

GEOGRAPHY

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY
AT CLARK UNIVERSITY



WHERE'S YOUR WORLD? | SUMMER 2018

GEOG CONTENTS

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WELCOME

A NOTE FROM
GSG DIRECTOR
DEBORAH MARTIN

Dear Geography Friends,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer, and that you have a warm, relaxing spot to indulge in reading the GSG summer 2018 newsletter. I have been enjoying the summer quiet here in Worcester and in the GSG. I always like this time of year, with fantasies of completing all sorts of research and writing projects. Summer fosters that sort of enthusiasm, and then draws us out of doors to relax and absorb some sunshine. Perusing the pages of this latest newsletter, I am struck as always to see how busy, creative, and productive everyone has been. Even though I've been around all year, there are stories, notes, and photos that inform me of activities I didn't know about, or only knew a little. My favourite part of the newsletter is uncovering connections between people in the GSG, or networks we're building outside of it, that so enhance our community.

One such network is among our PhD alums, and the deep connections they hold to the GSG across time and space. Earlier this summer a PhD alum from 1953, Dr. Azra Khan, was visiting with her son, just looking around the department. They had the great fortune to run into Dr. Rinku Roy Chowdhury, who is of course also a PhD alum ('03) of our department. Rinku welcomed Dr. Khan and her son, and even hosted them at her home for lunch the next day. I met Dr. Khan during her visit and enjoyed hearing about her career, her supportive parents who let her travel out of the country (Pakistan) as a young unmarried woman in the 1950s, and how much the GSG influenced and cared for her while she was here as a graduate student.

Dr. Khan's visit was her first back to Worcester since graduating in 1953. We have many people who come and go, but

somehow, our connections retain even if we may not see each other for years. We've had many happy hellos and bittersweet goodbyes this year. We are once again congratulating and saying goodbye to students, while we welcome new faculty and new roles in our department. I've now completed my first full year as Director, and as of this summer Prof. Karen Frey steps in as Associate Director, as Prof. Gil Pontius has completed his term and is off to enjoy a full year sabbatical. Thank you Gil, and enjoy! We have very much enjoyed the first year of new faculty (2017-18) Dr. Asha Best and Dr. Lyndon Estes, and look forward to having our new(est) tenure-track faculty member, Dr. Youjin Chung, join us for Fall 2018! We were also happy to have Visiting Assistant Professor Luis Alvarez León here in Spring 2018, teaching Critical GIS and Internet Geography. He has (already) moved on to Dartmouth College where he was hired into a tenure-track faculty position. Jessa Loomis, who is a Clark alum (BA Geography, 2006), will replace him in the Visiting Economic Geographer position for the next year. Many of us were pleased to see Dr. Susan Hanson return to Clark to receive an honorary degree at Graduation! I was lucky enough as Director to read the commendation for the degree, and once again was awed by all of Susan's accomplishments –and she is still actively involved in research! Finally, it is bittersweet indeed to report that Brenda Nikas-Hayes, (former) Graduate Program Administrator, left us for exciting new professional adventures in early November, 2017, and Kayla Peterson, Office Coordinator, will be leaving us in August to start her own graduate studies in Art History at the University of Massachusetts Amherst! We wish them both well and thank them for their many valuable contributions to the GSG over the years. Rachel Levitt is now Program Administrator for all our degree programs, from BA through to PhD. I know she will do an excellent job!

All of the many people who make up Clark GSG over time and across distance contribute every day to our community. We may not all be in touch. We may not all know each other. But I am grateful for how everyone takes on our collective commitment to doing excellent work, and, I think, also, to being kind as we do so. Thanks for all you do, and enjoy our news.

— Deb Martin, GSG Director

• • EVENTS • •

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

- Fall 2018 Colloquium Talks
- Atwood Lecture
- Student Events
- ...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 geog-media-editor@clarku.edu to see if it can be featured in an upcoming issue.



Photo: (L-R) Barbara Thomas-Slayter, Yuko Aoyama, Susan Hanson, and Deborah Martin pose after Commencement 2018

FACULTY NEWS

GEOGRAPHY HONOREES

On September 27th 2017, GSG faculty **Mark Davidson** and **John Rogan** were honored during a Faculty Awards Reception at the Harrington House (home of President Angel). Mark Davidson received the *Oliver and Dorothy Hayden Junior Faculty Fellowship Award*, and John Rogan received the *Steinbrecher Family Senior Faculty Award* and was also awarded tenure and promoted to Professor during the Fall 2017 semester. Congratulations to both! [Click here to view.](#)

RICHARD PEET RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Congratulations to **Richard (Dick) Peet**, who received a [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) from AAG in April 2018 as an honor "for his extraordinary career as a scholar, teacher, mentor, editor, and activist." Dick has served as a faculty member in the GSG for over 50 years, and was honored at last year's AAG meeting in Boston with a plaque ([Click here](#) to view this story from 2017). [Click here to view.](#)

RON EASTMAN SELECTED FOR 2018 AAG RSSG AWARD

Congratulations to **Ron Eastman** who was unanimously selected by the committee to receive the 2018 AAG [Remote Sensing Specialty Group](#) (RSSG) Outstanding Contributions Award in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to remote sensing. [Click here to view.](#)

AAG RECOGNIZES BILLIE TURNER WITH AAG PRESIDENTIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Congratulations to **Billie Turner II**, former GSG Director/faculty member who was selected as one of two awardees of the 2018 AAG Presidential Achievement Award. This award recognizes Billie's transformative research on development of land use/cover change science, his leadership in integrating geographical sciences with wider academic and policy concerns in the areas of global change, earth systems and sustainability science, and his early recognition of the importance of these issues to geography, is also recognized by this award. Lastly, the award recognizes his extensive contributions representing geography on important national and international bodies and initiatives including the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, the International Human Dimensions Programme, and the U.S. National Climate Assessment and Associate Editorship of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. [Click here to view.](#)

JODY EMEL RETIRES AFTER 33 YEARS IN THE GSG



The GSG congratulates and sends best wishes to **Jody Emel**, who has retired (as of May 2018) after 33 years of service and dedication to the Graduate School of Geography! Jody's legacy in the GSG is seen in

her many years of outstanding research and teaching, along with the sheer volume of loving and appreciative notes that were sent from colleagues, former students, and friends wishing her well in the next chapter of her life.

One alum writes, "Although Jody is retiring from Clark, I look forward to her continued work and contributions to critical geography. Jody is the consummate intellectual – always open to new ideas, always reading, always thinking, always revising her ideas and thoughts about politics and the world. Just to be able to tag along on the ride of her intellectual journey has been (and will continue to be) such a joy." Congratulations, Jody!!

JIM MURPHY RUNS IN NEW YORK CITY MARATHON



A big congratulations to **James (Jim) Murphy** on completing a huge goal — running and finishing in the 2017 [New York City Marathon](#)! After months of training, Jim traveled to NYC for the big day on November 5th and completed the 26.2 mile course in the rain and cold for a very happy victory. Congrats Jim!!

FACULTY NEWS

KAREN FREY APPOINTED AS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF GSG

Congratulations to **Karen Frey** who was recently appointed to the position of Associate Director of the GSG! Karen's appointment began in May 2018, following **Robert (Gil) Pontius** who just finished up a 3 year appointment in this position. Thank you, Gil, for your dedication and commitment in this role over the years, and welcome aboard, Karen!!



GSG WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBER: YOUJIN CHUNG

The GSG is thrilled to welcome **Youjin Chung**, who will be coming on board as a new faculty member starting in August 2018. Youjin comes to us from Cornell University as a recent graduate from the Development Sociology PhD program — her research encompasses the following areas: Political economy of development, Feminist political ecology, Food and agrarian studies, Critical social/feminist theory, African studies, and Qualitative and visual research methods. Youjin will be teaching GEOG 136: Gender and Environment in the Fall. Welcome, Youjin!



THANK YOU TO VISITING FACULTY MEMBER: LUIS ALVAREZ LEÓN

This past semester (Spring 2018), the GSG had the pleasure of having a visiting professor on board: **Luis Alvarez León**! Luis came to the GSG from UCLA after completing his PhD in Geography in 2016 and working as a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

This past semester, Luis taught two courses — GEOG 257: Internet Geography, and GEOG 286: Critical GIS — and has now joined Dartmouth College as Assistant Professor of Geography (as of July 2018). Thank you, Luis, for your dedication during this past semester! You will be missed!

THANK YOU TO 2017-18 PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS

This past year we had four wonderful part-time instructors — thank you to:

- **Jeanne Thibeault** (GEOG 104: Earth System Science)
- **Padini Nirmal** (GEOG 090: Native Americans, Land and Natural Resources, GEOG 101: Food Justice & Food Movements)
- **Alex Sphar** (GEOG 286: Economy, Place, and Politics in the 21st Century)
- **Teresa Bornschlegl** (GEOG 179: Global/Local Environmental Justice).

GSG PROMOTIONS

This academic year came with a few exciting changes in the GSG — faculty were promoted, appointed, hired, and honored. Among those are two faculty who were recently promoted from Associate Professor to Professor: **John Rogan** and **James (Jim) Murphy**. Congratulations to both!

THANK YOU TO KAREN FREY EMBARKS ON ARCTIC TRIP WITH DOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

In early July, **Karen Frey**, **Melishia Santiago** (fifth-year doctoral student), and **Luisa Young** (third-year doctoral student) took off for a couple of weeks in the cold to research sea ice and effects of climate change. Be sure to follow their journey through the **Polar Science Research Laboratory** accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



GIL PONTIUS RESEARCHES AT PLUM ISLAND SOUND

Robert (Gil) Pontius pours liquid nitrogen at negative 200 degrees Celsius for cryocoring of sediment in the marsh at the [Plum Island Ecosystems Long Term Ecological Research site](#) in Northern Massachusetts. Funded by the National Science Foundation. (pictured below)



LYNDON ESTES AUTHORS PAPER ON DOWNSTREAM ANALYSES

Lyndon Estes was the lead author for a recently published paper, the abstract of which begins as follows: "Land cover maps increasingly underlie research into socioeconomic and environmental patterns and processes, including global change. It is known that map errors impact our understanding of these phenomena, but quantifying these impacts is difficult because many areas lack adequate reference data." **Global Change Biology 10/27/2017** [Click here to view](#)

For more faculty news and updates, check out our [website here](#).



Scott Odell (back row, L) and fellow graduate students (from throughout Latin America) at LASI

DOCTORAL STUDENT NEWS

DYLAN HARRIS RESEARCHES ANCIENT ART & CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTIONS

Dylan Harris (fourth-year doctoral student) was quoted in an article about the connections between ancient art and climate change. The article reads: "Dylan Harris, a doctoral candidate at Clark University, is using storytelling to explain the science of climate change to those who it affects the most. For the next two years, he'll be researching climate change in Alaska & West Virginia. Published on [Salon.com](#) 01/14/2018 [Click here to view](#)

SCOTT ODELL AT LASI

Scott Odell (fifth-year doctoral student) participated in the Latin American Summer School on Social Issues ([LASI](#)) in Villarrica, Chile, January 4th-9th. Scott joined graduate students throughout Latin America and abroad to investigate the topic of "Difference: Discrimination, Racism, and Social Transformation" through academic workshops and presentations by local scholars and activists. Scott's participation was possible thanks to a Clark Graduate Student Council travel award and conference funding from the GSG. Photo (above) from [CIIR](#).

GRADUATE FUNDING AWARDS

- **Wenjing Jiang** (fifth-year doctoral student), received a grant from the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) China and Inner Asia Council (CIAC) for her project entitled "Contemporary Agrarian Transformation in China: Empowerment, Valuation and Distributive Justice in the Transfer of Farmland Use Rights (TFUR)"

- **Laura Sauls** (fifth-year doctoral student), was chosen as one of 100 doctoral students in the U.S. and Canada selected to receive a Scholar Award from the International Chapter of the [P.E.O. Sisterhood](#).
- **Ben Fash** (fourth-year doctoral student) received a CLAG student research travel award at the New Orleans AAG Annual Meeting for his project "Networked Community Economies as Alternatives to Extractivism in Honduras."
- **Janae Davis** (fifth-year doctoral student) [received a U.S. Fulbright Student Research award](#) for her dissertation that examines the racialized division of labor associated with Integrated Conservation and Development Projects (ICDPs) that promote ecotourism in the southern Kalahari Desert of South Africa
- **Ben Fash** (fourth-year doctoral student) [received a U.S. Fulbright Student Research award](#) for his fieldwork in Honduras for AY 2018-19.
- **Dylan Harris** (fourth-year doctoral student) received a 2018 Switzer Fellowship (2018-19).

Edna Bailey Sussman Fund for Environmental Research Awardees:

- **Brittany Wheeler**: "Climate-Induced Migration to the United States"
- **Dylan Harris**: "Telling the Story of Climate Change: Cultural Politics and Climate Communication"
- **Surendra Shrestha**: "Modeling Land-Atmosphere Feedbacks from Drought and Wildfire Disturbances using Community Earth System Model (CESM)"
- **Nick Geron**: "An Urban Tree Planting Program for a Changing Climate"

- **Connor Stephens (GISDE)**: "Does Land Ownership Influence Post-Wildfire Forest Recovery?"

Pruser Dissertation Enhancement Awards (Fall 2017 & Spring 2018):

- Melissa Bollman
 - Jacob Chamberlain
 - Jackie Guz
 - Wenjing Jiang
 - Dan Santos
 - Laura Sauls
 - Lei Song
 - Mara van den Bold
- Albert, Norma and Howard Geller '77 Endowed Research Award (2018) :**
- Roopa Krithivasan
 - Mario Machado
 - Helen Rosko
 - Dan Santos
 - Laura Sauls

CUGS COMPLETE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAM

This past semester, four members of CUGS graduated from Clark's inaugural [Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program](#).

Congratulations to:

- **Janae Davis**
- **Alex Moulton**
- **Melishia Santiago**
- **Ashley York**

"This program was designed to give Clark professionals and graduate students an opportunity to "engage in authentic, critical dialogue, and in-depth examination of diversity, difference, power, privilege, and beyond to understand how we can — and why we should — work together to build a more inclusive community." **ClarkNow** 05/09/2018 [Click here to view](#)

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



Wildlife Conservation class poses with faculty and WCS Staff before presenting at the Bronx Zoo in NYC

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CLASS TRAVELS TO BRONX ZOO

This past spring semester on May 2nd, Professor **Florencia Sangermano** and Professor **John Rogan** took their Wildlife Conservation class (**GEOG 336**) to present their research findings at the **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** headquarters at the Bronx Zoo (NYC).

This year, four groups of students (pictured above) presented on various projects relevant to current WCS goals. In one presentation, students presented to the [WCS \(SMART\) working group](#), which involved researchers from World Wildlife Fund, the World Resources Institute. Other students in the class presented their research on Walrus and Squid conservation to WCS staff.

The results of this work were distributed to WCS staff worldwide. One WCS staff member, Danielle LaBruna stated the following:

"WCS is thrilled to partner with Professors Florencia Sangermano and John Rogan and their students at Clark University. **Since 2012, they have helped us to solve complex conservation problems that don't have a clear resolution from the outset.** They nevertheless take on these challenges and manage to provide a comprehensive solution using a variety of remote sensing and GIS tools, some of which the students are just learning for the first time. The projects undertaken

this semester have contributed to our understanding of how to approach predictive MPA patrol planning in the marine realm, and climate change implications for walrus habitat."

— **Danielle LaBruna, Geospatial Analyst**

Student Presenters:

- Andrew Burke
- Caitlin Cassisi
- Ali Filipovic
- Nick Geron
- Meghan Kelly
- Jeanie Lai
- Lucy Lee
- Kelsey Meisenhelder
- Mary Molloy
- Spring Pillsbury
- Eli Simonson
- Rishi Singh



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

CLARK'S ANNUAL GRADUATE MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

On **Wednesday, April 18th**, Clark hosted its annual graduate multidisciplinary conference to showcase research and projects of the graduate student community. **Yuko Aoyama** gave the opening remarks as Dean of Research, and the rest of the afternoon was full of student presentations, posters, and panel sessions. A few

graduate and doctoral students participated from each program:

Doctoral Students

- Guy Hydrick
- Renee Tapp
- Laura Sauls
- Mike Cecil
- Alex Moulton

GISDE Students

- Carson Hauck
- Zachary Peloquin

MS-GIS ADP Students

- Will Heikes (2018 cohort)
- Meyru Bhanti (2019 cohort)

MS-GIS ACCELERATED DEGREE PROGRAM INTRODUCES NEW TRACK-BASED CURRICULUM

AY 2017-18 was the first year of the **new track-based format** of the 5th Year MS-GIS Accelerated Degree Program in Geography. This format was designed to provide ADP students with the option to either spend their year working at an internship or writing a Master's thesis, all while taking their usual courses. The cohort that piloted this format consisted of 13 students (our largest cohort ever) — 5 of whom chose the thesis track, while the other 8 chose the internship track. This new program structure has worked out very well so far, and we are looking forward to continuing it. To learn more about the GIS ADP program, [click here](#).

GRADUATE NEWS

MS-GIS ADP GRADUATES ITS LARGEST COHORT IN 2018

This summer, the MS-GIS Accelerated Degree Program said goodbye to all 13 members of its largest cohort since the program's beginning. With 8 students who completed the internship track in May 2018, and 5 students completing the thesis track (pending August 1 completion), 2017-18 was a banner year for the program.

With the new thesis and internship tracks in place, students in this cohort had diverse experiences throughout their final year at Clark. 8 students were able to secure wonderful internships for both semesters with the following organizations:

- **Shirin Esmaeili** — Oxfam America: Research Intern (Fall '17 & Spring '18)
- **Ali Filipovic** — Army Corps of Engineers, Geospatial Modeling of Disease Vector Hazard Using Google Earth Engine (Fall '17), Landvest, GIS Intern (Spring '18)
- **Saira Khan** — Harvard Humanitarian Initiative: Humanitarian Geoscience (Fall '17 & Spring '18)
- **Isabel Miranda** — Clark Labs: Graduate Research Assistant (Fall '17 & Spring '18)
- **Mary Molloy** — Clark Labs: Graduate Research Assistant (Fall '17 & Spring '18)
- **Edward Peluso** — Cadmus Group:

Research Analyst, Environmental Programs Group (Fall '17), Worcester Department of Public Health: Infant Mortality Intern (Spring '18)

- **Daniela Reyes Saade** — Worcester Public Schools: Data Analyst (Fall '17), Harvard Humanitarian Initiative Humanitarian Geoscience (Spring '18)
- **Tom Smith** — Clark Labs: Graduate Research Assistant (Fall '17 & Spring '18)

Meanwhile, 5 students worked on completing their second thesis in 2 years (as the program requires the successful completion and defense of an undergraduate honors thesis prior to entry):

- **Saraneh Fitzgerald** — "Shoreline Change and Wave Regime in Funafuti Atoll from 2013 - 2018 using CLASlite and NOAA WaveWatch III"
- **Will Heikes** — "Dónde esta 'Mi Gente?' An analysis of Spanish-language music awareness using Tweets in the United States"
- **Anela Layugan** — "Change-points in Arctic Sea Ice across Eight Distributed Biological Observatory Sites"
- **Eli Simonson** — "An assessment of forest loss and fragmentation for priority conservation landscapes in Central Africa"
- **Rishi Singh** — "Mapping Mangroves: New Integrated Spectral Protocol for Rapid Mangrove Identification Using Machine Learning"

1 student defended in May 2018, and the other 4 are expected to finish in August 2018, all with degrees conferred on August 31st. Congratulations to all!

INCOMING MS-GIS COHORT

Next year (2018-19), we will have a smaller cohort of 5 wonderful GIS students from various undergraduate programs:



Tyler Anderson
(Earth System Science '18)
Summer internship: NASA DEVELOP, NASA Langley Research Center



Meyru Bhanti
(Geography & Environmental Conservation Biology '18)
Summer internship: World Wildlife Fund



Hannah Corney
(Global Environmental Studies '18)
Summer internship: Clark Labs



Carly Robbins
(Geography '18)
Summer internship: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center & Center for Climate Simulation



Miles Weule Chandler
(Geography '18)
Summer internship: Town of Sudbury

John Rogan's Advanced Remote Sensing class from above —photo taken by drone





2018 NOAA Fellows

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR PREVIOUS & CURRENT NOAA FELLOWSHIPS

"This summer marks the seventh year Clark University students will put their education into practice through fellowships with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Through a collaboration with the University's Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise and George Perkins Marsh Institute, NOAA has invited three Clark undergraduates to conduct research at sites in Florida, Maryland, and Massachusetts. This year, for the first time, all of Clark's NOAA fellows will be mentored by the same professor. **Karen Frey**, associate professor of geography, will work with the students to ensure they are getting the most out of their NOAA experiences." **ResearchMatters 05/22/18** [Click to view](#)

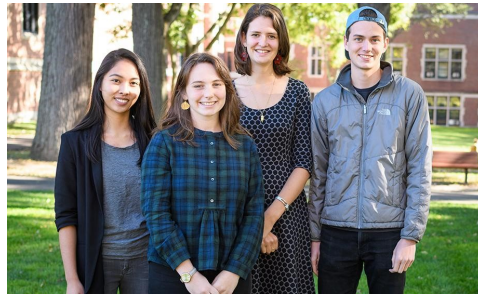
This year's NOAA Fellows are (pictured above):

- **Anthony Himmelberger** (ESS '19)
- **Sophie Spiliotopoulos** (GEOG '20)
- **Jess Strzempko** (ESS '20)

In addition to this great recognition, last year's group of NOAA fellows were also honored — three out of the four are connected to the Geography department and/or Environmental Science

- **Tyler Anderson** (ESS '18)
- **Carly Robbins** (GEOG '18)

- **Anika Kreckel** (ECON '18)
- **Alexis Stabulas** (ES&P '18)



Congratulations to all on these fantastic research opportunities! [Click to view.](#)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FUNDING & AWARDS

- **Harris Eidelman** (ESS '19) received a Gilman Scholarship Award for his research during study abroad in Peru ([click here](#) to view)
- **Iolanthe Brooks** (GEOG & SOC '19) received a Peter J. Condakes Summer Research Fellowship Award for her research with Professor **Asha Best** on "Mobilities, Dislocation, and Power in the Prison Transfers"
- **Claire Shapton** (GEOG '19) received a Peter J. Condakes Summer Research Fellowship Award for her research with Professor **Deb Martin** on "A qualitative analysis of the place attachment experiences of those residentially displaced by gentrification in Portland, OR"
- **Elizabeth Jones** (PSCI, WGS & UDSC

'19) and **Maddy Buchman** (ECON & UDSC '19) received a Lois & Robert Green Summer Internship Award

HONORS THESIS RESEARCH

This past semester, 9 students completed honors theses in geography:

- **Tyler Anderson**: "Effect of MA Forest to Urban Conversion"
- **Meyru Bhanti**: "Does the Distribution of juvenile tree planting impact local air temperature? A calibrated microclimate simulation in Holyoke Massachusetts"
- **Nathan Bram**: "Redevelopment in Haifa: mitigating interests in a "mixed" city"
- **Hannah Corney**: "The Impact of Juvenile and Mature Trees on Air Temperature Fluxes: Employing ENVI-met in the city of Chelsea, Massachusetts"
- **Ian Jackson**: "Contentious Property, Contentious Citizenship: The Construction of a Houseless Village in Portland, Oregon"
- **Anthony Jreije**: "Analyzing the Westborough and Grafton Commuter Rail Stations through the Lens of Transit Oriented Development"
- **Carly Robbins**: "Finding Harmful Algae Using High Resolution Satellites"
- **Gabe Trevor**: "Identifying Socioeconomic and Demographic Voting Patterns in the 2016 Presidential Elec-

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

tion in Minnesota and Wisconsin Using GIS and Spatial Analysis”

- **Miles Weule Chandler:** “Developing a Tree Planting Priority Index to support urban greening for the Greening the Gateway Cities Program in Fitchburg, Massachusetts”

All theses will be displayed in the Geography Thesis & Dissertation library at the end of the hall on the second floor of Jefferson. Be sure to check them out!

GAMMA THETA UPSILON (GTU) INDUCTS 11 NEW MEMBERS



Congratulations to our 11 newest members of the **Alpha Sigma** chapter of **Gamma Theta Upsilon** (GTU), the International Geographical Honors Society (above):

- Tyler Anderson
- Eleanor Eaton
- Anthony Himmelberger
- Erica Issenberg
- Ian Jackson
- Kyle Pecsok
- Claire Shapton
- Rebecca Silver
- Jessica Strzempko
- Chikondi Thangata

The induction ceremony was led by **Professor Rinku Roy Chowdhury**, Chair of

Undergraduate Studies in Geography, and drew a crowd of supportive peers to help celebrate. Congratulations!

PHI BETA KAPPA INDUCTEES

Each year, the [Phi Beta Kappa](#) Society, Lambda of Massachusetts at Clark University, elects undergraduate students for induction to this prestigious honors society. Out of the whole university, we are pleased to recognize 5 geography students who were among this group:

- Nathan Bram
- Robert Franklin
- Ian Jackson
- Anthony Jreije
- Rose Kendrick

Congratulations to all!

PRACTICING GEOGRAPHY WEEK

This spring, the School of Geography held its seventh annual **Practicing Geography Week**, March 19th—21st. With a lineup of 8 undergraduate events, including 2 field-trips, students spent the week learning about the many ways in which Geography, Global Environmental Studies, and Earth System Science are incorporated into our everyday lives. CUGA Movie night, a tour of Clark Labs, an alumni panel, and 2 local, faculty-led field trips are just a few new events added to the usual lineup. The field trips were particularly popular — both trips were free and open to all students interested in Geography, and both occurred on “Field Trip Friday” to wrap up the week.

The two trips offered this year were:

Trip 1: Spaces of Urban Green(ing) and Vulnerability — led by **Professor John Rogan** and **Professor Deb Martin**

On this field trip, the group paid particular attention to understanding the landscapes of urban tree loss and replanting. This trip involved a visit to a few of Worcester’s signature parks, including Elm Park and Green Hill Park, which allowed students to identify the impact of the Asian Longhorned Beetle infestation, and eradication efforts by the USDA, and visit important tree planting locations fostered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Worcester Tree Initiative.

Trip 2: Water in the Woo: Urban Blue Space and Wildlife Conservation — led by **Professor Rinku Roy Chowdhury**, **Jacquelyn Burmeister** (City of Worcester Public Works Department), and **Martha Gach** (Mass Audubon Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary).

This field trip took students on a tour of Worcester’s waterways and explored the challenges of urban watershed and wildlife conservation. The group visited several ponds, lakes and brooks flowing through or below our city, learned about contemporary efforts in water quality monitoring and preservation, and reflected on the historical role played by these waters in our city’s urban and economic development. The group then continued “downstream” to Mass Audubon’s Broad Meadow Brook Urban Wildlife Sanctuary, where they hiked this wonderful natural and cultural resource, while learning about the unique challenges facing urban watersheds and the role of ecological diversity and wildlife in it.

Thank you to all who attended and organized/hosted these great trips! Be sure to check our [Facebook page](#) for announcements for next year’s lineup.

Photo: “Water in the Woo” participants with Jacquelyn Burmeister (trip co-host)





GSG Director Deb Martin with Dr. Azra Khan (PhD '53) during a summer visit to Clark (first visit in 65 years!)

ALUMNI NEWS

REBECCA LIEBMAN ATTRACTS INVESTORS TO LEARNLUX

Rebecca Liebman (GES '15), has had quite a successful experience after graduating from Clark in 2015. Co-founding the startup, [LearnLux](#) — a free website that provides personal financial skills to millennials — Rebecca's achievements have attracted a great deal of support from all over. In 2016, Rebecca was named in *Forbes'* 2016 Education list of "30 under 30", later appeared in [The New York Times](#), and is now being recognized for her winning SXSW pitch to a panel of judges that included actors Ashton Kutcher and Matthew McConaughey (pictured below, [linked here](#)). Overall, Rebecca's success story is one to follow. Congratulations to Rebecca and to [LearnLux](#)!



VISUALIZING POSTHUMAN CONSERVATION IN THE AGE OF THE ANTHROPOCENE

Amy Proben (BA '96) has a new book titled "Visualizing Posthuman Conservation in the Age of the Anthropocene", which will be available from Ohio State University Press in September 2018.

"Through case studies in which visual technologies and science play a prominent role in arguments to protect threatened marine species—from photographs showing the impact of ocean plastics on vulnerable sea birds, to debates about seismic testing and its im-

pact on marine species, to maps created from GPS tracking projects—Proben advances a notion of posthuman environmental conservation that decenters the human enough to consider ideas about the material world from the vantage point of the nonhuman animal."

To view or pre-order this book, [click here](#). To view Amy's additional works, visit her website ([linked here](#)).

RUTH FINCHER ELECTED TO GOVERNING BOARD OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

The inaugural General Assembly of the International Science Council elected two geographers as Ordinary Members of the Board, one of whom was Professor **Ruth Fincher** (PhD '80) of the University of Melbourne. Congratulations, Ruth! [Click here to view](#)

ALUMNA RETURNS TO CLARK FOR A VISIT AFTER 65 YEARS



On Wednesday, June 27th, **Dr. Azra Khan** (PhD '53) paid a visit to Clark Geography after being away from campus for 65 years (since graduating and leaving Worcester in 1954)! **Rinku Roy Chowdhury** (pictured above) found Dr. Khan and her son, Jaleel, roaming the halls of Jefferson and kindly hosted them for lunch at her home in Worcester and got to hear stories of the GSG from the 50's. Dr. Khan met **Deb Martin**

(pictured above) and **Chris Creelman**, and was sent off with a few Clark gifts and memorabilia from our department. Thank you to Azra and her son for paying a very wonderful and special visit to the GSG!

ADDITIONAL ALUMNI UPDATES

Arthur Elmes (PhD '17) was a Nystrom award finalist with the American Association of Geographers (AAG) for his paper, "[Modeling the Potential Dispersal of Asian Longhorned Beetle in Central Massachusetts using Circuit Theory](#)", which he presented at this year's AAG J. Warren Nystrom Award Session in New Orleans, LA. [Click here](#) to learn more about this award

PATHS OF RECENT GRADS

John Lauermann (PhD '14) — Assistant Professor of Geography, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York

Alexandra Cohen (BA '16) — Doctoral program in the School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan

Jitske Grift (BA '18) — Graduate School, Central European University

Nathan Gill (PhD '18) — Postdoc at University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Integrative Biology

Mary Molloy (MS-GIS '18) — Resource Management Intern at Fire Island National Seashore, NPS

ALUMNI SURVEY

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

For more alumni news and updates, be sure to visit our website!



AAG ANNUAL MEETING | 2018

AAG 2018 IN NEW ORLEANS

Each year, the GSG pauses from the bustling spring semester to travel to the AAG (American Association of Geographers) Annual Meeting, where geographers from around the country come together to present research, attend sessions, network, explore, and catch up with past colleagues and friends.

This spring, many of our faculty, graduate and undergraduate students attended the AAG meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana from April 10th —14th. With the New Orleans Marriott hotel as the main hub of events, the city filled with geographers from near and far to participate in the conference experience.

In addition to attending multiple forums, meetings, presentations, and poster sessions, many members of the GSG presented research of their own. The photo gallery on the following page shows just a few of the many GSG presentations from the week.

On top of all of the conference activities, the GSG held its annual **Clark Party** on Thursday, April 12th in the Attic Room and balcony of [Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar & Restaurant](#) on Tchoupitoulas Street. Each year, the Clark Party is an event where faculty, alumni, students, staff, family, and friends can gather for food, drinks, and good times.

This year, 11 undergraduates, 4 MS-GIS students, 26 doctoral students, and 11 faculty from the GSG presented research, participated on a panel session, or gave a talk at the conference, in addition to the many who attended without an official listing in the program.

The full conference program can be found on the AAG website, [linked here](#) (simply search by Affiliation: "Clark University").

FACULTY PRESENTERS

Luis Alvarez Leon
Yuko Aoyama
Mark Davidson
Lyndon Estes
Ron Eastman
Deborah Martin
James McCarthy
Jim Murphy
Robert Pontius
Rinku Roy Chowdhury
Florescia Sangermano

DOCTORAL PRESENTERS

Will Collier
Carlos Dobler
Ben Fash
Nick Geron
Nathan Gill
Jackie Guz
Dylan Harris
Marc Healy
Guy Hydrick

Karen Hudlet Vazquez
Catherine Jampel
Wenjing Jiang
Sam Khallaghi
Roopa Krithivasan
Rich Kruger
Son Ca Lam
Alex Moulton
Andrew Riely
Helen Rosko
Dan Santos
Laura Sauls
Kristen Shake
Renee Tapp
Brittany Wheeler
Leslie Wyrzten
Su Ye

MS-GIS PRESENTERS

Will Heikes (ADP)
Zach Peloquin (GISDE)
Eli Simonson (ADP)
Rishi Singh (ADP)

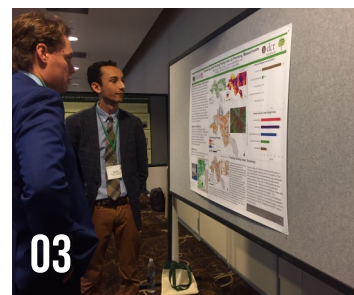
UNDERGRADUATE PRESENTERS

Tyler Anderson
Eli Baldwin (HERO)
Meyru Bhanti (HERO)
Nathan Bram
Hannah Corney (HERO)
Ian Jackson
Anthony Jreije
Joe Mogel (HERO)
Carly Robbins
Miles Weule Chandler (HERO)
Gemma Wilkens (HERO)

AAG 2018 | NEW ORLEANS

Photos from the 2018 AAG Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana (April 10-14)!
[Click here](#) to browse and search the 2018 abstract gallery online

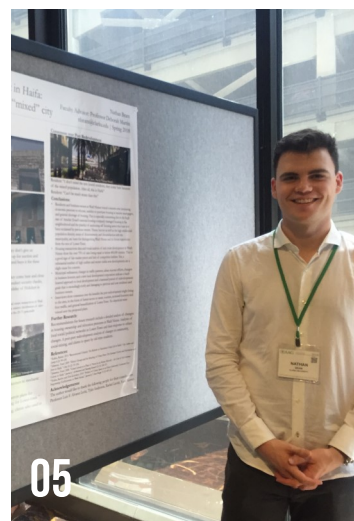
01 Eli Baldwin (HERO) presenting at the Human Geography poster session



02 Clark party! Luisa Young (PhD student), Eli Simonson (GIS ADP student) and Rachel Levitt (Staff)



03 Miles Weule Chandler (HERO) presenting at the Human Geography poster session



04 Undergrads and ADP students exploring NOLA!

05 Nathan Bram (UG) presenting at the Human Geography poster session

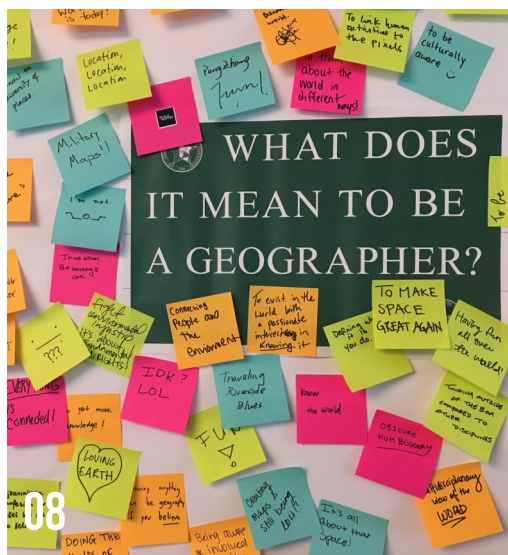
06 AAG attendees mark where they travelled from — worldwide!



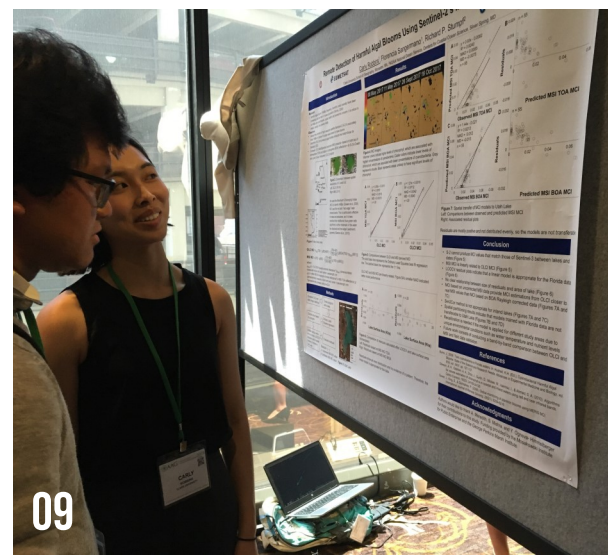
07 Rishi Singh and Will Heikes (GIS ADP students) at the Physical Geography poster session (II)



08 "What does it mean to be a geographer?" notes from conference attendees



09 Carly Robbins (UG) and Dan Santos (PhD student) at the Physical Geography poster session (II)





Just a few members of the 2018 graduating GISDE Cohort!

2018 COMMENCEMENT

THE GSG WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A VERY BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2018!

GRADUATED SENIORS

GEOGRAPHY MAJORS

Madhubanti Anashua
Sophia Aronow
Meyru Bhanti
Nathan Bram
Robert Franklin
Jitske Grift
Spencer Harriman
Erica Issenberg
Ian Jackson
Nathan Jiwatram
Anthony Jreije
Rose Kendrick
Grant Madigan-Kolstad*
Abdikarim Mohamed
Carly Robbins
Brenna Robeson
Kate Summers
Gabe Trevor
Miles Weule Chandler

GEOGRAPHY MINORS

Leta Branham
Charlotte Gray
Alexis Richards
Jordan Shattuck
Annalise Smith

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (GES) MAJORS

Hannah Corney
Savannah Eades
Daniel Ewald
Koby Gardner-Levine
Anna Schaeffer

GES MINORS

Jacqueline Savageau

EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE

(ESS) MAJORS
Tyler Anderson
Wilhem Diehl

MS-GIS 5TH YEAR GRADUATES

Savannah Cooley+
Shirin Esmaeili Chinchilla
Alexandra Filipovic
Will Heikes
Saira Khan
Katherine Landesman+
Isabel Miranda
Edward Peluso
Daniela Reyes Saade
Warren Scott+
Thomas Smith
Chung Nguyen Bao Truong+

MS-GISDE GRADUATES

Adebisi Adeyemi
Caitlin Cassisi
Sarah Gates*
Yiwen Hu
Wenle Jiang
Jeanie Lai
Lucy Lee
Amy Leung
Haoyu Li
Youtao Lin
Nara McCray
Kelsey Meisenhelder
Zachary Peloquin
Maximilian Pschorr
Erika Rivera
Leta Spencer
Zhiwen Zhu*

M.A. GEOGRAPHY

GRADUATES (en-route to Ph.D.)

Carlos Dobler Morales
Wenjing Jiang
Tong Jiao
David Lukens
Alex Moulton
Scott Odell
Michelle Wenderlich
Leslie Gross Wyrzten

DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Teresa Bornschlegl
"Three snapshots into complexity. A political ecological analysis of the regulatory enforcement of environmental laws in the oil and gas sector in Ecuador"

Juan Luis Dammert Bello
"Contested Booms: The Politics of Oil Palm Expansion in the Peruvian Amazon"

Nathan Gill
"Disturbance interactions in sub-alpine forests: Compound effects and adaptive resilience"

Young-Long Kim
"The Role of Big Data in Understanding Urban Vitality"

UNDERGRADUATE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Ellen Churchill Semple Award
Rose Kendrick (GEOG '18)

Clark Labs GIS Excellence Award
Carly Robbins (GEOG '18)

NCGE Excellence of Scholarship Award
Anthony Jreije (GEOG & ECON '18)

Linda Roth Memorial Activist Scholar Award
Krissy Truesdale (GES '19)

The Marcia V. Szugda-Emani Memorial Environmental Scholarship Award
Meyru Bhanti (GEOG & ECB '18)

Global Environmental Studies Outstanding Student Award
Hannah Corney (GES '18)

Strabo Award
Iolanthe Brooks (GEOG & SOC '19)

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Paul P. Vouras '51 Social Science Award
Rose Kendrick (GEOG '18)
Departmental Nominee

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS (THESES)

Tyler Anderson
Meyru Bhanti
Nathan Bram
Hannah Corney
Ian Jackson
Anthony Jreije
Carly Robbins
Gabe Trevor
Miles Weule Chandler

GAMMA THETA UPSILON (GTU)

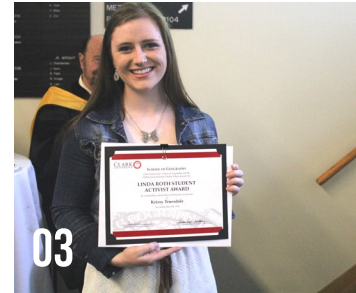
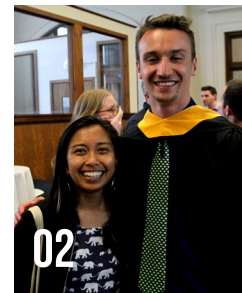
GRADUATES
Tyler Anderson
Nathan Bram
Koby Gardner-Levine
Erica Issenberg
Ian Jackson
Anthony Jreije
Grant Madigan-Kolstad
Carly Robbins
Miles Weule Chandler

* completed requirements in Dec 2017
+ completed requirements in August 2017

2018 COMMENCEMENT

Photos from the 2018 GSG Champagne & Strawberries Commencement Reception
Check out our [Facebook page](#) to see more photos!

01 Hannah Corney receives the GES Outstanding Student Award



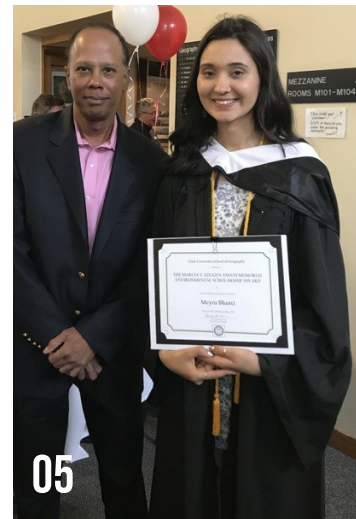
02 Anela Layugan and Will Heikes

03 Krissy Truesdale receives the Linda Roth Memorial Activist Scholar Award

04 Young-Long Kim celebrates with family



05 Meyru Bhanti receives the Marcia V. Szugda-Emani Memorial Environmental Scholarship Award (with Sri Emani PhD '01)



06 Carly Robbins receives the Clark Labs GIS Excellence Award



07 Chris Creelman, Kayla Peterson, Asha Best, and Lyndon Estes



08 Tyler Anderson receives the Environmental Science Research Excellence Award (with ES Director Chris Williams)



09 3/4 of our GIS Help Desk team: Saira Khan, Daniela Reyes Saade, and Tyler Anderson (plus, a pup!)





Dusk in NOLA @ AAG

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

NOW HIRING: GIS HELP DESK!

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 the position and to learn how to apply!

GSG FALL 2018 COLLOQUIUM SPEAKER SERIES: SAVE THE DATES

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY COLLOQUIUM SPEAKER SERIES

Fall 2018

TALKS TAKE PLACE IN GRACE CONFERENCE ROOM, UC

9/20*	JAMES WESCOAT -LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE- MASS. INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MIT) *co-sponsored by the Marsh Institute	
9/27	JOE BRYAN -GEOGRAPHY- UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO- BOULDER	
10/25	ELLYN ENDERLIN -CLIMATE CHANGE INSTITUTE- UNIVERSITY OF MAINE	
11/29	BUDHENDRA BHADURI -GIS AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP - OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY	

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT GEOGRAPHY@CLARKU.EDU

WALLACE W. ATWOOD 2018 ANNUAL LECTURE, NOV. 6TH

Save the Date: **Tuesday, November 6th** is our annual Wallace W. Atwood lecture, featuring [Dr. Cathy Whitlock](#) (Montana State University, Department of Earth Sciences), at 7pm in Tilton Hall.

SRI EMANI HOSTS MEMORIAL CELEBRATION FOR MARCIA

On Saturday, May 5th, the GSG supported and helped coordinate a very special event organized by **Dr. Sri Emani (PhD '01)**, held to honor the memory of his late wife, Marcia, with a five-year memorial celebration and reception. The reception was attended by members of the GSG — past and present — members of the Clark community, and old friends of Marcia's who gathered to celebrate her memory.



As many know, Sri Emani also created a scholarship fund that provides nominated undergraduate students studying Geography with recognition for environmental research. This year's recipient was **Meyru Bhanti (GEOG & ECB '18, MS-GIS '19)** who was selected by a committee of Geography faculty members. Meyru is very active on campus and in her research in GIS and Human-Environmental geography. She is an honors and a HERO student, and will continue her studies at Clark next year in the 5th year Master's in GIS program. Meyru recently presented her research at the AAG conference: "Does the distribution of juvenile tree planting impact local air temperature? A calibrated microclimate simulation in Holyoke Massachusetts".

Meyru is a wonderful student, and we are extremely grateful to be able to recognize her with this award, and are grateful to Sri for his generosity to make this possible.

ognize her with this award, and are grateful to Sri for his generosity to make this possible.

MAP LIBRARY SHIFTS OPERATIONS TO APPOINTMENT ONLY-BASIS

As of June 20th, the [Guy Burnham Map and Aerial Photography Library](#) is now available only by appointment.

The following memo was distributed to Clark faculty from Gwen Arthur, Clark Librarian: "With the decrease in activity and use of materials in the Map Library, that collection will be served by appointment only beginning this week. For service there, phone Goddard Library Reference staff at x7579. Over time, higher-use reference and other monographic materials there will be transferred to Goddard." Any questions can be directed to Gwen.

IN MEMORY: DUANE KNOS & ROBERT KATES

The GSG recently received the very sad news of the passing of two former GSG faculty members, **Duane Knos** and **Robert Kates**.



Duane Knos was a Professor in the Graduate School of Geography from 1970-1986, when he then retired and moved to Rupert, Idaho with his wife Lucy (to whom he was married for 71 years — high school sweethearts!).

Duane's obituary can be found [here](#).

One of Duane's former PhD advisees writes: "Duane has been retired in Rupert, ID for many years and was beloved by those who worked with him." Duane's obituary paints a picture of a life full of excitement — in his earlier years, Duane



Just a few members of the GSG family!

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

served in WWII with the Army Air Corps, was deeply involved in music and performance art, and was an athletic coach for football and tumbling — all while obtaining a Masters degree and a PhD later down the road. Duane taught Geography for 14 years at the University of Kansas and for 16 years here with us at Clark.



Robert (Bob) Kates was a Professor in the Graduate School of Geography from 1962-1986. His obituary appeared in the Worcester Tele-

gram and Gazette shortly after ([linked here](#)). **Deb Martin** (GSG Director) writes to the department and GSG alumni: "Many of you may have known and been influenced by Bob; undoubtedly many more heard about his immense contributions to the discipline of geography and well beyond. He worked, broadly, in the realm of human-environment geography, and was extremely influential in the fields of risk/hazards geography, and helped to shape what has become sustainability studies."

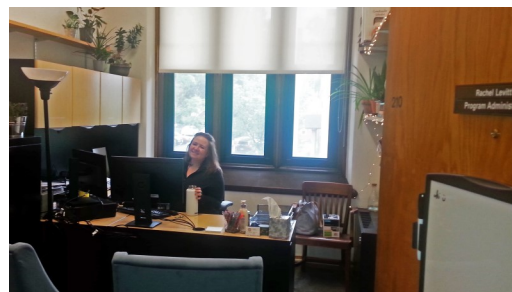
MANY GEOGRAPHY STAFFING CHANGES IN AY 2017-18!

From Department Administrator and Assistant to the Director, Chris Creelman "Graduate Program Administrator **Brenda Nikas-Hayes** moved on after nine years with the GSG to the position of Associate Director of Programs, Eureka at Girls, Inc. in Worcester. We are grateful for her dedication to the department

and, most especially, to our doctoral program and its students. We wish her all the best in her new work!

Unfortunately, we were not granted approval to search for a new Graduate Program Administrator, but were instead asked to reconfigure our staffing structure with the three remaining staff: Rachel Levitt, Kayla Peterson, and myself. After an exhausting year and much deliberation, we received approval for the following positions, which were officially in effect as of May 1, 2018. All three remaining staff stayed on to get the GSG through this transition and to cover these restructured positions:

- **Chris Creelman:** Department Administrator and Assistant to the Director
- **Rachel Levitt:** Program Administrator
- **Kayla Peterson:** Office Coordinator



The **Program Administrator** is the only brand new position (pictured above), but all positions were reconfigured with most of the tasks that were once covered by all four staff positions, together with a new student position: **Media Content Editor and Graphic Designer** (part time, to be hired Fall 2018). I am so grateful for the hard work and dedica-

tion of Rachel and Kayla. It would have been near impossible to get through the last year without them!

Now, sadly, Kayla is leaving us in August to tackle her Masters in Art History at UMass Amherst! Be sure to wish her well before she moves on in late August and thank her for four years of service to the department! A search committee is working this summer to hire a new Office Coordinator. Stay tuned!"

A NOTE FROM RACHEL LEVITT, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

With the new configuration of GSG staff, we have shifted around some of the responsibilities among our three positions. With these changes and with the upcoming hiring of a student Media Content Editor and Graphic Designer, I will no longer be the primary editor for the GSG Newsletters. This task will be shifted to this student position, which I will oversee. With that being said: **all content submissions can now be sent to geog-media-editor@clarku.edu.**

Thank you all for your submissions over the years! I have greatly enjoyed creating these newsletters, as they have provided me with the opportunity to learn more about the wonderful things that the GSG does. Having created 11 newsletters since 2014, each year I am increasingly impressed with everyone's dedication, care, and passion reflected in these research updates and notes. Keep being great and changing the world! -R

Visit our newsletter archive [here](#).



CLARK
UNIVERSITY



CHALLENGE CONVENTION. CHANGE OUR WORLD.

Geography News | Summer 2018
Issue Published July 2018