New Mexico State University

Geo Notes

Message from the Department Head

We feel strongly that geography offers a very instructive perspective and lens by which many pressing issues that face us in the 21st century can be examined, and we pursue an applied research perspective in our teaching and research. At the undergraduate level, we offer a concentration in Human-Environment Relationships (HER), focusing on the transformation of earth's physical environment by human activities and on the impacts of this transformation on people. We also offer a concentration in Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIS&T), in which we emphasize the integrated use of remote sensing, geographic information systems, and other geospatial data and techniques for exploring a range of applied research questions. At the graduate level, we offer a Master of Applied Geography, in which students conduct applied geographical research leading to the completion of a master's thesis.

Welcome to the Department of Geography at New Mexico State University!

Our faculty research interests and expertise lie in the areas of geographic information systems, remote sensing, geomorphology, landscape ecology, biogeography, transportation geography and planning, conservation issues in the Rocky Mountain West, border environmental and water resource issues in North America, and geographic education. We feel that it is a very exciting time to be a geographer and explore the above areas. We invite you to visit us both virtually and in person, explore our Website, follow our news on Facebook, and join us on our interesting journey.

Best regards,

Christopher Brown, Department Head

http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Mexico-State-University-Department-of-Geography/109764555756575

Mission Statement

The mission of the NMSU Department of Geography is to (1) enable our graduate and undergraduate students to be responsible citizens, lifelong learners, and professional geographers with critical thinking and problem-solving skills that make them competitive in both graduate programs and the job market; (2) advance basic and applied geographic research on issues of relevance to the State of New Mexico and the American Southwest; and (3) to reach out to and serve the University, the State, local communities, and the discipline of geography.

Vision Statement

The NMSU Department of Geography seeks to build a strong and effective learning community of graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and others to create, share, and apply knowledge and skills in the areas of geospatial science and technology, geographical field techniques, and human-environment system dynamics.

INSIDE GEOGRAPHY /NMSU

Alumni Updates

"Where are they now?"

Janet Greenlee

Class of 1993, MAG Program

What was your thesis and with whom did you work?

Al Peters and Brad Reed were my advisors, and I investigated the spatial characteristics of montane forest communities in the Organ Mountains using GIS and RS tools. I mapped existing vegetation using Landsat imagery and examined how the fire regime impacts the pattern of vegetation succession.

What did you do when you left NMSU?

I moved to Portland, OR to work for a contractor to the USFS (Pacific Meridian), where I primarily conducted accuracy assessment of vegetation, size/structure, and species maps of national forests in Oregon. I then worked for a contractor with the BLM's Oregon State Office, where I developed and implemented image processing and GIS methods and procedures to meet BLM objectives for land characterization and mapping of forested and coastal lands. Then I came back to NM where I worked for NMSU's Fish and Wildlife Department at White Sands, and here I applied GIS and remote sensing methodology to natural and cultural resource management and compliance at White Sands Missile Range. I was the only GIS person helping them "get this thing off the ground." I then moved to PSL at NMSU, and there I completed some work on the original EIS for the Spaceport. I also participated in GIS modeling for Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP) projects involving source characterization for fugitive dust, emissions inventories and air quality modeling. Dave DuBois, who was working with the Desert Research Institute in Nevada, was a valuable resource. From PSL, I moved to Geography where I provided geospatial, image analysis, and cartographic support for several efforts including additional SCERP projects, NASA research on desertification, and the USGS Gap program, with a focus on applying expertise in spatial information technology to US/Mexico border and regional environmental initiatives…..and here I still am!

What was your favorite research project and why?

I REALLY liked the air quality research that Richard Okrasinski and I did at PSL for SCERP. This was a very well-defined, goal-oriented project where I was able to integrate my GIS and RS skills with my computer science background, specifically running various models in a UNIX environment……ah UNIX, there is an OS one could really fall in love with! I also really liked the SCERP watershed vulnerability project with Alfredo Granados, Nori Koehler and Marguerite Hendrie. Now, things have kind of come full circle. I am back in the Geography Department again working (part-time) on a really interesting bi-national air quality project that is funded by the NM Department of Health: Land-Based Sources of

Alumni Updates

Air Quality Contamination in the Bi-national Border Region of Southwestern New Mexico, Northwestern Chihuahua and West Texas. This has allowed me to reconnect with Dave DuBois, now the NM State Climatologist, and my colleagues and friends in the Department of Geography.

How has your geography degree helped you in your career?

As to my "formal training" in the MAG program, this preparation helped me shift gears from being a software engineer/analyst in the aerospace industry to doing applied geospatial analysis and mapping using satellite imagery, sometimes from programs that I had supported. Knowing geospatial concepts and the functionality of the GIS and image processing tools, I was able to approach and solve a range of problems and tasks in a variety of application areas. My thesis helped prepare me for my first jobs -- doing accuracy assessment at Pacific Meridian and explaining the advantages of remote sensing to the BLM. I think that to learn technical tools well, you need to really dig in, get your hands dirty, and work on your own to learn how to use the tools.

What's next?

Maybe I'll retire – again!

Alumni Updates

Nick Duttle

Class of 2005, BS in Geography

What did you study at NMSU?

When I was a student here, we had the general geography program. I took the regular menu of required classes, but I had a very strong interest in physical geography, especially things related to atmospheric science, weather and climate, an interest I still have, maybe we can talk more about this later….

What did you do when you left NMSU?

After graduating, I moved to Glenwood Springs, CO. Mountain environments have always interested me, and I moved to Colorado to train on technical rock and mountain climbing. Upon arriving, I ended up working in town stocking produce to earn money, then spent time and energy pretty much learning to do technical sport climbing on my own. During this time, I did some well known climbs at Rifle and in the Kentucky Red River Gorge. I also came back to the Paso del Norte region, specifically Hueco Tanks in the El Paso area, to do Esperanza, a V14 boulder problem and a world-class achievement.

When we met the other day on campus, and I asked, "what are you doing these days?" you answered, "I am a professional rock climber." When did you get the "Big Break?"

It took a while to develop a reputation as a serious climber. Once this happened, things developed into relationships with various sponsors. At present, things are REALLY taking off for me, with two sponsored trips to Argentina and many sponsored events in the US. In fact, I leave for the next trip to Argentina shortly.

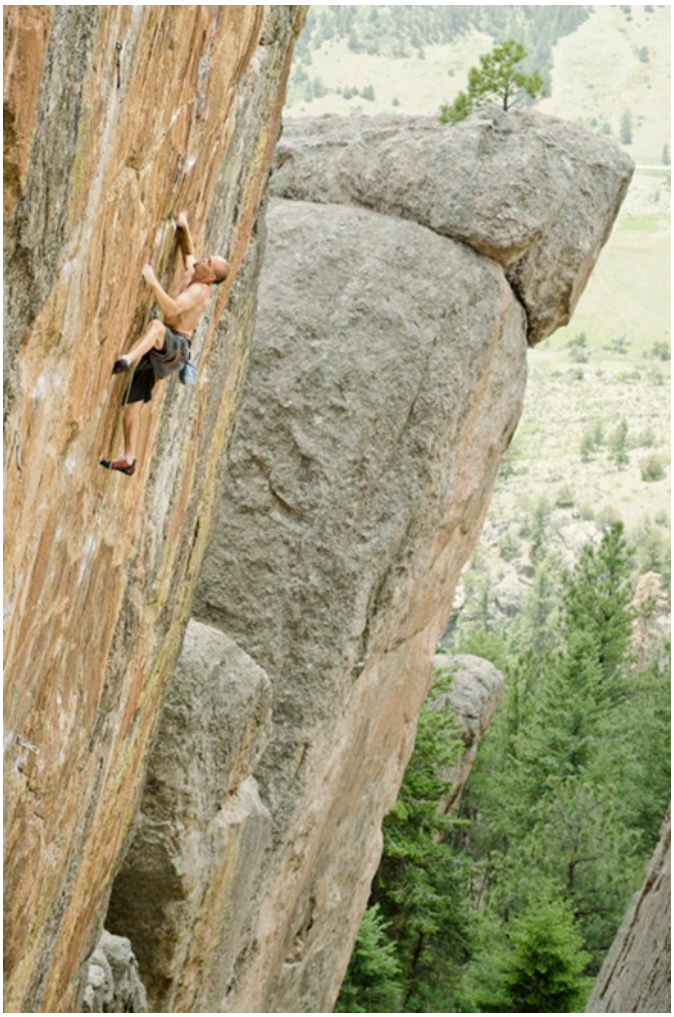
Who are your sponsors?

I have several of them, including Gramicci, who sponsors me for clothing, Petzl , who sponsors me for rope and technical climbing equipment, Scarpa, who sponsors me for climbing shoes, Bob's Red Mill, who sponsors me for food, and Elete, who sponsors me for electrolytes.

Alumni Updates

What's next?

My next trip is a 3 week trip to Argentina to climb outside of Esquel, Argentina. We will travel into the Patagonia region to develop sport routes on volcanic tuft. Upon my return to the states, I am off to Kentucky for more climbing, and to do a clinic tour along with slide shows. Then I return to Estes Park near Rocky Mountain National Park, my home base, for a summer circuit as a climbing guide for Estes Park Mountain Shop, as well as more clinics, festivals and climbing trips.



What are your long-term plans?

I really want to continue climbing, to take this as far as I can go, working to further develop my national and international reputation. I would also like to work these experiences into a book, to tell my story. Long term, I still want to do a Ph.D. in some form of atmospheric science program to learn more about weather and the atmosphere, and perhaps one day be a weather forecaster.

How has your geography degree helped you?

Wow, this has helped me in so many ways. Things I learned in physical geography classes helped me understand topographic relief and how to read a map. Cultural and human geography classes helped to deal with new cultures, appreciate new cultures. Overall, I have a good handle on how climate and weather impacts the landscapes that I climb, and overall, geography has helped me develop a strong desire and curiosity to continue to explore and view the wider world!

Research and Teaching News

DeMers' NSF Research into Innovated Tools for Geographic Education

Dr. Michael DeMers is a Co-PI on a National Science Foundation grant designed to create numerous virtual platforms in which GIS students, faculty, practitioners, and employers can interact with GIS content currently contained in the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science monograph called the Body of Knowledge (BoK) published in 2006. The particular work he and his graduate student assistants are performing involves developing a persistent immersive multi-user virtual environment (MUVE) based on Linden Research's Second Life platform to allow users to interact with the BoK both individually and in groups.

The vision is that this will act as a form of BoK "exploratorium." Users interact with the environment using 3-D simulations of themselves called "avatars." These avatars will teleport directly to the center of the simulated environment where they will be given instructions about how to use the in-world tools. A kiosk lists the ten BoK knowledge areas (see figure below), and each of these areas is a separate panel that allows the user to teleport to a selected environment dedicated to that knowledge area. When teleported, they are greeted by intelligent agents (AI – based robots) that will answer questions and guide their inquiry process. These intelligent agents provide feedback for queries addressed in public chat via scripting and web scraping technologies.

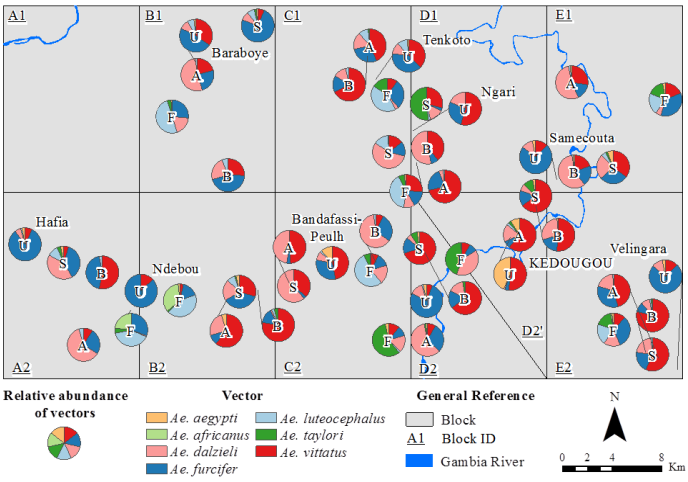
Besides the intelligent agents, a touch panel is available for participants to select specific subcategories (Units) within which to interact. As a unit is selected, this changes the context, and results in the surrounding environment being completely altered based on this new context. Essentially this is a virtual holodeck environment and, like the Star Trek holodeck, it allows for direct interaction. The holodeck environment produces panels that provide text, video, and Internet content to be delivered at will. This research concludes in August, 2012 and Dr. DeMers is collaborating with the same research team to obtain a large grant to implement the prototypes that have been developed.

Professor DeMers' avatar, Gadget Loon, stands in front of a kiosk in the virtual world called Second Life.

Research and Teaching News

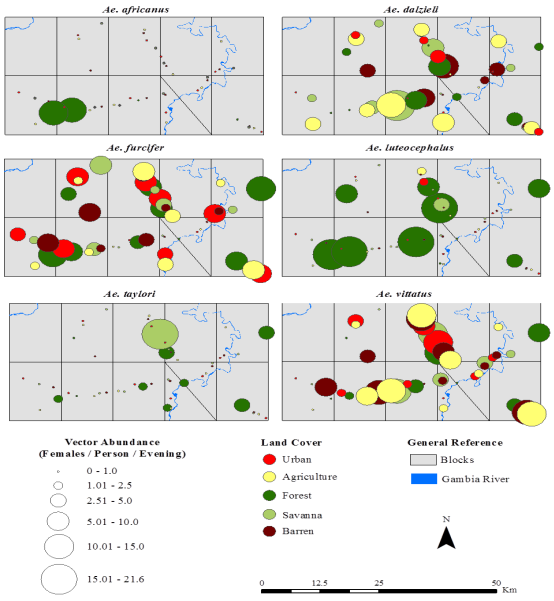
Ongoing Research by Michaela Buenemann

I've continued to work with collaborators from Senegal, the University of Texas Medical Branch, and the Department of Biology at NMSU on *Mechanisms of Sylvatic Dengue Emergence*, a project funded by a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Grant. We recently submitted a manuscript entitled *Landscape Ecology of Sylvatic Dengue and Chikungunya Virus and their Mosquito Vectors in Southeastern Senegal* to the journal *Public Library of Science Neglected Tropical Diseases.* One of our graduate students, Rebecca Richman, is working with us on the project as she pursues a dual master's degree in Geography and Biology.



Relative abundance (measured as mean abundance per person-evening) of all sampled DENV and CHIKV mosquito vectors at each site in the study area between June 2009-January 2010. Pie charts are equal area and do not indicate relative abundance among sites.

In addition, I've been working on assessing land change in the Greater Las Cruces area as part of Jornada Long-Term Ecological Research project in collaboration with Jack Wright and one of our graduate students, Kristen Hestir. We have produced detailed land cover maps spanning the last 25 years at roughly 5-year intervals and encompassing an area of 2,400 km^2 in and around Las Cruces. With this critical dataset in hand, we are now beginning to detect rates and patterns of change and examine relationships between land cover change and ecosystem services (e.g., net primary productivity, temperature regulation). In addition to these obviously applied issues, we are also trying to assess the impact of spatial resolution on measured land cover dynamics, a topic which should be of interest to the land change science community at large. Kristen's work has moreover focused on identifying optimal remote sensing approaches for classifying land cover in drylands, and she defended her thesis last semester. One publication that has come out of our work thus far, *Southwest transformation: eras of growth and land-use land-cover change in Las Cruces, New Mexico*, was co-authored by me and Jack Wright and appeared in the Southwestern Geographer.



Relative abundance of selected *Aedes* species at each site in the study area between June 2009-January 2010. The size of each symbol indicates relative abundance across sites as indicated in the legend; color indicates the land cover class in which the mosquitoes were collected as indicated in the legend.

My collaboration with folks at Northern Arizona University has also finally come to fruition: we just recently had our paper *Long-term tree cover dynamics in a pinyon-juniper woodland: climate-change-type drought resets successional clock* published in *Ecosystems.*

Travels with Geographers

ROBERT CZERNIAK SPENDS SPRING SEMESTER 2011 IN CHISINAU, MOLDOVA

In January 2011 Dr. Robert Czerniak and his wife Beth began a six month senior Fulbright Fellowship as a university professor in Urban Development and Architecture at the Technical University of Moldova located in the capital city Chisinau. Chisinau is a city of 700,000 people with more than 60% of the population using public transit and walking as their primary modes of transportation. Moldova is a small former Soviet republic located on the northeast border of Romania. It is located at the southern end of the Ukrainian plain which gives it the characteristic black (Mollisols) soils. As a result, Moldova has a rich agricultural heritage with a specialty in vine and wine production. It was the center of wine production for Soviet Union. Just outside Chisinau are the largest wine cellars in the world at the Milesti Mici winery with cellars extending over 200 kilometers (yes, we said kilometers!) and holding more than 2,000,000 bottles of wine.

Pushkin Park in Central Chisinau in the Spring.

While in Moldova, Bob taught three courses including: Transportation Planning, Transportation Modeling, and Urban Development. There were 20 graduate students in each course, and the semester was 12 weeks long. In general he used the same curriculum he used at NMSU, but included a variety of European examples that were more appropriate to European students. Two of the courses were simultaneously translated into Romanian. The translator, Vitalie Necalescu, spent a year in Austin, Texas so his English skills were exceptional. Vitalie not only spoke English and Romanian, but could read, write and speak in Russian as well. This is typical of many Moldovans. The Urban Development class was enthused every week to play the Community Land Use Game-CLUG (Planning 201 students will remember this Saturday 8 hour event) because they had never had the opportunity to build a city and see if it the economics worked very well. Interestingly, NMSU students were more competitive while the Moldovan students attempted a much higher level of cooperation.

Dr. Czerniak also undertook land use change research while in Moldova. A graduate student at NMSU, Alma Pacheco, processed three images (1990, 2000, and 2010) of the capital city to determine urban land and non-urban land uses in Chisinau. The Moldovan students undertook field checks to determine the accuracy of

Typical Soviet Style Apartment Block in Chisinau.

Travels with Geographers

the image processing. Preliminary conclusions indicate that Chisinau sprawled during the period from 1990 to 2000. While the sprawl pattern continued in the next ten years, the rate of change slowed. Bob's plans to publish the final results in The Professional Geographer.

During his time in Moldova Bob and his wife Beth were able to travel to Sorroca, the Roma (Gypsy) capital of Moldova. He was also able to travel to the southern end of the country visiting the city of Cahul, Georgulesti-Moldova's only port on the Danube River, and the Pucari winery in southern Moldova. Beth and Bob also traveled to Romania for 10 days. While there, they visited Solca the small hometown of Dr. Czerniak's maternal grandfather. No one in the family had been there since his grandfather Trifan Rusu emigrated to the US in 1913. They also visited another Fulbrighter in Bratislava, Slovakia and took a train ride to Budapest and a river boat ride up the Danube to Vienna.

Two Moldovan children attending a performance at the Academy of Theatre and Arts

Prior to returning to the U.S in July 2011, Bob and Beth made a tour of a number of countries in the Mediterranean including Turkey, Greece, Croatia, Italy and Spain before returning to Las Cruces in August.

A Rural-Agricultural Landscape in Central Moldova

Pubs and Papers

Christopher Brown

Brown, C. 2011. "Balancing security and Environmental issues on the US-Mexico; Ideas from the GNEB." Paper presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Association of Borderland Studies, Salt Lake City, UT, 14 April 2011.

Brown, C. 2011. "Water Policy in the U.S.-Canada Borderlands: Early Explorations in Cascadia." Paper presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Association of Borderland Studies, Salt Lake City, UT, 15 April 2011.

Michaela Buenemann

Buenemann, M., C. Martius, J.W. Jones, S.M. Herrmann, D. Klein, M. Mulligan, M. Reed, M. Winslow, R.A. Washington-Allen, R. Lal, and D. Ojima. 2011. Integrative geospatial approaches for the comprehensive monitoring and assessment of land management sustainability: rationale, potentials, and characteristics. *Land Degradation and Development* 22 (2): 226-239. DOI: 10.1002/ldr.1074.

Reed, M.S., M. Buenemann, J. Atlhopheng, M. Akhtar-Schuster, F. Bachmann, G. Bastin, H. Bigas, R. Chanda, A.J. Dougill, W. Essahli, A.C. Evely, L. Fleskens, N. Geeson, J.H. Glass, R. Hessel, J. Holden, A. Ioris, B. Kruger, H.P. Liniger, W. Mphinyane, D. Nainggolan, J. Perkins, C.M. Raymond, C.J. Ritsema, G. Schwilch, R. Sebego, M. Seely, L.C. Stringer, R. Thomas, S. Twomlow, S. Verzandvoort. 2011. Cross-scale monitoring and assessment of land degradation and sustainable land management: a methodological framework for knowledge management. *Land Degradation and Development* 22 (2): 261-271. DOI: 10.1002/ldr.1087

Buenemann, M. and K. Hestir1: Land transitions in the Chihuahuan Desert: a quarter-century of change. Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Division of the Association of American Geographers, 11 November 2011, Austin, TX.

Buenemann, M.: Characterizing land change and ecosystem service hotspots in the Desert Southwest: results from southwestern New Mexico. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, 16 April 2011, Seattle, WA.

Pubs and Papers

Carol Campbell

Mohamed, A. H., Holechek, J., Bailey, D. W., Campbell, C., Cibils, A. F., DeMers, M. N. Detecting Chihuahuan Desert rangeland vegetation change with high spatial resolution satellite imagery. *Rangeland Ecology and Management*. (In review).

H. Mohamed, J. L. Holechek, D. W. Bailey, C. L. Campbell, and M. N. DeMers, 2011. "Mesquite encroachment impact on southern New Mexico rangelands: remote sensing and geographic information systems approach," J. Appl. Remote Sens. 5, 053514.

Robert J. Czerniak

Czerniak, Robert J. Ed. (in press). DETROIT MICHIGAN: A TALE OF TWO CITIES.

Czerniak, R. J. (Presenter & Author), Four Corners Conference, Western Planners and NM Chapter of American Planning Assoc., Santa Fe, NM, "Juggling Staff, Citizens and Developing in the Planning Process." September 15, 2011.

Michael DeMers

Dugas, D., Michael N. DeMers, Janet C. Greenlee, Walter G. Whitford, and Anna Klimaszewski-Patterson), 2011. Rapid Evaluation of Arid Lands (REAL): A Methodology, International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research 2(3):32-49.

Daniel P. Dugas

Dugas, D. P. (2011). Influences of Scale and Spatial Attractors on Pogonomyrmex rugosus Nest Distributions in the Chihuahuan Desert, New Mexico. In press with The Southwestern Geographer.

John B. Wright

Wright, J. B. (2011). Exploring Net Benefit Maximization: Conservation Easements and the Public-Private Interface. In James L. Olmsted (Ed.), *Law and Contemporary Problems* (4th ed., vol. 74, pp. 109-144). Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Law School.

Wright, J. B., Agricultural Land Conservation Symposium, New Mexico Land Conservancy, Las Cruces, "Conservation Easement Basics," October 5, 2011.

Urban planning in Geography…..the story continues…

Despite the fact that the Department dropped the BS in urban planning several years ago due to a lack of faculty members needed to support it and our other degree programs, we want to assure our alumni that **urban planning is alive and well at NMSU**! Several things are going on in this area that we wanted to share with you, as noted below.

Ongoing Projects – Working through the Spatial Applications and Research Center, faculty have been successful in bringing in several projects that have a strong planning component:

- Brown, C. and R. Carr. 2011. "Examination of Risk to Groundwater from Onsite Wastewater Management Systems," grant with the Border Environment Cooperation Commission. In this project, we are working with the Dona Ana County Departments of Community Development and Health and Human Services to deploy GIS&T tools to identify areas at risk from onsite systems, examine the specifics of risk to groundwater, and develop and deploy outreach materials to reduce this risk.
- Brown, C. and Z. Edwards. 2011. "Extension of BINS/BGIS II", a grant with the New Mexico Department of Transportation. In this project, we provide GIS&T support services to the Joint Working Committee (JWC) on US-Mexico Binational Transportation Planning. The JWC is a binational committee composed of technical people and planners with the 10 US and Mexican States Departments of Transportation, and a range of federal and state agencies involved in transportation planning in the US and Mexico.
- Brown, C. and R. Carr, R. A. 2011. "Geodatabase Development for the New Mexico Portion of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (EPMPO)." In this project, we provide GIS&T technical support to the EPMPO to assist them in developing their Long Range Transportation Plan, with an eye towards advancing new urbanism principles.
- Czerniak, R., C. Brown, and R. Carr. 2011. "The Camino Real Regional Plan for Sustainable Development," a three year HUD grant to Dona Ana County. In this project, we are partnering with the Dona Ana County Department of Community Development, the City of Las Cruces, and other regional agencies to advance a sustainable development plan that seeks to protect and enhance regional cultural resources.

In addition to the research projects that faculty and staff are conducting, several activities involving students have generated some noteworthy outcomes:

- Derrick Garcia, an undergraduate geography major in his senior year, is completing a planning internship in the Department of Community Development at Dona Ana County.
- Two graduate students, Daniel Estrada and Kelly Merker, are finishing theses on urban planning topics.
- Kelly Merker is also completing an internship with the City of Las Cruces Community Development Department. Matt Ziebarth is an undergraduate student that also completed an internship with CLC in which he developed geodatabases to assist city staff in their work.
- Dr. Czerniak taught Transportation Planning and Sustainable Urban Planning this past year. Although the BS in Urban Planning degree may not be offered, many students have a continuing interest in the topic, as these classes show.

In memoriam

This past year, the geography department lost one of its original faculty members, Dr. Richard W. ("Bill") Helbock (Ph. D. 1973, University of Pittsburg). Bill was hired in 1968 and was instrumental in expanding the capacity of the department to allow for the development of the Urban & Regional Planning major, which was first offered in 1973. Bill was well known for having an outgoing personality, and he was well liked by students and faculty.

As another friend of Geography at NMSU, Dr. Ron Sheck, stated when sharing with us the sad news of Bill's passing, "Bill excited students and made them ever more curious about the world around them. His friendly manner and down to earth approach to academia were welcome attributes of his teaching style that transcended the classroom. Students were always knocking on his door, having coffee with him at campus sites, or enjoying a cool beverage at a local hangout; sometimes engaging him in a softball game. He made them feel welcome and valued. …. He well communicated the value of geography in helping to understand current issues, and taught his students to think about how humans affect the environment. In many ways he was on the cutting edge of a more active professional role for geographers, particularly in public policy and planning. Several of his students went on to become professional planners or work in other careers in government service."

Bill will be remembered as a wonderful colleague and will be missed by everyone at NMSU who knew him. We send our condolences to his wife, Cathy Clark, an alum of NMSU geography. After Bill and Cathy met at NMSU, they embarked on a new future together. From NMSU, they traveled westward, first to Oregon, and then to Australia, a land in which they found much happiness, peace and joy.

Scholarship Bulletin

2012 Spring Awards

Award Recipients

Robert & Beth Czerniak
Outstanding Geography Graduate Student Award
Rebecca Richman

Robert & Beth Czerniak
Outstanding Geography Major Scholarship Award
Xian Dong

Richard D. Wright Award for Excellence in Applied GIS

Undergraduate Award
Rebecca Martin

Graduate Award
Amy Slaughter

James J. Parson's Award for Excellence in Thesis Research
Leandro Gonzalez

Spatial Applications Research Center (SpARC)

State of the Art SpARC Lab.

Greetings from the staff and directors of the Spatial Applications Research Center (SpARC). We wanted to provide a brief update to what is going on in the lab and share some news on staff changes. After three years as the SpARC Coordinator, Zach Edwards left NMSU in summer of 2011 to pursue a job in the private sector, and we wish him well. We are very fortunate to have Randy Carr, a graduate of our Masters in Applied Geography, join us as GIS analyst and lab coordinator. Randy brings several years of experience with him, including thesis research he completed in 2009 in which he used GIS to examine suitability of existing bicycle facilities in Las Cruces. Randy is joined by a very capable crew of students including Paul Allen, Harold "Buddy" Clark Jr., Alma Pacheco, Mark Simpson, Nicholas Damon, and Rebecca Martin.

We have been quite busy lining up some new projects over the last few months, as well as making progress on existing ones. Ongoing projects include providing Web-mapping support to the Paso Del Norte Watershed Council, assisting the NMSU Office of Facilities and Services with digitizing and developing a geodatabase for all campus utility facilities, and continuing our work with the NMSU College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences on a research project examining land based sources of air pollution for the New Mexico Department of Health. New projects include updating a large Web-mapping project for the Joint Working Committee on Binational Transportation Planning, an FHWA effort supported by the NMDOT; developing and putting online a geodatabase to support transportation planning with the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization; examining groundwater risk due to onsite waste disposal in a USEP funded project, and working with a local mutual domestic water association to digitize facilities and compile a geodatabase for utility management.

Throughout all these projects, our focus is to provide a useful and enriching training ground for our students, provide service to our project sponsors, and also serve the Department, College, and NMSU campus with high quality GIS&T services. All indications are we are meeting all of these goals well, and we invite you to "come on by" to visit and see firsthand what we are doing. We hope to see you soon.

Christopher Brown, Director

Robert Czerniak, Associate Director

Randy Carr, Lab Coordinator

NMSU Spatial Applications Research Center

Geography Department
New Mexico State University
MSC MAP/ PO BOX 30001
137 BRELAND HALL
Las Cruces NM, 88003-8001

We're on the web!

http://www.nmsu.edu/~geoweb/

NMSU Department of Geography launches its own Facebook Page!

The NMSU Department of Geography is proud to announce the recent launch of a departmental Facebook page. We heartily invite all students, faculty, staff, and alumni to visit the page, check out what is happening with the department, and share some news of what is going on in your world. We hope to see you there!

http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Mexico-State-University-Department-of-Geography/109764555756575

Newsletter editor
Dr. Christopher Brown

Newsletter production editor
Adriana Castillo

Articles contributed by
NMSU Department faculty, staff, and alumni

Upcoming Geography Conferences and other Events

NMSU Department of Geography to host SWAAG meeting in 2012!

The NMSU Department of Geography is proud to announce that the Southwestern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) has accepted the Department's offer to host the 2012 SWAAG meeting in Las Cruces, NM --- "and by rousing acclimation." Students, faculty, staff, and alumni: we hope that you will join us for this important event. From 25 to 27 October, 2012 We will keep you posted on the progress.

Homecoming 2012

As of press time, the NCAA had not given NMSU a date, but please check our Facebook page and website for details

SpARC Birthday Party

The SpARC Laboratory turns 20 this year, and we had a little get-together to celebrate. We had a great turnout, and it was nice to celebrate 20 years of good work.

Spring Awards Reception

On April 20, 2012 we also had our Spring Award Ceremony. This was a great opportunity to acknowledge out graduates for 2012 and the award winners noted in this newsletter.