

# Geography in the News

## November 2004

### DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY GETS A NEW CHAIR

As of July 2004 the Department of Geography welcomed Dr. Peter Waylen as the new Chair.

Dr. Peter Waylen is a physical geographer specializing in hydrology, particularly the analysis of spatial variations in the statistics describing interannual and interseasonal variability of hydrometeorological variables. He has published papers on flood and drought frequency, thunder and hail occurrences, cold spells and freezes, and annual and seasonal precipitation totals, in *Geographic* (e.g. *Canadian Geographer*, *Annals of AAG*, *Transactions I.B.G.*) and related disciplinary journals, in both hydrology (e.g. *Water Resources Research*, *J. of Hydrology*) and climatology (e.g. *Int. J. of Climatology*, *J. of Climate*, *J. of Climate and Applied Meteorology*).



### THE GLENN R. ANDERSON VISITING LECTURESHIP

The Anderson Visiting Lectureship was created this summer, and will provide funding to bring to Gainesville leaders in various areas within Geography to talk with students and to learn about the great things going on here at UF. The visiting lecture would spend about a week on campus speaking to students and faculty and possibly the general public depending on the person's field of expertise. The funding for this annual lectureship was generously given by Glenn R. Anderson and family and is an endowed gift, which will allow for these annual activities well into the future.



### STEPHANIE ABRAMS, ON-CAMERA METEOROLOGIST AT THE WEATHER CHANNEL, AND DEPARTMENT ALUMNI, SPEAKS AT CONVOCATION AND IN 'EXTREME WEATHER' CLASS GEO2242



The Fall Convocation ceremony's keynote speaker is Stephanie Abrams, a meteorologist with The Weather Channel, who earned her bachelor's degree in geography from UF in 1999. Abrams also earned a bachelor's degree in meteorology from Florida State University and started working at The Weather Channel in June 2003. During the past several months, she has given live television reports throughout Florida during the state's hurricanes. Abrams also provides online video forecasts and weather information for The Weather Channel Interactive. She delivers local forecasts for more than 75 US cities as well as forecasts related to various



activities and interests, such as golf, health and gardening. Abrams is a member of the American Meteorology Society and was president of the North Florida chapter of the AMS from 2002–2003.

**CLAS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT FOR GEOGRAPHY AWARDED TO DR. RICHARD "DICK" WITMER**



Dr. Witmer has been awarded the CLAS 2004 Outstanding Alumni Award for Geography. Dr. Witmer retired from the USGS about 1 year ago. While at the USGS, he was Jim Anderson's deputy, and then replacement after he passed away. Over the years he has served in various managerial positions after the National Mapping Division was formed, and eventually became Chief of NMD, and Chief Geographer of the USGS. Dick retired as Associate Director of the Survey.



**BARBARA E. MCDADE APPOINTED TO SERVE AS INTERIM DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM**



Barbara E. McDade, Associate Professor of Economic Geography, was appointed by CLAS Dean Neil Sullivan to serve as Interim Director of University of Florida's Upward Bound Program as of August 23. Upward Bound is a college preparatory program funded by the U.S. Department of Education that targets promising students from low-income households. Barbara's responsibilities will be divided between the Geography Department and the Upward Bound program.



**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND THE AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER SHARE A NEW FACULTY MEMBER: DR. BRIAN CHILD**

He is Chair of the Southern Africa Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SASUSG) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). SASUSG promotes a convergence of biodiversity conservation and economic strategies. He recently published 'Parks in Transition: Biodiversity, Rural Development and the Bottom Line' Parks face intense pressure from both environmental and developmental perspectives to conserve biodiversity and provide economic opportunities for rural communities. These imperatives are often in conflict, while potential solutions may be subject to theoretical and practical disagreement and complicated by pressing economic, political and cultural considerations.



Parks in Transition collects the work of the most distinguished scholars and practitioners in this field, drawing on insight from over 50 case studies and synthesizing them into lessons to guide park management in transitional economies where the challenges of poverty and governance can be severe. The central message of the book is that parks are common property regimes that are supposed to serve society. It analyzes and sheds light on the crucial questions arising from this perspective. If parks are set aside to serve poor people, should conservation demands over-rule demands for jobs and economic growth? Or will deliberately using parks as bridgeheads for better land use and engines for rural development produce more and better conservation? The issue that arises at all levels is that of accountability, including the problematic linkages between park authorities and political systems, and the question of how to measure park performance. This book provides vital new insights for park management, regarding the relationship between conservation and commercialization, performance management, new systems of governance and management, and linkages between parks, landscape and the land-use economy.



**DR. JOANN MOSSA INVITED TO GIVE TALKS AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

Dr. Joann Mossa recently gave two invited talks at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: Channel Changes in Disturbed River Floodplains, Southeastern United States: Analysis and Prospects, Invited speaker for University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Geography Colloquium Series, Yi Fu Tuan Lecture series, May 7, 2004 and Human Impacts in Rivers: What Makes an Interesting Study? Invited speaker for University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Geography, Brown Bag Talk, May 7, 2004



**DR. GRANT THRALL INVITED TO GIVE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA'S ANNUAL REGINALD G. GOLLEDGE DISTINGUISHED LECTURE**



DR. GRANT THRALL was invited to present the annual Reginald G. Golledge Distinguished Lecture to the Department of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara in May. The title of his presentation was "Business Geography of the GIS Industry." He also presented a luncheon address entitled "Spatial Intelligence in the Calculation of Absorption for Real Estate Market Analysis."



**DR. STEPHEN GOLANT INVITED TO WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY TO GIVE COLLOQUIUM FOR THE INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY.**



Dr. Stephen Golant presented on "Affordable Assisted Living for Frail Older Americans: Despite Need, Barriers Persist". INVITED paper delivered at the 2004-2005 Institute of Gerontology Colloquium Series at Wayne State University, Institute of Gerontology, Detroit, October 26, 2004



**DR. NIGEL SMITH AND DR. MICHAEL GOULDING RECEIVE \$2.4 MILLION RESEARCH GRANT FROM THE MOORE FOUNDATION TO STUDY CONSERVATION OF AMAZON AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY**

RESEARCH STUDY DESCRIPTION: Amazon headwaters are the least known parts of ecosystems in the Amazon Basin, yet they are vital to the life cycles of many fish important in commerce and subsistence as well as for many other aquatic resources, including fruits. Amazon headwaters are found in the Andes and on the ancient uplands called the Brazilian Shield and Guiana Shield. Ecologically Amazon headwaters also include the foreland areas within approximately 200 km of foothills or highlands. Considering the great changes now taking place in the Amazon Basin because of increased deforestation, mining, fisheries, dams and other economic developments there is an urgent need to better understand headwaters so that an upstream-downstream perspective is added to the conservation efforts now underway in the central Amazon. Without river basin management perspectives it will be difficult to design realistic initiatives to protect aquatic biodiversity and sustain the valuable commercial



fisheries. The main purpose of the Amazon Headwaters Program is to gather, integrate and synthesize critical ecological information that will help authorities design science-based conservation programs for Amazonian aquatic ecosystems. To achieve this goal we propose four principal initiatives over the next 3 years:

1. Ecology and sustainability of commercial fisheries
2. Andes-Amazon fish diversity and its conservation
3. Ecology and sustainability of sport fishing
4. River basin management



**DR. ABE GOLDMAN RECEIVES NSF AWARD FOR \$184,000 TO STUDY 'COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH: CONSEQUENCES OF PARKS FOR LAND USE, LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION, AND BIODIVERSITY IN EAST AFRICA'**



Co-PI's : Dr. Michael Binford, Dr. Jane Southworth, Dr. Lauren Chapman (Zoology) and Dr. Colin Chapman (Zoology), in collaboration with Dr. Paul Leslie at UNC Chapel Hill, and Dr. Terry McCabe from the University of Colorado at Boulder. The project will examine interactions among land use, land cover, people's livelihoods, and biodiversity in landscapes surrounding national parks in Tanzania and Uganda. Two complementary research questions are the focus of the project: (1) How does the presence of a park affect agricultural land use and other livelihood strategies surrounding the park? and (2) How do the extent, character and intensity of agriculture affect biodiversity outside the park, measured by the distribution of key indicator plant and animal taxa? It is an interdisciplinary study, utilizing social and biodiversity surveys, ethnographic tools, and analysis of

satellite imagery. The intellectual merit of this project lies in an enhanced understanding of population-environment relations and land-use/land cover change as these are influenced by proximity to protected areas -- relationships about which little is known but which are increasingly important. These issues crosscut concerns in geography, anthropology, ecology, and conservation biology.



**DRS. MIKE BINFORD, PETER WAYLEN & JANE SOUTHWORTH RECEIVE NSF AWARD OF \$300,000 OVER 3 YEARS TO STUDY "ECONOMIC GROWTH, SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA"**

Social inequality and cross-household variability of income growth in developing economies is larger than conventional economic factors can explain. Other factors, such as environmental, social, cultural, and historical variation, may interact with economic factors and affect households differentially, explaining inequality and a large amount of the residual variance in income growth. To test this hypothesis, we will examine these indirect economic factors and construct models of the rural, peri-urban, and national economies in Thailand and Cambodia, particularly in the Lower Mekong River Basin.



The proposed project builds on over 20 years of economic research in Thailand and nearly 10 years of collaboration among the principal investigators on conceptual issues relating to the integration of natural and social science approaches to social, economic, and environmental change. A new initiative to expand the research into Cambodia began in December 2003, with a program of environmental

research focused on water resources. We propose deployment of the methods and insights of the spatial social sciences, especially spatial statistics, analysis of remotely sensed images, development of GIS, and the testing and refinement of formal models based on new and existing empirical data sets. We emphasize the qualitative documentation and incorporation of social and cultural variation (historical ethnography) and historical trajectories (archival research) in the analysis of forces that have affected economic growth, the emergence or intensification of social inequality, and the dynamics of land-use and environmental change in Thailand and Cambodia.



**DR. JOANN MOSSA RECEIVES USGS AWARD FOR \$43,000 TO STUDY GEOSPATIAL ANALYSIS OF CHANNEL PLANFORM CHANGE IN MINED RIVER FLOODPLAINS: IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR RESOURCE EXTRACTION POLICY**

Dr. Joann Mossa recently received news of an accepted proposal, to start October 1st 2004 on Geospatial Analysis of Channel Planform Change in Mined River Floodplains: Impacts and Implications for Resource Extraction Policy, U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Resources Program, 2004 -2005, \$43,000 and also receives continued support for her ongoing projects on: Renewal of Interagency Agreement to Provide Technical Support to Water Use Data Management and Cartography, St. Johns River Water Management District, 2004 -2005, \$75,000 (added to 135,000 totaling \$210,000) and Geomorphic Assessment of Channel Changes Along Modified Floodplains: Pascagoula Basin, Mississippi: U.S. Department of Interior- U.S. Geological Survey, total exceeding \$180,000.



**DR. CESAR CAVIEDES WORK ON EL NIÑO FEATURED ON THE HISTORY CHANNEL**



A show produced by Kurtis Productions, Chicago, on the failed campaign of Napoleon to conquest Russia in 1812 due to adverse weather conditions at the aftermath of El Nino 1811-12, was aired by the History Channel, on Monday May 17th 2004. The story is based on a passage from the book "El Nino in History" and contains clips of the author, our very own Dr. Caviedas. The program was called "Napoleon's Mass Grave" and it aired as part of the "Investigating History" series on the History Channel.



**2004 MCQUOWN SCHOLARS NAMED: 2 GEOGRAPHERS AMONG THOSE HONORED**

The O. Ruth McQuown Scholarships honor CLAS female scholars in the humanities, social sciences, women's studies, and interdisciplinary majors in these areas. The award is named in honor of Ruth McQuown, the college's first female associate dean. Graduate and undergraduate women are selected based on their academic achievement and promise, and this year's winners are listed below.



**Graduate Recipients**  
**\$4,000-\$8,000**

Alisa Coffin, Geography

**Undergraduate Recipients**  
**\$1,000**

Cerian Gibbes, Geography



## 2004 RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN DUNKLE FELLOWSHIP AWARD



Nicholas Campiz was the 2004 recipient of the Dunkle Award. This award of \$1000 is made annually to an undergraduate Geography major who shows sustained academic excellence, involvement in departmental activities, leadership and strong promise for graduate study. This year was the third year this scholarship was awarded. Previous winners are Cerian Gibbes (2003) and Lila Schaller (2002).

(John Dunkle)



## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY SEEKING 2 NEW FACULTY

As a growing department we are currently seeking 2 new faculty. The first position, a GIS/ Computing Assistant Research Scientist is to replace a faculty member who is leaving. This person will help teach within the GIS specialization within the department. A second hire is a new position, a tenure track Climatologist, at the assistant or associate professor level, to link in well with the strong Physical Geography component within the Department. We look forward to successful hires in both these areas in 2005.



## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT T-SHIRT LOGO COMPETITION WINNERS

Due to the great designs submitted for the Spring T-shirt competition, we have selected not one, but two designs as winners. We will have one design on the front of the shirts (below left) and one design on the back (below right). The winners are: Nick Campiz (below left) and Steve Ulman (below right) each of whom will receive a \$100 cash prize. Congratulations! T-shirts will be available for purchase from the Geography department for a cost of \$15.00. These shirts are white, except for the designs and 100% cotton, available in S, M, L, XL. If interested please email Dr. Jane Southworth at: [jsouthwo@geog.ufl.edu](mailto:jsouthwo@geog.ufl.edu)



That's all from the Geography department so far in 2004. Please keep in touch and keep us informed of what you are up to.

**GO GATORS!!!**