The Department of Geography is pleased to share highlights of what our faculty, staff, and students have achieved this academic year. We welcomed another exceptional group of Graduate students in the fall, and we extend our congratulations and best wishes to this year’s Ph.D., masters and undergraduate degree recipients.

**In the Spotlight**

Professor Kevin St. Martin is co-PI on a major NSF grant worth $1.1m entitled "Adaptations of fish and fishing communities to rapid climate velocities."

Kevin has also been awarded a major NSF grant worth $350,000 in collaboration with a colleague at Duke University. This will allow Kevin to carry out research on the topic: "Settling Uncertainties: Regional Implementation and the Emergence of Stakeholders and Ecosystems as Objects and Actors in US Marine Spatial Planning."

Determining how to effectively and responsibly manage the oceans is a complex task, engaging researchers, policymakers, and others for decades. (continued)

(St. Martin research continued)

In response to past and existing forms of oceans management, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is an emerging process of oceans governance that seeks to address current concerns with how to organize and use the nation’s marine resources. MSP is a central component of the US federal government’s National Ocean Policy, and is the key avenue through which the government’s commitment to ecosystem-based management of the oceans will be realized. The marine environment is home to a growing number of users and activities that MSP is working to frame within a new comprehensive planning process. This research will improve understanding of the processes of ocean governance produced within the context of MSP, ones critical to sustaining coastal communities and the marine resources many of them depend on. The focus will be on two key questions: 1) How are communities and environmental actors constituted by MSP practices? and 2) What are the roles of community and environmental actors in the constitution of MSP itself?

If you would like to support Geography at Rutgers, please mail your contribution to us, payable to the Rutgers Foundation, and marked “for the Department of Geography”.

Thank you to this year’s contributors:

- Harbans Singh
- James E. Wiley
- Kent B. Barnes
- Kingsley E. Haynes
- Jianping Xu
- Karen N. Nichols
- C. William Petrics
- Cristian Puerta
- Jacob M. Lewandowski
- John M. Vassar
- John N. Filippelli
- Richard O. Davis
- Elisabeth A. Bennett
- Kamala Brush
- Lucy Davis Baruch
- Scarlet Knight Landscape (gift on behalf of Mr. Michael P. Barr)

Alumni, Keep Connected!

Department of Geography Alumni Directory:
http://geography.rutgers.edu/keepconnected/alumni
The Caribbean at Risk: From Hazard Adaptation to Societal Transformation

The Caribbean islands share many characteristics that put their populations at risk and increase their vulnerability to natural hazards. The region's geographic position and geological situation expose it to hurricanes, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and volcanoes that cause loss of lives and property, disrupt livelihoods, and, in some cases, erase years of development and contribute to poverty traps. These hazards are, however, only the triggers of disaster events; a variety of historic, social, human, cultural, economic, political, and institutional factors come into play and influence differential disaster impacts and losses. This situation is complicated by the uncertainty and surprises associated with ongoing and projected effects of global changes (including, but not limited to, climate change). Understanding factors that influence risk and vulnerability is crucial to identify and promote strategies to enhance adaptation, adaptive capacity, and resilience of exposed populations. The 2014 MaGrann Conference explored factors that influence Caribbean population vulnerabilities and capacities to manage, cope, adapt, and transform in the face of current and future hazards.

The conference, held in May 2014, was organized by Professors Tania López Marrero and Robin Leichenko and included numerous invited lectures (https://sites.google.com/site/magrann2014/speakers) as well as workshop discussion sessions. The lectures and discussion sessions examined factors that influence vulnerability at various scales, identified lessons learned from hazard events, and discussed opportunities for adaptation and transformation. Speakers paid particular attention to successful experiences that have led to positive outcomes in terms of risk and hazard management, while also discussing barriers that need to be overcome in order to promote best practices, enhance adaptation, and facilitate transformation.

This was the seventh MaGrann Conference. The MaGrann Conferences are sponsored by the MaGrann Endowment and the Department of Geography, Rutgers University. Other co-sponsors of the 2014 conference included Critical Caribbean Studies at Rutgers, the Rutgers Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs, and the Rutgers Climate Institute.

more information at: https://sites.google.com/site/magrann2014/home
The Minor in International and Global Studies (MIGS) is offered under the auspices of the Department of Geography in the School of Arts and Sciences, but is open to all Rutgers University Students. The MIGS promotes an interdisciplinary understanding of global processes and relationships between places, while fostering specialization in a particular world region and its language(s). Students will prepare to meet increasingly complex 21st century challenges, including appreciating human difference from multiple disciplinary perspectives and grappling with questions of social justice. Professor Åsa Rennermalm is the administrator for the MIGS.

More information at: http://geography.rutgers.edu/minor-in-international-global-studies

Asher Ghertner, Awarded one of this years SAS Awards for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education in the Assistant Professor category. Asher has passed his pre-tenure review and has been formally reappointed as Assistant Professor in the School of Arts and Sciences

Robin Leichenko has been promoted to Full Professor.

Åsa Rennermalm, Co-Principal Investigator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) grant, “From the Ice Sheet to the Sea: An Interdisciplinary Study of the Impact of Extreme Melt on Ocean Stratification and Productivity near West Greenland”, candidate’s award: $134,087

* Principal Investigator, National Science Foundation Award. “Collaborative Research: Assessing the Impact of Arctic Sea Ice Variability on the Greenland Ice Sheet Surface Mass and Energy”. Collaborators include researchers at National Snow and Data Center, Boulder, Colorado, and City College New York, New York. The award is $295,659 for the period 8/1/13 – 7/31/16


Richard Schroeder, Awarded the Doctoral Teaching Award of the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools. This highly competitive award recognizes excellence and creativity in the teaching of graduate students with an emphasis on pedagogy. Rick was nominated to represent Rutgers at this competition and selected among faculty members from graduate programs at Universities in the Northeast, among them NYU, CUNY, University of Toronto and Yale University. The committee was very inspired by Rick's creativity, commitment and passion for teaching.

Michael Siegel, created the maps for two books that were named in the best 10 reference books section of the "101 Great New Jersey Books List". Titles are “Mapping New Jersey: An Evolving Landscape”, co-edited by Peter Wacker, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, and “The Encyclopedia of New Jersey”.

2015 MaGrann Conference

The next MaGrann Conference is currently being organized by Professors Asher Ghertner and Robert Lake. The conference will be held in late April of 2015. The current theme is "Land Fictions: The Commodification of Land between Country to City." The Conference will explore how land is transformed into a global commodity through financial and technological instruments, as well as the attendant forms of dispossession that such transformations precipitate. The Conference will bring together research on both rural and urban land markets and displacement, and put urban debates on gentrification and financialization into conversation with rural debates on land grabs and agrarian change.
Congratulations to the Geography Undergraduate Class of 2014

Undergraduate Awards & Certificates

Derek Baquero  Andrew Hill Clark Award
Jamie Donatiello  Cartography/GIS Certificate
Donna Gomulka  International Geographic Perspectives Certificate
Jonathan Malpica  Gamma Theta Upsilon

Geography Graduate Student Awards

Ariel Otruba  Graduate Teaching Excellence.
John Mioduszewski  Graduate Research Excellence.
Monica Hernandez  MaGrann Field Research.
Ana-Maria Mahecha  MaGrann Field Research.
Nicolas Vergara  MaGrann Field Research.

Rutgers University Graduate Student Awards

Ben Gerlofs  Graduate School Pre-Dissertation Travel.
Hudson McFann  Rutgers Presidential Fellowship; Graduate School Pre-Dissertation Travel.
John Mioduszewski  Graduate School Dean's Research.
Helen Olsen  Graduate School Pre-Dissertation Travel; Center for African Studies/GAIA Conference Travel.
Ariel Otruba  Graduate School Pre-Dissertation Travel.
Diya Paul  Graduate School Pre-Dissertation Travel; Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative.

External Graduate Student Awards

Ida Ansharyani  Fulbright IIE PhD Scholarship.
Daniel Barone  Stockton College Coastal Research Center (CRC) Directorship.
Michael Brady  International Arctic Social Science Association Travel Grant.
Maria Garcia  Secretary of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Ecuadorian Government PhD Scholarship.
Monica Hernandez  Fulbright-Colciencias Colombian Government PhD Scholarship.
Jenny Isaacs  AAG Animal Geography Specialty Group Best Student Paper.
Divya Karnad  World Wildlife Fund India Research Grant; Rufford Foundation (UK) Research Grant; Chester Zoo (UK) Research Grant; Rolex Young Laureate Finalist Award; Save Our Seas Foundation Research Grant.
Ana-Maria Mahecha  Fulbright-Colciencias Colombian Government PhD Scholarship.
Hudson McFann  NSF Graduate Research Fellowship; Center for Khmer Studies Language and Culture Training Grant.
John Mioduszewski  NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship.
Samiah Moustafa  NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship; University of Tromso (Norway) Training Grant; NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Visiting Scientist.
Helen Olsen  NSF Graduate Research Fellowship; Royal Air Morocco-African Studies Assn. Student Travel.
Ariel Otruba  National Security Education Program Boren Fellowship (Alternate).
Diya Paul  Conservation Leadership Program Conference Travel.
Joshua Randall  AAG Water Resources Specialty Group Best Student Paper.
Eric Sarmiento  Julie Graham Community Economics Research Fund Fellowship.
Deborah Scott  National Science Foundation IGERT Research Fellowship.
Sean Tanner  Julie Graham Community Economics Research Fund Fellowship.
Kimberly Thomas  American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Conference Travel.
Nicolas Vergara  Fulbright-CONICYT Chilean Government PhD Scholarship.

PhDs Awarded

Marguerite Andrews
Mark Barnes
Lindsay Campbell
Laura Pangallozzi
Kavitha Ramsamy
Adam Steinberg

MS Awarded

Joshua Randall