

Geography News 2004

Notes from the Chair

2004 was a good year for Geography at Rutgers. Among other achievements: the department made an exciting new faculty hire; held a highly successful international conference; graduated a record number of undergraduate geographers; registered the largest percentage increase in course enrollments of any Rutgers Arts and Science unit during the past decade; and midwived the birth of a new university-wide interdisciplinary major. Faculty and graduate students continued to garner major honors, grants and publications as well as to distinguish themselves in other ways.



Alex and Olivia Standish enjoying the Geography Convocation picnic

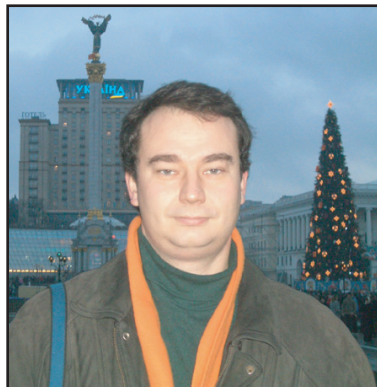
Laura Schneider, a freshly minted Ph.D. from Clark University and post-doctoral fellow at Brown University, was hired in May and joined the department in January 2005. With the addition of Professor Schneider the department will add regional expertise on Latin America and will also be able to broaden existing offerings in environmental geography and the field of geographic information studies.

While Laura is a net addition to the faculty, the number of professors fluctuated in accordance with the schedule of study leaves. In the Fall we welcomed back Professor Robin Leichenko from a semester in Norway

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Witness to a "Revolution"

Gennadi Poberezny writes: "I spent my Xmas season in Ukraine observing the final accords of the "Orange Revolution", which promises to radically change the political and cultural landscape of Eastern Europe in the near future. I was a witness to the last round of protracted presidential elections tainted with fraud and voters' intimidation, which caused a popular uprising and threats of secession. The pro-democracy opposition candidate has won due to no less than the courage of simple people, who went to the streets protesting the abuse of their electoral rights and human dignity. They stood for three weeks in freezing weather peacefully blocking the downtown of Kiev, resolute to face a likely attempt of suppression from the corrupt and inept old regime, of which they had had enough. The most amazing thing to see was the spirit of solidarity and sheer determination on the part of the people who converged to the capital's main plaza from all over the country - at times of more than a million strong - to wrestle justice not as much for their candidate but for themselves. What the Ukrainians have achieved amounts to winning the real independence for their country; it's not just sovereign but it's free. And there was not a single broken shop window! This is arguably the most important event in East European history since the



Gennadi in Independence Plaza

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Geography Department Welcomes New Professor



Laura C. Schneider received her Ph.D. degree in geography from Clark University in 2004. Her dissertation focused on the human-environment relations that affect land-use and land-cover patterns and processes in the southern Yucatán peninsular region in Mexico. While at Clark University she was closely involved in the NASA-NSF funded research project looking at deforestation processes in the Yucatán, with Professors Billie Turner and Ron Eastman, among others. Her specific areas of interest are monitoring and modeling land use-cover change, biophysical remote sensing and ecological dynamics of plant invasions.

Before joining Rutgers, Dr. Schneider held a post doctoral research associate position for a year at Brown University, as part of a new proposed Environmental Change Initiative. Her specific research centered on looking at the relation of land transformation and ecosystem function during the last 200 years in the Long Term Ecological Research site of Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in New Hampshire (LTER-NSF Social Science Supplement: \$50,000).

Schneider received her B.S. degree in Biology from Universidad Nacional de Colombia, in Bogotá. Between 1991

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Notes from the Chair (continued from page 1)

as a Fulbright Program Research Scholar. Robin brings with her a variety of initiatives for international collaboration with scholars in Europe and China on issues of economic globalization and environmental change. At the same time Professor Kevin St. Martin departed for a Fall semester of research and writing on fisheries management and vernacular cartographies.

On Saturday October 16, 2004 the department sponsored "Environmental Justice Abroad", the second annual conference in our McGrann Lecture series. Named after a generous alumni benefactor, this series is designed to explore a different theme each year that will bring leading scholars and students to Rutgers and showcase the talents of the Department of Geography.

During the May 2004 commencement, 23 students received bachelors degrees in Geography. A substantially larger number also picked up Geography Minors. Over the past decade, undergraduate enrollments have been rising throughout Rutgers University. Most Arts and Sciences departments share in this trend but none comes near to equaling the performance of the department of Geography. We are now teaching approximately twice as many students as ten years ago. This suggests that student interest in the subject is at an all-time high, a clearly encouraging sign. However, the burden that this trend imposes on existing instructors is heavy and we hope that administrators will take note of the need for additional faculty recruitments. Without the dedication to teaching of faculty like Professor Roger Balm and a cadre of excellent graduate students who serve as Teaching Assistants and Part-time Lecturers it would be impossible to support the current Geography curriculum.

International outreach is a particular strength of the department with most faculty and many students undertaking significant research and study abroad. Indicators of international involvement were numerous this year. For example,

the President of Poland honored Joanna Regulska with the prestigious Cavalier Cross of the Order Polonia Restituta for her contributions to building civil society in Poland. Papers were delivered at conferences in Dubrovnik, Warsaw, Oaxaca, Ghent, Napier, Beijing, Shanghai, and Winnipeg and a wide range of venues in the United States. Roger Balm served as external examiner at the University of Malta and continues to enhance the department's display cases with deft sketches of exotic locales from his overseas travels.

As a result of leadership provided by several geographers, working in concert with faculty from other departments, a new interdisciplinary European Studies major has been inaugurated at Rutgers. Two of our undergraduate regional geography courses constitute a key part of the core curricular offerings in this program. We look forward to playing a role in the development of a strong area-studies initiative at the university level that builds on our considerable region-focused expertise in Europe, the Americas, Africa and other parts of the world.

External grant-getting was another strength this year. In this respect, Professors Robinson, St. Martin and Regulska were particularly active, accounting for almost \$1 million in new funding during 2004.

On the administrative front, this year the Chair received a big assist when Professor David Robinson assumed the newly created post of Undergraduate Geography Director. Together with Professor Rick Schroeder (Graduate Director) and the Chair this rounds out the present team of administrative leaders in Geography. Of course, Professor Joanna Regulska (presently on sabbatical leave in the Netherlands) continues to do a sterling job as Chair of the Women's and Gender Studies Department. As recognized by the university's Pay for Performance program, the department also continues to receive invaluable support from our

professional staff. A big vote of thanks goes to Elaine Gordon, Betty Ann Abbatemarco, Michelle Martel and Mike Siegel.

Faculty, staff and students were important contributors to the wildly successful Encyclopedia of New Jersey. Professors Pete Wacker (Emeritus) and David Robinson served on the editorial board. Mike Siegel (Staff Cartographer) drew the Encyclopedia's many maps. Others, contributed individual articles. In this respect Bob Hordon's 31 entries head the list. Judged by the number of people who chose the Encyclopedia as a year-end gift as well as its prominence in area bookstores and on highway billboards, it may now be the best-known of all faculty publications. Based on this precedent the department is now exploring the possibility of creating a companion Atlas of N.J.

In the midst of all the hard work that goes on here, there is still time for recreation and relaxation. Both were featured at the Fall Convocation which was held on a glorious September Sunday at the Log Cabin on the fringes of Helyar Woods. The year was rounded out by a convivial Winter Solstice Party.



Katie Siegel, Anna St. Martin, and Luke Schroeder enjoying the fluorescent rock display room in the Geology Museum during the Winter Solstice Party

These are the sorts of gatherings that allow for reconnections among the various strands of the Rutgers Geography community. Alumni and friends of the department are always welcome. If you did not make it this year, please let us know to include you in our invitations for 2005.

– Ken Mitchell

Faculty News

Roger Balm writes: "I spent most of the summer in Guatemala, Central America, initially based in the town of Antigua in the western highlands. In late July and August I made excursions to Quiriguá and Copán (Honduras) to make some drawings of the spectacular Maya stelae at the local archeological sites.



Sketch of Stela N, Copan (Honduras)

It was sweaty and buggy but somehow all the better for that. The trip was rounded out with a brief stay at Livingston, Guatemala, on the Caribbean coast followed by a return journey by boat along the Rio Dulce. I continue my research interests in expeditionary art and have recently submitted three entries for an updated edition of the Oxford Companion to Exploration."

Michael Greenberg writes: "Professionally: Funded again by U.S. Department of Energy to work on risk-related issues at former nuclear weapons sites; working on brownfield and neighborhood redevelopment issues in Plainfield, Elizabeth, and Franklin Townships. Conducting surveys about Americans' interest in environmental protection. Continue to be social science editor for *Risk Analysis*, and environmental editor for *American Journal of Public Health*.

Family: I now have five grandchildren."

Briavel Holcomb is serving as the coordinator of the Humphrey Fellow program which brings mid career professionals from developing countries to Rutgers for a year of professional development. Several of the fellows attended geography's convocation picnic in September and the "Environmental Justice Abroad conference in October. On a personal note, she became a granny for the second time when Wyatt Owen Cummings was born on October 7.

Robert Hordon writes that he "has been delving into the explosive growth of bottled water in the U.S. as part of the research for his Drinking Water course.

For example, bottled water sales in the U.S. rose 142% from almost 2.5 billion gallons in 1992 to over 6 billion gallons in 2002. Using the same 11-year period from 1992 to 2002, per capita consumption increased over 119% from 9.8 gallons to 21.5 gallons.

This growth has continued even though bottled water is much more expensive than regular tap water. On the Rutgers campus, a standard bottle of Dasani at \$1.00 works out to \$6.60/gallon which is 3 times greater than gas at the pump.

Maybe we should think of training some of our majors to become "water sommeliers" at fashionable restaurants if market conditions continue in this fashion."

Robin Leichenko writes: "This past year has been filled with a lot of international travel including trips to Norway, Sweden, UK, China, and Costa Rica. I spent the first half of 2004 in Norway on a Fulbright Research grant. My work on the Fulbright entailed collaboration with Dr. Karen O'Brien of the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo (CICERO) on a study of vulnerability to climate change and globalization in India and southern Africa. Based on this research, Dr. O'Brien and I are currently working on a book titled, "Double Exposure: Global Environmental Change in an Era of Globalization", to be published by Oxford University Press.



Robin and family in Norway

My sons Henry and Charlie really enjoyed the Norway trip and are eager for another overseas stay. Their mother, however, would prefer to wait until they are a little bit older before another family adventure abroad. The picture from Norway was taken by my husband Chris (who is also eager for another trip abroad)."

Ken Mitchell had a busy summer and fall in places as far apart as China, New Zealand, Canada and Europe. In late May and early June he visited Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai and a variety of other places in the provinces of Shanxi and Hebei (Peoples Republic of China).

The first half of the trip was sponsored by the PRC's Ministry of Civil Affairs and included a two hour address about US perspectives on hazard management to leaders of the Chinese provinces, a study visit to the earthquake-recovered city of Tangshan and a tour of flood-prone areas of the Wei river valley. Later Ken joined Robin Leichenko, Bill Solecki, Harbans Singh and other current or former Rutgers faculty and alumni at an international conference on urbanization and global change hosted by the geographers of East China Normal University in Shanghai. Memorable experiences included meeting disabled survivors of the 1976 Tangshan earthquake, viewing the Bund and the spectacular highrises of Pudong from the deck of an evening Shanghai ferry, riding the Maglev train at 270 mph, sampling the end (or the beginning) of the Silk Road in Xi'an, and speeding through Beijing in a UN ambassadorial limousine accompanied by the Berkeley-trained geographer who heads the World Food Program office in China.



Ken with some of the Terra Cotta army at Xi'an

During July Ken journeyed to New Zealand to present the keynote address at the International Symposium sponsored by the government of New Zealand to introduce their new holistic policy on post-disaster recovery. This took place in Napier, a city of about 50,000 that was the site of the country's worst natural disaster in 1931 and now bills itself as a world center of Art Deco architecture, all of which was installed after a massive earthquake had reduced the place to ruins. Not to be outdone by history, the North Island managed to come up with a flurry of earthquakes and a 100 year flood while Ken was there. The accompanying landslides served both to block his intended travel routes and to provide a real-time window into how New Zealand copes with disaster.

In August Ken's trail of disaster experiences continued in an unusually wet and windy British Isles as the dying stages of former hurricanes Bonnie and Charley made their way across the Atlantic. On three successive days there occurred: a spectacular flash flood in Boscastle, Cornwall, an unprecedented urban flood in Londonderry, Northern Ireland and a pair of massive landslides in central Scotland, all of which required evacuations of victims and controversies over existing public policies.

During the Fall Ken testified about the next decade of federal investments in hazards reduction before the Disasters Roundtable of the National Research Council in Washington, DC and addressed the inaugural conference in Winnipeg of Canada's new nationwide hazards information network.

Frank Popper writes: "In the fall 2004 term, as in the fall 2001 and 2003 ones, I and my wife Deborah Popper, MA 1987 and PhD 1992, are visiting professors at the Princeton Environmental Institute at Princeton University. Our Buffalo Commons work on the land-use future of the Great Plains continues. For instance, in October 2003 the Buffalo Commons was the subject of a favorable column by *New York Times* op-ed writer Nicholas Kristof. In February 2004 we spoke at a forum at Kansas State University together with former Kansas governor Mike Hayden. In the late 1980s, as governor, he had been one the fiercest opponents of our work. ("Tell the Poppers that the Great Plains do not equal the Sahara," he often said in public.) Now, however, he agrees with us and says that, if anything, we underestimated the magnitude of the Plains' difficulties. In December 2004 we spoke at Stanford University. I am on the governing boards of the American Planning Association, the Frontier Education Center and the Great Plains Restoration Council and the editorial board of *Housing Policy Debate*. Deborah is on the governing board of the American Geographical Society and the Frontier Educational Center. Deborah is a professor at the College of Staten Island/City University of New York."

David Robinson writes: "This past year has been both hectic and rewarding. Seems I start all of my newsletter messages in this manner. I've taught four classes over the past two semesters, including Earth Systems twice, Climate Change, and the Geography of New Jersey. The latter was my first attempt to fill the huge shoes of Pete Wacker, with his treasure trove of Garden State knowledge. I tried.....and enjoyed it immensely. I've assumed the role of undergraduate director for the first time in over a decade. A significant evaluation of the

curriculum is underway. On the research front, I continue to explore global snow cover, with grants of late from NOAA and NASA. My Global Snow Lab has been named a component of the National Climatic Data Center's Applied Research Center. As such, I am responsible for maintaining an active archive of snow cover information for use in national and global (e.g. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) assessments of climate variability and change (<http://climate.rutgers.edu/snowcover>). A forthcoming NOAA grant has me continuing studies of snow and hydrology in arctic river basins with colleagues at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and Cal State Los Angeles. Other projects involve colleagues at the University of Delaware, the University of Georgia and Hunter College (with RU alum Allan Frei). Over the past 18 months, I have also had the honor of chairing a National Research Council committee that has recently produced a report regarding climate data records from operational satellites. I also sit on the American Meteorological Society's Applied Climatology committee, and NOAA's Integrated Surface Observing System advisory committee.

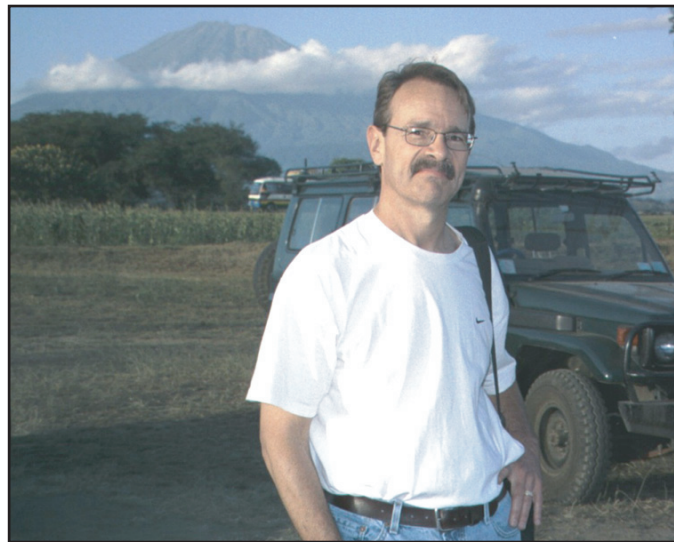
My recently completed term as president of the American Association of State Climatologists was most rewarding. So too is the progress seen in the development of the NJ Weather and Climate Network (<http://climate.rutgers.edu/njwxnet>). Support for the network presently comes from the NJ Office of Emergency Management (in cooperation with grad student Mariana Mossler), the NJ Department of Transportation and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Considerably more support is needed to develop and maintain the network, so if you know anyone with deep pockets and an interest in the health and safety

of NJ's 8.5 million citizens... Please also visit the recently improved state climate office web site (<http://climate.rutgers.edu/stateclim>). While I refuse to get older, my sons certainly do, and they never fail to remind me that my hair color is changing. Doug is a freshman meteorology major at Millersville University in PA and Drew is a high school sophomore. We all remain involved in Scouts, with Doug becoming an Eagle last year and Drew a step away from reaching this milestone. The family continues to enjoy our annual vacations on Cape Cod. This past summer found Drew and I attending a national scout high adventure camp in the Florida Keys, playing "survivor" on an isolated Key for a very hot, humid week. This forever confirmed my love of cold and snow!

Laura Schnieder (con't from page 1) and 1993 she worked at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute primarily studying ecology of social insects in Barro Colorado Island in Panama. Before starting her Ph.D. at Clark University she worked at the Center for Energy and Environmental Studies at Princeton University (currently Princeton Environmental Institute) examining ways to evaluate and quantify the potential of above ground-plant biomass production in Northeastern Brazil through the use of ecological models and GIS tools.

At Rutgers, she is interested in continuing her research on the effects of plant invasions on the spatial configuration of the landscape and the linkages with land management practices in rural areas of Latin America. She is also carrying on with her research with LTER Hubbard Brook. She is very much looking forward to interacting with colleagues, graduate and undergraduate students in the department.

Rick Schroeder spent much of May and June 2004 studying Swahili in Arusha, Tanzania, where he will be based with his wife, Dorothy Hodgson, a Rutgers anthropologist, and sons, Luke (7) and Toby (almost 4), for a year beginning July 2005. His new research will focus on the dramatic rise of South Africa



Rick near Mt. Meru, in Arusha, Tanzania

as a regional economic power in Africa in the post-apartheid era. In little over a decade since the majority government was elected in South Africa, South African

firms have acquired major and often controlling interests in Tanzania's largest bank, the national airline, the national brewery, the national electric utility, major hotels, gold and gemstone mines, hunting and photographic safari companies, cellular telephone service, agro-processing facilities, retail food and grocery outlets, and countless other smaller businesses offering South African goods and services. The fact that many of the South African firms involved are run by white Afrikaners has been the source of considerable controversy in Tanzania, which was once one of the staunchest opponents of the apartheid regime.

Closer to home, Rick is working with Marla Emery, a former PhD student in the department, and first year PhD student, Elizabeth (Za) Barron, on a project investigating the political ecology of morel mushroom harvesting in two national parks in the Washington, DC area. This project, which is centered on Za's PhD research, came about as a result of the "Political Ecology at Home" conference Rick and Kevin St. Martin organized in the spring of 2003, at which Marla was one of the guest speakers. The proceedings of that conference are due out in two special journal issues, the first in *Environment and Planning A*, and the second in *Geoforum*, both to be published sometime later this year.

Kevin St. Martin writes: "Bonnie McCay (Human Ecology) and I continue to work together on a number of related projects that we refer to as the Rutgers Fisheries Project. Several projects are National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA) funded and focus on the development of methods for assessing fishing communities, assessments of communities, and producing baseline information for future social science endeavors and fisheries management impact analyses. Results from these projects were presented during the last 18 months by project members at the Society for Applied Anthropology meeting, the AAG annual meeting, Rethinking Marxism, and the International Association for the Study of Common Property meeting (last August in Oaxaca!). Results can also be found in at least three recently accepted articles by

myself in *Geoforum*, *Environment and Planning A*, and *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism*.

In addition to the projects above, Bonnie and I have been awarded two related National Science Foundation grants to study the integration of local (fishermen's) environmental knowledge into fisheries science and management. This social study of science project moves our work beyond studies of fishing communities to an examination of the processes of fisheries science and management itself. The project is coordinated with the dissertation work of Teresa Johnson here at Rutgers as well as a parallel research project in Europe funded by the European Union. The research for these projects is well underway (e.g. Teresa and I have done many interviews with fisheries scientists, managers, and fishers) and will run for three years.

Finally, last spring I was invited to participate in two European workshops related to fisheries and marine resource management. The first was on the spatial planning of the North Sea (Gent, Belgium) where my input focused on the integration of fishing communities into the planning and management of marine resources. The second was to an ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Seas) workshop (held in Lowestoft, UK) on fisheries science and management where Bonnie McCay, Teresa Johnson, and I presented our NSF funded work on fishermen's knowledge and its relationship to management in the Northeast US."

Peter Wacker writes: "He is happily ensconced in his burrow (B 242) in Lucy Stone Hall willing to vouchsafe entrance to any and all. Emeritus aint bad - better than "Demeritus."

Daily pecking away at his keyboard, he has completed (more or less) seven chapters of a work on New Jersey's cultural landscapes in existence by ca. 1820. Travel took him and his wife to Hawaii in January, northern Spain in May and Venice, Croatia, Montenegro and Corfu, on a small cruise vessel along the Dalmatian coast, in September. Beautiful weather and stunning natural and cultural landscapes. A smaller vessel just about made it up and down the Po to visit the wonderful cities of Verona, Mantua, Parma and Ferrara. Don't believe everything you've heard about Lucretia Borgia!"



Two photographs from Verona. On the left, a tourist attraction called "Juliet's balcony". On the right, in the same courtyard, are some declarations of love posted on the wall.

Graduate Student News

Paul Boyd has written a book entitled *Atlantic Highlands: From Lenape Camps To Bayside Towns*. The work is published by Arcadia.

Sandra Baptista writes:

"My dissertation project is entitled "Forest Turnaround, Suburban Sprawl, and Environmental Injustice in Southern Brazil". I conducted my fieldwork in Brazil from September 2003 to June 2004. My project examines landscape transformations and social relations in Florianopolis, a rapidly urbanizing coastal municipality in Santa Catarina state in southern Brazil. I am studying the historical dynamic between forest cover change and suburban sprawl at the scale of the municipality. At the neighborhood level, I am conducting research on real estate development and issues of access to environmental amenities. My research methods include interviews, archival research, participant observation, visual interpretation of aerial photography, land-use field surveys, and the construction of a GIS database."



Conversions from pasture to urban and suburban land uses support the influx of migrants as well as the tourist economy on Santa Catarina Island.

Gwanyong Choi writes: "I recently presented a poster at the national meeting of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), Seattle in January 2004 about "Changes of Seasonality and Phenological Cycles in Korea (Gwanyong Choi, Won-Tae Kwon, David A. Robinson)", which was spotlighted by the Bulletin of the AMS. I attended the 2004 Spring Conference

of the Korean Geographical Society to present two papers in Gongju, Korea at the end of May. I was also invited for seminars and advice as a specialist by the Climate Research Laboratory, Korean Meteorological Administration in Seoul, Korea in June, 2004. One of my papers on "Impacts of strong heat index on increased mortality, Seoul Korea (1991-2000)" was recently accepted to the Korean Journal of Preventive Medicine, after it was headlined in one of major newspaper in Korea, Hangyore newspaper (1st page, July 22, 2004).



Professor Hee-Yeon Lee and Gwanyong at the IGU Conference in Glasgow, Scotland

In August 2004, I attended the 30th Congress of International Geographical Union in Glasgow, UK to present a paper on "Multi-Urban Heat Islands in Seoul, Korea". I am planning to conduct my dissertation research this year 2005, based on supervision from Dr. David A. Robinson."

Chuck Colvard has forsaken physical geography and has taken a job as a research scientist with the NJ Department of Human Services in Trenton. Among other things, he is using GIS to help identify communities at risk for child abuse and neglect and his work is supporting the reorganization of children's services statewide. However, Chuck's biggest news is on the family front. After about 18 months of waiting, he and his wife, Susan, have finally received an adoption referral including a photo of their new 13-month old daughter, Madeline Chuan Jie (a.k.a.,

cutest girl in China). Maddie currently



Madeline Chuan Jie

resides at Fuzhou Social Welfare Institute in Jiangxi Province, about 200 miles NNW of Hong Kong. At this writing, her parents are frantically finishing her nursery as they await travel authorization to pick her up sometime in late February.

Michael Davenport writes: "Over the summer, I was hired by the NJDEP's Endangered and Nongame Species Program as a Wildlife Data Specialist where the bulk of my workload involves GIS mapping and habitat suitability analysis for NJ's endangered, threatened, and special priority species. Thanks to an e-mail from Rick Lathrop with this job announcement, I'll be completing my Masters degree this winter (hopefully) already employed full-time doing exactly what I came to Graduate school for. Thus, I've made a successful transition from a 6-year career as a paralegal to now being a GIS professional. Besides the GIS-based research which will constitute the bulk of my work, I'm also occasionally asked to assist the program's biologists in their survey work, which is extremely exciting and fulfilling (despite the minor drawbacks of getting drenched or bitten by hordes of ticks). And if that doesn't fulfill my nature quota, I will also be volunteering at the aquarium where I had worked while I was a Grad student."

Gennadi Poberezny (con't from page 1) collapse of the Soviet Union; I would say that the revolution has actually put my native country on the mental map of the world. I felt very proud to be Ukrainian and identify with people whose idea of revolution basically was to demand that their rights are protected, and the law is respected, not violated."

Alumni News

Anthony Brazel has reached 30 years of professorship at Arizona State University in the Dept of Geography. He has been over that time a Laboratory Directory of Climatology, Chair of the Dept of Geography, Associate Dean in the Graduate College, and Director of the Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy (EPA) at ASU. He currently is performing research on the Central Arizona and Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research NSF project studying urban climatology and a team member of the Climate Science team as part of a new grant called Decision Center for a Desert City - an NSF grant on decision making under climate uncertainty.

Allan Frei is an Assistant Professor at Hunter College, City University of New York, and is a member of the faculty of the CUNY Graduate Program in Earth and Environmental Sciences. He teaches a variety of courses, including Weather and Climate, Earth Systems Science, Multivariate Statistics, and Environmental Modeling. He continues to do research in the area of climate variations, cryosphere, and hydroclimatology. On the personal side, Allan got married this year and lives with his wife Astri in New York City.

Arthur Getis retired this past May from the Geography Department at San Diego State University where he held a chair in geographical studies. He was recently designated Distinguished Professor of Geography and received the AAG award for distinguished scholarship. His academic career can be roughly divided into thirds -- Rutgers, Illinois, San Diego State. He continues to be Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Geographical Systems and to do research on spatial analysis and the spatial transmission of disease. He can be reached at: getis5135@yahoo.com

Benjamin Hassid found mapping work with NJ Transit in Newark, NJ. He used his mapping skills in maintaining the hundreds of bus routes that traverse the streets of suburban NJ. Thereafter, he moved to Los Angeles working in the rug industry, and is now an agent with a commercial broker company in Manhattan. Benjamin uses his good sense of direction in directing his clients to the most appropriate locations.

Judith Monte

Pete Wacker is very sorry to report that one of our graduates Judith Monte, was seriously injured in an automobile accident on July 7th. in northwestern China. Judy was on a map collecting expedition sponsored by the State Department. We certainly hope for a complete recovery, especially as there may be one or two places in the world where Judy hasn't been! This year she did make it to Taiwan, Indonesia, East Timor, and Brunei before the China trip. Best to you, Judy.

James Van Schoick writes: "It's been about 6 months here at Navteq, and things are going really well. Navteq is a digital mapping company that focuses on navigation systems in cars, with numerous other applications that have involved government, and commercial enterprises (Mapquest included). We drive around using GPS units to verify every road, point of interest, turn restriction, and driving maneuvers, all of which have an accuracy of up to 3 meters. We have field offices all over the country and a bunch of offices in the area that could be prime targets for Rutgers seniors interested in cartography. Dimitry Sharlot, who graduated a year before me at RU, works in my office as well, so it's definitely a prospect for any Geography majors. There are usually job postings on our website: www.navteq.com It's definitely a cool thing that I have been able to get this job and apply all the stuff I have learned".

Bert Weg writes: After graduating Cook College in May 2001 I did some traveling and then joined the Marine Corps Reserves. I came home from Iraq in the summer of 2003, did some more traveling, and began working for Westwood One where I'm now a producer for Shadow Traffic.

James Wiley writes: "I was in Panama in October, traveling on a small cruiseship as a guest lecturer for the American Geographical Society while going across the southern Caribbean to Trinidad.

Basically, my updated information is rather minimal. I am an Associate Professor of Geography at Hofstra, where I am in my 14th year of teaching. Over the past few years, I have served as Chairperson of the Department of Economics and Geography, Director of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Director of the Hofstra-in-Australia program, through which, with a colleague, I have taken students to Australia on three occasions thus far. Research-wise, I have moved on from the banana trade dispute issue to more broadly consider the situation encountered by small island countries in a globalizing world economy. This project took me to Samoa and Tonga last summer, with the possibility of going to Mauritius and Seychelles during the summer of 2005."

Lisa Windham writes: "I've been an assistant professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA) since 2000, but have just now moved back to California. I got married in October, and am now Lisa Windham Myers, so professionally, I'll be working for the USGS in Menlo Park, CA and teaching as an adjunct at Stanford University. All's well, and I hope to see a copy of the newsletter so I can hear what's happening with everyone else."

McGrann Lecture Series

The department has sponsored two prominent events as part of our new McGrann Lecture series. Named after a generous alumni benefactor, this series is designed to explore a different theme each year and bring leading scholars and students to Rutgers. The events to date have been conferences focused on two emerging and complementary themes within geography. The first conference (Spring 2003) was titled "Political Ecology at Home" and focused on new political ecology research in North America, work that builds upon the insights of a primarily third world political ecology tradition.



Participants in the 2003 conference, "Political Ecology at Home"

The second conference (Fall 2004) was titled "Environmental Justice Abroad" and highlighted new work that takes the lessons learned from the environmental justice movement in North America and applies them to critical cases in the third world. Rick Schroeder, Kevin St. Martin, and graduate students Kate Albert and Bradley Wilson organized and participated in the



Participants in the 2004 conference, "Environmental Justice Abroad"

conferences. Both events attracted presenters and attendees from throughout North America, including representatives from national research funding organizations. The conferences were well attended and productive; they sparked the exchange of ideas amongst participants and have led to forthcoming publications in prominent journals. For example, Rick Schroeder and Kevin St. Martin are guest editing a special issue of *Geoforum* that will contain papers from the first conference, a related special issue of *Environment and Planning A* will soon be published, and there is a tentative agreement to produce a special issue of *Society and Natural Resources* based on the second conference. The enthusiasm generated by the conferences and the productive outcomes suggest that the McGrann series is and will continue to be an important catalyst for the department, faculty, and graduate students. Many thanks to the McGrann foundation and the many people who helped make the first two events of this series so successful!

Computing News

During the summer of 2004 the Geography Department's Graduate/Research lab was updated with new computers and printers using funds from a Advisory Committee for Instructional Computing (ACIC) Grant. Eight new Windows XP computers were purchased with flat panel displays and cd/dvd burners. This year, the Department purchased 100 user licenses for ArcGIS, and 23 licenses for IMAGINE, allowing more users in the Department to run either at any time. Due to the ever increasing resources available via the internet, our volume of printing continues to rise every semester. Both the high speed laser printer and new Xerox Phaser color printer are capable of printing on both sides of a page, which should help us conserve paper. File server storage was increased to allow space for ever-growing datasets, images, maps, and other research and course related files.

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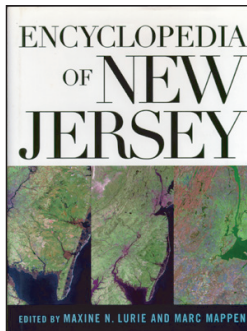
Geography Department News

Newsletter of the Rutgers Geography Department

Encyclopedia of New Jersey

The Encyclopedia of New Jersey is the most extensive reference work ever published on the Garden State. The Encyclopedia contains nearly 3,000 original articles, along with 585 illustrations and 130 maps, collecting a wealth of information about the state in one volume.

<http://www.sec.rutgers.edu/njencyclopedia/>
Explore the Geography of New Jersey!



Mike Siegel (Staff Cartographer) working with renowned scientist John Tedrow, to create an updated soils map of New Jersey for the Encyclopedia.

Suggestions or information for the newsletter should be sent to the editor, Mike Siegel (misiegel@rci.rutgers.edu), or use the mailing address above.

Rutgers University invites you to join in supporting the work of the Department of Geography.

Please send your contribution to the Department of Geography, payable to the Rutgers University Foundation, and marked for the Geography Department.

Thankyou to the 2003-2004 Contributors

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