

GEOGRAPHY

2016 Spring Newsletter

 University of Colorado, Boulder

In this Issue:

Message from the Department Chair, pg 2

Emily Yeh gives an overview of recent news and changes in the department

Spotlight on Faculty, pg 4.

Peter Blanken on the UN Climate Change Conference

Fernando Riosmena discusses Negative Acculturation

Mara Goldman provides an update on her various projects

Featured Student Articles, pg 7

Abe Solberg: Visual Media's Influence on Land Policy

Andrea Baeza Breinbauer: Movement and Space

Alumni News, pg 9

Richard Heede, Ronald Cossman, Janet Go, Yu Luo Rioux, Julie Crea Dunba, David H. Hickox, Dana Ziemba

Faculty News, pg 11

Mark Serreze, Stefan Leyk, John O'Loughlin, Barbara Battenfield, Emily Yeh, Noah Moloch, Peter Blanken

Donor Support, pg 14

Opportunities for giving: Our donors have made a big impact and we can't do it without you. We thank you!



Peter Blanken: Historic UN Climate Change Conference

Delegates of each country stated the seriousness of detrimental climate change. Underlying the consistent sense of urgency was a feeling that this is our last chance to take action. Read about the Paris Agreement on [pg 4](#).



Abe Solberg: Visual Media's Influence on Land Policy

Yellowstone became the world's first national park in 1872. There had been discussions about preserving Yellowstone as a national park, but none were able to get off the ground. Read Abe's student article on [pg 7](#).





Emily Yeh, Department Chair

As we wrap up another busy academic year, I'd like to congratulate the undergraduates, MAs, and PhDs who are joining the ranks of CU Boulder Geography alumni. While preparing to say goodbye to them, we've also welcomed **David Parr**, who joins the department from Texas State University as an instructor of GIS and coordinator of the new undergraduate certificate in GIS and Computational Science.



As I wrote in the fall — but it bears repeating — the department's reputation is as strong as ever. According to the most recent available release of Academic Analytics, we ranked 1st among 101 departments in the US in 5 categories, including percentage of faculty with an article, number of faculty members with a grant, and percentage of faculty with a citation. Our department also ranked in the top 5 departments overall, a measure that reflects number and percentage of faculty with published articles, published books, grants, honors and awards, citations per article, and grant size. Professor **Mark Serreze** was recognized as being among the top 1% of highly cited researchers in the sciences by Thomson Reuters. Professor **Seth Spielman** was awarded a Distinguished Scholar Award from the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers. Professor **Joe Bryan** received an Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor award from the Graduate School of CU Boulder.

Our faculty and students are deeply involved in investigating the most pressing issues of our time, particularly climate change. Research at the Niwot Ridge Long Term Ecological Research station led by **Mark Williams** demonstrates an ongoing loss of ice in the high mountains west of Boulder as the climate warms. **Peter Blanken** was selected by the Association of American Geographers as an official observer to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris in December 2015. Climate change is also a key impetus for Earth Lab, a major research effort directed by **Jennifer Balch**, with participation from a number of other Geography faculty, and one of two initiatives of CU Boulder's Grand Challenge, *Our Space, Our Future*. Focusing on other timely issues, several other faculty are involved in the social science sub-project of IRISS (Integrated Remote and In Situ Sensing), the other major Grand Challenge initiative on campus, including **Emily Yeh, Joe Bryan, and Mara Goldman**.



Near Niwot Ridge: Scientist skiing in the Green Lakes Valley for the winter snow survey
Photo credit: John Knowles

Our graduate students are doing very exciting work, both locally and internationally. Among the many places around the globe current graduate students conduct research are Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, Senegal, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Germany,



On the cover: the stranded polar bear on melting arctic ice is an iconic symbol of climate change and the imminent danger of inaction. The Geography curriculum offers many options for students interested in the topic.

China, Taiwan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma, Tibet, Korea, and Greenland! Others are doing a lot of important work locally, from research on urban backyard farming in Denver and refugee housing issues in Aurora to investigations on Boulder Creek of how the rate of snowmelt affects forest water use. And in December 2015, graduate student **Michael MacFerrin** delivered a multi-age (pre-K to 8th grade) presentation and demonstration to 500 morning assembly attendees (including parents) at the Boulder Country Day School, on “Greenland Ice Sheet Melting.”

We are proud of our undergraduate majors, including the eleven graduating this year with Latin Honors:

Danielle Beaty, Mollie Buckland, Natalie Gillard, Katharine Gregory, Katelynne Knight, Caitlin McShane, Jesse Nestler, Will Rempel, Charles Solberg, John Tarricone, and Kyle Webber. Congratulations also to our scholarship recipients for this coming year. **Joshua Temes** has received the A. David Hill scholarship. **Charles Nicholas Whittemore** was selected for the Albert W. Smith Scholarship. **Kristina Cowell, Brook Long, Jasper Schneider, and Kathleen Weimer** will be conducting mentored research this summer as recipients of the von Dreden Stacey Scholarship. This was our first year working with our four new major track options: human geography, environment-society, physical geography, and Geographical Information Science. We hope future majors will find these tracks compelling and meaningful, and increasingly choose to pursue Honors theses.

All of this is happening in the face of a rapidly changing landscape in higher education. The state of Colorado funds only **4.4%** of the university’s total budget and this state funding is projected to fall to **zero** in the near future. While this is part of a national trend, it is also a fact that Colorado is currently 49th in the country in state funding of higher education. We need to open up some serious conversations among the public about why a state university today no longer receives state funding, *and* to develop new pathways to ensure we will continue to flourish. Last year, several alumni generously gave gifts in honor of former professor Albert Smith. Through this and the von Dreden Stacey Scholarship fund, we have been able to provide undergraduate students with a unique opportunity to engage in mentored research. We also have pressing needs for our Graduate Student Support Fund, to ensure adequate support for our Masters and doctoral students and maintain the competitiveness of our program.

Finally, speaking of our alumni, we have heard from many of you about the fascinating array of career paths you have chosen and the accomplishments you have garnered. From publishers of Geography books, professors of Geography, and geographers of carbon to fiction writers and organic farmers, many mention their fond memories of the department. Over the next year, we hope to develop ways for alumni, old and new, to be more directly involved with the life of the department. Please keep in touch.



Earth Lab will harness the wave of Earth observations from space and integrate them to answer outstanding questions about the pace and pattern of environmental change, from our backyards to our world.



Peter Blanken: Attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference

This past December, I attended the United Nation’s Climate Change Conference held in Paris as one of ten nominated Observers representing the Association of American Geographers. It was anticipated this meeting, also known as “COP21” (Conference of the Parties 21st Meeting), would result in an historic major agreement on curbing anthropogenic CO₂ emissions to limit further global warming to 2°C by the end of this century. The Paris Agreement was reached at the conclusion of the 2-week negotiations and meetings held from November 30th to December 12th, 2015. COP21 began a few days after the Paris terrorist attacks. Security was so tight, however, the COP21 complex was likely the safest place in France. The French hosts were extremely organized and professional, making every aspect of the meetings flawless.



COP21: Peter Blanken (front row, aisle seat, left section)

Considering the many complex issues surrounding global climate change, I felt 200 countries reaching an agreement was unlikely. Initially, I attended briefings from each of the UN countries (the “Parties”), where delegates offered their country’s stance on climate change. Each delegate expressed their condolences and support to France regarding the terrorist

attacks. Everyone stated that climate change is indeed happening now with detrimental effects, and therefore action must be taken by the end of the meetings or it will be too late. Underlying the consistent sense of urgency was a feeling that this is our last chance to take action. Talks hosted by individual countries and echoed in some of the media sessions, amplified these sentiments. Limiting warming to 2°C by the end of this century (meaning roughly a global warming of 4°C since ~1850 at the start of the Industrial Revolution), is not sufficient. Many delegates stated actions and policies must be reached to limit warming to 1.5°C, not 2°C. Representatives from some nations mentioned the cost issues in meeting carbon emission reduction goals. Others discussed legal issues and how enforcement would be achieved. As negotiations continued, several prominent G7 countries announced their commitment to the 1.5°C reductions. Thankfully, during the Saturday after the end of the scheduled COP21 meetings, it was announced the Paris Agreement had been reached.

So what’s next? The Paris Agreement essentially states the world agrees to reduce carbon emissions to limit global warming to 2°C, and preferably 1.5°C, by the end of this century. To do so, each country submitted plans to reduce carbon emissions. These plans will be revisited every 5 years to review each country’s progress toward fulfilling their commitment. When I returned to Guggenheim, I felt reassured the world leaders are taking global warming seriously and are preparing to take action. I hope I am not wrong.

(See Richard Heede’s update in the *Alumni Updates* section for related info on COP21)



Fernando Riosmena: Negative Acculturation and Nothing More?

One of my main research themes is migrant health. I study the health of foreign-born folks (especially Mexicans, but sometimes other national origin groups) arriving in the U.S. and how it changes with the immigrant experience. Recently I, along with a CU-Sociology colleague and two former CU graduate students, published a study in *The International Migration Review*

Migration Review (the premier migration studies journal) which tries to understand why the health of Latin American migrants and their descendants tends to worsen as they spend more time here, despite oftentimes making more money and acclimating to their new setting.



This topic has been heavily researched in both social sciences and public health circles. While studies point to a few different mechanisms, one explanation has gained primacy. Known as “acculturation”, the main idea is immigrant health worsens as people adopt the customs and behaviors prevalent in U.S. society. This is especially true regarding unhealthy eating practices including lower consumption of fruits and vegetables and greater consumption of high-calorie sugary fast foods and beverages. While our study does not deny this may be part of the picture, we show it is unlikely to be the only or even the main explanation why immigrant health deteriorates. In particular, we show how immigrants with longer stays in the country have higher mortality rates than more recent arrivals (of the same age, socioeconomic status, etc). We show how this is not explained by differences in smoking and drinking patterns, or body mass levels between more and less experienced migrants. Because we find other "acculturation" indicators are not negatively associated with mortality, we conclude something else is going on. While we do not have direct evidence measuring what that "something" is, we use the literature on how immigrants are received and incorporated into "host" societies to argue processes of cumulative disadvantage are not well-measured in most data sources used by researchers and are most likely the source of this problem. We explain these methodological challenges and call for a more concerted effort to tackle them as opposed to continuing trying to measure acculturation in a lot of detail.

Currently, I am leading a research project which will try to better identify these processes by looking at the neighborhoods immigrants move to, live in, and leave. We hope to understand how immigrant health deteriorates in more detail, and why it seems to be related to moving out of the ethnic "enclave" when, in theory, these neighborhoods have fewer resources.



Mara Goldman: The Politics of Conservation, Climate Change Adaptation and Women's Empowerment Projects

My research is focused on political ecologies of knowledge, access, and development interventions among Maasai pastoral/agro-pastoral communities in Northern Tanzania. In the past year I published one article in *World Development*, and have another in press in the *Journal of Peasant Studies* on an National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project,



Nchicho Papal, Mara Goldman

which ended in 2013, looking at the intersections of women's empowerment processes and land ownership among Maasai women across five villages in Northern Tanzania. The first paper (co-authored with Jani Little and Alicia Davis) was cited in an article in *The Atlantic* that talked about a reality TV show in Tanzania showcasing women's empowerment as a process. The second paper directly challenges the primary focus within current development strategies that prioritizes private land ownership both for women's empowerment and to protect women and pastoralists from illegal land grabs. I argue instead for the importance of access to knowledge and political power. I presented this work at a conference on Land and Poverty at the World Bank in March, where it was well received by development practitioners. Meanwhile, I have also been working with Lisa Dilling in Environmental Studies (ENVS) and two graduate students (Meaghan Daly, ENVS and Eric Lovell, Geography) on a second NSF-funded project

looking at the politics of knowledge co-production for climate change adaptation among Maasai community members, international, national, and local NGOs, and climate scientists. Meaghan Daly is the primary researcher on this NSF project. I have focused my attention on the knowledge politics component and co-wrote a paper with Daly and Lovell in a special issue of the geography journal *Area*, on *Researching the hybrid geographies of climate change: reflections from the field*. I will travel with the research team to Tanzania this summer to close the project with a feedback meeting with all the active players in the project.

I recently received two small grants to help jump-start new research projects: 1) A faculty award from the Center to Advance Research in the Social Sciences (CARTSS) to look at the role of cellphone technologies in changing gendered aspects of participation in rangeland management and conservation in pastoral communities in Tanzania and India and 2) a grant from the "Project Society" component of the Integrated Remote and In Situ Sensing Initiative (IRISS) of the CU Grand Challenge to investigate the role of conservation drones in Tanzania and India in changing the politics of knowledge and participation in community-based conservation initiatives. Preliminary research this summer will contribute to a larger proposal on the combined impacts of cellphones and conservation drones (technologies from below and above) on participatory processes and knowledge production politics related to rangeland management and conservation initiatives. This research will enable me to draw from my experiences in Tanzania to start comparative research in India, where pastoral communities face similar challenges, and the conservation landscape reflects similar emergent and fascinating contradictions.



Student Articles

Abe Solberg: Visual Media's Influence on Land Policy

I started my undergraduate career as both a film and math major. The first upper division film class I took was about urban theory in film and it was taught by a Geography professor. It did not take very long for me to switch to Geography after that. However, I never stopped being interested in film and media. In my honors thesis, which I recently defended, I was able to combine my interest in media with Geography. My thesis, titled *Visual Media's Influence on Land Policy*, traces the links between visual media (film, photos, paintings, etc.) and U.S. land policy. I argue that the publication of images related to a certain place is directly linked with the way that same land is managed.



Abe Solberg



Head of Yellowstone River, Thomas Moran 1874
Cover: Great Falls of the Snake River, Thomas Moran, n.d.

For example, Yellowstone National Park became the world's first national park in 1872. There had been discussions about preserving Yellowstone as a national park prior to 1872, but none were able to get off the ground. The reason for this was the fantastical nature of Yellowstone's topography. A newspaper article from 1867 reads, "Language is not adequate to convey an idea of the marvelous beauty of scenery which is beyond the power of descriptions." Congress hesitated to protect Yellowstone because they were unable to grasp what exactly it was they were protecting. That changed in 1871, when

Ferdinand V. Hayden, accompanied by the photographer William Henry Jackson and the painter Thomas Moran, went on an official expedition to explore the Yellowstone region. Upon returning from the expedition, Jackson and Moran essentially set up an art gallery on Capitol Hill. After seeing the images of Yellowstone, Congress moved forward with preserving Yellowstone as a national park. This is just one of the many examples of imagery influencing Congress (and the public) to help preserve and protect the land. In my thesis I attempt to draw more links between media and land policy to show and critique the tremendous influence imagery has had on American land management. Media can be a very powerful tool, but it is one that must be understood to be used effectively.

Andrea Baeza Breinbauer: Movement and Space

I have been interested in Geography my entire life, without necessarily knowing it. I grew up in a family which was always on the move, yet one which created a home in the United States while holding onto its Chilean roots. My transnational upbringing meant an inevitable exposure to maps. I began my geography path at Simon Fraser University and transferred



Andrea Baeza Breinbauer

here through the recommendation of an admired professor, Dr. Akinwumi. I have always been interested in conversations between “product of the environment”, as well as the geographical “why of where” perspective. I am fascinated by lived experiences and the extent of which those roles show up in our interactions. I am interested in how people are created by their environments and vice versa. I tend to explore social constructs which are born out of dynamics within a city – both spatially fluid and physically built. For example, I look at how spaces are gendered or accessible, the histories of how

those spaces are built physically and socially, and how dominant ideologies in our society contribute to built environments themselves.

Since October of last year, I have had the privilege of working on a research team with Jennifer Fluri, Honors Instructor Abby Hickcox, graduate students Shae Frydenlund and Gretchen Lang, and undergraduate research assistant Chloe Dodge. The Boulder Affordable Housing Research Initiative (or BAHRI) research project looks at access to housing in Boulder. We work with the community and explore relations around what affordable housing looks like in Boulder, barriers to accessing housing, hopes to what an affordable future may look like, and the relations in the spaces people inhabit. This includes where people live and why, and neighborhood relationships. I am interested in the spatial distribution of access to resources. Affordable housing is directly tied to this as a resource itself. It examines the ways landscapes and environments may or may not be segregated socially, economically, and politically, and what plays into that. It has been a huge privilege to be part of a meaningful project which also helps me financially. Not only am I working on issues which are central to me by engaging with residents and thinking critically about the ways in which housing is discussed in media and dialogue, I have also learned extensively from the inspiring group of people with whom I work. They have been supportive and have authentically taken an interest in making sure Chloe and I are able to learn from the research process.

More recently, I have become increasingly interested in movement. Specifically, I think about movement across borders including migration and the definitions of citizenship which are created out of transnational relationships. I am in the process of considering topics for a potential thesis. This thought currently revolves around ideas of accessibility to and impacts of domestic and international service-learning, as well as the history involved in those dynamics.



Andrea Baeza Breinbauer



Alumni News

We love hearing from our Alumni. If you have a degree from CU Geography, please send an update to Jeff Nicholson (jeff.nicholson@colorado.edu) and we'll put you in our next newsletter!

Richard Heede (MA, '83), Director of the Climate Accountability Institute (CAI): "For CAI, it has been an exciting year, capped with the success of the Paris Accord at COP21. The arc of CAI's objective is to rigorously link climate damages to the emissions of CO2 and methane traceable to the companies that extracted fossil carbon resources from the



Richard Heede

lithosphere in order to compel effective action to reduce net CO2 emissions from fossil fuels in line with science-based targets that avoid 'dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate'. The quantitative foundation has been peer-reviewed and published. The science of attributing climate change and climate damages (such as increased mortality from heat events attributable to anthropogenic emissions, costs of adaptation measures, and higher storm surges) is advancing. The other arc of CAI's mission — "compelling effective action" by the companies that are accountable for some proportion of climate damages — has many facets: shareholder resolutions, potential legal action, divestment, legislation, shifting consumer preferences, brand protection, carbon taxation, corporate investigations (such as by the New York Attorney General's office), congressional hearings, trade barriers, embargoes, insurance coverage, borrowing costs, and so forth." See climateaccountability.org for more information.

Ronald Cossman (PhD, '01), Research Professor and Director of the Mississippi Center for Health Workforce at the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University: Dr. Cossman studies health at the intersection of geography, demography, and economics. He has advanced knowledge in these fields by investigating the causes and determinants of health status and outcomes in the U.S., and his actionable research results have guided health policymakers and the allocation of health resources. He is an author on 41 publications. In the 15 years that he has been at the SSRC, he has been associated with \$1,829,999 in awarded grants and contracts, either as a principal investigator or a co-principal investigator. Funding agencies have included the Office of Rural Health Policy Research at HHS, Mississippi Department of Health, Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program (MASEP), the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Delta Health Initiative via the US Department of Health and Human Services, the Mississippi Area Health Education Center (AHEC) office, and the MSU Office of Research. Since becoming P.I. of the Mississippi Office of Healthcare Workforce, he has led primary data studies on the accessibility and geographic location of primary care, nursing, dental, and mental health professionals in the state in order to identify barriers to health care access.

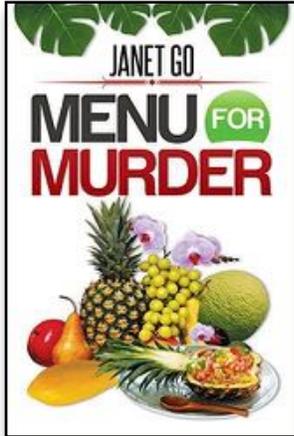


Ronald Cossman

Yu Luo Rioux (PhD '08): "Currently I am teaching at UMass Lowell. My most recent translated volume (from Chinese) *A Cultural History of Classical Chinese Gardens* was published in 2015. New York: SCPG Publishing Corporation; Shanghai: Shanghai Century Publishing Group. I was also invited again to guest lecture on "SARS and Crisis



Management with Chinese Characteristics” in October 2015 by Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College. I have always been interested in cultural exchange. I have been interpreting in hospitals, courts as well as social services, and I have been advising Chinese students for their application to American colleges as well as secondary schools.”



Janet Go (BA, '53): “I can't believe it's been 63 years since I graduated from CU. My, how geography of the world has changed in those years! For the last four years I've lived on Maui, one of my favorite places. I have traveled extensively around the world, but not enough to qualify for the Century Club (visiting 100 countries). I'm about a dozen short of that goal. My seventh published book, *Menu For Murder*, came out last summer. It explores murders that take place during a week at Paradise Palms, a retirement community in Hawaii. It's part mystery, part irreverent social commentary, and part Hawaiiana. I'm writing my memoirs now. I have friends in Boulder who keep me posted on happenings there, and I still look upon my years at CU as some of the most enjoyable in my life. Aloha to all you BUFFS.”

Julie Crea Dunbar (BA, '93), Managing Editor of *Geography and World Cultures and Issues* at ABC-CLIO: She designs geography curriculum, and writes, and edits content for four educational websites carried in secondary schools and public libraries. She also acquires geography book manuscripts for ABC-CLIO, Greenwood, and Praeger. Julie, whose office is in Broomfield, is currently seeking a summer intern as well as a writer-editor with a geography background and she is always on the lookout for book authors. Please contact her at jdunbar@abc-clio.com if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

David H. Hickcox (BA, '68): David recently retired from Ohio Wesleyan University after a 34 year teaching career as a Professor of Geography and Chair of Environmental Studies, a department he founded in 1979. Following graduation from CU in January, 1968, Hickcox served three years active duty in the Army, two in Germany as a Lieutenant and one in Vietnam as a Captain with the 101st Airborne Division where he was awarded the Bronze Star and Army Commendation medals. Upon discharge from the Army Hickcox obtained an MA in Geography from the University of Montana and a PhD from the University of Oregon. He joined the Ohio Wesleyan faculty in 1978. While at Ohio Wesleyan Hickcox taught courses in Physical Geography, Environmental Alteration, Energy Resources and Climate/Meteorology. He published widely on water resources and energy development in southeast Montana, edited a volume of papers on water issues in the Great Lakes and for twenty years wrote an annual article in *Weatherwise* on extreme temperatures in the United States. In more recent years Hickcox authored eight books on railroads. He comments, “The exceptionally rigorous education I received from CU's Geography Department in the 1960's pretty much set the foundation and direction for my life after graduation. The courses I took, especially from Professors Meyer, Smith and Loeffler, were inspiring and had long lasting implications. Completing a masters and PhD after CU was a breeze since my BA in Geography had given me such a great foundation for graduate studies and a career in teaching. Lastly, I have derived much pleasure seeing my niece, Abby Hickcox, complete a PhD in Geography at CU and embark on a teaching career at CU.”



Dana Ziemba (BA '09) and **Gerald Jacobs** (PhD '87) gave presentations at the Department's annual Career Night. Other presenters included Jordan Winkeler from Broomfield-based Digital Globe and David Boggs from CU's Peace Corps office. Ziemba teaches 5th and 6th grades in the JeffCo Public School District, and credits her training in Geography with positively shaping her efforts to teach science and environmental education. Dr. Jacobs spoke about the highlights of his career as an "itinerant geographer" in the intermountain west. Most of his work involved environmental compliance in the energy, and oil and natural gas sectors. He is currently an environmental advisor at Pioneer Resources. We are grateful to both for sharing their experiences with current students, and demonstrating how a geography degree is a solid foundation for any number of careers!

If you live and work in the Front Range and would like to present at a future career night, please let us know. Past alumni presenters included **Joanna Bloom** (BA '98) and **Roland Viger** (PhD '11).

Sean Lynott (BA, '02) is now a recruiting coordinator at T-Mobile in Vancouver.

Grace Nichols (BA, '14) is the harvest manager at Red Wagon Organic Farm in Longmont, a 35 acre organic vegetable farm that supplies many restaurants in Boulder and Denver and a 400 member CSA.

Robert Wertz (BA, '74) has been teaching high school sciences at The Bay Mills Ojibwe Charter School in Brimley, Michigan.

Faculty News

Mark Serreze, Director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center, is the 2015-2016 American Meteorological Society Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer. Dr. Serreze has traveled to various local chapters of Sigma Xi giving lectures on "The New Arctic" - the rapid environmental changes occurring in the Arctic and what they mean for that region and the rest of the planet, and on "Communicating Climate Change: Lessons Learned at the National Snow and Ice Data Center," drawing on his personal experience and others at the NSIDC in dealing with the media and the blogosphere.



Mark Serreze



Stefan Leyk

Stefan Leyk received a new award from the Innovative Seed Program: "Earth Lab's human dimension: Integrating fine-grained data on human activity for advanced understanding of environmental change." It will become a new node in Earth Lab, one of two major initiatives of CU's Grand Challenge.

John O'Loughlin co-authored an article for The Washington Post with Gerard Toal titled "Here are the 5 things you need to know about the deadly fighting in Nagorno Karabakh". See <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/04/06/will-war-erupt-in-nagorny-karabakh-here-are-the-5-things-you-need-to-know/>

Barbara Buttenfield was reappointed to CSAC by the Director of the Census Bureau for a second three year term. CSAC members advise the Census Bureau director on the uses of scientific developments in statistical data collection, survey methodology, geospatial and



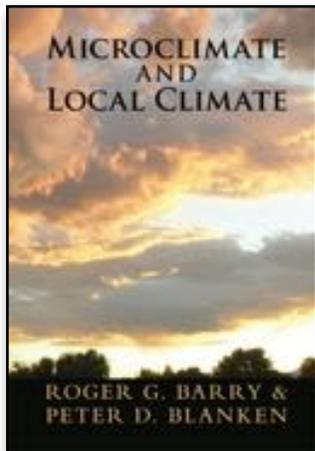
statistical analysis, econometrics, business operations and computer science as they pertain to the full range of Census Bureau programs and activities, including census tests, policies, data collection and analysis.

Mark Serreze was interviewed for an article in The Washington Post titled “Scientists are floored by what’s happening in the Arctic right now.” Researchers say 2015 was the hottest year on record, and that it "smashed" the previous record, which was 2014. See <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/02/18/scientists-are-floored-by-whats-happening-in-the-arctic-right-now/>

Emily Yeh (Geography Department Chair) and **Yönten Nyima** (PhD in Geography, 2012) were cited in two recent articles in *Nature* and *SciDev.net* on the rapidly changing status of nomadism in the grasslands of the Tibetan Plateau. The articles were written following author Jane Qiu's 4700km trek from Xinning to Lhasa during which she met with nomad families and scientists to understand and assess the impact of government policies, climate change, and other factors on the health of the grassland environment and the nomads who earn their living across its more than 1.5 million square kilometer expanse. Nyima is currently a Tibetan policy researcher at Sichuan University in Chengdu, PRC. See <http://www.nature.com/news/trouble-in-tibet-1.19139>



A group of young Tibetan monks huddles on a degraded pasture on the Tibetan Plateau. (photo from *Nature*)



Peter Blanken and **Roger Barry** (Professor Emeritus, Geography) coauthored the new book, *Microclimate and Local Climate* which will be published in May. The book provides an up-to-date, comprehensive treatment of the variables and processes of microclimate and local climate, including radiation balance and energy balance. It describes and explains the climate within the lower atmosphere and upper soil, the region critical to life on Earth. Topics covered include not only the physical processes which affect microclimate, but also biological processes which affect vegetation and animals, including people. See <http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/earth-and-environmental-science/climatology-and-climate-change/microclimate-and-local-climate?format=HB>

Noah Molotch became Director of The Center for Water, Earth Science and Technology (CWEST). CWEST recently hired Lauren Tomkinson as its program Manager. CWEST scientists have published several papers in the past two years including current director Noah Molotch, former founding director Diane McKnight, and several USGS scientists. CWEST has secured two grants. The first is a 5-year, one million dollar agreement between National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) and CWEST which was implemented early in 2015. Diane McKnight (PI) is collaborating with Sarah Spaulding of USGS. The



cooperative agreement will analyze algal samples for the National Water Quality Assessment Program, develop habitat and distribution coverage of diatom across the country, and further taxonomic consistency for federal programs using algae. The second is an 18-month internal seed grant for innovative CU research which will focus on multi-scale modeling and measurements of ecosystem sensitivity to water and energy availability.

And finally, this comic strip inspired by the Geography Department's own, Professor **Suzanne Anderson** . . .



Stanford
EARTH

INSPIRED BY SUZANNE ANDERSON (UC BOULDER)
AND BILL WATTERSON (CALVIN & HOBBS)
AGU SESSION EP34A





Thank You! The Department of Geography is grateful to its alumni and friends for their financial support over the years. Our donors have had a big impact, making a difference not only to the Department as a whole, but to the lives of many individual students. There is always a real need for



funds to support academic departments. As we strive for higher standards and more and better opportunities for our students, we depend on the caring and generous nature of alumni and friends like you to meet these ever increasing financial needs. Your gift to the Department of Geography can take many different shapes. The information below may help you find the type of gift that best meets your needs, the impact you want, and the way you want to give. The CU Foundation can also assist you with your needs, be they for targeted or unrestricted programs.

Geography Department Fund

This fund is for academic support in the broad sense. If giving online and you want your gift to go to a specific scholarship, please provide scholarship name in the "Comments" section.

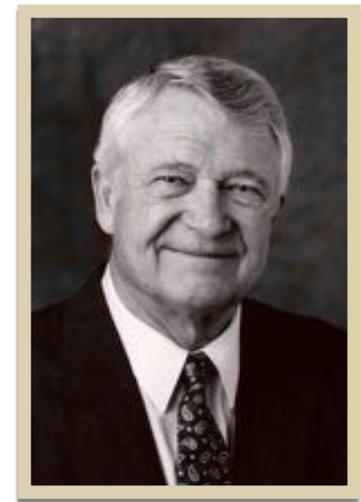
GIVE NOW Go online to: giving.cu.edu/fund/geography-department

Undergraduate Scholarship Programs

A. David Hill Scholarship Fund

Established by Richard L. Knowlton, Professor Hill's former teammate and friend, and recently endowed by Myhra and Graham Hill, his wife and son. Applicant must be a Geography major, and have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in Geography, with a preference for those with interests in the environment-society relationship. Award is based on merit and demonstrated financial eligibility.

GIVE NOW Go online to: giving.cu.edu/fund/david-hill-endowed-scholarship-fund



A. David Hill

Albert W. Smith Geography Scholarship

Established in 1983 to honor Professor Smith at his retirement from the Geography Department faculty after thirty-one years of service to the University. Applicant must be a full-time senior majoring in Geography. Award is based on academic performance.

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Karl and Barbara von Dreden Stacey Scholarship

Established by Katherine and Frank Baxter in honor of Katherine's parents, Barbara von Dreden (CU class of 1940) and Karl Stacey (CU class of 1936). This scholarship supports undergraduate students to engage in summer research with faculty. Preference given to applicants who are juniors or seniors majoring in Geography, and graduates from Colorado high schools. Award is based on academic performance.

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Theodore C. Myers Memorial Scholarship

Named in honor of long-time geography instructor Ted Myers. Scholarship is awarded to the undergraduate student with the most exceptional honors thesis.

GIVE NOW Go online to: giving.cu.edu/fund/theodore-c-myers-memorial-fund



Mable B. Duncan Scholarship Fund

To support scholarships for Geography majors at the University of Colorado Boulder, based on financial need.

GIVE NOW Go online to: giving.cu.edu/fund/mable-b-duncan-scholarship-fund

Graduate Scholarship Programs

Gary L. Gaile DART Graduate Fellowship in Geography

This fund, in memory of Professor Gary Gaile, provides a fellowship/scholarship for Geography MA and PhD students doing field research addressing social and environmental concerns in developing areas.

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James A. and Jeanne B. DeSana Graduate Research Scholarship Fund

This fund provides invaluable support for graduate student research.

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Gilbert F. White Dissertation Fellowship

Named in honor of Professor Emeritus Gilbert F. White, this fellowship provides funding to outstanding PhD. students in the final year of dissertation preparation. Students are nominated by their academic advisors. Award is based on merit and financial eligibility.

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Please specify "Gilbert F. White Dissertation Fellowship" in the Comments field.

Geography Graduate Student Support Fund

To provide support for graduate students in the Department of Geography at the University of Colorado Boulder. Support may include research support and equipment purchases. Gifts to this fund can be made in memory of (IMO) **Jennifer Dinaburg**. Jennifer, a vibrant, active doctoral candidate in the Geography department, passed away on April 26, 2012 at the age of 31. In her memory, the department has established a small, named fellowship for doctoral field research.

Jenn was passionate about geography in many forms: through the environment, the outdoors, and through learning about China. After studying Chinese language and literature at Connecticut College, she traveled and worked extensively on the Tibetan Plateau. After a degree in environmental studies at Prescott College, her journey brought her to the Geography PhD. program in 2008 to study the commercialization of Tibetan medicinal plants in China's northwest Yunnan province. Jenn brought a love of mountains, travel, and unconventional learning to the department, where she was well loved for her sense of humor, wit and spirit.



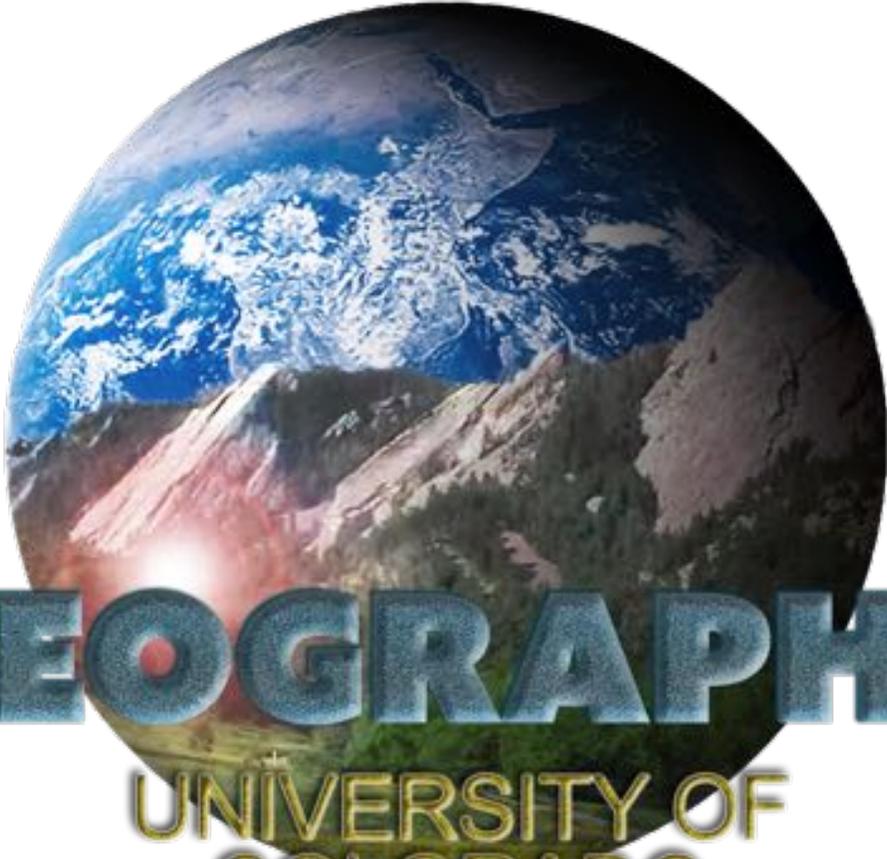
Jennifer Dinaburg

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A large globe showing a landscape with mountains, a river, and a forest. The globe is the background for the main title text.

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