Letter from the Chair

It is indeed a pleasure to be able to write the inaugural newsletter for Syracuse University’s Department of Geography. We know how important it is for alumni to be informed of faculty, staff, student and program developments. I have been Chair since 2008 and one of my goals has been to reach out more to our alumni. Since becoming Chair I have been most fortunate to have such wonderful faculty colleagues and to have such a supportive and talented support staff including Margie Johnson, Chris Chapman, Jackie Wells and Joe Stoll. Margie began in July 2011 as our new administrative assistant replacing Janet Brieaddy who retired after 14 years of service to our Department.

The Geography Department has evolved in my time as Chair. We have made strong hires with Farhana Sultana and Matt Huber enhancing our Environmental Geography and Political Economy specializations. This past year we hired two new faculty. The Department secured a new line for an Assistant Professor position in Community Geography based on the highly successful Community Geography program which has operated since 2005. We hired Jonnell Robinson who had done an outstanding job as a staff person in the Community Geography program and recently successfully completed her PhD in Geography from the University of North Carolina, and has been instrumental in the success of the program. The Community Geography program has allowed the Department and the University to develop strong relationships with local community groups. We are also most excited to have hired Natalie Koch who completed her PhD at the University of Colorado, Boulder in 2012. Natalie's research is on urban space, citizenship and nationalism in Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

Our faculty have proved adept at securing research grants and this year the department had on-going grants, or won grants individually or as parts of teams totaling $3.0 million and are prolific publishers with 67 sole or multi-authored articles, book chapters and reviews, and 7 books published or accepted for publication. As importantly, the Geography faculty are excellent teachers and we attract excellent graduate students. Despite a tough academic job market our PhD graduates are doing very well in obtaining good faculty positions and indeed over the last few years several of our PhD students have been offered up to two or three tenure-stream jobs. We also have high performing undergraduates. Thus four of our graduating seniors were named 2012 Remembrance Scholars of a total thirty-five awarded for the entire Syracuse University. Our exit surveys indicate that Geography majors and minors are very satisfied with
their experiences in our program in terms of both course material and Departmental instructors. Similarly learning outcomes surveys in our undergraduate classes are also very positive about the depth and breadth of our program courses. While all our faculty have contributed to student achievements I especially want to acknowledge the exceptional work of our outgoing undergraduate director Jamie Winders and our graduate director Susan Millar. Both Jamie and Susan are not only adept at the day to day managing of our programs but also in providing their strategic vision and guidance.

Not surprisingly the excellence of the geography faculty means that this year several won significant awards. Thus Don Mitchell was awarded “Andres Retzius Medal in Gold Swedish Society of Anthropology and Geography” presented to him on April 24th 2012 by the Swedish king. In April 2013 Professor John Western won the prestigious Meredith Professorship for Teaching Excellence. Also in April 2013 we held our Inaugural Professor Donald W. Meinig Undergraduate Lecture and Dinner for senior undergraduates and in honor of Professor Emeritus Donald Meinig. The lecture was given by Professor David Harvey of the City University of New York (CUNY). We were most fortunate and thankful for the many alumni who contributed to support the Meinig lecture and dinner and we hope that it will become an annual event. I am thus anticipating yet another productive year for the Geography program at Syracuse. I also look forward to hearing from Geography Department alumni and friends.
Greetings from Our Undergraduate Program! 2012 has been a big year for us. In May, we celebrated the graduation of 25 geography majors and minors. As Undergraduate Director, I get to watch our students develop during their time at SU; and graduation is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and meet the family members who supported them. Several students from our 2012 class are now in top graduate programs in human and physical geography, as well as fields like urban planning. Our recent graduates are working for Teach for America and have found jobs in fields from software development to environmental science, from film and television to consulting. In 2012, Rachel Valletta was selected for the NCGE Excellence of Scholarship Award. Claire Bach, David Biles, and Jacqui Kenyon received the Preston E. James Award for Excellence; and Ben Tepfer and Brianna Carrier were chosen for the George B. Cressey Award. Four of our students were named SU Remembrance Scholars (Maureen Finn, Alyssa Jerardo, Alaina Mallette, and Sarah Walton), and we inducted five students into Gamma Theta Upsilon. Our 2012 class made us proud!

Our 2013 class is equally strong. Senior seminar has grown so much that we have run out of seats in our seminar room. Students in this class partnered with local Syracuse schools, working with teachers and principals on how geography is taught. Several students are completing senior theses on topics from gender and education in India to alternative food systems in Central New York. Many are involved with Community Geography, working closely with Jonnell Robinson on a range of projects and presenting their findings at the upcoming AAG meetings in Los Angeles. We, as faculty, just try to keep up!

Let me share some exciting developments in our undergraduate program. In 2010, we added the Environment and Society minor. This new minor, directed by Bob Wilson, has grown quickly, especially among geography majors; and enthusiasm for it continues to increase across campus. In November 2012, we held our annual Career Night for geography undergraduates. Bringing in former students in fields from corporate energy management to urban development, from geography education to environmental science, Career Night highlighted how students can market their skills as geographers, what graduate school is like, and what career services are available on our campus. We had our best turnout ever, with standing room only!

This year, we will begin a new tradition in our department. We will hold the inaugural Don Meinig Undergraduate Lecture. Don Meinig was a driving force in our department for 50 years and influenced the lives of many students during his time here. To honor his work with undergraduates, we are creating this annual lecture, which will be given by a notable geographer chosen by our graduating students. We are in the process of selecting the first speaker and look forward to the ways this event will link past, present, and future in our department and among its students. In 2013, we will also re-launch our Syracuse Geographers Facebook page as a networking site for current geography students and alumni. In preparation, please “like” this page so that you, too, can keep up with what our students, past and present, are doing (http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/groups/280965231185/).

These are exciting times for our undergraduates. We have new courses on geographies of food, water, migration, snow, oil, and the Anthropocene. We are adding courses on the Middle East, South Africa, global cities, community geography, and animals and society, even as we keep courses that you yourself probably took. Our department may look different from what you remember, but it remains your home. Please stay in touch.
Graduate News

Syracuse University graduate program continues to be a dynamic and intellectually stimulating environment for students, faculty and the discipline in general. These last two years saw the largest crop of newly-minted Ph.D.’s in several years. In addition, five M.A. students successfully defended their thesis or papers; several of them continuing their graduate studies elsewhere. Many students, including masters, have articles in review or in print in prestigious journals, are widely heard at conferences both nationally and internationally, and are winning accolades and grant funding for their research.

Although the program remains small in number with just 38 full-time students, that is far outweighed by the scale of their intellectual clout and quality as evident in the placement of the most recent graduates.

Between 2011 and 2013 ten students passed their dissertation defenses and earned Syracuse PhDs. Many of these students served as teaching assistants (Nancy, Jacob, Brent, Evan, Elvin, Joaquin, Emily, Keith, Claudia), received National Science Foundation support (Serin), University fellowship support (Nancy), won a position as an interdisciplinary TA in the MAX program (Emily), and served exhaustively as teaching instructors for University College and Maxwell throughout their degree programs. Thank-you, the department couldn’t function without you. And, of course, congratulations to all of you. We wish you great success in your academic careers.

2011

• Claudia Asch (David Robinson), “A Tale of Three Cities: Urban World Heritage Management in Mexico”
• Nancy Hiemstra (Alison Mountz) “The View from Ecuador: Security, Insecurity, and Chaotic Geographies of U.S. Migrant Detention and Deportation”
• Serin Houston (Alison Mountz) “Ethnography of the City: Creativity, Sustainability, and Social Justice in Seattle, WA”
• Brent Olson (Bob Wilson), “Recreation Capital: Natural Resources, Amenity Development, and Outdoor Recreation in Bend, Oregon”
• Jacob Shell (Don Mitchell) “The Canal is in the Hands of the Conspirators: Fear of Traffickers and Transport Workers in the British North Atlantic and the Port of New York, 1840-1940”

2012

• Emily Billo (Tom Perreault), “Competing Sovereignties: Oil Extraction, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Indigenous Peoples in Ecuador”
• Elvin Delgado (Tom Perreault), “Spaces of Socio-Ecological Distress: Fossil Fuels, Solar Salt and Fishing Communities in Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela”
• Keith Lindner (Tom Perreault), who passed his defense ‘with distinction’, “Returning the Commons: Resource Access and Environmental Governance in San Luis, Colorado”
• Joaquin Villaneuva (Don Mitchell), “The Territorialization of the ‘Republican Law’: Judicial Presence in Seine-Saint-Denis, France”

The M.A. program continues to excel, thanks to outstanding students we are sorry to see leave so soon. In 2012, Ben Gerlofs (Don Mitchell) and Emily Kaufman (Alison Mountz) were granted MA’s and are both pursuing further graduate studies, Ben at Rutgers University, and Emily in Oñate, Spain. So far, of this year’s class, Rene Huset (Jane Read; Thesis - A GIS-based Analysis of the Environmental Predictors of Dispersal of the Emerald Ash Borer in New York) and Carlo Sica (Matt Huber; Thesis - Scales Over Shale: How Pennsylvania Got Fracked) have successfully defended their thesis research. Our association with Public Administration continues with the combined Geography MA/MPA degree option. Although Public Administration has merged with International Relations and is now known as Public Administration
and International Affairs (PAIA), the MPA endures, and appeals to many geography students aiming at careers in non-profit and international NGO professional and administrative positions. Flavia Rey de Castro Pastor (Tom Perreault) and Bethany Eberle (Jamie Winders) hold the flag for geography. Flavia will complete her degrees this summer, and Bethany who was recently awarded a PLACA summer research grant, continues in geography for one more year.

Awards and accolades bombard the students, a testament to the quality of work that they produce. Pamela Sertzen (Jamie Winders) and Sean Wang (Jamie Winders) both currently funded by the highly prestigious three-year National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Grant. Thor Ritz (Jamie Winders) recently received notification of award of an NSF DDRI grant, despite the sequester, to continue his research on French Colonial governance and escaped slaves in the Caribbean. Alejandro Camargo (Tom Perreault) was supported by a Fulbright award and has recently been awarded a Doctoral Studies Fellowship from COLCIENCIAS, the Colombian government’s scientific research agency. Mitul Baruah (Farhana Sultana) who is currently engaged in his field work in India recently received a grant from the Taraknath Das Foundation at the South Asia Center at Columbia University. Tina Catania (Jamie Winders) received the Taverone Graduate Student Paper Prize in Women’s and Gender Studies for her work entitled “Pocahontas meets Martha Washington: Racial Performativity and Whiteness through Gendered Bodies.” And, each year the graduate committee evaluates papers on cultural/social geography or South Asia submitted for the Department’s Sopher Awards in honor of David Sopher, former Geography Department Professor. The two outstanding papers this year were submitted by Kate Coddington (Alison Mountz) for her paper, “Panic! Containment policies take shape in the 2000s”, and Emily Mitchell-Eaton (Jamie Winders) for her work entitled, “Fold-lines and Fault-lines: David Harvey and his Feminist Interlocutors (or The inheritance of Oppositionalism in Knowledge (Re)production).”

A significant amount of time and energy are expended by the graduate students on their preparation as future teachers, and thanks to the Future Professoriate Program (FPP) they have honed their skills and developed impressive teaching portfolios. The activities that the group has organized have also provided a great service to the department and discipline. The superior teaching level attained by the graduate students is apparent in the several recent University Outstanding TA awards received. Mitul Baruah (2012), Kate Coddington (2011), and Jacque Micieli (2010 - while teaching in Women and Gender Studies) are exemplars of the teaching profession as evident in the student letters, teaching evaluations, and other documentation that jammed their portfolios. Further, Anthony Cummings, who has regularly taught physical geography courses during the summer sessions, was selected as a Teaching Mentor by the Graduate School to work with incoming graduates from all disciplines during the August orientation program. Through FPP the students organize the annual event, “Geofest”, inviting geography seniors from several local colleges, including Colgate, SUNY Geneseo, and Vassar to attend a series of workshops focused on the perils and pitfalls of attending graduate school. This year, Emily Mitchell-Eaton took the leadership role, organizing her colleagues and faculty, and keeping the show rolling. Other FPP events organized by the Geography FPP group include a school-wide workshop on “Labor Politics and Graduate Student Organizing.” But, thanks must also go to Prof. John Western, for his tireless and jovial rallying of the graduates in his role as FPP Faculty Liaison.

In preparation for a career in the academy, the graduate students are keenly aware of the need for publications. It is impressive the degree to which they are able to accomplish excellence in teaching and get their work in print before the dissertation rolls from the presses. In the interest of space I mention but a few of the notable writings. Kaffui Attoh (Don Mitchell) has three peer-reviewed articles in print: in The Geographical Bulletin (Vol. 53, 2012), Progress in Human Geography (Vol. 35, 2011) and Acme Journal: An International Journal for Critical Geographies (Vol 10, 2011). His piece in Acme “The Bus Hub: Poem and Song” waxes poetic on riding the bus in Syracuse, and is probably the first ever song to be peer-reviewed for an academic journal! Lisa Bunghalia (Don Mitchell) will have two papers published this year from her dissertation research including: “Im/Mobilities in a ‘Hostile Territory’: Managing the Red Line” in Geopolitics, and another forthcoming in Jadaliyya. Kate Coddington (Alison Mountz) has excerpted work from her MA thesis (2009) in Social and Cultural Geography (Vol 12, 2011), and has two co-authored papers out, or in press, this year from her dissertation and from research work with Alison Mountz. Tina Catania and
Graduate News continued

Emily Mitchell-Eaton are members of Prof. Mountz’ collaborative team, and co-authors on the paper: “Embodied Possibilities, Sovereign Geographies, and Island Detention: Negotiating the ‘right to have rights’ on Guam, Lampedusa, and Christmas Island” in press in SHIMA: The International Journal of Research into Island Cultures (Coddington, K., R. T. Catania, J. Loyd, E. Mitchell-Eaton, and A. Mountz, 2012). Thor Ritz (Jamie Winders) has cut his teeth in his first forthcoming piece from his Master’s work, as he presses on with his dissertation research on maroonage in the Caribbean, “Sites of revolt, spaces of independence: the ‘geo’-politics of Haile Gerima’s cinema” in Black Camera. Also forthcoming is Mitul Baruah’s (Farhana Sultana) contribution, “Forest management in Rajasthan: Tribals, NGOs, and the State” to the volume edited by S. Wadley and S. Basu (Eds.), South Asia in the Modern World.

The conference circuit and workshop proving ground are well-frequented by the students, and this last year has been no exception with presentations given at conferences sponsored by Geography and other allied disciplines held at such geographically diverse locales as Kingston, Jamaica (Thor Ritz), San Juan, Puerto Rico (Pamela Sertzen, Emily Mitchell-Eaton), Darwin, Australia (Kate Coddington), Denver, CO (Lisa Bhungalia), and at the AAG meeting in Washington D.C., to which the department decamped en masse. Noteworthy is Anthony Cummings who was invited as a guest speaker at Colgate’s Caribbean Week. The list continues; suffice it to say, that the strength of the graduate program endures, and the future of the Profession looks rosy with this effusion of scholarship from Syracuse.

Recent graduates have indeed, been very successful at securing job postings in a very tight job market. Of those graduating during 2011-2012, eight of the ten have Assistant Professor positions: Nancy Hiemstra in the Department of Cultural Analysis and Theory at Stony Brook University, Long Island, NY; Serin Houston at Mt. Holyoke; Elvin Delgado at Central Washington University; Evan Weissman in the Department of Public Health, Food Studies and Nutrition Department in the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics School at Syracuse University; Joaquin Villanueva at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey; Jacob Schell in the Department of Geography and Urban Studies at Temple University; and Brent Olson in the Department of Environmental Studies at Westminster College in Salt Lake City. Claudia Asch is currently positioned as Editorial Research Assistant to Roger Kain, the editor of Volume V of the History of Cartography; and Keith Lindner presently holds the prestigious Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Geography at Vassar College. Emily Billo is just finishing a year as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Geography at Bucknell University, Pennsylvania, and will be a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Environmental Studies Program at Goucher College in Baltimore starting Fall 2013.

As we say good-bye to a slew of great geographers, we welcome the next generation who have to follow this impressive record. The enthusiasm and dedication of the nine students (2 Ph.D., 7 M.A.) who entered the program in Fall 2012 are already apparent. If the stamina they exhibited at the welcome ‘Soiree’ in early September is anything to go by they should make it through in record time! And, soon we will welcome a new incoming class of ten students from the United States, Canada, Chile, Colombia and Brazil.

Some last words. Personally, I would like to extend my thanks to Chris Chapman, the department graduate secretary, with whom I’ve worked throughout my now four years (and counting), as Director of Graduate Studies. Chris is completely indispensable when it comes to anything to do with required paperwork, forms and keeping graduate records up-to-date. She is often the first friendly face that a new graduate student encounters, and I’m sure that all of the current and former students who have crossed paths with Chris in the last decade will agree that life, and graduate school, would have been a lot tougher without her. Thank-you Chris!
Facult y News and Updates

**Jake Bendix**

A native Californian, I was introduced to Geography as an undergraduate at the University of California, and did my graduate studies at the Universities of Wisconsin and Georgia, earning my PhD at the latter. I came to Syracuse University in 1994. My research focuses on fluvial geomorphology and plant biogeography, and frequently addresses interactions between the two. I spent 2011-2012 in a visiting position at the University of Macau. After returning in Fall 2012, I presented an invited paper on feedbacks between fire and biogeomorphic systems at a National Research Council meeting on wildfire. I also presented a paper about the impacts of disturbance on biodiversity patterns (co-authored with two graduate students) at the Fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union. My most current publications, both co-authored, are a chapter on “Riparian Vegetation and the Fluvial Environment: A Biogeographic Perspective” in the forthcoming *Treatise on Geomorphology*, and a paper on “Riparian vegetation research in Mediterranean-climate regions: common patterns, ecological processes, and considerations for management” forthcoming in *Hydrobiologia*. My current projects include ongoing research on the impacts of disturbance on plant communities; feedbacks between biotic and geomorphic systems; and theoretical and applied aspects of the relationship between ecological disturbance and biodiversity.

**Matt Huber**

I completed my PhD in Geography at Clark University in 2009 and joined the faculty at Syracuse in the Spring Semester of 2010. I am currently putting the finishing touches on a book based on my dissertation on the history of oil and American politics: *Lifeblood: Oil, Freedom, and the Forces of Capital* (Scheduled for publication by the University of Minnesota Press in the Summer of 2013). I spent my leave in the Fall of 2012 finishing the book and exploring my next major research project on the petrochemical industry in general and the natural-gas intensive production of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer in particular. Mixing historical and ethnographic methods, my goal is for this project to develop into a book length project similar to my dissertation. In the meantime, I hope to continue to work with grad students (like my current Masters student, Carlo Sica) on geographies of resource extraction. The current oil and gas boom – much the result of new techniques of hydraulic fracturing – has created an urgent need for critical inquiry into the political economy and environmental politics surrounding extractive economies.

**Natalie Koch**

is a new faculty member in the Geography Department, joining us from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she finished her PhD in 2012. She specializes in political geography, with a focus on nationalism, geopolitics, and state-
Natalie Koch continued
making, especially in authoritarian contexts. Her regional expertise is in Central Asia, and the post-Soviet space more generally, but she is now embarking on a comparative study of spectacular urban developments in Central Asia and the Persian Gulf. Over Thanksgiving break, she traveled to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Doha to begin setting up the project. In 2012, she published an article in *Environment and Planning A*, entitled “Urban ‘utopias’: The Disney stigma and discourses of ‘false modernity,’” as well as a guest editorial in *Political Geography*, entitled “Technologizing complacency: Spectacle, structural violence, and ‘living normally’ in a resource-rich state.” Natalie taught Political Geography in the Fall, and in the Spring, she will teach an undergraduate course on Global Cities and a graduate seminar on Territory and the State.

Susan Millar continues her research program on cold environmental processes related to geomorphology and microclimate, in both contemporary and Quaternary settings. She was invited to contribute two chapters to the soon-to-be-published tome by Elsevier, the *Treatise on Geomorphology* (edited by John Schroder, forthcoming March, 2013). “Changing Paradigms: Spatial and Temporal Scales in Geomorphology” is bound for *Volume 1: Foundations of Geomorphology*, and “Mass Movement Processes in the Periglacial Environment” is forthcoming in *Volume 8: Glacial and Periglacial Geomorphology*. She was also recently invited and has submitted an entry on “Colluvium” for the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Planetary Landforms and Other Surface Features* to be published by Springer in 2013. Her current writing project is a contribution to a Special Issue of *Boreas*, an international journal of Quaternary research, which is entitled, “Late-Glacial Ice-marginal Environments in the Eastern United States: the extent of permafrost and periglacial processes.” In addition, she maintains a network of dataloggers in the Oneida watershed, monitoring soil and air temperatures, as well as other environmental variables. This is part of an ongoing project to assess regional climate change and the impacts of precipitation patterns and snow cover on soil thermal regimes. Finally, Millar continues for a second term as the Director of Graduate Studies.

Don Mitchell
Don’s new book *They Saved the Crops: Labor, Landscape, and the Struggle Over Industrial Farming in Bracero-Era California* was published on April 1, 2012 (no foolin’) by the University of Georgia Press. All who have read it agree: “It’s long.” On April 24 – “Vega Day” – Don (accompanied by Susan Millar) found himself in the Royal Castle in Stockholm Sweden, where the King of Sweden, Karl VI Gustav, bestowed upon him the Anders Retzius Medal in Gold, given by the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography and considered one of the most prestigious awards given to a human geographer. Vega Day commemorates the return to Stockholm on April 24, 1879 of the ship Vega, the first to make it through the Northeast Passage. As part of the Vega Day festivities Don hosted a symposium at the Swedish Academy of Sciences on “Revolutionary Landscapes.” He then commenced on what his Scandinavian friends called his Eriksgata – a speaking tour to Uppsala and Lund, Sweden; Roskilde, Denmark; Oslo, Norway; and back to teach in a short course on the Baltic island of Gotland. (An “Eriksgata” was a traditional tour taken by a new Swedish King to all the lands in his dominion to receive the blessings of the people). All this royal attention has definitely made Don himself a royal….

Mark Monmonier
was invited to give keynote addresses at two European conferences commemorating the 500th anniversary of the birth of Gerard Mercator. On March 1, 2012, he presented “Mercator’s Projection: Conformality, Scale, and Controversy” in Essen, Germany, at Gerhard Mercator: Wissenschaft und Wissenstransfer, sponsored by Stiftung Mercator, and on April 27, he presented “The Mercator Projection and Its Impact, Adoption, Controversy, and Survival from the Sixteenth Century to the Present Day” in Sint-Niklaas, Belgium, at Mercator Revisited: Cartography in the Age of Discovery, sponsored by Universiteit Gent and the International Cartographic Association. This year he also lectured on Mercator at the New York Map Society in mid-March and at Illinois State University in mid-September, as the tenth Douglas Clay Ridgley Distinguished Lecturer, in the Department of Geography–Geology. He also
spoke on “The Cartographic History of the Great Lakes Snowbelts” in late February at the annual meeting (in New York City) of the Association of American Geographers; on “The Cartographic Discovery of the Great Lakes Snowbelts” in late June, in Budapest, Hungary, at the symposium Discovery, Exploration, Cartography, sponsored by the International Cartographic Association’s Commission on the History of Cartography; and on “Innovation and Inertia in Thematic Mapping: Examples from Atmospheric and Census Cartography” in late October at Princeton University. Following the SU Press’s publication in mid-September of his book Lake Effect: Tales of Large Lakes, Arctic Winds, and Recurrent Snows, he gave book talks/signings in Syracuse, Oswego, Binghamton, Skaneateles, and Rochester. Other publications in 2012 include “The Discovery of Lake Effect Snow” in the July/August issue of Weatherwise, and “Maps That Say ‘No!’—the Rise of Prohibitive Cartography,” in Geography and Social Justice in the Classroom (edited by Todd Kenreich and published by Routledge). In November a Beijing publisher, The Commercial Press, released the Chinese translation of How to Lie with Maps, which includes a foreword by Monmonier. He continues as editor of Volume Six (Cartography in the Twentieth Century) of the History of Cartography; supported by a National Science Foundation grant, Volume Six is slated for publication in late 2014 by the University of Chicago Press as a million-word encyclopedia. He was recently appointed to the editorial board of Cartographic Perspectives. More recent developments include the acceptance of his essay “History, Jargon, Privacy, and Multiple Vulnerabilities” for the June issue of the Cartographic Journal, his appointment as associate editor for mapping and geospatial technology of the new AAG Review of Books, and the selection of two of his books (Rhumb Lines and Map Wars; From Squaw Tit to Whorehouse Meadow) for University Press Scholarship Online. His summer plans include further work on Volume Six, which is slated to go to press in late June; presentation of a paper titled “Meteorologists as Both Makers and Consumers of Maps: Contentious Notions of Progress and Accuracy in Twentieth-Century Cartography” in Helsinki, Finland, in early July at the International Conference on the History of Cartography; and a memoir tentatively titled Encounters with Cartography as well as research for a new project focused on patents of map projections, locational referencing tools, and other technological innovations involving geospatial information.

Anne Mosher

Anyone who has graduated from SU Geography with either a B.A. or graduate degree since 1995 knows that being in the classroom is my passion. I have three mainstays in my current teaching repertoire: Geography 313 (The United States), Geography 564 (Urban Historical Geography), and Geography 491 (Senior Seminar in Geography). While I have enjoyed exploring geographies of pork-barrel politics and National Heritage Areas in 313 and the emergence of neoliberal Disneyfication in 564, I think that the most challenging and fulfilling teaching activity is 491. Getting to know the geography majors during their penultimate semester, watching them get to know each other, and struggling with them as they put together group projects—working with local not-for-profits, putting on “socio-spatial planetariums,” developing geography curriculum for the Syracuse City Schools—has all been a real kick. Out of 491 there have emerged so many lasting friendships and I am so grateful to have been able to be a part of that. Besides my life-partner, Carl, and my children, Meghan (now age 14) and Matthew (now age 13), research has also kept my life very interesting over the last few years. I am currently engaged in a major solo project called Managing the White Elephant: New York State’s Canals since 1865 that looks at public infrastructure from a geographical history perspective and stresses the concept of “creative destruction.” I have also been doing collaborative work related to infrastructure with Peggy Thompson (SU History) and Marilyn Higgins (SU Vice President of Community Engagement and Economic Development) on faith-based organizations and neighborhood regeneration; with Peg Hermann (SU Political Science/Moynihan Institute), Laura Steinberg (SU Engineering), Ines Mergel (SU Public Administration) and others regarding critical infrastructures, crisis, disasters, resilience, and interoperability; and with Laurie Wilkie (Archaeology—UC-Berkeley) on historical archaeogeographies of public infrastructure. It is all a pleasure and I am tremendously happy to call SU Geography, the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Maxwell, and the College of Arts and Sciences my academic homes. Now, if we could only do something about the weather here in February and March, then things would be practically perfect.
Tom Perreault

My current research concerns the relationship between mining, water and rural livelihoods on the Bolivian Altiplano. I was on academic leave during 2011, which gave me the opportunity to spend six months conducting field research in Bolivia (supported by a Fulbright-Hays fellowship). I’m back teaching this year, and am in the process of analyzing my data and writing up the results. Much of my time these days is also going into editing. In addition to working on journal articles based on my research, I am editing on book on mining, water and social justice in Peru and Bolivia, which I plan to publish jointly (in Spanish) in Peru and Bolivia. I’m also co-editing a handbook of political ecology, to be published by Routledge. Finally, I recently agreed to be an editor of the journal Geoforum. During June (2012) I was Visiting Professor in the Department of History at the Universidad de los Andes, in Bogotá, Colombia, where I taught a three-week graduate seminar on political ecology. I’m happy to report that three of my PhD students defended their dissertations this year, and have gone off to bigger and better things: Elvin Delgado (dissertation title: ‘Spaces of socio-ecological distress: Fossil fuels, solar salt, and fishing communities in Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela’) is now Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Central Washington University; Emily Billo (dissertation title: ‘Competing sovereignties: Oil extraction, corporate social responsibility, and indigenous peoples in Ecuador’) is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Bucknell University; and Keith Lindner (dissertation title: ‘Returning the commons: Resource access and environmental governance in San Luis, Colorado’) is has a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Geography at Vassar College. Congratulations to all of them!

Jane M. Read

spent the year continuing to supervise her students and analyze datasets and prepare manuscripts for the National Science Foundation-funded research project “Biodiversity dynamics and land-use changes in the Amazon: multi-scale interactions between ecological systems and resource-use decisions by indigenous peoples.” As part of continued outreach for the project, she worked on the second editions of the twenty-three Community Atlases, including adding additional data on total carbon stocks for each community’s lands. The atlases were presented to the communities in Guyana by members of the team in February 2013. She was elected to the Board of the University Consortium of Geographic Information Science, a non-profit association of 70 universities with education and research programs in geographic information science, and is actively participating in various initiatives of the board. She also continues to serve as Chair of the Awards Committee for the Remote Sensing Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, and was elected to a three-year term on the University Senate. She continues to enjoy serving on the Community Geography Advisory Committee, and getting her students involved in local projects. One of the major achievements of the community geography program was the creation and hiring of a new faculty position in Community Geography.

David J. Robinson

In 2011 David Robinson saw the publication of the final volume in his 4-volume set related to the socio-demographic analysis of sixteenth-seventeenth century Spanish visitas (tribute counts) in the Colca Valley of southern Peru: Collaguas II: Laricollaguas, Economía, sociedad y población, 1604-1605. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú: Lima, 2003; Collaguas III: Yanque Collaguas, Sociedad, economía, y población, 1604-1617. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú: Lima, 2006; Collaguas IV: Cabanaconde, Sociedad, economía y población, 1596-1645. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú: Lima, 2009; Collaguas I: Segunda edición ampliada. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú: Lima, 2011. In recognition of his work on these volumes and his contributions to both demographic and developmental aspects of Peru he was named an Honorary Faculty Member in the Faculty of Humanities of the Pontificia University of Peru in 2011, the first geographer to hold that title.

With former student Dra. Edda Samudio, in 2009 he co-authored the volume A son de caja y voz de pregonero: Bandos de Buen Gobierno de la ciudad de Mérida, Venezuela, 1776-1810. Academia Nacional de la Historia, Caracas, Venezuela. A first version of an analysis of Venezuelan Mérida’s historic architecture
2011: Recorridos por la ciudad, Mérida: patrimonio y sitios de interés (with Dra. Eligia Calderón-Tréjo), followed rapidly by an updated and expanded version under the title Mérida: Encuentro con su patrimonio arquitectónico. Universidad de los Andes, Venezuela (with Dr. Eligia Calderó-Tréjo) in 2012.

David has served as the Executive Director, Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG), since 2007, and from 2000 to 2009 was appointed the United States Representative, Geographical Section of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

He has served in a variety of editorial positions over the last decade. Since 2003 he has served as editor of the, Journal of Latin American Geography 2003; from 1999 to 2006 he was co-editor, of the Journal of Historical Geography. He currently serves on the editorial boards of the following international journals: Pangea (Guadalajara, since 1998); Región (Cali, Colombia, since 2004); Historia Crítica (Bogotá, Colombia, since 2006), 2006-present); Revista Universitaria de Geografía (Bahía Blanca, since 2006); Edificiar (Mérida, Venezuela, since 1998); Procesos Históricos (Mérida, Venezuela, since 2010).

His interest in the Internet and matters electronic (he’s taught a class on “Geography and the Internet” since 2005) lead to his development of the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers’ Internet listserv (CLAGnet), in 1994 which he still manages. He also designed and has managed CLAG’s webpage since 1994 (http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/clag/clag.htm). He performed similar duties for the AAG’s Latin American Specialty Group webpage of the AAG from 1994-2010. Robinson has actually been with the SU Geography Department since August 2005, serving in the capacity of “Community Geographer”. As Assistant Professor of Community Geography, Robinson will continue to facilitate Participatory GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping and spatial analysis projects with community-based organizations working in Central New York. Robinson’s unique research and pedagogy exemplifies the Syracuse University mission of “Scholarship in Action.” Robinson works in direct partnership with university and community representatives to pursue research questions deemed important by members of the local community. To intensify student involvement Robinson launched the Undergraduate Research Internship Experience in Community Geography program this fall. Current student interns support ongoing geographic research on refugee resettlement, food access, alcohol and tobacco prevention, among others. In the classroom, Robinson co-teaches Community Geography: Theory and Practice with Don Mitchell. Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the class work with community partner organizations to undertake spatial analyses ranging from access to early childhood education to trends in urban housing demolition. To support the growing interest in community geography at other geography departments, Robinson was named an approved speaker by the Visiting Geographical Scientist Program (VGSP), sponsored by Gamma Theta Upsilon and the Association of American Geographers. Through the VGSP program she has consulted on newly created community geography programs at Georgia State University and Columbus State University. Locally, Robinson serves on a number of community-based steering and advisory committees to offer a geographic perspective to important community concerns.

In 2011 David was awarded the “Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award” by the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers, the third award he has received from this institution.

Jonnell A. Robinson joined the Department of Geography as Assistant Professor of Community Geography in Fall 2012. She completed her Ph.D. in Geography at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 2010. Robinson has actually been with the SU Geography Department since August 2005, serving in the capacity of “Community Geographer”. As Assistant Professor of Community Geography, Robinson will continue to facilitate Participatory GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping and spatial analysis projects with community-based organizations working in Central New York. Robinson’s unique research and pedagogy exemplifies the Syracuse University mission of “Scholarship in Action.” Robinson works in direct partnership with university and community representatives to pursue research questions deemed important by members of the local community. To intensify student involvement Robinson launched the Undergraduate Research Internship Experience in Community Geography program this fall. Current student interns support ongoing geographic research on refugee resettlement, food access, alcohol and tobacco prevention, among others. In the classroom, Robinson co-teaches Community Geography: Theory and Practice with Don Mitchell. Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the class work with community partner organizations to undertake spatial analyses ranging from access to early childhood education to trends in urban housing demolition. To support the growing interest in community geography at other geography departments, Robinson was named an approved speaker by the Visiting Geographical Scientist Program (VGSP), sponsored by Gamma Theta Upsilon and the Association of American Geographers. Through the VGSP program she has consulted on newly created community geography programs at Georgia State University and Columbus State University. Locally, Robinson serves on a number of community-based steering and advisory committees to offer a geographic perspective to important community concerns.

Tod Rutherford
I’m originally from Canada and I completed my PhD from Cardiff University in Wales in 1992. I have been in the Department of Geography at Syracuse University
Tod Rutherford continued

since 2001 and the Departmental Chair since 2008. I am principally an economic and labor geographer and most of my research has focused on the North American automotive industry and the role of labor. I am also doing research on workplace governance and economic restructuring in the US Great Lakes States and Southern Ontario cross border regions. In 2012-13 I began a new $3 million project on automotive industry economic development policy with colleagues at various Canadian universities as part of the Automotive Partnership Council (APC) which is funded by the Canadian federal government, Ford and Toyota of Canada and the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) union. I am also most fortunate to have a number of excellent graduate students working with me. Evan Weissman successfully completed his PhD on urban food justice in 2012 and has begun a tenure track position in the new Food Studies Department at Syracuse University and another of my PhD students He Wang, will finish her PhD this year on the regional state in China and investment by transnational automotive firms. Ben Marley is completing his MA on mountain top removal, mining and communities in West Virginia, while a new PhD student Kriangsak Teerakowitkajorn began with me in 2012 and is doing his research on labor organizing in different regions of Thailand.

Farhana Sultana

Farhana Sultana (B.A. Princeton University; M.A., Ph.D. University of Minnesota) joined SU’s Geography department in 2008, after having taught at King’s College London and working at the United Nations. Farhana received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in 2012. Farhana’s research interests and expertise are in nature-society geography, political ecology, water governance, feminist geography, international development and climate change. Farhana has conducted several interdisciplinary research projects on difference aspects of water governance, social justice and environment-development conflicts in South Asia, focusing on socio-ecological transformations and challenges to broader development aspirations. In 2012, with funding from the Municipal Services Project of the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and other grants from SU (Appleby-Mosher, PARCC, Geography), Farhana carried out research on the politics and realities of urban water governance in slums in Bangladesh. This research engages insights from feminist scholarship, critical development studies, and the debates around the universal call for the human right to water. Farhana’s recent book ‘The Right to Water: Politics, Governance and Social Struggles’ (Routledge: London & New York, 2012) has already been translated into Spanish and Polish, and has received wide recognition globally. Farhana also published several articles and book chapters in 2012, notably in the flagship Geography journal The Annals of the Association of American Geographers. To meet growing student interest on water, Farhana introduced a new course in Fall 2012 on ‘Geographies of Water’. This course complements a suite of other courses Farhana teaches on development geography, feminist geography, political ecology and sustainability at undergraduate and graduate levels. Farhana is also faculty affiliate across a number of institutes and entities at SU, such as Women’s and Gender Studies Department, Asian/Asian American Studies, Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflicts and Collaboration, Center for Environmental Policy and Administration, South Asia Center, International Relations Program, and Democratizing Knowledge Collective. At the invitation of the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Farhana delivered the Faculty Convocation Speech at graduation in May 2012. She has served SU and the discipline in numerous ways, such as an elected member of the Maxwell Faculty Council and the Chairperson of the Development Geographies Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), in addition to several other voluntary advisory and outreach responsibilities across the globe.

John Western

I was born and raised in Margate, a resort city of 50,000 on the south-easternmost tip of England, very close to France. I was lucky; my high school had some fine teachers of history and geography, and they got me into Oxford University to read geography. I graduated in 1968. I’ve always been curious about other places, eager to see them, eager to come back via a different route, and so I had applied to Voluntary Service Overseas, the UK version of the Peace Corps. They dispatched me to a country of which I, allegedly a geographer, had not quite heard. Burundi had become independent of Belgian colonial rule only six years previously. Off I was sent to teach in French in an Anglican mission-station boys’ high school in the very
center of Africa. It was beautiful, utterly different and distant, demanding and lonely. After two years I moved on to Canada for an M.A. degree at the University of Western Ontario. My young American supervisor, Donald Janelle, imaginatively sent me south to use my French, to the Louisiana bayou country below New Orleans in the summer of 1971, in order to write my thesis on the remnant Cajun-speakers there.

I then headed to the University of California at Los Angeles in 1972. The university had a first-rank African Studies Center, and I wanted to go back to Burundi to write my Ph.D. dissertation. But the ethnic divisions in that country, Huts and Tutsis, exploded in April that year. Blood flowed: a "selective genocide." Impossible to return. Chance took a hand. Two of my teachers, Leo & Hilda Kuper, sociologist and anthropologist, were white South African political exiles. They challenged me: "Why not go and research at the University of Cape Town?" Difficult to portray the intensity of this: crime-ridden desolation and racial oppression in the most dramatically-sited city in the world. The doctoral dissertation portrayed apartheid's impact on the Coloured [mixed-race] people there, and got published as Outcast Cape Town. Apartheid was one of the world’s high-profile issues in the early 1980s, so the book did well. Whereupon America offered me my first proper job, at Temple University in Philadelphia, where I met my partner of 30 years, Patricia King. We moved to Syracuse in 1984, where Charlie (23) and Grace (17) were born. From a year’s research leave at the London School of Economics, A Passage to England: Barbadian Londoners Speak of Home (1992), resulted. In 1994 S.U. Study Abroad sent us to Strasbourg in France for a semester, to which we then returned for the three years 1997-2000. The eventual result of living in this remarkable and lovely Franco-German city on the Rhine was Cosmopolitan Europe: a Strasbourg Self-portrait, which appeared earlier this year (2012).

Environmental historical geography over the past two decades. At the ASEH conference, he discussed the role of animals in environmental history. His current project, Geographies of the Climate Movement, explores the development of the North American climate movement over the past few years and its organizing strategies. He is also working on a short book about the aims and methods of historical geography for the University of Washington Press.

In addition to this research, Professor Wilson is chair of the AAG Historical Geography Specialty Group, co-book review editor of H-HistGeog, and coordinator for SU’s new Environment & Society minor. This year, he also began supervising Kristin Cutler, the Geography Department’s first MA student doing research in animal geographies.

Robert Wilson has research interests in historical geography, environmental social movements, and animal studies. Last spring, he participated in panels at the AAG and American Society of Environmental History annual conferences. His AAG presentation, which will be published in the Journal of Historical Geography later this year, examined developments in

Jamie Winders wrapping up her final year as Undergraduate Director, spent 2012 completing two book projects and starting another. In April 2013, Nashville in the New Millennium: Immigrant Settlement, Urban Transformation, and Social Belonging will be published by Russell Sage, the culmination of several years of ethnographic research on the topic. In the same month, The Companion to Cultural Geography will be published by Blackwell. Jamie worked with Richard Schein and Nuala Johnson (two SU grads!) on this edited book, which includes over 40 chapters on a range of topics in cultural geography, some authored by faculty and grads in our own department. In 2012, Jamie also began work on a new book on cultural geography, one which will occupy her time for the next few years. To prepare for this book and to test its material, she shifted into a new course (“World Cultures”), which she very much enjoys. Jamie’s other projects in 2012 included publications on race and diversity in geography, postcolonial theory and teaching, immigration and Latino studies, and immigrant institutional visibility in American cities. In addition to writing for audiences in geography, she published works in criminology, urban studies, and Latino and labor studies and continues as Associate Editor for the International Migration Review. She has new graduate students who keep her on her toes and enjoys watching their ideas develop. Even though she remains a Kentucky basketball fan, she is warming to the Orange.
Geography Department Staff members Chris Chapman, Jackie Wells, Margie Johnson and Joe Stoll collaborate and participate in a varied assortment of projects.

The annual Geofest – sponsored by the Future Professoriate Program is a well-attended event that promotes interest in the Syracuse University Geography Graduate Program.

Students ready to begin their final project presentation in the Community Geography class taught by Jonnell Robinson and Don Mitchell.

Natalie Koch relates her experiences in Geography graduate studies and as a faculty member to attendees at Geofest.

Students during a question and answer session following their final project presentation in the Community Geography class taught by Jonnell Robinson and Don Mitchell.

Graduate students Pam Sertzen and Ashley Feist concentrate on setting up PowerPoint prior to their readings at the Geography Slam.
Farhana Sultana with some of her graduating senior students.

John Western receives the Meredith Professorship for Teaching Excellence.

Bob Wilson introduces presentations at the first Geography Slam – which featured readings from his GEO 700 Writing Geography Class.

Jake Bendix with congressman Dan Maffei who appeared as a guest speaker in Jake’s class.

Jonnell Robinson converses with attendees of the Community Geography class project presentations.

Guest speaker Congressman Dan Maffei makes a point during a question and answer session.

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