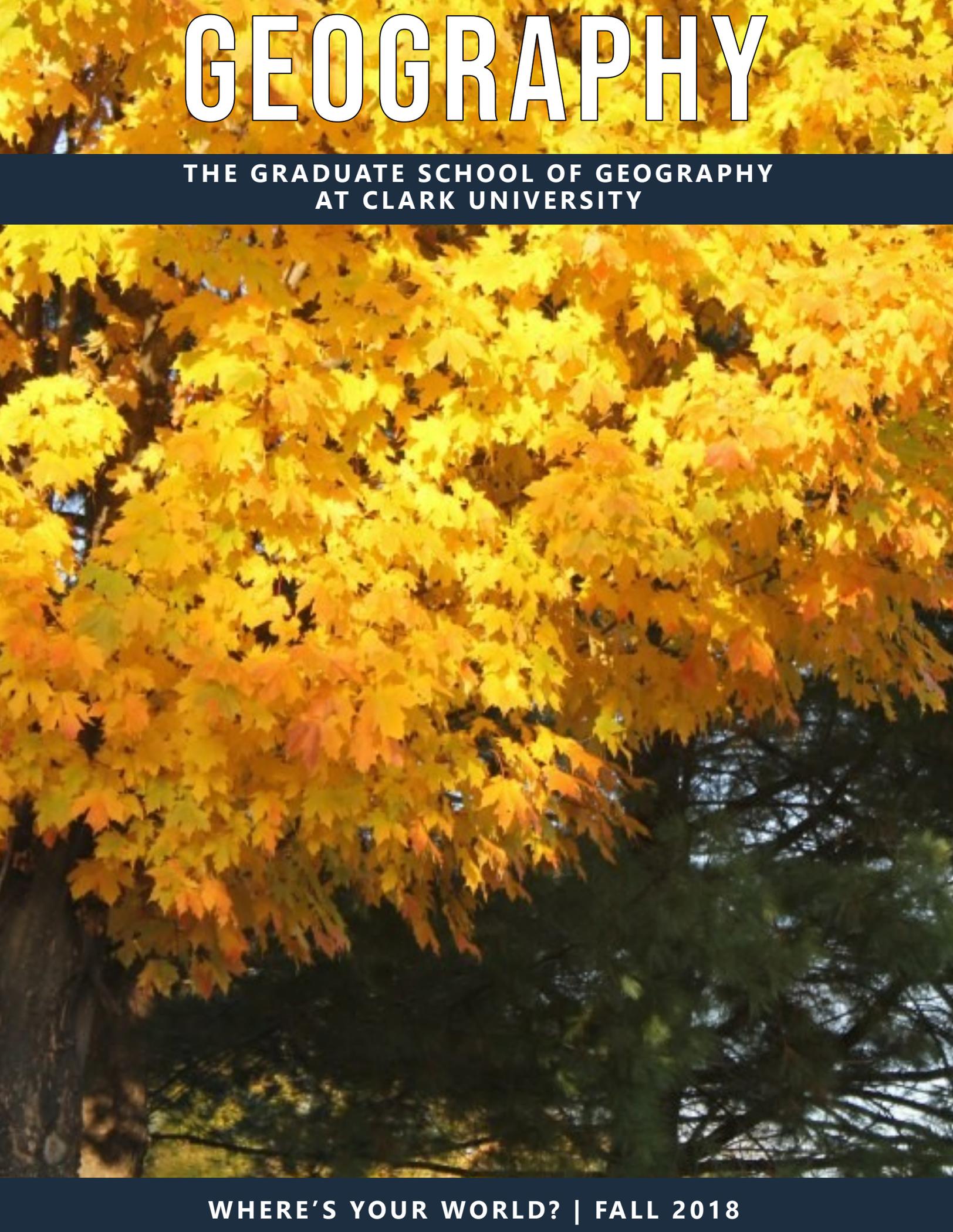


# GEOGRAPHY



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY  
AT CLARK UNIVERSITY

WHERE'S YOUR WORLD? | FALL 2018

# GEOG

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# WELCOME

A NOTE FROM  
GSG DIRECTOR DEBORAH MARTIN

DEAR GEOGRAPHY FRIENDS,

My 11 year-old son said to me the other night, "Mom, you have amazing colleagues!" Prompting this incredibly true observation was the voice of Karen Frey on our radio, a guest for an hour-long national (but based in Boston at WBUR) call-in show, "On Point," discussing climate change, specifically Arctic warming. My colleagues, all of them, are indeed amazing. Whether they are lead or co-authoring national and international reports and journal articles, being recognized by international associations, or editing flagship journals in Geography and related disciplines, Clark Geography faculty are impressive. In this dark time of year in the Northern hemisphere, it is easy to get lost in the day-to-day slog of a long fall semester, leaving for home from work in the dark (even when it's not actually that late by clock time) as the semester draws to a close. To some degree at this time of year, there is a feeling of having our heads down and working away. But that one day at a time, attending to our work, our students, and the business of the department and the university, means that collectively, we continue the excellent work of the GSG.

Some of the highlights of the last six months are visible in the pages of this newsletter, but I'd like to reflect on some of the activities and conversations that have enlivened our fall semester, 2018. Our Atwood speaker,

Cathy Whitlock of Montana State University, engaged us in a thought-provoking discussion during the Atwood seminar about how to conceptualize "non-human" landscapes: Does the word "pristine" accurately capture the idea of non-human landscapes, meaning landscapes that have not undergone human transformations? Are non-human landscapes really more "natural" than actively human-transformed landscapes? What constitutes human-transformation? Do the impacts of global industrialization truly result in "urbanization everywhere"? These and other topics were part of a scintillating seminar discussion the day after the more publicly visible (and equally lively) Atwood lecture. I have always particularly enjoyed the Atwood seminars, which are informal two or three hour meetings between the Atwood lecturer and a mix of GSG faculty and graduate students. The more formal Atwood lectures are always informative and insightful, but I enjoy the seminars because of the wide-ranging conversations that result. The Atwood seminars provide a setting and sufficient time for us to engage with the Atwood Lecturer in ruminations; about the right words or jargon to use to adequately capture a complex idea; to consider the twists and turns of a guest's career and the guidance or lessons that they can offer to others; and to explore the methodological challenges of the work behind the findings and results presented in the lecture the day before. These conversations both uncover, and embody, the daily work of both scholarship and mentorship.

In celebration of the daily work of the department, please pause and enjoy the photos and read the stories of GSG student and faculty work and fun over the last several months. I wish you a restful, peaceful, and happy 2019!

— Deborah Martin, Director

## • • EVENTS • •

The GSG holds many exciting events throughout the year -- be sure to check our [website](#) for updates on:

- Spring 2019 Colloquium Talks
- Practicing Geography Week
- ...and more!

## • • EMAIL LIST • •

If you would like to receive email updates about events and other happenings within the Graduate School of Geography, contact us at [geography@clarku.edu](mailto:geography@clarku.edu). Emails and announcements are frequently sent out about upcoming events, career and internship opportunities, and other important information.

## • • SUBMIT • •

Traveling somewhere for research? Working on an interesting project around Worcester? Have a collection of recent photos of places you have visited? We are always looking for **new content for future newsletter issues**, so if you have info to share, feel free to email Rachel Levitt ([RLevitt@clarku.edu](mailto:RLevitt@clarku.edu)) to see if it can be featured in an upcoming issue.



GSG Faculty Retreat, August 2017 @ Worcester Art Museum

# FACULTY NEWS

## CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS' RESEARCH UPDATES

In June, **Christopher Williams** was one of only two U.S. scientists invited to participate in a science workshop and science-policy dialogue hosted by the **International Boreal Forest Research Association**. The meeting, in Haparanda, Sweden, was held in conjunction with the 2018 Boreal Summit involving ministers from the USA, Canada, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Russia. The workshop identified key boreal science issues related to the use of boreal forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to foster the development of circumboreal collaborations that will address these knowledge gaps.

Chris was also appointed the leader of a Science Implementation Plan for the **North American Carbon Program (NACP)**, a principal activity of the US Carbon Cycle Science Program (USCCSP), which itself is a Federal inter-agency partnership that operates under the aegis of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) with links to the US White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Additionally, Chris Williams has also launched a new scientific collaboration with **The Nature Conservancy's** Science Director for North America focused on land management and land use solutions to mitigate climate change. Williams' team is providing detailed estimates of the carbon emissions that could be avoided by slowing or halting deforestation in the

United States, along with high resolution maps of where forests are being lost and what they are being replaced by. *This work is soon to be published in a leading science journal.*

## BIN QUAN VISITING SCHOLAR

The GSG is happy to host **Professor Bin Quan** as a visiting scholar this year! Dr. Quan is professor of GIS and Land Change Science at Hengyang Normal University, and has collaborated with **Professor Pontius** during the last three years.

Jie Chen, Dr. Quan's wife, is also a visiting student scholar at Clark University and working on her doctorate in Ancient Chinese History. They are joined by their daughter Lilly. Welcome all!



## JIM MURPHY ELECTED TO ROYAL ACADEMY OF OVERSEAS SCIENCES

**Professor Jim Murphy** was recently elected as a Corresponding Member of the Section of **Technical Sciences at the Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences** in Belgium. Congratulations, Jim!

## JIM MURPHY CONDUCTS SUMMER FIELD RESEARCH IN NAIROBI

**Professor Jim Murphy** spent part of his summer conducting field research as part of a Regional Studies Association MeRSA grant received through the **Marsh Institute**. While in Nairobi, Jim connected with collaborators from the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG) to meet with two of the "Muungano" (community groups) that they worked with as part of their research into sanitation provisioning systems in the city, particularly within the informal settlements.

Jim and his collaborators also held a one-day workshop at **Kenyatta University** to present the major findings from the research and to receive feedback from stakeholders such as the municipal government, NGOs, and community groups.

In addition, Jim was awarded the 2017-2018 Outstanding Graduate Mentoring/ Advising Award at Clark University. Thanks for all your hard work, Jim!

# FACULTY NEWS

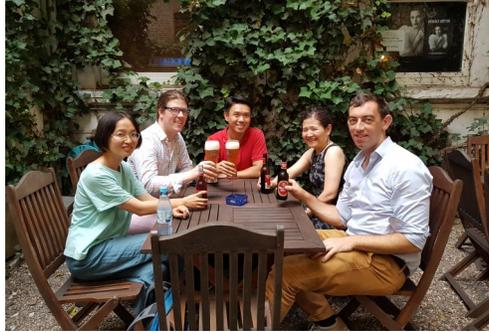


## PROFESSORS AOYAMA AND MURPHY ATTEND 5TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Professors Yuko Aoyama and Jim Murphy attended the 5th Global Conference in Economic Geography that took place in Cologne, Germany, July 24-28, 2018 (pictured above). This important conference for economic geographers inaugurated in December 2000 in Singapore, and held across the world (Beijing, 2007; Seoul, 2011; Oxford, UK, 2015).

Clark has been active in supporting this conference since its inception through Economic Geography, a top-ranked internationally peer-reviewed journal owned and operated by Clark University, with editors serving on the advisory boards and providing travel support for students from the Global South. A

number of current and former Clark doctoral students also presented at this conference in Cologne (photographed below are **Rory Horner '13**, senior lecturer at the University of Manchester, **Young-Long Kim '18**, **Yifan Cai** and **Mike Athay**). The next conference will take place in Dublin Ireland in 2021.



teaching and advising for the 2017-18 academic year. Karen received the Excellence in Graduate Teaching award for 2017-18 and Jim received Excellence in Graduate Advising/Mentoring award for 2017-18. Congratulations to both!



## KAREN FREY AND JIM MURPHY RECEIVE UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION FOR TEACHING/ADVISING

The GSG is proud to share that Karen Frey and Jim Murphy were recognized by the university for achievements in

For more faculty news, visit us online at [clarku.edu/departments/geography/newsevents/newsfaculty.cfm](http://clarku.edu/departments/geography/newsevents/newsfaculty.cfm)

Photo: Jim and collaborators meeting with community group in Kahawa Soweto (an informal settlement) where they discussed the problems with the water supply there.





# 2018 DOCTORAL COHORT

Photo: (L-R): Nathaniel Strosberg, Amy Dundon, Clare Gaffey, Jessica Craigg, Sarah Lerman-Sinkoff, Mwangi Chege

DOCTORAL STUDIES AT CLARK UNIVERSITY IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY  
The GSG is pleased to introduce our 2018 doctoral cohort:

## NATHANIEL STROSBERG

B.S. Political Science, Union College  
M.R.P. (Regional Planning), State University of New York at Albany  
M.L.A. (Landscape Architecture), Rhode Island School of Design

Research Interests: spatial theory, urban geography, municipal governance, landscape design.

## AMY DUNDON

M.A. Urban Affairs, University of San Francisco  
B.S. Philosophy, Northeastern University

Research Interests: urban geography; race and racism; work and labor; social movements; access, belonging, and citizenship; higher education

## CLARE GAFFEY

M.A. Geography, University at Albany  
B.S. Environmental Science, University at Albany

Research Interests: remote sensing, unmanned aerial vehicles, arctic systems, cryosphere, climate, phenology

## JESSICA CRAIGG

B.A. Geography, Georgia College & State University  
B.S. Environmental Science, Georgia College & State University

Research Interests: natural hazards, environmental change, vulnerability and adaptation, socioeconomic development, global South (especially East Africa)

## SARAH LERMAN-SINKOFF

B.A., Earth & Environmental Science, Wesleyan University

Research Interests: the social, economic, and ecological legacy of industrial contamination in urban waterways

## MWANGI CHEGE

M.A., International Relations and Economics, Johns Hopkins University  
B.A., Geography, University of South Africa, Pretoria

Research Interests: urban geography; urban ecology; environmental sustainability; health and well-being; African cities

## DOCTORAL STUDIES AT CLARK UNIVERSITY IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY

Clark's Geography Ph.D. program encourages study at the cutting edge of geography. We creatively work across the lines between disciplines and within geography's sub-disciplines to tackle the challenges that humanity faces. While we are inherently defined by our collaborative, interdisciplinary approach, the School's research and graduate training is organized around four subfields: Earth System Science, GIScience and Remote Sensing, Human-Environment Geography, and Urban-Economic Geography.

The Graduate School of Geography at Clark University is internationally renowned for innovative scholarship and is an acknowledged leader in the field. Consistently ranked as one of the top-ten geography graduate programs by the National Research Council, Clark Geography enables graduate students to train with top professionals and participate in a world-class research community. Students are guaranteed tuition remission and Graduate Assistantships for a minimum of four years, fostering a tight-knit, supportive intellectual community. Having awarded more Ph.D.s than any other geography program in the U.S., Clark Geography has a reputation for training future leaders in the field.



CUGS family, faculty, and friends at this past summer's Field Camp weekend!

## DOCTORAL STUDENT NEWS

### SURENDRA SHRESTHA AWARDED SUSSMAN FELLOWSHIP

Second year PhD student **Surendra Shrestha** was awarded a Sussman Fellowship supporting a summer in residence at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO. Surendra worked within the group of Dr. Gordon Bonan to learn the Community Earth System Model (CESM) with the goal of developing innovations to the global climate model framework that will enable us to explore the climate and water resource impacts of forest disturbances, including harvest- ing, wildfires, and beetle outbreaks.

### YU ZHOU SELECTED TO ATTEND NEW ADVANCES IN LAND CARBON CYCLING MODELING COURSE

Fourth year PhD student **Yu Zhou** was selected to attend a week-long short course on New Advances in Land Carbon Cycle Modeling, hosted in May by Dr. Yiqi Luo's EcoLab of the Center for Ecosystem Science and Society at Northern Arizona University.



### JANA E DAVIS RECEIVES UNIVERSITY TA AWARD

Fourth year PhD student **Janae Davis** received a university Teaching Assistant award for the 2017-18 academic year.

This award is based on nominations by faculty and scores given on TA evaluations and is given to a graduate student who has been a TA for at least two semesters at Clark and gone above and beyond in their role. Janae was a TA for President David Angel's course: Challenge Convention, Change Our World (IDND 087) in Fall 2017, as well as Earth System Science (GEOG 104) taught in

Spring 2018 by Visiting Professor **Jeanne Thibeault**. Congratulations, **Janae!**

### CUGS FIELD CAMP 2018

On August 23rd, **CUGS** (Clark University Geography Society) hosted their annual Field Camp weekend, a tradition that began in 1939 (79 years ago) and has repeatedly been a unique and exciting bonding experience for Geography PhD students. Each year, the incoming doctoral cohort is introduced to CUGS by spending a weekend in the woods at Lake Massapoag in northeastern Massachusetts, getting to know one another while swimming, camping, and hanging out by the bonfire. Traditionally the rising second-years are in charge of coordination and grocery shopping. This year's second-year cohort organizers, Nick Geron, Mike Cecil, and Mike Athay, planned a weekend of excursions, including a Mt. Monadnock hike, a trip to Plum Island Beach/Parker River Wildlife Refuge, and a Newburyport Brewery excursion to top off a full day. Thanks to Nick, Mike A., Mike C., and the rest of the second-year cohort for another successful Field Camp!

# CLIMATE-INDUCED MIGRATION IN THE PACIFIC



## ‘ĀINA: MY HAWAIIAN BASE ARTICLE & RESEARCH BY BRITTANY WHEELER

"I never once considered visiting Hawai'i as a tourist, though I have long been interested in the way in which it became part of the United States, and what an extended stay there would make apparent about the relationship between the U.S. mainland and other territories. The summer of 2018 did nothing to dislodge my disinterest in beach holidays, but it did find me living in the Pacific for three months to research climate-induced migration, situated on O'ahu at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's William S. Richardson School of Law as the result of being awarded a grant through the Edna Bailey Sussman Trust.



I have returned with the knowledge that rigorous research is indeed being

undertaken in a rather paradisiacal environment, with a keener understanding of the socio-economic conditions that are manifesting in urban development and homelessness in Honolulu, and the complexity of representation and rights distributed among the constellation of ethnic difference that enliven this state and this region. Hawai'i (an island chain that stretches across roughly 1500 miles, and located roughly 2500 miles from the west coast of the U.S.) is also one of the primary destinations for migrants from the Marshall Islands (itself a chain of 29 atolls some 2000 miles from Hawai'i, spread across 750,000 square miles of ocean, and standing at most 6 feet above sea level). The inimitable experience of living in the Pacific for the first time facilitated a new lens on climate, migration, and the law in places intimately linked—though often neglected—in the geographic imagination of the United States."

## THE MARSHALL ISLANDS CLIMATE AND MIGRATION PROJECT (MICMP)

"The Marshall Islands have a unique relationship with the United States, born of a trusteeship established following WWII, under which the U.S. administered the Marshall Islands and conducted extensive nuclear tests in the 1940s and 50s. The largest of these

(Bravo) had the power of 1,000 Hiroshima bombs, and the cumulative toll of these tests has had long-term ecological, social, political, and environmental effects on the Marshall Islands and its people.

The current legal relationship between the RMI and the U.S. is underwritten by the Compact of Free Association (COFA), which, among other provisions (such as the U.S. maintaining exclusive military rights to more than 2 million square miles of ocean) allows the Marshallese to travel to, live, and work in the U.S. without a visa.



I joined this research project as it was turning toward synthesizing the work undertaken in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and so-called 'destination states' (Hawai'i, Washington, and Oregon). The MICMP, led by Professor of Law Maxine Burkett, investigated to what extent climatic stressors and their impacts on ecosystems, livelihoods, and habitability were driving migration and

*[continued on next page]*

# CLIMATE-INDUCED MIGRATION IN THE PACIFIC

impacting migrants and their home communities. Key findings included a divergence in environmental rationales between the Marshallese in the RMI and the U.S., with more respondents in the U.S. citing environmental problems as drivers. Primary drivers in all locations, however, were most often framed in terms of education, healthcare, work, and family connections.

Despite this, those living in the RMI stated the crucial nature of drought, lack of fresh water, and sea level rise, and half of all respondents perceived a negative trend in ecosystem services (the provision of local food and access to fresh water, fuelwood and safety). We drew these findings and others into a final report and thematic fact sheets, and shared them in information sessions with stakeholders in Majuro (the capital of the RMI) and Honolulu (the latter of which I helped develop)."

## LOOKING FORWARD WITH LEGAL GEOGRAPHY

"When I sought a location for my concerns related to climate-induced migration, I was drawn to the historical-legal relationship that the U.S. has with its insular areas in the Pacific. These islands are also small island developing states, which are key sites for conceptualizing climatic change and envisioning the future of environmental migration more broadly. The historic contamination and obliteration of Marshallese atolls, the long-term environmental dispossession and displacement of islanders, and the impact of U.S. military presence and foreign aid in the region—together with the major legal frameworks that have facilitated these events and processes—are key to understanding the current state of migration and well-being for the Marshallese under conditions of climatic change. Such considerations, encoded in or

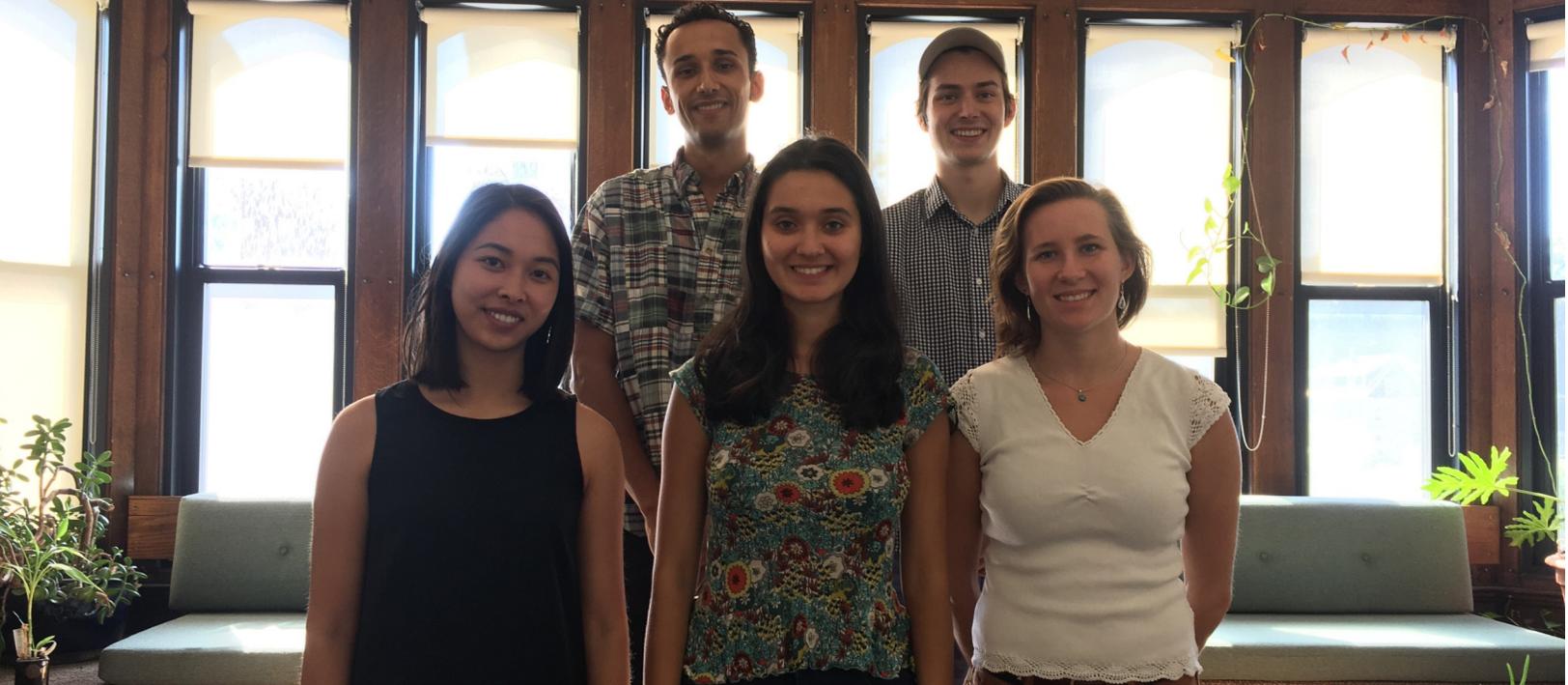
evaded through law, may also help us answer questions about the weight of extant legal relationships in the absence of broader climate or environmental migration policy, about geographies of care and responsibility, and about the futures of those that live in territories, former colonial states, and other places with tenuous or otherwise 'irregular' legal statuses."



Photos and article by Brittany Wheeler.

*Thank you, Brittany, for sharing your story with us!*





# GRADUATE NEWS

Photo: (Back, L-R): Miles Weule Chandler, Tyler Anderson. Front (L-R): Carly Robbins, Meyru Bhanti, Hannah Corney (not pictured: Gemma Wilkens)

**INTRODUCING OUR 2018-19 MS-GIS ADP COHORT**  
 This year marks a new cohort of students in Geography's MS-GIS Accelerated Degree Program — this year we welcomed 6 new students into the 5th-year program, 2 who are on the research track (meaning they will complete a Master's Thesis this year) and 4 on the internship track working with various organizations on and off-campus.

**TYLER ANDERSON**  
 BA ESS '18  
 Research Track  
 Summer internship: NASA DEVELOP, NASA Langley Research Center

**MEYRU BHANTI**  
 BA GEOG & ECB '18  
 Research Track  
 Summer internship: World Wildlife Fund

**HANNAH CORNEY**  
 BA GES '18  
 Internship Track: Clark Labs  
 Summer internship: Clark Labs

**CARLY ROBBINS**  
 BA GEOG '18  
 Internship Track: Clark Labs  
 Summer internship: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center & Center for Climate Simulation

**MILES WEULE CHANDLER**  
 BA GEOG '18  
 Internship Track: Town of Sudbury  
 Summer internship: Town of Sudbury

**GEMMA WILKENS**  
 BA ECON '18  
 Internship Track: Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)

To learn more about the MS-GIS ADP program, [click here](#).



**GISDE PROGRAM CHANGES NAME TO MS-GIS, WELCOMES 21 NEW STUDENTS IN FALL 2018**  
 This past Fall, the **MS-GIS program** (formerly known as the GISDE program, GIS for Development and Environment) welcomed a new cohort of 21 Masters students, leading to a total of 48 students in residence in the program, with a cohort of 27 students aimed to graduate in May 2019.

With the program name change came an expansion of curriculum options, including the addition of four new concentration tracks within the program:

1. Conservation Applications
2. Environmental Remote Sensing
3. Global and Community Health Applications
4. Geographic Information Science for Development and Environment

**Congratulations to the newest MS-GIS graduate cohort:**

- Priscilla Baltezar
- Tucker Beckett
- Noah Berkowitz
- Megan Brown
- Wenqu Chen
- Aaron Eubank
- Jordan Frey
- Jiena He
- Kelsey Hope
- Wei Hong Loh
- Jordan McCutcheon
- Zhenhua Meng
- Smruti Naik
- Isaack Nyagweso
- Amanda Payton
- Bryce Stouffer
- Yichuan Wan
- Ce Wang
- Samuel Watson
- Xuechen Yang
- Josue Yarleque Ipanaque

[Click here to learn more about the new MS-GIS program curriculum.](#)



## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

MEET THE NEW E-BOARD OF STAKEHOLDERS WHO APPLAUD CLARK CUGA!

Introducing the **2018-2019 E-Board**: Co-Presidents: Nahrin Sangkagalo & Yeannet Ruiz; Treasurer: Evelyn DeLeon; Secretary: Anna Marinescu (below).



The Clark Undergraduate **Geography Association (CUGA)** is a student-run organization dedicated to enriching and expanding the experiences of students interested in the fields of geography, global environmental studies, and Earth system science by bringing speakers to campus, attending professional conferences, and providing various unique activities and events for both members and the student body of the University. CUGA meets every Monday at 8pm in the CUGA "lounge" (first floor of the Geography Building). All are welcome to attend!

Contact [clarkcuga@gmail.com](mailto:clarkcuga@gmail.com) if you're interested in attending a meeting!

APPLAUD STUDENTS' 'VALUABLE WORK' ON GREENING THE GATEWAY CITIES  
 "For eight weeks this summer, [six undergraduate] **HERO Fellows** checked the vitality of trees in Chicopee and Fall River and interviewed residents to see if Massachusetts' Greening the Gateway Cities Program has paid off. The program aims to increase tree canopy by 10 percent in high-density neighborhoods by providing residents with trees and planting them along city streets. So far, conservation employees have planted more than 8,000 trees in 16 cities.



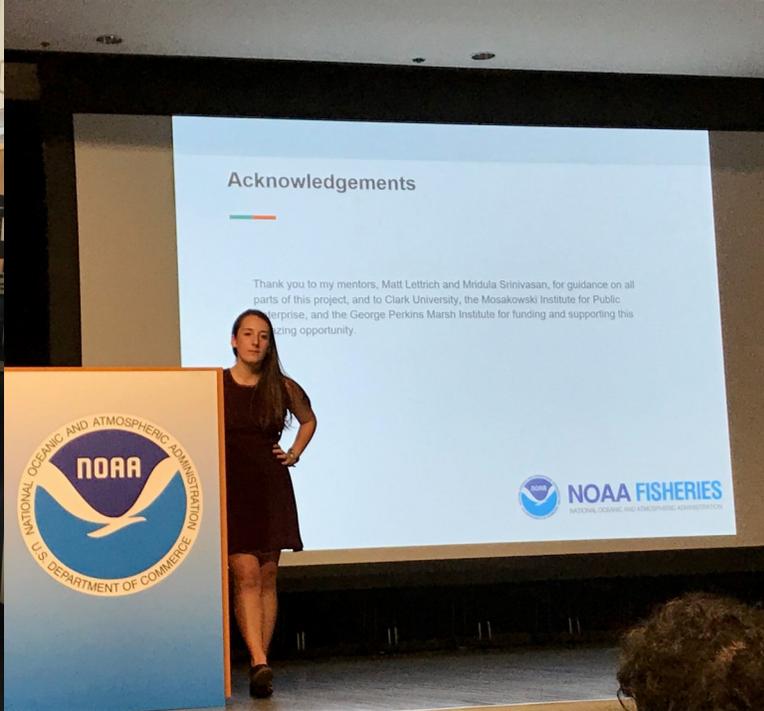
On July 12, the students presented their results to a roomful of stakeholders from the Worcester Tree Initiative: state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), U.S. Department of Agriculture, and community members. Their data will be added to that of the 2017-18 HERO cohort, which focused on trees in the Gateway Cities of Holyoke, Chelsea, and Revere. Over 19 years, HERO



Fellows have researched the interaction between humans and the environment, from residential lawn care to the area's recovery from Asian longhorned beetle damage, and contributed data subsequently used by local, state, and federal officials." [Click here to view the full article \(via ClarkNow\)](#)

WANT TO PUBLISH YOUR RESEARCH? SUBMIT TO THE FIFTH VOLUME OF SURJ!

Clark's inter-disciplinary Scholarly Undergraduate Research Journal (SURJ) is entering its fifth year. In the past four years, SURJ has published 26 articles that have been downloaded more than 20,000 times around the world. This year, the aim is to continue to publish strong undergraduate research from a diverse array of fields. Every submitted paper is reviewed by a panel of students and faculty members, through a double-blind process. Research from all departments is welcome and encouraged! All accepted pieces will be published in the print journal (released on Academic Spree Day, in April) and on Clark's Digital Commons. SURJ encourages you to submit research by January 21st, 2019. Email [surj@clarku.edu](mailto:surj@clarku.edu) for more information.



Photos: NOAA undergrads showing off some of the projects they worked on this summer

# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

## UNDERGRAD SUMMER RESEARCH

This Fall, three Clark University undergraduates returned to campus after a summer conducting research aimed at protecting endangered species, from the Pacific Arctic to Florida's Gulf Stream waters. Anthony Himmelberger '19, Sophie Spiliotopoulos '20, and Jess Strzempko '20 received summer research fellowships through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in collaboration with Clark's Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise and George Perkins Marsh Institute. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**JESS STRZEMPKO (EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE '20).** AGE AND GROWTH STUDIES OF ENDANGERED ATLANTIC SALMON. LOCATION: WOODS HOLE, MA.



"The scientific community here, which includes WHOI (the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute), MBL (the Marine Biological Laboratory), and the USGS alongside the NOAA NEFSC (Northeast Fisheries Science Center) where I work, is just incredible - I've been lucky to attend a few lectures on fungi and neurodegenerative diseases as well as the history of diversity on Martha's Vineyard. Living in such a beautiful and exciting place as Woods Hole has allowed me to spend my free time kayaking, running, going to the

beach, biking, playing soccer, rock climbing, and so much more."

**ANTHONY HIMMELBERGER (EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE '19).** ASSESSING LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE NESTING ACTIVITY ALONG THE CAPE ROMANO COMPLEX BEACHES. LOCATION: NAPLES, FLORIDA.



"My experience here in Florida has been great - In my first week here I was able to re-release a Kemp's Ridley sea turtle that had been brought in for rehab. This was especially fascinating because the Kemp's Ridley is the most endangered species of sea turtle in the world. They don't nest here, but they do feed while they are juvenile, so we see them out on the boat a lot. On July 4th we had our first nest hatch!! It was very exciting, as we had two baby turtles that were stuck in the nest when we excavated it, so we were able to release them! Other than sea turtle research, I've been given opportunities to go out with other scientists at Rookery Bay to see what they're researching. I was able to join for a sunset bird survey, a water quality testing, and in about a week I will be joining for shark tagging/trawling!"

**SOPHIE SPILIOPOULOS (GEOGRAPHY '20).** IDENTIFYING AND SUMMARIZING RESEARCH: MARINE MAMMAL LIFE HISTORY

TRAITS. LOCATION: SILVER SPRING, MD.



Sophie spent her summer working as a NOAA fellow in Silver Spring, Maryland, on her project, which she presented at the NOAA Student Science and Education Symposium (pictured above in header) in July. Sophie researched the "life history" traits — such as diet, habitat, and migration patterns — of marine mammal species in the Pacific Arctic region.

Quoted in a recent [ClarkNow article](#), Sophie says, "I'm really interested in sea ice and its changing area and extent, and this summer I learned about multiple marine species that rely on that sea ice for their habitat," she says. "For some of these species, there have already been observed declines in population, which is all the more reason to continue to understand and research this region." The internship has led Spiliotopoulos to realize she would like to pursue the fifth-year master's degree in GIS at Clark. "I think the most valuable thing I learned from my experience at NOAA is that no one's path is a straight line," she says. "You can have a plan for your future, but it's also important to be open to opportunities that you find along the way."

To learn more about NOAA, [visit their website here.](#)

# ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI: HAVE YOU JOINED CLARKCONNECT YET?

ClarkCONNECT's easy-to-use platform for mentorship, networking, experiential opportunities and community — designed exclusively for Clark University students, faculty, and alumni. To date, more than 75 alumni from the Department of Geography have joined the platform to help Clarkies make the most of their student experience and help bridge college and career.

ClarkCONNECT is also a great resource that faculty can use to connect with former students and alumni (potential featured speakers), share opportunities with Clarkies, and promote career-related events happening on campus. If you have not already done so, we encourage you - and your colleagues - to join ClarkCONNECT. Visit [clarkconnect.clarku.edu](http://clarkconnect.clarku.edu) to get started!

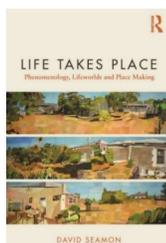
STEVEN YOUNG'S RESEARCH IN GHANA

Steven Young (class of '97) is currently a professor in the geography department at Salem State University (Massachusetts). He spent part of his spring 2018 sabbatical in the Volta region of Ghana with two graduate stu-

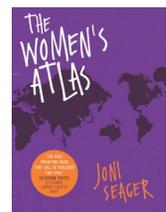
dents investigating the ability of Sacred Groves to protect forest cover.

DAVID SEAMON PUBLISHES "LIFE TAKES PLACE"

David Seamon (PhD, 1978, under the direction of Anne Buttimer) has published *Life Takes Place: Phenomenology, Lifeworlds and Place Making*, which argues that, "even in our mobile, hyper-modern world, human life is impossible without place." Seamon gives particular attention to the generative aspects of place and locates six place processes that he identifies as place interaction, place identity, place release, place realization, place intensification, and place creation. The book's publisher is Routledge.



is about to publish the 5th (and she says final) edition. Now called *The Women's Atlas*, it will be published on Oct 30 2018 by Penguin-Random House in the US, Myriad/ New Internationalist in the UK, and with other publishers in Canada, Australia, Spain, and Japan. The advance rave reviews are in: Gloria Steinem says this is the book "no one should be without." Leymah Gbowee, Liberian peace activist and Nobel laureate, says it "brings women's lives out of the shadows," and Catherine Mayer, co-founder of the UK Women's Equality Party says this is "the most important book that will be published this year."



NICK BURK CO-FOUNDS BLUE OCEAN ANALYTICS

Nick Burk, BA '99 has spent nearly two decades in the Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Profession. He has recently co-founded Blue Ocean Analytics - a disaster management consultancy focusing on resilience and climate change.

Have an update for us? Let us know! Email us at [geography@clarku.edu](mailto:geography@clarku.edu).

Steven Young with colleagues in Ghana





## DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES



WE HAVE A  
NEW OFFICE  
COORDINATOR!

**Matt Cobuccio** started with us on September 4, and he is stepping into his new role quickly in the

Geography office. He hasn't moved too far from where he grew up in Tewksbury, MA. He has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Worcester State University, and a Master of Education focused in Higher Education with a concentration in Student Affairs from Merrimack College. While completing his graduate degree, he was a Graduate Assistant and Office Manager in the Office of Student Involvement at Merrimack, which instilled in him a passion for working with college students and watching them grow through their academic careers. In Matt's spare time, he enjoys exploring Worcester with friends, travelling, and going to the movies. If you haven't had a chance to welcome him yet, please stop by the main office, introduce yourself, and pass along info on any of your favorite Worcester haunts for him to explore!

### GSG RELEASES NEW VIDEO

Have you seen our latest GSG video? [Click here to watch](#), and be sure to check out our other four videos highlighting the following geography clus-

ters: human-environment, urban-economic, earth system science, and geographic information science (GIS) and remote sensing.

### STUDENT OFFICE STAFF:

This year we have 5 fabulous student employees working in the main office:

#### **Sophie Aronow (MS-ES&P '19, GEOG '18)**

Is a 5th year MS student in the Environmental Science & Policy program, with an bachelor's degree in Geography and concentration in GIS. Sophie is interested in using GIS to map and analyze spatial patterns from environmental destruction like deforestation and wildfires. This summer she interned with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to learn about the Brownfields Program, a program to clean contamination, and create informational videos. Sophie is one of our GIS Help Desk Assistants; feel free to drop by and say hello!

**Aidan Giasson (GEOG '21)** is originally from Rockland, Maine. She is a sophomore majoring in geography, minoring in political science, and has a concentration in Ethics and Public Policy. In her free time, she participates in Dance Society and Sisters in Stride. Aidan is interested in how we can use policies to protect and preserve the environment. Aidan is one of the office assistants here at GSG!

**Anthony Himmelberger (ESS' 19)** is an Earth System Science major with a minor in Geography. Next year he will be doing the Accelerated Degree Program in GIS. This summer he interned through NOAA and is currently finishing up his honors thesis research which involves assessing habitat suitability for the Pacific Walrus through remote sensing analysis of Arctic sea ice. Anthony is excited to be at the Help Desk this year, feel free to stop by and say hello!"

**Sofia N. Fernandez-Valdes (ANC '19)** is a Senior majoring in Ancient Civilization who is passionate about studying Roman Iberian civilization. Sofia hopes to become a Professor in this field. In her free time, Sofia enjoys dancing, traveling, and spending time with friends.

**Audriana Esperat (ART '19)** is a studio art major, management minor, and starting her fifth year program in Clark's GSOM. She is our student media content editor here, and in her free time she enjoys painting, gymnastics, and is also on the e-board for Clark's NARAL chapter. Audrey manages our digital content in geography and has designed this beautiful newsletter! We are grateful to have her on our team — look forward to the next newsletter coming soon!



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