

East Carolina University

VECTORS

News and Notes from the Department of Geography

Spring 2009

Volume 2 Issue 1

Department of Geography News

Vectors!

Please enjoy this issue of the ECU Geography alumni newsletter, *Vectors*. In addition to the *Vectors* alumni newsletter there is now a *Vectors* page on the social networking site facebook.com. Look for *ECU Geography Alumni*. Right now the page is open and waiting for your ideas. Do you have any pictures that you are willing to share? In time I will be posting historical photos to the site in albums by academic year. We are also looking for a couple of alums interested in helping to administer the page.

ECU Geographers Edit Special Journal Issue on Slavery

Faculty member Derek Alderman and former graduate student Arnold Modlin recently guest edited an issue of *Southeastern Geographer*, the peer-reviewed journal of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers. The theme of the special journal issue is "Museums, Narratives, and the Contested Memory of Slavery." It was published in fall of 2008. The papers in the issue are the result of sessions organized for the 2007 meeting of the Association for the Study of African American History and Life in Charlotte, North Carolina. In addition to carrying out editorial duties, Alderman and Modlin contributed research papers to the slavery-related collection. Arnold's paper, the result of his recent MA thesis, is titled "Tales Told on the Tour: Mythic Representations of Slavery on Docent-Led Tours at North Carolina Plantation Museums." Alderman's paper (co-authored with ECU geography graduate student Rachel Campbell) is titled: "Symbolic Excavation and the Artifact Politics

of Remembering Slavery in the American South: Observations from Walterboro, South Carolina." The Walterboro paper resulted from a field trip conducted in March 2007 as part of GEOG 7300 (Seminar in Geography of Heritage), taught by Dr. Alderman.



The Hallelujah Sculpture, by Ken Smith is located in the Spirit of Freedom Garden, near the future site of the United States National Slavery Museum, Fredericksburg, Virginia. "The 5,000 pound statue," according to museum officials, "represents the pain, tears, and un-timely deaths of those millions who never gave up on their belief that one day they would be free." Photo courtesy of E. Arnold Modlin, Jr.

Department News and Events

SEDAGG 2008

ECU Geography graduate students continue to be highly competitive in the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers student paper and poster competitions. This year Kate Renken, now at LSU, was co-winner with Ginette Wessel of UNC Charlotte for the best MA paper award. Naomy Perez-Sanchez was runner up in the poster competition.

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Geography

GeoBowl Champs Again!

We did it again! ECU's 2008 GeoBowl team brought home the state trophy for the third time in the last half dozen years. Here team members are celebrating their victory. From left to right: Justin Briggs,



Ryan Covington, Jessie Messina, Lin Hall, Erin Richardson, Garrett Nelson, Christy Swann, Teddy Allen, and Carrie Tragert.

Geography Department Degrees and Certificates

If you have not visited for a while you may be surprised at the range of options currently available through the Geography Department.

For undergraduates both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees are available. For the BA, concentrations are available in human or physical geography. Two BS degrees are currently available. One in Applied Geography which has degree concentrations in human, physical, or geographic information science. The BS in Urban and Regional Planning offers emphasis in Coastal Development or Community Development. Undergraduate certificates are currently available in Atmospheric Science, Geographic Information Science, and Urban Design.

For graduate students a Masters of Arts degree is available with concentrations in Geography, Planning or Rural Development. At the graduate level there are also certificates in Economic Development and in Geographic Information Science and Technology.

Keep your eye out for new programs and name changes pretty soon! Two new degree programs, a BS in Atmospheric Science and a BS in Geographic Information Technology, have been approved through all levels on campus but are stalled awaiting final approval at UNC General Administration.

Alumni News & Notes

The Department of Geography lost two young and equally important members of its family over the past academic year—Katie Ball and Justin Gross.

In December of 2007, Katie passed away after a courageous struggle against cancer. At the time, Katie was a MA student specializing in coastal geography with a focus on real estate development. She was working on an innovative study of the impact of the new IBX (Inner Banks) regional brand on residential property values in the East. Katie was a star student and athlete at local Rose High School prior to attending UNC-Greensboro on scholarship with a double major in Geography and Political Science. One of her letters of recommendation described her as the most accomplished geography major ever to graduate from the

Greensboro program. She immediately impressed our program with her intellect, her loud energy, and her integrity. Katie was awarded the MA in Geography posthumously from the University and also received an Honorary Degree from the graduate faculty in our ceremony of May 9, 2008. Katie was a very popular member of our academic community and fellow students honored Katie with GeoClub's participation in American Cancer Society's Relay for Life during which nearly \$6,000 was raised.



Justin Gross passed away unexpectedly in January of 2008. He was a product of our undergraduate (2004) and graduate (2006) geography programs. Justin was a member of Gamma Theta Upsilon and an important leader in GeoClub—serving as historian, president, and later as Student Government Association Senator. He presented research twice at the meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers, setting a tradition that now thrives among ECU geography students. Perhaps Justin's proudest achievements came through his work with the ECU Center for Off-Campus and Community Living. He was Assistant Director



of the Center at the time of his death. Justin was committed to improving town-gown relations and establishing better lines of communication between students and the neighborhoods surrounding the university. Before his death, Justin had recently accepted a new position at the National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. A university-wide memorial service was held in Justin's honor on January 27, 2008. It was well attended and those in attendance were invited to speak about Justin and numerous people rose to praise his generous spirit, strong work ethic, sense of humor, and willingness to take chances. Indeed, one of Justin's favorite quotes came from noted cartoonist Scott Adams: "Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."

Our Newest Alums

Fall 07 Undergraduates

Howard Creech
Herbert Doberstein
Chad Joyner
Robert Moore
Benjamin Nesheim
Stephen Sanchagrin
Jessica Sliva

Spring 08 Undergraduates

William S. Barrow
Hilda Bryan
Walker L. Covington
Matthew D. Hargrove
Jennifer M. Mann
Kelsey B. Novacek
Sean O'Connor
Justine A. Rountree
Rebecca A. Slate
Patricio Vazquez

Fall 08 Undergraduates

Mathew Guzman
Thomas Cullop
Erin Richardson
Christopher Hicks
Joshua Wells

Fall 07 MA Graduate

Melissa Wicks. *Estudiantes Luchando Por Una Vida Nueva: Academic Aspirations of Foreign Born Latino Youth in Rural North Carolina.*

Spring 08 MA Graduates

Suzanne McArdle. *Come 'Out', Come 'Out' Wherever You Are: The Myspace Lesbian and Her Material Social Worlds.*

Terri Moreau. *Can You Hear The Voices On Walls?: How Graffiti Is Known in Punitive And Tolerant Public Spaces.*

Rachel M. Campbell. *Towards the Design of a Postal Code System For Trinidad and Tobago.*

E. Arnold Modlin. *Back of the Plantation Museum: An Evaluation of the Representation of Slavery at North Carolina Historic Sites.*

Fall 08 MA Graduates

Bianca Gentile. *Why Poverty Persists In North Carolina and What One State Agency Is Doing About It: A Review of the 21st Century Communities Program*

David Shaeffer. *Characterizing Jurisdictional Wetlands Using Aerial Lidar.*

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.

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Geography





Geography

