



Department of Geography Dartmouth College

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER FALL 2006

Greetings Majors, Friends, Alums, and FSP'ers,

The foliage season has begun and the Hanover Plain is resplendent in spectacular fall colors. The seasonal change and the arrival of a new class of first year students are always the reminders of the broader physical and intellectual environment at Dartmouth. The incoming class of '10s bring enormous talents and breadth to the Dartmouth community, and this year's class has also arrived with a tremendous interest in Geography. For the past 5 years, the College Board has offered an AP exam in Geography, and 25 students have arrived this year having taken the AP exam in Geography. This burst of popularity coincides with other demographic trends for Geography at Dartmouth: we currently have 30 majors in this year's senior class and approximately 40 majors in the class of '08 - a new record!

This surge in geography interest is in part driven by recent global trends as there has been tremendous political and social awareness in issues of globalization, transnationalism, immigration, environmental change, and resource extraction. As part of these global issues, our department has been engaged intellectually and programmatically across campus and across the discipline in researching these issues and in offering a curriculum addressing these fundamentally important concerns. Our enrollments for the Introductory Human Geography course regularly reach 80 students per quarter and these students then continue to pursue other Geography courses in smaller formats such that we are teaching over 900 students per year in all of our Geography courses – also a new record.

Coinciding with this tremendous interest in international issues, I am delighted to introduce the newest member of the Geography department – Professor Sharlene Mollett. Sharlene has recently completed her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. Sharlene's regional interest is in Latin America, and this is the first time in over a decade that we have had a regional focus in the department in Central and South America. Her primary research focus is on issues of nature and indigeneity in Honduras and more broadly in the constellation of colonial history, nature, and national indigeneity. Because of the recent geopolitical events in Latin America we couldn't think of a more timely and important hire, and we are extremely delighted that Sharlene has joined our faculty. She will bring in a much needed regional focus to the department, and we look forward to the array of students she will attract to the ever expanding major.

Even as our popularity increases across campus, we continue to maintain a strong professor-student interaction that has been the tradition of the Geography Department over the decades. Once again, we have had a very active Senior Honors Thesis program, and we generally have about a quarter of the senior class undertaking independent research activities all over the globe. Last year, **Adeline Yong** won the *von Humboldt* award for her thesis "The Fashion of Agglomeration and Specialization in China's Apparel Industry". Adeline was also the recipient of the Bob Huke Award for her senior thesis proposal. **Natalie Koch** won the *George Perkins Marsh* award for her thesis work on "Geopolitical Discourses and the Aral Sea Desiccation: A Case Study of Kyzylorda Oblast.

FACULTY NEWS

Laura Conkey is continuing her field and lab-based project on ancient trees from Glacier Bay National Park in Alaska, working with Dan Lawson of CRREL (and adjunct in Geography). Several students have been working with her, including helping in the field. Back in the department, Laura is teaching New England Landscapes and Environments this fall, and has just taken her students to Mt. Washington on a few glorious days. This winter she will again teach *Global Climate Change and Women, Gender, and Science*.

George Demko had a relatively quiet year as he had a hip replaced and is feeling a bit bionic these days. He did lead a Dartmouth Alumni trip to Netherlands and Belgium to test the hip and taught his annual Master of Liberal Studies Seminar on the Diffusion of Democracy. He also advised four MALS master's theses this past year. He has been busy updating his website – G.J. Demko's Landscapes of Crime and was appointed to the editorial board of the University of Wales Press series on European Crime Fiction. He is still hobbling about the squash court and enjoying retirement immensely.

Mona Domosh's new book *American Commodities in an Age of Empire* has just been published (2006) by Routledge. She is now conducting research on her new project that explores the spatial practices of America's transnational companies in the first decades of the 20th century. The first part of that research took her to Moscow this past summer.

Jennifer Fluri spent the summer in Kabul, Afghanistan in conjunction with her current research on gender and geopolitics in Afghanistan. She also began preliminary research on the spatial and gender based impacts of the international community on the local landscape and population in Kabul.

Coleen Fox had a son (Noah) on June 21. This past year she has been drawing on data from research trips to Southern Africa and Southeast Asia to analyze the effectiveness of transboundary environmental agreements in the Mekong and Zambezi river basins. She has also begun a research project on attitudes towards wilderness in the Northeast, focusing on the controversy surrounding proposed wilderness areas in Vermont.

Susanne Freidberg remains submerged in the writing of her book, *Fresh: A Perishable History*. In the past year, research for the book took her to Berkeley, Paris, and the Pacific Northwest, as well as to Harvard, where she is a research fellow at the Schlesinger Library. This winter she hopes to head for Asia for the first time. Over the summer she also attended a workshop at Cambridge University on the history of food and globalization.

David Lindgren took early retirement from the College so he could accompany my family to Ecuador where my wife, Dora Currea (Class of 1977), served for five years as the country representative for the Inter-American Development Bank. He traveled widely from the Amazon to the Galapagos and taught a course each semester at San Francisco University in Quito; though the course was designed for Ecuadorian students he ended up having mostly American exchange students. Now back in Washington, DC, he spends his time playing golf with a group of former CIA colleagues, working on a novel about Ecuador entitled "Atahualpa's Gold", and trying to keep up with his fourteen year-old son, Alexander, who is a freshman at the Washington International School.

Vince Malmstrom recognizes that "the time for sowing" is largely past; he continues to teach an adult education course, this year with an offering on Polynesia. As "the time for harvesting" draws nigh, he takes special satisfaction in the fact that

the American anthropological community has belatedly joined their Mexican colleagues in recognizing his contributions to Mesoamerican archaeoastronomy, that in mid-December, 2005, a structure he identified in 1978 as “the oldest lunar observatory in the New World” was confirmed by an event which only recurs every 18+ years, and that in September, 2006 a student that he had guided from a freshman seminar through a senior thesis in Geography and served as his field assistant in Mexico, South America, and the South Pacific returned as keynote speaker at the convocation of the Dartmouth Class of 2010.

Frank Magilligan is finishing up his sixth and final year as Chair of the department. Although busy with administrative responsibilities over the past year, he has been able to stay wet wading around rivers in New England and elsewhere. He is continuing his NSF-funded research project evaluating the hydro-ecological impacts of dams in the Connecticut River Valley, and he has just started a new project in Downeast Maine funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Rivers in these watersheds have been heavily impacted by historical logging and agriculture and now have significantly diminished wild salmon runs, and Frank is studying the importance of large woody debris (LWD) in controlling fish habitat. Lastly, he was able to escape to the desert of southern Peru to continue his project on the history of El Niño floods in the Moquegua Valley. He and his former Senior Honors Thesis student **Rebecca Manners '04** have an article coming out this year in the *Annals AAG* on their fieldwork in the summer of '03.

Sharlene Mollett is our new assistant professor in Geography. Sharlene recently completed her dissertation entitled *The Politics of Natural Resource Access: Indigeneity, Race and Property Rights in the Honduran Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve*. Sharlene is the department's Latin

Americanist and will bring a fresh energy to the course entitled “Geographies of Latin America”. Sharlene's most recent publication appeared earlier this year in *Latin American Research Review* and she is currently preparing two research articles concerning racial politics and land rights in Central America.

Xun Shi, besides teaching the fun GIS classes, Xun continues working on his NIH-sponsored 5-year project on spatial pattern of lung cancer incidence in New Hampshire and USDA-sponsored 3-year project on knowledge-based digital soil mapping. He published a paper about the spatial association between residential radon concentration and bedrock types. Another paper about the uncertainty caused by P.O.Box addresses in an environmental health study is in press. Thanks to the Junior Fellowship and the Rockefeller Center's Faculty Grant, he initiated a new research on the use of biomass energy in China. Collaborating with Dr. Quintus Jett at Thayer School and supported by a few enthusiastic students, he has also been working on a project about using WebGIS technology to help community people in New Orleans make a better decisions of rebuilding their houses after Katrina.

Chris Sneddon has been working on several research articles concerning the politics of participatory development in Southeast Asia and Southern Africa, the future of sustainable development and conflicts over fisheries in Cambodia. This year he taught a new course, "Geopolitics and Third World Development", and continued with other courses on qualitative research, nature-society relations and environmental history. He advised two honors theses in the past year, one by **Ingrid Nelson '05** examining the political ecology of lawn care, and the other by **Emily Sharp '05** concerning the history of water use in the Tigris-Euphrates basin.

Richard Wright did a lot of traveling in the 2006. January was Cape Town for week, attending a conference on affirmative action in South Africa and the United States. Among the highlights were Robben Island, a visit to a township, and an evening dinner where Desmond Tutu gave a moving talk. Conferences took him to Chicago, Seattle, and Los Angeles; he was also invited to give the alumni lecture in Geography at Indiana University in March. June was Kuwait (!), as part of a team from Dartmouth, helping the new American University of Kuwait get off the ground. His wife, Sheila Culbert, gave the Commencement Address to the six new graduates. As an historian, she reminded the audience that this number was fifty percent greater than the first class at Dartmouth!

Richard is teaching his immigration class as well as *Economic Geography and Globalization* this fall. In spring term, you'll find him in Prague, helping lead the FSP—now in its 14th iteration! He's still plugging away at a book on the contours of American nativism and in the meantime continues to research on topics related to immigration and the geographies of racial mixing.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT SPEAKER SERIES ON GLOBALIZATION

With a generous grant several years ago from the Dickey Center for International Understanding, the department initiated a speaker series on the theme of Globalization. Because of its popularity, the Dickey Center will continue its support of the speaker series. For this year, the speakers will all present research on issues concerning "The Social Dimensions of Environmental Change". This bi-monthly speaker series is set up to be of interest to all geographers and will be an excellent forum for hearing about, and discussing, major themes in

Geography related to Globalization and should be of broad interest to both majors and non-majors. As of now, the schedule is:

1) Nathan Sayre
Department of Geography
UC-Berkeley

"Resilience, Adaptive Management, and Capital"

Monday, November 6
4-5 PM, Room 21

2) David Demerit
Department of Geography
Kings College, London

"Science Studies, Climate Change, and the Prospects for Constructivist Critique"

January 5, 2007
Room 21 Fairchild; 4-5PM

GEOGRAPHY 90 SPEAKER SERIES

Also, as part of GEOG 90 we have received support from the Rockefeller Center to invite other renowned geographers to give talks this fall. Cort Willmott from the University of Delaware is one of the leading geographers in Physical Climatology and in Climate Change Modeling. His primary interests focus on global climate and its variability; land-surface processes and climate; and water budget analyses. Moreover, he is interested in descriptive and computing intensive statistics; modeling and simulation; numerical cartography and in computing error analysis associated with predicting the magnitude and type of climate change. He will be arriving on campus in mid-October and will be interacting with the students

in GEOG 90 and in giving a college wide lecture:

"Comparison of three dimensioned measures of average model-performance error"

Wednesday October 18th: 3-4
101 Fairchild

I realize that people have busy schedules as the quarter progresses, but please pencil-in these dates now. This will be a fantastic opportunity to discover the kinds of research that occurs in the discipline plus it will be a chance to "rub elbows" with some of our leading scholars.

GEOGRAPHY POST-DOCS

Also, we are especially pleased to announce the continuation of our Rockefeller sponsored post-doctoral fellowship program. Professor Mark Davidson from Kings College England is in his second year as a Rockefeller Center post-doc. Mark's specialty is in Urban Geography, especially in re-development zones in London. Besides offering his previous Public Policy course from last year, "Urban Politics and Policies: Transatlantic Perspectives" this coming spring, Mark is offering a new course for us, "Social Justice and the City" in Fall 2006 and he will be teaching our Urban Geography class, GEOG 22, this winter.

RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Besides the array of funding sources from the College (e.g. Dean of Faculty Grants, Waterhouse Grants, etc.), the department has set aside funds for course, independent study, and Honor's Thesis projects. Three named awards of up to \$500 each will be available for those students pursuing Independent Study Projects or Senior Honor's Thesis work. The first one is the "**Rahr Research Award**", the second is "**The Geography Stretch '76 Fund**", and the new one is the "**Bob Huke Research Award**". Applications for these 3 awards are due on

November 15th for Honor's Theses, and are due at least two months before the quarter of the Independent Research Project. Application for these awards consist of a 5-page (minimum) proposal outlining the theoretical and intellectual merits of the research. Priority will be given to those students also applying for College-wide funding. For courses, the proposal must be received within the first month of the quarter and priority will be given to Geography majors. Applications for all funding will be submitted to Kelly Woodward. You do not need to identify which award you will be applying for.

For seniors, there are also key funding opportunities for post-graduate activities, including graduate school and non-graduate school options: e.g. the Marshall, Rhodes, or Fulbright Scholarships.

Also, one frequently overlooked post-graduate award is the Reynolds Grant, which supports up to \$10k for research. Reynolds Scholars may study in any field in any foreign country, usually in an educational institution. It requires a definite program of study or research approved by the Committee on Graduate Fellowships (but you do NOT need to be enrolled in graduate school). Please check: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~csrc/students/merit/studyabroad.html>

There are also an array of funded domestic opportunities, such as Harry S. Truman Scholarships and the Dartmouth General Fund. For these funding sources, please check out:

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~csrc/students/merit/studyus.html>

For those of you considering Graduate School, applications are usually due in December or January, and the National Science Foundation (NSF) offers 3-year fellowships for support. The deadline for NSF Graduate

Fellowships is rapidly approaching (end of November), and you should check their web page immediately.

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04615/nsf04615.htm>

Lastly, applications are due on October 6th for National Geographic Internships. Please see the departmental web page for more information and see Kelly Woodward for application forms.

I hope you have a productive and fun year. Please be sure to check our web page (www.dartmouth.edu/~geog) for updates and job announcements. The web page has links to several job sites and has a useful guide to resources in the Rahr Lab. If you have anything to share for the next newsletter, please pass your information onto Kelly as soon as possible.

Cheers,

Frank Magilligan
Chair, Geography