contents | spring 2015

page 3
Director's Welcome
A note from Jody Emel

page 4
Faculty News
Updates and the Latest Info from GSG Faculty

page 5
Graduate Student News
Updates from Doctoral and 5th Year MS-GIS students;
Updates from the AGU Fall Meeting (San Francisco)

page 6
Undergraduate Student News
Updates from Fall Fest; UG students presenting at the
upcoming AAG Conference;
Updates from Yuka Fuchino’s time abroad in Costa Rica

page 9
Alumni News
Wenjing Jiang’s feature on “The Great Geographer
Songgiao Zhao”; Updates from other alums around the globe.

page 11
Careers in Geography
Michael Solem (AAG) talks to Clark Geography about his
advice for job-searching after graduation; 10 Tips for
Professional Networking

page 13
Updates & Events
Atwood, Practicing Geography Week, and other Spring dates
to mark on your calendars!

page 14
Credits & CUGA
CUGA: Clark Undergraduate Geography Association; photo
credits

Questions or comments about the newsletter? Email:
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Clark Geography faculty, students, and/or staff. Full list of photo credits
and locations can be found on page 14.
*Welcome*

Greetings from Acting Director Jody Emel

Happy New Year! Tony Bebbington is away on a much-deserved sabbatical and will be back in January 2016. I would like to use this opportunity as acting director to write about the importance of geography in K-12 and beyond. Understanding trade patterns, resource conflicts, land claims, political relations, remittance flows, migration patterns, war zones, people’s differing senses and knowledges of the “world”, climate change causes and effects (to name just a few) -- all require geographic and historical knowledge. Histories of various sorts are part and parcel of all educational opportunities in the US, but for some reason, geographies are more intermittently favored.

Right now, the “No Child Left Behind” US federal law (formally known as the elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)) is up for reauthorization. While geography is identified as one of nine core academic subjects in the existing law it is the only one that does not have a dedicated funding stream. ESRI, the AAG, and numerous other institutions and corporations have made a compelling case for the funding of geography in primary and secondary schools. ESRI has even made a $1 billion contribution of software to schools for use in developing geospatial skills among students. The current draft reauthorization of ESEA, released by Senator Lamar Alexander, the new chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, does not mention geography.

I believe it is important for us as geographers to push our representatives to emphasize the importance of geography in educating children to be citizens of the world as well as their own locales. In a world that is witnessing more interconnectedness of markets, climatic impacts, politics and cultures, education should be preparing students for a transversality that will foster understanding and dialogue, as well as, basic geospatial skills. Many object to the regimentation and testing-based results required by the existing ESEA; now is the time to make your voice heard in the public debate surrounding this very important reauthorization effort.

**reminders**

**Condakes**

We are now accepting applications for the Peter J. Condakes Summer Research Fellowship! This Fellowship is made possible by a generous donation from alumnus and geography major Peter J. Condakes (class of ’78) to support undergraduate environmental research. Application Materials are due by 5:00 PM on Monday, March 16, 2015 to Rachel Levitt (RLevitt@clarku.edu).

**Atwood**

Save the date! The 2014-2015 Atwood Lecture will take place on Thursday, March 19th in Tilton Hall, featuring Dr. Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences and American Studies at the Graduate Center of CUNY University of New York. See page 13 for more details!

Questions about Atwood can be directed to our GSG Office Coordinator, Kayla Peterson (KaPeterson@clarku.edu).

**Colloquium**

Spring 2015 Colloquium Speakers:

March 12: Kevin St. Martin, Rutgers
March 19-20: (Atwood) Ruth Wilson Gilmore, CUNY
April 9: Rosemary-Clare Collard, Concordia University
April 15: Amy Glasmeier, MIT

Check out page 13 for additional upcoming events in the Geography department!
2015
Director of the Graduate School of Geography, Anthony Bebbington, was awarded the 2015 AAG Distinguished Scholarship Honors for his "exceptional record of scholarly achievement and policy relevance in the fields of development studies, natural resource management, and sustainable livelihoods."

Associate Professor Karen Frey, was awarded NASA grant to study the impacts of sea-ice thinning and retreat in the Pacific Arctic. See more

Dr. Susan Hanson, Distinguished University Professor Emerita, former Director of the GSG, and member of the National Academy of Sciences has been awarded the Association of American Geographers 2015 AAG Stanley Brunn Award for Creativity in Geography for her intellectual breakthroughs in geography. See more.

Dr. Hanson has also been elected to serve on the Council of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The governing body of the NAS, the Council is made up of the Academy’s officers and 12 elected members, two from each of the NAS’s six Classes, or broad, related areas of science. Council members from each Class are elected by the NAS membership at large.

Hanson is the first geographer to be elected from Applied Biological, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, the Class to which almost all geographers belong within the Academy; this Class was created when the NAS reorganized membership structures some 15 years ago.

The National Academy of Sciences was established in 1863 at the behest of President Abraham Lincoln to provide independent advice to government. Now, much of that advice comes from studies conducted by the National Research Council (NRC), the research arm of the NAS, which was established in 1916. Geographers have long been involved in the work of the NRC and are frequently called upon to serve on NRC committees on a wide range of topics.

2014
A study that Professor Ron Eastman has co-authored was mentioned in the article, Ten Ways Remote Sensing Can Contribute to Conservation.

Associate Professor Chris Williams was awarded NASA grants to study carbon release and uptake in U.S. forests. See the full story here.

Associate Professor Deborah Martin and colleagues, Joseph Pierce and James DeFilippis, were awarded an NSF grant to study governance in community land trusts.

Director of the Graduate School of Geography, Anthony Bebbington, as well as Marco Millones, Clark PhD ’11, Director of the Center for Geospatial Analysis at William and Mary, were invited to Peru at the invitation of the Peruvian government to present the results of their research funded by Oxfam.

Director of the Graduate School of Geography, Anthony Bebbington, was recently inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. See the full story here.

Professor Yuko Ayoama has been awarded an Academic Writing Residency at Bellagio Center, Rockefeller Foundation in Bellagio, Italy. See the full story here.

Be sure to check our website for the latest faculty updates: clarku.edu/departments/geography/newsevents/newsfaculty.cfm
2015 Doctoral News
Juan Luis Dammert had a book review featured in the journal, *Americas Quarterly*, for his review of “Resource Extraction and Protest in Peru” written by Moises Arce. The review comes with a monetary award.

Kelly Kay received an NSF DDRI in December 2014 for her dissertation research entitled, “In Trusts We Trust: Land Trusts, Conservation Easements, and the Growth of Private Land Protection in the United States.” Funding will be for 2015.

Dexter Locke is first author with J. Morgan Grove on a recently published paper in Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy. This paper shows where urban forestry programs are working in Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD, who they reach and who they are failing to reach.

2014 Doctoral News
Nathan Gill came in 1st place ($350) in the graduate student paper competition at NESTVAL 2014 held at University of New Hampshire for his oral presentation entitled “Modeling Africanized honeybee distribution in the southwestern US with PRISM climate data.”

Nathan Gill led the Clark University Geography Bowl Team at NESTVAL 2014 to a 3rd place finish out of 11 teams. The Clark Team only had 3 members total while other teams had 4 members and 2 alternates. In the past 4 years Clark has finished in the top 3, taking first place in 2011 and 2012, and 2nd place in 2013.

Mireya Bravo received the DGSG (Development Geographies Specialty Group) Gary Gaile Travel award to support conference attendance for the 2014 AAG Annual Meeting in Tampa.

Mireya also received a 2014 Inter-American Foundation Fellowship. Mireya will also attend the STEPS Summer School sponsored by IDS at the University of Sussex, UK in May 2014.

Teresa Bornschlegl received a pre-dissertation SSRC research grant for proposal writing for summer 2014.

Alida Cantor received an NSF DDRI to support her dissertation research field work and writing, "Dust storms and dying lakes: Wastefulness, beneficial use, and water transfers in California.” Alida also received a Horowitz Foundation for Social Change Fellowship to further support this research.

Adrienne Johnson received the LASG (Latin American Specialty Group) best PhD student paper award for her dissertation research proposal at the 2014 AAG Annual meeting in Tampa. Adrienne also received a Skills Award for 2013-14 from the Clark University, Graduate Student’s Council.

Ph.D. Degrees Conferred in December 2014
John Lauermann
Oona Morrow
Kangping Si
James T. Thatcher
Luke Trusel

Congratulations!

Be sure to watch our website for the latest student updates: clarku.edu/departments/geography/graduate/student-news/
During the Fall semester, several Clark students and faculty traveled to San-Francisco for the annual AGU conference to present their research. “With nearly 24,000 attendees, the AGU Fall Meeting is the largest Earth and space science meeting in the world. Now in its 47th year, the AGU Fall Meeting is the best place to present your research, hear about the latest discoveries, trends, and challenges in the field, and network and make connections that can enhance your career.

“With more than 1700 sessions, the AGU Fall Meeting’s scientific program spans the Earth and space sciences, offering something for everyone no matter their scientific discipline.”

This meeting offers a unique mix of more than 23,000 oral and poster presentations, a broad range of general sessions, and an exhibit hall packed with approximately 250 exhibitors showcasing new and relevant research tools and services that could help scientists and researchers streamline their work” (fallmeeting.agu.org/2014/welcome/).
Fall Fest

On Friday, October 24th, the Goddard Library was filled with student scholars presenting various projects that they have been working on over the summer and/or in earlier semesters at Clark. Students displayed research posters and mingled with attendees about their projects, sharing their experiences with faculty, students, and staff.

Liam Kelly Fleming shares his research experience from his summer internship with the Oak Hill Community Development Corporation, granted by the UDSC Lois and Robert Green Summer Internship Award.

Gaia Khairina (GES, 15) presents her research on the state of DCR replanted trees.

Michino Hisabayashi (GEOG, 15) presents her research on NOAA’s Sentinel Site Program and Habitat Blueprint.

AAG Conference

This spring, a number of our undergraduate students will be attending the AAG (Association of American Geographers) Annual Meeting, taking place this year in Chicago, Illinois. Students will be joined by fellow geographers, GIS specialists, environmental scientists, and other leaders for the latest in research applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience. This meeting will be held from April 21-25, and will feature over 4,500 presentations, posters, workshops, and field trips by leading scholars, experts, and researchers. The AAG annual meeting has been held every year since the association’s founding in 1904. (Source)

In addition to the faculty and graduate students in our department who attend AAG annually, each year the department supports a select number of undergraduate students to attend and present their research alongside the rest. This year, the following undergraduate students will be attending to present their research:

- Alexander Hayes (GEOG, ‘16) Worcester’s Public Art Spaces
- Ethan Forauer (ESS, ‘15) Temperature Analysis of the Winter of 2013-2014
- Nate Lapides (ESS, ‘15) Using hyperspectral imaging to study the effects of wind turbines on crops in Iowa, USA
- Rebecca Chapman (GEOG, ‘15) Algorithm to Measure Differences between Maps of a Continuous Variable
- Alexandra Knopf (GEOG, ‘15) Connecting Urban Tree Cover Variability and Resident Heat Stress Risk in Worcester, MA
- Erin Glennie (GEOG, ‘15) Characterizing urban canopy cover and tree planting distribution in Worcester, MA
- Marina Khananayev (GEOG’ 15) Examining the positive impacts of an invasive insect species on youth development and empowerment in Worcester, MA
- Hannah Rush (GEOG, ‘15) Mapping replanting: Application of high spatial resolution imagery to measure new tree canopy in Worcester, MA
- Amy Phillips (GEOG, ’16) Urban tree inventory in the Massachusetts Asian Longhorned Beetle Regulation Zone: Integrating field plot, IKONOS-2 and LIDAR data
- Gaia Khairina (GEOG, ‘14) Characterizing Changes in Urban Forest Ecosystem Services Due to Invasive Inset Eradication in Worcester, Massachusetts

We wish all of these students the best of luck with their presentations! Keep an eye out for photos from the conference in the next issue of the Geography newsletter.
“Last semester, I had the amazing experience of being able to study abroad in Costa Rica through The School for Field Studies (SFS). The main focus of the program was sustainable development, so we had amazing classes to go along with the topic such as Principles of Natural Resources Management, Tropical Ecology and Sustainable Development, and Economic and Ethical Issues of Sustainable Development. What made these classes really great was the fact that we got to have some of these outside in the rainforest! With a hands-on experience of learning by doing, students were able to learn in a different style compared to standard classroom lectures. We traveled to biological reserves, national parks, and coffee farms, amongst many other locations, to learn the sustainable (or unsustainable) methods that are practiced throughout Costa Rica. I was only abroad for three months, but from my time there, it has helped me gain a new perspective on how I see waste in my own life in America.

One of my favorite experiences in Costa Rica was the directed research that the students were able to participate in for the last month of the semester. I helped my Natural Resources Management professor with his research project on quantifying ecosystem services in Costa Rican agroforestry systems. This research has been ongoing for the past six years and has been looking at different types of land-uses that incorporate agroforestry. Previous years have looked at coffee farms and forests, but this year, we looked at silvo-pastoral systems (pastures with trees) and determined carbon storage and tree diversity within these ecosystems. My specific topic in the group covered how slope affects above ground carbon storage. Past studies have shown that as slope increases, above ground carbon will decrease due to multiple stressors that are acting on the tree. This can include nutrient loss from soil erosion, but it can also be due to other factors including slope aspect and elevation. As with most fieldwork, everything did not go as smoothly as we thought. Tall grasses would grab at your feet trying to make you plummet to your death (exaggeration) and leave small cuts all over your arms (not an exaggeration). Some parts were so steep I was hanging from branches with no ground underneath me and there was one day that I fell down a hill, took out another person, and went pasture sledding. There were other days that I found more than 10 ticks on me, but the experience itself was worth all of it. It was an amazing project that I had the privilege to partake in and I cannot express how rewarding field research has been for me. I’ll definitely miss the perfect weather and the beautiful people that I’ve met in Costa Rica, but I’m glad to be back at Clark and am ready to take on a new semester!”
“The GSG’s long history of relations with China dates back to 1929, when the first Chinese student, Ms. Liu En-Lan (Class of 1931), entered here as a master student. By the end of 1950s, there were three Chinese young scholars graduating from the doctoral program. Dr. Songqiao Zhao (or Dr. Sung-Chiao Chao, 1919-1995), who later became an influential figure in modern Chinese geography, was one of the three (the other two were Dr. David Kai-Foo Loa, Class of 1944, and Dr. Jen-Hu Chang, Class of 1954). He studied at GSG from 1946 to 1948 and was advised by Professor Walter E. Ekblaw, the editor of Economic Geography at that time.

Before joining GSG, Dr. Zhao earned his bachelor’s degree in historical geography in 1942 and master’s degree in economic geography in 1945, both in China, under the direction of two most recognizable characters in the emerging era of modern Chinese geography—Dr. Co-Ching Chu and Qiyun Zhang. Dr. Zhao returned to China soon after obtaining his degree, and after two years’ teaching geography in college, he started working as a researcher (and more of a practitioner) at the Institute of Geographic Research (today’s Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research) in China Academy of Science (CAS) in 1950, where he spent most of his lifetime until his retirement in 1984.

Despite his early training in human geography, the most contributions Dr. Zhao made were recognized as in the realm of physical geography. Influenced by the regional geographic thoughts in the US geography, Dr. Zhao’s doctoral dissertation “Geographic Regions of China: Their Component Factors and Chief Characteristics” laid the foundation for his later work of identifying geographic regions after the establishment of PRC. A key figure in arid land research as he was, Dr. Zhao was the first to introduce the concepts of “Gobi” and “de-desertification”, and he later started the first geographical journal in China published internationally in English—“Chinese Journal of Arid Land Research”—which promoted Chinese geographic research findings to the world. While Dr. Zhao’s research topics were driven greatly by the national needs of policy and decision making and thus ranged extensively from desertification to agricultural irrigation and to South Asia geography, his geographic thoughts did have shown a consistent philosophy of geography—a combination of traditional Chinese philosophy and modern Western geographic thoughts—, which could be revealed from his pursuit in a “comprehensive physical geography” in land and natural resources research...
...[continued from page 9]

After Dr. Zhao retired from CAS, he compiled his extensive field and library research into a series of publications, including two books published in English introducing Chinese Geography—"Physical Geography of China" (1986) and Geography of China: Environment, Resources, Population and Development" (1994) —both added to his international impacts on the understanding of Chinese geography in the US. He also translated quite a few Western geographic books into Chinese, including Hartshorne’s "The Nature of Geography". Dr. Zhao benefited from his graduate study at Clark included not simply in geographic training, but also in language skills in English, German, and French (the latter two were required for GSG doctoral students at that time), which turned out to be extremely helpful in library research during his writing and translation work. Dr. Zhao worked closely with US geographers after the opening up policy in China, including his colleagues at Clark University. He visited GSG in the April of 1987. Beyond the discipline of geography, Dr. Zhao, among the first ten scholars in Mainland China to visit Taiwan in 1989, was also recognized as a leading scholar in breaking the ice between academic researchers of both sides. In fact, he was chosen in the list because he was invited by another Clark doctoral alumnus working in Taiwan, Dr. Jen-Hu Chang. A geographic practitioner as he was, Dr. Zhao nurtured another generation of geomorphers although he did not teach courses in class. Many of his advisees became well-known geographic professors or researchers in China, and they have passed on Dr. Songqiao Zhao’s story and spirits to the younger generation.

Reference:

More AlumNews

Provost Hai-Lung Dai has named Interim Vice Provost for Research Michele Masucci (Ph.D. ’87) as the vice provost for research. See the full article here.

Francis Lelo (Ph.D. ’95) has recently come into a new role as VC at Laikipa University in Nyahururu, Kenya. Ann Oberhauser (PhD ’88), Professor of Geography at West Virginia University, has been recognized by OECD, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Social Institutions and Gender Index for her work on women’s rights and gender issues on the global stage.

Connie L. Johnston ’13 is a finalist for the J. Warren Nystrom Best Paper award for 2015 (presentation by finalists at the Chicago AAGs). A fund established by former AAG Executive Director J. Warren Nystrom supports an annual prize for a paper based upon a recent dissertation in geography.

Trevor Jones (BA ’05, MA ’06) was recently featured in National Geographic for his work on Mangrove deforestation in Madagascar. See his article here.

Keep tabs on our website for more alumnews:
clarku.edu/departments/geography/newsevents/alumninews.cfm
Q & A with Michael Solem  
Director of Educational Research and Programs, Association of American Geographers [AAG]

"Recently I had the opportunity to speak with Michael Solem (right), the Director of Educational Research and Programs for AAG, addressing the dreaded question, 'What are your plans after graduation?' Fortunately, there is hope (!) and Michael's wealth of knowledge on the topic helps shed light on the process of life after graduation. See what he has to say below." - Rachel Levitt, Undergraduate Program Coordinator

1. According to the most recent “Careers in Geography” informational brochure, many Geography jobs are found in business, government, nonprofit, and education industries. If you could narrow these categories down, what would you say are some common fields/areas that you see geographers getting involved in post-grad?

Generally speaking, graduates with bachelor’s and master’s degrees go into business, government and nonprofit organizations. The AAG has a lot of information on our website, including interviews with geographers about their careers and how they came to that path. This information can be found here.

2. Have you noticed any sort of trend in jobs taken by students graduating with BA/BS degrees versus MA/MS degrees?

One thing that has been noticed is that there are many positions that consider having a Master’s degree a minimum qualification for entry-level geography positions, mainly because most Master’s programs are where students really get into the hands-on learning experiences that tend to shape their interests and refine their skills as geographers and researchers. While of course there is value in the disciplinary and technical knowledge that comes with a Bachelor’s degree, employers do look for people who can write, manage projects, collaborate well with others, etc., which sometimes tend to be a very large part of Master’s education.

3. What do you feel is important for geographers to convey to potential employers when job searching?

It's important to keep in mind that employers may not always know much about geography. Opportunities for students with geography degrees may well rest with employers who have very little understanding of what geography is. The challenge is figuring out a way to convey what you can offer that organization as a geographer in a compelling and persuasive way. You need to learn how to express your skills in a way that a non-geographer will understand and appreciate. For example, geographers could thrive in a position such as a marketing analyst because geographers see the value in spatial perspective, they visualize data in a manner that will help an organization reach their target market more easily, and so on. Offer a new perspective. Make them say, "I never really thought of it that way before"...

[continued on page 12]
“You need to learn how to express your skills in a way that a non-geographer will understand and appreciate. For example, geographers could thrive in a position such as a marketing analyst because geographers see the value in spatial perspective, they visualize data in a manner that will help an organization reach their target market more easily, and so on. Offer a new perspective. Make them say, ‘I never really thought of it that way before.’”  -Michael Solem, AAG

4. Are there any resources you would recommend for graduates to use while job searching? Any particularly helpful websites, job forums, etc.?

Actually, on our website we offer a wide range of recourses for career preparation. We also have a slideshow that features geographers briefly explaining their careers and offering advice. The great thing about this information, too, is that it goes beyond the generic advice and gives a strong context in geography. This can be found here.

5. Do you have any additional advice for geographers heading out into the working world?

Be open. Have an outlook that unexpected opportunities may arise in ways that are difficult to anticipate while finishing a degree — you might have a plan and that’s fine, but there is a wide range of options for geographers due to the breadth of the discipline. You may not know what you’re going to end up doing until it falls in your path. Also, in addition to being able to express ones abilities verbally and on paper, it’s important to also be able to back it up. Create a portfolio of project-based evidence of what you’re able to do and use that to your advantage. Show results of any projects, posters, maps, research, or anything else that’s related to what you want to convey.

10 tips for professional networking

1. “Give as good as you get”. Build reciprocal networking relationships.
2. Cultivate your professional relationships.
3. Set aside time for networking, even if you are already employed in a good position.
4. Get involved with your communities of practice.
5. Generate a good buzz. Strive to maintain a favorable reputation.
6. Mix and mingle at meetings, conferences, and social gatherings.
7. Don’t underestimate the value of personal contact
8. Use new technologies to your advantage...
9. ...but be careful to maintain a professional online presence
10. Everyone should have a business card.

Special thanks to Michael Solem for taking the time to provide this information for us!

Sources used: aag.org/galleries/jobs-careers-files/Networking_tip_sheet.pdf
dates to remember

March 2-6
Spring Break

March 12
Colloquium: Kevin St. Martin (Rutgers), 12:00 PM in Jefferson 218

March 19
ATWOOD Lecture: Ruth Wilson Gilmore (CUNY), 7:00 PM in Tilton Hall (University Center)

March 30 - April 5
PRACTICING GEOGRAPHY WEEK
(full schedule of events TBA)

April 3 - 5
Practicing Geography Week Field Trip to New York City

April 9
Colloquium: Rosemary-Claire Col- lard, Concordia University; 12:00 PM in Jefferson 218

April 16
Colloquium: Amy Glasmeier, MIT; 12:00 PM in Jefferson 218

April 21-25
AAG Conference (Chicago, IL)

GIS Help Desk

Having trouble with GIS? Can’t make it to visit your professor or TA for office hours? Stop by the GIS Help Desk in Jefferson 220 (Main Geography Office) and Michino Hisabayashi (GEOG, ‘15) will be happy to assist you! Her hours are:

- Mondays 1-5
- Wednesdays 1-5
- Fridays 9-11

atwood lecture 

We are happy to announce that on Thursday, March 19th we will be hosting Dr. Ruth Wilson Gilmore (CUNY) Director- Center for Place, Culture, and Politics; Professor- Earth & Environmental Sciences, and American Studies; Executive Committee- Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean Graduate Center. Ruth will be presenting her talk, “Too Soon for Sorry: Abolition Geography and the Problem of Innocence” in Tilton Hall at 7:00 PM. This event will be free and open to the public. Feel free to contact Kayla Peterson (KaPeterson@clarku.edu) if you have questions about this event.

3.30.15 - 4.5.15 

practicing geography week

Join us this spring for our Fourth Annual Peter J. Condakes Practicing Geography Week; a week of career-focused events for undergraduates, developed to give students in Geography, Global Environmental Studies, and Earth System Science a chance to explore various career and graduate school options in preparation for what lies ahead after undergraduate life at Clark. Practicing Geography Week will provide opportunities for students to network with faculty, graduate students, and alumni from our programs through events such as trivia night, a departmental awards and honors ceremony, a guest lecture, a weekend field trip to New York City, and much more! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates, and feel free to contact Rachel Levitt (RLevitt@clarku.edu) if you have any questions about upcoming events.
CUGA is a place for students interested in making a positive impact and for all undergraduate Geography, Global Environmental Studies (GES) and Earth Systems Science (ESS) students. CUGA members are the voice of these students, with representation on the undergraduate studies committee and in departmental meetings. Representatives are able to vote and express their ideas and opinions on various topics that concern undergraduate majors. They also host events, bring in guest speakers of exciting and distinctive careers, and collaborate with faculty and with a variety of clubs and organizations within the Clark community.