

# geography

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AT CLARK UNIVERSITY



Where's your world? SPRING 2014



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## SPRING 2014



Photo: Greenland | Ashley York

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-This semester we said goodbye to a few and welcomed one aboard





# welcome

## Greetings from Director Bebbington

Transition is one of the most exciting, but also most difficult, aspects of life. Spring semesters are always marked by transition, but as this newsletter shows, Spring 2014 bore more transitions than usual for Clark Geography. Among our students, the most significant transition was the graduation of 69 of our students at Commencement: 36 Undergraduates, 28 Masters' students and 5 PhD students. It was a splendid and very happy day, a celebration of achievement after several years of much hard work, fun, and not a little angst. For us as faculty members Commencement was also one of those few moments when we have a chance to meet parents and family, which is always a pleasure. As you make this transition, we hope that your graduation will not mean the end of your contact with Clark Geography, and we hope that you can leave your future contact details with the department so that we can continue sending you this newsletter.

This semester also saw the departure of Professor Alex Gardner to a research scientist position at Cal Tech and the Jet Propulsion Labs, of Undergraduate Coordinator Colleen Dolan to the teaching career that she had long been preparing for, and of Department Administrator, Jean Heffernan after 29 years of service to the Geography Department, and longer still to Clark. It is impossible to overstate what Jean contributed to the Department – she organized us, nurtured us, cared for us and provided us with a model of how to be a thoroughly professional, kind and committed colleague and person. You can see a few of Jean's memories in an interview on page 24.

To all of you living these transitions – as students, faculty and staff – we are immensely grateful for all that you contributed to Clark Geography and wish you the very best of luck in the next phase of your life. Don't, though, be strangers. And to all of you, have a peaceful, rewarding summer – renew, relax, and return.

## reminders

### Condakes »

A call for applications for the **Peter J. Condakes Summer Research Fellowship** will be distributed to Geography, GES, and ESS undergraduates in mid-Spring, but please start thinking now!

This Fellowship is made possible by a generous donation from alumnus and geography major **Peter J. Condakes** (class of '78) to support undergraduate environmental research. See page 8 for this year's winners!

### Atwood »

The 2014-2015 Atwood Lecture, featuring **Dr. Ruth Wilson Gilmore** Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences and American Studies at the Graduate Center of CUNY University of New York. Details about the talk and other Atwood-related events will be forthcoming in the Spring 2015 semester. Questions about Atwood can be directed to Rachel Levitt (RLevitt@clarku.edu)

### Colloquium »

Keep an eye out for date announcements of upcoming Colloquium speakers for Fall 2014! Some of the lineup is as follows:

Wendy Wolford | Cornell University  
David Delaney | Amherst College  
Morgan Grove | Northern Research Station, USDA  
Kate Derickson | University of Minnesota

For more information about the Colloquium Speaker Series, contact Rachel Levitt (RLevitt@clarku.edu) or check out our events page at [clarku.edu/departments/geography/newsevents/index.cfm](http://clarku.edu/departments/geography/newsevents/index.cfm)



# FACULTY FORUM

Photo: Illulissat, Greenland | Ashley York

**Director of the Graduate School of Geography, Anthony Bebbington**, Milton P. and Alice C. Higgins Professor of Environment and Society, has received a [2014 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship](#) for his work: Natural resource extraction in Latin America: transforming the human-environment, challenging social science.

**Assistant Professor Chris Williams** recently conducted a study which was released in *Global Change Biology*. This study is the first detailed account of how carbon, water, and energy balances shift in the three years following the clear-cut of a deciduous forest. See the [Clark News Hub](#) or the [Harvard Forest website](#) for more on this story.

**Associate Professor Jim Murphy** was recently appointed to the [Editorial Board](#) of *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*; a research-driven, fully refereed international journal which seeks to advance scholarly debates on a wide range of contemporary policy issues which sit at the interface between the economy, society, and the environment.

**Director of GSG, Professor Anthony Bebbington** has recently published a book with Instituto de Estudios Peruanos/Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales (Lima, 2013), titled [Industrias Extractivas, Conflicto Social y Dinamicas Institucionales en la Region Andina](#).



**Assistant Professor Kulakowski** testified about his and his students' [research](#) before a subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation of the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives in Washington D.C.

**Assistant Professor Mark Davidson** recently received a grant from the International Olympic Committee for his project: Governing to maintain legacies: Urban governance, policies, and the long-term impacts of the Olympics.

**Assistant Professor Alex Gardner** led an international team of scientists that determined the global [contribution of glaciers to sea level rise](#). The team used satellite data from the NASA's Ice, Cloud, and Land Elevation Satellite (ICESat) and Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) missions and field observations to show that glacier wastage accounted for 30% of the observed sea level rise between 2003 and 2009, an amount comparable the sea level contribution from the much larger ice sheets.

**Associate Professor Deb Martin** has received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a project with collaborators (including Clark Ph.D. Joe Pierce) looking at the impacts of housing community land trusts' geographical scale on their sense of community and place identity; legal and working relationships with governments; and land use/tenure. Case studies are in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota.

**Professor Yuko Aoyama** has been invited as one of nine social scientists nationwide to serve on the NSF panel on Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science Research (IBSS). It is a competition conducted by the NSF Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to promote and support interdisciplinary research by teams of investigators in the social and behavioral sciences.

**Professor Chris Williams** was recently awarded funds from NASA's Carbon Cycle Science competition to study the carbon balance of southeastern US forests. The project will use advanced, inverse modeling techniques to infer sinks and sources of carbon dioxide from measured concentrations in the atmosphere combined with measurements and modeling of forest carbon on the ground. Forests of the southeastern US are important for the North American carbon balance because the region is highly productive, is vigorously managed with intensive timber harvest, is sensitive to climate change, and is periodically inundated by severe storms that kill trees.





Photo: Kyoto, Japan | Jody Emel

## Kyoto, Japan with Professor Jody Emel

Back in February, Professor Emel was invited to give a talk at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) in Kyoto, Japan. Thank you, Jody, for sharing this experience with us (below)!

“What could be more fun than a week in Kyoto with Daniel Niles and Mazen Labban? I was so excited; I had been invited before to the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) ([http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/index_e.html)) in Kyoto and had to decline. I was not disappointed this time – far from it! Kyoto is a beautiful city and as Fernando (current Clark GSG student) told me before I left, one of the food capitals of the world. Daniel, Mazen, and I did as much eating as possible – buckwheat noodles, tofu of all sorts (including yuba), sushi, more noodles, and all sorts of other things. If you have been to Kyoto, you know what the markets are like – pickles, dried fish, more pickles, bean paste treats, and all manner of vegetables and other delights. Of course, Mazen and I had been invited to do a little bit of work. We each gave talks on the broad theme of natural resources and development. Actually, Daniel, who is an alum of Clark GSG (as is Mazen), interviewed us about how we had come to have our particular theoretical positions regarding resource development. Mazen (now at Rutgers), wrote a brilliant book on oil (*Space, Oil and Capital*) and has now moved on to research what he calls “urban mining” or waste mining. Daniel, who has worked for the RIHN for at least five years, thought it might be interesting for the audience to hear about our serendipitous research trajectories. Daniel himself wrote one of the most fascinating dissertations I have had the privilege to read. He spent many months in Guatemala and Mexico following and participating in La Via Campesina politics. He and his wife, Miyumi, drove from Worcester to Guatemala! The most fun part of the public interview was when Daniel asked everyone to provide the titles of the most exciting books they’d read recently. I love hearing what smart people are reading. They introduced me to Chilean author Roberto Bolano – *2666* is an amazing, if depressing read.”



Mazen Labban with Professor Jody Emel



# DOCTORAL STUDENT NEWS

**Miles Kenney-Lazar** received a grant from the BRICS Initiative for Critical Agrarian Studies to write a working paper on peasant resistance to Chinese and Vietnamese plantation investments in central-southern Laos.

**Mireya Bravo** received the DGSG (Development Geographies Specialty Group) Gary Gaile Travel award to support conference attendance for the 2014 AAG Annual Meeting in Tampa. Mireya also received a 2014 Inter-American Foundation Fellowship. Mireya will also attend the STEPS Summer School sponsored by IDS at the University of Sussex, UK in May 2014.

**Teresa Bornschlegl** received a pre-dissertation SSRC research grant for proposal writing for summer 2014.

**Alida Cantor** received an NSF DDRI grant to support her dissertation research field work and writing, "Dust storms and dying lakes: Wastefulness, beneficial use, and water transfers in California." Alida also received a Horowitz Foundation for Social Change Fellowship to further support this research.

**Adrienne Johnson** received the LASG (Latin American Specialty Group) best PhD student paper award for her dissertation research proposal at the 2014 AAG Annual meeting in Tampa. Adrienne also received a Skills Award for 2013-14 from the Clark University, Graduate Student's Council.

**Chris Knudson** received a 2014 AAG travel award from the HDSC (Human Dimensions of Social Change) specialty group. Chris also received an NSF DDRI for his dissertation research field work and writing, "Modeling risk, modifying behavior: The introduction of novel weather insurance in St. Lucia."

**Nick Cuba** received a 2014 AAG International Geographic Information Fund Travel Grant to support conference attendance.

**Luke Trusel** received a 2014 WHOI (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute) post-doctoral Fellowship, where he plans to start in December 2014 to continue his research.

**Katherine Foo, Dexter Locke, and Rick MacLean** all received summer funding for field work related to their dissertation proposal research from the Edna Bailey Sussman Foundation

**Photo: Greenland Sea Ice, Illulissat, Greenland | Ashley York**



**Ashley York** ventured through Greenland as part of the Disko Bay Ice Coring Project team, which is a National Science Foundation funded collaborative research endeavor of scientists at MIT/WHOI, Clark University, Wheaton College, and University of Washington. Check out the blog from the trip: [www.miltonacademy.info/science/2014/04/](http://www.miltonacademy.info/science/2014/04/)

**Elisa Arond** attended a workshop on 'Grassroots Innovation Movements' and the 'Exploring Pathways to Sustainability' Symposium jointly organized by the STEPS Centre, University of Sussex, UK and the Centre for Studies in Science Policy, Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India, from Feb 8-11, related to her collaboration on the STEPS project "Grassroots Innovation: Historical and Comparative Perspectives". [Blog](#)

**Yueming (Amy) Zhang** received a 2014 FURS (Foundation for Urban and Regional Studies) Grant for her dissertation research proposal.

**Padini Nirmal** received a Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) travel grant at the annual NAISA conference held in Austin Texas May 28-31 for organizing a panel and presenting a paper.

**Elisabeth (Lisa) Stoddard** accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Social Sciences and Policy at WPI.



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



### ECO HACK



On May 9th and 10th, a few of our fifth year students traveled to Brooklyn, New York for EcoHack, a world-wide event with simultaneous "hackathons" in NYC, San Francisco, Sao Paulo, and Madrid. "EcoHack is about using technology to improve and better understand our natural environment, and creating things that will have an impact, with no restrictions on how you get there." (Visit the website at [ecohack.org](http://ecohack.org))

The event was held at the Etsy headquarters with a variety of participants including GIS 5th year students Yelena Finegold, Emily Sturdivant, Andrew Hostetler, and Anne Baker (GISDE), a large group of students from Yale School of Forestry, World Resource Institute, Citizen Labs, and many other NGOs and free-lance programmers.

"We definitely put our coding skills to the test here and also had quite a bit of fun with it" says Yelena (MS-GISc, '14). "Emily and I mostly collaborated with Global Forest Watch to test an online map of logging roads in Democratic Republic of Congo." [See their results here](#)

Andrew Hostetler (MS-GISc '14) worked with a team to create an air pollution map, which was later published in the Atlantic! [See here for the publication](#)

The EcoHack team!

[ecohack.org](http://ecohack.org)



**Megan Blake PhD '01** - At the University of Sheffield, UK was recently appointed to the editorial board of the Annals of the AAG (Association of American Geographers).

**Rob Krueger, PhD '01** was recently named Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

**Ruth Fincher PhD '80** has the rare honor and distinction among Geographers to be named a Member of the Order of Australia. Ruth was recognized during 2014 Australia Day Honours for her dedication to the promotion of geography. [read more](#)

**Christine (Chrys) Rodrigue PhD '87** a professor of geography at California State University, Long Beach teaches a class called [The Geography of Mars](#) and will celebrate this Thanksgiving Day November 28, 2013 as Red Planet Day.

**Vernon Domingo, PhD '80** was featured in the [National Council for Geographic Education Newsletter](#) in January 2013 for his work spreading the importance of teaching geography in our schools. Vernon and his team of students from Bridgewater will bring their successful outreach program called **EarthView** to Clark University in October 2013 for the Annual Meeting of NESTVAL (New England St. Lawrence Valley Geographic Society) the regional arm of the AAG.

**Harvey Neo '07** became Editor of *Geoforum* in March of 2013

**Rinku Roy Chowdhury '03** was honored at Indiana University as Outstanding Junior Faculty in March 2013. The award will support cross-continental analyses of coastal mangroves in Mexico and Bangladesh.

**Bobby Wilson, PhD '74** a professor in the department of geography at The University of Alabama, has been named the recipient of the 2012 Presidential Achievement Award, given by the Association of American Geographers, for his career-long dedication to anti-racist scholarship in geography.

## ALUMNEWS

# doctoral ALUMNI NEWS

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"In our efforts to reconnect with alumni and to show how Clark Geography continues to make an impact on our world living up to the Clark motto, "Challenge Convention, Change our World", on a recent vacation in the Williamsburg, Virginia area, I had the pleasure to "reach out" and catch up with two Clarkies. While enjoying lunch at Colonial Williamsburg's DoG Street café, I was amazed to learn that William and Mary is becoming a post-Clark enclave of GIScience specialists from our own, undergraduate, GISDE master's and doctoral programs. (Much as Temple has become an enclave of Clarkies in recent years, but that's a story for another time).

As of August, 1, 2014 Marco Millones, PhD '11, (pictured) will become the new Director of the Center for Geospatial Analysis at The College of William and Mary, where from 2012 he was the Mellon postdoctoral Fellow and a visiting faculty for Environmental Science and Policy Program. Marco will continue his research on land use/cover change in the Latin American context and the application of GIScience to various applications as well as teach courses at William and Mary and its Washington DC summer program.

Marco is also an affiliated researcher and member of the Aid Research Consortium (ARC) at Aiddata.org, a relationship that triggered the current Clark invasion at W&M that brought Albert Decatur, Clark BA '09 (2013), Dan Runfola, Clark PhD '12 (2014, more on Dan below) along with two GISDE graduates. Marco's current research includes assessing the effect of land tenure aid programs in Ecuador (with Stu Hamilton, UMD and Mark Buntaine, UCSB); and the When Space Beats Time project: a decomposition of spatial and temporal components before and after various 'system reboot' event (with Daniel Griffith from UT, Dallas and Benoit Parmentier, (also a Clark Geography PhD '12, now at University of Maine).

On July 10, 2014, Dan Runfola, will join Marco and Albert at AidData.org at W & M as a Geospatial Scientist. Dan comes from his 2-year postdoc at the National Center for Atmospheric Research at the University of Boulder, CO. In his position at W & M, AidData, he in his own words "will go beyond spatial data mining and analysis – and to produce new knowledge regarding (1) how spatial information can be used to inform decisions, and (2) effective ways to supply and communicate "big data" sources to broad research, journalist, and activist audiences. These goals are closely interrelated - just as many policy and decision makers find themselves faced with unprecedented amounts of data with which to make decisions, researchers are constantly challenged to find interesting trends among terabytes (or more!) of data. In both cases the time and infrastructure required to leverage emerging 'big data' is frequently not available, severely curtailing the potential of the data revolution we're living through today.

I look forward to the next time I visit family in the Williamsburg area and catch up with my alumni friends as Clarkies take W & M by storm!"

Many thanks to our Graduate Program Administrator, Brenda Nikas-Hayes, for this update!



# UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Congratulations to **Rebecca Chapman** ('15) and **Alex Hayes** ('16), who were named the 2014 Peter J. Condakes Summer Research Fellows. To be considered for this award (which is open to sophomores or juniors studying Geography, Global Environmental Studies, and Earth System Science) students must submit a research proposal alongside a faculty mentor to be conducted during the summer months. Both Rebecca and Alex's proposals were selected this year, and they have each received a \$1,500 stipend to support the costs of their research.

Congratulations to **Michino Hisabayashi** ('15) on receiving a Marsh-Mosakowski NOAA Fellowship! Michino's NOAA Project will be in Hawaii working on NOAA's *Sentinel Site Program and Habitat Blueprint – From Observation to Stewardship*. Professor Deborah Martin of the Graduate School of Geography will serve as her faculty mentor.

Congratulations to **Tatiana Baglioni** ('14) who was a co-recipient of The Paul P. Vouras '51 Social Science Award. This award is given out annually by the university.

**Rebecca Liebman** ('15) attended the Clinton Global Initiative Conference in March 2014. Check out her blog of her experiences here: <http://admissions.clarku.edu/rebecca/2014/03/25/clinton-global-initiative-2014/>

Congratulations to **Michelle Andrews** ('14) for receiving a \$2000 scholarship from the ASPRS (American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing). The purpose of this award is to encourage students who have an exceptional interest in pursuing scientific research or education in geospatial science or technology related to photogrammetry, remote sensing, surveying and mapping to enter a professional field where they can use the knowledge of their discipline to excel in their profession.



Congratulations to our departmental award recipients who won the following awards and received recognition at our undergraduate awards ceremony during Practicing Geography Week (see pages 15-17):

**Michelle Andrews & Lucas Earl** both received the *Ellen Churchill Semple Award* for their academic achievements as seniors in the Geography major.

**Sean Cunningham** ('14) received the *IDRISI Excellence in Geographic Information Science Award*. This award is given to an outstanding Geography major who shows excellence in the field of GIS.

**Zoe Ritter** ('14) received the *NCGE Excellence in Scholarship Award*, co-sponsored by the National Council for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers

**Sharon Bort** ('14) received the *Linda Roth Memorial Activist Scholar Award*, which is given to an outstanding Global Environmental Studies major who embodies the principles of scholarship and activism that Linda Roth (a graduate of the GSG Ph.D. program and a life-long social justice & environmental activist) demonstrated during her life.

**Elliot Altbaum** ('14) received the *The Marcia V. Szugda-Emami Memorial Environmental Scholarship Award*. This award is given to an outstanding senior in Geography who shows the passion for the environment in their education and research that Marcia exhibited in her support of environmental education at Clark University.

**Joey Hersh** ('15) received the *Strabo Award*. This award is given to a junior given in recognition of intellectual leadership, exploration, and creativity. It is named for the Greek Geographer Strabo.

**Chi Le** ('15) and **Mikaela Monous** ('15) both received the *Global Environmental Studies Outstanding Student Award*. This award recognizes academic excellence within the GES program.

# UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

## ACADEMIC SPREE DAY



Lucas Earl (above), Kayla Patel (below), and Gabrielle Kent (right) present their work at Academic Spree Day

2014



this is how we LEEP

Congratulations to all of our 2014 Honors students who have successfully completed their thesis work:

Elliot Altbaum  
Michelle Andrews  
Samuel Berman  
Sean Cunningham  
Anastassios Dardas

Jamie Duncan-Brown  
Lucas Earl  
Cody Litchfield  
Kayla Patel  
Zoe Ritter

Check out our website for more student news:

[clarku.edu/departments/geography/newsevents/newsundergraduate.cfm](http://clarku.edu/departments/geography/newsevents/newsundergraduate.cfm)



Human-Environment  
Regional Observatory



On Monday, June 9th, we kicked off the summer of our 2014 HERO program by welcoming this year's group of fellows! The morning began with a presentation led by Professor John Rogan, explaining

what HERO is all about, and the opportunities that this year's class will have as part of the program. The program is coordinated by Professor Rogan and Professor Deb Martin, with the assistance of Brenda Nikas-Hayes

### Our new group of 2014 HERO fellows (pictured above)

Back (left to right): Albert Bautista (*Humbolt State University*), Andrew Varuzzo (*Holy Cross*), Elizabeth Anderson (*RPI*), Marina Khananayev (*Clark U*), Ben Ewald (*Clark U*), Hannah Rush (*Clark U*).

Front (left to right): Amber Todoroff (*University of Florida*), Amy Phillips (*Clark U*), Ali Jackman (*Whittier College, CA*), Anona Miller (*Appalachian State University*), Gaia Khairina (*Clark U*)

**HERO 2014 Managers (not pictured):** Michelle Andrews, Matt Manley, Arthur Elmes, Shannon Palmer, Joey Hersh

Check out the Harvard Forest website to see how HERO's MAFOMP data from last summer are being used to map and predict changes in eco-services statewide: [harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/changes-to-the-land](http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/changes-to-the-land)





# The Graduate School of Geography hosts ATWOOD 2014

Photo: King Penguins on South Georgia, Antarctica | Richard B. Alley

On Thursday, March 20th, we welcomed **Dr. Richard Alley** to our campus as our 2014 Wallace W. Atwood guest lecturer! Dr. Alley is **Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences at Pennsylvania State University** and a leading scholar in climate change research and communication, with particular interests in polar ice, glaciology, sea level change, and abrupt climate change. He has researched, published, broadcast, and advised widely on these topics, with involvement in activities ranging from the Nobel-Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to specials on public television, such as the recent PBS miniseries “Earth: The Operators’ Manual.”

On the evening of March 20th, faculty, students, and staff all filed into Tilton Hall to listen to Dr. Alley’s lecture that was titled, “*Learning While Burning: An Optimistic View of Energy, Environment, and Our Future*”. As Dr. Alley spoke, the audience learned about climate change and global warming in a light-hearted but serious manner. Dr. Alley was not only able to explain the matter in a way that non-scientists could easily grasp, but he also introduced some humor in his presentation, poking fun both at the panic that other lecturers have seemingly induced about global warming, and at those who deny the existence and human causes of climate change. The lecture was streamed live from our website, which was an excellent opportunity for those who could not attend to be part of the experience as well, even to the extent of being able to send in questions for Dr. Alley during the Q&A period through the Livestream website. We even received a question from a viewer in Canada!



Dr. Richard Alley, photo credit VJM Studios

View Dr. Alley’s full presentation here:

<http://new.livestream.com/clarkuniversity/Atwood-Lecture-Richard-Alley>

The lecture was followed by a reception with food, drinks, and great music provided by our student Jazz Ensemble: Frank Freedman, Maurice Spicer, Colin Rutner, and Matt Manley.

On Friday, March 21st, Dr. Alley continued to share his knowledge with faculty and students during an afternoon seminar. This was an excellent opportunity for Clarkies to engage with Dr. Alley in a smaller setting — the seminar was open-format so it allowed time for questions and open discussion as well. All in all, this year’s Atwood was a great success, and we thank Dr. Alley for taking the time to visit us at Clark!



Photo: King Penguins on South Georgia, Antarctica | Richard B. Alley

**ATWOOD 2014**

## PHOTO ALBUM

Our talented Atwood Jazz Ensemble  
(left to right: Frank Freedman, Maurice Spicer,  
Colin Rutner, Matt Manley)



Polar People! A few of our doctoral students:  
(left) Luke Trusel, Ashley York, and Kristen Shake



(Below) A big thanks to Jim Cormier (Media Services, right) and Peter Lapriore (left) for an excellent media and Livestream setup



Professor Colin Polsky chatting with  
Dr. Richard Alley after the lecture

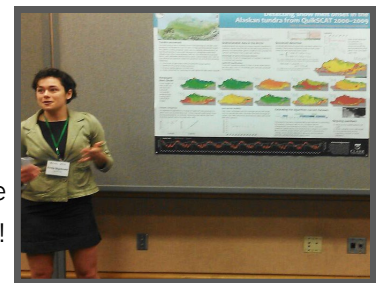




# Tampa, Florida AAG Conference

During the week of April 7-12th, a group of Clarkies made the journey down to sunny Tampa, Florida for this year's annual AAG (Association of American Geographers) conference, held at the Tampa Convention Center. The week was filled with presentations by students and faculty, and was a great opportunity for geographers from all over the country to mingle and network. Many of our 5th year students presented work they have been putting together over the past year, along with many undergraduate students who had the chance to present their honors thesis work and receive feedback from not only other Clark students, but also from any geographer that passed through the poster session.

Congratulations to **Emily Sturdivant**, who placed 2nd in the 2014 R.S. Tarr Student Illustrated Paper Competition!



On Wednesday, April 9th, the annual Clark party took place at the Hilton Tampa Downtown hotel in the beautiful outdoor courtyard, right within walking distance of the group of various hotels occupied by conference attendees. The party was another great opportunity for students and faculty from all over to get to know one another over a drink and some hors d'oeuvres in a more casual and fun atmosphere.

Over all, the conference seemed to be a nice pre-summer getaway for all who attended. A big thanks to Brenda Nikas-Hayes for keeping us posted with updates and photos through the new AAG mobile app!

For more photos, check out our [Facebook page](#) (search Clark University Geography).



(Left Back) Joey Hersh, Sean Cunningham, Matt Manley, Noam Raffel, Michelle Andrews, Gaia Khiarina (Left Front) Shannon Palmer, Michino Hisabayashi, Brenda Nikas-Hayes, Yelena Finegold, Carlee Shults, Emily Sturdivant, Cody Litchfield

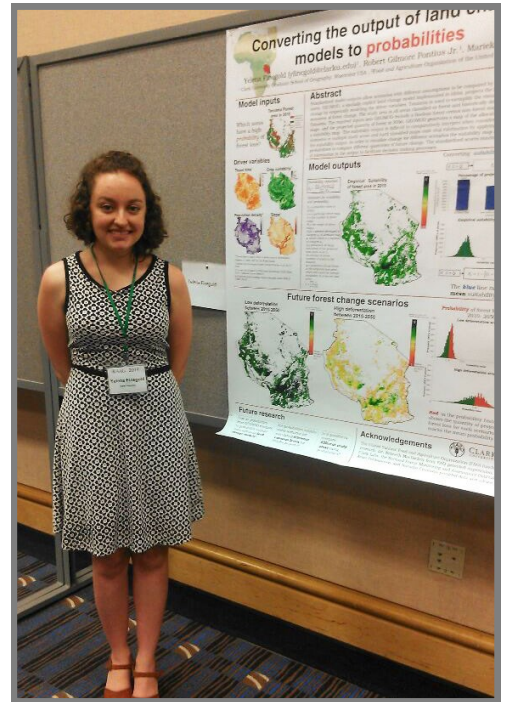


# AAG Conference

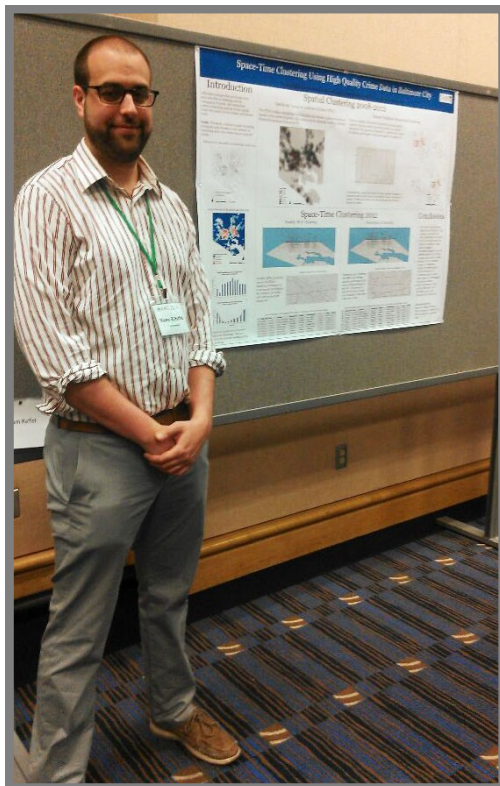
## PHOTO ALBUM



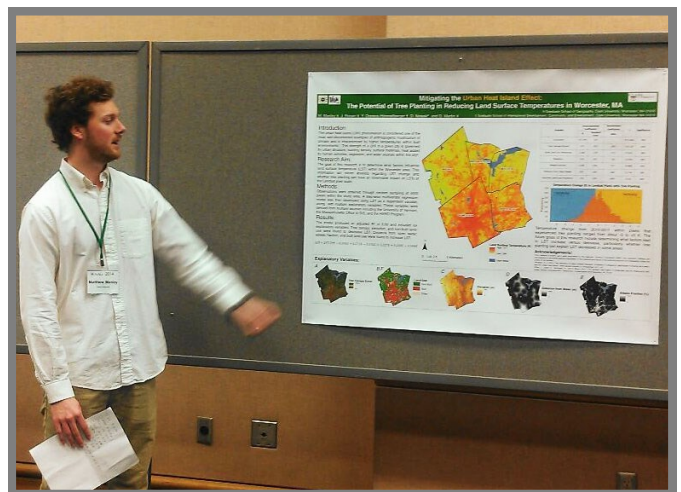
Some HERO students found Clark in the airport!  
(Left: Sean Cunningham, Joey Hersh, Matt Manley, Michelle Andrews, Shannon Palmer, and Professor Deb Martin)



Yelena Finegold presenting her poster



Noam Raffel presenting his work



Matt Manley presenting his research

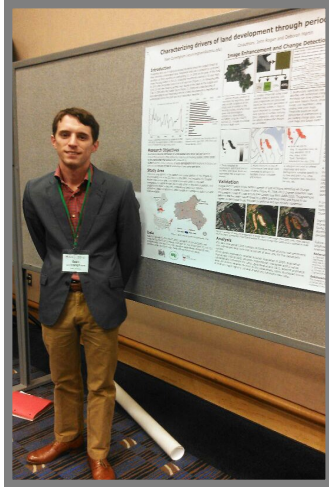
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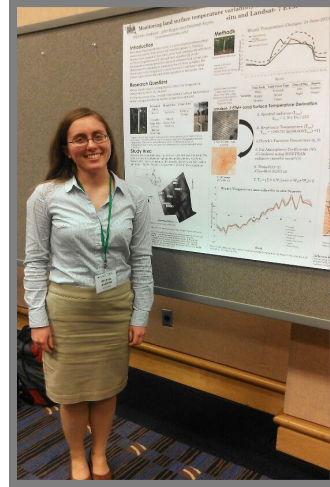
Doctoral Students Renee Tapp & Dexter Locke

Tampa Convention Center  
**TAMPA, FLORIDA**

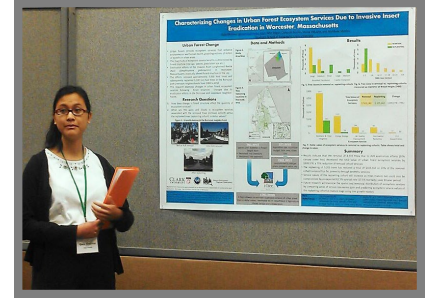




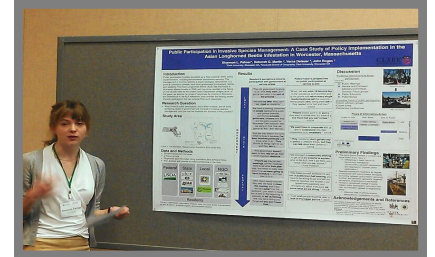
Sean Cunningham



Michelle Andrews



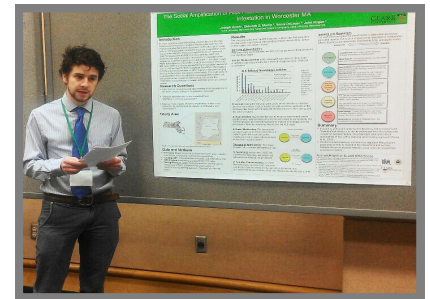
Gaia Khairina



Shannon Palmer



Brenda Nikas-Hayes and Professor John Rogan



Joey Hersh



(Left) Joey Hersh, Sean Cunningham, Emily Sturdivant, Carlee Shults, Shannon Palmer, and Cody Litchfield at the Clark party



# 2014 PRACTICING GEOGRAPHY WEEK

## Third Annual Peter Condakes

### PRACTICING GEOGRAPHY WEEK

Practicing Geography Week took place April 14 - 20th as a week full of career-focused events specifically for undergraduate students interested in **Geography**, **Global Environmental Studies (GES)**, and **Earth System Science (ESS)**! The week was developed to give our undergraduate students a chance to explore various career and graduate school options, while also gaining opportunities to network with some of our faculty, current graduate students, and alumni from our programs. Each day we hosted one or more events that were open to any undergraduate student interested. Thank you to all who attended and participated!

#### Departmental Undergraduate Awards & Honors Ceremony

Wednesday, April 16th, 2014

Congratulations to our Undergraduate Award recipients:

**Michelle Andrews & Lucas Earl**

*Ellen Churchill Semple Award*

**Sean Cunningham**

*IDRISI Excellence in Geographic Information Science Award*

**Zoe Ritter**

*NCGE Excellence in Scholarship Award*

**Sharon Bort**

*Linda Roth Memorial Activist Scholar Award*

**Elliot Altbaum**

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

**Joey Hersh**

*Strabo Award*

**Chi Le & Mikaela Monous**

*Global Environmental Studies Outstanding Student Award*

(All award details on page 8)



Michelle Andrews & Lucas Earl



Elliot Altbaum & Sri Emani (Ph.D. '01)



Sean Cunningham receiving the  
IDRISI award



# Gamma Theta Upsilon

## 2014 PRACTICING GEOGRAPHY WEEK

### Gamma Theta Upsilon

## GTU Honors Induction

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) is an international honors society for geographers, open to undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty members. GTU exists to recognize the hard work of exceptional students and faculty who meet the requirements — by being a member of GTU students contribute to the efforts of furthering professional interest in Geography, strengthening student and professional training through academic experiences outside of the classroom and lab, advancing Geography as a cultural and practical discipline for study and investigation, encouraging student research of high quality, promoting an outlet for publication, and creating and administering funds for furthering graduate study and/or research in the field of Geography.

On Wednesday, April 16th, 14 of our undergraduate students were inducted into the honors society during a ceremony led by Professor Mark Davidson, the Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee. Congratulations to all who were inducted and who are now members of Gamma Theta Upsilon!

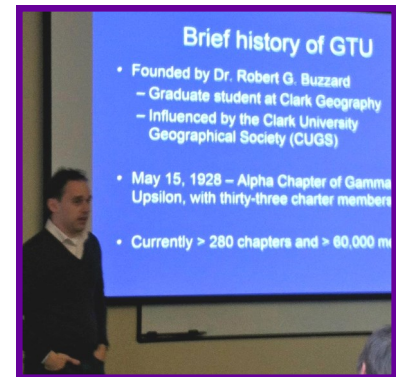
2014

## GTU INDUCTEES

- Mehran Ali
- Suzanne Birdsell
- Sean Cunningham
- Joey Hersh
- Michino Hisabayashi
- Kimberly Johnson
- Gabrielle Kent
- Eliza Lawrence
- Mikaela Monous
- Eric Pasay
- Kayla Patel
- Hannah Rosenblum
- Sanika Shah
- Hannah Silverfine



Mehran Ali receiving his certificate from Professor Mark Davidson



Professor Mark Davidson going over the history of GTU

### Honors Students

## Phi Beta Kappa

- Tatiana Baglioni
- Cody Litchfield
- Lucas Earl
- Zoe Ritter
- Will Kolschowsky



2014 GTU inductees!

# PRACTICING GEOGRAPHY WEEK

## Practicing Geography Talk

### SUSAN SHARP, ALUM (BA '08)

On Thursday, April 17th we welcomed Susan Sharp as our guest speaker for Practicing Geography Week! Susan is one of our alums who graduated from Clark with a BA in Geography in 2008. Susan is a geographer and a writer with several years of experience in environmental consulting and online media who currently offers location-independent content production and copywriting services and serves as a Brand Ambassador for Zipcar. While at Clark, Susan studied human-environment interactions and urban geography with a focus on environmental justice issues. Susan spoke about her experience as a graduate with a degree in Geography, and offered advice to the students in attendance about various topics including the best way to present yourself professionally, and how to compose an effective resume, CV and cover letter. Susan also brought the experiences of some of her fellow alumni who shared their stories of post-grad life. Thank you, Susan, for giving students a new perspective on being a Clark Geography alum! You can visit Susan's professional website at [www.sharpsusan.com](http://www.sharpsusan.com)



## Geography Field Trip to NEW YORK CITY

Over the weekend of April 18-20th, Professor Mark Davidson took 22 students (18 undergraduate and 4 graduate) to New York City as a final wrap-up of Practicing Geography Week. Being an urban geographer, Professor Davidson was able to provide a wealth of knowledge to the students as they went about their itinerary through the streets of NYC, learning from him as well as their surroundings and seeing the role that urban geography plays in the city. The students had a great time as Professor Davidson led them to various locations such as the Frank Lloyd Wright exhibition at MoMA, through Wall Street, Zuccotti Park, WTC, Tompkins Square Park, Greenwich Village, High Line, Times Square, and Central Park. Thank you to Professor Davidson for arranging this, and thank you to all who attended!

## MORE EVENTS

4/14: Info-Session & Trivia Night

4/15: Map Library Tour with Emily Glaubitz & Beverly Presley

4/16: Panel on Work featuring Professor Mark Davidson, GSG Director Tony Bebbington, Doctoral Student Juan-Luis Dammart Bello, GISDE student Ryan Williams, and MA GIS student Shannon Palmer

4/18: Main South Treasure Hunt





# THE MONADNOCK

OF THE  
CLARK GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

MONADNOCK

## Re-Launch of *The Monadnock* Magazine After 30-year Hiatus

### The Monadnock

"From an age that is past  
To an age that is waiting before."

*The Clark University Graduate School of Geography is still young. Nevertheless, those of us who know it have full confidence that it is really the center of modern geographic sciences in the Americas, if not the entire world... We have every essential for a strongly cemented academic, social and professional bond. Now...is the most auspicious time for the establishment of a firm union.*

(December 1927. *The Monadnock*. Vol II, No 1)

With this confident appraisal of a six-year old department, CUGS member John Gould Curtis argued for the continuing an experiment started a year earlier: the establishment of a magazine that would keep alumni in contact with students. For over five decades, *The Monadnock* fulfilled this goal. Circulation to alumni around the world had exceeded 600 by the end of its run in the mid-1980s.

Early this summer a new issue of *The Monadnock* will be published, thanks to the generous support of the alumni and the GSG. The magazine's re-launch was spurred by the interest of current Ph.D. students in learning more about, and sharing, the history and traditions of CUGS, as well as the desire to strengthen bonds with alumni. Among much else, readers of the latest volume will learn about the resurgence of polar research conducted by students in the GSG, and its links to pioneering Antarctic research in the early years of the department. And they will get a glimpse into the social life of CUGS, with the review of an album produced by current Ph.D. students, and an account of a potluck whose dishes had to be both delicious and descriptive of geographical concepts.

The publication of the new volume of *The Monadnock* will be accompanied by access to all past issues on the department's website. Within these 87 issues, readers will find an unrivalled narrative of the changes within the GSG – for example, the shortening of field camp from a three-week education in the outdoors to a weekend social event; or the material changes to the Geography Building's first floor where plaster models of mountains and portraits of alumni once surrounded students as they worked – and of the agreeable continuities, such as the persistently supportive nature, and international diversity, of CUGS.

In choosing the name *Monadnock* nearly ninety years ago, CUGS opted for a word of "distinctive New England origin" that is also "fundamentally geographic". Like the first editors of the magazine, the present editors hope that their endeavor lives up to the scientific connotations of *monadnock*: that the magazine may have a "resistance to the wear of time and adversity, and a standard above the general level and dull routine" that will allow it to run for at least another half-century.

Thank you to Chris Kundson, one of our doctoral students, for putting this together and for taking the time to write up this feature!

Check out the *Monadnock* on our website at: [clarku.edu/departments/geography/about/monadnock.cfm](http://clarku.edu/departments/geography/about/monadnock.cfm)

# COMMENCEMENT

## Congratulations, Class of 2014!

### Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Connie Johnston  
William Kutz  
Esteban Rossi  
Elisabeth Stoddard  
Qingling Qu

### Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts in Geography

Kelly Kay\*  
David Mayer  
Kathryn-Louise Meng\*

*\*en route to Ph.D.*

### Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Geography, Global Environmental Studies\*, and Earth System Science (track within Environmental Science)\*\*

Elliot Altbaum  
Michelle Andrews  
Tatiana Baglioni  
Jonah Bass  
Taylor Bearden  
Samuel Berman\*\*  
Sharon Bort\*  
James Caneff  
Stephen Cary  
Mae Colcord\*  
William Cretinon  
Sean Cunningham  
Anastassios Dardas  
Casey DeMarsico  
Shane D'Lima  
Patrick Donnelly  
Lucas Earl  
Emily Glaubitz

Christopher Humphrey\*  
Jonathan Koenig  
William Kolschowsky  
Eliza Lawrence  
Cody Litchfield  
David Wayne Love II  
Sarah MacLachlan  
Evan Marshall  
Leah McConnell  
Spencer Mewherter  
Kayla Patel  
David Prentice  
Benjamin Reid  
James Riley  
Zoe Ritter  
Sarah Sachs\*  
Matthew Wemer

### Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts (Geographic Information Science)

Dylan Broderick  
Christina Geller  
Noam Raffel  
Andrew J. Shatz

### Candidates for the Degree of Master of Science in Geographic Information Sciences for Development and Environment (GISDE)

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Khalid Mahdi Al Dhamen | Yongyao Jiang         |
| Anne Baker             | Supriya KhadkeXiyu Li |
| Chantal Begley         | Zihan Lin             |
| Oliver Bengle          | Zhonghui Lv           |
| Michael Cecil          | Edward Potter         |
| Yuqi Chen              | Hayley Solak          |
| Tyler Dhalberg         | Mukesh Subedee        |
| James Dolansky         | Yue Sun               |
| Jian Fan               | Ryan Williams         |
| Christopher Ferraro    | Yan Yan               |
| Liyao Huang            |                       |



Check out our Facebook page for more Commencement photos!



# Commencement

2014 PHOTO ALBUM

*GSG "Champagne & Strawberries" Reception*



Emily Sturdivant & Noam Raffel



(Left) Bill Kutz, Dave Mayer, Esteban Rossi



(Left) Gaia Khairina, Michelle Andrews, Professor Deb Martin, and Brenda Nikas-Hayes



(Left) Anne Baker, Jian Fan, Brenda Nikas-Hayes, Mukesh Subedee, Supriya Khadke



(Left) Professor Mark Davidson, Nikita Kharlamov, Esteban Rossi, and Amy (Yueming) Zhang



# Commencement

2014 PHOTO ALBUM

*GSG "Champagne & Strawberries" Reception*



Lisa Stoddard & Brenda Nikas-Hayes

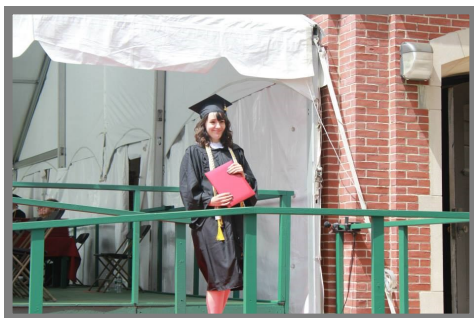


Michelle Andrews &  
Rachel Levitt



Elliot Altbaum chatting with Professor Chris Williams

# 2014



Tatiana Baglioni (above) and Cody  
Litchfield (below) proudly showing  
off their diplomas



Brenda Nikas-Hayes & Jamie Duncan-Brown



# Comings & Goings

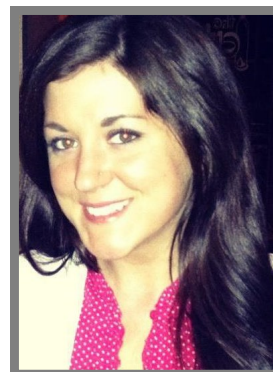
## Professor Alex Gardner



GSG Assistant Professor Alex Gardner has accepted a position at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in sunny Pasadena, California. He has been hired to expand his current research program of studying glacier change from space and will contribute to the development of new satellite missions. While excited by these new opportunities he will miss Clark and in particular all of the great students that he is leaving behind. Alex says that as much time as he has invested in mentoring students in his short stay here at Clark he has gained more from them than he has given. Alex's last day at Clark will be July 25.

## Colleen Dolan

Back in February we said goodbye to our Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Colleen Dolan. Colleen began working in the GSG in 2012 and stayed with us for about 2 years. Colleen has been continuing her education and working towards a Masters degree in Professional Communication while also working to become a certified teacher, through which she gained a new position working as an Instructional Assistant as part of the Central MA Special Education Collaborative. We miss her but we continue to wish her good luck in all of her future endeavors!



## Christine Creelman



We would like to give a big welcome to Christine Creelman as the next GSG Department Administrator! Chris formerly worked in the Trustees Office at Clark where she dealt directly with the Trustees and helped to coordinate Clark's relationships with a range of organizations in Main South and across the city. Prior to that and a period outside Clark, she worked for five years as Department Administrator for V&PA. Chris brings a great deal to the GSG, not least experience in coordinating and administering a department that is at least as complex as GSG and a wide network of relationships within the university. Welcome to the team, Chris!

# Comings & Goings



## Longtime GSG Department Administrator Jean Heffernan Retiring May 2014

On Friday, May 30th we said a bittersweet goodbye to Jean Heffernan, our longtime Assistant to the Director and Department Administrator, as she retired to start the next chapter of her life. Throughout the years, Jean has played countless critical roles in the daily and overall functioning of the Graduate School of Geography. Jean is commonly referred to as “the glue” of the department, always being the answer to many inquiries that could be resolved by a simple, “ask Jean, she will know!” We would like to congratulate Jean on her well-deserved retirement, and we would also like to sincerely thank her for everything she has contributed to the department during her time here at Clark. We will miss her dearly!

### ASK JEAN

**Q** *How long have you worked at Clark, and how long have you been in Geography?*

**A** “I came here in 1981 after working at Holy Cross for a few years, and then I started in Geography in 1985, so I've been at Clark for about 33 years and in Geography for about 29.”

**Q** *What was your first memorable moment of working in the GSG?*

**A** “Well, when I first came here I worked in the office next to the Geography Commons, which at the time was Billie Turner's office, who was the department chair back then. I remember being a bit terrified at first! I knew there was a lot to learn and a lot to be done, but I just accepted it and got into the role and it has been a wonderful ride since then. My most memorable personal moment of Clark was when I received my Bachelors degree in Psychology in 1990. It was a great feeling of accomplishment, especially since I came here without any prior college credits. It was a very important and very gratifying moment in my time here.”

**Q** *What has been the most rewarding part of your position as Department Administrator?*

**A** “I really enjoyed working for such a good program and great faculty, staff, and students. I've always loved the academic environment here and I feel like I'm constantly learning from others. There's a feeling of community within the department and that we all work together, which is always a great quality to have in the workplace. This department has been so good to me over the years and I feel very grateful and fortunate to have had many good years here.

**Q** *Do you have any plans yet for what's next?*

**A** “Collapsing! Just kidding. For now, I know I just want to take some time to relax, consider my next move, and reflect on where I've been. Part of my plan is to volunteer at a local animal shelter part-time; they're always looking for help and I would enjoy being able to do that. Mostly I think I'll spend time with my family (I have 7 grandchildren so I'm sure they will keep me busy) and friends, and maybe do a bit of traveling with my husband. I've always wanted to drive across the country, so I plan to do that sometime in the upcoming years. Details TBD!”



# Congratulations, Jean!

PHOTO ALBUM



Beautiful cupcakes and cake made by Jean's family



GSG Director Tony Bebbington with Jean Heffernan



Tony presenting Jean with a gift from the department



President David Angel reflecting on his memories of Jean



# Congratulations, Jean!

PHOTO ALBUM



Jean and family! Jean's two sons and her husband Henry



Jean sharing a moment with her husband Henry after his speech



Some Geography girls! (Left) Rachel Levitt, former Undergraduate Program Coordinator Colleen Dolan, Brenda Nikas-Hayes, and Doctoral student Kathryn Meng



Doctoral students Will Collier (left), Nick Cuba, and Ashley York



Doctoral students Alex Sphar (left) and Padini Nirmal with Jean





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