



ANNUAL ISSUE

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



GAB

“*Geography At the Beach*”

Volume 2

Geography @ The Beach Hosted the 2007 Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Annual Meeting!

The Department of Geography at the California State University, Long Beach hosted the 2007 APCG Annual Meeting at the Downtown Hilton in Long Beach, California between October 17th and 20th. There were almost 400 participants, including colleagues from as far away as Hawaii, Alaska, and Massachusetts. As part of the event, almost 100 students from CSULB attended as well, with some graduate students giving presentations!

An Opening Reception was held on the evening of the 17th. This was followed by field trips on the 18th and our Annual Social Event, which was held at a local Cambodian restaurant in Long Beach. Formal paper sessions, including the President’s Plenary Session, were held on Friday the 19th and Saturday the 20th, and included over 100 paper presentations and another 52 panel presentations. The Awards Banquet and Presidential Address were held on the evening of the 20th at the conclusion of the formal conference.

The opening reception on Wednesday evening featured Jenny Price, an environmental historian and writer, who gave a fantastic talk on the LA River. Field trips were led by CSULB faculty as well as faculty from other CSUs on Thursday, and these included very well received tours of The Port of Long Beach, the Ethnic Neighborhoods of LA/Orange County, and “LA at the Mountains.”

Overall, Geography @ The Beach really shined, and our faculty and students did a wonderful job of running and participating in this regional event. With panels on topics as diverse as Applying to Graduate School to Searching for a Community College Teaching Position in Geography to debates and concerns around global climate change, the event had something for every-



one. Featured speakers also included Marcia Brewster, formally of the United Nations, who spoke on gender and water politics issues, Glen MacDonald, from UCAL Geography, who discussed his work on Climate Change, and a plenary panel organized by the APCG President, Kate Berry, on “Mainstreaming Indigenous Geographies.” A Poster Session on Friday evening including 20 provocative presentations by undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty from throughout the region.

Our unofficial, but wonderful, photographer, James Woods, captured the event in all its glory. See http://www.csulb.edu/~jwoods/Fun_page/APCG/index.html for more details! For more information on joining the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, check out their website: <http://www.csus.edu/apcg/>. The next meeting will be in Fairbanks, Alaska.

In this Issue:

- *Welcome From the New Chair*
- *Geography Awareness Week*
- *4th Annual Photo Contest*
- *Welcome our Newest Faculty*
- *Best Thesis: College of Liberal Arts*

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR: *Dr. Vincent Del Casino Jr.*



Well, it is another year and our Department is engaging in all sorts of exciting events this academic year. We hired a new faculty member, Dr. Suzanne Dallman, who will be spearheading the development and teaching of courses in the areas of environmental planning and management. She is an excellent addition to our Department! We were also incredibly excited to be hosting the 70th Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Meeting here in Long Beach. The event was held between 17 and 20 October at the Downtown Hilton Hotel. You can check out the event and all the fantastic presentations that were given online at our website: <http://www.csulb.edu/depts/geography/apcg>

It has been an incredibly active year for our Department. Our two new faculty members from last year, Drs. Thien and Baruah, have hit the ground running, setting all kinds of records for passport stamps as they engage in their ongoing research efforts. Dr. Paul Laris also received tenure one-year early, a strong recognition of his contribution not only to the Department but also to the field of geography more broadly. Five faculty members return this semester from either a semester or year of sabbatical leave, including Drs. Curtis, Lee, Sidorov, Wechsler as well as myself. I am sure that we will here much more about their research activities in the upcoming year. And, while all this was happening we graduated one of our largest undergraduate classes to date: 53 students!

More generally, the Department continues to grow, not only in terms of majors but also in terms of resources and facilities. We are very pleased to announce that the Department has secured a new Teaching Lab for our students involved in our Geospatial Techniques courses (*Pictured Right*). In addition, we are in the midst of renovating our older lab to bring it the most up-to-date equipment and technology. In the process, LA4-207 will become a space dedicated to research and production as well as advanced skills training, in both qualitative and quantitative geographies.

The Department's faculty continues to impress in

the areas of funded research. Dr. Chris Lee is Principal Investigator with co-principal investigators Drs. Suzanne Wechsler and Camille Holmgren as well as Rick Behl and Lora Stevens from Geology have just received a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation Grant titled "Recruiting and Training the Next Generation of Geoscientists: Geosciences Diversity Enhancement Program (GDEP) Track 2." This grant follows on the first successful GDEP project. It will also include Dr. Chrys Rodrigue.

Speaking of Dr. Rodrigue, you should all notice the look of relaxation on her face as she steps back into her role as a full-time classroom professor after six years as Chair of Department. Dr. Rodrigue has led the Department through an unprecedented period of growth and vitality. She certainly deserves the rest. Of course, as most of you know, she hasn't taken a break yet; she just completed editing a two-volume set on Earthquakes that will be out in 2008 from Routledge! As the new Chair, I will continue to look to Dr. Rodrigue's guidance and support. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns, or just want to bend the Chair's ear, let me know! And, if you want to keep up-to-date on all the Department's happenings, just check out the very dynamic and fact-filled Department website: <http://www.csulb.edu/depts/geography>.

Good luck with the upcoming year! We look forward to another strong and dynamic academic year!

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



MEET THE NEW FACULTY



Bipasha Baruah

is Assistant Professor of Geography and Associate Director of the Yadunandan Centre for India Studies at California State University, Long Beach. Dr. Baruah

earned her doctorate in 2005 at the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto. Prior to accepting her appointment at CSULB, Dr. Baruah was a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto. She conducted her doctoral and postdoctoral research in collaboration with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Ahmedabad, India. Her dissertation titled "Sisters Are Doing It for Themselves: Challenges and Opportunities in Landed Property Ownership for Informal Sector Women in Urban India," uses gender as an analytical construct to explore property ownership and tenancy relationships in urban South Asia. Her research interests revolve around women and economic empowerment, non-governmental organizations, informal sector economies and livelihoods, gender budgeting, and poverty alleviation monitoring and evaluation. Dr. Baruah has served as a gender specialist on the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) Eastern Caribbean Economic Management Program and as a consultant on gender and environmental issues to Foreign Affairs Canada.

Suzanne Dallman

is a new faculty member in physical and environmental geography. Her research interests span water resources, watershed management, environmental assessment, and political ecology. Dr. Dallman was most recently Technical Director for the Los Angeles & San



Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, a non-profit organization devoted to stakeholder-driven solutions to resource and environmental management issues. Dr. Dallman sits on a number of advisory and technical committees for water-related initiatives in the Los Angeles region, and is a Board member of the California Watershed Network. She holds a Ph.D. in geography from UCLA, specializing in environmental policy and water resources, and a MA in Geography from CSULB.

Deborah Thien (as told by Dr. Thien).

I hail from a beach town on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. I have a non-traditional background for a geographer. I began my university life with a degree in English Literature. This was, however, already a geographical project as the English-speaking literary world spans the globe. Following my graduation, I headed off to explore the world in

person, not just in texts. Among other places, I enjoyed a stint as a sailor in the Mediterranean, as a hostel worker in Ireland, and as a server in New Zealand. During my time in New Zealand, I eventually embarked upon a Mas-



ters degree in Gender Studies, completed partly in New Zealand and partly in British Columbia. Two years later, I decided to take the next step and apply for a PhD. I had the honor of accepting a scholarship to work with Dr. Liz Bondi, a renowned geographer at the University of Edinburgh. My doctoral research investigated women's experiences of emotional well-being in the geographically remote Shetland Isles of northern Scotland.

Now, I describe myself as a feminist geographer with a keen interest in emotions as a socio-spatial aspect of health and well-being – how do we feel in certain places, and how do places make us feel? I'm also intrigued by the different ways we experience femininity and masculinity – where, why and how do we perform our ideas of gender? How does gender affect our emotional landscapes? How are the landscapes of emotion themselves gendered? After a fantastic first year at CSULB, I'm looking forward to this one: meeting new students; being part of an exciting geography conference hosted by our department, October 17-20; and enjoying Long Beach.

WINNING PHOTOS 4TH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST



Top Left: **People & Culture**, A Costa Rican Welcome, **Fraser Kersey**
Center: **Flora & Fauna**, Bumble Bee, **Dan Potts**

Top Right:
Geography in Action
Preparing for the Chiefs
Kira Wilson



Middle Right:
Africa Stripes
Pamela Roberts



Middle Left:
Urban Landscape
Summer Evening on the Central Square
Matt Ebiner

Bottom Right:
Physical Landscape & Best Overall
Havasu Falls
Matt Ebiner

Bottom Left:
Rural Landscape
Ranch House With A View
Matt Ebiner

GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK 2006

The Geography Department and CSULB campus were filled with the sounds of Djembe drummers, African dancers, and screaming 3rd and 4th graders from Lowell Elementary School (or it could have been the faculty). The GSA and Geography department put on another fabulous week of activities, speakers and the annual photo contest in conjunction with National Geographic's Geography Awareness Week (GAW). The week kicked off with the Annual Photo Contest that showcased submissions from students, faculty and friends. Winning Photos are showcased on Page 5.

The 2006 GAW national theme was Africa 3D: Demographics, Diversity and Discovery. Our participation included a movie night that featured the critically acclaimed Foreign Language Film, *Totsi*. Visiting 3rd graders, 4th graders and CSULB students enjoyed traditional West African music by the Dembrehbrah Music and Dance Group. Lastly, we had had renowned photographer Paul Renner, present a 40 minute photo safari slide show. Other highlights of the week's events were speakers Drs. Amy Glasmeir and Thomas Blascke.

Amy Glasmeier, the E. Willard Miller Professor of Economic Geography and Professor of Geography and Regional Planning presented **MAPPING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LONG BEACH: TECHNICAL CHALLENGES AND POLICY OPPORTUNITIES.**

Thomas Blascke, Dr. Thomas Blaschke is Professor for Geoinformatics at Salzburg University, Austria and director iSPACE research studio of the Austrian Research Centers presented **GOOGLE EARTH PUTS GEOGRAPHY ON THE DESKTOP...BUT WHAT'S BEHIND IT? REMOTE SENSING IN A NUTSHELL.**

The week ended with the annual community college luncheon and Geography Student Association Cultural Night featuring Moroccan Cuisine.



Students from Lowell Elementary School partaking in a traditional cultural dance from Nigeria.

Award Winning Student

One of our graduate students, **Mr. Scott Eckhardt**, who graduated in Spring 2007 from our master's program, with the distinction of having his thesis named "**Outstanding Thesis of the College of Liberal Arts.**" His thesis is entitled *Assessment of wildfire frequency and coastal sage scrub vegetation dynamics in the Santa Monica Mountains of Southern California.* This thesis reported changes in coastal sage and grassland over roughly 75 years as shown in air photos. It found that different theoretical interpretations of type conversion, which are the basis of controversy in biogeography, actually apply at different spatial scales of analysis. This is the second Geography thesis in 51 years of graduate studies in Geography to be so recognized, and the two theses were fêted two years in a row.

In addition, in August, this thesis was deemed the best one written at CSULB this year! It has, accordingly, been put forward as the CSULB nomination for the annual Outstanding Thesis Award competition of the Western Association of Graduate Schools. Geography is truly honored that one of our own has earned this level of campus (and now regional) recognition.

UPCOMING: 2007 Geography Awareness Week is November 13-16th. The national theme is Asia. The 5th Annual Photo Contest and Speakers will be featured at this event. Look in the next issue to see highlights from this wonderful student and faculty event.

You can help build a legacy. Here is the opportunity to donate to either the Department of Geography and the Geography Student Association . As a state assisted University, your gifts help us offer opportunities to our students that might not otherwise be available. Your gifts can fund student scholarships, lectures or any number of other areas. Plus, donations made to the Department of Geography or Geography Student Association is tax deductible. (Please consult with your personal tax advisor.)

Department of Geography General Donation:

<http://www.csulb.edu/depts/geography/scholarships.html> for more details

Geography Student Association: Donation

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

(indicate Men: M,L, XL, XXL or Girl fit : L,XL)

Purchase your "Geography is Cool" Shirt(\$15) or Tote (\$10):

Color: Brown or Navy

Size and Qty:_____ (indicate Men: M,L, XL, XXL or Girl fit : L,XL)

Totes: Qty_____

General Donation:_____

PLEASE MAKE OUT CHECKS TO CSULB GEOGRAPHY

Hello Alumni!

We want to know what you have been doing lately. Please fill out the following info so we may update our records.

Name:

CSULB Degrees and dates:

Address:

E-mail:

Phone: (optional)

Personal and professional news:

Would you be interested in presenting at our Jobs in Geography series?

Can we put students interested in your field/line of work in contact with you?

Please mail or e-mail this section to Julie Ortiz,

jortiz3@csulb.edu

**California State University, Long Beach
Department of Geography
1250 Bellflower Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90840**

**NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LONG BEACH, CA
PERMIT NO.301**

