Dion (Ph.D.)** comes from Troy, New Hampshire. Her research interests include Geoconservation, land use, and Africa. She is expecting to complete her dissertation "Geoantiquities in the urban landscape: developing concepts and methods for geoconservation in the Wasatch Front" in May 2004. Andrea presented her research at the IGU regional conference in Durban, South Africa in August 2002, and at the AAG meeting in Los Angeles in March 2002. When she has any free time, she enjoys skiing, backpacking, biking, hiking, and fishing.

**Bobi Fox (Master's)** grew up in Utah and now resides in Tooele. She is pursuing a M.A. in geography, with language concentrations in Persian and Arabic. She expects to complete her degree requirements in the spring of 2004. Her research focus is in applied satellite and UAV remote sensing. She hopes to develop remote sensing techniques and applications to solve civilian-related problems. Bobi is the TA for Geography 3020, Spatial Data Analysis. Bobi also works as a Network Administrator and Loan Manager at GSI Checkpoint One. Bobi enjoys traveling, and frequently visits New Mexico, North Carolina, Nevada, and Washington D.C. Throughout her life, Bobi has played the French horn, clarinet, guitar, piano, Persian Tonbak, and is thinking of learning to play the Tar after graduation. She also enjoys traveling to concerts.

**Tina Gillman (Master's)** is from right here in Salt Lake City, UT. Her research interests include planning and transportation. She is hoping to complete her degree by spring 2005. Tina recently attended the 2002 Annual National ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) Conference. She is also currently working for Carter & Burgess. When she has free time, Tina likes mountain biking and any other warm weather outdoor activities.

**Jessica Hartman (Master's)** is originally from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Her background is in geology and anthropology, but is interested in studying limnology, paleolimnology, and climate change. This year, Jessica is the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) chair. She is an avid runner and hiker, and enjoys camping and snowshoeing.

**Phoebe McNeally (Ph.D.)** is a native of Gorham, Maine. She is hoping to complete her dissertation by December 2004. Phoebe's research focus is on avalanche stability modeling and visualization. She is currently teaching high school chemistry and physics classes and coaching the ski team. Phoebe likes skiing, hiking, cycling, traveling, and photography.

**Atsushi Nara (Master's)**, originally from Tokyo, Japan, is interested in GIS coupled with environmental management or land use planning. He is hoping to complete his thesis by the end of spring 2004. When not busy with his research or class work, Atsushi enjoys snowboarding.

**Shizuo Nishizawa (Ph.D.)** is expecting to complete his degree within three years. His research focus is the reconstruction of major hydrologic events in the Bonneville Basin during the last ice age. He recently attended the G.B.A. conference in 2002. Shizuo is currently a TA for Geography 1000. When not getting stressed out about his research, Shizuo likes to catch up on his sleep.

**Nermin Shoukry (Ph.D.)** is a native of Giza, Egypt. Her research focus is in urban remote sensing, settlement geography, and modeling urban GIS. She is expecting to complete her dissertation, "Using remote sensing and GIS for monitoring settlement growth expansion in the eastern part of the Nile delta governorates in Egypt (1975-1998)" by next year. Nermin enjoys listening to music, reading novels, playing with her son, discovering new places, shopping, traveling, and having fun with her family.

**Joel Siderius (Master's)** is originally from Spokane, Washington. He anticipates completing his thesis, "An investigation of alpine treeline, Uinta Mountains, Utah" by the fall of this year. This year, Joel is a teaching assistant for Geo-Excursions in Utah and a member of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC). In his spare time, Joel enjoys mountain biking along the Bonneville Shoreline Trail above campus. He is also attempting to "create

homebrew in response to Utah's silly 3.2% alcohol rule."

**Greg Smith (Master's)** is a Utah native that hails from Kearns. His research focus is on applying GIS and remote sensing to flash flood potential, snowmelt runoff, and water supply. He hopes to complete his thesis, tentatively titled "Utilizing GIS and geographic principles to define flash flood potential and generate flash flood guides," by the fall of 2003. In addition to his studies, Greg is also a hydrometeorologist for the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center of the National Weather Service, and often presents his research at related conferences. Greg also enjoys photography, gardening, astronomy, drinking beer, traveling to Jimmy Buffet concerts, or to Green Bay to watch the Packers.

**Adam Sobek (Master's)** is a native of Billings, Montana. His area of specialization is in GIS and transportation. He is expecting to complete his thesis, "A web-based navigational system for disabled students at the University of Utah" this spring. This year, Adam is a research assistant and GIS analyst for the DIGIT lab. He enjoys hiking, biking, skiing, and carpentry. Adam and his wife had their second son, Sage, in January.

**Carrie Spruance (Master's)** was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her background is in anthropology and archaeology, but she is currently studying climate change. Her thesis, "The impact of climate change in the Uinta Mountains, Utah" is expected to be completed in the spring of 2004; upon completion of her master's, Carrie is planning on pursuing

her Ph.D. Carrie has presented her research at several conferences: the 17<sup>th</sup> International Diatom Symposium in August 2002, Utah Geographical Society in October 2002, and the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) in February 2003. Carrie enjoys reading, dancing, hiking, fishing, and snowboarding and telemarking during the winter.

**Jeff VanLooy (Ph.D.)** hails from Grand Forks, North Dakota. His research interests include geomorphology and remote sensing. He plans to complete his dissertation in 2005. Recently, Jeff was the recipient of the Donald A. Lewon Scholarship. Jeff presented his research at the Western Geography Conference this February and the AAG conference in March of this year. This year Jeff is a teaching assistant for Cartography, and in his spare time enjoys backpacking and skiing.

**Rich Warnick (Master's)**, from Draper, Utah, is interested in studying remote sensing, GIS, and public land management. Rich is hoping to complete his thesis, "A Digital Atlas of Utah Wilderness", in the summer of 2003. The product of his thesis work, the *Utah Wilderness Atlas*, is being published on the World Wide Web at [www.utahwildernessatlas.net/](http://www.utahwildernessatlas.net/). Rich works as a Remote Sensing Analyst at USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center. He has also given presentations on mapping wildfires with MODIS satellite imagery at the RS 2002 Forest Service remote sensing conference in San Diego. When Rich has any free time, he likes backcountry exploring, river running, and photography.



*Left to Right, Graduate Students: Qingshui Lu, Atsushi Nara, Jeff VanLooy, Weilun Chang, and Tina Gillman*

## Alumni News

**Ross Bryner, B.S. 1988.** After graduation, Ross went to work for an aerial survey firm in Las Vegas, Nevada. He gave up big city life and moved back to his hometown of Price, Utah. He now works for the local water and sewer district in Price, and uses numerous geographic skills including GIS, cartography, and GPS. Ross has been married now for thirteen years and has two sons.

**Heather Callahan, B.S. 1993.** Heather received her degree from the Geography Department at the University of Utah, and then moved on to receive a Master's from Utah State University in 1999. She then taught at Weber State University and Salt Lake Community College. Currently, she is a Ph.D. student at Oregon State University.

**Laniece Dustman, Geography (Cnth).** Laniece is working with the Utah Associations of Government and their Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program Coordinator. She will be coordinating local mitigation planning in Utah funded through FEMA grants. Laniece will coordinate among the planners of all seven Utah AOGs in the development of seven regional hazard mitigation plans. This process is based on input from cities, counties, and towns.

**Michael Gibelyou, B.A. Urban Planning 1989.** Mike is currently the Right of Way Specialist for the Citizens Communication Company, Arizona Electric Division, in Kingman, Arizona. He has found his urban planning background to be very helpful in his dealings with the BLM and National Park Service.

**Nancy S. Keate, Ph.D.** Nancy is currently the Utah Wetland Coordinator for the Utah Department of Natural Resources. She, along with a team of scientists, develop functional assessment models of hydrogeomorphic subclasses of wetlands in Utah. She often spends the summer in the field and the winters in the office. When not working, she relaxes in Castle Valley, Utah.

**Gwen O'Leary, B.A. 1993.** Gwen is currently working for Salt Lake County in the Information Services Department. She is responsible for training, programming, and various mapping projects with her position for the county. When not working she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren.

**Mark Miller, B.S. 1996.** Mark is currently the GIS coordinator for the Salt Lake County Surveyor's Office. He is working on numerous projects at the municipal, state, and federal levels.

**Lallie Scott, Ph.D. 1992.** Lallie was selected for the students and fellow faculty as the Teacher of the Year for Northeastern State University for 2002-2003. Upon receiving the Teacher of the Year award, she also received a \$2500 monetary award. With the grant, she will be attending a conference in Belize- "Belize and the Greater Caribbean." Lallie was also able to spend time in China on a Fulbright Summer Seminars Abroad Program.

**Lyle Shurtleff, B.A. 1973.** Lyle was an infantry officer for 20 years was able to travel the world and see a considerable amount of physical geography. Currently, he is working in public involvement for the environmental cleanup of the former Fort Ord in Monterrey, California.

Please contact **Susan Vanroosendaal** if you would like to be included in the Alumni News Section of the Geography Connection, via email at [vanroos@geog.utah.edu](mailto:vanroos@geog.utah.edu).

### Alumni Spotlight

Scott White (2000) is an Assistant Professor at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. This is his fourth year at FLC. He is the sole geographer on campus and teaches courses in World Regional Geography, GIS, Remote Sensing, and Weather and Climate in the Department of Geosciences. His research interests lie in the use of GIS for natural and cultural resources management, hydrologic modeling and cartographic visualization. Scott is married to Daphne Minton White who is soon to receive her Ph.D. from the Department this year. The couple lives on a ten acre farm outside of Durango with two dogs, two goats, and three horses.

David Wilkins is an Assistant Professor and the "Lone Geographer" on the Geosciences faculty at Boise State University. This is his third year at BSU. Having spent a couple of years at Corpus Christi, Texas after graduating in 1997, David moved to Boise with his wife, Margie, and daughter Emma, who is now in 2nd grade. David teaches the introduction to geography course, as well as courses in GIS, remote sensing, and resource conservation. His research interests are still in Quaternary geomorphology. His current research projects include the recent history of the Coral Pink Sand Dunes in southern Utah (using ground-penetrating radar and dendrochronology), and a study of late Pleistocene Lake Alvord in southern Oregon.

### Gifts to the Department 2002-2003

David G. Clark  
Michael D-Angelo  
Zhaodong Feng  
Melvin J. Haman  
Wayne & Dorothy Johnson  
Newell K. Roberts  
Youngsinn Sohn  
Lotti Ann Wann  
Dr. David E. Wilkins

### Scholarships 2002-2003

#### Geography Continuing Student Scholarship

Kory D. Iman  
Jeff C. Phillips  
Lucas M. Shaw  
Lavinia C. Welch

#### Stirling Pack Scholarship

Kristen Hoschouer

#### Donald A. Lewon Scholarship

Brent Spencer  
Benjamin Teran

#### University of Utah Graduate Research Fellowship

Andrea N. Dion

### Department Alumni We Want to Hear from You!

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

Also, we have a web page for the department. You can access it through:  
<http://www.geog.utah.edu>

The 2002-2003 Department of Geography Student Advisory Committee (SAC), run by graduate students Jessie Hartman, Joel Siderius, Bobi Fox, Angria Baruah, and Qinshui Lu, worked hard to make this year's Geography Awareness Week a success. SAC was able to obtain funds from the Associated Students of the University of Utah (ASUU) to promote Geography Awareness Week on campus. Funds were used to assist with advertising costs, purchase a new banner for display in the Union, and provide lunch for the department and its guests. Katrina Moser's biogeography class put up posters for the event, the DIGIT lab set up an exhibit on GIS, and guests from the Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center and the Utah Transit Authority displayed information for interested students.

The department colloquiums, hosted by SAC, have been very diverse this year. Presenters have included: Martin Raubal from the University of Muenster, Harvey Miller, and graduate students Richard Warnick, Nermin Shoukry, and Amy Bloom. Julio Bermudez and Jim Agutter from the Department of Architecture at the University of Utah spoke to a crowded room of geography and architecture students on the topic of interdisciplinary collaborations in the area of data design.

SAC Chair Jessie Hartman also helped graduate students Amy Bloom, Jim Davis, and Carrie Spruacne acquire money from ASUU for presenting posters and papers at conferences. The money was used to help Amy present her research at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) meeting in New Orleans this March, and to allow Jim, Amy, and Carrie to present at the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) conference held in Salt Lake City in February.

## Staff Stuff

The Geography Department is kept afloat by our four dedicated staff members. We graciously thank them for all they do to keep the department up and running, and productive. Nothing would get done without them!

**Melissa Warner** (Administrative Assistant for DIGIT) is kept busy with numerous hobbies and continues to pursue her interest of being a musical performer.

**Lisa Clayton** (Executive Secretary) when away from the department, is always on the go. Keeping track of her two children and husband and requires more energy than one would suspect.

**Angela Burton** (Secretary) when not on campus enjoys volleyball and hiking. Angela at press time is expecting her first child. We wish her the best of luck with the new addition to her family.

**Susan VanRoosendaal** (Administrative Assistant) is the spiritual leader of the department. Need something done? Talk to Susan. Outside of the department she spends time with her husband Mike, her grown children, and her beloved dog Maggie.

## Adjunct Professors and Associate Instructors

**Ralph Becker, JD** teaches our Public Lands and Environmental 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.

**Robert Farrington, M.S.** teaches Urban and Environmental Planning Issues.

**Anthony P. Guay**, teaches our GPS/GIS class. He is Vice Chair of the Utah Chapter Sierra Club.

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

**Hal Johnson, M.S.** teaches our Community Planning Workshop course. He currently works for Utah Transit Authority in engineering and construction.

**Elliott Lips, M.S.** teaches the Colorado Plateau Field Seminar and Natural Hazards course.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**W. Paul Thompson, JD** teaches Planning Administration & Law.



# Geography Connection

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Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

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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.

**[www.geog.utah.edu](http://www.geog.utah.edu)**

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

- [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
- [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)
- [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)
- [www.geographynetwork.com](http://www.geographynetwork.com)
- [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)

