New Waves of the Department

It has been a dynamic year in the department. The department had big shifts in human resources in the past several months. Professor Thomas Harvey passed away suddenly in December. His long-standing interest in cultural landscape and community outreach activities had been well-recognized in the community, serving as an exemplary case of an acting geographer (See page 2). The celebration of his life, which the department hosted in February, was well-attended, drawing a number of his former and current colleagues, students, and friends.

Martha Works completed her 29 years of service at PSU and will officially become an emeritus faculty of the department in July. We greatly appreciate Martha’s dedication to quality teaching in both undergraduate and graduate education. The National Council for Geographic Education recognized her excellence in mentoring students by awarding a Distinguished Mentor Award. Congratulations Martha! As a former chair of the department, Martha’s fairness and leadership in various departmental matters made our department a more cohesive and pleasant place. I personally value the role of emeritus faculty in the department as they have a vivid “institutional memory” and “big picture” mind, which cannot be ignored for future strategic planning.

We are glad to fill in the half-time office coordinator position. Nick Miller came from the School of Social Work and has started working for the department since May. Together with Karin, he is becoming an integral part of our department. His primary task is to handle graduate student and GIS certificate student admissions and to help a new tenure-track faculty search in Climate Science.

Two new faculty members will join our department as assistant professors in fall. Their specialties well complement our existing faculty research and teaching in Human-Environmental Geography and GIScience. Britt Crow-Miller, a political ecologist and China specialist, will teach Environment and Society, Cultural and Political Ecology, and Pacific Rim, while launching new research in resource management issues in China. Martin Swobodzinski, a behavioral geographer and GIScientist, will bring years of experience in teaching GIScience courses in Minnesota to PSU.

We are also excited to be able to recruit a new climate scientist whose appointment will start in fall 2015. New people will bring new waves. These new waves will reshape our journey ahead, and we should keep in mind the core mission of the department to our students and the community when exploring new paths.

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Tom Harvey, 1951-2013

Tom Harvey, longtime faculty member in the Geography Department at PSU, passed away on December 13, 2013. He was well-known among students and colleagues for his interests in urban geography and cultural landscapes, and taught classes on Urban Geography, Sustainable Cities, U.S. and Canada, and Historical Geography of North America. He was instrumental in establishing and promoting a study abroad program in Tuscany (Sustainability in City and Country) which took students to Italy for two weeks every September for 10 years.

Tom began teaching at PSU in 1990. He was raised in Tupelo, Mississippi, and never lost his southern accent. An upbringing in the south during the tumultuous 1960s imbued him with a sense of social justice as well as with a keen sense of history and regional identity. It also contributed to his eye for the ironic and interesting in everyday landscapes. A fine photographer, he had a passion for cameras and visual manifestations of culture.

He left small town Mississippi for college at Antioch, a place that served his intellectual curiosity in an open-minded and free-thinking environment. After college and a degree in Environmental Studies, he had the opportunity to work on projects for the Smithsonian Institution (Field Researcher for the Festival of American Folklife), the University of Texas Historical Center (Photographer), the Tallgrass Prairie Foundation (Research Associate), the State Historic Preservation Office of Minnesota (Research Associate), and the Minnesota Historical Society (Research Historian) where he worked on a project titled “Common Places: Landscape and Community in Minnesota”. He completed an M.A. in Geography from Pennsylvania State University in 1982 (thesis title: The Making of Railroad Towns in Minnesota’s Red River Valley) and his Ph. D. in Geography from University of Minnesota in 1990 (dissertation: Homeownership, Housing Conditions and Neighborhood Market Dynamics: St. Paul, Minnesota, 1974-1987). While working on his Ph.D. in Minnesota he worked as a City Planner for the City of St. Paul.

During his time at PSU Tom served as Department Chair (2008-2011), on numerous Department and University committees, as undergraduate advisor for Geography, and as advisor on 15 Master’s theses. He taught in several overseas programs including a term in London and a term in Siena, Italy through the NCSA/AHA program. His community outreach activities included service as a board member on the Pearl District Neighborhood Association and as a member of several City of Portland committees. He gave public presentations on urban topics to the Zimmerman Community Center, the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, Washington County Historical Society, and the World Affairs Council of Oregon as well as a memorable standing-room-only presentation on Tuscany during PSU Weekend.

Tom’s wife, Jean Ellen Spraker, lives in Portland, and his daughter, Caitlin Harvey, in Glen Allen, Virginia. He is remembered fondly by his colleagues in the Geography Department and across the University as well-read and intellectually engaging, someone who loved both cities and rural places, had an eye for the odd and obscure, and who put the interests of the discipline, the department, and the university above self-interest. We’ll all miss his sense of humor and distinctive view of the world.

(Submitted by Martha Works)

GIS at PSU

Geoffrey Duh, our GIS and remote sensing faculty, has been busy finishing up a five-year project with USDA-NRCS National Water and Climate Center (NWCC). The project is administered through the Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (PNW CESU) network and is a collaborative effort among CSAR, many PSU geography faculty and students, and the water forecasters at NWCC. The goal of the project is to develop a streamlined, efficient GIS for supporting water forecasting activities at NWCC. The GIS, called Basin Analysis GIS (BAGIS), has three major functions: 1) basin delineation and snow monitoring site (i.e., SNOTEL) location
For more information regarding the GIS program at PSU, visit the following link:
http://www.pdx.edu/geography/GIS
Or scan the QR code below with your smartphone.

External Grants

David Banis (CSAR) signed a two-year contract for $35,600 with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for work on “The Emergency Preparedness Framework Data Project”.

Lesley Bross (Geography Masters student; Geoffrey Duh’s advisee) was awarded a $5,500 stipend from Google Summer of Code 2014. Lesley will be working with Robert Scheller this summer to develop a series of user interface widgets for the LANDIS-II forest landscape model (http://www.landis-ii.org/)


Teresa Bulman (PI), “Alliance grant,” Sponsored by National Geographic Education Foundation, Private, $27,000.

Heejun Chang (Co-PI), “Oregon Wetlands Prioritization and Conservation (Environmental Protection Agency; $402,370)

Heejun Chang (Co-PI), Clean Water for All, a UK-US collaborative grant on flood risk management (UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, $80,000)

Heejun Chang (PI), “Determinants of residential household water use in Portland” (Portland Water Bureau, $5000)

Andres Holz (co-PI) Integrating stable isotope and tree growth analyses to understand Patagonian forest ecosystem response to climate change (NSF-DEB, Preliminary Proposal approved; Co-PI).

Martin Lafrenz (PI), “Mapping Biodiversity Corridors in the Greater Metro Portland Region” (Metro, $25,000)

Martin Lafrenz (PI), “Assessing Vegetation Influence on Salt Marsh Accretion” (Murdock Foundation $15,000).
FACULTY AWARDS

The National Council for Geographic Education has made the following awards:

*Distinguished Mentor Award* (2014): Martha Works

*Community Partner Award* (2014): David Banis (Center for Spatial Analysis and Research)

Martin Laftenz is the winner of the *John Eliot Allen Outstanding Teacher Award* in Geography.

Alumni News

Nic Granum (BS 2004) - “I am currently serving in the US Peace Corps in South Africa.”

Darrell Fuhriman (BS 2006) is chairing the organizing committee for the Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) conference, to be held in Portland in September. FOSS4G is the world’s premiere open source geospatial conference, attracting nearly 1,000 participants from 40 countries.

Linda Tilson Davis (BS 1966) FAICP, had the equivalent of nearly three years experience in urban planning when she graduated with a BS in Geography and Certificate in Urban Studies. While a student, she worked on urban research projects headed by PSU Geography Dept. professor Dr. Ray M. Northam and others, as well as projects related to PSU’s expansion as a full urban university while employed part-time in the Office of Campus Planning. During her career in land use planning she worked for the City of Lansing, Michigan; the State of Michigan Office of State Planning; The Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (Salem); Oregon’s State Housing Agency; the Ada Council of Governments (Boise, ID); the City of Beaverton (14.5 years as Director of Planning and Community Development); and as a senior associate with the Portland consulting firm of Cogan Owens Cogan. Her time in Boise, ID (1973-1978) included two years as an elected County Commissioner. Today she is retired with her husband H. Tom Davis, a hydrological engineer, in Sisters, OR. In 2001, Linda was inducted as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP).

Alex Bullen (MS 2011) “In the past year I’ve taught 4 sections of Human Geography and World Regional Geography at Front Range Community College in Longmont, Colorado. Recently I was honored to present Ian Charles, one of my World Regional students, with an Outstanding Writer in Social Science award. I’m also getting married this year on the second day of summer, hooray!”
Ellen Wax (BA 1982) “The Working Waterfront Coalition (WWC) is pleased to announce that Ellen Wax has been hired as its Executive Director. Ellen comes to the WWC with land use planning and policy experience having worked on legislative planning projects and land development review projects with the City of Portland and the planning and engineering firm of David Evans and Associates, Inc. She also has experience with not-for-profit business organizations, as a private consultant to developers and municipalities, and as a member of numerous advisory boards. Ellen, a life-long Portland resident, has a Master’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University and served on the PSU Alumni Board. In her role as executive director, Ellen will drive the WWC’s continued advocacy for sound public policy that promotes environmental, social and economic sustainability of Portland’s working harbor.”

Daniel Karnes (BS 1978, MS 1987) was known as Daniel Kjerne while working on his MS, but reverted to using his birth name decades ago, and is back on the scene as an adjunct professor in Geography, having completed the doctorate at the University of Washington in 1995 and spent almost twenty years on the east coast. He taught at Dartmouth College for about half that time, then worked as a geographer for the US Army Geospatial Center in Alexandria, VA, and is now retired, back in Portland, and living the dream. As an adjunct, Daniel is teaching Maps and Geographic Information (GEOG 380) and Intro to GIS (4/588) once a term or so. He has converted the latter course to an on-line format, recording video lectures that students can stream on their own platform and schedule, and uses Google+ hangouts, scheduled on-campus labs, and email to help his students through the rough spots.

P. Elise Scolnick, AICP (BS 1985) has formed a new consulting firm specializing in urban and regional planning, public involvement and sustainability. Her firm, Sustainable Planning Resource Innovation Group, LLC (SPRIG), includes partners John Wiebke and Aleksandra Levkovsky. Scolnick, also an alum of the School of Urban Studies (MURP ’96), has been a planner in the Portland metro area for the past 29 years in both the public and private sectors. Wiebke is a transportation planner and Levkovsky, a civil engineer. Areas of specialization include public involvement, land use, transportation, historic preservation, food systems planning, and green building/sustainable development.

Lauren Sinclair (Wasby) (MS 2012) finished her second year teaching middle school at Corbett Charter School. She will be working as an Oregon Parks & Rec ranger this summer at Milo McIver State Park. If you’re interested in kayaking or disc golf lessons, she’s happy to hook you up!

Joe Parker (MA 2013) will be conducting research and lecturing beginning Fall term at Chengdu University. A speech he gave on the usefulness of ancient archaeology sites as culturally unifying tourism destinations was published in English and Chinese. It’s included in a book on Qiang Minority Tourism Development. He is also continuing to search for the means of getting a critically important flood diversion dam built and water purification system installed at his research study site in Sichuan province. And he continues to study the Chinese language...definitely learning in the slow lane, but it’s too late to quit now!

Thomas Harvey Scholarship Fund

In memory of Professor Thomas Harvey, the Department of Geography has established the “Thomas Harvey Scholarship Fund”. The Fund will be used to support undergraduate and graduate student research in cultural landscape studies. Interested persons can make donations at http://www.pdx.edu/geography/alumni-giving
Greetings, Friends!

It feels as though the 2013-2014 academic year came and went in the blink of an eye! But when we look back on it, it is evident that Friends Of Geography (FOG) triumphed once again and made the most of this year. Throughout the year, we continued to perpetuate our goal of promoting geographic education in a variety of fashions.

As a group, FOG partook in many fun (and educational) activities this year. To fulfill our constant longing for more geographic knowledge, we sent some members on a guided tour of Bull Run watershed. We also attended the annual Coffee Fair at the World Forestry Center, satisfying our minds and taste buds with all things coffee! Some Friends gathered for a local hike up Council Crest, and we also hosted the CSU Monterey Bay campus representative for a Wildlands Studies information session.

Not only were we busy covering local ground, but we were also busy raising funds for the group. FOG officers got together and put on two map sales this year, one in the fall and one in the spring. In total, we managed to raise around $800 for the student group!

FOG did not raise all of that money solely for funding our epic excursions. We used a good chunk of the money to give back to the community. We started off by signing up for the Adopt-a-Student-Family program over the holidays through the PSU Resource Center for Students with Children. With some of the funds generated through the map sales, FOG was able to help make the holidays that much warmer for a student mother and her young son. Around the same time, we also donated $100 to the Typhoon Haiyan recovery efforts in the Philippines. Currently, FOG is in the process of making a $300 donation to the Tom Harvey Scholarship fund and a $100 donation to the Oso landslide recovery effort.

All in all, it was another jubilant year for this student group. With officer elections around the corner, current officers can only hope that more dedicated geographers take the leads and continue to guide this student group down the path of success it has found itself on. Finally, Friends Of Geography wants to thank everyone in the Geography community and beyond for the incalculable support that has made the group all that it can be.

Cheers,

Sarah J. Sanjua

President, Friends Of Geography
Faculty and Students Publications


Davey Ahoy!

Over the spring term, Davey Pearson (Geography undergrad senior) has been sailing on a replica tall ship, the Lady Washington. This square rigger is a replica of the original Lady Washington, built around the 1770s, which was the first American flagged vessel to sail around Cape Horn and trade with the Native Americans in what is now the Pacific Northwest.

“During the school week we take 4-6 grade kids out, have them set the sails and teach them history social, economic & geographic history in a fun, hands-on environment.

On the weekends we do battle sails, where we load the guns (cannons) with blanks and shoot the other ship that we sail with. I think my favorite part is climbing up 80ft to unfurl the tallest sail on the ship!

This has been a great experience because I have considered teaching social sciences to this age group. I also get to use some cartography skills when we are sailing from port to port and I have to plot our course (Geography 380 really did come in handy!) Super fun!”

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The Center for Geography Education (formerly the Oregon Geographic Alliance) had a busy year working with Oregon teachers and geography professionals throughout the state to improve and sustain geography education in Oregon’s preK-12 system. Some of the C-GEO’s activities of note:

A 2013 summer institute (held in Bend) on Map Literacy for All Teachers included field mapping, technology, and basic map interpretation skills.

Also in 2013, a month-long trip along the Siberian and Mongolian Expresses exposed teachers to the dramatic physical and cultural geography of a large swath of Asia. Activities included visits to the Russian Geographical Society and Russian and Mongolian schools.

In a partnership with University of Oregon, Oregon State, and Western Oregon, C-GEO received a planning grant to develop a long-term plan for preK-12 geography education in Oregon.

C-GEO has joined with the Library of Congress and three other state geography alliances to create a “Teaching Geography Using Primary Sources” program for dissemination nationwide.

C-GEO sponsored a number of family geography nights throughout the state, and participated in several community service projects related to climate change education.

C-GEO
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503-725-5864
Web: www.pdx.edu/geography-education/
Director of Geography Education Programs C-GEO:
Dr. Teresa Bulman

Instructional Materials developed by C-GEO

Bulman: Four guides to geography education for stakeholders

Bulman: Summer programs in Geography of Eurasia (Trans-Siberian and Trans-Mongolian expresses) and “Map Literacy for ALL”