

Department of Geography & Planning Newsletter



Volume 4: Winter 2008

Contents:

[Department News](#)

[Faculty News](#)

[Irvine, S. Vermette,](#)
[Tang, Frothingham,](#)
[Mix, Vanchan, V. Vermette,](#)
[Holmgren, Roehm, Wieczorek](#)

[Student News](#)

[Alumni News](#)

Message from the Chair

This is my last message for the department's newsletter, as I wrap up my nine year stint as chair at the end of the spring, 2009 semester. The department continues to develop in vibrant new directions and occupies a strong position in the college, even in these times of budgetary challenge. With our new, young, and energetic faculty,

the department is well positioned to be a leader in teaching and research related to water resources, meteorology and climatology, GIS, planning, and industrial and economic geography. The minor in GIS has been approved and was initiated this semester; more about the minor can be found on the department's website: <http://www.buffalostate.edu/geography/x798.xml>. We continue to develop our international opportunities with the start of the Center for Southeast Asia Environment and Sustainable Development: <http://www.rf.buffalostate.edu/international-initiatives/101-the-center-for-southeast-asia-environment-and-sustainable-development.html>. Prospective majors that I meet frequently indicate these international experiences are one thing that attracts them to our program. The department also welcomed Dr. Charlotte Roehm this semester. Dr. Roehm has a half time appointment with us and half time with the Great Lakes Center and her research and

teaching interests are described in this volume of the newsletter. So, as I return to being a regular member of the department, I see only good things in our future.

On a sadder note, Robert Lord, instructor of Niagara County Community College's new geographic information system program, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes Saturday, August 30, 2008. Rob recently played a role in developing NCCC's GIS 29-credit hour certificate program for careers in geospatial science, remote sensing, image interpretation and global position system mapping. He also had been a part time instructor for our department in recent years and had a long tradition of involvement with Stephen Vermette and the New York Geographic Alliance. Rob enthusiastically promoted "Geography" and was instrumental in directing a number of NCCC graduates to complement their four year degree with us. Rob will be greatly missed.

Department News

Celebrating an Anniversary

Stephen Vermette

The Fall '08 weekend caving trip marks the 10th anniversary of Cavern Studies (GEG 120, 1-credit) at Buffalo State. Over these 10 years Dr. Stephen Vermette and Ms. Karen Wehn (Earth Sciences and Science Education) have traveled over 12,000 miles, crawled through narrow passages, climbed over breakdown, and looked in awe at beautiful drip stone formations with over 150 students. The caves studied are located in Pennsylvania and Virginia, and offer the students a variety of experiences and skills including: basic geology, cave morphology, surveying and mapping, cave climatology, and maintenance of a field book. The course is open to, and attracts, students from all disciplines. For most it is their first introduction to caves, and for many it is their first geography course. From time-to-time I hear from former students and Cavern

Studies comes up in conversation as a memorable and positive college experience. Two comments from this past year's trip are noted below:

"...I feel like I learned so much more than I would have if I was sitting in a class looking at power point presentations. The best part was that we had fun while we learned. Although people say "learning is fun", it usually isn't, but not in this case..."

"Overall, the trip was enjoyable and has sparked a new interest in my life"

This year's trip attracted 16 students and was partially supported by the School of Natural and Social Sciences (SNSS) and the Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists (BAPG). Jessica Bakert (trip participant and geography major) presented a trip report and poster at the BAPG November, 2008 dinner meeting -- thank you

Jessica. And thank you to all the students who, over the years, participated in Cavern Studies.



Cavern Studies 2008 Group



NSF Sponsored Field Research

Through funding from the National Science Foundation, Kim Irvine and Stephen Vermette, in collaboration with Doug Graber Neufeld (Eastern Mennonite University, EMU), took 6 undergraduate students (3 from Buffalo, 3 from EMU) to Cambodia and Thailand for a 6 week research experience in May and June. The objective of the project is to provide U.S. undergraduates with research experience pertaining to the scientific and social aspects of sustainable and technologically-appropriate wastewater treatment practices and assessment of drinking water quality. Teams of two students worked directly with faculty, students, and staff at one of three research nodes, Asian Institute of Technology (Bangkok), Royal University of Phnom Penh (Cambodia), or Resource Development International – Cambodia (district of Kean Svay, Cambodia). Each of the students ultimately presented the results of their research at the Middle States Division, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Millersville, PA.



Allison Glick lived with a Khmer family during her research experience in Phnom Penh.



Lauren Schifferle sampling treated wastewater as part of her experiments into nitrogen transformation in constructed wetlands on the AIT campus.



Matt Cutolo installing a meteorologic station on the roof of the Royal University of Phnom Penh.



Myrta See with Mr. Narong Surinkul of AIT touring a wastewater treatment wetland in Thailand.



"The Group", left to right, Cesar Hernandez, Stephen Vermette, Lauren Schifferle, Myrta See, Matt Cutolo, Mr. Phros (our moto driver in Phnom Penh), Laura Cattell, and Allison Glick.

Meteorology & Climatology News

The Meteorology and Climatology Program has grown over the past year with respect to the number of students and activities offered. Both Camille Holmgren (Assistant Professor) and Chesley McNeil (lecturer) have created new courses (Global Change, Paleoclimatology, and Severe and Unusual Weather, respectively). The Weather Forecasting class, taught by Chesley McNeil, was our largest ever!

On February 1st we took our 3rd annual pilgrimage to Punxsutawney, PA to witness the prognostications of Punxsutawney Phil.

A number of students took advantage of the leap year's extra day (February, 2008), to be trained as spotters for Skywarn™, a national network of hazardous weather spotters who provide real time weather information to the NWS. Storm spotters are an integral part of the NWS warning decision making process. We thank Judith Levan, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service, for providing the training.

The speaker series 'Talking of Weather' allowed us to host a 'Lunch with Don Paul' where Don Paul (meteorologist with WIVB-TV) shared weather stories and plans for the Buffalo Weather Experience Center. Tom Niziol (Meteorologist-in-Charge at the Buffalo Office) presented a talk that introduced students to the National Weather Service and modern forecasting techniques. The 'Picture Perfect Weather' contest netted three student winners – Robert Kupiec, Christina Rua, and Derek Kelly. The 'Talk of Weather' series was sponsored by the Faculty-Student Association and the

Department of Geography and Planning. Additional funding for 'Lunch with Don Paul' was provided by the Center for Health and Social Research – thank you.

On June 8 2008 the NWS held an open house. Buffalo State's Meteorology and Climatology Program was well represented by meteorology students Christopher Cramer and Christina Rua who both maintained our booth and helped with a NWS hail survey – thank you.

Please visit our web site:

http://geographyplanning.buffalostate.edu/_weatherpage.htm

Christopher Cramer is recognized as the BSC 2007-2008 Snowspotter



Kim Irvine had a busy year in the field, both locally and in Southeast Asia. Locally, in collaboration with Dr. Vemette and Mary Rossi of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, he completed a second year of sampling as part of a demonstration project funded by the U.S. EPA to detect illicit sanitary connections to stormwater drains. He also continued work on modeling sediment erosion in the Cayuga Creek (Niagara County) watershed, funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and on a pollution prevention project for the hospitality sector (funded by the U.S. EPA), in collaboration with the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning and the Hospitality and Tourism Department at Buffalo State. He began a new project this summer, *Phase 2 Long Term Control Plan Receiving Water Quality Sampling Program*, under a contract from Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. and the Buffalo Sewer Authority.

In Southeast Asia, Dr. Irvine has nearly completed the work on the International Foundation for Science/Swedish International Development Cooperation

Agency (IFS/SIDA) project that evaluates the role of Phnom Penh's wetlands in sustainably treating sewage discharges to the Mekong/Bassac River system. He continues to work with Dr. Jeff Richey, University of Washington, on a project that evaluates primary productivity in the lower Mekong River and Tonle Sap Lake. As part of his collaborative NSF project, he, Dr. Vemette, and Dr. Doug Graber Neufeld (Eastern Mennonite University) took six undergraduate students (three from Buffalo, three from Virginia) to Cambodia and Thailand for a 6 week research experience in May and June.



Innovative sun protection doing field work with long time Cambodian friend, Phors.

Results of Dr. Irvine's IFS/SIDA project are starting to be presented and published:



Illicit sanitary connection trackdown study

Irvine, K.N., M. Sampson, T. Visoth, M. Yim, K. Veasna, T. Koottatep, and J. Rupp. In press. Spatial patterns of *E. coli* and detergents in the Boeng Cheung Ek treatment wetland, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. *The 6th International Symposium on Southeast Asia Water Environment*, Bandung, Indonesia.

Yim, M., S. Vathna, and K. Irvine. In press. Storm and dry weather water quality characteristics in the Phnom Penh combined sewer system. *The 6th International Symposium on Southeast Asia Water Environment*, Bandung, Indonesia.

Stephen Vemette has worked on a number of projects over the past year. During the summer he worked with Kim Irvine and Mary Rossi (and students) on a demonstration project funded by the U.S. EPA to detect illicit sanitary connections to stormwater drains. Overseas, working with Kim Irvine and Doug Graber Neufeld (Eastern Mennonite University - EMU), with funding from the National Science Foundation, Stephen helped direct six students (Cesar Hernandez and Matt Cutolo from BSC) on a summer undergraduate research experience focusing on sustainable sanitation and water quality in Cambodia and Thailand. This effort included a trip to EMU to assist students with writing a paper and giving a conference presentation, and concluded with student research presentations at the Middle States Geography Conference in Millersville, PA. While in Cambodia, a series of meetings and projects were undertaken, including the maintenance of weather stations, and assisting Joel Bernosky (graduate student) with his field work.

In Western New York three major projects were completed over the past year. Working with Tom Nizio from the National Weather Service (assisted by students Joseph Drakes and previously Brian Gorenstein) on a NOAA funded project, he assessed rainfall from

archived radar images with bacteria levels at bathing beaches in Erie County. One conclusion of the project was that the ½ inch rule (close beaches after 0.5 inches of rain in a 24 hour period) missed about 50% of the high bacterial level events. Working with Sheila Christopher (Great Lakes Center) Stephen related Freezing Degree Days (FDDs) with soil freezing depths in a forested watershed. One finding was that the rate of FDDs accumulation was a better predictor of freezing depth than the total number of accumulated FDDs. Lastly, cave climatology research at Laurel Caverns, PA (with Lisa Hall of Laurel Caverns) concluded with a year-long record of the cave's temperature and relative humidity. Temperatures accurately reflected the average outdoor climatology and lighting / tours had only a minimum impact on cave temperatures. An interesting puzzle was a rise in cave temperatures of ~4°F over a two day period that could not be explained.

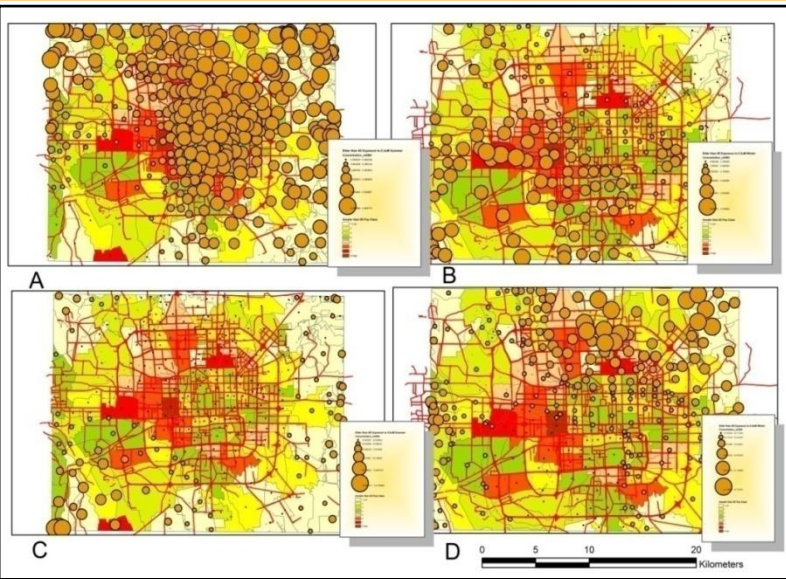
Stephen recently resigned as Co-coordinator of the New York Geographic Alliance (NYGA), but did accept a position as 'Geographer-in-Residence' with the Alliance. Stephen also continues to serve as Co-editor of the journal 'Middle States Geographer' with Kelly Frothingham.



Downloading temperatures in a forested watershed.

Stephen has been invited to, and has accepted, an advisory role on the Science Sub-committee under the Exhibits Group, with the planned Buffalo Weather Experience Center (BWEC).

Tao Tang conducted field research of air particle pollutions and GIS analysis of spatial distribution of human exposure to air pollution in the urban area of Beijing, China. He also traveled to the epicenter region of 2008 great Sichuan Earthquake. The study is to investigate the spatial distributions of property damages and destructions applying GIS and remote sensing.



Examples of elderly people exposure to air particle pollution: (A). PM0.3 in summer; (B). PM0.3 in winter; (C). PM 5.0 in summer; and (D). PM 5.0 in winter.



Field survey of air particle concentrations



Devastation from the Sichuan earthquake.



Kelly Frothingham served as Department Chair over the summer while Dr. Kim Irvine traveled extensively in Asia working on his various research projects. She took advantage of writing the annual report by really learning about what everyone in the Department is doing. She found that people were very busy over the last year and that the Department continues to be extremely productive. She also honed her academic advising skills advising the twelve or so new geography and planning majors that attended summer orientation sessions. In addition to acting as Department Chair, Dr. Frothingham participated in the

Engineering for Stream Ecosystem Restoration Summer Workshop Series offered through the Great Lakes Program at UB. The entire series is three weeks long. Dr. Frothingham attended the one-week workshop on river processes and was invited to give a presentation entitled "Topics in River Assessment and Management" at the end of that workshop. Lastly, Dr. Frothingham had her first graduate student working through the Multidisciplinary Studies program graduate this summer. Ms. Mary Jo Crance finished her thesis on the influence of ice cover on stream hydrology. Dr. Frothingham would like to say congratulations to Mary Jo!

Dr. Frothingham is teaching GEG 421/521 Watershed Analysis this fall. The seven undergraduate and two graduate students enrolled in this hands-on course are learning about watershed management from a fluvial geomorphological perspective and performing a baseline assessment of physical, biological, and water quality characteristics in Cayuga Creek in Niagara County. Dr. Frothingham is also teaching BSC 101 Foundations of Inquiry again this fall. The course is for incoming freshman and it covers critical thinking, the liberal arts, and research.



Students on the Cayuga Creek Watershed Analysis field trip.

Wende Mix The new minor in GIS was approved by the President. So, in the Spring of 2008 Dr. Mix taught an Advanced GIS course required for the minor. One project for this class gave students the opportunity to create map based quizzes for middle school students in ArcGIS using their newly acquired programming skills. Dr. Mix continues to teach the GIS fundamentals class in the summer to fully immerse students in the technology and science.

Dr. Mix introduced personal response devices (clickers) in her Urban Geography course. Questions are embedded into lecture slides to gauge students understanding of the material in real time. Use of these devices resulted in significantly better attendance and grades .

Dr. Mix served as a faculty mentor for two students participating in the 2008 Student Research and Creativity Celebration. Jacqueline Walters, who is working toward a Masters in biology, presented "A Biotelemetric Study of the Thermal Ecology, Behavior, and Home Range Movements of Diamondback Terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*) in Barnegat Bay, New Jersey". William Maryniewski, a senior in Geography

Faculty News

& Planning presented "An Examination of Incoming Freight from Canada in a Post September 11th Era". Another of Dr. Mix's students, Jennifer Veith, helped develop an online survey of downtown parking needs in collaboration with Buffalo Place, Inc.

Dr. Mix presented a paper entitled "House Flipping and Neighborhood Change" at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Boston, MA.

With help from Dr. Marian Deutschman, director of the Community Partnerships Office at BSC, Dr. Mix worked with the a subcommittee of Transportation and Planning Stakeholders to develop a proposal

PLN 412 students take a tour of historic buildings in the Black Rock neighborhood. Leading the tour were Bill Parke from the City of



Buffalo's Office of Strategic Planning (not shown) and Warren Glover (right) from the Black Rock/Riverside Good Neighbors Planning Alliance (GNPA).

for continuing education courses for local planning and zoning board members. The proposal is in the process of being coordinated with a proposed education program for newly elected government officials. Courses in the combined program will provide executive and technical level training for legislators, appointed board members, and certified practicing planners in western New York.

Dr. Mix's Community Service activities continue. This fall the Planning 412 class has opportunities to work with two local planning groups in Black Rock and North Buffalo on a variety of projects.



Vida Vanchan In the fall of 2007, Dr. Vanchan received a travel grant from the Industry Studies Committee and was invited to give a presentation

on one of her papers on industrial design firms at the 54th Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International in Savannah, Georgia. She also served as mentor for a PhD student, Huilin

Ren, from School of Economics at Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing, China for one year (September 2007-2008). With the assistance of Mr. Ren, she recently finished a project on the competitive dynamics of Chinese industrial design firms in the summer of this year by surveying the industrial firms in China.

In the summer of 2008, Dr. Vanchan received a site visit grant from a renowned organization, Alfred P Sloan Foundation, to continue her research on US industrial design firms. Furthermore, she and Dr. Stephen Vermette have received a Research Incentive Award from the Research and Creativity Council to work on their project of promoting geographic curriculum and education in developing countries. They will be travelling to Cambodia in January of 2009 to work on this project.

Dr. Vanchan recently published three papers in refereed journals on the industrial design firms and industry, i.e., communication and relationships with customers, recent growth, and competitive characteristics of US design firms. The list is below:

Vanchan, V. (2007) Communication and relationships between industrial design companies and their customers. *The Industrial Geographer*, 4(2): 28-46.

Vanchan, V. and MacPherson, A. (2008) The recent growth performance of U.S. firms in the industrial design sector: an exploratory study. *Industry and Innovation*, 15(1): 1-17.

Vanchan, V. and MacPherson, A. (2008) The competitive characteristics of US firms in the industrial design sector: empirical evidence from a national survey. *Competition and Change*, 12(3): 262-280.

Veryan Vermette this summer, again spent the month of July volunteering in Poland with the Kosciuszko Foundation's Teaching English in Poland program. It was a delightful, culturally enlightening, and rewarding four weeks. The main goal of the program is to improve the conversational English-speaking ability of Polish youth. The 100+ students at 'my' camp in Przytok were of greatly mixed English-speaking abilities and came from all walks of life in Poland. My lessons were based on geographical themes: culture, topography, cartography, weather and climate, and environmental concerns. The students enjoyed producing maps of our camp, and creating and

presenting their own weather forecasts. In 2009, I will return to Przytok as camp director. If you are interested in being a TEIP teacher or a student teaching assistant, or you would like more information about the TEIP program, please view the website at

<http://www.kosciuszkofoundation.org/educational.html>. You may also contact me in the Geography and Planning Department at vermetvg@buffalostate.edu for information and with donations. Many thanks for the donation of gifts/prizes to the TEIP program that came from Buffalo State College's Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Evergreen, Orientation and New Student Programs, and the Residence Life Office.



Professor Vermette on the job in Poland.



Camille Holmgren

continued her research activities in the southwestern deserts. She is completing research on the

long-term vegetation history of Joshua Tree National Park and presented her findings in a lecture to park staff and community members at the Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park and also gave a talk on this work at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Boston this past spring. Her findings suggest that vegetation within the park has been relatively stable since the end of the last glacial period, with several modern species including Joshua Tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) present in the park since 13,880 years before present. In contrast, species indicative of summer rainfall arrive later than in areas to the south and east, suggesting a delayed onset of warm-season monsoonal precipitation.

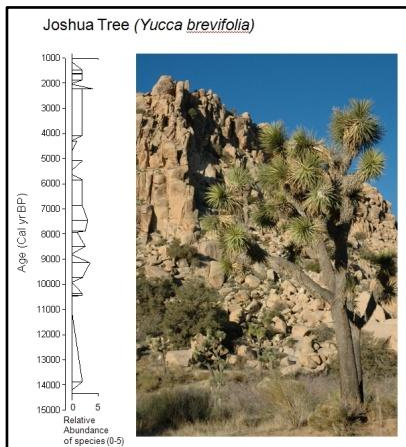
Dr. Holmgren is now beginning a project investigating how vegetation and climate have changed in northern Baja California over the past ~30,000 years. Her other

research activities have included setting up her lab at Buffalo State College, ongoing collaboration with colleagues at Yale University exploring the use of plant biomarkers from packrat middens, and submittal of a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation with Dr. Daniel Potts (Biology Department, Buffalo State College) to investigate the use of specific leaf area (leaf area / leaf mass) from fossil leaves preserved in middens to determine how leaf morphology has changed in response to moisture stress.

Dr. Holmgren also published two articles during the past year. She authored an invited paper reviewing a climatic oscillation that occurred during the deglaciation at the end of the last ice age: Holmgren, C.A. 2007. Paleoenvironmental response of the northern Chihuahuan Desert to the Bølling/Allerød-Younger Dryas climatic oscillation. *Current Research in the Pleistocene* 24, 7-10 and was lead author on a paper investigating the vegetation history of the northern Atacama Desert: Holmgren, C. A., Rosello, E., Latorre, C., and Betancourt, J. L. 2008. Late Holocene fossil rodent middens from the Arica region of

northernmost Chile. *Journal of Arid Environments* 72, 677-686.

Dr. Holmgren has also been busy developing and teaching new courses to strengthen the Meteorology and Climatology minor. These courses include Global Change, Paleoclimatology, and Biogeography.



Plant fossil abundance through time for joshua tree showing its presence in Joshua Tree National Park since 13,800 years before present.

Charlotte Roehm joined the department and Great Lakes Center this summer. She did her PhD in the Department of Geography at McGill University in Montreal Canada, working on the hydrology and biogeochemistry of carbon dynamics in northern peatlands. During her PhD she spent one year in Germany working at the Hydrology Department of the University of Bayreuth. After completing her PhD she took a Postdoc position in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Quebec in Montreal where she worked on the spatial and temporal dynamics of carbon dioxide and oxygen in temperate lakes. Meanwhile, she taught Environmental Hydrology at McGill University and, concurrently, worked as a consultant on several projects looking at the impacts of turbines on greenhouse gas emission inventories from hydroelectric reservoirs in Boreal Quebec, as well as the impact of reservoir creation on the transformation of carbon stocks under land use change. Dr. Roehm was co-editor of the book "Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Fluxes and Processes, Hydroelectric Reservoirs and Natural Environments." and contributed a Chapter on wetlands in the book entitled "Respiration in Freshwater Ecosystems".

In 2006, Dr. Roehm was appointed adjunct professor to the Department of Geography, UQAM. During this time she also worked, and still does, on a project based in the Canadian Arctic where she is looking at the geochemistry of massive ice and at the hydrology and geomorphology of thermokarst features in permafrost regions in order to identify processes and landforms that can be used as analogues for landforms observed on Mars. Following this post-doc Dr. Roehm took up a research position at the Climate Impacts Research Center in Abisko, arctic Sweden, where she was studying the impact of permafrost degradation on the metabolism of aquatic microbial communities and consequent impact on the transfer and transformation of carbon and nutrients between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and ultimately the exchange of greenhouse gases with the atmosphere. Additionally, she uses lake sediments as records to infer past processes and the timing of permafrost degradation along altitudinal and latitudinal gradients Dr. Roehm is still currently working on a project with the Center. During her time in Sweden she was involved in teaching several courses in Alpine and Arctic ecology and geoecology and was responsible for several student projects. Currently, in her

new joint position between Geography and Planning and the Great Lakes Center here at Buffalo State she is interested in pursuing international collaborative projects, but will be focusing mostly on the impacts of climate change on the hydrodynamics and organic/inorganic cycling of C in the Great Lakes. Dr. Roehm looks forward to fostering national and international research initiatives aimed at involving students at Buffalo State in interdisciplinary projects. She is teaching courses in Soil Science and Management and Wetland Hydrology.



Charlotte sampling water chemistry in a lake in the Swedish arctic



Charlotte with students coring for ice in an exposed pingo in the Canadian arctic

William Wiczorek Professor of Geography and Planning, is the Director of the Center for Health and Social Research at Buffalo State

(<http://www.buffalostate.edu/centers/chsr/>).

This past year the Center celebrated its tenth anniversary at Buffalo State with an event held in the Geography and Planning Department facilities. Department Chair Kim Irvine was honored by the Center for his continuing support (see accompanying photo). Without the support of the Department, especially Dr. Raymond Waxmonsky at the time of its initiation, it

Faculty News

would not have been possible for the Center to succeed. Dr. Wieczorek and the Center continue to collaborate on a number of projects, such as the evaluation of the NSF-supported student research program in Southeast Asia.



Drs. Irvine & Wieczorek at CHSR celebration.

During this past year, Dr. Wieczorek was busy working on numerous projects, presenting papers, and publishing results. In addition to his reviews for the NIH Behavioral Genetics and Epidemiology Review Committee, Dr. Wieczorek reviewed grants on translational research to reduce crashes for teenage drivers for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and for the developmental centers program for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

A number of grants and contracts were awarded to Dr. Wieczorek and the Center. These include several National Institutes of Health projects on such topics as alcohol/drug-impaired driving, developmental processes affecting the problem behaviors among children/adolescents, and suicide in China. Many of these projects have specific geographic components, such as measuring access to emergency care, developing and testing alternative definitions of neighborhoods, and recruiting a sample of families that have specific geographic and socioeconomic characteristics.

Dr. Wieczorek and Alan Delmerico (a GIS analyst at the Center and an adjunct instructor in Geography and Planning) are working with colleagues at the University of Rochester and Harvard University on a joint paper that includes geographically-based measures to predict depressive symptoms in an elderly population sample. Dr. Wieczorek also presented research papers at the Research Society on Alcoholism annual conference in Washington DC on the initiation of drinking-driving behavior, at the annual meeting of the Association of

American Geographers in Boston on spatial aspects of diabetes, and at COMPSTAT 2008 in Porto, Portugal on computational and spatial models. The COMPSTAT 2008 utilized conditioned choropleth mapping to identify areas that raise innovative hypotheses because they do not fit the standard associational model.

Middle States Division, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Middle States Division, Association of American Geographers was held at Millersville University, Pennsylvania, on November 7 and 8, 2008, and Buffalo State was very well represented this year. Oral presentations were made by all of the students who participated in the NSF Thai/Cambodia undergraduate research program this summer. Oral presentations also were made by Ratchadawan Ngoen-klan (visiting Ph.D. student from Chiang Mai University) and Joseph Gould. Poster presentations were made by Stephen Vermette and Sheila Christopher; Amy Krueger and Kelly Frothingham; and Kim Irvine, Mickey Sampson, Tiev Visoth, Mongtoeun Yim, Kum

Student News

Veasna, Thammarat Kootatep, and Julie Rupp. Conference abstracts can be found at: <http://departments.bloomu.edu/geo/msd/Abstracts2008.pdf>.



Middle States AAG Presenters:
Back: Stephen Vermette, Allison Glick (Eastern Mennonite University), Doug Graber Neufeld (Eastern Mennonite University), Cesar Hernandez (Buffalo State); Middle: Myrta See (Bridgewater College), Ratchadawan Ngoen-klan, Kim Irvine; Front: Matt Cutolo (Buffalo State), Lauren Schifferle (University at Buffalo), Laura Cattell (Eastern Mennonite University).

Apple in the field with Mary Rossi, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning

Department Hosts Student from Thailand

Ms. Ratchadawan Ngoen-klan (we all know her as Apple), a Ph.D. student from the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, is spending six months in our department as part of her Royal Golden Jubilee (RGJ) scholarship from the government of Thailand. Apple and her supervisor, Dr. Kom Sukontason, have worked with Dr. Irvine and several Buffalo State undergraduates on various environmental projects in Thailand and Cambodia over the past four years. In Buffalo, Apple will get advanced training in water quality assessment, GIS, and pollution prevention for the hospitality sector. Also as part of the RGJ program, Dr. Sukontason will visit the department in the fall, 2008 semester, and Dr. Irvine will visit Chiang Mai in 2009 and 2010.



"Little Apple" exploring the Big Apple

Exchange Students The geography and planning department is hosting two exchange students from Manchester Metropolitan University this year. Alysa Kirkcaldy and Victoria Pollard, are both Physical Geography students who recently went on caving field course with Stephen Vermette.



Alysa and Victoria exploring a cave.



Student Awards The 2008 student award winners were:

- Katheryne T. Whittemore Award – Craig Lewis & William Maryniewski
- Western NY APA Award – Michael Parker
- NCGE Award in Geography – Brian Gorenstein
- NCGE Award in Planning – Joseph Drakes
- David Bullough Memorial Award – James Manzione
- Chair’s Discretion Award – Kerry Kleinfelder

Please visit our [web site](#) for more information.



There is a new face to meteorology on campus. Those gatherings in room A205 have netted a new Meteorology Club, recognized by Buffalo State.

Hopefully we will here more of their activities in upcoming newsletters.

Thanks to all Alumni who responded to our newsletters. Here is a sample of what you have told us about your

careers and lives.

Brian Gorenstein writes: At the Pratt Center for Community Development I work on several different issues. I recently helped put together a map for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). This map clearly laid out all of the public housing in New York City. Another organization that used the map was Community Voices Heard (CVH). CVH is a private group that deals in low income communities and strives to improve conditions in these communities. They were very grateful and even sent us back a thank you letter for the map. Another big project I just finished working on was updating all of the zoning for Brooklyn, and some of the zoning in the other four boroughs. All of the zoning at Pratt was out of date and a lot of zoning changes have taken place over the years. It was my responsibility to obtain maps from the New York City Department of City Planning (NYCDCP) website and update the zoning maps in the Pratt database.

Christopher Maulucci is currently working for M&T Bank in their Retail Distribution Planning Department in Buffalo, NY. Christopher graduated from BSC in the Spring of 2005 with a Bachelors Degree in Urban and Regional Analysis and Planning. He then went on to pursue a Masters Degree in Business Administration at Medaille College, while working for First Niagara Bank, and graduated in the Spring of 2008. Christopher is now responsible for the spatial allocation of M&T’s Retail Distribution Network throughout New York and Pennsylvania, where he frequently comes back to the knowledge obtained at BSC to help in making difficult decisions. Christopher accredits his success to the professors and diverse course offerings in BSC’s Geography Department that helped sharpen all the skills necessary to excel in his current position.

Alumni: We want to hear from YOU. Please send us a note or email to let us know what you are doing.

Please feel free to send any comments or questions to our Newsletter Editor, Dr. Wende Mix, at mixwa@buffalostate.edu

Mailing label

Buffalo State SUNY
Geography and Planning Department
Classroom Building A213
1300 Elmwood Ave
Buffalo, NY 14222-1095