

VECTORS

News and Notes from the Department of Geography

Fall 2010

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Department of Geography News

New Choices for Future Alumni

Big changes are continuing to happen in the Geography Department. The Planning Program has a whole new look with a new director and two new faculty. Read more on page two. Other big changes are two new degrees.

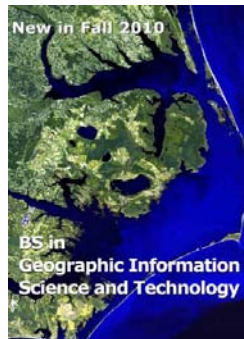
The B.S. degree in Applied Atmospheric Science



prepares students to apply their knowledge of weather and climate, meteorological observations, and forecasting to the societal challenges of natural hazards and climate change.

In addition students will learn the latest geospatial technologies, in areas such as GIS and cartographic design, and apply them to understanding coastal hazards, severe weather, and hydrology.

The B.S. degree program in Geographic Information Science and Technology is one of the first of its kind. Our modern civilization



consumes ever-increasing amounts of geospatial data. Creating information out of this torrent of data requires broad theory and technical skills. The GIST degree can provide

this cutting-edge combination and open the doors to an exciting career.

Geography Alum Spotlight

Jennifer Watson, seen here on the left on her first day as a Meteorologist at WTVA in Tupelo MS, received her BS in Geography from ECU with a minor in Math as well as Atmospheric Science and GIS



Certificates in 2007. She went on to graduate magna cum laude with a MA in Geosciences from Mississippi State University with an emphasis in Broadcast Meteorology. She used her GIS education from ECU as the supervisor of a multimillion dollar geocoding project for the Institute for Clean Energy Technology (ICET) at MSU where she also taught beginning GIS labs. In 2009 Jennifer won second place all-around and in the graduate student division for the National Forecasting Contest and she won a second place for Best Weathercast, Division II, MS.

An upstate New York native, Jennifer was born and raised in Rochester, NY. Her parents, twin sister, and older sister now reside in North Carolina.

In addition to being a very busy broadcast meteorologist, she does cut-ins for NBC (WTVA), Fox (WLOV) and ABC (WKDH) affiliates. Jennifer is also a storm chaser. She is a storm spotter certified by the National Weather Service and is a member of the North Mississippi Intercept Team. During the summer of 2008 she went on the Great Plains Storm Chase. For almost three weeks, she chased storms in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado, where she saw five tornadoes. Jennifer describes her time at East Carolina

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University as priceless, especially with the teachers in the Geography Department. "I couldn't have asked for more one-on-one attention and the nurturing environment they provided to ask questions and really succeed in my career. Without the education and foundation that I received at ECU, I would not be where I am today. I owe a special thanks to Dr. Scott Curtis, my advisor, and Dr. Ronald Mitchelson, who helped push me and assisted me with furthering my education and reaching my goals."

Department News and Events

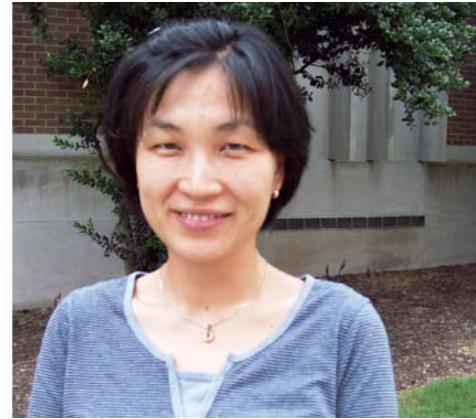
Planning Program has a Whole new Look

The new academic year brings big changes to the faculty in ECU's planning program. Dr. Amy Blizzard, Assistant Professor, left to return to American Samoa. Those of you who want to keep in touch with Dr. Blizzard can track her down on Facebook. The program has two new assistant professors. Anuradha Mukherji, Ph.D., has joined the faculty; her teaching and research interests include urban design, housing, sustainability, disaster recovery planning, and



land use. She received her Ph.D. in architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. Her prior university experience includes being an adjunct faculty member in city planning and urban affairs at Boston University and prior assignments at University of California at Berkeley and Texas A&M University.

Misun Hur, Ph.D., above right, received her Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University. She taught previously at Wright



State University, The Ohio State University, and KangNung and HanKyong National Universities in South Korea. Her research and teaching interests include public engagement, community development, research methods in social relations, environment and behavior research, planning technology with visualization, urban design, analytical methods, Geographic Information Systems, and interdisciplinary research.

Jerry Weitz, Ph.D., FAICP, has joined the program as associate professor and director. He replaces Mulatu Wubneh in the director's role; Dr. Wubneh remains with the program as a professor. For the past decade, Weitz has headed his own consulting firm, Jerry Weitz & Associates, Inc., in the Atlanta, Georgia region. Weitz's Ph.D. is in urban studies from Portland State University. His prior teaching assignments have included lecturer at Georgia Institute of Technology's urban and regional planning program and Troy University's Atlanta site as assistant professor of public administration. His publications and research interests include growth management, smart growth, land use planning and regulation, regional, community facilities and environmental planning, intergovernmental relations, and applied public policy analysis. —Jerry Weitz



Geography at Science Festival

The Eastern North Carolina Science Festival was held Friday, September 24 at the Eastern North



Carolina Heart Institute. The Geographers had a great exhibit that was enjoyed by about 2,000 attendees of all ages. Here from left to right are Corey Davis, Cale Galloway, and Dr. Wasklewicz.

Geography and Community Engagement

In July of 2010, Professor Derek Alderman served as a guest facilitator for a summer leadership camp called “LEAD Under the Sun.” The camp, designed to provide leadership and community activism training for African-American students in middle and high school, was held on the campus of Florida State University. Dr. Alderman delivered a presentation about streets named for Martin Luther King, Jr. and then participated with 22 summer camp students in a livability study of Tallahassee’s MLK Blvd. Alderman and students conducted a walking audit of the street—assessing the availability and condition of sidewalks, pedestrian right



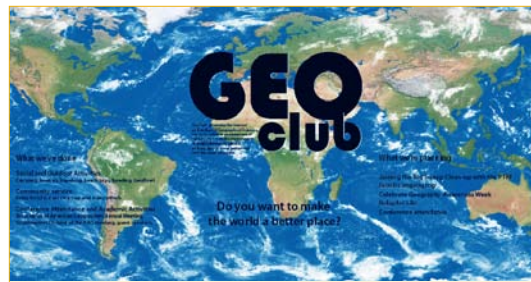
Students in the LEAD Under the Sun Summer Camp pose for a picture while conducting research on Martin Luther King Boulevard in Tallahassee, Florida.

of ways, road hazards and traffic congestion, neighborhood safety, disability accommodations, and resident attitudes toward walking. The summer camp project was part of a larger unit on transportation justice and landscape analysis, which sought to sensitize students to the place-based rights and needs of those who do not drive.

African Americans have the lowest rate of car ownership of all racial and ethnic groups in the country. Dr. Alderman provided summer camp students information about careers in geography and planning and encouraged them to consider East Carolina University in their college plans. According to Alderman, “We would be lucky to have any of these young people attend ECU. They carried themselves professionally, asked good questions, carried out the field research with no hesitation, and showed a great concern for the community.” The summer camp was hosted by Leaders by Empowerment-Activists by Development (LEAD), a non-profit organization started in 2006. — Derek Alderman

GeoClub Updates

Hello from GeoClub! We got the year off to a great start by having our first club presence at the ECU Get-a-Clue event with our new poster seen below and our first social outing bowling. The GeoClub’s cabinet includes, Brandon Hill as club president, Sarah Jessop as VP, Gary Monitz



as SGA representative, and Michael Griffin as Secretary/Treasurer. Our goal this year is to have both a fun event and at least one service project per month during the school year. We meet every two weeks to plan activities and discuss our upcoming trip to the SEDAG meeting. If you are ever in town, please feel free to stop by. We would love to hear from you. — Brandon Hill

Kodiak Island Internship

This past summer undergrad Steven Mattocks was searching for an interesting internship that would get him outside and out of his call center desk job. He found lots of outdoors during his internship on Kodiak Island, AK working for the non-profit Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association. The association focuses on research to support the Kodiak commercial fisheries. The internship was arranged through the Student Conservation Association. He was provided travel funding, room and board, spending money and

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the experience of a lifetime. He worked at a fish pass (fish ladder) on the Dog Salmon river built in 1962. The river has a natural 40 ft. waterfall that drains Fraser Lake. The lake did not have a native salmon population but in 1956 fish were backpacked up the waterfall into the lake. That first year the return rate was only 6 fish, but ballooned to an unsustainable 350,000 in the 1980s and 90s, last year 80,000 fish returned. This is within the range that has been determined to be most sustainable for the ecosystem. Steven was responsible for running the fish pass, including counting the fish that successfully reached the lake, performing sampling on both adult and juvenile fish to record basic statistics



such as gender, age, weight and length. Some of his most memorable experiences were with the Kodiak bears. One of his tasks was to shoo away bears from a particular spot each day. A few close encounters with the bears and being chased by a bear definitely intensified the experience. Steven was particularly interested in the balanced ecosystem that has developed between the salmon and bear populations and reports eating plenty of extremely fresh and delicious salmon. Steven plans to graduate in either Spring or Fall 2011 and is already seeking out his next adventure.

Our Newest Alums Spring 2010 Undergraduates

Carnell X. Brame, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.
Brett T. Erwin, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.
Cara N. Gentile, *BS Urban & Regional Planning, Urban Design Certificate*.
William T. Guppton, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.
Ernest P. House, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.
Brian D. Jernigan, *BS Applied Geography*.
Matthew J. Kucinich, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.
Zachary W. Leathers, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.
Phillip W. Lewis, *Urban Design Certificate*.

David H. McRae, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.
Anne E. Michener, *Urban Design Certificate*.
Fatemah M. Mohammad, *BS Urban & Regional Planning, Urban Design Certificate*.
Justin C. Oakes, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.
Alfred W. Powell III, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.
Ronald M. Sessoms, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.
Wesley L. Smith, *BS Applied Geography, GIS Certificate*.
James W. Stewart III, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.
John W. Wyatt, *BS Urban & Regional Planning*.

Spring/Summer '10 Graduate Level

Richard P. Barnhill, *MA Geography, Thesis: Regional Variation of Convective Structure at Monsoon Onset Across South America Inferred From TRMM Observations*.
Justin M. Briggs, *MA Geography, Thesis: Locational Aspects of Adaptive Reuse: The CAS of North Carolina's Textile Mills*.
Haley L. Cleckner, *MA Geography, Thesis: Spatial Modeling of the Risk of Mosquito-Borne Disease Transmission, Chesapeake, Virginia*.
Conor M. Harrison, *MA Geography, Thesis: "Because You Got to Have Heat": Energy Poverty and Weatherization in Eastern North Carolina*.
Stephanie M. Hill, *MA Geography, Thesis: Frequency/Magnitude Analysis of Wave Events at Duck, North Carolina*.
Jarrod R. Long, *Certificate in Development and Environmental Planning*.
Jennifer M. Mann, *MA Geography The Coast as a Vernacular Region*.
Robert M. Munroe, *MA Geography ENSO Forced Changes in Precipitation Distributions and Related Circulation Patterns: Gulf of Mexico Region*.
Matthew J. Watterson, *MA Geography, Thesis: Evaluating the Sustainability of Heritage Tourism and Historic Preservation in New Bern, North Carolina*.

Upcoming Homecoming Openhouse

On Friday, October 22nd, Keqi Zhang, Ph.D. from Florida International University and Codirector of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at the International Hurricane Research Center will present *Nonlinear Sea Level Rise Inundation and its Policy Implication for South Florida* at 3:30pm in Brewster C206. Following there is an open house and wine and cheese reception in Brewster D207.

We Want to Hear from You!

Do you have news to share? How about a good story for *Vectors*? **Email:** mulcahyk@ecu.edu.
Facebook: search for ECU Geography Alumni.
Mail: *Vectors* Alumni Newsletter, Department of Geography, Mail Stop 557 East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353.
Web: www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/geog/Alumni.cfm