

GEOGRAPHY

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY
AT CLARK UNIVERSITY



WHERE'S YOUR WORLD? | FALL 2017

GEOG CONTENTS

Graduate School of Geography
Jefferson Academic Center 220
Clark University | 950 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01610

Phone 508.793.7336
Fax 508.793.8881
geography@clarku.edu
[Visit us Online](#)

GSG CONTACTS:

Deborah Martin
Director

Robert (Gil) Pontius
Associate Director

Christine Creelman
Department Administrator

Brenda Nikas-Hayes
Graduate Program Administrator

Rachel Levitt
Undergraduate Program Coordinator

Kayla Peterson
Office Coordinator

Jane Salerno
Director, Media Relations

Newsletter Editor: Rachel Levitt
Cover Photo: Rachel Levitt [Clark
University campus, Woodland Street]

All photographs used in this
publication were contributed by Clark
Geography faculty, students, or staff
unless otherwise noted

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)

PAGE 03

Director's Welcome

- A note from our new GSG
Director, Professor Deborah Martin

PAGE 04

Faculty News

- Faculty in the news
- Travel and new book releases

PAGE 05

Doctoral Student News

- Introducing our new PhD cohort
- Updates from the field
- Nature Society Workshop
- Field Camp & other updates

PAGE 08

Graduate Student News

- Introducing our new MS-GIS 5th
year ADP cohort
- New GISDE students
- Summer research & theses

PAGE 10

Undergraduate News

- Undergrads in the news
- Professor Rinku Roy Chowdhury
takes over Undergraduate Stud-
ies Committee
- Summer research updates
- Meet our new CUGA e-board

PAGE 13

HERO Program

- Stakeholder Summit
- Research updates
- Program info and upcoming
announcements

PAGE 14

Alumni News

- Updates featuring Melissa R. Gil-
bert (PhD '93), Tom Koch (BA
'71), Michino Hisabayashi (GEOG
'15, MS-GIS '16), Alex Hayes
(GEOG, THEA '16), and more
- Paths of recent grads
- Alumni Survey link

PAGE 15

Departmental Updates

- Upcoming events: Colloquium
and Atwood lectures
- GIS Help Desk, Fall 2017 Hours
- Meet our student employees

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



FACEBOOK.COM/
CLARKUNIVERSITYGEOGRAPHY



WELCOME

A NOTE FROM GSG DIRECTOR DEBORAH MARTIN

incredibly dynamic and productive group of people whom I'm proud and honoured to call colleagues.

As I reflect on this department not yet at the midpoint of our fall 2017 semester, I'm struck –every year, every season, and every time I read each new issue of this magnificent newsletter— by the business of excellence that the GSG carries on, day in and day out. I spent the last year serving as Interim Associate Provost and Dean of Research (a position that our own Yuko Aoyama has now taken up, as a regular term appointment for the next three years). I learned a tremendous amount about Clark as an institution, which gave me a greater appreciation for both how our School of Geography fits into this whole, and how much I really love this little bit of Clark – not so little, really. As I reflect upon what makes this particular corner of Clark so special to me, I think it is because of our constant expectations, and long history, of excellence. It is what unites us; a devotion to our work under an umbrella we call Geography, while wasting little time worrying about the specific parameters of the umbrella and what it means. We just go about making and maintaining excellence as members of “Clark Graduate School of Geography”. It is a distinct sort of pressure to be asked, every day, to be excellent. But, it also is an opportunity; an opportunity to thrive, to undertake work about which we care deeply, and to care about it being excellent. It is even validating and inspiring.

Peruse these pages and see the excellent work and commitments of all the members of our community. For example, this newsletter includes a list of 19 undergraduate honors theses completed in the last year –that's 19 fabulous individual accomplishments by each of those particular students, but also reflects a deep commitment of time and energy on the part of all the faculty advisors, graduate TAs, and readers of those theses. We see that sort of commitment echoed throughout all our programs, whether it be through discussion or reading something that sparks us or undertaking a big project like a thesis. Across the board, we see that commitment and enthusiasm and excellence from our undergraduates, master's and PhD students, staff, and faculty alike.

Enjoy this latest update on what we've been doing. -- Deb

Dear Geography Friends, welcome to the Fall 2017 issue of our School of Geography newsletter!

I am sure you will find it, as always, an engaging and informative way to see all the work, fun, and scholarship that we practice here at the GSG. I enter my first year as Director of the GSG grateful to Tony for all the wonderful work he did as our Director the last seven years. As the new Director, I am inheriting a department in great shape, and I am deeply appreciative. Our entire Clark Geography community has benefitted tremendously from Tony's calm and quiet demeanor, and strategic and incisive leadership. He is, indeed, an extremely tough act to follow.

The department is seeing other changes in addition to having a new Director. Dianne Rocheleau retired as of May 2017, Jody Emel is retiring in spring, 2018, and Sam Ratick is on phased retirement (his final semester will be spring 2019). We are excited for each of them for the next chapters of their lives, but feel the holes that their absences will make in the Department.

At the same time, however, if you saw our summer newsletter, you will know that we are thrilled to welcome two top-notch new tenure-track faculty; Asha Best (PhD in American Studies, Rutgers-Newark, 2017), and Lyndon Estes (PhD in Environmental Science, University of Virginia, 2008). Asha's expertise is in urban-economic geography, focusing on mobilities, informality, Black studies, and post-colonial and critical race theories. Lyndon joins the GIS cluster with research focusing on drivers and impacts of agricultural change, emphasizing earth observation and modeling techniques. A hearty welcome to them both! They join an

• • EVENTS • •

The GSG holds many exciting events throughout the year -- be sure to check our [website](#) for updates on:

- Fall 2017 Colloquium Talks
- Atwood Lecture
- Practicing Geography Week
- ...and more!

• • 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. 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 info to share, feel free to email Rachel Levitt (RLevitt@clarku.edu) to see if it can be featured in an upcoming issue.



GSG Faculty Retreat, August 2017 @ Worcester Art Museum

FACULTY NEWS

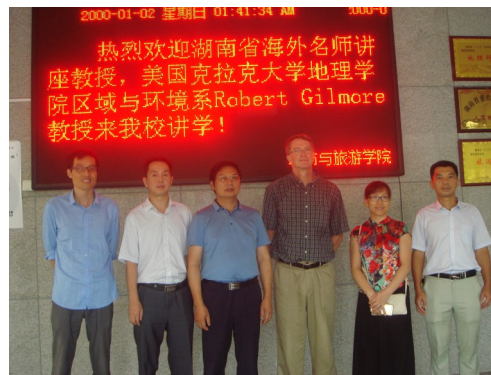


LYNDON ESTES COLLABORATES ON NATURE ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION PAPER

An international team of scientists, including a Clark University geographer (**Professor Lyndon Estes**), has pinpointed the world regions most vulnerable to species loss due to intensified agricultural development. Their findings were reported in a recent Nature Ecology and Evolution article titled "Biodiversity at Risk Under Future Cropland Expansion and Intensification."

In this article, **Lyndon** has collaborated with Laura Kehoe and her supervisor, Tobias Kuemmerle, since 2015 on projects seeking to quantify the environmental (particularly the biodiversity) impacts of agricultural development. In terms of his contribution to this particular paper, Lyndon was involved in discussions to related to designing and identifying methods and datasets that would allow the biodiversity impacts of agriculture to be more directly quantified, provided statistical advice, and

assisted in structuring and revising the paper. **ResearchMatters 07/26/2017**
[Click here to view.](#)



GIL PONTIUS SUMMER TRAVEL

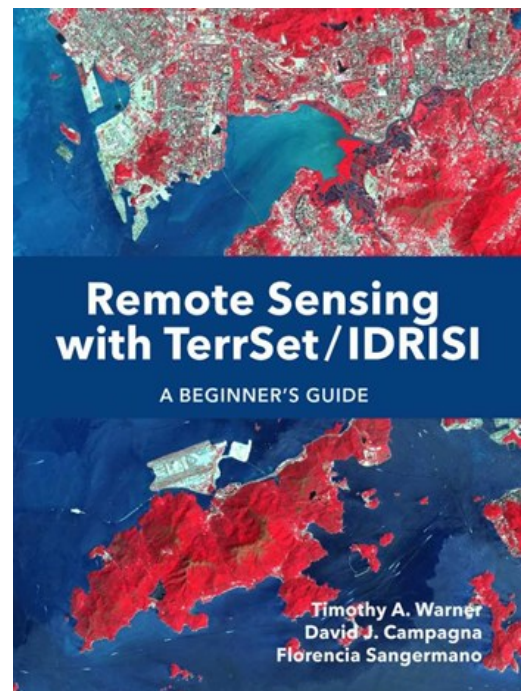
Professor Gil Pontius traveled to [Hengyang Normal University](#) in China this summer to deliver a presentation and receive a tour. The above photo shows Gil (third from the right) standing between the University's President (fourth from the right) and Vice President. (second from the right), along with the Dean and a few GIS faculty members.

FLORENCIA SANGERMANO NEW BOOK EDITION: REMOTE SENSING WITH TERRSET'S IDRISI

The new edition of the book Remote Sensing with TerrSet's IDRISI: A Beginners Guide, co-authored by Timothy A. Warner, David J. Campagna and (**Professor**) **Florencia Sangermano**, has been recently published by

Geocarto International Center.

The book is a self-study remote sensing practical guide that introduces the reader to concepts of image data display, importing, exporting and pre-processing, spectral and spatial image enhancement, image ratios for environmental monitoring, unsupervised and supervised classification (including machine learning and soft classification methods), as well as change detection analysis and error assessment. The structure of the book, makes it ideal for adoption as a laboratory guide for Introduction to Remote Sensing courses.





2017 DOCTORAL COHORT

MICHAEL J. ATHAY

M.Sc. Environmental Policy and Regulation, The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK; B.A. French studies, Brigham Young University, USA

Research Interests: Human-Nature relationships, Political Economy and Sustainability, Environmental Ethics, Science, Technology, and Society, Sustainable Supply Chain Management, Global Production Networks, New Materialism, Object-Oriented Ontology

MELISSA BOLLMAN

M.A. Energy and Environmental Policy, University of Delaware, USA; B. A. Philosophy and Environmental Policy/Science, McDaniel College, Maryland, USA

Research Interests: Nature-Society relationships, political ecology, energy and environmental policy, renewable energy

MICHAEL CECIL

M.S. Geographic Information Science for Development and Environment (GISDE), Clark University, USA; M.S. Mathematics, University of Washington, USA; B.A. Mathematics and International Relations, Brown University, USA

Research Interests: Applications of GIS and land change modeling to climate change science and climate change policy, risk analysis and vulnerability analysis, participatory GIS

NICHOLAS GERON

BM.S. Ed Education, Leham College CUNY, NY, USA; B.A. Environmental Policy and Analysis and French Literature, Boston University, USA

Research Interests: Use of GIS and Remote Sensing for monitoring land use change and natural resources due to climate change, Urban Ecology and Citizen Science, engaging local communities in Environmental Justice issues

JACKIE GUZ

B. A. Environmental Studies, Texas A&M University, USA

Research Interests: Forest dynamics, GIS, remote sensing biogeography

KAREN HUDLET VAZQUEZ

M.S. International Development Studies, Utrecht University, Netherlands; B.S. International Relations, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Mexico

Research Interests: Business and human rights, development theory, environmental governance, land use change, access to lands, participatory action research, social-environmental conflicts, social movements, Latin America, especially Mexico and Central America

INGE SALO

M.A. Geography, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa; B.A. Anthropology, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Research Interests: South African urbanism, place-making, urban displacement, urban resistance

SURENDRA SHRESTHA

M.S. Forestry, University of Georgia, USA; B.A. Forestry, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Research Interests: Land use change modeling, Hydrologic process modeling, Ecohydrologic impacts of land use change, Land-Atmosphere interaction.

LEI SONG

M.S. 3S, Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology, Nanjing, China; B.S. GIS, Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology, Nanjing, China

Research Interests: Remote Sensing and GIS, Land-cover/land-use change, Human-Environment interactions, Ecological modeling, Machine learning.

Photo (L-R, Back): Michael Cecil, Melissa Bollman, Nicholas Geron. **Front:** Michael J. Athay, Surendra Shrestha, Karen Hudlet Vazquez, Inge Salo, Jackie Guz, Lei Song

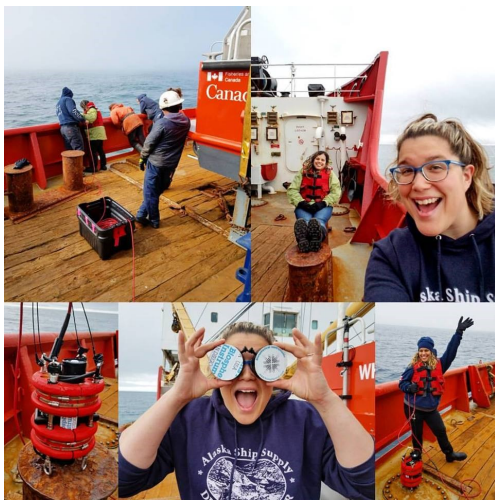


Field Camp bonfire, August 2017 @ Camp Massapoag | Photo by Ben Fash

DOCTORAL STUDENT NEWS

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

This summer, Geography PhD Candidates **Melishia Santiago** and **Kristen Shake** from the [Polar Science Research Laboratory](#) participated in field work on board the Canadian Coast Guard Service (CCGS) ice breaker Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO) research cruise in the Northern Bering and Chukchi Seas. Santiago and Shake set sail from Dutch Harbor, Alaska, on July 10th of this year as part of a long term observation program to research marine ecosystem response to sea ice loss in the Pacific-Arctic region.



Melishia and Kristen took a variety of biochemical parameters at each hydrographic station along the way, including chromophoric dissolved organic matter (CDOM), as well as deploying a compact optical profiling system (C-OPS) to measure light propagation throughout the water column. This season on board was particularly impactful, as the crew and research team encountered no sea ice over the 2 week duration of the research cruise, a fact that is partic-

ularly poignant in light of the recent news that the [Arctic sea ice extent reached its 8th lowest seasonal minimum in the 38 year satellite record](#). This fieldwork was conducted in support of **Karen Frey's** research grant through the Distributed Biological Observatory Project, provided by the NSF Office of Polar Programs, Arctic Observing Network Program.



SAM KHALLAGHI RESEARCHES MARSH ECOSYSTEM LANDCOVER

This summer, second-year PhD student **Sam Khallaghi** (pictured above, R) worked with **Professor Gil Pontius** to research marsh ecosystem landcover. "The main purpose of the summer project in Georgia was to classify the high resolution airborne imagery to generate a landcover map of the marsh ecosystem for different points in time (2012, 2015 and 2017), and then to do a post classification change detection based on the methodology developed by Professor Pontius to quantify the change among the categories of landcover. Then the same process is done for the [Plum Island Ecosystem](#)."

The project was funded by **Edna Bailey Sussman Foundation** for the duration of 6 weeks. Sam writes, "I was

working under the supervision of Professor Alexander Clarck in the [Skidaway Institute of Oceanographic Research](#) in Savannah, Georgia and for PIE (Plum Island Ecosystems) I will continue working with Professor Pontius."



DYLAN HARRIS RECEIVES UNIVERSITY'S 2016-17 TA AWARD

Third year PhD student **Dylan Harris** (pictured above) received a university Teaching Assistant award for the 2016-17 academic year. This award is based on nominations by faculty and scores given on TA evaluations and is given to a graduate student who has been a TA for at least two semesters at Clark and who has gone above and beyond in their role. Dylan was a TA for Professor Dianne Rocheleau's **Urban Ecology** course (GEOG 280) in Fall 2016, and for Professor Karen Frey's **The Climate System & Global Environmental Change** course (GEOG 263) in Spring 2017. Congratulations, Dylan!

For more doctoral updates, [visit our website](#)

DOCTORAL STUDENT NEWS

CLARK GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE STUDENTS HOST ANNUAL

NATURE SOCIETY WORKSHOP

Over the weekend of **September 15-17**, Clark Geography organized and hosted a workshop on Nature-Society geography. **Dylan Harris**, third year PhD student and co-organizer of this weekend of events, writes: "The idea of the Nature/Society Workshop is to bring together grad students and faculty with similar interests from regionally located departments for a weekend of discussion and collaboration. This is the 7th iteration of the workshop, and the first in at least two ways: 1) We extended the invitation to many institutions who had previously not participated, resulting in participation from Rutgers, Syracuse, SUNY ESF, Penn State, Cornell, Dartmouth, Boston University, Temple University, RISD, MIT, WPI, University of Georgia, University of Arizona, and Clark; 2) This year was entirely organized and managed by Clark graduate students."

This event was 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, including the following:

- Environmental Governance in an Authoritarian Era

- Agroecology and Environmental Futures
- (re)Conceptualizing Justice in the Anthropocene
- New Geographies of Energy
- Critically Visualizing Nature Society Geographies
- Practicing Geography Beyond the Academy
- Developments in Political Ecology

Guests began to arrive mid-afternoon on Friday, and the workshop kicked-off with a few tandem panel sessions. Late Friday afternoon, guest keynote speaker **Laura Ogden**, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Dartmouth College, presented her talk, "*Trace Impressions of Being: An Alternative Archive of Loss, Change, and Wonder.*"

Saturday morning began with coffee and more conversation, followed by a field trip to Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park ("Birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution"), in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. Closing remarks were later made and a successful weekend came to an end. Dylan writes, "As an organizer, I could not be happier with the way the workshop came together, prouder to be a part of CUGS/Clark GSG, and I am looking forward to future iterations."

A huge thanks to **Dylan Harris** and **Ben Fash** (third-year doctoral students) who organized and coordinated this

productive weekend of events!

CUGS FIELD CAMP 2017

On August 23rd, CUGS (Clark University Geography Society) hosted their annual Field Camp weekend, a tradition that began in 1939 (78 years ago) and has repeatedly been a unique and exciting bonding experience for Geography PhD students. Each year, the incoming doctoral cohort is introduced to CUGS by spending a weekend in the woods at Lake Massapoag in northeastern Massachusetts, getting to know one another while swimming, camping, and hanging out by the bonfire. Traditionally the rising second-years are in charge of coordination and grocery shopping (below image). This year's second-year cohort organizers, **Helen Rosko**, **Andrew Riely**, and **Mara van den Bold**, planned a weekend of excursions that CUGS, faculty, and staff were invited to participate in, including a Mt. Monadnock hike, a tour of the Lowell Brewery, and an afternoon of swimming and boating. With classes beginning on the following Monday, Field Camp is and has been a great way for the incoming students to feel a little more at home, and for the rest of CUGS to cap off the summer with a weekend of geogra-fun. Thanks to Helen, Andrew, Mara, and the rest of the second-year cohort for another successful Field Camp -- onward to year 79!

For more doctoral student news, [visit our website](#)

Second-year PhDs shopping for all the field camp snacks!





5TH YEAR M.S. GIS COHORT

This year Geography welcomes its largest 5th-Year ADP cohort ever! Introducing our 13 MS-GIS students:

SHIRIN ESMAEILI

B.A., GEOG '17

Research Interests: Geographic journalism, Science Communication and using GIS as a tool for socio-environmental development

ALI FILIPOVIC

B.A., GEOG '17

Research Interests: Remote sensing and GIS applications for earth systems sciences, conservation, and species distribution modeling

SARANEH FITZGERALD

B.A., GEOG '17

Research Interests: shoreline erosion, sea level rise, wave behavior, and coastal and oceanic processes in general

WILL HEIKES

B.A., GEOG, ECON '17

Research Interests: Using social media mapping to analyze awareness of popular music and social phenomena

SAIRA KHAN

B.A., GEOG, IDSC '17

Research Interests: Using GIS applications to better understand humanitarian conflict and natural disasters

ANELA LAYUGAN

B.A., Earth System Science '17

Research Interests: remote sensing, cryosphere/ sea ice, oceanography

ISABEL MIRANDA

B.A., GEOG, ART '17

Research Interests: Remote Sensing and GIS, Mangrove Forests and Coastal Habitats, Urban forestry, land use and land cover change

MARY MOLLOY

B.A., GEOG '17

Research interests: forest ecology and wildlife conservation GIS

EDWARD PELUSO

B.A., PSCI '17, Minor: Spanish

Research Interests: voting behavior, urban inequality, demographics, and natural resource management

DANIELA REYES SAADE

B.A., GEOG, ECON '17

Research Interests: GIS, urban planning and development, economic development, and public health.

ELI SIMONSON

B.A., Env. Conservation Biology '17

Research Interests: GIS and remote sensing for environmental applications - forest monitoring and species management

RISHI SINGH

B.A., GEOG '17, Minor: Asian Studies

Research Interests: Remote Sensing, Biodiversity and Species Distribution Modeling, Coastal Habitats (Mangrove/ Wetland) and Aquaculture

TOM SMITH

B.A., GEOG '17, Minor: Env. Science

Research Interests: Remote Sensing and GIS, Climate Change Science, Land Change Modeling, Wildlife Conservation, Vulnerability and Natural Disasters, Food Security

Photo (L-R, Back): Edward Peluso, Rishi Singh, Will Heikes, Mary Molloy, Isabel Miranda, Saira Khan, Daniela Reyes Saade. **Middle:** Shirin Esmaeili. **Front:** Tom Smith, Eli Simonson, Anela Layugan, Ali Filipovic, Saraneh Fitzgerald

To learn more about the GIS Advanced Degree Program, [visit our website](#)

GRADUATE NEWS

GISDE PROGRAM WELCOMES A NEW COHORT OF 27 STUDENTS

This year the GISDE (GIS for Development and Environment) program welcomes a new cohort of 27 Masters students, leading to a total of 49 GISDE students in residence. Congratulations to our newest members of the program:

Paula Abranches Lopes De Angeli

Ayodele Agboola

Oyut Amarjargal

Derek Boland

Erica Carcelen

Cesar Garrido Lecca Rivera

Carson Hauck

Madeleine Haynes

Kelly Janus

Piaotain Jin

Chenglin Liu

Boka Luo

Amalia Mendes

Aaron Meneghini

Isaac Okwaro

Jonathan Paul

Elizabeth Rogers

Yi Ru

Alex Shaller

Connor Stephens

Dilli Subedi

Andrew Walz

Dale Watt

Henrik Westerkam

Sitian Xiong

Mengyi Zhang

Zhiwen Zhu

Learn more about GISDE [here](#)



MARY MOLLOY'S SUMMER IN SOUTH AFRICA & NAMIBIA

This past summer, **Mary Molloy (GEOG '17, MS-GIS '18)** (pictured above) interned in the GIS department at the [Peace Parks Foundation](#) in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Mary assisted with the [Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area](#) monitoring & evaluation, where she completed the following projects:

- Human-Wildlife conflict in Namibia
- Wild Dog population estimates
- Concession revenue for wildlife utilization
- Mozambique Turtle assessment

Mary also spent 2 weeks following her internship with a volunteer organiza-

tion called [Elephant-Human Relations Aid](#), where the team worked to mitigate human-wildlife conflict in Namibia between farmers and desert elephants. [Click here](#) to view an interactive map that Mary created for the Peace Parks Foundation's GIS page, and [click here](#) to see more examples of GIS work from this organization.



THESES ON DISPLAY IN THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

In 2016-17, we had the largest number of undergraduate honors students in our program at once, resulting in the completion of **19 honors theses**. These can be found on display at the end of the hallway on the second floor of Jefferson, along with past honors theses, Masters' theses, and dissertations. Check them out! [Click here to view a full list of this past year's honors titles](#) -- many of these students are now in our 5th year MS-GIS ADP cohort!

Photo by Mary Molloy



UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

ERICA ISSENBERG '18 INSPIRED TO BRING CHANGE LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

Erica Issenberg (IDSC, GEOG '18) (pictured below with Professor Ron Eastman) was recently featured in a ClarkNow article focused around her involvement in social and environmental justice movements. "Besides Latin America, Issenberg's scholarly interests have focused on Southeast Asia. As a research assistant at Clark Labs, she's examining environmental issues facing Myanmar's coastal areas, where shrimp fisheries are quickly expanding aquaculture and encroaching on habitats. The project, led by **J. Ronald Eastman**, lab director and professor of geography, is funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation."

09/21/2017 [Click here to view](#)

OLIVIA SCHWARTZ '19 BLENDS HER PASSIONS FOR MUSIC AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Olivia Schwartz (GES '19) was recently featured in a ClarkNow article focused around her recent internship with [REVERB](#), "a nonprofit organization that helps major music acts lead more environmentally sound tours".

09/18/17 [Click here to view](#)

ANTHONY JREIJE '18 INVESTIGATES THE POLITICS OF GENTRIFICATION IN BEIRUT, LEBANON

Anthony Jreije (GEOG, ECON '18) (research photo on next page) was recently featured in a ClarkNow article focused around his research into the politics of gentrification in Beirut, Lebanon. Anthony's research began as a LEEP project, and has now become the focus of his Honors research during his senior year in Geography and Economics.

"This summer, (Anthony) returned to Beirut to interview a wide swath of those involved in housing issues: homeowners and tenants, anti-gentrification activists, bankers and real estate officials. He recorded how much development had occurred over the year, how that affected housing prices, and what that meant for the city's residents." Anthony's research has been funded in part by the [Peter J Condakes Summer Research Award](#), the [ISS \(International Studies Stream\) Summer Research Award](#), and additional resources at Clark University. **09/15/2017** [Click here to view](#).

RINKU ROY CHOWDHURY TAKES OVER CHAIR OF GEOGRAPHY'S UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (USC)

This year, **Professor Rinku Roy Chowdhury** has taken up a new role as Chair of Geography's Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC). Rinku will work alongside members of USC to implement updates and new initiatives to the undergraduate programs within the School of Geography, particularly the Geography major/minor, the Global Environmental Studies major/minor, and the Earth System Science track of the Environmental Science major.

On behalf of the GSG, CUGA, and the undergraduate students in Geography, GES, and ESS, we want to take a moment to thank **Professor Mark Davidson**, who served as the Chair of USC for the past four years (2013-2017). Mark worked to implement a great deal of change and improvement to the undergraduate programs in the department, including sparking a huge increase in majors, adding the New York City field trip, and the reorganization of the Global Environmental Studies (GES) major. Thank you, Mark, for your service and dedication to USC over the past four years!

Professor Ron Eastman talks with Erica Issenberg about their research | Photo by Steve King





Beirut, Lebanon | Photo by Anthony Jreije

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

SUMMER RESEARCH UPDATES

In the [Summer 2017 GSG newsletter](#), seven undergraduate students were recognized for receiving funding to support summer research. Here is what a few of them have been up to:

Ian Jackson (GEOG, WGS '18)

This summer Ian spent two months conducting qualitative research with the residents and allies of Hazelnut Grove, a "houseless village" (houseless referring to those also known as homeless) in Portland, Oregon. These interviews consisted of in-depth engagements with life at Hazelnut Grove, including the practice of reclaiming and commoning urban land for the unhoused, establishing consensus-based governance structures, and the unique communal bonds facilitated by a rootedness in space. In light of conversations, Ian is currently engaging with the literature on urban property regimes and contentions for sovereignty in urban space. *Ian was a co-recipient of the Condakes Summer Research Fellowship.*

Sophia Aronow (GEOG '18)

This summer Sophia was able to gain experience in research and technical skills modeling pollinator abundance in Massachusetts with the IDRISI software Terrset. Sophia hopes to expand on the important topic of pollinator population and productivity in the near future, vital

for healthy crop production and ecosystems of all sorts. *Sophia was a co-recipient of the Condakes Summer Research Fellowship.*

Claire Shapton (ECON, GEOG '19)

Claire spent 6 weeks this summer interning with Worcester Community Housing Resources, a community development corporation (CDC) which aids housing stability in Worcester County through community lending and managing subsidized apartments and rooming houses for low-income individuals and families. Claire spent the previous summer interning in local government facilitated community development closer in a city closer to her home in Portland, Oregon so interning at the WCHR, which is a non-profit, provided an interesting contrast. Housing instability is one of the problems Claire feels most drawn to understanding, and doing the UDSC summer internship with WCHR helped with this, though it did also make her critical of community development models as applied to housing stability. *Claire was a co-recipient of the Lois & Robert Green Summer Internship Award.*

Katie Wallace (IDSC, UDSC '19)

Katie spent her summer working on a collaborative research project between Clark and Worcester's Department of Health and Human Services, where she

collected data regarding services available to incarcerated and formally incarcerated persons across Massachusetts. Katie writes, "the ultimate goal is to create policy recommendations to reduce recidivism and encourage strong reentry back into the Worcester community. I was able to speak with many different people, and found the experience very rewarding!" *Katie was a co-recipient of the Lois & Robert Green Summer Internship Award.*

Absar Ali (ECON, PSCI '18)

During the summer of 2017, Absar visited Pakistan to conduct a survey trip of the country's cotton and textile industry—its largest manufacturing industry. During the trip he travelled to the cities of Islamabad, Lahore, and Faisalabad to do research and collect data on the cotton and textile industry, and also Pakistan's historical macro-level data and policies concerning international trade and industrialization. Apart from spending days in different libraries and the National Archives, Absar toured some of the biggest textile producing firms that export their products all over the world for companies like Ralph Lauren, Nike, Adidas and big American stores like JC Penney and Macy's. Absar writes, "As an aspiring political economist, my work often only concerns the 'numbers' that are involved in various processes of production and how...

[continued on next page]

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

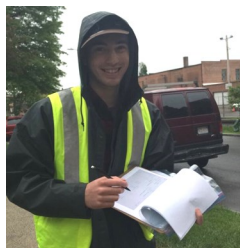
[continued from previous page]

"...different government policies affect them. But to see and actually understand these processes was a truly fascinating experience that has enabled me to put those numbers in to the context of what actually takes place in the field on any given day. I will be incorporating this research into my honors thesis, the working title of which is: 'Pakistan's [Lack of] Economic Growth: An analysis of industrialization and international trade policies.'" *Absar was a co-recipient of the ISS Summer Research Award.*



2017-18 CUGA E-BOARD

CUGA has a new group of E-board members this year, including two new co-presidents, a treasurer, and a historian.



**Eli Baldwin,
Co-President**

"I am one of the co-presidents of CUGA. I plan and coordinate events with the rest of CUGA. I am one of the undergraduate student representatives to Geography faculty meetings. I joined CUGA to become more involved in the geography department at Clark, and to build a community among undergraduate geography students. My ultimate goal is to be a geography professor."



**Nahrin Sangkagalo,
Co-President**

"I am a junior here at Clark and a geography major with an interest in urban and transportation geography. I wanted to be a part of CUGA since it is group of people who have an interest in geography, and

want to explore the field and do activities beyond the classroom. The thing that got me interested in geography at first was my general interest in maps, and how all of the features in a map interact with each other."



**Kyle Pecsok,
Treasurer**

"I am a sophomore here at Clark University! I am currently a Geography major and planning to be a Sociology minor. As of now I am still undecided on what my specific areas of interest are within the program, as I still have yet to learn and discover all the aspects of Geography. I have always been interested in transportation and travel ever since I was kid, and ever since I can remember I could never put down a map. I am also interested in the social aspect of Geography too from how societies are built, to how people interact in communities today. This is why I believe I would like to minor in Sociology. While I do not know yet which path I want to go on, I am thrilled to be taking different Geography classes here at Clark from Intro to GIS to Economic Geography. I have gotten to experience the every aspect of Geography and I know that it will help me discover which parts of Geography interest me the most!"



**Yeannet Ruiz,
Historian**

"I'm Yeannet and I come from Houston, Texas. I'm a junior majoring in geography my specialization tracks are GIS and Earth System Science. I'm interested in land cover change and the management of

water resources. I wanted to be part of CUGA to expose students to geography and to learn about the opportunities that students can have as a geography major. Also, I hope to help bring in speakers who can talk about their research as well as create unique events that students can participate in."

ABOUT CUGA

Clark Undergraduate Geography Association (CUGA) is the place for all 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. Representatives are able to vote and express their ideas and opinions on various topics

that concern undergraduate majors. They also host events, bring in guest speakers of exciting and distinctive careers, and collaborate with faculty and with a variety of clubs and organizations within the Clark community.

Interested in participating in an event or activity? Want to attend a CUGA meeting? Email clarkcuga@gmail.com to find out more! CUGA meetings typically occur on **Tuesday nights at 8pm** in the Geography Building (first floor) during the Fall 2017 semester.



COMPOSTING ON & OFF CAMPUS

A quick tip from Net Impact/Sustainable Clark (and other affiliated student organizations): **Did you know that off-campus Clark students, faculty, and staff are allowed to drop their compost in any of Clark's compost bins?** In addition to the residential hall compost bins, the University Center has multiple locations to bring your collected organics: in the main hall, the Caf, the Bistro, and the meeting rooms. In 2015 we began compost operations in the Academic Commons, in 2016 we expanded to the Bickman Fitness Center (paper towels are compost) and into the final res hall, Blackstone. Many academic and administrative departments have self-managed composting, and all are welcome to do so. Clark continues to grow its capacity to divert organics from landfill or incineration through increased compost collection locations and individual effort.

Remember the slogan: "If it was ever alive, you can compost it!"

[Click here](#) to learn more about composting and recycling around campus.



HERO students watching DCR tree planting in Chelsea, MA. May 2017.

HERO PROGRAM



HUMAN
ENVIRONMENT
REGIONAL
OBSERVATORY
(HERO)

Over the summer, our six HERO students made great strides in their research around tree survivorship and greening the gateway cities. After eight weeks of dedicated work and research, the students presented their findings at the annual HERO Stakeholder Summit. In the audience sat members of the DCR (State Department of Conservation and Recreation), Worcester Tree Initiative, US Department of Agriculture, administrators, faculty, staff, students of Clark, and other members of the community, who all gathered to listen to the students share their results. [Click here](#) to view the video recording of the full presentation this summer at the annual Stakeholder Summit event on July 13th, 2017. The full presentation PDF can be [downloaded here](#) as well.

To learn more about HERO in our latest HERO Newsletter, [click here](#)

IN THE MEDIA: "CLARK STUDENTS SHARE SECRETS OF TREE SURVIVAL AFTER BEETLE SCOURGE"

"This summer, the students checked on trees planted under a state Department of Conservation and Recreation initiative called Greening the Gateway Cities. The initiative, which targets 13 of the state's 26 Gateway Cities, aims to use tree plantings to reduce energy use in urban neighborhoods and lower heating and cooling costs for residents and businesses, according to the DCR. The program sets a goal of increasing the urban tree canopy by 10 percent in selected neighborhoods in Gateway Cities.

The students examined 1,390 trees in Chelsea, Revere and Holyoke, creating an inventory of the trees that records such information as the tree species, general health, diameter at breast height, height and crown spread, and more." **Worcester Telegram and Gazette 07/16/2017** [Click here to view](#)

HERO Summer 2018

The Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) program is a unique

undergraduate-graduate-faculty experience that engages in research on human-environment relationships in Massachusetts. HERO Fellows conduct hands-on research under the mentorship of Clark University faculty. The research conducted by HERO Fellows often leads to scholarly publications, presentations at academic conferences across the USA, and awards and honors. This program is led by Professors **John Rogan** (Director HERO, Co-PI) and **Deborah Martin** (Associate Director HERO, Co-PI).

HERO will soon be accepting applications for the Summer 2018 program! Application instructions and materials will be posted online at clarku.edu/departments/HERO, and information will be circulated to prospective applicants.

If you would like to receive a brochure/more information about the HERO program, email Rachel Levitt at RLevitt@clarku.edu.

[Visit us online](#) for more updates and upcoming informational events

ALUMNI NEWS



MELISSA R. GILBERT NAMED NEW DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Melissa R. Gilbert (PhD '93), an expert in urban geography, feminist and critical race studies, and social action research, has been selected to serve as the new director of Temple University's Center for Sustainable Communities, College of Liberal Arts Dean Richard Deeg announced today. "We are delighted to have Melissa on board as the new director," Deeg said. "She has the experience and vision to advance the Center's mission to produce leading interdisciplinary research around the environment and sustainability and to transform this research into policy and action." **07/07/2017** [Click here to view.](#)

ETHICS IN EVERYDAY PLACES

Tom Koch (BA '71) has a new book titled "Ethics in Everyday Places: Mapping Moral Stress, Distress, and Injury" will be available from MIT Press later in 2017. "Ethics in everyday life begins with a problem of cartography, the ethics of mapping data about which the mapmaker has ... reservations. But from that beginning, questions raised by working cartographers, broader issues of ethics and responsibility are engaged through a series of maps. Begun as a teaching program in ethics for geographers and statisticians the problem of moral stress and distress rapidly expanded to include the work of graphic artists, journalists, statisticians, and social workers, as well as "first responders". The basic thesis is that maps carry an ethical message based on a set of moral precepts and in the map these

can be discerned and so, too, the areas of ethical unease we may seek, somehow to express."

MICHINO HISABAYASHI'S MS

PAPER RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Michino Hisabayashi (GEOG '15, MS-GIS '16) recently had her Masters paper published in collaboration with **Professor John Rogan** and **Professor** (and recent PhD alum) **Arthur Elmes**. Michino's paper is titled, "Quantifying shoreline change in Funafuti Atoll, Tuvalu using a time series of Quickbird, Worldview and Landsat data". **09/11/2017** [Click here to view.](#)



ALEX HAYES HELPS GIVE POW! WOW! WORCESTER ITS PUNCH

Alex Hayes (GEOG, THEA '16) was recently featured in a ClarkNow article highlighting his work with [POW! WOW! Worcester](#), a mural festival showcasing the work of 50 artists on 41 murals around the city in 10 days. "I wanted to be in a city that was changing, and I wanted to be a part of the change," he says. While a student, Hayes majored in theater arts and geography, studying urban geography and, through geographic information system (GIS) mapping, researching graffiti's impact on communities and policies. He earned a Peter J. Condakes Summer Research Fellowship Award from the Geography Department his sophomore year, spent a lot of time seeking street art in hidden places, and presented his research, "Painted Walls as Policy," at the [Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting](#) in Chicago in 2015 and San Francisco in 2016, as well as during Academic Spree Day also

in 2016." **08/29/2017** [Click here to view.](#)

ADDITIONAL ALUMNI UPDATES

Simon Batterbury (PhD '97) accepted a position as Professor of Political Ecology, LEC, Lancaster University, UK.

Jackie Vadjunec, PhD '07, Professor of Geography at Oklahoma State University recently published an Op-Ed about science and education that will appear in Nature, January 2017 issue. "In resisting the mood of anti-science, researchers need to reach out to a diverse public in more accessible ways. We also need to accept different ways of knowing or even talking about climate change: ways that open doors to start a conversation; ways that are more context specific, culturally sensitive and nuanced than science in general might be comfortable with."

Anthony Bebbington (PhD '90), previous GSG Director and current GSG faculty, was recently elected to the Board of Directors for Oxfam America.

Pheakkdey Nguon (PhD '16) is one of the featured recipients in the recently released IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Scholarship Program brochure. [Click here to view.](#)

PATHS OF RECENT GRADS

Ethan Forauer (BA '15) -- Graduate school, Columbia University, Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy

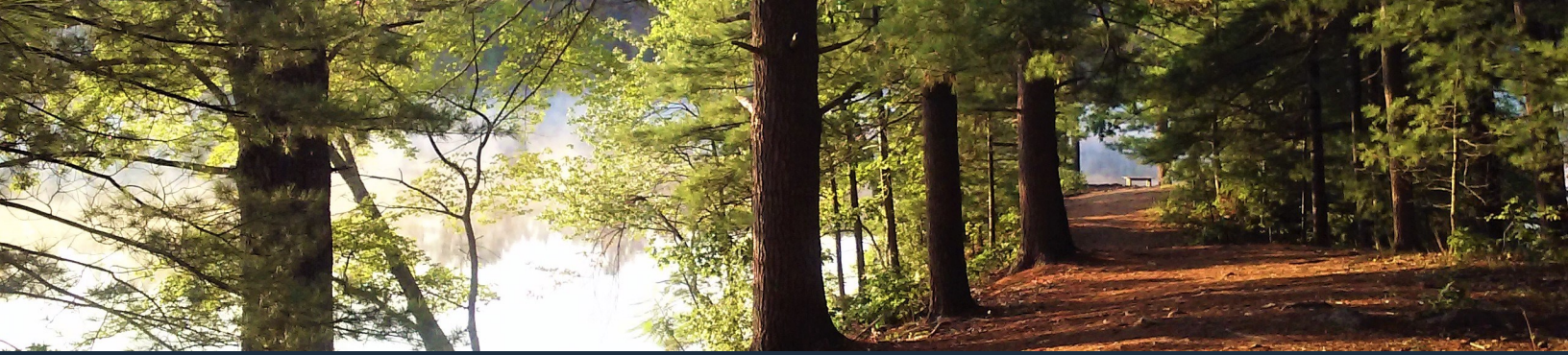
Nick Rossi (BA '12) -- Conservation Restriction Stewardship Specialist, Mass Audubon

Savannah Cooley (BA '16, MS-GIS '17) -- Research Intern at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena CA

Kimberly Johnson (BA '16, MS-GIS '17) -- NASA DEVELOP Intern, Hampton, VA

ALUMNI SURVEY

Tell us what you're up to! Please take a minute to complete our brief survey [linked here](#) about life after Clark.



Trails around Mt. Monadnock | Photo by Brittany Wheeler

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

GIS HELP DESK | FALL HOURS

Each year the Geography department hires one or more students to staff our GIS Help Desk; a departmental resource that provides free, one-on-one tutoring and guidance to undergraduate and graduate students seeking assistance in GIS programs and applications. The GIS Help Desk is located in the Geography Main Office (Jefferson 220) and runs during the week for set hours on a drop-in basis. [Click here](#) to learn more about our 2017-18 GIS Help Desk Assistants, **Will Heikes** (BA '17, MS-GIS '18) and **Saira Khan** (BA '17, MS-GIS '18)

Fall 2017 Hours:

- **Mondays**
12-2:45 pm (Saira)
- **Wednesdays**
9am-12pm (Will), 12-5pm (Saira)
- **Thursdays**
12-5pm (Will)
- **Fridays**
9am-12pm (Saira), 3-5pm (Will)

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 19

Colloquium: Setha Low (CUNY), Lurie Conference Rm 12-1:15pm

October 26

Colloquium: Jan Monk (University of Arizona), Lurie Conference Rm 12-1:15pm

November 2

Colloquium: Doug Fuller (University of Miami), Lurie Conference Rm 12-1:15pm

November 9

Atwood Lecture: Sarah Elwood
Tilton Hall 7pm

FALL 2017 WALLACE W. ATWOOD

LECTURER: SARAH ELWOOD

Join us on **Thursday, November 9th** for our 2017 Wallace W. Atwood lecture, featuring **Sarah Elwood** (University of Washington), beginning at 7pm in Tilton

Hall. Sarah's talk will be titled: *Visual Poverty Politics*.



Sarah Elwood is a Professor of Geography at University of Washington and co-founder of the Relational Poverty Network with Victoria Lawson. Her research contributes to relational poverty, urban geography, visual politics/methods, and critical digital geographies. Current activities include collaborative research on middle class poverty politics in mixed-income neighborhoods in Buenos Aires and Seattle and on visual politics in poverty activism.

CLARK CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF WOMEN UNDERGRADUATES WITH "WOMEN IN GEOGRAPHY" PANEL

On **October 28th**, Clark will host a celebration to mark the [75th anniversary](#) of admitting women to the university -- a change that was made in 1942. Three panel discussions will be held as part of the October 28th schedule, one of which is "Clark Women in Geography", featuring GSG alumni, faculty, and students. [Click here](#) to read more about this upcoming event!

GSG STUDENT EMPLOYEES

This year we are fortunate to have four wonderful student employees with us in the main office:



Lauren Holmen, Office Asst.

Lauren is a junior Psychology major and Entrepreneurship minor from Chicago, Illinois. She is the president of The Beekeepers of Clark University. In her free time Lauren enjoys oil painting, studying German and

Mandarin Chinese, and volunteering at animal hospitals and shelters in an effort to reduce pet overpopulation and unnecessary euthanasia.



Sofia N. Fernandez-Valdes, Office Asst.

Sofia is a Junior majoring in Ancient Civilization. Last summer she participated in an archeological project in Portugal, where she discovered her passion in Roman Iberian civilization. Sofia hopes to become a Professor in this field. In her free time, Sofia enjoys dancing, traveling, and spending time with friends.



Will Heikes, GIS Support Asst.

Will Heikes is currently a graduate student in the 5th year ADP MS-GIS program. He completed his Bachelor's degree last May in Geography and Economics. Will is interested in the connections between popular music and geography, and utilizing social media in his analysis.



Saira Khan, GIS Support Asst.

Saira is currently a graduate student in the 5th year ADP MS-GIS program. She completed her Bachelor's degree last May in Geography and International Development and Social Change. Saira is interested in using GIS applications to better understand humanitarian conflict and natural disasters.

[Visit us online](#) for more dept. updates!



CLARK
UNIVERSITY



CHALLENGE CONVENTION. CHANGE OUR WORLD.

Geography News | Fall '17
Issue Published October 2017