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The GSG holds many exciting events throughout the year -- be sure to check our website for updates on:
- Fall 2017 Colloquium Talks
- Atwood Lecture
- Practicing Geography Week
- ...and more!

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. Emails and announcements are frequently sent out about upcoming events, career and internship opportunities, and other important information. Sign up today!

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) to see if it can be featured in an upcoming issue.

“This is my final message as Director of the School of Geography, seven years since beginning the role in Summer 2010. The moment is poignant for me. I care enormously for Geography at Clark. It has been part of me since 1985, and at critical and difficult moments in my life, the GSG has taken great care of me. I have immense respect for my faculty and staff colleagues here, and am constantly impressed by the passion, commitment and brilliance of our students – including when that passion means they disagree with the Director. But this is the right time to step away; leadership gets tired, it is time for new and younger ideas, and it is time for me to have a different rhythm of work and life.

I could fill this final message with a mix of platitudes and fanfare, and indeed it remains as true now as it was in 2010 that serving as Director of the GSG is an honor, that the GSG is a remarkable School, and that against all the odds Geography at Clark continues to be excellent in research, teaching, service, international visibility and societal impact. I have spoken of this excellence often in these Director’s Welcomes. This last time, though, I want to be a little more earnest.

These times remind us of something that can be so easily forgotten: namely that we cannot take anything for granted – nothing. We cannot take the institutions that we hold dearly for granted, and we cannot take Clark Geography for granted. These institutions are most at risk at times of crisis, whether real, perceived or fabricated. Many of us have seen the effects of such risks in real time: economic crisis becomes a rationale for cutbacks, institutions become underfunded, and before we know it they are shadows of their former selves or completely undone. Few economic geographers or development geographers would argue that such “structural adjustment” in non-OECD countries bred new dynamism. In those countries where there was dynamism, this was because cutbacks were accompanied by significant investment in activities where the country had clear potential to excel.

I believe that the same applies to universities. Even in times of financial difficulty, it is important to protect and invest in that which we value if we want to ensure dynamism. This is the case for our institutions and also our people. Indeed, just as we cannot take our institutions for granted, nor should we take any person for granted. Institutions thrive because the people within them are committed to them, enthusiastic about them, and feel valued by them. If this enthusiasm wanes, and people withdraw, so too will the institution wane. Relationships, respect and trust are everything to the viability and vibrancy of institutions and, ipso facto, the viability and vibrancy of the university.

Being part of an institution, as well as leading one, is therefore above all else a duty of care – something I have suggested before. Care of heritage, care of people, care of reputation, care of relationships. At the same, it is a duty to be as good as we can possibly be, especially in the things that we already do well. I believe deeply that the only way forward for Clark, and for Clark Geography, is to be excellent, to respect excellence and to invest in excellence, and to be caring, to value care and to invest in care. That will distinguish us, and only that way will we thrive.”

-- Tony
FACULTY NEWS

DEBORAH [DEB] MARTIN NAMED NEW GSG DIRECTOR
Professor Deb Martin has been appointed Director of the Graduate School of Geography as of June 2017. Professor Martin will serve a three-year term in this position. Congratulations, Deb!

STUDY: CLIMATE, NOT BARK BEETLE DAMAGE, TO BLAME FOR INCREASED WILDFIRE RISK
Professor Dominik Kulakowski was recently featured in a ResearchMatters article about new research comparing the impact of bark beetle outbreaks versus climate on the occurrence of large wildfires across the entire western United States. “The Clark University study points to climate, not beetles, as the main culprit, suggesting new approaches to managing forests and preventing wildfires.”

“The study, published in the journal Ecological Applications, looked at the three-way interactions among fire, insects and climate. Compared to other studies, the Clark research covered the largest area and the longest time period, said Dominik Kulakowski, associate professor of geography at Clark. He co-authored the study with Clark doctoral student Nathan Mietkiewicz.” (Above Photo: Above: Forests affected by mountain pine beetle in northern Colorado. Photo by Dominik Kulakowski) ResearchMatters 11/01/2016. Click here to view.

YUKO AYOYAMA’S NEW BOOK
Professor Yuko Aoyama “recently co-authored ‘The Rise of the Hybrid Domain: Collaborative Governance for Social Innovation,’ which explores a new model of social innovation wherein corporations, states, and civil society organizations develop common social agendas, despite differences in their primary objectives. The book examines various cases of state-market cooperation in education, energy, health and finance in India and elsewhere.” Clark Now 06/06/2017 Click here to view the article.

KAREN FREY APPOINTED TO INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC GROUP
(Photo on next page) Karen E. Frey, associate professor in the Clark University Graduate School of Geography and research associate professor in the George Perkins Marsh Institute, has been appointed by the National Academy of Sciences to serve on the Marine Working Group of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). Only two U.S. scientists were appointed to this prestigious group. ResearchMatters 04/04/2017 Click here to view.

PUBLISHING WITH ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY: JIM MURPHY
“For over 90 years, Economic Geography has played a central role in supporting and advancing the field of economic geography. And as an internationally peer-reviewed journal, they are welcoming both experienced writers and new scholars to publish with them.” Click here to watch the full video featuring Professor Jim Murphy.

Additionally, Economic Geography, is now ranked 3rd (out of 79) of geography journals and 4th (out of 347) of economics journals globally. Click here to view.

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS SELECTED FOR TOP-LEVEL CARBON RESEARCH PROGRAM’S SCIENCE LEADERSHIP GROUP
Professor Christopher A. Williams, associate professor at the Clark University Graduate School of Geography and adjunct associate professor of biology, will join the North American Carbon Program’s Science Leadership Group (NACP), nominated by members of the Carbon Cycle Science Interagency Working Group. Williams also was invited to serve as co-chair for the development of a high-level science implementation plan for the NACP, and he will accept this specific role in addition to his contributions to the Science Leadership Group. “This invitation shows the high regard in which Chris is held in the field,” said Professor Deborah G. Martin, director of the Graduate School of Geography. “His contribution will be a significant service to the field of science broadly and to climate change research in particular.” ResearchMatters 07/10/2017 Click here to view.

[continued on next page]
DIANNE ROCHELEAU RETIRES AFTER 28 YEARS WITH THE GSG

Professor Dianne Rocheleau has retired from her position after 28 years, having taught at Clark since 1989 in the Graduate School of Geography. Professor Rocheleau was honored at this year’s AAG conference in Boston, MA through three sessions, which were attended by a number of her current and past students, alumni, and faculty from around the country. The GSG held a retirement party for Professor Rocheleau after the conference, where many of her former students got to say goodbye. Congratulations, Dianne!

RICHARD PEET CELEBRATES 50 YEARS WITH THE GSG

This spring marked 50 years in the Graduate School of Geography for Professor Richard Peet who has been teaching at Clark since 1967 in the geography department. Professor Peet was honored at this year's AAG conference in Boston, MA through “two sessions on “50 Years of Radical Geography at Clark”, on April 5th, with presentations by geography graduates from across the decades” ResearchMatters 04/21/2017 Click here to view.

YUKO Aoyama, Associate Provost & Dean of Research

“Clark University has named Graduate School of Geography Professor Yuko Aoyama to the position of associate provost and dean of research, effective June 1”. Congratulations, Yuko! Clark Now 06/06/2017 Click here to view.

THE GSG WELCOMES TWO NEW FACULTY MEMBERS: DR. ASHA BEST & DR. LYNDON ESTES

The Graduate School of Geography is thrilled to have two new full-time faculty members joining us this Fall, Dr. Asha Best and Dr. Lyndon Estes!

asha best, Ph.D.

Asha Best is an urban geographer whose teaching and research brings together interdisciplinary perspectives in black studies, post-colonial studies, urban geographies and mobilities studies. Her recent work focuses on urban informality in Brooklyn's emerging Caribbean neighborhoods post-1965. She has a growing interest in aesthetics and urban futures, and is developing a comparative research project around improvisation and urban form in Johannesburg. Asha earned her bachelor’s at the University of Southern California, her master’s at Syracuse University and her doctorate in American Studies from Rutgers University-Newark.

PROFESSOR BEST WILL BE TEACHING GEOG 020: American Cities: Spaces/Places in the Fall 2017 semester. Welcome, Asha!

Lyndon Estes, Ph.D.

Lyndon Estes is an environmental scientist who investigates the drivers and impacts of agricultural change, with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. He conducts his research using new Earth Observation technologies and a range of modeling techniques, and works within inter-disciplinary projects that involve economists, agronomists, human geographers, decision scientists, hydrologists, climatologists, and computer scientists. Lyndon holds a BA in English from Georgetown University, an MPhil in Conservation Biology from the University of Cape Town, and a PhD in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia. Since receiving his PhD degree in 2008, Lyndon has worked as a research scientist in Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School and Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Prior to his academic career, Lyndon spent nearly 9 years working in protected area management and environmental consulting in Southern Africa.

Professor Estes will be teaching GEOG 246/346: Geospatial Analysis with R in the Fall 2017 semester. Welcome, Lyndon!
RECENT PUBLICATIONS


Elisa Arond was invited to co-edit a special issue "boletina" on Feminist Spatialities (Espacialidades Feministas), published by the School for Gender Studies at the National University of Colombia. Professor Dianne Rocheleau also authored a piece for the publication. Check it out here.

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD
Melishia Santiago and Kristen Shake will be in the field this summer again for the Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO) research cruise on board the Canadian Coast Guard Service (CCGS) ice breaker Sir Wilfrid Laurier. They will be setting sail from Dutch Harbor, Alaska to Barrow, Alaska from July 10-July 22nd as part of a long term observation program to research marine ecosystem response to sea ice loss in the Pacific-Arctic region. This summer marks the 5th and final year of fieldwork for Melishia's NSF Distributed Biological Observatory grant. Click here to learn more about Melishia's research and its relevance to this project.

Leslie Gross-Wyrtenz was featured in a ClarkNow article: “Geography researcher presses for more equitable borders”. Click here to view

Laura Sauls wrote a blog entitled “A crash course on the Miskitu language as an inroad to a culture” for her research with the Inter-American Foundation. Check it out here.

GRADUATE FUNDING AWARDS
Edna Bailey Sussman Fund for Environmental Research Awardees:

- Marc Healy: “Applying GIS to Quantify Marsh Dynamics in the Plum Island Ecosystem”
- Sam Khallaghi: “Mapping Marsh Dynamics in Coastal Ecosystems”
- Yu Zhou: “Fusing Aboveground Biomass Measurements with a Biogeochemical Model to Improve Site-Level Forest Carbon Flux Estimates”
- Savannah Cooley (MS-GIS 5th year graduate): “Assessing the Impact of Drought and Evaluating Potential Contributions of ECOSTRESS Evapotranspiration Data to Improve Agricultural Water Management”

Alex Moulton received the Geller Student Research Award (Clark U) for his project: “Managing resources in Jamaica’s Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park.”

Scott Odell was awarded the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) Grassroots Development PhD Fellowship for fieldwork. Project title: “Bridge over Troubled Water: Assessing hydrosocial relations among communities, mining companies, and policymakers in Chile”

Kaner Turker received a NSF-DDRI grant for his research titled “Assembling Community Economies”

Renee Tapp received a NSF-DDRI grant for her research. Project title: “Tax Credits, Historic Preservation, and the Redevelopment of Modernist Architecture in the United States”

Will Collier received a Fulbright research award to conduct research in Kenya for his doctoral dissertation. Serving as visiting researcher and lecturer in environment and resources development at Egerton University in Nakuru, Will is collaborating with faculty and local non-governmental organizations to better understand the intersections of forest governance and agricultural production. Click here to see the ClarkNow article featuring Will.

David Lukens also received a Fulbright research award to conduct research in Seoul, South Korea, for his dissertation titled “Emerging Forms of Urban Renewal: Private Actors and Social Impacts.” Click here to see the ClarkNow article featuring David.

Alireza Farahani received a FURS (Foundation for Urban and Regional Studies) for his work titled, “Learning in development policy and practice: Inequality reduction and regional development in Iran.”

Wenjing Jiang received a FURS (Foundation for Urban and Regional Studies) for her work titled, “Rights to Land, Rights to the City and Rights (Not) to Farm: Politics and Practices in the Transfer of Rural Land Use Rights in China.”

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE
Janae Davis and Alex Moulton were invited to attend Antipode’s 6th Institute for the Geographies of Justice (IGJ) in June 2017.

Ashley York presented work (in collaboration with Professor Karen Frey) on “Regional and individual fjord influences on marine-terminating glacier retreat, Disko and Uummannaq Bays, West Greenland” at the International Glaciological Society: International Symposium on The Cryosphere in a Changing Climate in Wellington, New Zealand, Feb. 2017. Ashley was funded in part by the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences Early Career Travel Award. Click here to learn more about Ashley’s research.

For more doctoral updates, visit our website. Look for the Fall 2017 newsletter to meet our incoming PhD Cohort!
Laura Sauls: Lodgings at dusk, near the army outpost, Tipí in the Honduran Muskitia, April 2017

Elisa Arond: Mural at the entrance to the building housing the Geography Department at the National University of Colombia in Bogotá

Ashley York: Visiting the Hobbiton Movie Set while at a conference in Matamata, New Zealand

Will Collier: Day trip to Kitengela in Kenya

Laura Sauls: Crossing a once-improved bridge between Puerto Lempira and Tipí in the Honduran Muskitia, April 2017 (we had to all get off and then walk across because of concerns over weight!)

Elisa Arond: Another mural near the geography department at the National University of Colombia in Bogotá. The little girl is saying "Now it makes sense to me!"

Laura Sauls: Evening soccer match outside the Health Center, Tipí, April 2017

Laura Sauls: Guatemala, Island of Flores, June 2017

Ashley York: Milford Sound, New Zealand
CLARK LABS GRAD STUDENTS DO RESEARCH IN MYANMAR

Clark Labs is currently working on a project for the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to develop a baseline mapping of aquaculture and coastal habitats in Southeast Asia. Professor Ron Eastman is the Principal Investigator. The project has completed the mapping of Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand using Landsat 8 imagery. Presently, the group is mapping Myanmar. Students working on the project during the spring included, from GISDE, Anam Khan, Erica Moody and Jason Ready, graduating senior Tom Smith, and ADP MSc student Katherine Landesman. Tom and Katherine are continuing this summer along with Erica Issenberg (Senior), Rishi Singh (ADP) and Oyut Amarjargal (GISDE).

In the above photo, Clark Labs Research Scientist, Stefano Crema (right), is seen visiting a Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA) community development project in the Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar.

In May, Katherine Landesman and Clark Labs Research Scientist, Stefano Crema, travelled to Myanmar to collect field data. Katherine’s MSc thesis concerns the mapping of vulnerability of mangroves to conversion to aquaculture. The photo below shows her visiting a mangrove restoration nursery in the Pathin University Mangrove Conservation Area, Ayeyarwady Division, Shwethaungyan Township, Myanmar.

INCOMING MS-GIS 5TH YEAR ADP COHORT, 2017-18

At the close of Spring 2017, 11 graduating seniors were accepted into our 5th Year Advanced Degree Program in GIS (MS-GIS) for the 2017-18 academic year. Here’s what they’re up to this summer for their pre-program internships:

Ali Filipovic (GEOG ’17) – Digital Globe, Longmont, CO - Production Coordinator Intern organizing maps, data and other GIS related work to send to clients.

Saraneh Fitzgerald (GEOG ’17) – NASA Develop, NCEI, Ashville, NC - creating a climatology of sea surface height of ENSO events in the US

Will Heikes (GEOG, ECON ’17) – Worcester Public Schools – mapping projects for the district and select schools to display catchment zones for the school’s websites.

Saira Khan (GEOG, IDSC ’17) – Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Cambridge, MA – working on Program on Resilient Communities focusing on DisasterNet Publications and development of online course on Disaster Preparedness, also spatial analysis of data collected from household level survey in the Philippines.

Anela Layugan (ESS ’17) – Polar Science Research lab, Clark University on a NASA grant that seeks to characterize and quantify changing sea ice in the arctic via satellite remote sensing data.

Isabel Miranda (GEOG, ART ’17) – NASA Develop, Athens, GA site working on earth observations and application areas of agriculture, climate, disaster, ecological forecasting, energy, health and air quality, oceans, etc. to enhance policy making decisions on saving the earth.

Mary Molloy (GEOG ’17) – Johannesburg, South Africa at Peace Parks Foundation – GIS related work and spatial analysis for the foundation

Ed Peluso (PSCI, SPAN ’17) – Civil Association of Equality and Justice, Buenos Aires, Argentina – Caminos de la Villa that creates maps of urban slums in Buenos Aires in order to force state recognition of these places for the public registry.

Daniela Reyes Saade (GEOG, ECON ’17) – Worcester Public Schools – mapping projects for the district and select schools to display catchment zones for the school’s websites.

Eli Simonson (ECB ’17) – NASA Develop – Langley Research lab, MD – no project specified, GIS/RS mapping work

Rishi Singh (GEOG ’17) – Clark Labs, Clark University – mapping coastal habitats and agriculture in Southeast Asia using LandSAT 8 imagery.

For more information on the MS-GIS 5th-Year ADP, visit our website or email Brenda at BNikasHayes@clarku.edu.

Be sure to check the upcoming Fall 2017 newsletter for more grad news!
PRACTICING GEOGRAPHY WEEK

This spring, the School of Geography held its sixth annual Practicing Geography Week from April 17th through the 23rd. With a lineup of seven undergraduate events, including a weekend-long field trip to New York City, students spent the week learning about the many ways in which Geography, Global Environmental Studies, and Earth System Science are incorporated into our everyday lives.

On Monday, the week started with a fun social event: the third annual Spring Kick-Off, held at Goddard Grove with music, snacks, and a cozy bonfire. Later that afternoon, the informative events began with a job workshop led by Professor Mark Davidson, who took the time to share his career experiences and offer tips and individualized advice for geographers looking to stand out in a pool of job applicants. On Tuesday, CUGA held their annual Carmen Sandiego-themed trivia night. A large number of students showed up to compete with their geographical knowledge for an array of prizes, including the grand prize: a rotisserie chicken!

On Wednesday, the Global Environmental Studies (GES) program held a luncheon for current and prospective students to reveal the new and improved organization of the curriculum. Later that day, Leah Penniman (B.A. ’02, M.A.T. ’03); co-founder of Soul Fire Farm, visited as this year’s alumni speaker (read more about this below).

Thursday, Gamma Theta Upsilon held its annual honors society induction for its twelve newest members. Finally, the week ended with a weekend field trip to New York City, where students got to spend three days exploring the city through a geographical lens. Read more about this trip on the following page.

Practicing Geography Week is a lineup of career-focused events for undergraduate students interested in Geography, Global Environmental Studies, and Earth System Science, funded by a generous gift from Peter Condakes, an alumnus and Geography major from the class of 1978.

On Wednesday, April 19th, the School of Geography was thrilled to host alumni speaker, Leah Penniman, for her talk about the Intersection of Black Lives Matter and Food Justice. Leah graduated from Clark in 2002 with a degree in Environmental Science and International Development, and continued on to receive a M.A. in Science Education in Clark’s M.A.T. program. Today, Leah is an educator, farmer, and food justice activist from Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, NY. She is committed to ending racism and injustice in the food system, reconnecting marginalized communities to land, and upholding our responsibility to steward the earth that nourishes us.

Leah gave an engaging presentation and got a wonderful response and a number of questions from the students, alumni, and community members who attended.

Talk Abstract:
“If we are to create a society that values black life, we cannot ignore the role of food and land. The Movement for Black Lives is about ending state sponsored violence against black and brown bodies. While police violence is one manifestation of institutional racism, diet-related illness is also destroying Black lives at unprecedented rates. At this same time, Black farmland ownership is on a steady decline. Soul Fire Farm, Grafton, NY is committed to dismantling the oppressive structures that malign this food system and reclaiming our ancestral right to belong to the earth and have agency in the food system.”
We have trained hundreds of new farmers of color in a culturally-relevant program that integrates ancestral spirituality and trauma healing. Our farm also provides 80 families with weekly doorstep deliveries of fresh farm produce and provides food to incarcerated people and their loved ones through the Prison Bus Project. Join us to find out why Malcolm X believed that “land is the basis of all freedom, justice, and equality.”

A GEOGRAPHY WEEKEND IN NYC
Over the weekend of April 21st - 23rd, a group of geographers departed from Worcester and headed into the big city for the School of Geography's fourth annual New York City Field Trip. These Clarkies headed to New Haven Union Station in Connecticut to catch a train into Manhattan for a weekend of urban geography and city exploration. With Professor Mark Davidson leading the way for the fourth year in a row, students were able to experience parts of New York City through a geographical lens. For some, this was their first time in NYC, but others were old pros. With a great deal of coordination, students participated in a number of group activities, while still having time for their own explorations at the end of each day.

Friday began with a walking tour around Long Island City led by Professor Davidson, ending at the destination of the second annual group dinner at Maizal Restaurant in Astoria. The following day, the group set out in the morning to walk across the Queensboro bridge over the East River into Midtown East, to the Seagram Building to discuss urban architecture and the building's influences on American architecture since its completion in the late 1950's. After breaking for lunch at Grand Central Station, the group met back up to head into Williamsburg, Brooklyn, for a gentrification scavenger hunt that PhD students put together. The following day, the students had the option to participate in the final activity: a walking tour around Central Park. With a full weekend completed, everyone headed back to Worcester with new experiences and new connections.

Thank you to everyone who attended this NYC excursion to wrap up Practicing Geography Week (pictured below):

Eli Baldwin
Devin Clarke
Maria Luisa Escobar Pardo
Koby Gardner-Levine
Jack Hebb
Kaiomi Inniss
Eric Keller
Kyle Pecskok
Andrew Rizoli
Carly Robbins
Yannet Ruiz
Nahrin Sangkagalo
Claire Shapton
Weronika Zawora
Christina Zymaris

Thank you to our chaperones for guiding us through the city: Professor Mark Davidson, David Lukens (PhD Student), and Jacob Chamberlain (PhD Student).

HONORS ACHIEVEMENTS
This past academic year the School of Geography had its largest group of undergraduate students conducting honors research at once -- this spring 19 students successfully wrote and defended an honors thesis, and all received various levels of honors upon completion:

Claire Bayler
Gabe Epstein
Shirin Esmaeili
Ali Filipovic
Saraneh Fitzgerald
Emma Freud
Will Heikes
Madielyn Jacobsen
Saira Khan
Anela Layugan
Isabel Miranda
Mary Molloy
David O'Brien
Daniela Reyes Saade
Savannah Sanford
Eli Simonson
Rishi Singh
Tom Smith
Charis Smuthkochorn

GAMMA THETA UPSILON [GTU]
This spring, 12 undergraduate students were inducted into Clark's Alpha Sigma chapter of the Gamma Theta Upsilon International Geographic Honor Society:

Yousra Benchekroun
Harris Eidelman
Yaffa Fain
Koby Gardner-Levine
Zhaneille Green
Anela Layugan
Katie Luczai
Grant Madigan-Kolstad
Ian Mellin
Daniela Reyes Saade
Olivia Schwartz
Miles Weule Chandler

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS [continued from previous page]
SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY TAKES ON THE UNDERGRADUATE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

Last summer, Professor Chris Williams was named the new director of the Environmental Science undergraduate program, and has since worked with Rachel Levitt (Undergraduate Program Coordinator in Geography) to implement changes and make improvements to the program. With new events, updated promotional materials, and a reboot of the ESSAC student organization in progress, the department hopes to see even more improvements to the program and its three tracks: Earth System Science (ESS), Environmental Conservation Biology (ECB), and Environmental Science & Policy (ESP). Stay tuned for updates to come, including the first Environmental Science program newsletter due to be released in the Fall 2017 semester.

UPDATE: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Over the past year, the Undergraduate Studies Committee has been working on restructuring the Global Environmental Studies (GES) major in order to improve clarity, update courses and curriculum, and increase clarity for undergraduate students in the program. Now, going into the 2017-18 academic year, GES has a new structure, but remains the same in intention. The new program structure of GES includes reorganized Breadth and Depth areas (relabeled as Core and Specialization) in order to create more options and flexibility for students looking to focus in a particular area of the field. The new areas of focus are as follows:

Cores
- State of the Earth
- Natural Science
- Politics & Economy
- Culture

Specializations
- Political Ecology
- Climate Change and Sustainability
- Land and Resource Management

For details for current GES students, please refer to our new program guide (on the GES website). If you are interested in the GES major, contact RLevitt@clarku.edu to set up an appointment to learn more.

SUMMER RESEARCH: UNDERGRADUATE FUNDING

This summer, seven undergraduate students received awards to fund summer research for their various programs:

Condakes Summer Research Fellowship:
Ian Jackson (GEOG, WGS ’18)
Sophia Aronow (GEOG ’18)

Lois & Robert Green Summer Internship Award (UDSC)
Claire Shapton (ECON, GEOG, UDSC ’19)
Katie Wallace (IDS, UDSC ’19)

International Studies Stream Summer Research Award:
Anthony Jreije (GEOG, ECON ’18)
Absar Ali (ECON, PSCI ’18)
Yousra Benchekroun (GEOG, IDS ’17)

Learn about these students’ research in the Fall 2017 GSG newsletter.

If you have questions or are interested in the Environmental Science major or minor, contact RLevitt@clarku.edu.
"Cartographies of Disease" "Tom Koch (BA '71) is pleased to report a new, expanded edition of his 2005 Book Cartographies of Disease will begin shipping in January 2017. The first edition told the history of diseases, chronic and infectious, from the maps made of disease events from the 1600s through 2004. The new edition updates that original work and extends the book with two chapters on Ebola."

**Clark Alumnus Benjamin Reid to serve in the Peace Corps, China**

"Benjamin Reid [BA '14], 25, of New York, New York, has been accepted into the Peace Corps and will depart for China on June 16 to begin training as an education volunteer. Reid will live and work in a community to teach English to college and graduate school students studying to become teachers. Reid will work in cooperation with the local people and partner organizations on sustainable, community-based development projects that improve the lives of people in China and help Reid develop leadership, technical and cross-cultural skills that will give him a competitive edge when he returns home. Peace Corps volunteers return from service as global citizens well-positioned for professional opportunities in today’s global job market.” [06/06/2017 Press Release, Peace Corps](https://和平corps.gov)

**Additional Alumni Updates**

Jory Hecht (BA '02) recently defended a PhD at Tufts University (Civil and Environmental Engineering with a focus in water diplomacy). Jory’s dissertation is titled: “Making multi-stakeholder water resources decisions with limited streamflow information”.

Julie Urbanik, PhD '06, and Connie Johnston, PhD ‘13 are pleased to announce the publication of their edited volume, a human-animal studies encyclopedia titled [Humans and Animals: A Geography of Coexistence](https://abccliopress.com), published by ABC-CLIO Press. Julie and Connie were pleased to have contributors from not only geography, but a wide variety of disciplines, engaging with the geography of human-animals relations.

John Patrick Connors (BA ’06, MA ’07) recently accepted a tenure-track position at Texas A&M in their Department of Geography to begin in September 2018. John was a Geography major, MA-GIS fifth-year, and a HERO fellow.

Gregory Gould (BA ’00) was recently appointed to the Associates management team at Hancock Associates. Gregory holds a BA in Geography with a concentration in Mapping Sciences from Clark University, as well as a certificate in Land Surveying from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. [The American Surveyor 04/28/2017 Click here to view](https://www.americansurveyor.org/

**Careers & Paths of Recent Grads**

Dexter Locke (PhD '17) -- postdoctoral fellowship at SESYNC.org

Alexander Merriam (BA ’17) -- Industrial Security Specialist @ United States Department of Defense, Defense Security Service - Phoenix, Arizona Field Office

John Hite (BA ’17) -- Policy research for the Conservation Law Foundation, helping develop a Zero Waste recycling and composting program for Lawrence, MA.

Madyln Jacobsen (BA ’17) -- Graduate school, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Masters of City and Regional Planning

Gabe Epstein (BA ’17) -- Graduate school, Clark University 5th year ADP in Community, Development & Planning

**Alumni Survey**

Tell us what you’re up to! Please take a minute to complete our brief survey [linked here](https://example.com) About life after Clark. Thank you!

**Alumni News**

"GSG alumna Hong Jiang, PhD '97 -- Chair of the Geography Department at UHM - presents Tea as Culture in Chinese Tradition. 02/09/2017 Click here to view"

**Alumna, Geographer & Author Carolyn Finney speaks at GSG Colloquium**

Distinguished writer, performer and cultural geographer Carolyn Finney (PhD ‘06) “didn’t hide her surprise and delight upon seeing her former Clark University professors” among the crowd that had gathered for the Graduate School of Geography Spring 2017 Colloquium series, on March 23rd.

**PHD alumna presents Tea as Culture in Chinese Tradition**

“GSG alumna Hong Jiang, PhD ’97 -- Chair of the Geography Department at UHM - presents Tea as Culture in Chinese Tradition. 02/09/2017 Click here to view"

**03/28/2017 ClarkNow Click to view (photo above) Professor Jim Murphy (L) with Carolyn Finney after Carolyn’s colloquium talk. Photo by Jane Salerno.**

**Alumnus wins best paper in Journal of Map & Geography Libraries**

**Steven M. Manson (PhD ‘02) co-authored a paper titled “Terra Populus: Workflows for Integrating and Harmonizing Geospatial Population and Environmental Data”, which was selected for JMGL’s Best Paper Award! In the words of the authors, “The goal of TerraPop is to enable research, learning, and policy analysis by providing integrated spatiotemporal data describing people and their environment.” Click here to view**

**Thank you!**

To complete our brief survey [linked here](https://example.com) About life after Clark. Thank you!
Photos from the 2017 AAG Annual Meeting in Boston, MA; find more in our Facebook album. Also be sure to check out the Research Matters article featuring our students and their presented research at AAG here (article written by Meredith King). Click here for the full list of Clark University presenters (search by affiliation, “Clark University”).

01 Yuka Fuchino: “Mapping habitat connectivity for three African Elephants (Loxodonta Africana) in the Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem, Tanzania using circuit theory modelling”

02 Rishi Singh: “Modeling ecosystem services of juvenile trees in Massachusetts using i-Tree Eco”

03 Katherine Landesman: “Vulnerability of Conversion from Mangrove Forests to Aquaculture in Myanmar”

04 (L-R) Daniela Reyes Saade, Tom Smith, and Saira Khan


06 Savannah Sanford: “Modelling urban tree vulnerability to environmental hazards and climate change in Worcester, Massachusetts”

07 Eli Simonson: “Using a Planting Priority Index to select optimal locations for tree planting in Worcester, Massachusetts”

08 Madilyn Jacobsen: “The Impact of Public Transportation on Youth in Worcester, MA”

09 Carly Robbins: “Verification of the Sedimeter as a Turbidity, Erosion, and Scour Sensor”
CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2017!

GRADUATED SENIORS:

GEOGRAPHY
Savannah Sanford
Anela Layugan
S E Weronika Zawora
Mollie Rayner
Madeleine Ohno*
Lauren Mackey
Katie Luczai
Hannah Levy
Jimmy Keogh
Claire Bayler
S G
Dale Watt
Ariel Vaughan
Tom Smith
Rishi Singh
Hannah Romig
Nick Reynolds
Daniela Reyes Saade
David O’Brien
Mary Molloy
Isabel Miranda
Alex Merriam*
Aspen Lengyel*
Thomas LaRose
Emani Charis Smuthkochorn

GEOGRAPHY @ CLARK

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M.S. GIS 5TH YEAR ADP GRADUATES

Suzanne Birdsell*
Moriah Day*
Yuka Fuchino
Erin Glennie*
Kim Johnson
Charlotte Mays*
Sarah Philbrick*
Hannah Rosenblum
Hannah Rush*
* completed requirements Aug ’16

M.S. GIS DEM GRADUATES

Bryan Buttigieg
Thomas Caywood
Michael Endicott
Zhaoyi Fu
Yashesh Joshi
Anam Khan
Tianle Li
Suzanne Meek
Ahna Miller
Erica Moody
Henry Mros III
Tianchung Ouyang
Yuanting Qu
Jason Ready
Qiming Shi
Lei Tang
Samuel Upton
Yixuan Wang
Yujie Wang

M.A. GEOGRAPHY GRADUATES

Bernadette Arawiwiye
Melisia Santiago
Laura Sauls
Kaner Turker
(Awarded en-route to Ph.D.)

DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Lauren Bonilla
Dissertation: “Extractive Infrastructures: Social, Environmental, and Institutional Change in Resource-Rich Mongolia”

Nicholas Cuba

Arthur Elmes

Miles Kenney-Lazar
Dissertation: “Resisting with the State: The Authoritarian Governance of Land in Law”

Dexter Locke

Nathan Mietkiewicz
Dissertation: “Interactions Between Bark Beetle Outbreak and Wildland Fire in Intermountain Subalpine Forests of the Western United States: Legacies and Future Projections under a Changing Climate”

Padini Nirmal

J. Alex Sphar
Dissertation: “Politics, State Power, and Policies: Exploring the Contemporary Nature of Economic Governance Through the Case of Brazil”

Kevin Surprise
Dissertation: “Preempting the Second Contradiction: The Political Economy of Solar Geoengineering”

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Ellen Churchill Semple Award: Yaffa Fain (GEOG ’17); Saira Khan (GEOG, IDS ’17)

Clark Labs GIS Excellence Award: Ali Filipovic (GEOG ’17); Will Heikes (GEOG, ECON ’17)

NCGE Excellence of Scholarship Award: Isabel Miranda (GEOG, ART ’17)

Linda Roth Memorial Activist Scholar Award: Katie Luczai (GES ’17)

The Marcia V. Szugda-Emani Memorial Environmental Scholarship Award: Daniela Reyes Saade (GEOG, ECON ’17)

Global Environmental Studies Outstanding Student Award: Claire Bayler (GES, IDS ’17)

Strabo Award: Ian Jackson (GEOG, WGS ’18); Rose Kendrick (GEOG ’18)

HONORS GRADUATES

Claire Bayler
Gabe Epstein
Shirin Esmaeili
Ali Filipovic
Saraneh Fitzgerald
Emma Freud
Will Heikes
Madielyn Jacobsen
Saira Khan
Anela Layugan
Isabel Miranda
Mary Molloy
David O’Brien
Daniela Reyes Saade
Savannah Sanford
Eli Simonson
Rishi Singh
Tom Smith
Charis Smuthkochorn

GAMMA THETA UPSILON HONORS SOCIETY [GTU]

2017 Graduates

Oyut Amarjargal
Yousra Benchekroun
Katie Bosse
Madeleine Cassidy
Patrick Collins
Gabe Epstein
Maria Luisa Escobar Pardo
Shirin Esmaeili
Yaffa Fain
Ali Filipovic
Emma Freud
Will Heikes
Madielyn Jacobsen
Saira Khan
Anela Layugan
Isabel Miranda
Mary Molloy
David O’Brien
Daniela Reyes Saade
Savannah Sanford
Tom Smith

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES [GES]

Claire Bayler
Jimmy Keogh
Hannah Levy
Katie Luczai
Lauren Mackey
Madeleine Ohno*
Mollie Rayner-Haselkorn
Weronika Zawora

EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE [ESS]

Anela Layugan
Savannah Sanford

* completed requirements Dec ’16

* completed requirements Dec ’16
Congratulations, Class of 2017! Check out some of our photos from commencement ceremonies as well as the GSG Champagne Commencement Reception on May 21, 2017. To view the slideshow shown at the reception, featuring photos of some of our graduates throughout their years at Clark, click here.

01 Kim Johnson receiving her M.S. in GIS at the graduate ceremony

02 Rachel Levitt and Kayla Peterson with Padini Nirmal and Alex Sphar

03 Alex Sphar, Richard Peet, Dianne Rocheleau, and Padini Nirmal

04 Brenda Nikas-Hayes with her family, celebrating her completion of her Master's degree in Professional Communication/MSPC. Congratulations, Brenda!

05 Sri Emani, Ph.D. '01 with Daniela Reyes Saade, recipient of the Marcia V. Szugda-Emani Memorial Environmental Scholarship Award

06 Clark Geography Ph.D.'s in the front row!

07 Padini Nirmal getting hooded by her advisors, Jody Emel and Dianne Rocheleau

08 Will Heikes & Ali Filipovic posing with GIS Excellence Award certificates

09 Jim Murphy and Deb Martin lining up for the procession
Welcome to the 18th year of the Human Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) program at Clark University!

The HERO program this year featured six undergraduate Clarkies who spent eight weeks researching this summer's focus: Greening the Gateway Cities. The theme here involved extending previous analysis of juvenile tree health and stewardship from Worcester to three Massachusetts gateway cities: Chelsea, Revere, and Holyoke. Click here to view this year's Stakeholder Summit presentation, held on July 13th.

This summer, HERO was fortunate to also have two students from UMass Amherst collaborating with the Clark team: Benjamin Breger and Sonny Kremer (pictured above)! We also had three graduate RAs: Arthur Elmes, Zhiwen Zhu, and Marc Healy. The HERO program is co-run by Professor John Rogan and Professor Deb Martin.

Click here to view our first-ever HERO newsletter, containing more information about the program and its current students and alumni.

Meet our 2017-18 HERO Fellows:

- **Eli Baldwin, ’19**
  - Major: Geography
  - Minor: Economics

- **Meyru Bhanti, ’18**
  - Major: Geography & Environmental Science (Environmental Conservation Biology Track)

- **Hannah Corney, ’18**
  - Major: Global Environmental Studies
  - Minor: Spanish

- **Joe Mogel, ’18**
  - Major: Math & History
  - Minor: Geography

- **Miles Weule Chandler, ’18**
  - Major: Geography
  - Minor: German Studies & Asian Studies

- **Gemma Wilkens, ’18**
  - Major: Economics

**Photo Above** (back, L-R): Benjamin Breger (UMass), Miles Weule Chandler, Joe Mogel (front, L-R) Meyru Bhanti, Hannah Corney, Eli Baldwin, Sonny Kremer (UMass), Gemma Wilkens.
Clark University Geography is a space full of passionate students and faculty who perform research that is highly relevant to many political issues and current events. Check out some of our students showing their spirit at local (and national) protests. Additionally, check out this article written by ESS alumni Eric Pasay (BA ’16, MS ’17) about preparing Worcester for climate action, as well as Professor Chris Williams’ note titled “Why I March for Science”, here.

01 Women’s March (Boston); Spring Pillsbury, Hannah Rosenblum, Maria Luisa Escobar Pardo, Madilyn Jacobsen, Ali Filipovic, Kathryn Elmes and Arthur Elmes

02 Signs from the Women’s March (Boston)

03 Women’s March (Boston); Kayla Peterson, Rachel Levitt, and Elisa Arond

04 Women’s March (Boston); some of our graduate students heading to Boston from Union Station

05 More signs at the Women’s March (Boston)

06 March for Science (Worcester); Wenjing Jiang and Ashley York with Rinku Roy Chowdhury, Gil Pontius, and others

07 Clarkies at the NoDAPL Protest (Worcester State)

08 NoDAPL Protest (Worcester State); Ben Fash, Alex Moulton, Jacob Chamberlain, Dylan Harris, Rich Kruger

09 Clark group at the Women’s March in Washington D.C.
Graduate Research Lab CoFERT changes its name to EORS (Earth Observation and Remote Sensing)
The CoFERT computer laboratory (Computer Facility for Environmental Research and Teaching) (pictured above), was renamed this summer as the new Earth Observation and Remote Sensing (EORS) Laboratory.

CoFERT was established in the Geography building in 1997 using gifts from the Culpeper and Keck Foundations, and has been maintained over 20 years through the support of funding from NASA, NSF and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. It supports research in Geography and the Marsh Institute requiring large data sets and advanced computer-based analyses.

The photo above shows the lab's layout with a few of its students: (L-R) Tong Jiao, fourth year doctoral candidate; Ali Filipovic, first year GIScience MSci student; Ashley York, fifth year doctoral candidate; Marc Healy, second year doctoral student. (Pictured below: Ashley York).

The next morning, on Friday, March 17th, the conversation was continued amongst faculty and graduate students during a morning seminar. This was an excellent opportunity to further explore Arturo's talk and his work in a smaller setting. The event enabled discussions regarding his research to occur on a deeper level. This year's Atwood was a happy success, and we thank Dr. Arturo Escobar for his sincere kindness and generosity with his time!

ARTURO ESCOBAR

Spring 2017 Atwood Lecture:
Dr. Arturo Escobar
Last semester, GSG was honored to welcome Dr. Arturo Escobar as our Spring 2017 Wallace W. Atwood guest lecturer. Arturo and his wife Magda stayed with then GSG Director, and friend, Tony Bebbington and they very much enjoyed revisiting Massachusetts. After spending the day meeting faculty and students, on the evening of March 16th, Dr. Escobar presented his talk entitled, “Designs for the Pluriverse: Ontology, Autonomy, and Territoriality” in Tilton Hall. Arturo’s lecture was provocative, thoughtful, and hopeful as he provided fascinating insights into alternative forms of design that offer the potential to make the world more just, sustainable, and progressive. The lecture subsequently sparked a constructive and thoughtful conversation between Arturo and the audience during Q & A; one that continued during the celebratory reception that followed.

Thank you to our 2016-17 GSG student office workers
A huge thank-you to our fabulous undergraduate assistants and for all of their hard work throughout the past year: Lauren Holman, Office Assistant; Will Heikes, Yuka Fuchino, and Saira Khan, GIS Help Desk Assistants!

Interested in applying to work in the Geography office? We will be hiring for Fall 2017, so check Clark Recruiter this summer for available positions.
IN MEMORY OF ANNE BUTTIMER
The GSG recently received the sad news of the passing of Anne Buttimer, a former geography faculty member of the GSG in the 70s, and a prominent figure in international geography. Anne was most recently an Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University College Dublin since 2003. Anne Buttimer is a Fellow of Royal Irish Academy, Royal Geographical Society (UK) and Academia Europaea. She served as a Council Member of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) 1974-77, of the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) 1996-99 and as President of the International Geographical Union (IGU) 2000-2004, first female and first Irish person to be elected to this role. Click here to read more about Anne and her long-lasting legacy.

ABOUT CLARK GEOGRAPHY
Clark Geography was established in 1921 as a graduate program only, and retains the name Graduate School of Geography in honor of its legacy as the longest-standing doctoral program in the U.S. The undergraduate program was established in 1923. In addition to its undergraduate and Ph.D. programs, Clark Geography offers an accelerated B.A./M.S. degree in Geographic Information Science to qualified Clark undergraduates, and, in partnership with the Department of International Development, Community and Environment (IDCE), an M.S. in Geographic Information Science for Development and Environment.

CONTACT US
Graduate School of Geography
at Clark University
Email: geography@clarku.edu
Phone: 508.793.7336
Fax: 508.793.8881

Questions, comments, suggestions, or submissions for the next issue? Email the Newsletter Editor Rachel Levitt at RLevitt@clarku.edu