

GEOGRAPHY NEWS

March/April 2010

Graduate School of Geography at Clark University

Inside this issue:

Spotlight On!

3

FALL 2010 NEW
COURSES

GOING IN DEPTH
WITH GRADUATE
STUDENTS

4

UNDERGRADUATE
HAPPENINGS

5

IMPORTANT DATES
FOR THE END OF
THE SEMESTER

6

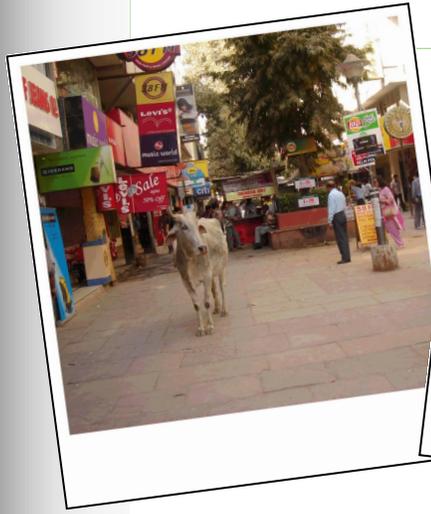
PUBLICATIONS

6



CONTENTS

MARCH/APRIL 2010



Geography News is published four times a year by the Graduate School of Geography.

Jefferson Academic Center, Room 220
Clark University
950 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01610
508.793.7336
[Visit us on the web!](#)

Jody Emel

Director

Yuko Aoyama

*Associate Director
& Editor of*

[Economic Geography](#)

Jean Heffernan

Assistant to the Director

Brenda Nikas-Hayes

Graduate Admissions

Katie Shepard

Office Coordinator

Somer Jones

Undergraduate Assistant

Questions or comments
about the newsletter email
sjones@clarku.edu



3 SPOTLIGHT ON:
New Courses Fall 2010

4 GOING IN DEPTH WITH
GRADUATE STUDENTS:
Interview with Seth
Schindler

5 UNDERGRADUATE
HAPPENINGS:
GTU Induction Ceremony
Congratulations Seniors

6 IMPORTANT DATES &
PUBLICATIONS
Clark and Rutgers AAG Party
Latest faculty publications

Cover and this page photographs by Seth Schindler, PhD student whose research focuses on the economic challenges facing developing cities in India; see the feature *Going in Depth with Graduate Students*, page 4

GEOG028 Discover Worcester/ First Year Seminar

Prof. Deb Martin will teach a new undergraduate first year seminar that focuses on the city of Worcester.

What is this city of Worcester? Discover it! In this class, we will explore and learn about Worcester using a variety of lenses: field trips, historical accounts and documents, contemporary statistical data, and scholarly analyses of broader US urban trends. We will visit cultural institutions such as the Art Museum, document social life via photography of streets and parks, and learn about the city from local experts. At the end of the course, you will be able to describe and critically assess Worcester in terms of US urban development, institutional and neighborhood resources, and your own experiences of its many landscapes. The course fulfills the Historical Perspective.

Same Course - New Name:

*Prof. Chris William's course GEOG283/333

Land Atmosphere Interactions will now be **Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology and the Atmosphere**

*Prof. Dianne Rocheleau's seminar GEOG 335

Social Forestry and Development will now be **Agroforestry/Community Forestry/Agro-Ecologies**

GEOG070 Protecting the Planet with Maps / First Year Seminar

Conservation of land is big business because land protection has a profound influence on management of water, biodiversity, greenhouse gasses, erosion, recreation, and economic development. Humans make high-stakes decisions daily concerning which activities will be allowed on which types of lands. Clark graduates have earned a reputation for being leaders in this exciting and controversial field. Technology and quantitative analysis are essential tools to guide these decisions. Clark University is the only university to produce commercial software for Geographic Information Science (GIS). Our software, called Idrisi (www.clarklabs.org), enables users to analyze digital maps for a variety of purposes, in particular for protection of land. Students will use this GIS software and perform quantitative analysis in spreadsheets to examine applications to land protection. Mr. Pontius/Offered Periodically

Oldies but Goodies:

(Familiar courses that have not been taught in a while)

*Graduate Student Marco Millones will teach:

GEOG087 Introduction to Environmental Information Systems

*Part-time lecturer Prof. Thomas Webler will teach:

GEOG180 The Earth Transformed by Human Action

*Prof. Emel will teach:

GEOG237/337Feminism, Nature and Culture

GEOG172 City Planet: Urban Challenges in a Globalized World

Prof. Mark Davidson will introduce a new undergraduate course focusing on the growth of the urban population as it becomes the majority around the world.

We now live on a City Planet: the majority of the world's population are 'urbanite' and their numbers continue to grow. Yet this symbolic tipping point in human settlement comes with significant challenges. Most people within this urban majority live in 'slums' with many of the economic and cultural opportunities associated with cities in western thought being pure fantasy in the face of daily struggles for survival. Furthermore, given cities are the primary emitters of greenhouse gases, all urban dwellers

are united, if not equally, in being responsible for climate change and its potential mediation. This course examines the emergence of a City Planet through: an examination of the ways in which geographers have understood cities and their relationships in an era of globalization; the tracing of global urban relations with respect to capital, labor, communications and culture; and the consideration to two of the major challenges currently faced: growing social inequalities and mounting sustainability requirements. Fulfills the Global Comparative (GP) requirements

For a complete listing of Geography Courses being offered Fall 2010, visit the [Registrar's Office](#)

GOING IN DEPTH WITH GRADUATE STUDENTS:

DIFFERENT STUDENTS DIFFERENT RESEARCH

Seth Schindler is a graduate student who came to Clark in 2008 with a MA in global studies from University of Freiburg where he was able to first travel to India and where he hopes to one day return.

Can you describe your background and what your research focuses on?

Broadly speaking, I am interested in globalization, development and urbanization. My MA was in global studies, and it was a very interdisciplinary course, which allowed me to research the sociological, economic and political aspects of globalization. I was drawn to geography because I am able to incorporate insights from all of these disciplines, and apply useful concepts like place, space and scale.

When did you first travel to India and what triggered your interest in the country?

In 2006, as part of my MA course I studied in Delhi and enjoyed living there so much that I stayed after the semester was over and interned with UNICEF. I was drawn to India because of its fascinating contradictions. For example,

the built infrastructure in parts of Delhi and Mumbai is modern to the point of looking futuristic, while traditional social structures such as caste remain the organizing logic of the society in many areas.

What is the goal of your research now as a PhD student?

Currently, I am focusing on the informal economy in Delhi. There are over 500,000 street vendors and hawkers, but Wal-Mart and other transnational retailers have recently entered the market. A few years ago the Delhi municipal government attempted to ban hawkers and vendors from public space, but there were demonstrations and ultimately the police fired on a crowd, killing 3 and injuring more than 40. There has been an uneasy truce between the state and informal retailers since then, but last year the mayor of Delhi announced plans to create a database of all hawkers and vendors, using biometric data (such as a retina scan). My goal now is to study how this combined economic and political pressure affects the livelihoods of Delhi's hawkers and vendors, and how they adapt to this changing environment and resist.

"I was drawn to India for it's fascinating contradictions...Delhi and Mumbai are modern to the point of looking futuristic, while traditional social structures such as caste remain the organizing logic of the society in many areas."

Undergraduate Happenings:

Gamma Theta Upsilon:

Induction Ceremony

Recognized for their high academic standing and their interest in the field of geography, undergraduates of geography, ges and es/ess were inducted into to GTU on March 24, 2010. The department would like to again recognize and congratulate these students on becoming members and part of the GTU tradition at Clark, *Justin Boyle, Emily Cross, Deanna Goldner, Claire Griffin, Thomas Hamill, Emma Jones, Holly Jones, Angela Marshall, Claudia Olcese Lira, Callista Perry, Nicole Plummer, Nicholas Rossi, Andrew Shatz, Kristen Travis, Cassandra Volatile-Wood.*



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2010

CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS

The Geography department congratulates the class of 2010 and is proud of all the graduating seniors in geography, ges and es/ess. Whether they continue here at Clark as a master's student, pursue a graduate degree, enter the work force, or follow another path, these students leave the department with a great education, experience and foundation for the future. The department would like to wish all of its graduates much success and happiness and extend a big congratulations. So throw your hat up in the air, hug your parents, hug your friends, shake your professors hands and celebrate!

Congratulations:

Geography: *Yael Bassal, Jason Black, Emma Britton, Timothy Cole, Meagan Covino, Anna Creedon, Micah Gensler, Claire Griffin, Celina Grisi, Thomas Hamill, Edward Hannigan, James Higby, Phoebe Livingston, Christian Ludwell, Yuki Ota, Jacob Paisner, Nicole Plummer, Rebecca Ravitch, Brenna Schwert, Zachary Silverman, Kristin Travis, T. Max Wright, and Boyd Zapatka*
Global Environmental Studies: *Emily Cross, Sasha Gerhardson, Jennifer Hanlon, Nora Oliver, Gabriela Ranzi, Anna Rosofsky, Fiona Stirling, Ashley Trull, Jessica Whitney*
Environmental Science (with Earth System Science Track): *Blaize Denfeld*

Special Congrats :

Claire Griffin will be working on a PhD on Arctic river biogeochemistry at the University of Texas, Marine Science Institute

Blaize Denfeld, Brenna Schwert, Boyd Zapatka, Thomas Hamill, and T. Max Wright will all be staying at Clark for the 5th year program in GIS science.

Boyd Zapatka will also spend the summer working for the USGS on an [Arctic LTER](#) project in northern Alaska.

Edward Hannigan will continue at Clark in the 5th year CDP program

Rebecca Ravitch will be teaching English in Costa Rica

Nicole Plummer will pursue a master's in elementary education with Clark's 5th yr. Master's in teaching program.

Anna Rosofsky will continue at Clark as a 5th yr. student in ES&P

CLARK & RUTGERS

AAG PARTY

DATE: THURSDAY
4/15/2010
TIME: 7:30PM

REGIONAL FOOD
AND DRINK
810 7th Street
Northwest
Washington, D.C.
20001

www.lovethebeer.com



IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 29TH: APRIL 2ND: ADVISING WEEK

APRIL 5-12TH: WEB REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2010

APRIL 14-18TH : AAGS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

APRIL 15TH: CLARK & RUTGERS AAG PARTY @ RFD 7:30PM

APRIL 28TH: ACADEMIC SPREE DAY

MAY 3RD: LAST DAY OF CLASSES

MAY 4-5TH: READING DAYS

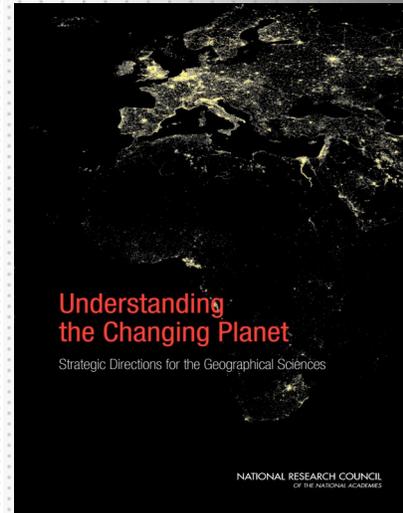
MAY 6-7TH, 10-11TH: FINAL EXAMS

MAY 23RD: COMMENCEMENT

*RECEPTION FOLLOWING IN THE

GEOGRAPHY COMMONS*

Publications



Professors Colin Polsky and Susan Hanson are contributing authors to the just released National Research Council book titled, Understanding the changing planet: strategic directions for the geographical sciences.

Look for it on Amazon!