

CAL STATE LONG BEACH'S DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND THE GEOGRAPHY STUDENT ASSOCIATION



A Message from the Chair

Welcome to another year of Geography @ The Beach! It appears we have survived the most recent onslaught of fiscal uncertainty in California and come out the other end even more successful than before as a department. Our undergraduate and graduate students are thriving – presenting their research at conferences, winning awards, expanding their education, and finding success out on the job market. Our alumni continue to generate outstanding support for our program, with the newly established **Frank Gossette Award** receiving over \$7,000 in donations since the summer of 2009. We enrolled an additional 19 first year and transfer undergraduate students and an additional 7 graduate students this year and our major continues to hold steady – despite the limited enrollment opportunities we have been offering on campus – suggesting that we have been able to ‘convert’ a large number of native undergraduate students into our ranks!

Even in these challenges times, the goal of Geography @ The Beach remains the same – to provide our students with a high quality education that will help them move forward in their personal and professional life. We thus all remain excited about the potential for our department’s growth and we look forward to another exciting year of outstanding student and faculty productivity!

As always, we appreciate the support of our wider community and thank everyone for encouraging the growth of Geography @ The Beach! In the meantime, I urge everyone to check out our department website for up-to-date information about our programs. And, if you are feeling energetic, you should join our newly established Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/CSULBGeographyDepartment>).

Sincerely,
Vincent J. Del Casino Jr., Ph.D., Professor and Chair

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New President of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners



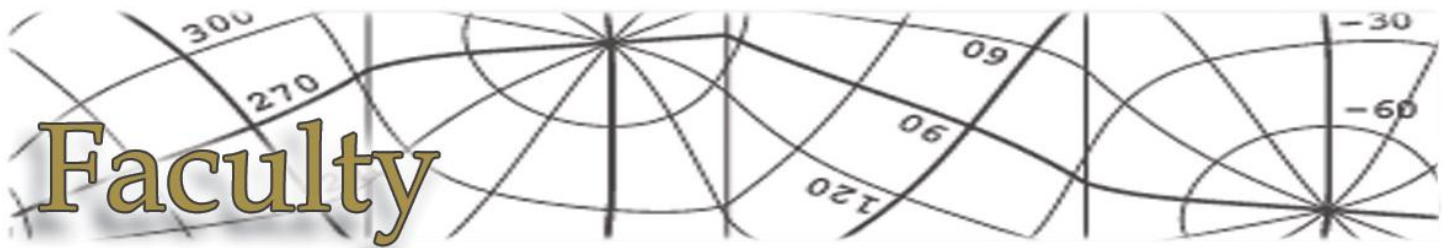
Geography’s **Suzanne Dallman** became the new president of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners on October 1st. Dr. Dallman was initially appointed to the Board of Water Commissioners by Mayor Bob Foster in October 2008. “In the two years I’ve been on the commission, I’ve not only learned a lot but gained a deeper appreciation of how complicated it is to manage a water utility,” said Dallman. “The Long Beach Water Department is a very forward-thinking organization looking to achieve local water sustainability, a goal which I share. Their water conservation and efficiency programs have succeeded in lowering water use significantly during the past three years.”

Dallman teaches courses in both the Geography and Environmental Science & Policy programs, where she specializes in water and other environmental issues. Her research interests include environmental geography with a particular emphasis on sustainability, environmental policy, and water resource management.

The Board of Water Commissioners has jurisdiction over all elements of the distribution of water served to the City as well as collection and disposal of the City’s wastewater. It establishes the Water Department’s mission and goals, and adopts policies and strategies to meet these ends. “We are working to change people’s understanding of how we value and use water, so that wasting water becomes as socially unacceptable as littering.”



Photo Contest’09 **GEOGRAPHY IN ACTION**
 Mary Ngo, *Sense of Direction in Bristolcone Pine Forest, Inyo, CA*



The department faculty has also made some outstanding contributions to our discipline and wider community in the past year. This summer, for example, the **Geosciences Diversity Enhancement Project** finished off its three-year program training a new crop of students in the geosciences. Faculty have published their research in leading journals in our field, and done so collaboratively with colleagues as well as students! Faculty also continue to be active in raising resources through grants and contracts, applying for **funding** from organizations as diverse as the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the California HIV/AIDS Research Program. The department is also being called upon by community partners as well as the California State University Chancellor's Office to provide research support on a number of important projects of value to the wider California community.

The Geoscience Diversity Enhancement Program

The Department of Geography, together with the Department of Geological Science and the Archaeology and the Environmental Science and Policy programs, created a **winning grant** from the **National Science Foundation** to increase community college and high school student interest in the various geoscience majors, especially those coming from underrepresented groups. This innovative 3 year long \$1.1 million grant, called the **Geoscience Diversity Enhancement Program**, funded community outreach field trips, where students and their families could learn about local field research sites, special events at local high schools, and several field and lab research projects that brought together CSULB faculty and graduate students, faculty from local community colleges and the Long Beach Unified School District, and roughly a dozen community college and high school students.

Students worked full-time on these projects for six weeks in the summer, doing real research both in the field and in the Geography/Geological Science labs and then presenting their work at a public symposium on campus (and some of them have taken their projects to professional conferences, too!).



The infamous "mustard mulch" potted plant experiments

This summer, **Drs. Laris** and **Rodrigue**, took five GDEP students all over Southern California to look at vegetation recovery from severe disturbance and then camping out, hiking

in, and doing vegetation censuses and soil sampling in very remote sites in the western Santa Monica Mountains.

Drs. **Christopher Lee** and **Suzanne Wechsler** did another very different and no less exciting project -- on Rapa Nui/Easter Island, mapping those odd moai statues!

Postcards from the Field



Trekking to Fossil Falls for lunch by an ancient stream

In October 2010, the class of **Geography 486/586: Landscape Analysis** headed east on Highway 14 to the Eastern Sierra. This year's class is a combination of physical landscape analysis method and qualitative human geography techniques. On this fieldtrip, students learned how to measure plots in the Mojave in order to do vegetation sampling, visited the ancient site of Fossil Falls, and explored a glacial lake near Mammoth Lakes. Students also visited the authentic (or is it???) ghost town of **Bodie, California**. Once a busy gold rush town, only a small selection of the buildings remains, preserved in an intentional state of "arrested decay". Students practiced their participant observation, video-touring and interview techniques in the striking surroundings of Bodie State Historic Park. How do you respond to ghost town landscapes? These students investigated the cultural geography of Bodie with particular attention to how the concept of authenticity is conveyed through place.



Student Interns at the National Geographic Society

Dr. Del Casino interviews Samantha Roth and Doris Dialogo

1. What got you interested in doing this internship?

SR: I have always loved *National Geographic Magazine*, and I admire the National Geographic Society for their dedication to expanding geographic education.

DD: Through our very own geography department! Out of the vast amount of opportunities the department offers to help students excel beyond the scope of classroom learning.

2. What do you do and/or learn during your internship?

DD: Gathering content for the new NG Education website has given me a new perspective on ruthless attention to detail and more in-depth knowledge about intellectual property rights.

SR: In the Geography Education National Implementation Project I wrote a report on the status of U.S. geography education and helped with numerous other projects such as the preparation of outreach strategies for Geography Awareness Week.



Day hike at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

A Successful Student Association

The **Geography Student Association** has continued to gain momentum as a productive organization run by the students of the geography department. Our goals are to furnish our fellow students with opportunities to enrich their university experience and to create social connections within the study of geography.

During the **Spring Semester 2010** we kept ourselves quite busy. Cultural nights were plentiful with trips to ethnic restaurants offering regional food (Lebanese, Cambodian and Indian) later analyzed geographically by cultural and regional importance. We had our first Annual Grad School Workshop featuring a panel of grad students and professors. This was a great learning experience which answered many questions for prospective graduate program applicants. Our annual T-shirt design contest produced artistic images of each member's interpretation of the GSA. The shirts are printed and being sold as an ongoing fundraiser for scholarships. Two GSA Scholarships were given to students who submitted essays about GSA's overarching slogan for the year: "**Community leads to Opportunity; Diversity overcomes Adversity.**"

We are currently conducting a **sock drive** for the homeless with a goal of collecting 1,000 pairs of socks. We are planning events including a beach cleanup, in lieu of Geography Awareness Week's overarching theme of clean water. We are also offering students a chance to showcase their class presentations during club meetings to prepare for class presentations. Fundraising for student scholarships is ongoing as we sell our GSA t-shirts and collect donations. Spring semester will resemble that of 2010 as it was a great series of events and opportunities for our members. We will continue to grow and help our fellow students to become leaders.



Working at the NG tent, the Boy Scout Jamboree Fort AP Hill

3. What are some of your most memorable experiences?

SR: The Explorer's Symposium: it was inspiring to hear about what people are doing to make a difference in the world, and how passionate they are about it. I had the opportunity to meet with so many inspiring people at the society. One of the most amazing experiences of my life!

DD: I volunteered for was NG's children's publishing; I got to wear a mascot costume of the pig character Toot from the book and television series *Toot and Puddle*. Every person I worked with was fascinating, I made some deep, lifetime friendships, and learned more about geography. The grand lesson of my experience: *always* take the CSULB geography department opportunities to heart and apply yourself!

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YOU can help BUILD a LEGACY

This is *your* chance to offer opportunities to our students that might not otherwise be available.

Donating to either the Department of Geography or the Geography Student Association will fund student scholarships, lectures or any number of other areas. Plus, donation made to the Department of Geography or Geography Student Association is tax deductible. (Please consult with your personal tax advisor.)

To find out more about Contributing to the Department of Geography:

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Click on [give/make a gift Now] or send a check made out to CSULB Foundation to the department address (Attention Julie Ortiz) for a general donation

Geography Student Association Shirt order form:

Please note, for all donations of \$100 or more to the GSA, you will receive a free shirt. Please indicate size.



Size (circle one):

Men's fit - M, L, XL, XXL or
 Women's fit - L, XL

Design(circle one):

- 2008 "Geography is Cool"
- 2009 "Geography Student Association"
- 2010 "Looking at the World"



"LOOKING AT THE WORLD"

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