



DEPARTMENT *of* GEOGRAPHY

UNIVERSITY *of* OREGON

2002 Newsletter

Notes from the Department Head

The shortening days are a telltale sign that the school year has begun. This year the transition to fall has been especially abrupt with record-high enrollments — over 20,000 young ducks are on campus! The multitude of anxious faces makes me keenly aware of our vital role as educators. More than anything else, our mission is teaching, and in Geography we do it well. I have observed over the years that faculty never really abandon this pursuit. Every extracurricular activity — be it research, traveling, or personal life experience — is examined for its teaching potential; every current event is something that might be shared with students; every new technology is evaluated as a means to more effectively convey information. This fall our geography classes are filled to capacity, and the demand challenges us to seek new ways to engage students in geographical discovery. It's all about teaching.

We have modified our teaching program to make the material more accessible and (dare I say?) more relevant to a new generation. Students are now able to choose a specialization within the major, so that seniors can concentrate on advanced courses in environmental geography; GIScience techniques; geographic education; or culture, politics, and place. We still require basic physical, human, and techniques courses as a foundation, but the tracks offer some focus at the upper levels. Interdisciplinary courses, such as Global Environmental Change, Watershed Science and Policy, and Forest and Trees in the Human Experience, are popular additions to our curriculum. We also encourage students to gain experiences through internships and research during the course of study.

Research projects offer rich learning experiences for undergraduate majors, as well as topics for graduate research. For example, in the InfoGraphics Laboratory,



geography interns and graduate students have helped produce the CD-ROM version of the award-winning *Atlas of Oregon* (2nd edition). InfoGraphics projects provide real-world training in cartography, map design, and GIS, which has helped our students obtain jobs in the private and public sector. Another example is a new program for undergraduates interested in becoming middle and secondary teachers. This complements our master's program in geographic education started by **Joe Searl**.

We also include students in field and lab activities. For example, an NSF study to investigate the experiences of recent refugees settling in Portland provides training in interviewing, mapping, and the use of census data. Research funded by NASA in Yellowstone National Park offers a chance to use remotely sensed data to analyze recent environmental changes. Projects that focus on the effects of globalization, conservation, and local development permit students to explore human-environment relationships in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the U.S. An NSF grant addressing global climate change and its impact on fire conditions provides

undergraduates and graduate students with training in paleoecology and climatology and field experience in the western U.S. and South America.

We reach students in other ways as well. *Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space* (2002, 7th Edition) is being used across the country. The *Atlas* data have been incorporated into new teaching materials that utilize Oregon's landscape as an opportunity for learning. We also have an impressive array of faculty serving as elected officers in leading professional societies, which ensures that our voice is heard at the highest levels of geographic education: **Alec Murphy** will soon be President of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), **Susan Hardwick** is President of the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE), **Jim Meacham** served as President of the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS), and I finished a term as President of the American Quaternary Association (AMQUA).

So, what lies ahead? The renovation of teaching and research laboratories is finished, and students have increased access to state-of-the-art equipment and technology. Now, with the help of donations, we are taking on a project of great importance to the Department — the

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renovation of the Tea Room and Front Office after 30 years of wear and tear. Many of you recall the Tea Room as the site of weekly seminar goodies and announcements, and it continues to be the departmental hub. We have relatively simple goals for this space — new paint, carpet, lighting, and doors, but we also want the room to truly reflect the history of our Department and honor the contributions of our emeriti faculty. With the help of **Jeff Wilson** (MA '81) and others, we have raised over half of the funds needed for the Emeriti Tea Room. It is our goal to raise the remaining \$25K this year while **Al, Bill, Carl, Clyde, Ed, Ev, Joe, and Stan**

are still active in the Department and can enjoy it. If you are interested in helping us, contact DeNel Stoltz (541-346-3904; denel@cas.uoregon.edu) in the College of Arts and Sciences Development Office for details.

Our goal in Geography is to educate students in this elusive thing we call a “geographic perspective” and to equip them with the skills to think creatively and intelligently about the world around them. This mission is a continuum that starts with the first day in GEOG 101 (now GEOG 141), extends through our graduate programs, and ultimately rests with the meaningful connections that we maintain

with former students and friends. You are part of our community of geographers. We enjoy and look forward to hearing from you, and we always have room at the lunch table when you are in town. Let me especially express my gratitude to those who have invested in UO Geography through your generous gifts. Your contribution has helped the Department maintain excellence in our undergraduate and graduate programs and your vote of confidence inspires us to do more.

Cathy Whitlock
Department Head

Department Briefs

Spring 2002 Commencement

The Department was doubly honored at the 2002 UO Commencement ceremony with **Alec Murphy** (left) and **Bill Loy** (right) sharing the graduation platform. Alec was the featured speaker at this year's ceremony and Bill received the Distinguished Service Award, one of the University's highest honors.



AAG President-elect

Alec Murphy was elected Vice President of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) for the 2002-2003 academic year and will succeed to President in the following year. Alec notes that he assumes a leadership position in the AAG at an interesting time. On the one hand, geography is receiving more attention than ever in light of uncertainties in the international arena, growing concerns about human impacts on the environment, and the exploding use of geospatial data. On the other hand, educational institutions in 46 US states are facing cutbacks, and geography remains vulnerable because of

its relatively weak position in American higher education over the past half century.

One of the best ways of strengthening geography's position in the academy is to raise the profile of the discipline in public discourse. Alec plans to use his position to mount a media/public relations campaign focused on the importance of geography for understanding the rapidly changing international scene. He hopes to work with current AAG leadership to promote diversity, and he would like to encourage greater dialog within the discipline through publication of cross-cutting scholarship in AAG journals and broadly focused plenary sessions at the annual meetings.

Alec will have the chance to implement this last initiative at the Philadelphia AAG meeting in 2004, which will be the society's centenary meeting.

New Research Projects

Pat McDowell and **Andrew Marcus** received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study the effects of large floods on watersheds of Columbia River tributaries east of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington. **Susan Hardwick** was awarded NSF funding to compare Russian experiences and patterns with those of earlier Vietnamese refugees in the Portland area. Graduate students, **Tony Leiserowitz**, **Tom Minckley**, and **J.J. Shinker** were awarded NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants.

Visitors from Afar

Dr. Maria Marta Bianchi, CONICET, SC de Bariloche Argentina, worked in the

paleoecology lab for two weeks on the tails of a fire workshop co-organized by **Cathy Whitlock** and Thomas Swetnam, University of Arizona. The Fire-Climate Linkages in the Mid-Latitude Americas workshop was held in Tucson, Arizona March 23-28 and included 70 scientists from western North and South America studying fire history. Maria Marta is helping analyze sediment cores that she and Cathy collected from the Andes last February. More fieldwork in Argentina and Chile is planned for early 2003.



Cathy Whitlock, **Cara Meeker** (BA '02), and **Vickie Rubinstein** (MS Student) show off the big trees of Northern California to Maria Marta Bianchi during her visit last spring.

New books from the Department

Already in its second printing the *Atlas of Oregon* has won numerous awards and accolades. This year sees more great books coming out of the Geography Department by **Alec Murphy**, **Susan Hardwick**, and **Shaul Cohen**.

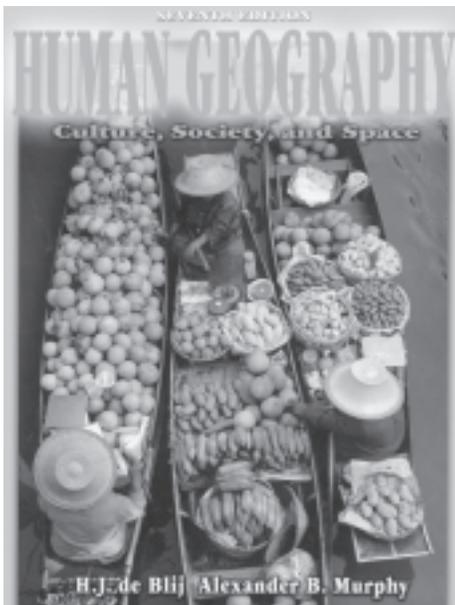
Atlas Update

The 2001 *Atlas of Oregon*, 2nd Edition (University of Oregon Press), by **William Loy**, **Stuart Allan**, **James Meacham**, and **Aileen Buckley** was winner of two top awards in the International Map Design Competition for 2001 conducted by the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM). The judges of the competition were unanimous in bestowing the *Atlas* "Best in Show." It also took "Best of Category" honors in the Book and Atlas division. In addition, the *Atlas* won the Franklin Award for the printing, and most recently the NCGE (National Council for Geographic Education) Excellence in Media Award.

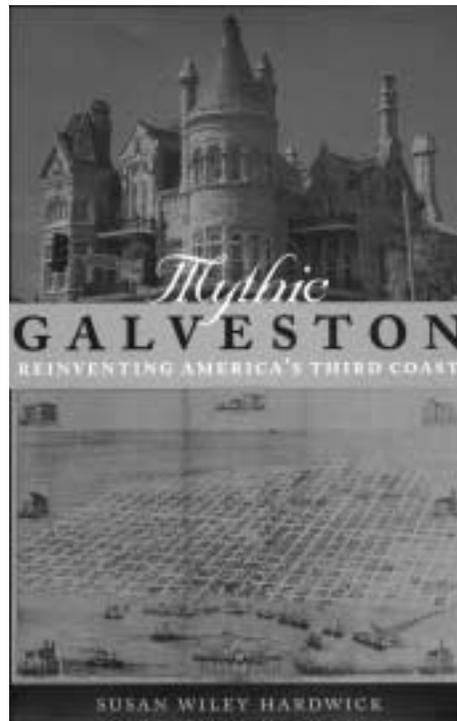
The release this fall of a CD-ROM version puts *Atlas* information into an interactive digital form. If you are interested in ordering a copy of either the book or CD-ROM version, check our webpage (geography.uoregon.edu).

Human Geography

Alec Murphy and **Harm de Blij**, have published a thoroughly updated and revised edition of his textbook, *Human Geography: Culture, Society, and Space*, 7th Edition (Wiley). The revised book includes new coverage of considerable contemporary importance, including declining fertility

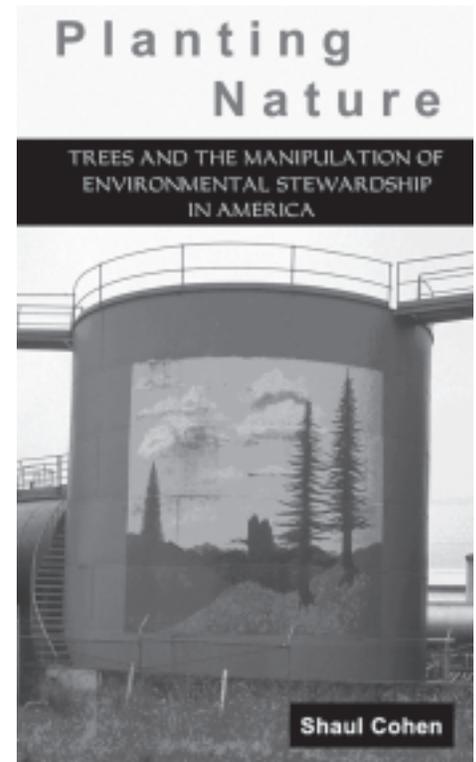


rates, religious fundamentalism, genetically modified food, and cultural change in the face of globalization. A new chapter, "The Planet and Humanity," places humans within the context of the Earth's long-term environmental history, and new "Looking Ahead" boxes in each section of the book examine where we are headed from a geographical perspective. Unique among all introductory geography textbooks, Alec and his co-author took all the photographs in the book. Over the past few years Alec and Harm de Blij have visited every continent except Antarctica; the photographs in the book reflect their determination to observe first-hand the things about which they write. Alec says "I am pleased that this text has been so well received and that we have had the opportunity not just to update the material from the prior edition, but to introduce a variety of new subjects and perspectives."



Mythic Galveston

Susan Hardwick's new book *Mythic Galveston: Re-Inventing America's Third Coast* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002) describes the geography of a small barrier island along the Texas coast, that despite its appeal as a natural harbor is ill-suited for a major urban area. According to Terry Jordan-Bychkov (UT Austin), the book presents a ... "superb place-portrait of one of America's most distinctive and least-known cities." *Mythic Galveston*



has been nominated for the prestigious Alice Davis Hitchcock Award, which recognizes the most distinguished work of scholarship on the history of urban architecture published by a North American scholar. Susan is pleased to see the results of her work in Texas finally in print and looks forward to expanding her research on immigration in North American cities, with her current project in Portland.

Planting Nature

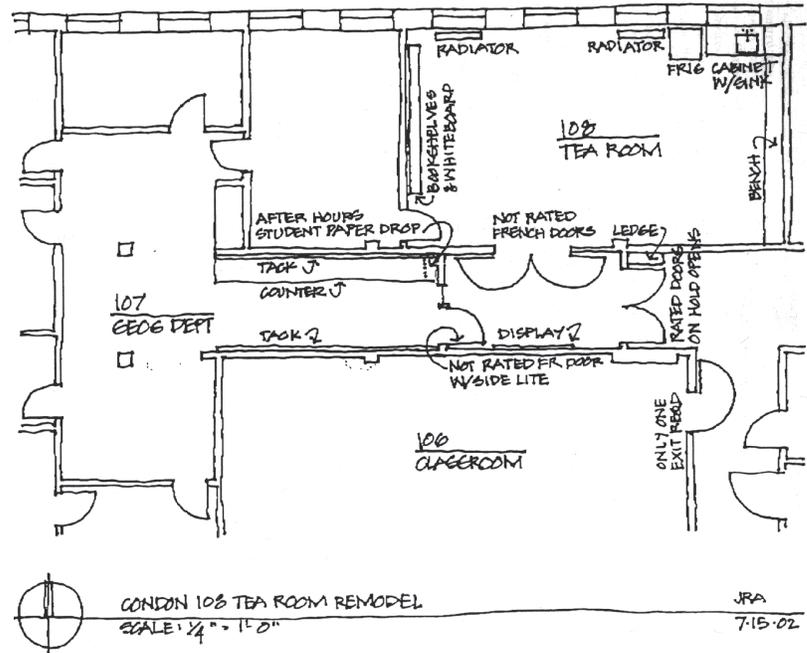
Shaul Cohen's book *Planting Nature: Trees and the Manipulation of Environmental Stewardship in America* will be published this year by the University of California Press. In it, Shaul examines the common language and purpose that cuts across governmental, private industry, and voluntary tree planting groups, creating a message of empowerment in terms of human-environment relations. Through interviews, public materials, and documents Shaul examines a discourse that shifts public attention from the causes of environmental problems to their symptoms, and depicts a simple solution for global environmental degradation: planting trees. The book explores the mechanism of hegemony as described by the Italian political theorist Antonio Gramsci, and critiques both capitalism and environmentalism in the United States.

Greetings from Alumni

Have you been by Condon Hall and the Geography Department lately? I had the good fortune to be in Eugene this past summer and enjoyed a fantastic tour and overview of what's happening there. Our Geography Department is truly on the map of the world.

Like the "Landscape" we all struggled to comprehend and define, the Geography Department continues to build on the foundations set by those who went before. They are not just sitting idly on their maps. Indeed, the Department is really making a name for our discipline. Geography is a diverse discipline and so too are the new, innovative, endeavors of those currently residing in Condon Hall. **Shaul Cohen** was kind enough to provide me with a brief overview of his no-small-task research dealing with land-use issues facing the Palestinians and Israelis. Just down the hall, **Jim Meacham**, Director of the InfoGraphics Lab, was busy with staff producing maps and atlases for the University and the State. Their cartographic products are a far cry from the maps we made with colored pencils, Leroy lettering, and zipatone. The sheer quantity and quality of data in the new CD-ROM version of the *Atlas* can be analyzed instantly on a personal computer and will be a boon to children, educators, and planners.

Did you know that **Alex Murphy** gave the Commencement speech this past year? And, **Susan Hardwick** and **Shaul Cohen** have just published critically acclaimed books on their research? And, **Pat Bartlein** provided the environmental data for National Geographic's recent map on the peopling of the New World? Our Geography Department has really stepped



up to be a star of the University.

Of course, we have all seen the new edition of the *Atlas of Oregon*. Did you know that **Bill Loy** personally paid for the copies sent to all geography alumni? Our mentors still remember us and continue to educate us. Thanks Bill, it's beautiful!!!

I'm sure that many of you had life-altering conversations, classes or revelations, both subtle and profound, while working in Condon Hall and studying Geography. At the core of these events was most often one of the Professors now retired. In my case, **Al**, **Ev**, **Carl**, **Bill** were solid contributors to the evolving dilettante I am today.

The recently completed Bill Loy Cartography Lab and other improvements have substantially upgraded the Department, but floating around Condon has long been an idea to improve the revered "Tea Room". I'm sure everyone has unique memories of

the Tea Room and do you know it looks exactly the same today as it did in the 70s? A face-lift for the Tea Room and an expanded Front Office is greatly needed. The goal is to create an "Emeritus Tea Room" that pays tribute to former professors in the Department and accommodates the popular pre-Tea goodies, fosters lively discussions over lunch, and offers a comfortable reading lounge. The doors that I am donating to this project will open up the Tea Room and allow the Department to expand its Front Office down the hall.

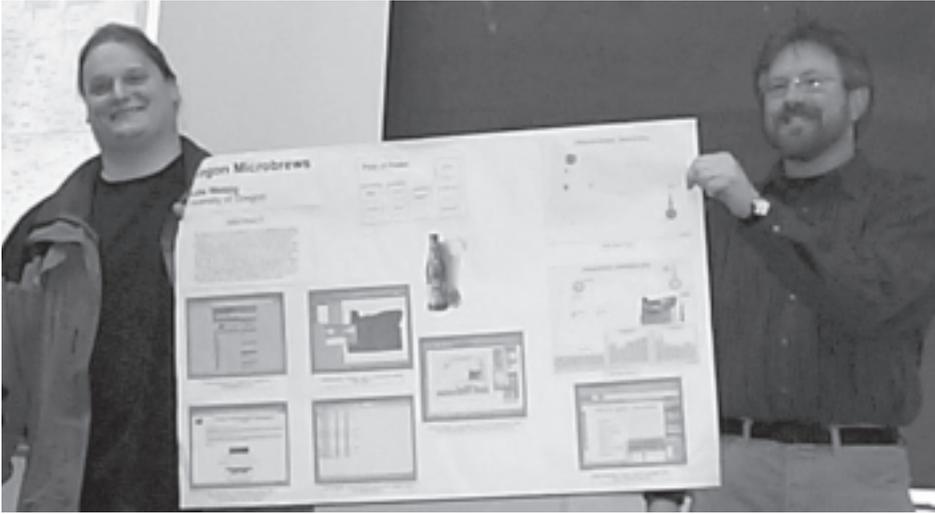
The University has helped with the some design and a team of Architecture students has taken on the project, which is estimated to cost \$55K. Unfortunately, the University has no funds for these types of structural improvements. In fact, the University must rely on donations for much of its physical growth. It would be nice to give back something to the Department to honor those who dedicated their careers to our growth. Something that would both be lasting and continue to build upon the growing success of the program. To get the Emeriti Tea Room project started, several of us have donated cash and building materials in the amount of \$30K. You too can be a part of this worthy effort by contacting DeNel Stoltz, College of Arts and Sciences Development Office (541-346-3904; denel@oregon.uoregon.edu).

I consider this project as a way for us to say thanks to those who dedicated their lives to our education.

Jeffery S. Wilson
MA '81



Al Urquhart and **Jeff Wilson** in the familiar confines of the Geography Tea Room



Rudie Watzig (EPA Region 9 Cartographer) and Jim Meacham display Rudie's 2000 Advanced Cartography project detailing the distribution of Oregon microbrews.

I have always been interested in the world around me, wondering why things are the way they are, and why they are where they are. Before taking my first geography course, I had no idea that the study of geography addressed those questions. Like many people, I thought geography was all about learning place names, etc. I had even wondered how or why one would major in geography.

This misconception of geography soon vanished in my sophomore year when I needed an arts and letters credit. In the schedule of classes I saw a course that interested me — *Geography of Oregon* taught by **Joe Searl**. I was a physics major at the time and had been taking only calculus and physics courses. Joe's class was a refreshing change from the blackboards filled with mathematical formulas, and after the first day, I was hooked. The ideas and concepts of geography just took me away. I knew after the first week of classes that I wanted to get a degree in geography. The way a geographer thinks, I thought, is just how I think! It was a perfect fit for me, and I changed my major. What I discovered was I had always been interested in geography, I just didn't know what geography was.

The couple of years that I spent in the Department were fantastic. I felt at home walking down the halls of Condon. Not only is it a friendly Department, it also has a great faculty. I liked the fact that the instructors were down-to-earth and very approachable. I liked calling my professors by their first names and socializing with them. There was a variety of classes to

choose from and I always knew a few students in each class. Teaching was excellent, and classes were small. I loved each and every minute in the Department and I still miss being there.

Last year, I had the honor to give a guest lecture in **Jim Meacham's** Advanced Cartography course. It was different to be on the other side of the classroom, considering that just a year before I had been sitting in that same class.

I consider Jim to be a mentor. It was through Jim and the InfoGraphics Lab that I got my start in professional cartography. The experience I had as a student worker landed me a great job at Lonely Planet Publications. Unfortunately, LP had some financial difficulties and they recently moved all production to their main headquarters in Australia. I decided to stay in beautiful San Francisco and now work for the Indus corporation. I am the cartographer at the US Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 GIS center.

Since graduating I realize the value of geography and a geographical perspective to our society. A geographic perspective helps society manage resources. Using geographical analysis, one can determine why resources are at present levels and how to maintain resources for future use. If it weren't for geography, we as society wouldn't know where we are, where we are going, or what we have.

Rudie Watzig
BS '01

InfoGraphics Lab 2001-02

This has been an exciting year and several new projects have kept us busy. At the top of the list was the completion of a new CD-ROM version of the *Atlas of Oregon* (University of Oregon Press). The goal of this project was to move the information presented in the print *Atlas* to a CD-ROM form. We wanted to not only put the images of the pages into a digital format for viewing on the screen, but add interactivity using new multimedia tools.

Erik Steiner was recruited from Penn State University as lead designer for the project to bring multimedia design and programming expertise to the *Atlas* CD-ROM team. The team also included InfoGraphics Lab director **Jim Meacham** and staff, and geography, planning, and multimedia students. Graduate students **Geno**

Carpentier and **Erin Aigner** brought their experience from the print atlas project. The digital atlas allows extensive interactive control over the display of maps and graphs, fast navigation through subjects, and the capability to focus on a topic or place and compare it with another. Sony Disc Manufacturing in Springfield generously donated time and the pressing of 10,000 sets for the University and the product was unveiled in October.

In addition to the *Atlas* CD-ROM, the Lab worked on several other cartographic projects this year. The Lab is helping the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) describe the "Oregon Plan" Salmon recovery effort in their biennial report. The report has been designed with thematic maps, graphs, and page designs. The final report will be published in December 2002.

The Lab is also assisting with: a statewide report on hazards for the Oregon Natural Hazard Workgroup; a transportation development project for Wasco, Jefferson and Deschutes counties for Oregon Department of Transportation; UO Campus Web-GIS application for water facilities; UO Public Safety mapping project for crimes on campus; a statewide flood hazard implementation plan for Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development and FEMA. Project Managers **Ken Kato** and **Mike Engelmann** oversee these projects but each require the assistance of several graduate and undergraduate students.

Some InfoGraphics student staff members have recently landed great jobs: **Craig Greene** (BS '02), cartographer at ESRI

Infographics continued.

in Redlands, CA. **Lauren Sinclair** (BS '02) is cartographer at Maps.com in Santa Barbara, CA. **Erin Aigner** (MA '02) holds a cartography internship at National Geographic Society in Washington D.C.

News from the Front Office

The Geography Department office is going through some changes in the 2002-2003 year. The Geography Office staff of **Mary Milo** — Graduate Secretary (her third year) and **Vickie Staffebach** — Office Manager (her sixth year), are indispensable in keeping the Department running smoothly.

Andrea Held has just joined our staff as the new Accounting Technician. We have one returning student assistant, **Kimberly Stalker**, as well as a new student assistant, **Tori Paul**. We hope to be remodeling the front office and the tea room (Condon 108) this year, which will expand the front office into the space in the main hallway.



Vickie and Mary greeting October visitors.

News from the Faculty

Patrick J. Bartlein

Being on sabbatical this year, I couldn't help notice how "civilians" generally think of that as being some kind of extended summer vacation, as opposed to a time for starting up new projects, learning some different things, prepping for new courses and so on. There's plenty of climatology to do, and the subject is changing even as I write this, but I wondered if there wasn't

another project to tackle, that combined elements of physical and human geography, maybe with an emphasis on, say, climate, landscape and culture — something like wine. Now I realize that many of our alumni live in areas outside of Oregon similarly blessed by the ability to produce fine wines (you know the state...), but some good things have happened here over the past couple of decades, and when you think of it, few other things than a bottle of wine can so well represent the embodiment of a place's physical and cultural environment, in a conveniently packaged and shippable form. So here are a few recommendations of some geographically significant Oregon wines (or some we like), that can be ordered over the web to bring a little Oregon home wherever you live.

First, some wines from nearby zip codes. For the red wine variety Oregon is probably most noted outside the state, Pinot Noir, comes from Broadley Vineyard's in Monroe, and in **Cathy Whitlock's** zip code. Some of their vintages and reserves are getting quite spendy, but their 2000 reserve Pinot Noir is pretty good for the price. It's available from [avalonwine.com](http://www.avalonwine.com) at which you can find just about any Oregon wine (<http://www.avalonwine.com/Broadley.htm>), although perhaps not as inexpensively as from the wineries' own web page.

The other Pinot that Oregon is becoming known for is Pinot Gris, and a good example of this comes from King Estate, just outside of Eugene in **Andrew Marcus's** zip code. Just about any year is great, and their wines are probably those most widely distributed outside the state (we've seen it in Wisconsin). They're at <http://www.kingestate.com/> and their Pinot Noir is good as well.

For those of you that remember Sundance — the wine store on Alder Street, not the grocery store — they specialize in high-end Pinot Noirs over the web (<http://www.orwines.com/>), and are the best place to load up on Oregon wines in general if you're in town.

A family and departmental favorite (at least among some of the current vintage of grad students) is Chateau Benoit's Müller-Thurgau (<http://www.chateaubenoit.com/>). This white wine variety is not widely planted, but is a good summertime alternative to Riesling, and Chateau Benoit's is cheap and great.

Finally, another vineyard with a geographical heritage is Abacela, located west of Roseburg. What makes them

significant are two things. One is that they're planting a lot of varieties that are somewhat exotic for Oregon, like Syrah, Temperanillo and Malbec, and thus offer a chance to do a global transect of grape varieties without leaving the state. The other is that the vineyard location was chosen by geographer Greg Jones, in the department at Southern Oregon State University in Ashland, whose parents own the vineyards and winery. They're at <http://www.abacela.com/> and it would be good to sample their wines (anything they make) while they're still within a geographer's price range.

This is turning into a pretty good project, and I hope to have more to report in next year's newsletter.

Aileen R. Buckley

Aileen continues to teach cartography, GIS, GPS, and visualization courses for the Department. She has been working primarily on two research projects this year — *The Atlas of Oregon Educational Web Site* with **Susan Hardwick**, **Jim Meacham** and the SSIL Lab and the Sierra Nevada project with **Peter Walker**. *The Atlas of Oregon Educational Web Site* is a resource that is currently being developed for use at the university level, with hopes of extending its utility to the K-12 level. The Sierra Project is now in a stage where data analysis can be conducted and reports can be generated. She is also working on the development of Model Curricula in GIScience for the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science.

Shaul E. Cohen

The past year was an interesting and busy one for me in a number of ways, some anticipated and others quite a surprise. In terms of the normal career track I was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor, a welcome and necessary transition! My research and writing pushed ahead on both the environment and Middle East politics, and I introduced a new course in my teaching portfolio entitled *Tree and Forest in the Human Experience*. I was also active this year in campus service, much of it stemming from September 11 and it's aftermath. I was co-Chair of the University committee that coordinated campus responses to the situation, and I spoke at campus and community events more than thirty times during the academic year. In the spring I was elected Chair of President Frohnmayer's Faculty Advisory

News from the Faculty continued.

Committee for the coming year, giving me an expanded role in University governance and campus politics.

Susan Hardwick

I coordinated the Department's summer program for teachers for the first time this year and enjoyed it a lot. My husband **Don Holtgrieve** (PhD '73), was in Eugene to teach one of the summer field courses — and we enjoyed living in one state for a few months. Our 'bi-cultural' lifestyle continues (thanks to the interconnections provided by I-5).

When I returned to the West Coast two years ago, I couldn't have imagined that my earlier research on Russians would be revitalized and expanded with the arrival of more than 60,000 new Russian and Ukrainian refugees in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area in the past ten years. Thanks to the support of an NSF grant and a UO Research Award, I've launched a new project that compares Russian experiences and patterns with those of earlier Vietnamese refugees. With the help of graduate students **Susan Hume**, **Anika Juhn**, and **Erin Aigner** (MA '02), the project is focusing on these two comparative groups to learn more about recent diasporas of new migrants into the American West. Of particular interest to us is learning more about the impacts of transnational linkages, ethnic social capital, and heterolocal residential patterns from local to international scales on comparative refugee adaptation experiences.

W. Andrew Marcus

Andrew Marcus spent a great deal of his first year at the University of Oregon on educational issues. Although his specialties are hydrology and fluvial geomorphology, Andrew never had the chance to teach an undergraduate hydrology course — an opportunity the Department was happy to provide him. The course as he teaches it is organized around the hydrologic cycle, with students doing assignments on measurement and modeling of precipitation, evapotranspiration, runoff, and water storage. In addition, he reworked the *Remote Sensing* class so that students could work with ERDAS Imagine. Imagine is a newly acquired software package at UO and is the most widely used program in the remote sensing professional world. Most difficult for Andrew was trying to teach *The Natural Environment* to 180 undergraduates in the

hyper-condensed schedule of a 10 week quarter system. He misses the 16 weeks he always had in his previous 15 years of teaching the course.

Outside of the Department of Geography, Andrew is Chairman of the Education Committee at Yosemite National Institutes, a field-based environmental education non-profit organization that reaches approximately 40,000 children per year with 3 to 5 day excursions. In this capacity, he has instituted inquiry based learning approaches throughout the curriculum, insuring that 4th to 8th grade students are being introduced to how science works in the natural environment, while also learning some of the geographic facts that scientists have discovered. He also took over the Chairmanship of the Board of Trustees for the Central Asia Institute, a non-profit organization that builds and sustains schools in northern Pakistan, with a special emphasis on girls' and women's education.

Patricia F. McDowell

While the Pacific Northwest has many beautiful rivers that support wild fish and lots of river recreation, the health of our rivers continues to be a sore point in terms of watershed restoration efforts and politics. My teaching and research continues to focus on understanding and helping the health of Oregon's rivers. In 2001-2001, fifty students in GEOG 360: *Watershed Science and Policy* learned how physical, biological, chemical and social processes interact to create healthy rivers, and how this interaction can come apart, leading to water pollution and loss of aquatic biodiversity. The able and energetic teaching assistants for this course were **Michael Hughes** and **Patrick Hurley**, both PhD students in the Environmental Science, Studies, and Policy program with Geography as their focal Department. I also taught GEOG 427: *Fluvial Geomorphology*, which covers physical river processes for hard core, advanced students in Geography, Geological Sciences, and Environmental Studies. I've also had the opportunity to work with more undergraduates on senior theses in the last several years.

We wrapped up our research project evaluating stream restoration projects in Columbia River tributaries in Oregon. The project was funded by the Bonneville Power Administration Fish and Wildlife Program, and it has supported graduate student **Andrew Mowry**. The research

team included three faculty members in Oregon State University's Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as me. We found that ecologically-based "passive restoration", simply keeping cattle out of the riparian zone by fencing, produced significant improvements in pool habitat, channel morphology, riparian vegetation, and increased fish. Active restoration projects, such as creating fish habitat with instream structures made of logs and boulders, have produced some benefits but are less productive overall. Simpler is better (or less is more)!

In August 2002, we started a new three-year research project funded by the National Science Foundation. **Andrew Marcus** is co-leader with me on this project, and **Michael Hughes** is the research assistant. The study area again is Columbia River tributaries east of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington. We will investigate the effects of large flood over the last seventy years by analyzing aerial photos taken shortly before and after each flood. The goals are 1) to understand how effective floods are in creating river side channel, pools, alcoves, and other features important for fish habitat, and 2) to trace the development of flood protection structures, mainly levees and rip-rap, and see whether and why these structures have limited the ability of rivers to create and maintain fish habitat features. The results will be useful for communities trying to plan fish-friendly flood control projects. We will be using Department GIS facilities, new remote sensing analysis software that Andrew has installed, and the wonderful collection of historical aerial photos in the University's Map and Aerial Photo Library.

This year, 2002-2003, I am on sabbatical! I will be devoting my time to writing up results from the Bonneville Power Administration project, getting into the new NSF project, and traveling to see more rivers and floodplains and how people live on them.

In the last year several former graduate students have gone out to do their part in keeping rivers healthy. **John Green** and **Jeff Peters** (MA '01) are both working for environmental consulting firms in California. **Suzanne Fouty** went to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in northeastern Oregon in June. **Cynthia Taylor** (MA '00) is a research associate on a U.S. Forest Service watershed research program in Lincoln, Nebraska. **Michael Droz** (MS '97) is a geoarchaeologist in



Geography Faculty visiting Charleston, OR. From left to right: (front) Patricia McDowell, Lise Nelson, Ron Wixman, Andrew Marcus, Susan Hardwick, (back) Alec Murphy, Jim Meacham, Cathy Whitlock, Shaul Cohen, Aileen Buckley, Patrick Bartlein, Peter Walker.

News from the Faculty continued.

Phoenix, Arizona. **Phil Miotto** works for ESRI in Redlands, California. **Jennifer Pierce** (MA '00) is doing a PhD in Geological Sciences at University of New Mexico.

Alexander B. Murphy

Alec Murphy continues his teaching and research in political geography. This past winter he had the opportunity to give the opening address at a workshop on territorial conflict in Florence (Italy, not Oregon). His talk was subsequently published in the journal *Geopolitics*. In the spring Dave Frohnmayer asked him to give the commencement address at the University of Oregon's main ceremony. He exhorted students to see their education as a beginning rather than an end — using geography as an example of a perspective they all should embrace as they seek to confront the challenges of the post-September 11 world. In July, Alec's duties as Vice President of the AAG began (see separate article in this newsletter). Recently, he returned from South Africa where he had the opportunity to participate as a delegate and speaker at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Lise Nelson

This last year Lise became fully settled into the Geography Department, UO and Eugene — including buying a house west of downtown! She dove into her teaching responsibilities with two new courses

Environment and Development (465/565) as well as *Geography of Latin America* (214), and signed two book contracts, one with Blackwell Publishers to co-edit *A Companion to Feminist Geography* with Joni Seager (University of Vermont), and one with the University of Arizona Press to publish her manuscript *Women Defending the Plaza: Gender, Citizenship and the Politics of Place*.

Teaching this year proved to be very rewarding for Lise. The two new classes listed above proved to be challenging and exciting. The most surprising experience was her first large undergraduate course in the spring (*Geography of Latin America*), one that included four discussion sections led by outstanding teaching assistant **Ann Laudati**. Initially, Lise felt daunted by the task but it became her most rewarding course of the year. She found the students highly engaged and willing to meet the challenge of rigorous requirements. The course was designed not only to encourage students to think critically and historically about political, economic, cultural and environmental transformation in Latin America, but to explore the linkages between the U.S. and the region. For many students this was their first academic experience, at the University level, exploring cultures and places beyond U.S. borders. Lise felt incredibly energized by the experience because the vast majority of students in the class enthusiastically began to re-think taken-for-granted assumptions about the world and their own place in it.

In addition to the new classes, Lise also expended a great deal of effort fine-tuning the classes she had already taught once in 2000-2001: *Geography of the World Economy* 342 and *Gender and Geography* 410/510.

Lise's research efforts this year focused on publications. In addition to starting the book projects mentioned above, she revised and re-submitted an article to *Society and Space* entitled *De-centering the movement: collective action, place and the 'sedimentation' radical political discourses* and she submitted an article to *Gender, Place and Culture* entitled *Gendered Local Politics as Globalized Citizenship*. The latter article is part of a special issue on Transnational Feminist Theory and Geography, co-edited (and separate introduction written) by Lise and Heather Merrill of Dickinson University. Pending a peer review process, the editor of the journal hopes to include the introduction, four substantive articles and commentary in the special 10th Anniversary issue of *Gender, Place and Culture* (2003). The manuscript Lise is submitting as part of the special issue is based on a paper she presented, and a panel she co-organized, at the AAG meetings in Los Angeles last spring.

Lise became more involved in the Department and on campus. In addition to her service in Geography, she was part of the steering committee of the Women's and Gender Studies Department during a year when the Department hired a new faculty person. She also continued to participate in the Latin American Studies Program, which thrived in 2001-2002. Finally, Lise found it very rewarding to advise a group of brilliant students, at the Master's and PhD levels, within Geography, Sociology, History, Urban Studies (PSU) and International Studies.

Peter Walker

I spent much of this year working on publishing the results of my Sierra Nevada study on the environmental politics of rural gentrification. I recently had articles accepted in *Cultural Geographies* (formerly *Ecumene*) and *Progress in Human Geography*. I spent the summer writing, and also spent a month in Malawi doing some preliminary field work on the politics of 'community-based' resource management in settlements around two of the country's major national parks. With Rich Margerum (PPPM) and **Stacy Rosenberg** (ENVS/

News from the Faculty continued.

Geography), I received a grant from the MacArthur Foundation (through the University of Virginia) to study similar questions about 'community' management in watershed councils in Oregon. I'm excited to finally have an opportunity to get my feet wet (probably literally) in resource management issues here in Oregon.

Cathy Whitlock

Last year was the most exhilarating and exhausting year that I can remember in a long time. Serving as head of the Department has been a lesson in time management, as I try to run the Department and maintain an active research and teaching program. We are currently pursuing a new NSF-funded project to compare the history of western North and South America and expand ongoing projects in the Pacific Northwest and Yellowstone. Our goal is to better understand the relationship between fire and climate by examining lake-sediment records in comparable localities in both hemispheres. Last winter, I spent a month driving the back roads of Patagonia collecting lake-sediment cores with colleagues from Argentina, Colorado, and Arizona. I was so impressed by the windy Andean foothills and their resemblance to familiar landscapes in the western US. **Andrea Brunelle** (PhD '02) and I will continue this fieldwork in February with Chilean colleagues. In March, I co-organized a workshop in Tucson to discuss the state of knowledge concerning the fire history of North and South America. Over 70 scientists from eight countries attended, and we are now creating an international database to support this effort. In addition to these distant projects, my research continues to be 'fueled' by recent fire activity in the West and the need for scientifically-based forest management plans. I am regularly asked to talk to forest managers and scientists about the long-term fire record and its implications.

The excitement of research in new areas, its relevance to current policy issues, and collaboration with new colleagues has provided fresh material and perspectives in my biogeography and paleoecology classes. It has also increased the opportunities for students to gain valuable experience in the paleoecology lab and the field. We have seven grad students and three undergrads working on paleoecology and biogeography projects. **Colin Long** defends

his dissertation this winter. **Tom Minckley** received a NSF grant to work in the Warner Mountains. **Mitch Power** is actively working on high-resolution records from western Montana, and **Christy Briles** has a similar focus in the Siskiyou region. **Jennifer Marlon** is analyzing existing fire records to look for bigger spatial and temporal patterns. **Vicki Rubinstein** is reconstructing the fire history in dry forests in eastern Washington. **Andrea Brunelle** finished her dissertation in August and is staying on as a post-doctoral research associate. We also welcome **Megan Walsh** from the University of Utah to our PhD program.

On a personal note, Bob and I still enjoy the views at End-of-the-Road Ranch, but our world has expanded to include teenage step-daughter Jessie, new puppy Mookie, old cat Lucy, a few resident skunks, and scores of migratory birds.

Ronald Wixman

Currently, I have submitted an article to *Cultural Geographies* entitled "Culture, Cosmology, and the Colors of the Compass: color designations in geographic place names". Also, I have completed two more chapters in my forthcoming book *Rise and Fall of Russia and the USSR*.

In addition to doing lectures on cultural-educational trips to Russia, Asia, and Central Europe this year, I have expanded eco-tourism trips to the Russian Arctic and sub-Arctic oriented at introducing affluent travellers to issues of environment and ecology. This year I have a lively schedule of lecturing on US foreign policy, the Chechen uprising, Middle East issues, and Afghanistan.

Emeriti News

Carl Johannessen

In early Spring we traveled to the Southwest states and explored ancient archaeological areas: Cliff dwelling sites at Mesa Verde, Canyon de Chelly, Chaco Canyon, Bandelier, and several more; Pueblos at San Juan, Hopi, Aztec, and others where we were able to talk with various American Indians about conditions of life. We searched for any evidence of chicken bones that might have been found in the archaeological sites. We found none that can be recorded. The small size of the dwelling rooms in the archaeological structures was the greatest surprise in my understanding of the sites. The

relatively small population size of these past cultures can give us some idea of what the mechanical cultivation techniques have supplied us, as we humans look to the coming centuries without petroleum abundance and the coming absence of lubricants, fertilizers, control of pests through the use of petroleum in the pesticides, transportation of farm products, etc. I do not see the world's governments, except China, taking any care for slowing down the population explosion to which we are subjecting the resources of the world. "Nature bats last" in the future control on our numbers. Without thought now, it is starvation in the future with which we humans will be faced.

Then a trip to Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, and the Yucatan, with **Luis Ferrate** (PhD '97) as the facilitator, resulted in securing evidence that the Maya and Aztecs knew about the elephant from India and codified that animal as the Rain God and as an elephant headed god of Olmec times in the Huasteca. These ideas of the elephant hung on in the later cultures as *Chac* and *Tlaloc* rain gods of Mayas and Aztecs. Soon I will present this material at several scientific meetings, and traditionalists will try to say that elephants are macaws, knowing full well that they are not.

Prof. John Sorenson (author of *Pre-Columbian Contact with the Americas*



Courtney Phelps is the 2001-2002 recipient of the **Trussel Family Scholarship**. This award goes to a geography undergraduate with high scholastic ability and an interest in pursuing a career that serves humanity. Courtney worked in the InfoGraphics Lab last year and graduated Spring 2002 *Cum Laude* and with Department Honors.

News from the Faculty continued.

across the Oceans, an Annotated Bibliography (1996)) and I presented papers in 2001 and now we are preparing a manuscript with over 75 species of organisms that can be shown to have been present in the Americas and in the Old World at the time of Columbus' voyage in CE. 1492. Now the anti diffusionists have to *prove their case* if they want to maintain that the hemispheres had "no significant contact." There will be very significant implications; textbooks will have to be re-written in: art history, history of religion, history, cultural/historical geography and anthropology, biology, etc. The opportunities for discovery through comparisons of traits across the oceans in these fields now are tremendous.

George Carter's book on the history of chickens, with three others of us contributing chapters, offers information showing that chickens were on both sides of the oceans early. The upcoming proof of these former hypotheses is likely on my next trip to Latin America in November.

Wishing you all a good field trip soon.

Bill Loy

The past year has been one of ups and downs. The biggest "up" was the completion of the second edition of the *Atlas of Oregon* beautifully done and on schedule. It took about three years of hard work, but everyone was dedicated to the goal of excellence and the result made the effort worthwhile. It must be the best example of a public-private partnership (between the UO and Allan Cartography) that has ever taken place. It was especially gratifying to have it done on my schedule of copyrighting on October 13th, my 65th birthday, exactly 25 years to the day from the copyrighting of the original *Atlas*. Several major awards acknowledge the quality of the *Atlas*.

Since atlas projects are all-consuming, I have made only sporadic progress in "sorting and throwing" my stuff in 208 Condon. But I have filled one barrel with paper and spaces are appearing on my bookshelves. I am trying to quit competing with the main library. Next should be the better organization and disposition of my 40,000 slides. It is hard to make throwing stuff out a priority.

Another "up" was to be awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the University at graduation in June. **Alec Murphy** was the featured speaker and it

was good to share the platform with him. A good day for geography. Faculty members are not often recognized by this award and it goes usually to the Mark Hatfields of this world.

The biggest "down" was to learn in early May that the lump in my salivary gland forward of my left ear was a fast-growing malignant tumor. It was removed during a five hour and forty-minute operation on May 15th. Operation went well and 33 radiation treatments followed in July. At the moment, healing seems to be progressing well and it is "wait and see."

It is exciting to be around Condon Hall to witness all of the good geography being done here. Especially exciting is the new CD-ROM set of the *Atlas* created by **Jim Meacham, Erik Steiner** and co-workers in InfoGraphics. I started InfoGraphics with Jim in 1988 to have a facility capable of making a new atlas. As it turned out, InfoGraphics shared production cartography tasks with Allan Cartography. It has developed beyond my wildest dreams into one of the best cartographic facilities in the nation.

I look forward to next year.

Clyde Patton

I have been, and continue, teaching an introductory course at Hunter College of the City University of New York. The course is meant to cover ALL of geography, from landforms to international organizations, by way of adiabatic rates and linguistic distributions, and I have set new unbeatable records in the realm of getting behind schedule. But the course does give me something to do on Mondays and Thursdays! On Tuesdays I become a volunteer tour guide at the American Museum of Natural History. I'd be happy to give a special tour to any visitors to the City. During the past two years my wife (Pat is an Oregon PhD) and I have been in Greece, Turkey, and Spain during the winter vacations (she teaches at Nassau Community College). Time to see something different, so we are going to Vietnam in January. For the benefit of any old-timers who may read this I can claim a post 1950 interest in that land, since I wrote a term paper on Vietnamese social organization as a student in one of Wolfram Eberhart's classes. This was not the one which I took in company of Phil Wagner and Dave Sopher, in which Eberhart was pleasantly surprised by the multilingualism of graduate students of geography.

Al Urquhart

Where: South University Neighborhood.

What: Self-enjoyment and neighborhood preservation.

Why: Retirement and health are good.

When: This past year.

My roots are in Oregon. My best life experiences have been in Eugene. My local concerns have come to focus on my neighborhood, my house, and my gardens. Along with **Ev** and Sally Smith, I and another friend have been advocating the creation of the South University Historic District. Frustrated in part by a wealthy opponent, we have persisted in trying to maintain the character of the area just south of the University. **Ev** and Sally, of course have a house that is both historic and contributing to the character of the district. I, on the other hand, have a nine-year old house that has no historic value but, indeed, keeps me busy creating three outdoor rooms: enclosed patios and decks that open directly onto gardens. And Eugene from spring to autumn is the place to be, especially if you like to garden and entertain outdoors.

But I, a 71-year old native, still like to get away in the rainy season. Last December I spent a couple of weeks in New Mexico, visiting several pueblos as well as spending a grand weekend exploring the rural landscape with New Mexico's premier field guide, Jerry Williams, and a delightful Sunday in Santa Fe with Elinore Barrett. You see, I get the very best cultural geographers to show me their local landscapes.

And then in January and February I went off to Brazil to explore the old mining towns of Minas Gerais and their port cities in the state of Rio de Janeiro. The cultural landscapes were right out of 18th and 19th century Portugal, and the tropical landscapes reminded me of Angola. The food was extraordinarily good and my reception was very cordial.

But it was still rainy when I returned to Eugene, so I thought it a good time to visit some southeastern U.S. landscapes that I could easily visit from my daughter Sarah's home near Asheville, NC. Several days in Charleston, SC, stops in nature preserves to look for birds, as well as a longer trip to Monticello and the homes of Presidents Monroe and Madison were much more interesting than I had imagined. Springtime in the Appalachians was beautiful, but I was glad to get back to Eugene and see

spring and summer unfold here.

I am pleased to see that the energy of the Department remains high and the warm spirit of the “good old days” still pervades the halls of Condon.

Other Emerti

Ed Price and **Ev Smith** are both doing well. They were travelling this fall and not able to submit a contribution to the newsletter.

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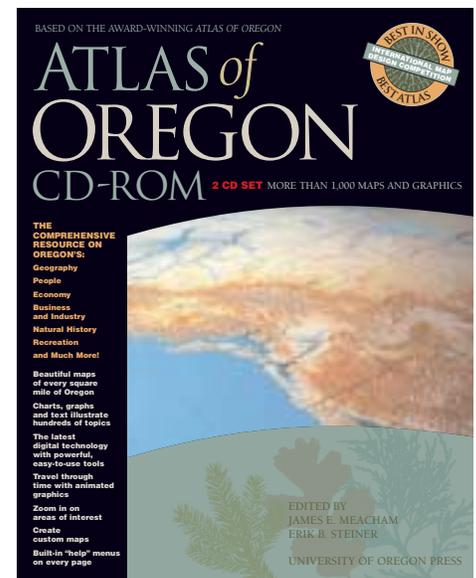
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Recent Graduates

The Department would like to welcome the following new alumni, congratulations!

PhD

Andrea R. Brunelle: *Holocene Changes in Fire, Climate, and Vegetation in the Northern Rocky Mountains of Idaho and Western Montana (2002).*

Jessica L. Rothenberg-Aalami: *Coming Full Circle? Nike Production Networks In and Beyond Viet Nam (2002).*

Masters

Erin E. Aigner: *Rethinking Mapping Methodologies in Population and Ethnic Geography (2002).*

Alumni Updates

Roy Huberd (BS '72) is in Tacoma, Washington working as a Senior Planner in the Watershed Planning Section of County Government. "I have been a planner ever since. Let's test my memory, Coos County, Wasco County, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, Republic Development Co., Klamath County, City of Coos Bay, City of Sandy, Klamath Indian Tribe, Unemployed six months (hung out in Eugene — UO library mostly), Pierce County. I have had every planning title there is — and looking for more. Lordi Lordi, help me before I plan again!!"

Gary Elbow (MA '64) writes to say things are going well at Texas Tech University. He will begin reducing his teaching duties in January because he is chairing the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools decennial reaffirmation project (the new thing is reaffirmation, not reaccreditation).

He is also slated to receive the Preston James Lifetime Achievement Award from CLAG in January! Though he is not sure he's quite ready for something called a "lifetime" achievement award quite yet, he doesn't intend to turn it down.

Stuart Yatsko (BS '82) in the last ten years has explored half way around the globe, from Amman, Jordan to St. Paul Island, AK. He is currently teaching 6th/7th grade at the Innoko River School in Shageluk, AK, and one day hopes to complete his round the world journey.

Rich Allison (BS '85) worked for United Pacific Insurance as a Property Casualty Underwriter after graduating. Since 1989 he has been an Independent Insurance Agent and is an Associate with Oak Tree Insurance in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Alumni, where are you?

*We would love to hear where
you are and what you are doing.
Please send information to
uogeog@darkwing.uoregon.edu*