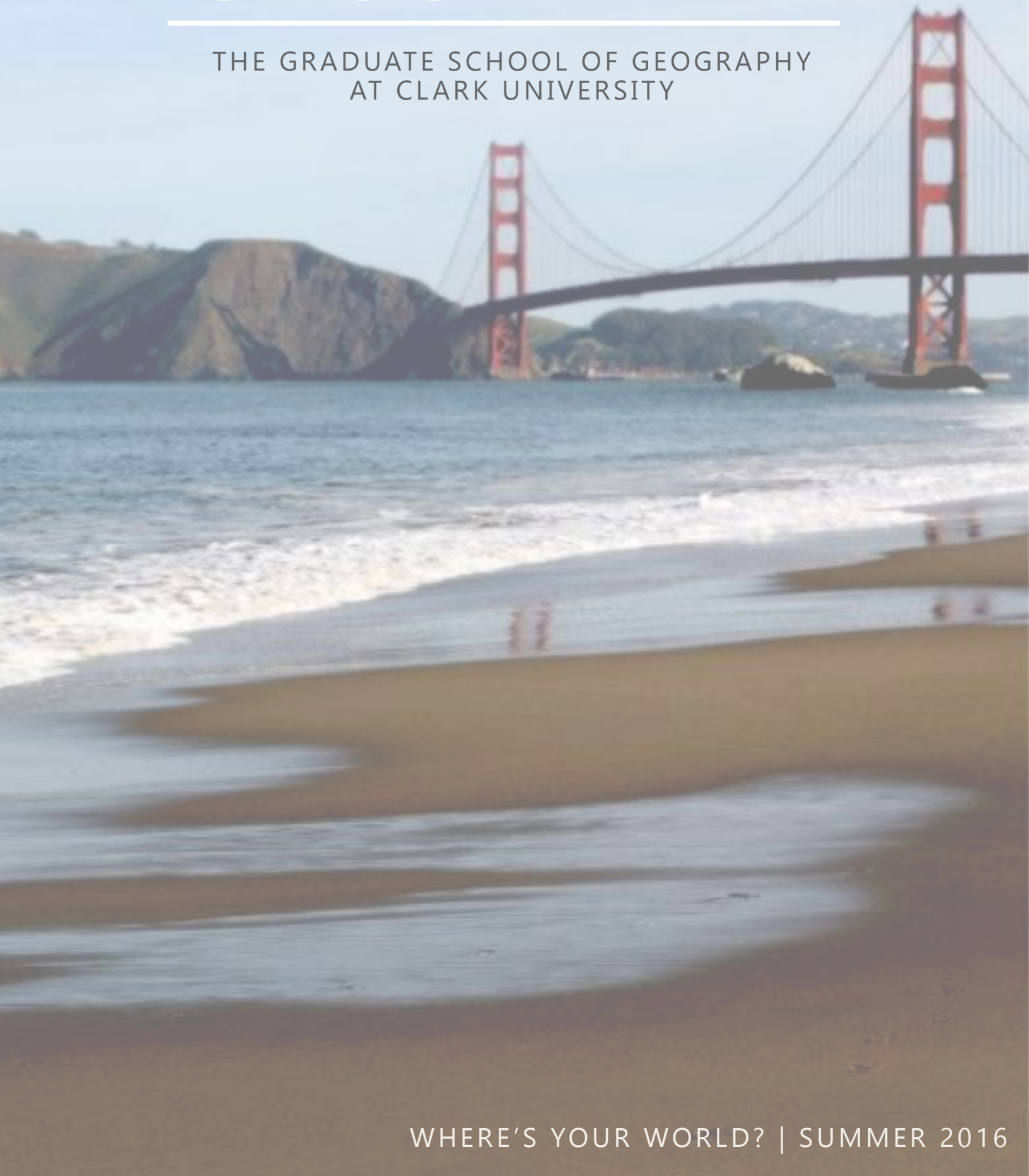


# GEOGRAPHY

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THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY  
AT CLARK UNIVERSITY



WHERE'S YOUR WORLD? | SUMMER 2016

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A digital version of this newsletter can be found at [clarku.edu/departments/geography/about/newsletters.cfm](http://clarku.edu/departments/geography/about/newsletters.cfm)

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**GEOGRAPHY@CLARK**



# WELCOME

Greetings from  
GSG Director Tony Bebbington

Dear All,

As I write this note, students are spending their summers working, resting, conducting research, doing internships with a range of public and private organizations, or simply being with family and friends. Faculty are doing much the same – desperately catching up on their writing, conducting new research and spending time with loved ones of whom we sadly see too little during the helter-skelter of semesters. Staff are still coming in every day, taking care of the department, wrapping up last year, preparing for the next and doing jobs for which there is never enough time in the semester. Summer is a time of recuperation, of-catching up and of taking care of our mental and physical health as well as that of those we cherish. It is

as important a part of the year as are the semesters in residence, and these months should also be a reminder of the need to take greater care of each other and of ourselves over the course of the whole year. The summer “break” should perhaps also be a reminder that time at Clark is not just about studying, activism, teaching, doing research or serving: it is life, it comes round just the once, and it is important to get the balance right.

These thoughts are partly prompted by the contents of this newsletter, once again wonderfully put together by Rachel Levitt. As you look through the pages you will see lots of photos of people smiling and being together. Perhaps all our newsletters do but this one really struck me. These smiles are, it seems to me, not just for the camera - they are the smiles of people being happy: happy at graduation, happy at the annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers, happy beginning this year's HERO work, happy in Honduras, happy on the New York field trip, happy Practicing Geography, happy at the Inter-American Foundation fellows retreat. Not all moments are happy of course (this is life, after all) but it is so important that we find happiness in doing all we do in the GSG, and that we enjoy being, not only achieving. Many of the photos in this newsletter come from this May's graduation, a time when lives come together in slightly more fullness than they do during the academic year. Families come into the department and faculty see students with their parents, friends and relatives. I can't help feeling that this coming together is a really important moment, but also that it is something of a shame that it happens mostly at the end of students' degrees. Whatever the case, graduation was a wonderful moment of celebrating lives moving forward.

Also in this newsletter, you will see a news item from an alum who came to do a Master's degree at Clark in 1949, sixty-seven years ago. His reflections on his time before, during and after Clark remind me of just how different this department has been at different times, how diverse our students' and staff's lives have been, and how the periods in which we live mark the Geography we do and what Geography does to us. Back in 1949, Clark Geography was a place deeply affected by the Second World War. Among its graduate students were people who had had their lives turned upside down by the war and who in some cases had fought on different sides. Over a short four-year period they had moved from being displaced and from being enemies, to being settled in Worcester as colleagues studying and learning together. They were also building lives. In John Collins' case, he was writing a thesis on a topic from his past that would go on to shape his future. He was also failing Economic Geography. As a result of that C grade he had to register for another semester of class and ended up meeting his lifelong partner. This is not encouragement to go out and fail classes, but it does help put things in perspective when we worry about a grade lower than expected or a paper that never quite gets finished. Things go wrong, but life carries on and the more we take care of ourselves and of each other, the more life will give us, and the more Clark (and Clark Geography) will be something we lived and not only somewhere we worked.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and go well,

Tony

## REMINDERS



### » EVENTS «

Mark your calendars for some of our upcoming departmental events, specifically this Fall's Colloquium Speaker Series lineup. See page 28 for dates to note:

#### Upcoming Events:

- Fall Colloquium Talks
- HERO Summer Program Events

[Check out our event website for details](#)

### » EMAIL LIST «

If you would like to receive email updates about events and other happenings within the Graduate School of Geography, contact us at [geography@clarku.edu](mailto:geography@clarku.edu). Emails and announcements are frequently sent out about upcoming events, career and internship opportunities, and other important information. Sign up today!

### » SUBMIT «

Traveling somewhere for research? Working on an interesting project around Worcester? Have a collection of recent photos of places you have visited? We are always looking for **new content for future newsletter issues**, so if you have information to share, feel free to email Rachel Levitt ([RLevitt@clarku.edu](mailto:RLevitt@clarku.edu)) to see if it can be featured in an upcoming issue.

**GEOGNEWS03**

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# FACULTY NEWS

"Clark geographer in Australia to study climate change, drought and the death of trees"

**Professor Christopher Williams** was recently featured on Clark's [Research Matters](#) page where he discussed some of his research in Australia where he has spent his 2015-16 sabbatical. This feature is part of the "[7 Continents, 1 Summer](#)" series, which highlights the interesting work that Clark students, faculty, alumni and staff are doing all over the world. [View the article here.](#) 6/8/16

"Africa's Information Revolution: Technical Regimes and Production Networks in South Africa and Tanzania" The recent book by **Professor Jim Murphy** and Pádraig Carmody (Trinity College Dublin), [Africa's Information Revolution](#), is the 2016 prizewinner of the [Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences](#). The award will be formally conferred in Brussels this coming October." 6/2/16

"Antarctica or bust"

**Professor Karen Frey** and Doctoral Alumni Luke Trusel (PhD '14) were featured on Clark's [Research Matters](#) page as one of the "[7 Continents, 1 Summer series](#)" for their work in Antarctica. "As part of a three-year project by Clark geographer Karen Frey and others to understand surface changes in the cryosphere – the frozen ocean water – of West Antarctica, Luke Trusel, PhD'14, traveled to the continent in 2010-2011. Their research resulted in a Nature Geoscience article last October that the online magazine Slate called "the first to comprehensively study the sensitivity of warming air temperature on the stabil-

ity of ice shelves in Antarctica." [View the article here.](#) 6/1/16

"What Happened to Worcester?"

**Professor Deborah Martin** was recently featured in an article in the New York Times: "...Deborah Martin, a professor of geography at Clark University in Worcester, has spent years leading students through the city and researching its social dynamics. She knows a fair bit: where the Ghanaians live, how the Latino immigrants are differentiated by country of origin." [View the article here.](#) 5/1/2016

"ArtsWatch: 'geoEnvisioning' at Clark: Beautiful visions, complex predictions"

**Professor Ron Eastman's** geoEnvisioning exhibit was recently featured in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette: "At Clark University, you can see the future — and it looks like something you would see in an art museum. In an exhibition called 'geoEnvisioning,' work by J. Ronald Eastman, professor of geography, and his students shows the sheer beauty and scientific potential of images created using advanced computer techniques. The works look like fine abstract art but they actually are maps made using a sophisticated software system developed by Clark Labs at the university, of which Eastman is director." [View the article here](#), and see the following page for more information and photos. 5/1/2016

"Beetle-kill zones surprisingly rich in biodiversity"

**Professor Dominik Kulakowski** was quoted in an article in The Durango Herald. "Clark University associate professor Dominik Kulakowski agreed. He said the result, a "snag forest," is a fa-

vorable habitat for many invertebrates and vertebrates because of the creation of canopy gaps and enhanced growth of understory plants. "Outbreaks create snags that may be used by various birds and mammals, including woodpeckers, owls, hawks, wrens, warblers, bats, squirrels, American marten and lynx," Kulakowski said." [View the article here.](#) 3/3/2016

"From conflict to co-operation" **GSG Director Tony Bebbington** was quoted in an article in The Economist on mining in Latin America: "Despite the headlines, more mines go ahead than don't in Peru, points out Anthony Bebbington, a geography professor at Clark University in Massachusetts. Mainly because it has cheap energy and high-grade ores, many of Peru's mines are competitive even at today's prices. Thanks to Las Bambas and other new mines, the country's copper output is forecast to rise from 1.7m tonnes in 2015 to 2.5m tonnes this year, second only to Chile's." [View the article here.](#) 2/6/2016

"The Ideological Roots of the Oregon Standoff"

**Professor James McCarthy** was quoted in an article in the New York Times about the standoff: "There were many people who were active simultaneously in the Wise Use and militia movements and who saw them as different manifestations of the same larger cause," [Dr.] McCarthy said. "However, it is also true that many Wise Use activists were uncomfortable with the militia coming into their fold." [View the article here.](#) 1/9/16

For more updates and postings, be sure to check out our [Facebook page](#)



# FACULTY NEWS

## geoEnvisioning Exhibit: Professor Ron Eastman

Clark Labs | On Display March 2 - May 11



On March 2nd, a number of geographers and interested students, faculty, and staff attended the opening reception for Professor Ron Eastman and Clark Labs' **geoEnvisioning** exhibit in Dana Commons. After hearing Professor Eastman speak a bit on the process and the work behind the exhibit, attendees were then free to wander around and view these fascinating pieces.

**Exhibit description** (from the [Clark Labs Facebook page](#)): "An exhibit by Ron Eastman and Clark Labs. Prof. Eastman will provide a short introduction to the images which were created using Geographic Information System and Image Processing software.

The human species now so dominates the world that we are transforming it profoundly. What are the consequences? How do we envision future states of the environment? To know the future, we must know the present, we must know the past, and we must know how to learn. Humans are adept at this, but sometimes the problems are so large that they are impos-

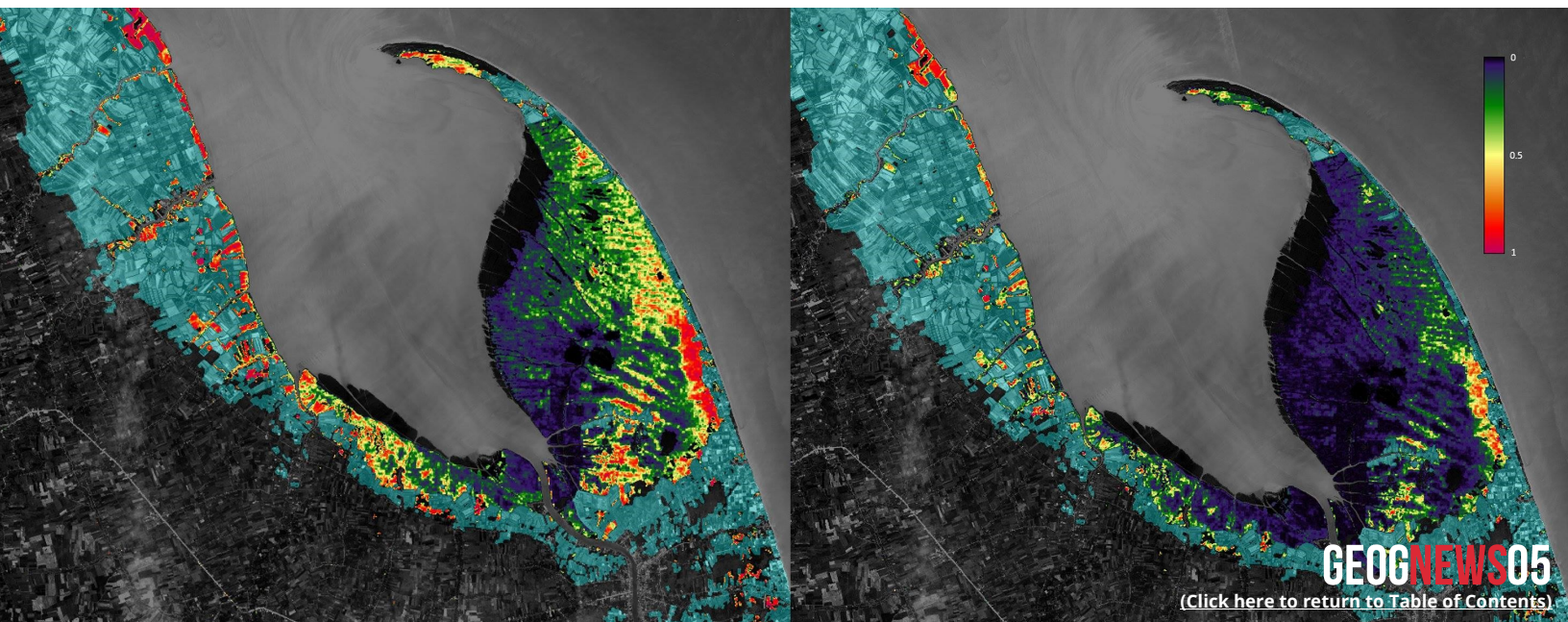
sible to solve. With earth-observing satellites and machine learning, however, we now have the essential ingredients for geoEnvisioning — predicting and assessing future outcomes of human endeavors.

This collaboration between the Higgins School of Humanities and Clark Labs is part of (Higgins') Spring Dialogue Symposium, "What's Next?" and showcases both the beauty and scientific potential that geoEnvisioning affords. "

To view the digital exhibit, check out the [Clark Labs Facebook page](#)!

Above Photo: "5th year MS-GIS student Moriah Day viewing a map of vulnerability of cropland in northwest Ohio to transition to open space development in the future. Redder areas have higher vulnerability. The map was created using an artificial neural network. The neural network looks at historical examples of land conversion and relates them to factors such as elevation, slope, proximity to urban development, proximity to various kinds of roads and so on. Maps such as this are used by land change models to predict future development. (Analysis by Hannah Rush)." Photo taken by Stefano Crema (Clark Labs)

Figure (below): "A map of vulnerability to change is not really a prediction, but an important step towards a specific forecast. These maps show areas of pond aquaculture in 2014 (in blue) in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand. There is a good chance you've eaten shrimp that were raised in these ponds. The left panel shows present-day vulnerability of land conversion from mangroves to new shrimp ponds (on a scale from 0-1). To convert the vulnerability image to a prediction, we need information on the rate of change. The right panel has extrapolated the current rate of conversion to create a prediction for the year 2050. In this case, the colors represent probability of conversion by 2050. (Analysis by Sean Cunningham and Ron Eastman)."





# DOCTORAL NEWS

Inter-American Foundation Conference  
**Juan Luis Dammert** and **Elisa Arond**, both Grassroots Development Fellows with the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), attended the IAF Mid-Year Conference in Mexico City in February. They presented their in-progress research to IAF staff, the IAF academic committee, and the 13 other Fellows. They also had the chance to visit an IAF grantee organization, Ya Muntsi Behña, an indigenous women's cooperative in Hidalgo state, to learn about their work cultivating, processing, spinning and weaving, and marketing maguey fibers.



Photo (Left): Elisa & Juan Luis with a friendly mariachi performer

Below Photo: All the Fellows, IAF staff, and some of the members of the cooperative who hosted Elisa & Juan Luis for lunch and a demonstration of how to process the maguey.

Doctoral Student Grants and Awards (Spring 2016)

**Azadeh Hadizadeh Esfahani** received a FURS dissertation research grant for AY 2016-17 "Neighbourhood as a site of policy and activism: exploring citizenship, belonging, and identity building in Tehran's neighbourhoods."

**Azadeh Hadizadeh Esfahani** received a Pruitt fellowship for AY 2016-17. "Neighborhood as a site of policy and activism: Exploring citizenship, belonging, and identity building in Tehran's neighborhoods"

**Ben Fash** - National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP) for 3-years beginning 9/1/2016 for his dissertation research development and field work.

**Wenjing Jiang** - Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (DPDF) from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) for summer research in 2016.

**Wenjing Jiang** - Graduate Student Association (GSA) Travel award for 2016.

**Nathan Mietkiewicz** - Graduate Student Association (GSA) Travel award for 2016.

**Melishia Santiago** - Edna Baily Sussman Foundation 2016 science summer research Merit scholar award. Melishia also received a fully funded Remote Sensing of Sea Ice 2-week intensive course at Cornell during the summer 2016.

**Laura Sauls** - Summer 2016 US Department of Education (USED) Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (through the University of Georgia, to study the Miskitu language in Nicaragua with the University of Kansas).

**Laura Sauls** - Latin America Specialty Group (LASG) PhD Student Field Study Award (received at AAG) for pre-dissertation fieldwork in Nicaragua and Honduras.

**Laura Sauls** - LASG Student Co-Authored Paper Award (received at AAG) for a paper written with Andrew

Davis and Susan Kandel (of the Salvadoran NGO PRISMA) entitled "Communal property rights, territorial governance, and mitigation: examining emerging institutional frameworks and REDD+ in Central America"

**Laura Sauls** - Selected as a Fellow for the Inter-American Foundation 2016-2017 Grassroots Development Field Research Fellowship Program. Project title, "Constructing Territory: regional coalitions, natural resource governance, and the quest for grassroots development alternatives in Central America."

**Kristen Shake** - National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (NSF DDRI) grant to fund her dissertation field work in Alaska for AY 2016-17

**Leslie Wyrzten** - National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP) for 3-years beginning 9/1/2016 for her dissertation research development and field work.

**Su Ye** - Edna Baily Sussman Foundation 2016 science summer funding award for his research proposal field work.

**Zhiwen Zhu** - Edna Baily Sussman Foundation 2016 science summer funding award for his research proposal field work.

Stay updated on our latest doctoral student news through our [website](#) and Facebook page





# DOCTORAL NEWS

## Notes from the Field: Kristen Shake



Letters from a ge(ocean)grapher: An ocean, an island, and ice. Written by Kristen L. Shake, PhD Candidate  
Home: Girdwood, Alaska  
Location: Dutch Harbor, Unalaska Island, Alaska



"On a cold, clear day in February, I sat on a rocky outcrop overlooking the azure blue waters of Captain's Bay on Unalaska Island. In one hand I cradled a hot mug of freshly brewed coffee, in the other hand, a pen was tapping against a very full notebook that was balancing on my knee. Curling tendrils of steam that escaped the contents of my warm mug were quickly whisked away by a coming breeze. I felt the wind around me gain momentum, and looked on as it created fussy brushstrokes across the surface of the bay hundreds of feet below, eventually creating a few stray waves that lapped gently at the shore, disrupting a few migratory ducks from their lazy wake. I watched as a group of factory trawl ships, anchored in the harbor a mile away, eventually began to rock slightly back and forth in response to the change in surface conditions. It was a subtle, yet prompt chain reaction of events, and indicative of the types of connections I consider in my work. The ocean is a fluid space of connections between the material components of the marine ecosystem, living resources, and human social, cultural and economic systems; it is not a passive, blank, expressionless or empty space between expanses of land. And there isn't a better place on earth for a researcher to observe the power of the ocean than the Aleutian Islands.

With funding generously provided by the Geller Award through the Marsh Institute at Clark, I traveled to the remote community of Unalaska and the Port of Dutch Harbor in the eastern Aleutian Islands. My research explores the relationship between sea ice, law and living marine resources in the dynamic spaces of the Bering and Beaufort Seas. Unalaska and the Port of Dutch Harbor are a site of intersection between human social systems, industry, law and a rapidly changing marine environment of the Bering Sea, and I traveled there to interview professionals working within the fishing industry. The management of fisheries resources in the Bering is carried out through various levels of governance (international, federal, state and local) at seasons that coincide with the seasonal onset, persistence and break up of sea ice. Sea ice has a presence in this system, as well as a relationship between the rules that govern this space, however latent that they may be. Sea ice influences, changes, and impacts the various ways in which humans use, go through, transit and even conceptualize movement in ocean areas. Many unexplored questions remain about the ways in which sea ice impacts (and is altered by) law in this dynamic, fluid space.

Through my work and collaborative efforts with other researchers, community leaders and policy makers alike, I hope to contribute a more nuanced way of thinking about space, place, borders and material natures of the more than human in this ever shifting, fluid environment. Engaging critically with the relationship between the marine environment and various levels of law is a vital task for trying to formulate responses to the challenges that climate change presents for our state, and the world community. I look forward to exploring these connections within the Bering Sea through my work as a ge(ocean)grapher."

— Kristen Shake, PhD Candidate

Above Photo: View of Unalaska from Haystack Hill, overlooking Ballyhoo Mountain (L) and the Port of Dutch Harbor (R)  
Below Photo: Catcher processor vessels in Captain's Bay, Unalaska Island

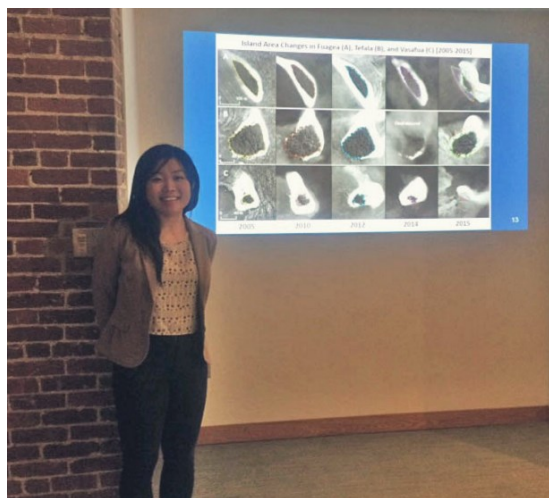




# GRADUATE NEWS

Quantifying shoreline change in Funafuti Atoll, Tuvalu, using a time series of QuickBird & WorldView data

Written by Michino Hisabayashi, M.Sc. GIS '16

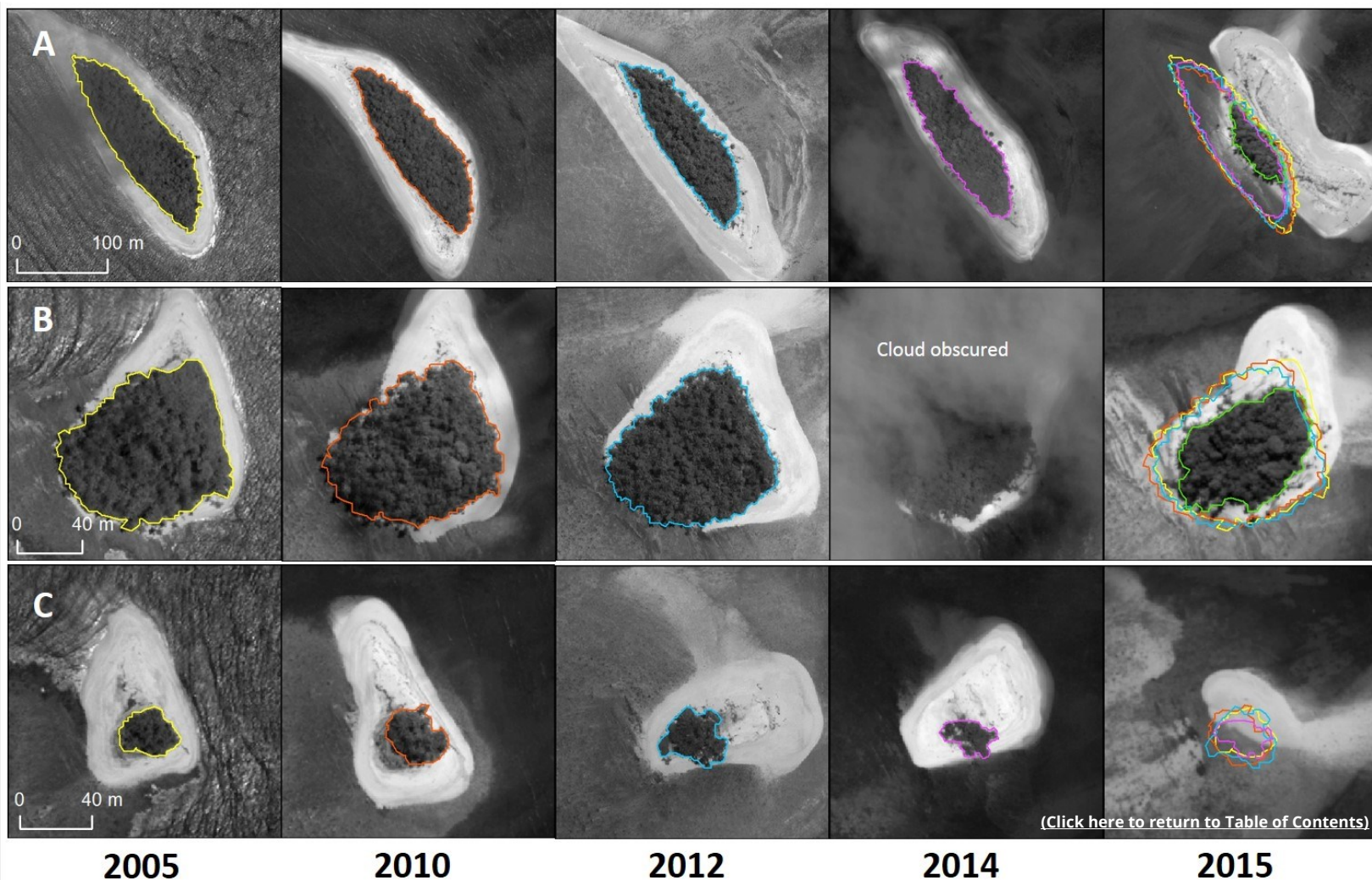


"For my thesis research in the GIScience MSci degree program, I had an opportunity to work with Professor John Rogan to examine the shoreline change of twenty-eight islands in Funafuti Atoll, Tuvalu, between 2005 and 2015, using a time series of satellite data. Funafuti Atoll is located in southwestern Pacific Ocean that has experienced some of the highest rates of sea-level rise ( $\sim 5.1 \pm 0.7 \text{ mm/yr}$ ) over the past 60 years. Atoll islands are low-lying accumulations of reef-derived sediment that provide the only habitable land in Tuvalu, and are considered vulnerable to the myriad possible impacts of climate change. I was able to work with a rare spatial resolution dataset provided by DigitalGlobe, including 0.65 m QuickBird, 0.46 m WorldView-2, and 0.31m WorldView-3 data, and my results showed some troubling trends. This study would be impossible without the generosity and support of DigitalGlobe ([www.digitalglobe.com](http://www.digitalglobe.com)) through Andrew Steele, their Asia-Pacific Sales Engineering representative

Results indicate a 0.13% (0.35 ha) decrease in net island area over the past decade, with 13 islands decreasing in area and 15 islands increasing in area, which support previous findings that island shorelines are dynamic and experience

both erosion and accretion. Significant decreases in island area occurred on Fuagea, Tefala and Vasafua in the past decade, especially between the 2014 and 2015 data, which coincide with the timing of Cyclone Pam which passed the Pacific Ocean to the west of Funafuti in March, 2015. Although an experiment with freely available 30 m Landsat data and free automated mapping software (CLASlite) indicated some potential, the amount of information that a time series of high spatial resolution data can offer is exceptional, especially for very small islands. Reducing disaster risk is a cost effective investment, and I believe that remotely sensed high resolution data should become more widely available and more utilized now and in the future, to support the resilience of Tuvalu and other small island states against climate change." **(continued on next page)**

Figure 1 (below): A time series of edge of vegetation shoreline polygons in selected islands that experienced significant decrease in island area between 2005-2015. A: Fuagea (-0.9ha, -78.33%), B: Tefala (-0.34, -43.86%), C: Vasafua (-0.07ha, -100%). Photo above: Michino Hisabayashi presenting this figure.



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# GRADUATE NEWS

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Figure 2

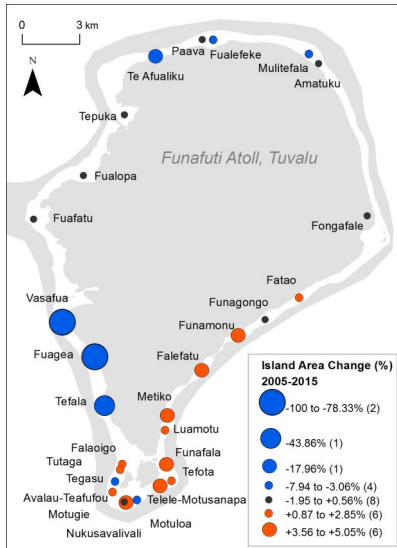
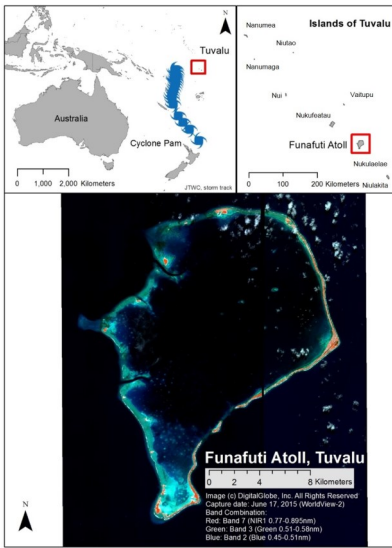


Figure 3



"This past March, this research was mentioned to the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Enel Sopoaga, when he visited Hawaii to attend the Pacific Risk Management Ohana (PRIMO) conference and spoke about the various climate change related risks confronting the country. I was also able to share my final findings with the Special Envoy for Disaster Preparedness, Sam Teo. I would like to thank my summer internship mentor Doug Harper at NOAA Inouye Regional Center in Hawaii, who was extremely kind to connect the dots and provide such an incredible opportunity for his former intern from two summers ago.

Over the years of studying Geography and GIS at Clark, I have developed an interest in using GIS and remote sensing for the field of disaster risk reduction. I am excited to start my career this July in Tokyo, Japan, with a company that provides engineering consulting services based on geospatial information technology, from the development of social infrastructure, to environmental and renewable energy businesses, disaster risk reduction, and

disaster management planning. I am beyond grateful for all of the guidance and support I have received from professors, peers and staff at Clark Geography. Thank you so much!"

— Michino Hisabayashi, M.Sc. GIS '16, BA Geography '15

Figure 2 (above, L): Map of Funafuti Atoll, Tuvalu, with Cyclone Pam's path

Figure 3 (above, R): Symbolized map of islands in Funafuti Atoll for percentage area change, 2005-2015

(Positive changes in area (island accretion) are symbolized in orange, while negative changes in area (island erosion) are in blue and islands that experienced little change are symbolized in black circles. The size of the circle corresponds to the magnitude of percent change.)

Photo below: The Prime Minister of Tuvalu being greeted at the IRC. (the NOAA building in Hawaii)





# GRADUATE NEWS

## Wildlife Conservation Seminar



This past spring semester from April 26-28, **Professor Florencia Sangermano** and **Professor John Rogan** took their Wildlife Conservation class to present their research findings at the [Wildlife Conservation Society](#) (WCS) headquarters at the Bronx Zoo, New York. This year, the four groups of students presented on satellite monitoring of grassland degradation in Pat-

agonia (Argentina), the Wakhan Corridor (Afghanistan), Ruaha National Park (Tanzania), and the Gobi Steppe (Mongolia). The teams worked with the field staff at each site to determine the magnitude and locations of grassland conversion and modification due to mining, wildfire, overgrazing and agricultural expansion. The results of this work were distributed to WCS staff worldwide.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Wildlife Conservation Society

### Course Information

#### **GEOG 336: Wildlife Conservation GIS Research Seminar**

The course will follow a workshop-seminar and laboratory format in collaboration with research staff at Clark Labs and the Wildlife Conservation Society based in New York City. Students will work in small groups (i.e., no larger than three) for the semester on collaborative conservation projects in Rwanda, Guatemala, Cambodia, and other countries. Students will apply GIS and remote sensing skills to achieve ex-

plicit conservation goals related to land change assessment, hydrologic modeling, and ecosystem services valuation/modeling. Work will be performed in close collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Society research staff. Project results will be presented by student teams at the end of the semester to Wildlife Conservation Society staff. Open to doctoral and masters students.

### Students:

Michael Endicott  
Hannah Rush  
Yixuan Wang  
Samantha Coccia  
Jason Ready  
Stephen Chiavaroli  
Lei Tang  
Nathan Gill  
Cathleen Torres Parisian  
Zhiwen Zhu  
Monica Noon  
Garfield Barclay

Below Photo: Professor John Rogan & Professor Florencia Sangermano's Wildlife Conservation Seminar class at the Bronx Zoo in NY





# UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

## Real Food Challenge

This past semester, five students spent a few of their February days representing the Food Truth group in Baltimore, Maryland at the Real Food Baltimore Action Training. The Food Truth group is a student group focused on raising food consciousness by exploring the social, political, ethical, environmental, and health impacts and implications of what we eat. By sponsoring potluck dinners, speakers, events, and field trips, Food Truth encourages dialogue and activism around food issues. The group is Clark's student representation of Real Food Challenge (see: [realfoodchallenge.org](http://realfoodchallenge.org)) on campus. This means they are a group of students working with Clark dining services to promote positive changes in food served in the dining hall. In Spring 2013 Clark signed on to 20% real food - what they define as Local, Fair, Humane, & Ecologically Sound - by 2020. Food Truth is the student group that supports Clark's Food Policy Council in implementing this commitment.

A big thanks to the following students for representing Clark at this important event: **Hannah Silverfine** '16, Geography & Spanish, **Samantha Flanagan** '18, Environmental Science & Policy, **Kaila Sauer** '18, Environmental Science Conservation Biology, **Taylor Miller** '18, Political Science & Urban Development, **Iolanthe Brooks** '19, Sociology

"Once again we wanted to thank the Geography department for providing funding for FIVE members of Food Truth to attend the Real Food Baltimore Action Training! These past four days have provided us with unlimited knowledge and new connections that will last our college years and beyond that in trying to implement the Real Food Challenge here on Clark's



campus! **Between action training, regional and campus strategizing, and brainstorming for the future here at Clark, Food truth is ready to take on any challenge."**

-- Food Truth Student Reps

To learn more about Food Truth check out their [student organization page](#)







# PRACTICING GEOGRAPHY WEEK 2016

During the week of April 11th-17th, the School of Geography held its 5th Annual Practicing Geography Week; a week full of career-focused events for undergraduate students interested in Geography, Global Environmental Studies and Earth System Science. Consisting of multiple events and a weekend-long field trip to New York City, new connections and friendships were made and the GSG family grew a little larger. Thank you to everyone who attended these events!

Practicing Geography week began on Monday, April 11th with our second annual **Spring Kick-Off event**, held at the Goddard Grove fire pit, where we celebrated traditions of Beltane, a Gaelic May Day festival historically celebrated in Ireland and Scotland. Students gathered for coffee, tea, and pseudo-oat cakes, enjoying a nice break from studying for finals while learning a bit about the traditions of other cultures. Later that evening, CUGA hosted its annual **Trivia Night**, which had a great turn out of over 30 students gathering for the event. Students shared snacks and played to win prizes while testing their knowledge of geographical trivia. To learn more about CUGA, email [clarkcuga@gmail.com](mailto:clarkcuga@gmail.com) to join for the Fall 2016 semester.

On Wednesday, April 13th, Clark alum **Serena Galeshaw (BA '12, Global Environmental Studies)** drove down from Maine to share with us her experiences of post-grad life through a discussion titled *"We each are community: place based solutions for radical social and environmental change"*. Serena talked about the struggle of finding a niche after leaving the bubble of college, and how she used her Clark experiences to establish her goal of "making it easier for more people to live sustainably and celebrate life in vibrant communities." Serena has achieved a number of feats since her time at Clark, and even gave a [TED talk](#) in 2013 about one of her projects called the Graduate House, a place where young people can come together to catalyze ideas and communities in Southern Maine and New Hampshire. Serena engaged the audience and shared a thoughtful and meaningful recollection of her experiences, offering advice and even networking for the students in attendance.

Additionally, we held an induction ceremony for our newest members of **Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)**, an International Geographical Honors Society that accepts new members each year who meet the GPA and course requirements. For a list of all of our new GTU members, see our Undergraduate Honors & Awards section (page 21), or view our [full roster online](#) to see all current and past initiates!

Finally, we wrapped up Practicing Geography Week with the third annual **urban geography field trip to New York City**, led by Professor Mark Davidson. See the next page for photos and more!

Above Photo (L-R): (top row) Hannah Rosenblum, Kim Johnson, (bottom row) Amy Phillips, Will Heikes, Ali Filipovic, Eli Goldman, and Gabe Epstein showing off their Beltane garb at our Spring Kick-Off event





# NEW YORK CITY TRIP

## Practicing Geography Week 2016

Over the weekend of April 15th - 17th, a group of geographers departed from Worcester and headed into the big city for the School of Geography's third annual New York City Field Trip to conclude Practicing Geography Week. With a bus full of 23 Clarkies, the group headed to New Haven Union Station in Connecticut to catch the train into Manhattan for a week-end of urban geography and city exploration. With Professor Mark Davidson leading the group for the third year in a row, students were able to experience parts of New York City through a geographical lens.

For some, this was their first time in NYC, but others were old pros. With a great deal of coordination, students participated in a number of group activities, but the schedule still allowed time for individual journeys. Friday began with a walking tour around Long Island City led by doctoral student Renee Tapp. This was followed by a group dinner at Maizal Restaurant in Astoria, where students got to know each other a little better over guacamole and delicious Mexican cuisine. The following day, the group embarked on a trip to Wall Street, where Professor Davidson led a walking tour and discussed the financial crisis from an urban economic perspective. From there, the group headed out to Coney Island, where the day was spent riding rollercoasters and walking along Brighton Beach after discussing Russian migration. Students then had the rest of the night to themselves to explore Brooklyn, Manhattan, or anywhere else. The trip concluded Sunday afternoon, after a walking tour focusing on Manhattan Architecture. With a full weekend completed, everyone piled back onto the train, then the bus, and headed back to Worcester with a new experience and new friends. This trip served as a great way to finish off a busy spring semester. A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped us complete yet another successful NYC excursion to conclude Practicing Geography Week!

For more information on upcoming undergraduate events, be sure to check our [Facebook page](#), School of [Geography Moodle page](#), and our [Clark Geography website](#) for updates.

## 2016 TRIP

### UNDERGRADUATES

Eli Baldwin\*  
Nathan Bram  
Devin Clarke  
Gabe Epstein\*  
Maria Luisa Escobar Pardo  
Ali Filipovic  
Yuka Fuchino  
Madilyn Jacobsen\*  
Kim Johnson\*  
Anthony Jreije  
Isabel Miranda  
Eric Pasay  
Amy Phillips\*  
Ted Randich\*  
Carly Robbins  
Hannah Rosenblum\*  
Ilana Taves  
Gabe Trevor  
(\*Not Pictured)

### GRADUATES

Jacob Chamberlain  
David Lukens  
Renee Tapp

### FACULTY & STAFF

Mark Davidson  
Rachel Levitt  
Kayla Peterson



**GEOGNEWS13**

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# ALUMNI NEWS

"Will Ramallah be Palestine's first 'smart city'?"



An inspirational story of success and never knowing where your GIS skills will take you. **Safaa Aldwaik** (PhD '12), a graduate of our Doctoral Program, was honored by ESRI last

year for her work with the City of Ramallah as Director of GIS infrastructure. Safaa is changing her world and is a leader in her field. [View the article here.](#)

Launch of The Coordinates Society  
Julie Urbanik, PhD '06, and **Connie Johnston**, PhD '13, have launched The Coordinates Society, a not-for-profit organization that seeks to cultivate geographic curiosity beyond and outside academia, and to encourage public participatory geographies. The Coordinates Society has two programs in place thus far: Coordinates Magazine, an eclectic mix of textual and non-textual material, and Mindful Geographies, activities designed to help connect individuals to themselves and the places around them. Julie and Connie introduced The Coordinates Society at this year's AAG meeting in Media Geographies Specialty Group-sponsored session. They are currently seeking to develop a network of those who would like to share geographic work outside of the academic/industry setting. For more, visit [coordinatessociety.org](http://coordinatessociety.org) or contact [julie@coordinatessociety.org](mailto:julie@coordinatessociety.org) or [connie@coordinatessociety.org](mailto:connie@coordinatessociety.org).

"Public Engagement Fellows: Leshner Leadership Institute"

The AAAS has selected **Kirstin Dow** (PhD '96) as a 2016-17 Public Engagement Fellow as part of the first year of the [Alan I. Leshner Leadership Institute](#) for Public Engagement with Science. Dr. Dow is a social environmental geographer focusing on climate impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation. She is principal investigator of the Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assess-

ments, an interdisciplinary research team bridging climate science and decision-making. Dow is also a lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment's Chapter on Adaptation Opportunities, Constraints and Limits, and the Summary for Policy Makers (2014). She is also a lead author on the Research Needs chapter for the 2014 U.S. National Climate Assessment. Dow received her Ph.D. in Geography from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1996.

**Ally Trull** (GES '10) was featured in the May issue of Providence Journal highlighting her work at [Recycle-A-Bike](#) in Rhode Island. [View the article here.](#)

Careers & Paths of Recent Graduates  
**Monica Noon** (M.Sc. GISDE '16) -- Manager, GIS for Vital Signs, Conservation International

**David Bates** (M.Sc. GISDE '16) -- GIS Specialist with Mobilitie (Chicago, IL)

**Ariel Walcutt** (M.Sc. GISDE '16) -- Summer Fellowship in Bangkok with SERVIR-Mekong, a joint partnership between USAID, NASA, AidData, and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

**Moriah Day** (M.Sc. GIS '16) -- Temporary Field Technician, Botany Group, NEON, Inc.

**Casia Terenzoni** (M.Sc. GISDE '16) -- Technical Writer at Textron Systems Geospatial Solutions

**Sarah Philbrick** (M.Sc. GIS '16) -- Land Use and Transportation Analyst at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (Boston, MA)

**Michino Hisbayashi** (M.Sc. GIS '16) -- Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. (GIS, RS & Mapping)

**Kathryn Meng** (PhD '16) -- Senior Program Manager, Worcester Clean-Tech Incubator

**Alida Cantor** (PhD '16) -- Geography Instructor, San Diego Community College

**Nick Cuba** -- Post-Doc at Brown University to begin September 1, 2016

**Emily Gallagher** (PhD '16) -- Emily Gallagher has accepted the position of Post-Doctoral Research Fellow - Equal Opportunities, Gender, Justice and Tenure with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

**Kelly Kay** (PhD '16) -- Post-Doc Ciriacy-Wantrup Fellow for the 2016-17 academic year, UC Berkeley | Lecturer, London School of Economics (delaying start to fall 2017)

**Oona Morrow** (PhD '15) --Post-Doc Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin, 2016-2018

**Pheakkdey Nguon** (PhD '16)-Academic/Research Advisor, Dept. Intl. Studies, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Principal Investigator for REDD+ grant for Cambodia funded by Stockholm Environment Institute, and Freelance Consultant to World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

**Prajiwal Panday** (PhD '13) -- Asst. Professor, School of Environmental Studies, Nichols College, MA

**Luke Trusel** (PhD '14) -- Asst. Prof, Tenure-Track, Geology Dept., Rowan University, NJ

**Zoe Ritter** (M.Sc. GIS '15) -- GIS Analyst at NYC Dept Of Environmental Protection

**Samuel Berman** (M.Sc. GIS '15) -- GIS Analyst at Daymark Energy Advisors

Alumni Survey  
Tell us what you're up to! Please take a minute to complete our brief survey [linked here](#) About life after Clark. The survey can also be found linked on our [Facebook page](#).  
**Thank you!**

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Ret. Col. John M. Collins (MA '51)



Alumnus and veteran John M. Collins shares the story of his time in the GSG back in the late 1940's/early 50's, how he met his wife Gloria (who was at the time a secretary to Professor and GSG Director Samuel Van Valkenburg), and how his military service brought him through many experiences that will never be forgotten. Many thanks to Ret. Col. Collins for sharing this, for his service and his continued dedication to the department.

**John M. Collins (MA, '51)** is a veteran of World War II who later served in the Korean War and in Vietnam. This portrait (left) was taken the day before he retired from the U.S. Army on May 31, 1972.

This past June 6th was the 72nd anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy. Colonel Collins arrived as a lieutenant about three weeks later, and then, in his words, "traipsed across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany into Austria before war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945."

Earlier this year Colonel Collins reached out to make contact again with the GSG. The following story, written mostly in his words, reflects on his experiences at Clark, as well as his time before and after Worcester.



**M**onday, the 6th of June, marked the 72nd anniversary of D-Day landings in Normandy ([This website](#) displays geographic differences between then and now). One of the highlights of my life was playing a supporting role on D-Day as an airfield controller for the 36th Fighter Group (P-47 Thunderbolts) in the British Isles at Kingsnorth Airfield near Ashford, Kent. Takeoffs during double summertime began at daybreak, about 0300; the last sorties

landed at dusk, sometime between 2200 and 2300 hours, so three flying control officers and ten enlisted men worked shifts. I toured far and wide as the designated unit scrounger in search of plywood, a Plexiglas B-26 turret, assorted electronics, a pot-bellied stove, and other materials with which to turn a tarp-covered 1½-ton truck into an all-weather mobile control tower (**Figure, Right**).

As Army Second Lieutenant Collins, later in June I led a tiny advance party to Normandy, splashed ashore at Les Moulins on Omaha Beach, followed an annotated map to Ste. Marie du Mont, and bivouacked on swampy ground outside Brucheville, at the southern end of Utah Beach. We did nothing useful for almost a month, because air base engineers hadn't even begun to bulldoze the worst humps and lay tar paper over one narrow runway, taxi lanes, parking areas, and open air storage. My job at Advance Landing Field A-16, the last of 20 to open shop, didn't begin until 5 July 1944 (the above photo portrays me playing soldier with a hedgerow backdrop). Front lines remained so close that

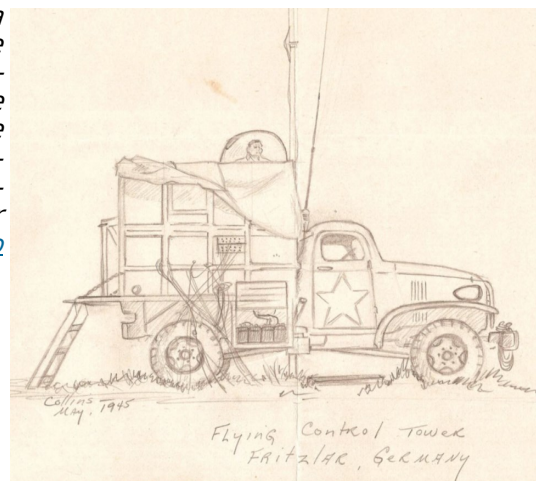
P-47s dropped bombs soon after they pulled wheels up, returned to reload, and flew several missions apiece each day. An armada of 1,500 B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-24 Liberators darkened the sky over Brucheville for an hour on 25 July 1944 en route to St Lô. The U.S. breakout from hedgerow country thereupon began. I thereafter leap-frogged through France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany into Austria between mid-July 1944 and early autumn 1945.

My quest to become Clan Collins' first college graduate after dropping out of high school twice was a momentous move at the right time, because barely 5% of the U.S. population then possessed a college degree. The Golden Age of college education, which had just begun, flooded hallowed halls with no nonsense World War II veterans. My major in January 1946 was geography at tiny Kansas City University, where the Liberal Arts College counted 505 students. Instruction by superlative professors approximated private tutelage, since only one class contained more than 20 students. I made straight A's the first six weeks, straight F's the second six weeks, dropped out in March, returned in June, and thereafter become an honor student summer, winter, night, and day for three consecutive years, funded \$75 a month by the GI Bill.

I used the last year of my GI Bill to earn a Masters Degree at Clark University's Graduate School of Geography, where the Director in 1949-50 was **Dr. Samuel Van Valkenberg**, whose home in Arnhem was demolished during World War II. Doctor Van was one-of-a-kind. He often acted out what he was talking about. Students included a former Polish freedom fighter, two from Holland, and another whose Lithuanian family ended up in a Gestapo glue factory. Another student had fought for Germany in the war, and been wounded several times.

*(Editor's note: a photo of these and other students can be found on page 15 of the Monadnock 1949, volume 24, number 1 -- [click here to view](#)).*

**(continued on the next page)**





# ALUMNI NEWS

(continued from previous page)

Military geography thereafter retained great importance throughout my professional life, which spanned several more decades. After I retired from the U.S. Army and Congressional Research Service, JCS Chairman General John M. Shalikashvili arranged a billet for me at National Defense University while I produced a military geography primer. A 437-page tome that contains 67 maps plus more than 100 figures, tables, and photographs, came off the press in March 1998 with a Foreword from former JCS Chairman John W. Vessey, who said, "I wish it had been in my knapsack for the past 55 years."

## About John M. Collins

**Date & Place of Birth:** May 14, 1921, Kansas City, MO

**College Education:** Kansas City University, B.A., 1949 (Geography) | Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, M. A., 1951 (Geography) | Industrial College of the Armed Forces, 1967 | National War College, 1969

### Military Service

Enlisted as an Army private May 1942 and retired as a colonel May 1972. I served in the European Theater of Operations as a IX Air Force airfield controller (October 1943 - November 1945), followed by a quest for college degrees (1946-1950). Staff work at many levels consumed the remainder of my military career. Service as a U.S. Army strategic intelligence specialist in the Pentagon came first (November 1950-1952), then assignment to the 24th Infantry Division G-2 shop in Korea a few days before that war ended. Duties thereafter included assorted intelligence billets in Japan (1953-1955), followed by intelligence experiences with the 82d Airborne Division, XVIII Airborne Corps, command of that corps' 800-man signal battalion, then a super secret detachment that monitored Soviet nuclear detonations from Thule, Greenland. Duty with Special Operations Task Force Europe, headquartered in Paris, came next, after which I headed General Westmoreland's Campaign Planning Group in Vietnam (1967-68). My culminating assignment was at the National War College as Director of Military Strategy Studies, 1968-71 and as Chief, Strategic Research Group, 1971-72. Awards for 30 years of active and reserve Army service included two Legions of Merit, a Bronze Star, and a Master Parachutist Badge.

### Civilian Careers

Senior Specialist in National Defense, Congressional Research Service (CRS), June 1972-January 1996. Output included several congressional committee prints, more than 40 CRS reports, and many CRS issue briefs. Folded in edgewise were frequent consultations for the Department of Defense; Members of Congress and congressional staff; members of the news media, industry, and research institutes; academia; foreign officials; and free-lance analysts, plus assorted lectures in the USA and abroad. The Librarian of Congress, who oversees CRS, on my retirement day rewarded me with his highest honor, an Award for Distinguished Service to the Congress of the United States.



Last Love At First Sight Graduate student Collins by May 1950 had completed all but one course required for a Master of Arts degree in geography, because I regarded economic geography in disgust after statistical calculations proved that the center of corn production in the United States lay smack dab in the middle of Lake Erie. There was no way I could process such "inane" information, so I quit trying. Doctor Raymond Mur-

phy more than generously gave me a "C" on the final exam and, since an MA diploma demanded no less than a "B," I had to retake that test in August. The subsequent chain of events fundamentally altered the rest of my life.

Professor Van Valkenburg appointed 20-year-old Gloria Olive Demers as his private secretary during my brief absence. Gloria not only was winsome, but possessed a brand new Chevrolet sedan that her daddy registered in her name when she graduated from Colby Junior College the previous June. No wonder it was love at first sight. Sixty-five plus years later and still counting I'm blessed with the perfect wife."

**Above Photo:** "My bride and me in 1951 on a visit to Clark University while she was typing my thesis at night and I labored in the Pentagon, during my first and only tour in that "Puzzle Palace" on the Potomac. This photo was taken on the lawn near Clark University's geography building, on the right if you stand on the front steps." The **below photo** is the couple today (2014).



Thank you again to **Ret. Col. Collins** for sharing this fantastic story with us!



# DEPARTMENT NEWS



## Book Donation from the Goyette Family

Written by Wenjing Jiang, PhD Candidate

On March 3rd, 2016, the GSG received an extremely generous book donation from the Goyette family. Mrs. Goyette initially reached out to the Geography department explaining her desire to find new homes for these beloved books that belonged to her late husband. From there, with coordination through CUGS, we were able to

arrange for the delivery of this great collection.

The extensive collection, left behind by a late geographer and previous faculty member at Framingham State College, Dr. Arthur Goyette, includes over 300 books in Economic Geography, East European Geography, Soviet Geography, and 31 volumes of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia. The books are temporarily stored in the J.K. Wright lab in the Geography Building, and CUGS will soon start looking for appropriate and long-term homes for the books.

We very much appreciate the great generosity of the Goyette family, with special thanks to Mrs. Susan Goyette for making the donation!

Above Photo: The towering stacks of donated books from Mrs. Goyette  
Below Photo: Doctoral Students with Mrs. Susan Goyette in the Geography Mezz (L-R): Ben Fash, Laura Sauls, Yifan Cai, Ashley York, Dexter Locke, Mrs. Susan Goyette, Guy Hydrick, Mireya Bravo, Will Collier, Alex Moulton, Jacob Chamberlain, Yueming (Amy) Zhang.  
Photos by Wenjing Jiang



## Thank You to our Student Office Assistants

The GSG would like to sincerely thank our 2015-16 team of student assistants for all of their hard work and dedication to the department over the years! For those of you who have graduated, we miss you already, and for those of you returning, we can't wait to have you back!

Yuka Fuchino  
GEOG '16

Office Assistant since Fall 2013

Ruby Pendergast  
SOC '16

Office Assistant since Fall 2013

Amy Phillips

GEOG & UDSC '16

GIS Support Assistant since Fall 2015

Ilannah Taves

GEOG & UDSC '16

Office Assistant since Fall 2015

Lauren Holmen

PSYCH '19

Office Assistant since Fall 2016

Saira Khan

GEOG '17

GIS Support Assistant since Spring 2016



We have, as a planet, entered a time of profound change.

Can we face it together?

Given its gravity and uncertainty, how will we as educators show up?

Can we re-envision the work of our community, given this reality?

*A new Earth conversation*

**starts with these questions.**

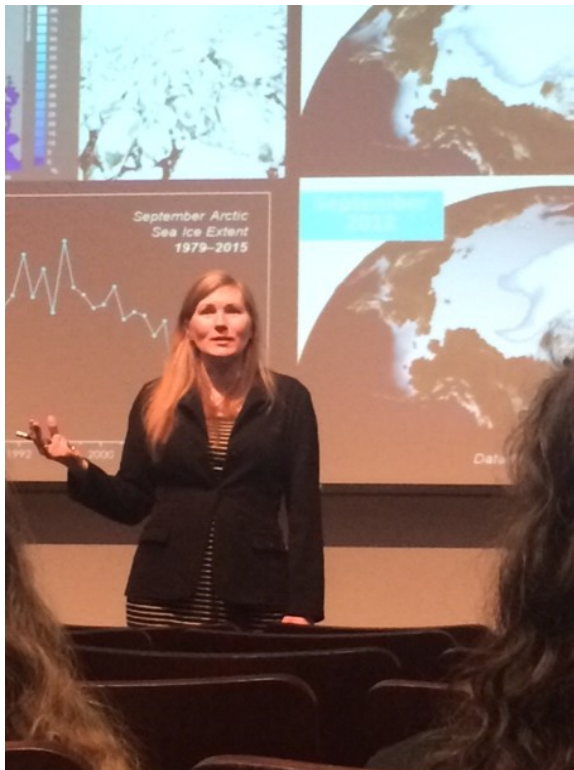
# CLIMATE CHANGE TEACH-IN

## 2016 Climate Change Teach-In asks crucial questions

"The stakes are high. The planet is changing profoundly. What does it mean, what is possible, and what is needed? Clark University's second Climate Change Teach-In on March 23 brought the campus together for a deep consideration of the challenges to the planet's health. The day featured a variety of teach-in sessions and a campus-wide council session. In all, more than 50 faculty and staff offered panels, presentations and open classes, assisted by a team of student facilitators. The event examined the issues from multiple perspectives, inspiring discussions into the ways climate change is altering nature, how it affects the world's populations and their economic, social and cultural structures, everything from capitalism to the arts."

An article written by Jim Keogh (Marketing & Communications), [linked here](#), discusses a number of important conversations that took place as part of this year's Climate Change Teach-In event. Many of our GSG faculty participated and were able to share their research, ideas, and discussions with students, faculty, and staff university-wide.

The below list shows just a few of the many sessions in which our GSG faculty and students participated. The full program can be found at [newearthconversation.org](http://newearthconversation.org). \*Names of GSG members italicized (faculty and students)



### Session One: What is changing, and why?

"Earth, Fire, Water" (Robertson, Rogan\*, Roy Chowdhury, Silverfine)

"REDD+" (Caron, Pontius, Arakwiye, Sauls)

"A new normal for sea ice in the Arctic" (Frey)

"The global warming hiatus" (Eastman)

"Following up on Naomi Klein" (Bebbington, Angel, Emel, Carr, Bhachu)

### Session Two: How do we choose to respond?

"Disposable Goods, Disposable People, Disposable Planet" (Richter, Brown, Fabos, Epstein)

### Session Three: What's next?

"What does *human being* mean now?" (Buie, Miller, Bebbington, Onzere, MacLean)

"Food Systems, climate change and economic development" (Borges-Mendez, Miller, Goldman, Stromberg, Monteverd, Silverfine)

"As within, so without" (Shea, Cenotti, Shah)

Click the below image to watch the promotional video:



Photo (Left): Professor Karen Frey discussing sea ice and the effects of its changing during her talk titled "A new normal for sea ice in the Arctic"





Above Photo: Doctoral students at the Clark Party showing off their "Geographriends" T-shirts with GSG Director Tony Bebbington

# AAG 2016

## San Francisco, California

This spring, many of our faculty, graduate and undergraduate students attended the AAG (Association of American Geographers) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California from March 31st through April 2nd. With the Hilton Union Square San Francisco hotel as the main hub, the city filled with geographers who traveled from all over the country to come together and present research, attend sessions, network, explore, and catch up with old colleagues and friends.

In addition to all of the conference activities, the GSG held its annual Clark Party on Wednesday, March 30th at the historical [Cadillac Bar & Grill](#) on 44th street. This venue's beginnings can be traced back to the original Mexican Cadillac Bar which opened in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico in 1926. [Learn more about its history here.](#)

On top of attending multiple forums, meetings, presentations, and poster sessions, many of our geographers presented material of their own. The below list shows just a few of the many presenters from the GSG. The full program can be found on the [AAG website, linked here](#) (simply search by Affiliation: "Clark University")

### FACULTY

Yuko Aoyama  
Anthony Bebbington

Mark Davidson  
Ron Eastman (Clark Labs)  
Jody Emel  
Doug Johnson  
Deborah Martin  
James McCarthy  
Jim Murphy  
Prajwal Panday  
Robert 'Gil' Pontius  
Rinku Roy Chowdhury

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

Mireya Bravo-Frey  
Yifan Cai  
Alida Cantor  
Jennifer Duong  
Arthur Elmes  
Nathan Gill  
Azadeh Hadizadeh Esfahani  
Dylan Harris  
Wenjing Jiang  
Adrienne Johnson  
Kelly Kay  
Young-Long Kim  
Alexandra Knopf  
Chris Knudson  
Dexter Locke  
Xu Lu  
David Lukens  
Nathan Mietkiewicz  
Alex Moulton  
Scott Odell  
Laura Sauls  
Kristen Shake  
Kevin Surprise  
Renee Tapp

William Thoman  
Leslie Wyrzten  
Yueming Zhang

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Savannah Cooley  
Ali Filipovic  
Yuka Fuchino  
Eli Goldman  
Alex Hayes  
Isabel Miranda  
Hannah Rosenblum  
Sanika Shah  
Chung Truong Nguyen



JOIN US IN BOSTON FOR THE 2017 AAG ANNUAL MEETING

Join us in Boston **April 5 - 9, 2017**  
The Hynes Convention Center, Marriott Copley Place and the Sheraton Boston.  
**Registration opens August 1, 2016.**  
[Click here to learn more!](#)



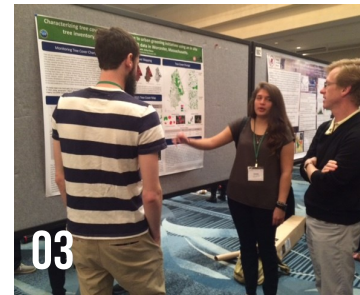
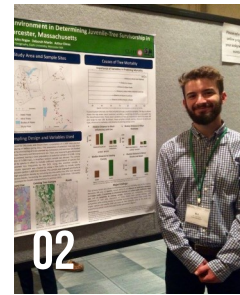
# AAG 2016

Photos from the 2016 AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco!  
For more, check out our [Facebook album](#)

**01** Alex Hayes, Eli Goldman & Chung Truong Nguyen at the Golden Gate Bridge



**02** Eli Goldman presenting HERO research at the Physical Science Poster Session



**03** Isabel Miranda sharing her research with Doctoral Student Dexter Locke and GSG Director Tony Bebbington

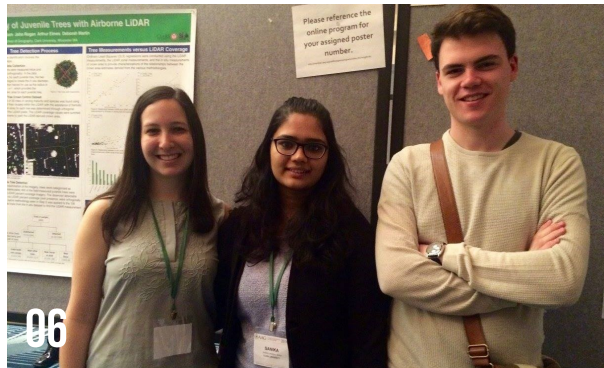


**04** Some HEROs at the Physical Science Poster Session

**05** John Hayes, Grad Program Administrator Brenda Nikas-Hayes and Hilary Laraba (Managing Editor of the Economic Geography Journal) at the bridge



**06** Hannah Rosenblum, Sani-sha Shah & Nathan Bram



**07** Chris Knudson presenting "Antipode and the Making of Radical Geography at Clark University"



**08** GSG Director Tony Bebbington speaking about our department at the AAG Clark Party



**09** Tony Bebbington with Marianna Pavlovskaya (PhD '98, now Dept of Geography, Hunter College)







# UNDERGRADUATE HONORS & AWARDS

Like many semesters in the past, Spring 2016 marked the end of another very successful year for many of our undergraduate students. Some completed year-long honors projects and defended theses, others were selected by faculty members for an array of annual departmental awards. Some were newly inducted into honors societies, and others even received recognition at a university level. As a department, we could not be more proud of our undergraduate students, and are continuously impressed by the number of accomplishments they manage to achieve in their short time here at Clark. Congrats to all!

## Department Awards

### 2016 Recipients

Ellen Churchill Semple Award  
*Kim Johnson & Sanika Shah*

Clark Labs GIS Excellence Award  
*Hannah Rosenblum*

NCGE Excellence of Scholarship Award  
*Eric Pasay*

Linda Roth Memorial Activist Scholar Award  
*Katherine Landesman*

The Marcia V. Szugda-Emani Memorial Environmental Scholarship Award  
*Chung Truong Nguyen*

Global Environmental Studies Outstanding Student Award  
*Eli Goldman*

Strabo Award  
*Yaffa Fain & Daniela Reyes Saade*

## Honors

### Highest Honors

Yuka Fuchino  
*"Characterizing the Social-Environmental risks to the Urban Forest in Worcester, Massachusetts"*

Eli Goldman  
*"Characterizing the Role of the Built Environment in Determining Juvenile-Tree Survivorship in Worcester, Massachusetts"*

Kim Johnson  
*"Children's Perceptions of the environment in Worcester, MA: An evaluation of environmental education in an urban environment"*

Katherine Landesman  
*"Characterizing Mangrove Distribution and Change in Antsohiy, Madagascar"*

Hannah Rosenblum  
*"Determining Detectability of Juvenile Trees with Airborne LiDAR"*

Warren Scott  
*"Sea ice trends in the Cape"*

*Bathurst and Saint Lawrence Island Polynyas, 1980 - 2014"*

Sanika Shah  
*"Lifting The Curtain On Myanmar's Foreign Investments: Analyzing the Determinants, Strengths and Constraints of Foreign Investments in Myanmar"*

Chung Truong Nguyen  
*"Identifying Optimal Tree Planting Locations in Worcester, MA Using Spatial Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis"*

Gamma Theta Upsilon  
Geographical Honors Society  
**2016 Inductees**

Oyut Amarjargal  
Madhubanti Anashua  
Katie Bosse  
Nathan Bram  
Madeleine Cassidy  
Patrick Collins  
Shirin Esmaeili  
Emma Freud  
Yuka Fuchino  
Madilyn Jacobsen  
Anthony Jreije

Saira Khan  
Isabel Miranda  
David O'Brien  
William Pew  
Spring Pillsbury  
Carly Robbins  
Thomas Smith

Peter J. Condakes  
Summer Research Award  
**2016 Recipients**  
Anthony Jreije (BA '18)  
*"The Effect of Space on Identity in Beirut"*

Claire Bayler (BA '17)  
*"Reconciliation: Changing Pressures on Sustainable Cuban Urban Agriculture"*

The Peter J. Condakes award is made possible by a generous gift from Peter Condakes, an alumnus and Geography major from the Class of 1978.

To see more awards and achievements, check out [our website](#).

Above Photo: Chung Truong Nguyen with Sri Emani, PhD '01  
Below Photo: Sanika Shah receiving the Ellen Churchill Semple Award





# COMMENCEMENT

The GSG would like to extend a very big congratulations to the Class of 2016!

## GRADUATED SENIORS

### GEOGRAPHY

Mehran Ali  
Belen Betancourt  
Caleb Boas  
Alexandra Cohen  
Nicholas Dandridge-Lemco\*  
Yuka Fuchino  
Carmiya Gale  
Rose Gallogly  
Joanna Green  
Alexander Hayes  
Kim Johnson  
Katherine Kinley  
Jeremy Marshall\*  
William Pew  
Amy Phillips  
Ted Randich  
Hannah Rosenblum  
Warren Scott  
Sanika Shah  
Hannah Silverfine  
Lucas Tatarsky  
Ilana Taves  
Jarrett Taxman  
Chung Truong-Nguyen

### GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Max Boehnert  
Jessica Cusworth  
Eli Goldman  
Katherine Landesman  
Taj Millot

### EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE

Kara Blackwell  
Diana Doria  
Natalie Ducharme-Barth  
Zoe Lafrance-Armstrong  
John Maday  
Jessica McDermott  
Eric Pasay

\* completed requirements in Aug or Dec 2015

## MS-GIS 5TH YEAR GRADUATES

Elliot Altbaum\*  
Michelle Andrews\*  
Samuel Berman\*  
Sean Cunningham\*  
Anastassios Dardas\*  
Jamie Duncan-Brown\*  
Yelena Finegold\*  
Michino Hisabayashi  
Cody Litchfield\*  
Kayla Patel\*  
Zoe Ritter\*

\* completed requirements in Aug or Dec 2015

## GISDE GRADUATES

Daniel Auerbach  
Garfield Barclay  
David Bates\*  
Mengyi Chen  
Siqu Cheng  
Stephen Chiavaroli III  
Samantha Coccia  
Nelson Crone\*  
Shane D'Lima\*  
Stuart DeLand  
Zhilan Deng  
Nan Ding  
Jennifer Duong  
Po Hu  
Wensi Hu  
Xiaoyan Hu  
Xiaoyang Kong  
Zehan Li  
Zifeng Li  
Xu Lu  
Michael Nkum  
Monica Noon  
Lei Rong  
Casia Lynne Terenzoni  
Alison Thieme  
William Thoman  
Cathleen Torres Parisian  
Ariel Walcutt  
Shuhong Yan  
Zhen Yuan  
Dongjun Zhou

Zhuoyue Zhou

\* completed requirements in Dec 2015

## M.A. GRADUATES

Elisa Arond  
Alida Cantor  
Juan Luis Dammert Bello  
Arthur Elmes  
Alireza Farmahini Farahani  
Nathan Gill  
Azadeh Hadizadeh Esfahani  
Dexter Locke  
Nathan Mietkiewicz  
Ali Santacruz Delgado  
Ashley York

(all of these M.A. degrees have been awarded as en-route to Ph.D.)

## DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Alicia Mireya Bravo Frey  
*"Bridging knowledges through institutions: the micropolitics of environmental governance in the Oxapampa-Ashaninka-Yanesha Biosphere Reserve"*

Alida Cantor  
*"Dust Storms and Dying Lakes: Wastefulness, Reasonable and Beneficial Use, and Water Transfers in California"*

Katherine Foo  
*"Parks & Recreation Departments are not a Joke: Environmental Governance in the Age of Post-Apocalyptic Climate Change"*

Emily Gallagher  
*"Ghana is Cocoa, Carbon is Ghana: Sustaining Cocoa Landscapes and Governing Forest Livelihoods Through Agri-environmental Extension"*

Daniel Jarvis  
*"Disturbance History and Fuel Consequences of Mountain Pine Beetle in Western Colorado"*

Adrienne Johnson  
*"Participatory Governance, Plant Disease, and Post-Neoliberalism: Governing Ecuador's Palm Oil Industry through the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)"*

Kelly Kay  
*"Taxes, TIMOs, and Trusts: 21st Century Land Conservation in the United States"*

Christopher Knudson  
*"Climate Risk Insurance in St. Lucia"*

Kathryn-Louise Meng  
*"Transition through Co-optation: Harnessing Carbon Democracy for Clean Energy"*

Pheakkdey Nguon  
*"Governing REDD+ in Cambodia: Co-production of salient, credible and legitimate policy knowledge"*

Khury Petersen-Smith  
*"Pivoting to Asia: Sovereignty, Territory, and Militarization"*

John Taylor Shelton  
*"Geographies of Data: Toward a Relational Socio-spatial Analysis of Geotagged Social Media Data"*

Amy Yueming Zhang  
*"Capitalizing on art, aestheticizing capital: the making and consuming of arts districts in Chinese Cities"*





# COMMENCEMENT

Photos from the GSG Annual "Champagne & Strawberries" Commencement Reception! Check out our [Facebook album](#) for the rest, and take a look at our slideshow of photos of our graduates linked here!



**01** GSG Director Tony Bebbington with Doctoral Grad Pheakkdey Nguon

**02** Yuka Fuchino with Undergraduate Program Coordinator Rachel Levitt

**03** Doctoral Grads Pheakkdey Nguon, Adrienne Johnson & Kathryn Meng

**04** (Most of the) 2015-16 HERO Group with Professor John Rogan, Professor Deb Martin & Grad RA Arthur Elmes



**05** Sri Emani (PhD '01) with Chung Truong Nguyen, recipient of the 2016 Marcia V. Szugda Emani Memorial Environmental Scholarship Award

**06** Kim Johnson receiving the Ellen Churchill Semple Award



**07** Alex Hayes with Professor Mark Davidson

**08** Doctoral Grads Amy Yueming Zhang, Khury Petersen-Smith, Pheaddkey Nguon, Kathryn Meng & Kelly Kay



**09** Madilyn Jacobsen (GEOG '17), Hannah Rosenblum & Ali Filipovic (GEOG '17)





# HERO 2016

## Human Environment Regional Observatory

This summer we kicked off HERO's 17th year on May 23rd with a new group of undergraduate researchers. This year we have five Clarkies from Geography and Environmental Science who have already started collecting data on a sampling of trees replanted by the Worcester Tree Initiative to replace those destroyed in the past by ALB (the Asian Longhorned Beetle). Under the direction of Professor John Rogan, Professor Deb Martin, and Managers Arthur Elmes and Zhiwen Zhu (Doctoral students), the students have already achieved a great deal and have even received a bit of media attention in the process!

Recently, the group was featured on [ClarkNow](#) and in the [Worcester Telegram & Gazette](#).

"This year marks a milestone for the HERO program, which is welcoming the 100th and 101st students to conduct research that gains insight into the interaction between humans and the environment. For the last several years, Clark's HERO program has been devoted to research that assesses the impact of the ALB invasion, partnering with the WTI, state Department of Conservation and Recreation and the USDA.

"This has become a national model... for how communities can respond to the threat of the Asian longhorned beetle or other invasive species," said Jack Foley, vice president of government and community affairs and of campus services. "It's a great experiment for us, being involved in this and seeing what happens over time."

This year, HERO Fellows will examine the factors - like gas leaks, tree species and weather, such as the record-breaking snowy winter of 2014-15 - that might contribute to a higher mortality rate for replacement trees." Click [here to view the full article](#)



HERO 2016 Fellows:  
(Pictured above, left to right)

**Rishi Singh**  
Geography '17

**Eli Simonson**  
Environmental Science: Env.  
Conservation Biology '17

**Tyler Anderson**  
Environmental Science: Earth System Science '18

**Emma Freud**  
Geography '17

**Savanna Sanford**  
Environmental Science: Earth System Science '17

Keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) for updates on their research and upcoming events. To learn more about HERO, visit us online at [clarku.edu/departments/HERO](http://clarku.edu/departments/HERO)





Above Photo by Ben Fash

# STUDENT TRAVEL

## Doctoral Perspectives: Different Sides of Honduras

### Ben Fash, Second Year Doctoral Student

"This Spring, (Professor) John Rogan, (Doctoral Student) Nick Cuba, Anam Khan, and I worked on original research to assess the current and potential impacts of mining operations on natural resources and territories that support livelihoods in Honduras. The effects of mining can take the form of changes in access to adequate quality and quantities of water, agricultural land, forests, and maritime resources, as well as displacement, militarization, and social conflict.

In February, members of our team visited several mines, communities impacted by mining, and an area facing the potential of four metallic mining concessions – my hometown of Copán Ruinas. We will release the results of the study in Summer 2016 through a series of workshops in Honduras, printed materials, and an online interactive map. The project is funded by Oxfam and in collaboration with the Observatorio Universitario Ordenamiento Territorial de la Facultad de Ciencias Espaciales de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras."

### Laura Sauls, Third Year Doctoral Student

"In February 2016, I accompanied a team from the Salvadoran non-governmental organizations PRISMA (Regional Research Program for Environment and Development) on a research trip to the Honduran Moskitia, along the Caribbean coast. The organization MASTA serves as the executive governing body of the Moskitia in Honduras, as well as the main advocate for Miskitu rights in the capital and abroad. After centuries of struggle, the indigenous Miskitu people have gained recognition of their historic land claims in Honduras. However, MASTA still faces challenges to their land security, especially in the form of land grabbing by cattle ranchers and invasions of colonos (colonists) from the interior of the country. These threats also challenge efforts by residents to sustainably use their significant forest and marine resources.

To better understand the threats to community lands in different parts of the territory, two PRISMA research teams traveled to a number of communities in the east and west of the region to interview territorial leaders about their resources, challenges they face, and key needs. In addition to helping the PRISMA team gather valuable information about current threats to land tenure faced by Miskitu territories, this research trip helped to lay the groundwork for my dissertation research, part of which will take place in the Honduran Moskitia with MASTA. More information on PRISMA's work with MASTA and other indigenous and forest-based groups in Central America may be found [here](#)."



Above Photo: A selfie with MASTA collaborators while on the road between communities in the Honduran Moskitia (Left: Laura Sauls). See the following page for more travel photos from Ben and Laura!



# STUDENT TRAVEL

## Doctoral Perspectives: Different Sides of Honduras

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01



02



03



04



05



06



07



08



09

- 01** Katinasta Territory (Photo by Laura Sauls)
- 02** Flowers at Oasis Rest Stop (Photo by Laura Sauls)
- 03** The sun sets over Auka as local boys play in the truck (Photo by Laura Sauls)
- 04** Ben Fash with the whole research team
- 05** "Los Arboles Son Vida" Trees are Life (Photo by Laura Sauls)
- 06** Boat ride across Laguna Caratasca from departmental capital Puerto Lempira to the Katinasta Territory
- 07** The burn line from recent forest fires (Photo by Laura Sauls)
- 08** View of the land cover from the plane (Photo by Laura Sauls)
- 09** (Photo by Ben Fash)





# CUGA CORNER

## 2015-16 CUGA Crew

A big thank you to our 2015-16 CUGA group for everything they have done this past academic year, especially our E-Board leaders:

Amy Phillips  
GEOG & UDSC '16

Kim Johnson  
GEOG '17

Hannah Rosenblum  
GEOG & CSAC '16

Will Heikes  
GEOG & ECON '17

### About CUGA

The Clark Undergraduate Geography Association (CUGA) is a place for students interested in making a positive impact and for all undergraduate Geography, Global Environmental Studies (GES) and Earth Systems Science (ESS) students. CUGA members are the voice of these students, with representation on the undergraduate studies committee and in departmental meetings and events. Representatives are able to vote and express their ideas and opinions on various topics that concern undergraduate majors. Join CUGA today! [ClarkCUGA@gmail.com](mailto:ClarkCUGA@gmail.com)

### 2016-17 E-Board Members:

Will Heikes  
GEOG & ECON '17

Eli Baldwin  
GEOG '19

Ali Filipovic  
GEOG '17

Maria Luisa Escobar Pardo  
GEOG & ARTHIST '17

Above Photo: (L-R) Hannah Silverfine, Hannah Rosenblum, Kim Johnson & Ted Randich at a recent CUGA field trip to the [Mapparium](#) in Boston, MA

# OPEN HOUSE

## Spring 2016 Admitted Students Open House Events

This spring, a number of undergraduates, faculty and staff helped represent the School of Geography at three Admitted Students Open House events. We had student representation at all three events during the Academic Options Fair, as well as during two information sessions about the School of Geography where many students prepared brief presentations to share their experiences and research interests with prospective undergraduate students and parents.

If you would like to volunteer for future events such as the Admitted Students Open House or the fall Majors Fair, please contact [Rachel Levitt](#). Any and all help is extremely appreciated!

Special thanks to the following faculty and students who helped represent the programs in our department:

Amy Phillips (GEOG '16)  
Hannah Rosenblum (GEOG '16)  
Kim Johnson (GEOG '16)  
Will Heikes (GEOG '17)  
Sanika Shah (GEOG '16)  
Charis Smuthkochorn (GEOG '17)  
Ilana Taves (GEOG/UDSC '16)  
Michino Hisabayashi (MS-GIS '16)  
Laura Sauls (Doctoral Student)  
Ashley York (Doctoral Student)  
Mark Davidson (GEOG Faculty)  
Tony Bebbington (GSG Director)  
John Rogan (GEOG Faculty)  
Deb Martin (GEOG/UDSC Faculty)



**GEOGNEWS27**

(Click here to return to Table of Contents)



# UPDATES & EVENTS

## Summer - Fall Events & Program Info

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### Dates to Remember

#### July 14

HERO Stakeholder Summit Event  
Jefferson 133

#### September 15

Colloquium: Ousmane Power-Greene  
Clark University History Dept.  
Grace Conference Room (UC)

#### September 29

Colloquium: Alessandro Baccini  
Woods Hole Research Center  
Grace Conference Room (UC)

#### October 06

A Conversation with Judy Dworkin  
& David Pijawka (co-hosted by Holocaust and Genocide Studies)  
Details TBA

#### October 13

Colloquium: Bruce Braun  
University of Minnesota  
Grace Conference Room (UC)

#### October 27

Colloquium: Asa Rennermalm  
Rutgers University  
Grace Conference Room (UC)

#### November 03

Colloquium: Robin Leichenko  
Rutgers University  
Lurie Conference Room (UC)

\*All colloquium talks will be held in Grace Conference Room in the University Center (UC) from **12:00-1:15PM** unless otherwise noted.

### About Our Programs

#### Doctoral

Established in 1921, the Graduate School of Geography at Clark is in-

ternationally renowned for innovative scholarship and is an acknowledged leader in the field. Consistently ranked as one of the top-ten graduate programs by the National Research Council, Clark Geography enables graduate students to train with top professionals and participate in a world-class research community. Furthermore, having awarded more [PhDs](#) than any other geography program in the U.S., Clark Geography has a reputation for training future leaders in the field.

#### Accelerated MS-GIS 5th Year Degree Program

[Geographic Information Science \(GISc\)](#) is a sub-field of Geography concerned with the acquisition, storage, analysis and communication of geographic information. In addition it conducts primary research on the manner in which we acquire knowledge from spatially referenced data.

#### MS-GISDE Program

Clark's M.Sc. in [Geographic Information Science for Development and Environment \(GISDE\)](#) is a joint program between IDCE and the Graduate School of Geography. In this unique program, students prepare to meet some of the world's most pressing social, political and economic challenges by developing expertise in and applying geospatial technologies

#### Geography Major/Minor

[Geography](#) majors use the lenses of space and place to examine issues as diverse as famine on the African continent, poverty in urban areas in the United States, the effects of climate change on Arctic sea ices, and how fires alter forest landscapes.

#### Global Environmental Studies GES Major/Minor

[GES](#) focuses on the relationships among people, and between people and other living beings, the earth, technologies, cultures, and economies.

#### Earth System Science (Track) ESS

[ESS](#) examines the physical and biological processes that shape environments across the planet, and explores how global environmental changes are altering natural resources and the sustainability of our planet.

#### Urban Development Social Change (Concentration) UDSC

[UDSC](#) is an interdisciplinary concentration that can be paired with any major at Clark University. UDSC is designed for students who have urban interests, and helps them to understand the historical, social, economic, and political factors that have shaped U.S. cities and how cities have, in turn, affected the lives of their inhabitants.

Interested in one of our programs?

For **GEOG/GES/ESS/UDSC**, contact:  
Undergrad Program Coordinator  
Rachel Levitt  
[RLevitt@clarku.edu](mailto:RLevitt@clarku.edu)

For **Doctoral/5th Yr/GISDE**, contact:  
Grad Program Administrator  
Brenda Nikas-Hayes  
[BNikasHayes@clarku.edu](mailto:BNikasHayes@clarku.edu)

Also feel free to visit the Geography Main Office in Jefferson 220 for brochures and more information!







Above Photo: View of the San Francisco Bay from the Golden Gate Bridge, by Rachel Levitt

## About Clark Geography



Clark Geography was established in 1921 as a graduate program only, and retains the name Graduate School of Geography in honor of its legacy as the longest-standing doctoral program in the U.S.

The undergraduate program was established in 1923. In addition to its undergraduate and Ph.D. programs, Clark Geography offers an accelerated B.A./M.S. degree in Geographic Information Science to qualified Clark undergraduates, and, in partnership with the Department of International Development, Community and Environment (IDCE), an M.S. in Geographic Information Science for Development and Environment. The department and its facilities are located in Jefferson Academic Center (right) and the Geography Building (left), depicted above in a vintage postcard. [Click here to learn more about Clark Geography](#)

## Contact Us

Graduate School of Geography at Clark University  
Jefferson Academic Center Room 220  
Email: [geography@clarku.edu](mailto:geography@clarku.edu)  
Phone: 508.793.7336, fax: 508.793.8881

Questions, comments, suggestions, or submissions for the next issue? Email the Newsletter Editor Rachel Levitt at [RLevitt@clarku.edu](mailto:RLevitt@clarku.edu)

## Alumni Information Database

The GSG is working to improve its alumni information in order to stay in better contact with students post-graduation. If you would like for us to add your non-Clark email to our alumni listing, along with any updates you might have regarding a current position or project, please take a minute to complete our brief survey [linked here](#). The survey can also be found linked on our [Facebook page](#). **Thank you!**





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UNIVERSITY



**CHALLENGE CONVENTION. CHANGE OUR WORLD.**

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