

geography

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AT CLARK UNIVERSITY



Where's your world? Fall 2013

CLARK

contents fall 2013



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welcome

Greetings from Director Bebbington

It has been a really busy Fall Semester for Geography. In addition to the steady round of classes, of students declaring us as their major, of colloquia and of day-to-day life in the School, we have seen three significant events. In September we organized a workshop on Nature-Society geography, the fourth in a series of annual meetings of faculty and graduate students from Clark, Penn State, Syracuse and Rutgers (and in this case also from Boston University). Then in October we hosted the annual meetings of the New England-St. Lawrence Valley (NESTVAL) region of the Association of American Geographers. This was a great success, a real credit to Clark Geography made possible by staff, undergraduates, post-graduates and faculty coming together and putting on a great event: professional, intellectual, practical and also just plain good fun. The conference attracted over 225 colleagues from across New England and Canada. The Clark Geography Bowl team put on a great show again, our students and faculty organized different panels showcasing work going on here, and our amazing staff pulled off a flawless event. As one participant wrote to me afterwards: "It made me proud to be an alum of Clark." As another alum myself, I can only say the same (corny I know, but true).

Quite a few Clark Geography alumni attended NESTVAL, and so for a day and a half following the meetings, there were a series of activities and get-togethers for graduate alumni. In many cases it was their first time walking the corridors of the Jefferson and Geography buildings in 30 or 40 years and it was lovely to see them seeming so at home. News, stories and not a little gossip were exchanged across several generations and I think we all had a great time. It was one more reminder that Clark Geography is much more than those who occupy it in the here and now. Of course, those of us who are currently at Clark – students, faculty, staff, university administrators – have a special duty of care. However, the tradition and the institution is made, sustained and reproduced by all of us, across space and through time. While I have always known that people continue to be committed to Clark Geography long after they have moved on, this gathering was a reminder of just how deeply they care, and how much they continue to cherish and smile wryly about all that they experienced in their time here.

All the best, Tony Bebbington

reminders



Condakes »»

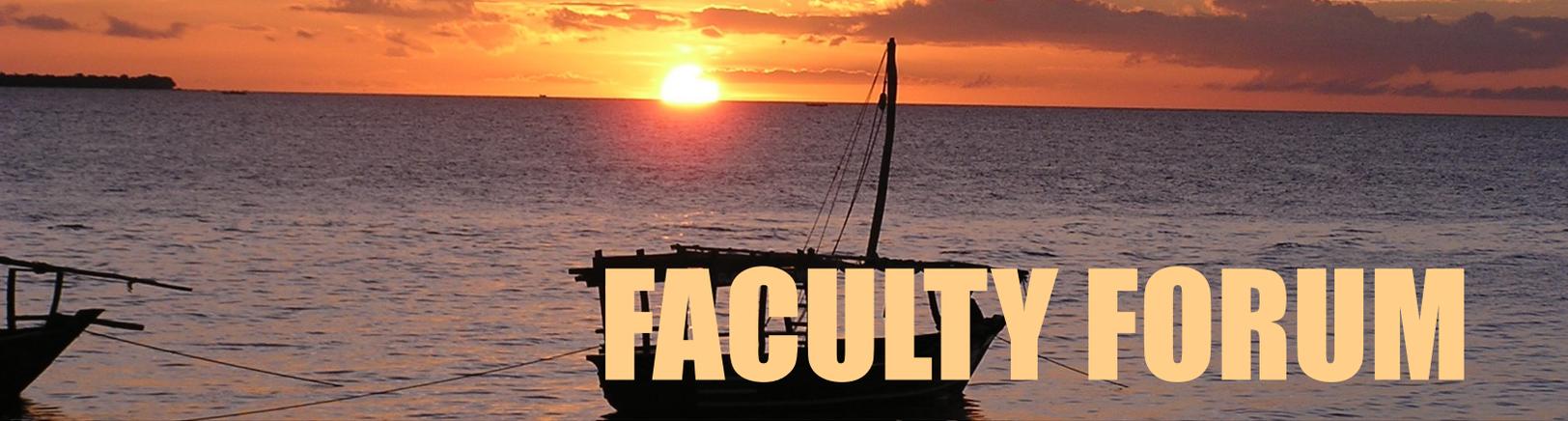
A call for applications for the 2014 **Peter J. Condakes Summer Research Fellowship** will be distributed to Geography, GES, and ESS undergraduates in mid-Spring. This Fellowship is made possible by a generous donation from alumnus and geography major **Peter J. Condakes** (class of '78) to support undergraduate environmental research. See page 9 for a story about one of last year's Condakes recipients!

Atwood »»

The 2013-2014 Atwood Lecture, featuring **Dr. Richard Alley**, *Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences and Associate of the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute at The Pennsylvania State University*, will take place on March 20th, 2014. Details about the talk and other Atwood-related events will be forthcoming in the Spring semester. Questions about Atwood can be directed to Office Coordinator, Rachel Levitt (RLevitt@clarku.edu)

Colloquium »»

The fall 2013-2014 Colloquium Speaker Series has been a great success so far, and we have an equally exciting line-up for the spring, including: **Don Mitchell**, Syracuse University; **Dan Weiner**, University of Connecticut; **David Delaney**, Amherst College; **Rebecca Lave**, Indiana University; **Emma Archer van Garderen**, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa; **Robert Kennedy**, Boston University. For more information about the Colloquium Speaker Series, contact Rachel Levitt (RLevitt@clarku.edu)



FACULTY FORUM

J. Ronald Eastman, Clark University Professor of Geography and Director of Clark Labs/IDRISI, has secured a \$456,738, 1.5 year grant with The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The grant, which is active from November 1, 2013– May 29, 2015, is titled “Evaluation of landscape-scale impacts of shrimp farming expansion and accurate prediction of important coastal habitats at risk for future conversion to shrimp farms in Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia.”

Clark University Professor of Geography and Adjunct Professor of Biology **Dominik Kulakowski** was quoted in a July 2013 article in the *Christian Science Monitor* on the topic of building homes in fire-prone areas. The article, titled “Firefighting’s new reality: not every house should be saved,” discussed the implications of naturally occurring wildfires in residential areas. **Professor Kulakowski** stated that we “are increasingly building our homes in fire-prone ecosystems,” and went on to say that doing so “[in many of the forests in the Western U.S.] is like building homes on the side of an active volcano”

After the fatal Prescott, Arizona fire which led to the death of 19 firefighters in June of this year, along with the massive destructive Colorado wildfires that plagued the Midwest, policymakers are beginning to question what is appropriate in terms of fire prevention and control. The full article with **Professor Kulakowski’s** comments can be found [here](#).

The Brainiac Blog (a segment of the Boston Globe) featured a [segment](#) in response to the article, “A growing concern? Examining the influence of lawn size on residential water use in suburban Boston, MA, USA,” The article, co-authored by Clark faculty and alum, was recently featured in the journal *Landscape and Urban Planning*. The study looked at water usage in residential areas, and concluded that while having more than one bathroom in a home does contribute significantly to water usage, lawn size is also an important factor to consider. The study concluded that lawn cover, living unit density, and the number of bathrooms in a home can explain 90% of the variation in annual residential water use. The Clark-affiliated contributing researchers in the study are: Professor **Colin Polsky**, Professor **Robert “Gil” Pontius**, Daniel **Miller Runfola** (PhD ‘12), **Nicholas Giner** (PhD ‘13), **Joseph Krahe** (BA, Economics, ‘12), and **Albert Decatur** (BA, Geography, ‘09). Craig Nicolson from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst also contributed to the study. The study can be found [here](#).

A new study by Clark University Professor of Geography and Adjunct Professor of Biology **Christopher Williams** was recently released in *Global Change Biology*. The study discusses the implications of forest clearcutting (an extreme approach to forest harvesting in which all trees are cut and removed from a sizable area). Though clearcutting currently comprises only a fraction of harvests in Massachusetts, it could become more widespread as invasive insects and other forest threats expand in the region.

Professor Williams’ research details how carbon, water, and energy balances shift in the three years following the clearcut of a deciduous forest. The study, which was conducted in a 20-acre clearcut area in Petersham, Mass., reveals a steady loss of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, despite rapid recovery of plant growth.

Professor Williams states that “forest harvest alters a host of processes important to the local and global climate system, such as carbon storage and uptake, water use, and absorption of solar radiation.” Carbon was a major focus of the study because of its important role in controlling the climate. In stark contrast to a clearcut area, intact forests are able to pull carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in trees, creating a carbon “sink” that helps to offset greenhouse gas emissions released by



Forest area after a clearcut

fossil fuel combustion and other sources. The clearcut area studied gave off more carbon dioxide than it stored, with nearly half of the CO2 rising from exposed, disturbed soils and an additional 18 percent from decomposing wood. Williams adds, “The cleared area will only become a significant sink for atmospheric carbon after a decade or more, and full recovery of forest carbon stocks requires many decades of regrowth.”



Special thanks to Jane Salerno and the Clark News Hub team for these and other great stories. Be sure to subscribe to the [News Hub](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest news from Clark University.

doctoral student news

Students Christie Lovignova and Kristen Shake have been appointed to leadership positions with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)

Two GSG doctoral students have been appointed to leadership positions in the APECS sixth Executive Committee (ExCom). **Christie Lovignova (ABD)** will serve as President for this new term.

Christie has been a member of APECS since starting Clark in 2009. She was elected to the Council starting in 2011, and was elected as co-chair of the Council for the 2012-2013 term. Then this fall she was elected to the executive committee and subsequently elected President. Over the past few years she has also co-founded a regional chapter of APECS for the US-Northeast with Alexandra Giese of Dartmouth and she has been the APECS representative for Polar Educators International. Christie is currently working on her dissertation, and her research focuses on understanding the impacts of sea ice decline in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas on the dynamics of dissolved organic matter.



Christie Lovignova, ABD, during an Icescape trip

Kristen Shake is one of 32 members who will serve on the APECS Council for this term. Kristen is in her second year in the doctoral program and she is a member of

Professor Karen Frey's Polar Science Research Lab. Kristen's broad research interests include Arctic marine policy, circumpolar studies, and resource extraction issues in the Arctic. Both Christie and Kristen are advisees of **Professor Karen Frey**.



Christie Lovignova (L.) and Kristen Shake (R.) pose during fieldwork on the Canadian Sir Wilfred Laurier icebreaker this past summer

Student Pheakkdey Nguon is awarded prestigious fellowship

GSG doctoral student **Pheakkdey Nguon** has been awarded a \$40,766 fellowship from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to fund a year of research of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) program in Cambodia, and a year of dissertation writing at Clark.



Pheakkdey in Monaco accepting his award.

Nguon accepted the award from Prince Albert II of Monaco, on Sept. 30 in Monaco. The aim of the IPCC Scholarship Programme is to build capacity in the understanding and management of climate change in developing countries by providing opportunities for young scientists from developing countries to undertake doctoral studies. Scholars are selected by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Cuomo Foundation and the IPCC Science Board.

Notes from the field...

“ With support from the Geller '77 Endowed Research Awards and the Association of American Geographers' HDGC and CAPE specialty groups, I conducted preliminary research for my dissertation in Cambodia in Spring 2013. The objective of my research is to better understand how governance systems organize and distribute knowledge on REDD+ across different groups of stakeholders with conflicting interests, and the resulting impacts of such systems on forests and people in Cambodia. During this preliminary fieldwork, I tested my semi-structured interview questions (in Khmer and English) with 20 stakeholders from groups including the Cambodian government ministries, international and local non-governmental organizations, indigenous people and community leaders, academic institutions, and the private sector. I also collected relevant government reports, policy documents, and other grey literature (mostly in Khmer), many of which were otherwise inaccessible without traveling to Cambodia. During this visit, I also observed policy dialogues organized by the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat and NGO Forum on Cambodia on topics such as Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+ projects and Communicating REDD+ with relevant stakeholders. I also travelled to two of the REDD+ sites during this visit: Oddar Meanchey and Siem Reap province. The best part of this preliminary fieldwork was my interview with Venerable Bun Saluth, one of the most inspiring people that I have ever met!



Pheakkdey (R.) interviewing Venerable Bun Saluth, Oddar Meanchey province

Venerable Bun Saluth is the recipient of the 2010 Equator Initiative, the UNDP Prize for efforts to conserve global biodiversity for poverty reduction. I presented my initial findings from this visit during the 2013 Annual Meeting of the AAG in Los Angeles.

Currently, I am conducting my one year dissertation fieldwork in Cambodia where I aim to interview 150 stakeholders from various institutions, observe 70 policy dialogues on REDD+ (i.e. consultations, workshops, etc) organized by government and non-government groups, and conduct further archival analysis. This dissertation fieldwork is made possible by the generous support from the Fulbright Fellowship, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, and the Cuomo Foundation. These fellowships will also support me for one year of dissertation writing. In Cambodia, I am a senior lecturer and a coordinator for the Department of International Studies at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. At Clark University, I am advised by **Anthony Bebbington, Colin Polsky, Dominik Kulakowski** and **Diana Liverman** (University of Arizona). ”

-Pheakkdey Nguon, PhD (c)

Notes from the field...

“ How are social and environmental inequalities spatially linked in Latin America, and how are processes of resource extractivism, political negotiation, legal implementation, and state redistribution reinforcing or ameliorating these inequalities?

This is a question three Clark PhD students (myself, **Adrienne Johnson; Teresa Bornschlegl; and Juan Luis Dammert B.**) along with Prof. **Anthony Bebbington** sought to examine as we ventured to Lima, Peru in October 2013, to attend the **4th desiguALdades.net Summer School** at the Pontifical Catholic University. Our group traveled to join other professors, post-doctoral and doctoral student participants from approximately 10 other countries spanning North America, Europe, and Latin America to further discuss the theme of this year's Summer School, 'Structures - Disputes - Negotiations'.

Before the course took place, doctoral students were asked to submit short thought-pieces based on their current PhD projects which would serve as fodder for productive interdisciplinary academic discussions in organized thematic sessions. Over the course of five days, participants engaged in intense dialogues focused on theorizing, problematizing, and discussing solutions related to themes being grappled with in the student papers.

For example, Juan Luis Dammert B.'s paper explored the differentiated effects of rapid capitalist palm oil plantation

expansion in Peru and its possible connections to the deepening of inequality in the Amazon region. Teresa Bornschlegl's paper contribution focused on the nexus of chronically under-enforced environmental legal frameworks, and notions of justice and resistance in the hydrocarbons sector of Ecuador. My Summer School contribution centered on the 'tricky' politics of 'participation' in the palm oil industry of Ecuador and explored how practices of protest and negotiation are encouraged and/or silenced in a new governing initiative known as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm.

Each day, the School was formally introduced by several academics in order to spark conversation. **Professor Bebbington**, for instance, gave one of the first talks entitled, 'Extractivism and Unequal Development' and discussed the overall grand scale of the extractivist model and the inherent cycle of inequalities embedded in the model relating to institutions, knowledge, capacity, and expertise. Clark Geography Alum **Diana Ojeda** (PhD, 2012 now Assistant Professor at the Pontifical University of Javeriana, Colombia) was also present and delivered an introduction to the session, 'The State and the Limits of Redistribution'.



Director Tony Bebbington with (L to R): Adrienne Johnson, Juan Luis Dammert, Teresa Bornschlegl

The week's intense sessions were broken up by impromptu university tours, funny sightings of wild deer on the campus grounds, and a highlight fieldtrip to the renowned International Potato Center which aims, among other things, to address issues of poverty and hunger through the capacity strengthening of root and tuber farming and food systems in the Andes and around the world.

Many thanks goes out to the co-organizers of the Summer School, *desiguALdades.net* and the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru for providing such a wonderful opportunity for academics (new and old alike!) working on issues of inequality in Latin America to collaborate and learn together. To learn more about the Summer School, visit: http://www.desiguALdades.net/eventos_publicos/academias_de_verano/index.html ”

-Adrienne Johnson, PhD (c)



Photo from one of the sessions during the 4th desiguALdades.net Summer School



A variety of potatoes from the International Potato Center

Controversies in GIS: "Ghetto-Tracker"

One Student's Response to a Controversial Mobile App

Doctoral student **Jim Thatcher** was recently quoted in *The Atlantic* where he discussed some of the problems associated with a new geo-web mobile application. His comments were in response to a recently developed app called "Ghetto-Tracker," a location service app which claims to lead its users only through the "good parts of town" by using data compiled from user-based neighborhood ratings. The launch of the app sparked quite a bit of controversy, not only because of it's name, but also because of the broader

message it promotes.

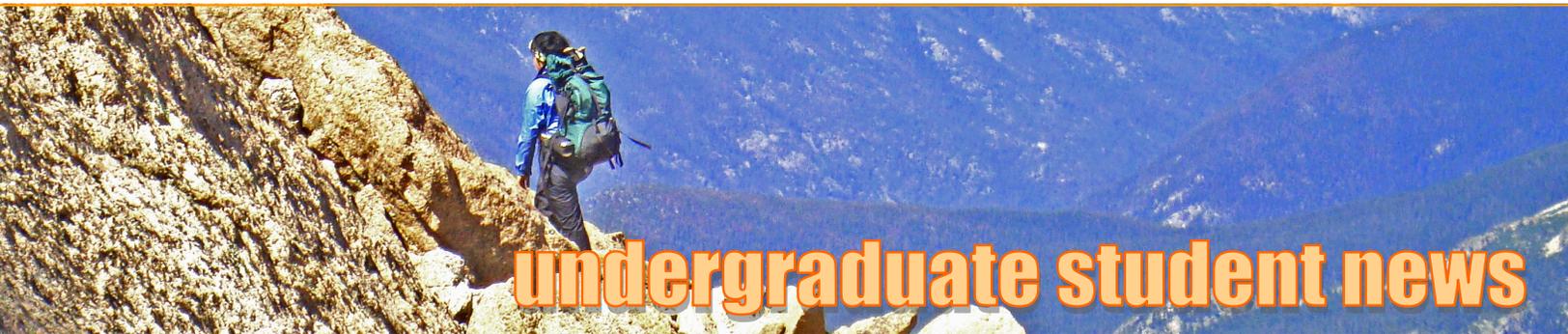
As James points out, in many ways apps like these are promoting “teleological redlining,” by declaring whole geographic areas as either good or bad; as safe or unsafe. James questioned the validity and purpose of the user ratings, and suggested that apps like these are making decisions for the user without providing justification for the rationale behind the decision. James’ clarified his point by stating that if he decided to avoid a certain area based off crime statistics that he personally researched, he is conscious of his reasoning for avoiding a particular neighborhood. However, if an app is

telling him to avoid it because it has been rated as “ghetto,” the decision could be derived not only from crime statistics, but also things like poverty and run-down infrastructure.

James’ comments addressed some important social justice issues to consider, especially as we become more reliant on geo-spatial technologies in our everyday lives. The NPR program “On The Media” interviewed James on this issue, and the full audio interview can be found [here](#). For the full article from *The Atlantic*, please click [here](#).



Special thanks to Jane Salerno and the Clark News Hub team for these and other great stories. Be sure to subscribe to the [News Hub](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest news from Clark University.



undergraduate student news

2013 Human Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) students present their ALB research to local stakeholders from the community

On August 1, 2013, a Worcester News Tonight/NECN crew paid a visit to the Clark campus to talk to students in the HERO program about their research on the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB). The “Stakeholder Summit,” is the HERO Fellows way of bringing together city residents, members of the Clark Community, state and local government officials, and representatives from city, state and federal organizations that work directly with ALB eradication and tree replanting efforts. It is an opportunity for HERO Fellows to showcase their research while also providing an accessible channel for communication among those with a vested interest in the ALB problem.

During the 8-week HERO summer internship program, the 12 Fellows were divided into two groups: a Beetle Impact Assessment (BIA) group, and a Place Making Assessment (PMA) group. Research conducted by the BIA group indicated that in areas that have had significant amounts of tree loss over the last five years, the average

this is how we LEEP

overall temperature has increased by 1-3 degrees Celsius. Climate change scientists widely report that a 1-3 degree Celsius change is likely to take place over about 100 years, so the BIA results provide an important clue into what kinds

of factors are contributing to rapidly rising global temperatures.

The PMA group focused on social and policy-based implications of the ALB, and they emphasized citizen’s concern over things like higher heating and cooling costs, loss of privacy, and loss of wildlife as results of neighborhood tree removal. Residents from Worcester’s Burncoat neighborhood were especially impacted by tree loss, as the Burncoat area was one of the most heavily infested by the ALB. Burncoat residents who attended the Summit seemed eager to join in conversations with the HERO students and other stakeholders (which included members from the Worcester Tree Initiative—a grassroots nonprofit which has replanted over 23,000 trees in the city of Worcester since beetle eradication began).



Beetle Impact Assessment group (L to R, *Clark students in bold*): **Arthur Elmes** (BIA Group Manager, PhD(c.)); **A.J. Shatz** (BIA Group Manager, MA '13), **Gaia Khairina**, '15; Paul Quakenbush; Katherine Green; Matt Hess; **Sean Cunningham**, '14; **Michelle Andrews**, '14; **Matt Manley** (BIA Group Manager, MA(c.))



Place Making Assessment group (L to R, Clark students in bold): **Shannon Palmer** (PMA Group Manager, MA(c.); **Joey Hersh**, '15; Regan Fink; Carlee Shultz; Michelle Ritchie; **Michino Hisabayashi**, '15; **Cody Litchfield**, '14

The HERO program is a great opportunity for Undergraduate students to use their research in ways that will positively impact the community and environment. Professors Deborah Martin and John Rogan are the coordinators of the HERO internship and are the lead researchers on the grant.

To see the news report and learn more about the Stakeholder Summit, click [here](#).

The [HERO program](#) is an 8-week undergraduate research opportunity sponsored by the U.S. National Science Foundation through its Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) site.

Condakes Summer Research Fellow Zoe Ritter recaps her experience:

Undergraduate Geography major Zoe Ritter ('14) was named as one of two 2013 **Peter J. Condakes Summer Research Fellowship** winners. The Peter J. Condakes Summer Research Fellowship is an annual award open to Sophomores and Juniors studying Geography, Earth System Science, or Global Environmental Studies who have an interest in environmental concerns. The award comes with a \$1,500 stipend to support an in-depth summer research project.

Geography major **Zoe Ritter** (advisor: Anthony Bebbington) and Global Environmental Studies student **Gabrielle Kent** (advisor: Jody Emel) were selected as the 2013 recipients. This is what Zoe had to say about her experience:

“

This summer I explored using GIS data and analysis to map livelihood vulnerability to mineral mining in the Department of Madre de Dios, located in the lowland forest of southern Peru bordering Brazil and Bolivia. The relatively recent boom in mineral extraction activities in Peru has caused significant human impacts including tensions between local land use rights and those of the state, diminishing access to natural resources because they are being diverted for use in extraction activities, and environmental degradation. Environmental degradation associated with mineral extraction activities, such as deforestation, acid mine drainage, and chemical contamination of local natural resources, affect local health and livelihood activities. Vulnerability depends not only on exposure to hazard, but on

the sensitivity and adaptive capacity of the ecosystem. My experience gave me a good introduction to working on a large-scale research project and a solid foundation to start my undergraduate Honors Thesis work. ”

-Zoe Ritter (class of '14)

A special thanks goes out to Zoe Ritter for her contribution to the newsletter. We look forward to sharing Gabrielle Kent's story with you in the next issue!



Zoe Ritter

The Peter J. Condakes Summer Research Fellowship is made possible by a generous donation from Clark alum (and Geography student) **Peter J. Condakes** ('78). Juniors and Seniors studying Geography, Global Environmental Studies, or Earth System Science should note that a call for applications for the 2014 Peter J. Condakes Summer Research Fellowship will be announced in mid-Spring.

Summer in Seattle: Geography Undergrad Lucas Earl Reflects on His Summer Internship with NOAA

This past summer **Lucas Earl** (BA, '14) spent nine weeks at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, Washington, thanks to funding provided by [The Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise](#) and the [George Perkins Marsh Institute](#). He interned in their Conservation Biology division, which dealt mostly with issues of fisheries sustainability and near-shore ecology in the northeast Pacific and Puget Sound region. One of the field projects Lucas worked on involved measuring ecosystem productivity in a number of Puget Sound watersheds, comparing those that were heavily urbanized with those that were not. Another was more GIS focused, concerning potential future exposure and sensitivity of a number of marine species to climate change. Overall, he found it a very enjoyable experience and would recommend it to anyone who has an interest in conservation biology and/or wants a chance to spend the summer in Seattle!



The Puget Sound, where Lucas spent his summer conducting research



HERO news and photos courtesy of Jane Salerno and the Clark News Hub team.

The Graduate School of Geography hosts

NATURE-SOCIETY 2013

On September 27-28, 2013, the GSG hosted the Nature-Society Workshop, the fourth in a series of collaborative interdisciplinary symposia involving Geography faculty and students from Syracuse, Rutgers, Penn State, and Clark Universities. This event was a semi-formal gathering oriented towards discussion, debate, engagement, and the fostering of working relationships. Rather than focusing on a single overarching theme for the workshop, the events covered a range of topics from current interests in the field.

Guests started to arrive mid-afternoon on Friday, and the workshop kicked-off with a discussion session on Resource Governance. Late Friday afternoon, guest keynote speaker

Dr. Farhana Sultana (*Associate Professor of Geography, Syracuse University*)

presented her talk, "Gendering water, earth and sky: Feminist political ecologies of climate change." Dr. Sultana is an internationally recognized scholar whose work spans political ecology, international development, water governance, climate change, and gender. Her lecture was well-attended and sparked engaged conversations among workshop participants. A reception following the keynote speech provided a welcoming environment for continued collaboration and chat, and a dinner banquet rounded out the evening.



Dr. Farhana Sultana beginning her keynote speech

Saturday morning began with coffee and more conversation, followed by a field trip led by Professors **Deborah Martin** and **John Rogan**. The trip consisted of a 3-hour tour of Worcester and surrounding towns that have been affected by the Asian Longhorned Beetle

(ALB). Professors Deborah Martin and John Rogan are lead investigators on a 3-year NSF-REU grant that supports the Human Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) program here at Clark, which is focused on the Asian Longhorned Beetle and the impact that the invasive species has had on the community (socially, ecologically, and politically). The tour guided participants through the “Beetle Impact Zone,” where more than 30,000 trees have been removed over the last few years as a result of the ALB.



Professor Deb Martin with field trip attendees at Green Hill Park, Worcester

After the field trip, guests returned for two more discussion sessions: one on “Transitions Thinking in Nature-Society Geography: Possibilities and Pitfalls,” and another on “Ideologies and Narratives of Nature in Crisis.” The workshop concluded at the end of the second session.



Workshop participants follow along during a discussion session

The Nature-Society workshop is an opportunity for colleagues and friends to gather together from different institutions to collaborate on ideas and research. The GSG was delighted to be able to host our guests from Syracuse, Rutgers, and Penn State, as well as some guests from Boston University, and we are thankful to all who participated.

PHOTO ALBUM: nature-society 2013



Doctoral students Azadeh Hadizadeh Esfahani and Alireza Farmahini Farahani



Doctoral students Mireya Bravo and Elisa Arond



Workshop participants listen on to discussion leaders: (from center, L to R): Jody Emel, *Clark University*; Jamie Shinn, *Penn State*; Anne Short, *Boston University*; Tom Perreault, *Rutgers University*; and Tony Bebbington, *Clark University*



Doctoral students Juan Luis Dammert and Fernando Hernandez Espino



Workshop attendees socialize with one another as Dr. Farhana Sultana prepares to give the keynote speech

Photo credits: Brenda Nikas-Hayes and Jean Heffernan

NESTVAL 2013

On October 18th & 19th, the GSG hosted the New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society (NESTVAL) Annual Conference. The event brought over 225 participants to the Clark campus for two days of panels, paper sessions, poster sessions, lectures, and social engagements. The conference began with an early-morning registration on Friday the 18th, which was soon followed by the first round of panels and papers. Friday's panel topics were: *"Crisis, Recession, Cause, Solutions: Debate,"* (organized by Richard Peet, Clark University) and *"Doing Use-Inspired Human-Environment Research in a Multi-Generational Team: The Asian Longhorned Beetle and Clark's Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) Program,"* (organized by Deborah Martin, Clark University). The first round of paper sessions covered topics such as: Commons and New Civic Spaces in New England; Forest Disturbances and Their Impacts on Ecosystem Function and Services; Floods, Rivers and Fluvial Geomorphology in Management and Policy; Gendering, Nationalizing, and Engineering Spaces; Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis: New Methods and Analytics; and Sustainability Planning.

Also available to conference attendees on Friday was the ability to visit the EarthView Globe display—a 20-foot tall, hand painted inflatable globe depicting views of the earth from the outside and the inside. The EarthView Globe—which permanently resides at Bridgewater State University—was generously brought to the Clark campus for NESTVAL by Bridgewater State faculty members James Hayes-Bohanan and Vernon Domingo (Clark PhD alum, '80). Clark GISDE graduate student (and Bridgewater alum) Chantal Begley helped to coordinate the EarthView display, and she also reached out to local elementary schools to invite their students to see the globe. GSG staff happily welcomed students from Midland Street School and University Park Campus. The fourth and fifth grade student groups were able to enter the inflatable globe, where they were given a presentation about the earth and tectonic plates. Upon exiting the globe, they played some fun Geography-related trivia games and were shown a visual presentation with interesting Geography facts. The Midland Street School students even got a personal tour of the Traina Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, where they challenged their perceptions of scale with a special NESTVAL art exhibit. All in all, the EarthView Globe was a big hit, with visitors young and old!



Two special on-campus tours were available for NESTVAL participants to take advantage of on Friday afternoon. The first was a tour of the Guy H. Burnham Map and Aerial Photography Library, led by Map Librarian **Beverly Presley**. The Map Library consists of 230,000 maps, 7,800 aerial photographs, 1500 CD-ROMs, as well as atlases, journals, globes, map reference materials, tourist information and monographs, and it is a true asset of the GSG. The second tour was of Clark Labs/IDRISI, led by Executive Director of Clark Labs **James Toledano**. Clark Labs is a space dedicated to a nonprofit research project aimed at the development of analytical tools for use in geographical research. The IDRISI and CartaLinx software programs are products of Clark Labs, with over 25,000 registered users worldwide.

Another exciting event that took place on Friday afternoon was the NESTVAL Geography Bowl. Ten teams competed in the bowl, which was hosted by Clark GSG alum and current Professor of Geography at Salem State University, **Stephen Young**. The battle for the trophy was fierce, but it wasn't long before there were only two teams left standing. Students from Bridgewater State University and Clark University battled it out for the win, but ultimately Bridgewater State's team couldn't be beaten. They took home the well-deserved title, and received sincere congratulations from their Clark competitors.



GSG alum and Vice President of the AAG Mona Domosh presents Bridgewater State University students with their winning trophy



GSG alum and Vice President of the AAG Mona Domosh gives Clark's team the 2nd place trophy



The winning team! Bridgewater State students with Professors Vernon Domingo (front) and James Hayes-Bonahan (back)

The previously mentioned art exhibit (that the Midland Street School students got a sneak-peek of) was one of the weekends biggest hits. *“Macro or Micro: Challenging our perceptions of scale”* was the title of the exhibit, created by Clark GSG alum and current Professor of Geography at Salem State University **Stephen Young**. After a day of presentations, NESTVAL participants were able to have some light-hearted fun during Friday evening’s Art Opening and Social Hour at the Traina Center for the Visual and Performing Arts. Guests socialized over wine and appetizers, and then Dr. Young was introduced to present his work.

Young’s exhibit (which is a joint project with Salem State Professor of Biology, Paul Kelly) compares his original satellite and remote sensing images with original microscopic images from Kelly’s lab. He said that the idea for the exhibit came to him when he noticed how similar his remote sensing images were to some of Dr. Kelly’s slides. One image from the exhibit looked like an aerial photograph of a field, but it was really a microscopic image of a dragonfly wing.

Another image looked like it could be a scan of the brain, but it was really a satellite image of a river that had been given a mirrored effect. The bold prints are a conversation piece on their own, but Young and Kelly have enhanced their exhibit by making it

interactive. They created a quiz for people to take as they walked through the exhibit, challenging whether they thought the images they were viewing were macroscopic or microscopic. It proved to be more difficult than one would think!



Dr. Stephen Young describes his exhibit

NESTVAL 2013



Conference guests ponder whether images they are viewing are “macro” or “micro”

After the social hour, several conference attendees returned to Tilton Hall in the Higgins University Center for the evening's final event—a banquet and award ceremony. GSG Director Anthony Bebbington introduced the banquet's guest speaker, Clark University President David Angel. President Angel welcomed the group and gave a brief history of NESTVAL, including Clark's historic involvement. He also publicly thanked the many people who worked together to organize NESTVAL, including: co-chairs of the NESTVAL committee **Jody Emel**, **Deborah Martin**, and **Richard Peet**; **Mona Domosh**, Vice-President of AAG and Professor of Geography at Dartmouth College; **John Hayes**, President of NESTVAL and Professor of Geography at Salem State University; **Cynthia Pope**, Vice President of NESTVAL and Professor of Geography at Central Connecticut State University; **Arlene Kowal**, Massachusetts Geographic Alliance Co-Coordinator and Program Coordinator of the Teacher's Program for Global Studies at Clark University; and finally **Katherine Jacobs**, Assistant Director of the Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and NESTVAL 2013 plenary speaker.

Shortly after dinner began, NESTVAL President John Hayes presented two awards on behalf of NESTVAL. *The Distinguished Service Award* was given to Stephen Young from Salem State University in recognition of his dedication and service to the World Geography Bowl. The second award, *The Lifetime Achievement Award*, went to Bryon Middlekauff from Plymouth State University, the former leader of the World Geography Bowl and a past President of NESTVAL.



NESTVAL President John Hayes presents the Distinguished Service Award to Stephen Young



NESTVAL President John Hayes presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to Bryon Middlekauff

Director Bebbington then made his way back to the podium to present two very special awards on behalf of the GSG and NESTVAL. The first award was given to South High School (Worcester, MA) teacher Barry Stell, “*For Excellence in Education in Massachusetts for Teaching AP Human Geography and for the promotion of teaching Geography in the Worcester Public Schools.*” The second award was given to Massachusetts student and National Geography Bee Champion, Sathwik Karnik, “*For Academic Excellence in becoming the 2013 National Geography Bee Winner and for representing the State of Massachusetts at the National Competition.*” The award recipients received a warm and well-deserved round of applause from banquet attendees. Director Bebbington also publicly acknowledged the GSG staff, particularly **Brenda Nikas-Hayes**, who worked tirelessly to ensure that all aspects of the NESTVAL weekend were a success.



GSG Director Tony Bebbington presents South High School Teacher Barry Stell with his Excellence in Teaching award

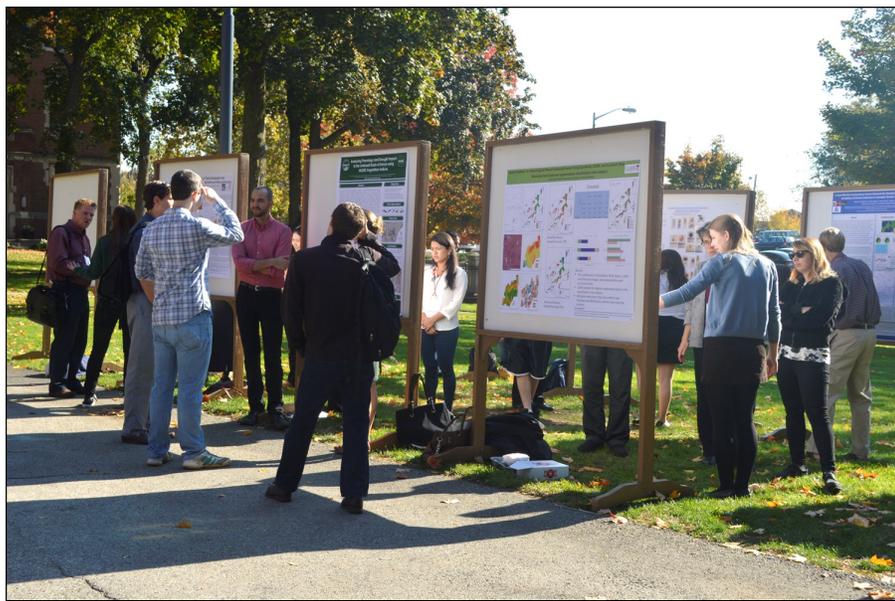


GSG Director Tony Bebbington presents student and National Geography Bee winner Sathwik Karnik with his Academic Excellence Award

Saturday morning came quickly, with panels, a poster session, and a paper session all beginning promptly at 8:45. The panel sessions covered topics such as: “*Encouraging the Diffusion of AP Human Geography*” (organized by Don Zeigler, Old Dominion University, Virginia), “*Diversity and Inclusion in Geography: Contesting the Ivory Tower Through Feminist Praxis*” (organized by Renee Tapp and Elisa Arond, Clark University), and “*Global Change Science: Research Within the Graduate School of Geography*” (organized by Jody Emel, Clark University). Paper topics included: Food Justice, Food Sovereignty, and Food Policy; Mapping Extractive Industries Using GIS and Remote Sensing; Climate Change in New England and the St. Lawrence Valley; and Economic Innovation and Promotion through Technology and Risk Management. While these events were going on inside Jefferson Academic Center and the Higgins University Center, a poster session was held just outside of the UC lobby. The crisp but sunny weather couldn't have been more perfect for the outdoor presentations!

VESTIVAL 2013

Don Zeigler, Old Dominion University, Virginia), “*Diversity and Inclusion in Geography: Contesting the Ivory Tower Through Feminist Praxis*” (organized by Renee Tapp and Elisa Arond, Clark University), and “*Global Change Science: Research Within the Graduate School of Geography*” (organized by Jody Emel, Clark University). Paper topics included: Food Justice, Food Sovereignty, and Food Policy; Mapping Extractive Industries Using GIS and Remote Sensing; Climate Change in New England and the St. Lawrence Valley; and Economic Innovation and Promotion through Technology and Risk Management. While these events were going on inside Jefferson Academic Center and the Higgins University Center, a poster session was held just outside of the UC lobby. The crisp but sunny weather couldn't have been more perfect for the outdoor presentations!



Students stand with their posters to present their research to conference guests.



Kathy Jacobs during her plenary talk

The morning sessions concluded at 10:45, and conference attendees gathered back in Tilton Hall for the 11:00am Plenary Session, featuring guest speaker **Katherine Jacobs**, Assistant Director of the Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. **Jacob's** speech was titled "The U.S. National Climate Assessment: Preparing the Nation for Change." Over 100 guests attended the talk, and were eager to participate in the post-talk discussion session featuring **Joni Seager**, GSG alum and Professor of Geography at Bentley University, and **James McCarthy**, Professor of Geography at Clark University.

A business luncheon took place immediately following the talk, and shortly after, NESTVAL guests were given the opportunity to take a tour of Worcester, hosted by GSG Professor Emeritus **Douglas Johnson**. Guests were also able to take a self-directed tour of the soon-to-be-closed Higgins Armory, with transportation provided by the GSG.

The final panel and paper sessions took place on Saturday afternoon, with panel topics covering "*Sustainability Academic Programs and Initiatives at Connecticut Universities and Colleges*" (organized by Charles Button, Central Connecticut State University) and "*Teaching Geography at a State University*" (organized by Elaine Hartwick, Framingham State University). GSG staff on-hand for NESTVAL received a lot of great feedback about these two panels, with many people stressing the importance of Geography-related courses at the college level. Paper topics covered in the final session included: **Zoogeography and Place Making; Innovations in Teaching and Research: GIS, International Fieldwork, and Community-Based Research; Circumpolar Shift: Multidisciplinary Perspectives of Changing High-Latitudes; Spatial Clusters: Segregation, Health, Employment, and Homelessness; and finally, Water Resources: An Interdisciplinary Perspective.**



GISDE graduate student Chantal Begley, who was hard at work at the NESTVAL registration table for most of the weekend!



GISDE graduate students Ryan Williams and Michael Cecil take over the registration table for a while



GSG doctoral student Esteban Rossi and GISDE graduate student Supriya Khadke helping with registration

NESTVAL 2013 was a big success, and we couldn't have pulled it off without the dozens of student volunteers who were on-hand to help. A sincere thank you goes out to all of the Geography, Global Environmental Studies, and Earth System Science undergraduate volunteers; the *tremendous* volunteer team from the MSc. GISDE program; the fifth year MA GIS student workers; and to our doctoral student volunteers!

Though NESTVAL came to a close around 4pm on Saturday the 19th, the weekend was not over for the GSG. Abutting NESTVAL, GSG Graduate Program Administrator **Brenda Nikas-Hayes**, in collaboration with the recently formed alumni group "Friends of GSG," planned a day-and-a-half long doctoral reunion event right here on campus. More about reunion can be found on page 25, just after the NESTVAL photo album.

*The World Geography Bowl
Friday, October 18
Higgins University Center*



The World Geography Bowl gathered a large crowd of spectators!



Stephen Young explains the rules to the group



Clark University's team

vs



Bridgewater State University's team

PHOTO album



The 2nd place (but happy) Clark team!

The majority of NESTVAL photographs are courtesy of *Ananya Sikand* (BA '14, Studio Art/Art History double major). The GSG would like to thank Ananya for her valuable presence at the weekend's events!

Art Opening & Social Hour
Friday, October 18
Traina Center for the Visual and Performing Arts



Students and faculty from Southern Connecticut State University share smiles (and their answers) during the "Macro or Micro?" quiz



A perplexed student looks at one of the more complicated macro images

PHOTOalbum



Artist Stephen Young talks with President Angel and Director Bebbington



Macro or Micro? artists Professor Paul Kelly and Professor Stephen Young



Clark Geography majors and main office staff members Michelle Andrews ('14) and Lucas Earl ('14) enjoying the exhibit

Art Opening & Social Hour
 Friday, October 18
 Traina Center for the Visual and Performing Arts



Westborough High School art teacher John Hayes with GSG doctoral students Renee Tapp, Christopher Knudson, and Elisa Arond



GISDE student Nelson Crone and GSG doctoral student Kristen Shake

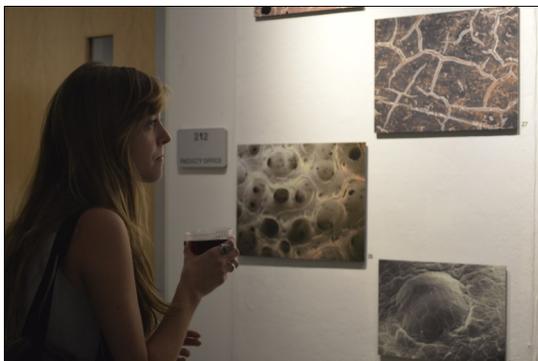
PHOTOalbum



GISDE alum Luisa Young (middle) with GSG doctoral students Esteban Rossi (L.) and Fernando Hernandez-Espino (R.)



Elaine Hartwick (Professor of Geography at Framingham State University) sharing a laugh with husband Richard Peet (Professor of Geography at Clark University)

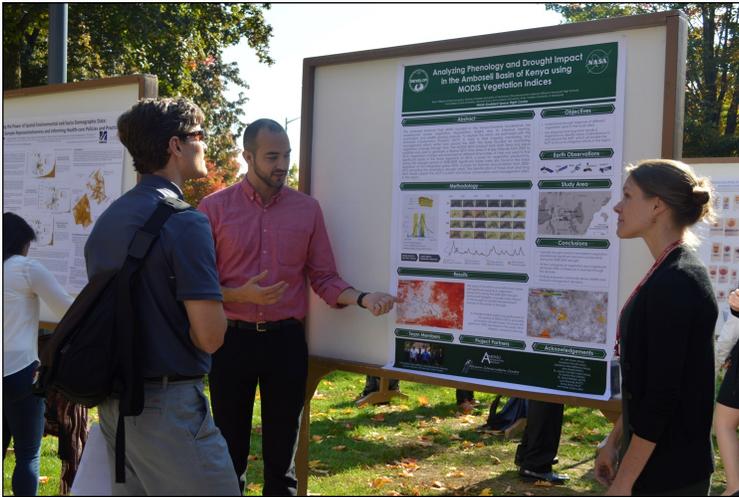


Geography alum (BA '13) and current CDP Master's student Shannon Palmer checking out the exhibit



The art opening and Social Hour was a great opportunity for NESTVAL participants to interact after a day of great presentations and a lot of hard work!

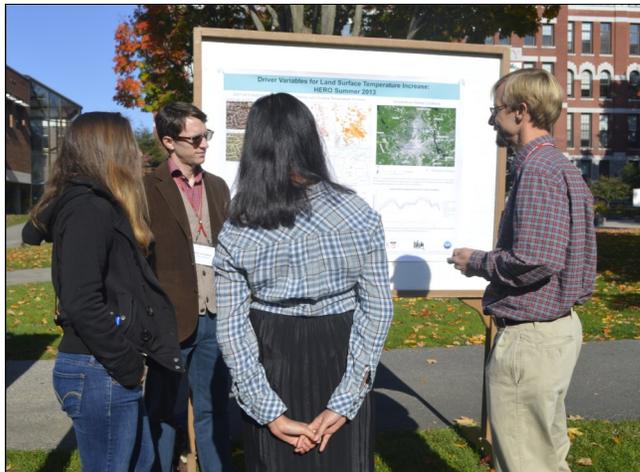
NESTVAL poster session
Saturday, October 19
Outside of Higgins University Center



Clark GIDSE graduate students Ryan Williams (middle) and Anne Clark Baker (right) discuss their research

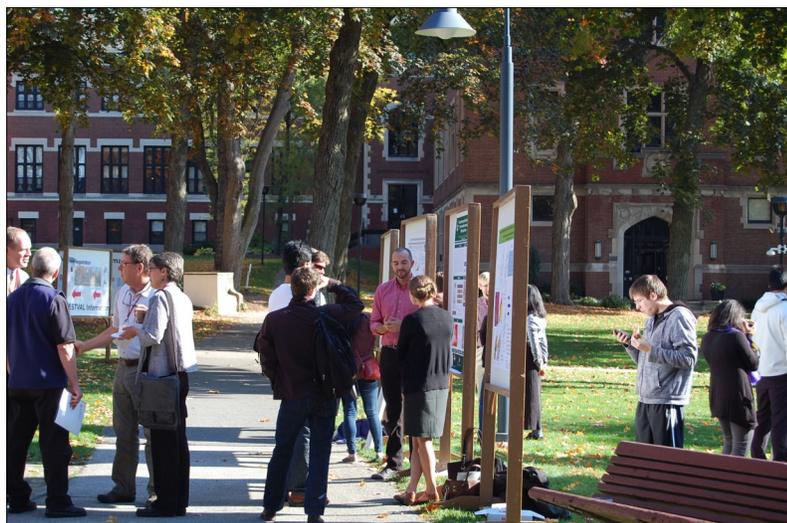


The poster session sparked engaged conversations among colleagues and conference participants



HERO students/Clark undergrads Michelle Andrews, Sean Cunningham, and Gaia Khairina talk about their research with Professor Roger Hellstrom from Bridgewater State University

PHOTOalbum



NESTVAL guests interact near the posters outside of the UC

NESTVAL presentations
 Friday, October 18-Saturday, October 19
 Jefferson Academic Center and Higgins UC



One of the many map displays organized by Beverly Presley, exclusively for NESTVAL



Graduate Program Administrator and NESTVAL Conference organizer Brenda Nikas-Hayes ensuring that registration is going smoothly

PHOTO album



GSG Professor Christopher Williams presents his research



From L to R: Mona Domosh (GSG BA, MA, and PhD alum and Vice President of AAG); Martyn Bowden (Professor Emeritus); and Joni Seager (GSG PhD alum and Professor of Geography at Bentley University).



From Salem State University, Professors Keith Ratner and John Hayes (who is also President of NESTVAL)

NESTVAL Banquet
 Friday, October 18
 Tilton Hall, Higgins UC



Clark University President David Angel addresses the crowd at the NESTVAL Banquet



National Geography Bee winner Sathwik Karnik (3rd from left) with his family inside the EarthView globe



National Geography Bee winner Sathwik Karnik having fun inside the EarthView globe



Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Bryon Middlekauf (Plymouth State University) with NESTVAL President John Hayes

PHOTOalbum

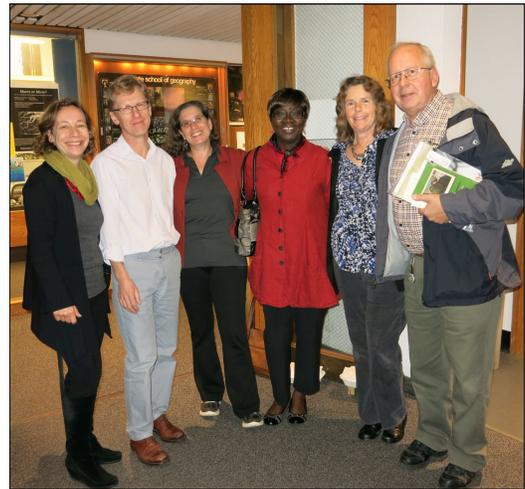


Director Anthony Bebbington presenting flowers as a token of thanks to staff members who helped to coordinate NESTVAL. From left: Brenda Nikas-Hayes, Jean Heffernan, and Colleen Dolan

The Graduate School of Geography and "Friends of the GSG" host

GSG Doctoral Reunion

NESTVAL was a fun-filled weekend packed with events, but the GSG showed no signs of stopping when the conference came to a close. As a result of a collaborative effort between Graduate Program Administrator **Brenda Nikas-Hayes** and the recently formed **Friends of the GSG**, a doctoral alumni reunion was held on the cusp of NESTVAL. The reunion began in the afternoon of Saturday, October 19th with a tour of Worcester, hosted by Worcester native and GSG Professor Emeritus, **Douglas Johnson**. Later that evening, Vice President of Government and Community Affairs at Clark University and School Committee member for the Worcester Public Schools **Jack Foley** gave a presentation to alums titled "University Park Partnership: Transforming a University and a Neighborhood." In this presentation, he talked about the drastic changes that have happened in Main South, noting Clark's significant role in those improvements. Some of the reunion guests hadn't returned to the area for over thirty years, so the many transformations of Clark's neighborhood and campus provided a great topic of conversation!



From left: Melissa Gilbert (Temple University), GSG Director Anthony Bebbington, Michele Masucci (Temple University), Ibipo Johnson-Anumonwo, GSG Program Administrator Jean Heffernan, and Douglas Johnson (Professor Emeritus, Clark University)

Following the presentation, the alums were directed to the first floor of the Geography building (just under the graduate student Mezzanine) where they were greeted by cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and delightful live music by the Clark Jazz Ensemble. The space where the reception was held was at one point home to the JK Wright Library, but it has since been transformed into two computer lab spaces and an open-concept area perfect for student collaboration (and in this case, entertaining). The alums explored the hallways and offices, reminiscing about the way things were "back in the day." The social engagement was a great way to wind down from the excitement of the weekend, and it was delightful to welcome back familiar GSG faces!



GSG alums Michael Enders and Bret Halverson (coordinator of the "Friends of GSG" network)



GSG alum Arthur Krim and Professor Emeritus Douglas Johnson



The Clark Jazz Ensemble



Michele Masucci and Ibipo Johnson-Anumonwo



Rinku Roy Chowdhury (Indiana University) and GSG Administrator Jean Heffernan



Jack Foley (Vice President of Government and Community Relations) and Denise Bebbington (Asst. Professor of IDSC and Director of Women and Gender Studies)



From left: Melissa Gilbert (Temple University), Daniel Weiner (UConn) and partner Sondra, Ibipo Johnson-Anumonwo (SUNY-Cortland), GSG Director Anthony Bebbington, and Michele Masucci (Temple University)

Alumni Reunion photographs are courtesy of Ananya Sikand (BA '14, Studio Art/Art History double major), Jean Heffernan, and Brenda Nikas-Hayes

The following morning, the GSG hosted an on-campus brunch for the alums. During brunch, current doctoral students **Alida Cantor**, **Kelly Kay**, and **Christopher Knudson** gave a brief presentation about what the Clark Geography graduate student organization, CUGS, looks like today. They discussed a variety of things, such as the research that their cohorts are conducting, the many places where current students are from, other places where our students have gone, and the ways in which they are incorporating inclusion and diversity into their work. Brunch guests also learned that **Christopher Knudson** has picked up a bit of a hobby, researching the history of the GSG and CUGS. He provided some insight into his findings, both the cool and the quirky!

Immediately following brunch, Professors Deborah Martin and John Rogan talked to the group about the HERO program and the collaborative work that the GSG is doing in efforts to eradicate the Asian Longhorned Beetle. Later that evening, Director Bebbington and his wife, Professor Denise Bebbington (Director of the Women and Gender Studies Program at Clark), welcomed the alums back to their home for a final farewell gathering.

The entire NESTVAL/Reunion weekend was a tremendous success, and the faculty and staff of the GSG would like to thank our guests and alums for their continued support. A special thanks goes out to Bret Halverson for initiating the "Friends of the GSG," and to Graduate Program Administrator Brenda Nikas-Hayes for coordinating the reunion plans! We hope that everyone who was able to attend enjoyed their time, and we look forward to more events like these in the future!

*Any PhD or Master's alums who are interested in "Friends of the GSG" should contact Graduate Program Coordinator **Brenda Nikas-Hayes** (BNikasHayes@clarku.edu).*

*For BA alums interested in getting involved in Geography events, contact Undergraduate Program Coordinator **Colleen Dolan** (CDolan@clarku.edu).*

Photo credit for brunch pictures: Brenda Nikas-Hayes



Brunch buffet provided by Clark Catering



Doctoral students Christopher Knudson, Alida Cantor, and Kelly Kay talking about the current state of CUGS



GSG, past and present



Alums socializing over brunch



Doctoral student Alida Cantor and Kelly Kay with Undergraduate Program Coordinator Colleen Dolan



Professors Deborah Martin and John Rogan discussing ALB research



Staff Stories: Welcoming Rachel Levitt

Rachel Levitt joined the GSG staff in October 2013, a few months after graduating from UMass Amherst, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication. Rachel has been interested in working in higher education ever since she worked as an undergraduate advisor in the Communication department at UMass, where she realized the true gratification of helping faculty and students reach their goals in education. Rachel has quickly adapted to her role as the first point of contact in the Geography main office, and she plans on continuing her studies in Communication through COPACE. Rachel will be working towards completing the Master of Science in Professional Communication program beginning this upcoming spring 2014 semester.



Rachel will be working towards completing the Master of Science in Professional Communication program beginning this upcoming spring 2014 semester.



Expanding Our Social Media Presence

In an effort to reach more of our community, the GSG has established a Facebook page and will soon expand to other social media sites (such as LinkedIn and Twitter). We ask our faculty, students, alumni, and friends to follow us on this journey, by “liking” our pages!



« « « find us

Anyone who is interested in sharing their news or updates should contact the designated GSG staff member as noted below:

General and faculty news/updates: **Rachel Levitt**
(RLevitt@clarku.edu)

Undergraduate student news/updates: **Colleen Dolan**
(CDolan@clarku)

Graduate student news/updates: **Brenda Nikas-Hayes**
(BNikasHayes@clarku.edu)

For continuous updates about our faculty and students, subscribe to the Clark NewsHUB!



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