Great people make the department great

When I first arrived at PSU almost twelve years ago, as the youngest faculty in the department, I was warmly welcomed by the departmental staff and faculty. The department has changed considerably since then. Our undergraduate students’ enrollment has more than doubled, and we have had a record number of graduate students in recent years. We now offer an interdisciplinary Ph.D. degree in Earth, Environment, and Society through the School of the Environment. Our faculty obtain external funding from diverse sources, including US National Science Foundation, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Forest Service, US Army Corp of Engineers, National Geographic, and Oregon Community Foundation.

Behind all these great achievements are many stellar faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Teresa Bulman runs the newly-created Center for Geography Education in Oregon, training more than 200 pre-K teachers annually. Dr. Barbara Brower has developed a study abroad course engaging students to explore the geography of food in Provence. Drs. Martha Works and Thomas Harvey have continuously played a crucial role for keeping the department growing through their undergraduate advising. Dr. Geoffrey Duh serves as a GIS coordinator, making the department the epicenter of GIS research and education on campus. Dr. Martin Lafrenz’s hybrid online class is popular in our undergraduate students. Dr. Hunter Shobe won a college teaching award three times. David Banis, a fully dedicated GIS lab administrator and an associate director of the Center for Spatial Analysis and Research, has secured grants from national and regional agencies. Our office coordinator Karin Waller is one of the most respected and resourceful staff members on campus. Kelly Craig, a recent hire as half-time staff, fills out the staff.

Our students have been active both professionally and academically. Graduate student Steve Pryzybylinski won the best paper award at the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers in September. Graduate students Betsy Breyer and Mike Psaris recently published papers in respected peer-reviewed journals - Health and Place and The Science of the Total Environment, respectively. Recent graduate Corinna Kimball-Brown was one of the two undergraduate students in the college to win an academic achievement award in 2013. The two departmental students groups – Friends of Geography and American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing – have organized seminars and field trips.
Last but not least, our alumni have remained well-connected to the department. Our discipline is broad, so it comes as no surprise that alumni from the Geography Department work for many different organizations and places. You can check out results from a recent alumni survey on page 8. Many alumni would like to maintain communication with us and have made generous donations to us. As part of “Portland State of Mind” event, we cordially invite all alumni to our next Alumni Potluck Party on campus, **Oct 18, 5PM in the department**.

This is an exciting moment in the department. Together with a new faculty hire this year and two expected replacement hires in the coming year, the department continues to evolve. But as has been always the case, with great members of the community, the department will remain great.

**Andrés Holz joins PSU faculty**

Dr. Andrés Holz joins PSU from the University of Tasmania in Australia, where he recently served as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Previously, he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he also completed a Ph.D. and M.A. in Geography. He holds a Forestry Engineering and B.Sc. from the Universidad de Chile, Santiago de Chile. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in Colorado, Patagonia, and Tasmania. His research interests include forest dynamics, disturbance ecology, climate-fire-human relationships, and bringing students out into the forest to experience biogeography at the source.

**What is biogeography?**

If you want to know what happens after a fire burns through a forest, or why lichen grows on one side of trees only, or how climate change affects the distribution of important keystone species, biogeography is where to turn for the answers. Biogeography is the field that studies where plants and animals live and why and how they change over time and space. It is interdisciplinary in nature, and looks at many different angles, including ecology, human influences, and climate.

**How did you get into your field?**

My parents loved getting out into the wild, and as a result, I grew up playing and hiking in the Andes. The outdoors became a very special place to me. Later, in college, I realized I was most interested in classes that focused on the scientific side of the outdoors—any chance to be out in the forest and I was there. I ended up pursuing a degree in Forestry. I also had some great teachers who introduced me to forest ecology, which was a clear fit for me in terms of both the focus on science and research, as well as the opportunity to pursue hands-on field research. It was not long afterwards that I stepped onto a plane to Colorado to
pursue a Masters and then Ph.D at CU Boulder in forest dynamics with Tom Veblen. My field work has taken me from the mountains of Colorado to the forests of deep Patagonia to the wallaby-laden hilltops of Tasmania.

**What is your current area of research?**

Most recently, I have been working with colleagues on the postfire resilience of forest tree species. We are interested in understanding the various responses of tree species to current climate warming-driven wildfires, how and why it appears that some forest tree species are not recovering from these more severe and more frequent events, and what might be the long term legacy of such failures. I am looking at patterns in a number of places around the Southern Hemisphere, and seeking to link them together.

**What attracted you to Portland?**

Portland is such a unique place, and I am looking forward to exploring both the city and its surrounds—especially its unique Northwest forests! This was a major draw: the proximity to a temperate rainforest ecosystem that will offer exciting new research opportunities as well as the possibility of comparison with my previous work in similar ecosystems. I also appreciate PSU’s commitment to teaching excellence, and the opportunity to join a dynamic and collaborative department. I have always loved teaching and I’m looking forward to getting back in front of the classroom. The courses at PSU are very much in alignment with my past teaching experience and I am pleased with the flexibility to teach some new classes that will draw on my own specific areas of expertise. Finally, as both an outdoors enthusiast and craft brew appreciator, it doesn’t seem to get much better than Portland!
**What courses will you teach?**
My first teaching course at PSU will be Physical Geography in Winter 2014. In the future, I expect to also teach undergraduate mid-upper level classes such as Biogeography, Climate Variability, Alpine and Sub-Alpine Environments, and upper level-seminars and graduate level seminars on Global Fire Ecology and Biogeography of the Pacific Northwest.

**What can students expect in the classroom?**
Students should expect an environment that is informal in its communication yet rigorous in its scholarly expectations. My goal is to engage students to achieve a sound understanding of the bio-physical world that surrounds us by relying on classroom materials as well as the field experiences and research programs from my work. I love to tell stories and use metaphor to get the point across, and my lectures are full of real-world examples that bring the subject to life.

**What are your future research plans?**
I would like to start new research in Oregon on fire history reconstruction and postfire forest resilience. I am particularly looking forward to exploring research sites in the fire-prone forests in the east side of the Cascade, and also in recently burned forests in the SW corner of the state. Additionally, I would like to develop opportunities for my students to participate directly in field-based research. Conservation-oriented non-profits are a key part of ensuring that my research is relevant and applied, as well as demonstrating to students the importance of biogeography in developing sound conservation plans for the future.

**THEORY, MEET PRACTICE**
Graduate student Stephen Przybylinski was awarded Best Paper Presented by a Masters Student at the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers 2013 conference, held in Lake Tahoe.

Stephen’s thesis research centers on Right 2 Dream, Too (R2DT), a homeless rest site in downtown Portland. Operating since October 2011, the space provides a safe, undisturbed place to sleep for people experiencing homelessness. The site has also been an ongoing point of contention between city officials and advocates for the homeless.

Informed by socio-spatial theory, foundationally with the Right to City concept, Stephen seeks to gain a better understanding of houseless people’s relationship to place in hopes of finding equitable alternatives to the conflict surrounding the development and production of this contested space.

To accomplish this he has conducted interviews with users of R2DT, inquiring into their sense of place, the value of R2DT in their lives, and their relationships with different spaces in the city. Interviews will also be conducted with Portland Housing Bureau and City Council members as his research progresses.

Ultimately, he seeks to use these data to identify an appropriate site for transitional housing, one that reflects the needs and desires of all urban inhabitants, particularly those directly affected by homelessness.

**Frontage of Right 2 Dream too (R2DT), a contested space and rest site for people experiencing homelessness in Portland.**

**Spatial arrangement of tents at R2DT.**
Photo: Street Roots
The Oregon Geographic Alliance, which has been housed in the PSU Department of Geography since 1990, has a new name: The Center for Geography Education in Oregon (C-GEO). C-GEO is the premier organization in Oregon for the improvement of preK-12 geography education. It conducts professional development for preK-12 teachers, prepares and disseminates instructional materials, engages in community outreach activities, and advocates for changes in public policy that enhance geography education. For more information, visit our website. You’ll see examples of our professional development programs, free student atlases of Oregon (in English and Spanish), Family Geography Night programs, and much more.

**Professional Development**

C-GEO held two summer programs for Oregon teachers this year. The first was a week-long Map Literacy program in Bend for K-12 teachers of all disciplines.

The second program was a three-week excursion across Eurasia from St. Petersburg, through Russia and Mongolia to China via the Trans-Siberian and Trans-Mongolian express trains. Activities included visits to Russian and Mongolian geography classrooms and the Russian Geographical Society, as well as fieldwork and geography concept analysis by the participating teachers.

**Student Atlas Production Continues**

C-GEO, with the department’s Center for Spatial Analysis and Research, is also producing a series of atlases about Oregon for use in preK-12 schools. The first two – The Student Atlas of Oregon and El Atlas de Oregón para Estudiantes – are on-line at the C-GEO web site, free for anyone to use. C-GEO also has a geography vocabulary glossary on line in 11 different languages. The next atlas, due out in 2014, is an Atlas of Oregon Climate and Climate Change for use in middle and high schools.

**Community Outreach**

C-GEO’s community outreach programs include Family Geography Nights throughout the state where students and family explore geography and have fun learning about our diverse and fabulous world!

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**Contact:** geogall @pdx.edu or 503-725-5864

**Director of Geography Education Programs C-GEO**

Dr. Teresa Bulman
Cale R. Garrett (M.S., 2012) accepted a Business Intelligence position with Portland Energy Conservation, Inc., in 2013. He specializes in using spatial and quantitative analysis to identify areas of market growth in the energy efficiency sector. For non-academic career orientated students, he recommends gaining experience in statistical software, such as SAS or R, and to learn an analysis suite such as Tableau or Qlikview.

Lily House-Peters (M.S. 2010) is a Ph.D. candidate and Graduate Teaching Associate in the School of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona, with an expected graduation date of May 2015. As a current recipient of a U.S. Fulbright Fellowship and a P.E.O. Scholars Award, she is spending the 2013-2014 academic year conducting field research in Sonora, Mexico, for her dissertation titled, "Desert Forests & Flows: Riparian Communities, Climate Adaptation and Geopolitics in the Drought-prone Sonoran Borderlands."

Sarah Praskievicz (M.S., 2009) is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Oregon. This is her fifth and final year in the Ph.D. program. This year, she is working to complete her dissertation, which examines impacts of climate change on river morphology in the interior Pacific Northwest. She has also started her job search for a faculty position in a geography or earth science department.

Tyler Vick (GIS Certificate and M.S. 2010) has directed the GIS and data management services at Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA), a local environmental, engineering, and planning firm. He is now a Principal and chief operating officer of FLO Analytics. Recent projects include GIS and analytical data management for NOAA's natural resource damage assessment for the Gulf oil spill, conservation prioritization work for several northwest land trusts, and development of City of Kelso stormwater asset management systems.

"Safety in Maize: Subsistence Agriculture in a Zapotec Migrant Town"

"My thesis analyzes subsistence maize production and consumption among migrant and return migrant households in Santiago Apóstol, a Zapotec community in the Central Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico.

I use ethnographic survey methods and archival research to explore rationales underlying land use, the evolution of agricultural institutions with migration, and the impact of biophysical change on both migration and agriculture in this community.”

– Fiona Gladstone
GRADUATE STUDENT

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https://foundation.pdx.edu/publicgift/geography.jsp
**Alumni Profiles**

**Dan Craver** (B.S. 2002, GIS Certificate and M.S. 2010) is a Geographer in the Regional Refuge Information Branch at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Pacific Region office in Portland. He uses a broad range of GIS technologies to support habitat, public use management, and biological monitoring planning for the National Wildlife Refuges. Dan participates on national committees that develop data standards and enterprise solutions, and also teaches GIS and GPS field methods several times a year. He is always happy to talk to students with a strong interest in geographic applications for conservation and land management. Dan can be reached at dan_craver@fws.gov.

**Jon Franczyk** (M.S. 2008) cut his geographic teeth in the wilds of South Carolina. He has been working as a LiDAR analyst at Watershed Sciences, Inc. for five years, and has taught several GIS classes as an adjunct professor at Portland State University. In 2013, he cofounded The Cartesian Brothers Collective (www.cartobros.com), a cartographic group made up of fellow geography alumni.

**David Graves** (M.S. 2005) lives in Portland and has worked as a GIS Specialist for the Columbia River InterTribal Fish Commission for the past eight years. His work there includes data management and analysis, mapmaking, and research into the effects of climate change on Columbia River Basin streams.

**Andrew Gude** (M.S. 1994) is the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge Manager and Acting Manager for the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Before moving back to Florida, he was a member of the team that assisted the Bush Administration in securing 305 million acres of marine protected areas in the Pacific Ocean, and also served as the Special Assistant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Director and the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks at the Department of the Interior.

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**“Residential water use and neighborhood context: A multilevel approach”**

“Residential landscapes are reproduced through a dense weave of interactions between nature and culture that traverses space, time, and scale. Drawing on insights from coupled human-natural systems and social theory, my thesis grapples with this complexity as it is expressed in water use. I apply mixed-effects regression analysis to investigate the roles of weather, land use, and demographics in structuring day-to-day variation in household water use in Portland, Oregon. My work is part of a broader research program that assesses areas of vulnerability and resilience to combined climate and land use change in cities.”

– Betsy Breyer
Graduate Student

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**Geography of Wine: Unravelling the mystery of Terroir**

A lecture by Dr. Greg Jones

Saturday, October 19th at 9am
Smith 228 - The Multi-Cultural Center
Portland State of Mind

**Greg Jones**, Professor of Geography at Southern Oregon University, is noted for his research on the geography of wine, including the impacts of climate change on grape growing throughout the world. An engaging and knowledgeable speaker, Dr. Jones’ presentations are filled with maps, visuals, up-to-date content, and that all-important spatial perspective. Join us for this free, informative and fun event!
Understanding place through food: Study abroad opportunities in Provence

Geography students dominated this summer’s “Geography of Food—Provence,” a faculty-led study abroad course offered for the last four years by Professor Barbara Brower. PSU seniors Holly Nosaluk and Joshua Chandler, OU geographer Aidan Smith, and incoming grad student Kevin Donohue showed PSU Social Science major Andre Unthank how geographers explore and discover (while Andre shared his impressive culinary chops).

The course, offered again next summer, is open to students from PSU and other institutions, as well as to alumni and other members of the community. We investigate the food-producing landscape and culinary culture of Provence, including the patterns, processes, and cultural meaning of food production and consumption, by meeting with farmers, butchers, wine-makers, and bee-keepers, participating in harvest festivals, cooking lessons, and other activities that teach through experience, and getting to know a particular place.

The class is housed in a 16th century convent in the small market town of Aups, in the rugged Haut Provence, where limestone highlands support scrub forest and maquis, and agriculture must bend to the constraints of thin soils, the notorious mistral, dry summers, and distant markets. Olives, vineyards, and truffles are essential elements of the culinary landscapes of Provence, and indigenous herbs—rosemary, thyme, lavender—distinguish this landscape and infuse Provençale cuisine. Shepherds still lead their flocks through Aups to pastures beyond the village, dodging tourists but maintaining an ancient way of life that predates the Roman occupation, and producing distinctive regional cheeses. The language and culture of Provence are as distinctive as the landscape and cuisine; taken together, and mixed with all the other elements that define a region, the sum of parts creates one of Europe’s most intriguing places. The object of this program is to begin to understand this place through its food.

With questions and for further information about the class, contact Barbara Brower:

browerb@pdx.edu