

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)



Professor Kevin St. Martin (left) meeting with fishermen. Discussions like this are one type of participatory action research with fishing dependent communities.

(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?

Alumni, Keep Connected!

Department of Geography Alumni Directory:
<http://geography.rutgers.edu/keepconnected/alumni>

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

The Caribbean at Risk: From Hazard Adaptation to Societal Transformation



Back (left to right): Mark Pelling, Michael Witter, Melanie McDermott, Kevon Rhiney, Douglas Gamble, Ruperto Chaparro.
Middle: April Baptiste, Adelle Thomas, Matthew Bishop, Brian McAadoo.
Front: Robin Leichenko, Tania López Marrero, Barbara Carby, Ben Wisner.

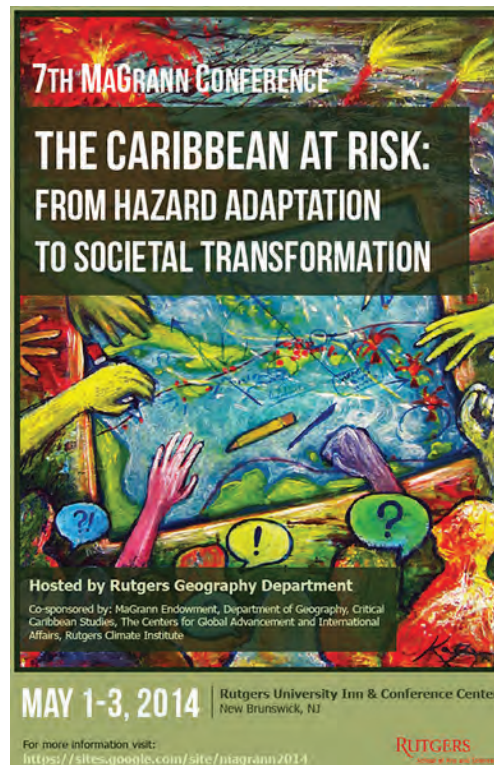
The Caribbean islands share many characteristics that put their populations at risk and increase their vulnerability to natural hazards. The regions geographic position and geological situation expose it to hurricanes, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and volcanoes that cause loss of lives and property, 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



Richard Schroeder provides background about the MaGrann Lecture Series

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



poster design by Kae Yamane

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>

Awards, Grants, Honors

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

David Robinson, Co-Principal Investigator, "Best Practices in Coastal Storm Risk Communication". NOAA Sea Grant. \$149,806, 2014. (C. Cuite, PI)

* Principal Investigator, NOAA National Weather Service "National Mesonet Expansion. Global Science and Technology". \$188,000, 2014.

* Principal Investigator, "The New Jersey Mesonet: Continued Operations and Maintenance". New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. \$90,000, 2013-2014.

* Principal Investigator, "Ongoing Monitoring and Interpretation of New Jersey's Weather for Emergency Management Decision Makers". NJ Office of Emergency Management, NJ State Police. \$50,000, 2013-2014.

* Principal Investigator, "Snow Cover Climate Data

Record sustainment and Maintenance". NOAA. \$50,000, * Awarded the Rutgers College Class of '62 Presidential Public Service Award for the academic year 2013-2014

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.

Minor in International and Global Studies

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>

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.



Congratulations to the Geography Undergraduate Class of 2014

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.

PhDs Awarded

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

MS Awarded

Joshua Randall

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.
Amelia Duffy-Tumas	Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship.
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 Economies Research Fund Fellowship.
Deborah Scott	National Science Foundation IGERT Research Fellowship.
Sean Tanner	Julie Graham Community Economies Research Fund Fellowship.
Kimberley Thomas	American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Conference Travel.
Nicolas Vergara	Fulbright-CONICYT Chilean Government PhD Scholarship.