

East Carolina University

VECTORS

News and Notes from the Department of Geography

Fall 2007

Volume I, Issue 1

Department of Geography News

Welcome to *Vectors*!

Please enjoy this first issue of the ECU Geography alumni newsletter, *Vectors*. You will find information about recent and upcoming events, recent and not so recent graduates, department history, as well as information about current faculty, students, and facilities. Please consider this a first step and an invitation for you to help direct the development of *your* newsletter.

Record No. of Geography Students to Attend '07 SEDAAG Meeting; Six Considered for Honor Awards

For the past several years, ECU's GeoClub and Department of Geography have sponsored student participation at academic conferences; the most widely attended being the annual meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG). This year, a record number of 26 geography students will be attending the 2007 SEDAAG meeting to be held in Charleston, SC in late November. Five graduate students will participate in the paper and poster honors competition. These students and their sponsoring faculty members in parentheses are: Suzanne McArdle (Crawford/Alderman), Arnold Modlin (Alderman), Terri Moreau (Alderman), Ahmed Salahuddin (Curtis), Sol Wuensch (Curtis). Stephen Sanchagrin has been nominated for a Merle Prunty Undergraduate Geography Scholarship. The results of his submission as well as the student paper and poster competition will be announced at the SEDAAG honors banquet. We have a great bunch of students bringing tremendous visibility to the program.

Recognize this Globe?

Forty years ago, geography faculty member, H. Daniel Stillwell created this globe with the help of students. Its construction began with a hole being dug in Stillwell's back yard and the development of a concrete hemisphere. Within it two fiberglass hemispheres 1/8th inch thick were molded and reinforced with wood strips. A "reverse" cartography approach was taken to transfer map



information. A set of twenty-four 15° globe gores were developed to facilitate the tracing of information from the maps to the globe. Relief for the globe was constructed by layering cardboard layers and applying a mixture of powered asbestos and glue to create vertical exaggeration. The land surface was hand painted to represent vegetation cover.

Over 510 hours spread over 18 months were required to complete the project. The 5 1/3 foot diameter, 150lb globe was mounted and designed so that it rotated on an inclined axis once every two minutes. The globe was installed in the foyer of the Joyner Library but its eventual providence is unknown. *Can you tell us where the globe is now?*

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Department News and Events

Homecoming Open House

Friday October 26, 1:00 - 5:00pm.

You are invited to meet our current students and faculty, hear about current research and teaching activities and tour the facilities! Students and faculty will be available in the following locations in Brewster building. **Geographic Information Science** in BC-201 & BC-202 with Tom Allen, Tom Crawford, Yong Wang, Karen Mulcahy, and Scott Wade.

Human Geography in BC206 with Jeff Popke, Holly Hapke, Derek Alderman, & Ron Mitchelson. **Physical Geography** in BC-204 with Thad Wasklewicz and Paul Gares and in BD-211 with Scott Lecce. **Atmospheric Science** in BC-203 with Jennifer Arrigo, Scott Curtis, Rosana Nieto-Ferreira, Tom Rickenbach, Hong-Bing Su. **Planning** in BD-208/209 with Mulatu Wubneh, Mohamad Kashef, Dan Marcucci, and Al Burne. **Student organizations GeoClub and SPAN** in BD-207 with student club members. **Refreshments** in BD-212.

Visiting Fulbright Scholar

Geography, International Studies & the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences are hosting Dr. M. Aslam Khaki a Fulbright Visiting Specialist from the Muslim World. Dr. Khaki will spend four weeks at ECU and in the Greenville-Pitt County community delivering lectures, consulting with educators, and participating in cross-cultural discussions on the basic tenets of



Islam, specialized topics in Islam, and the role of religion in the culture and politics of Muslim societies.

Dr. Khaki holds a Ph.D. in Education from Punjab University (Pakistan), a Master's degree (LLM)

in Islamic Law from International Islamic University Pakistan, and a Bachelor's degree (LLB) in Law from Punjab University. He is currently a Jurisconsultant to the Federal Sharia Court in Islamabad, a Visiting Faculty Member at the Federal Judicial Academy in Pakistan, and a frequent lecturer at the Christian Study Centre in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

Dr. Khaki will present a keynote address entitled "The US War on Terrorism – the Perspective from Pakistan" on Thursday, October 25th at 7:00PM on campus at the Willis Building.

Scott Lecce: Mercury Detective

Though it is a fact nearly forgotten by all but historians, North Carolina was the site of the nation's first gold discovery, in 1799 at what was to become the Reed Gold Mine in



Cabarrus County. Preliminary findings show that nineteenth-century gold mining has left behind a legacy of elevated levels of mercury that are detectable as far as 15 miles downstream from the mines. Last summer, a team of investigators and graduate students, led by Dr. Scott Lecce, Geography Associate Professor, began extracting sediment core samples around the Gold Hill district in a project to measure the presence of mercury and copper remaining in the environment. Lecce and his associates collected a total of more than 550 samples from "active" stream channels, floodplains, and areas presumably untouched by mercury waste. Their findings show that mercury concentrations indeed persist in streams and floodplains downstream from the mines more than a century after mining activities ceased. Lecce says many questions remain and asks: "Is erosion of stream banks releasing mercury stored in floodplain deposits? Is this mercury being transformed into methylmercury, a form that can be more easily accumulated in organisms? Can mercury be exploited as a dating tool to help scientists better understand the history of soil erosion and floodplain sedimentation throughout the Piedmont of the southeastern U.S.? Are mercury levels detectable in surrounding areas that were not mined as intensely as the Gold Hill mining district?" This summer Lecce and his team will continue their detective work. Excerpted from the May 2007 issue of *Exploration & Discovery*, News and Notes from the Division of Research and Graduate Studies at ECU.

Alumni News & Notes

ECU Geography Hosts International Place Naming Workshop; Alum Roger Payne Delivers Keynote Address

Derek Alderman (Associate Professor of Geography) recently organized and hosted an international workshop on the social and political dimensions of place naming. The conference, held in Greenville October 13-16, 2007, brought together seventeen experts from



across the United States as well as from Australia, Finland, Israel, Slovenia, and Canada. Workshop participants represented the fields of geography, linguistics, history, sociology, and political science. They were treated to a tour of ECU and the Department of Geography's computer and lab facilities. Roger Payne, Executive Secretary (Emeritus) of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (USGS) and a graduate of the ECU geography program, delivered the conference's keynote address. Roger's address discussed the naming activities of the federal government, the importance of standardization in place naming, and the GNIS (Geographic Names Information System), which he has worked to develop over the past several years. Roger is also author of the book, *Place Names of the Outer Banks*.

W. Caleb Parker '07 is part of a socio-behavioral team at Family Health International currently working on the preparatory phases of a clinical trial. As a Research Assistant II, his primary responsibility on the team is qualitative data analysis by helping to create a qualitative codebook based on eight detailed interviews and focus group guides. Caleb recently described the relevance of his geographic education at ECU. "My geography degree equipped me to work on this team by giving me experience with qualitative and quantitative methods, and with GIS and cartographic design. It has equipped me with a more critical eye as I approach this research, which allows me to pose helpful questions and offer suggestions with a unique point of view (most of my colleagues have backgrounds in health behavior and health education). The qualitative research skills I gained have proven invaluable to this work as well, as I have been exposed to its benefits and possibilities as a method for gathering data by writing my MA thesis (The Politics of Church Space: North Carolina's United Methodist Clergy Respond to Homosexuality). I am extremely proud of the education I received in the Geography Department at ECU, and am considering pursuing a PhD in medical geography in the future."

We Want to Hear from You

Do you have news to share with your fellow Department of Geography alumni? How about an idea you think would make a good story for *Vectors*? Email the following information to mulcahyk@ecu.edu or complete and print this form and mail to: *Vectors* Alumni Newsletter, Department of Geography, A-226 Brewster Building, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353.

Name		
_____	_____	_____
First Middle	Last	Maiden

Class Year		E-mail address

Address		

Address		

Your news or story idea		

Geography





Recent MA Theses & Projects

2007

Anna Eskridge. The Politics of Anti-Kudzu legislation in Missouri: An Analysis of Discourses and Material Practices Surrounding Exotics Eradication.

W. Caleb Parker. The Politics of Church Space: North Carolina's United Methodist Clergy Respond to Homosexuality

Lindsay Wolter. Stormwater Runoff Management: A Case Study of Short Term Solutions for Pitt County Planning Department in the Area of Winterville, NC.

Jason Collins. From Librarian to a Versioned Geodatabase: The Challenges of Migrating a County GIS; Jason is working in the planning department of Hanover County, VA.

2006

Erin Campbell. Internship Development of an Atlas of Wellhead Protection Areas Using GIS for Greenville Utilities Public Well Supplies. Erin is currently working for National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

Sallie Vaughn. Using Geographic Information Science to Predict Archaeological Sites: An Example From Northwestern Belize.

Jessica Cain. Social Vulnerability of Coastal North Carolina to Storm Surge Flooding.

Shamaury Myrick. Legacy of Distrust: The Challenges of Participatory Planning in Greenville, NC.

Erica Kotecki. The Flood of the Century: Extraordinary Hydro-Meteorological Event or Human-Induced Catastrophe? Erica teaches 8th grade math in Edgecombe County.

William Suvak. Spatial Analysis of Broadband Service: Identifying the Digital Divide in North Carolina.

Joseph Mangum. A Greenprint for Pitt County's Future: A Review and Critique of the Methodology Guiding the Development of the Pitt County Greenway Plan. Joe is currently working in the Wake County Planning Department, NC.

Kenneth Vafier. Spatial Variations in Barrier Island Response to Tropical Cyclones. Ken is working for the Pender County Planning Department, NC.

Justin Gross. The Festival Gap: Comparing Organizers' Perceptions of Visitors to a Survey of Visitors at the Carolina Renaissance Festival, 2005. Justin is working at ECU.

Joseph Luchette. Application of GIS and IMS at the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation, an Environmental Non-Profit Organization. Joe will be working for the McLane Environmental LLC Co and will be living in Bensalem, Pennsylvania.

Timothy Tresohlavy. Stormwater Runoff in North Carolina's Tar-Pamlico River Basin: Analyzing the Potential for Runoff and Stakeholder Perceptions of Urban Stormwater Rules. Tim is working for NC State University and is living in Raleigh, NC.

William Aycock. An Analysis of Flooding and Drainage Issues in the City of Wilson, NC. Will is currently working for the city of Wilson, NC.

Laura Heavner. The Power of Photography: Measuring Levels of Gender and Racial/Ethnic Representation in North Carolina's Travel Brochures. Laura is currently working in Greenville, NC.

2005

Robert B. Best. Community of Interest: Demographic or Geographic? An Analysis of Discourse in Two Southern Congressional Districts. Currently lives in Raleigh, NC.

Brian Chambers. Coastal Urbanization and Tidal Creek Water Quality. Currently a planner with the Pender County, NC Department of Planning.

Matthew L. Mitchelson. The Economic Geography of MLK Streets. Currently a Ph.D. Student in the Department of Geography at the University of Georgia.

2004

Nicole Lynne Ernst. Sediment Redistribution and Volumetric Changes in a Barrier Island Environment, Hatteras Island, North Carolina. Currently an instructor in at Harrisburg Area Community College.

Glen White Gentry. Walking with the Dead: An Analysis of Ghost Walk Tours in Savannah, Georgia. Currently a geography Ph.D. Student Syracuse University.

Chris McPhilamy. The Effect of Travel Patterns on Geographic Literacy: Using the World Wide Web to Survey U.S. College Students. Currently a GIS Analyst with the Houston-Galveston Area Council, TX.

James Allen Tripp. Floor Insurance & Hazard Mitigation: The Role of the Community Rating System. Currently the town manager of Plymouth, NC.