



## INSIDE GEOGRAPHY / NMSU

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## Message from the Editor

Hello! A friendly greeting to all from the Department of Geography at NMSU. Spring is in full bloom here and seeing the recent graduates blossom at commencement marks another year. Inside I expand on what's been happening.

Dr. DeMers has been on sabbatical and working with the NCGE to improve geographic literacy in our schools and in society in general. We look forward to his return in August. Thanks to Peg Gronemeyer from the Jornada for stepping in to teach Fundamentals of GIS in his absence.

Dr. Buenemann's sabbatical is next, we congratulate her promotion to Associate professor. Recently, she has put a lot for work into promoting the department and her t-shirt design is a hit! She also designed a new brochure and booklet which are great to pass out to visiting or potential geographers. SpARC is full of activity with new coordinator Hugo Rojas-Villelobos, and Dr. Czerniak's projects with El Paso MPO and others. Dr. Dave Rachal joins the department as affiliated faculty and you can read what he has been up to in the Alumni interview MAG. You can meet Dave in Fall 2015 as he will be teaching Intro to Remote Sensing. Casey Gomez also contributes an alumni update from his consulting company in Texas. Please stay in touch with the department and be sure to stop in if you are in Las Cruces.

*Carol*, Newsletter editor and Associate Professor, [geobird@nmsu.edu](mailto:geobird@nmsu.edu)



Dr. Carol Campbell, Newsletter Editor and Associate Professor

## Mission Statement

The mission of the NMSU Department of Geography is to advance sustainable solutions to contemporary problems through innovative and effective teaching, research, service, and outreach in geographic information science and technology and coupled human-environment systems.

## Vision Statement

The NMSU Department of Geography will be the premier applied geography department in the U.S. Southwest as evidenced by the successful placement of our graduates in excellent jobs and graduate programs as well as our high research and funding productivity relative to geography departments at our peer institutions.



## Alumni Updates: Master of Applied Geography

**Dr. David M. Rachal: Class of 2007**

**Professional Geomorphologist,  
Affiliated Geography Faculty at NMSU**

**What was your specific program or focus of study?**

My focus of study was physical geography and the application of geospatial technologies. I was interested in using GIS and remote sensing techniques to study the effects of climate change earth surfaces processes.

**Who was your major advisor? Describe what your thesis was about and your approach.**

Dr. Dugas was my major advisor. My master's research dealt with how climatic fluctuations influenced dune pattern development at the White Sands National Monument. I used ArcGIS 8.3 to map 14,000 individual dune crests in a 72-km<sup>2</sup> area over a 60-year period in the monument. As I reflect on that experience, I am surprised that I didn't develop carpal tunnel syndrome from clicking the mouse over one million times. That was an insane endeavor. Our results show that the White Sands Dune Field rapidly adjusts to changes in climate over very short periods of time. During decades with above normal precipitation, the dune field would become more organized forming a dune pattern that consisted of longer, less sinuous dunes. During decades with below normal precipitation, the dune field would become more fragmented forming a dune pattern that consisted of more individual dune crests that were highly sinuous. We published our results in *Physical Geography* in 2009.

**Did anyone else play a role in your work?**

Personal at the White Sands Missile Range and White Sands National Monument were both very generous in providing me all of their historic aerial photos. Without that photo archive, I could not have completed my thesis project.

**What was the new innovation of the day (time?).**

I used ArcGIS 8.3, but object based image analysis was also a hot technique during that time.

**What did you do when you left NMSU?**

After completing my masters, I finished my Ph.D. at NMSU in the Department of Plant and Environmental Science under Dr. Monger (i.e. The Mongersol). After that I started a geomorphology consulting company where I help cultural resource management firms locate and evaluate cultural deposits in southern New Mexico.

**Is there any technique or approach you used in thesis/grad work that was particularly beneficial later?**

What I learned from my brief tenure in the geography department was a workflow. The ability to find data, such as air photos or remotely sensed imagery, plug them into GIS or ERDAS for further analysis and generate maps based on those results. I use this workflow on a daily basis.



(A) Soils fieldwork in Botswana. Photo was taken in 2007. (B) Last Summer at the Taj Mahal. (C) Photo taken in 2010 at Machu Picchu.

## Alumni Updates MAG Continued.....

### How has your geography degree helped you?

The MAG program has provided me with a ton of teaching experience, which has helped me with my communication skills. The program also got me thinking about how processes can be observed at scales ranging from microscopic to continental and produce broad geographic patterns. Finally, Dr. Dugas' geomorphology class, along with other courses in the geography department, got me thinking of landforms as seen from aerial photographs and satellite imagery and how landforms are the result of large-scale geologic processes. All of this has helped me become a better geomorphologist.

### What are you doing these days? What's next?

I am still consulting and travelling. Last year I worked on a mastodon excavation on WSMR, which was awesome. I have been invited back for another field season this year. So, that will be a lot of fun. Currently, I am working on a geoarchaeology/paleoclimate project in the Three Rivers area on WSMR. As far as travelling goes, I have been to 21 countries and I am going to Egypt and Greece this summer to take in the antiquities. Look out Jack Wright! Furthermore, my new passion is UAV mapping and image analysis. It's amazing what you can do with a prosumer grade unit. It has proven to be a very use tool in my line of work.

### What are your long-term plans?

Keep consulting and hopefully find funds to teach a graduate level course in UAV Mapping and Image Analysis at NMSU. I have the equipment and experience; I just need a room, course reference number, and a very tiny paycheck. However, enrollment is shrinking at NMSU and funds to develop and teach this course are hard to come by. So, if there are any wealthy alumni with disposal income that want to give back to the program and institution that got you where you are today, please go to the NMSU geography webpage and make a donation so I can make this happen. Please state, in the "Tell us how you want your gift applied" box that your donation is for designing and teaching a UAV mapping class. This will be a small investment into our program that will result in a big return that will benefit the students of the geography program and NMSU as whole.

### Any special memories of classes, professors or grad experiences to share?

One of my fondest memories of geography department was the sense of the community between the faculty and graduate students. Everybody was willing to help you if you needed it. It was a good atmosphere to develop and grow academically and personally.

#### Publications:

**Rachal, D. M.**, and Dugas, D. P., 2009, Historic dune pattern dynamics: White Sands Dune Field, New Mexico: *Physical Geography*, v. 30, no 1, p. 64-78.

Monger, H. C., Buck, B. J., Hawley, J. W., and **Rachal, D. M.**, 2012, Geochronology of the Bolson sand sheet, New Mexico and Texas, and its archaeological significance: *Discussion: Geological Society of America Bulletin*, v. 124, no. 9-10, p. 1552-1556.

**Rachal, D. M.**, Monger, H. C., Okin, G. S., and Peters, D. C., 2012, Landform influences on the resistance of grasslands to shrub encroachment, Northern Chihuahuan Desert, USA: *Journal of Maps*, v. 8, no. 4, p. 507-513.

Monger, H.C. and **D.M. Rachal**. 2013. Soil and landscape memory of climate change: how sensitive, how connected? *Society of Sedimentary Geology Special Publication 104*. p. 63-70.

**Rachal, D. M.**, Okin, G. S., Peters, D. C. and Alexander, C. (In Press), Modifying landscape connectivity by reducing wind driven sediment redistribution, Northern Chihuahuan Desert, USA. *Aeolian Research*.



## Alumni Updates: Bachelor of Science, Geography

### Casey Gomez: Class of 2007

#### Natural Resource Consultant

**Best class memory or activity, and worst?** Best would probably be really learning something in Dr. Wright's classes. The worst would probably be the typical "all-nighter". But my fondest memories were hanging out with my neighbors and some of the best friends I've ever had on Sweet Street.

**What was the new technology of the day when you were in school? Is it still being used?** ArcINFO command line, ArcView, and I think ArcView 8. I don't think too many people would want to use those very much these days.

**Any mention of activities or research experience from classes that you applied later?** There was a GIS modeling class that was kind of the gateway to a lot of the work I do today.

**What did you do when you left NMSU?** Well, I was unemployed for a bit as it was an adventure to try and land a good job with my educational and work background. I was successful after a few months in getting a good job near Dallas, TX.

**What are you doing these days?** Career wise, I've been a natural resource consultant for about 7 years. I was certified by GISCI as a GISP a few years back. I've been able to work on projects, allowing me to conduct endangered species field studies in the Caribbean, GIS and Fire behavior analysis from California and Alaska down to Florida, and scientific diving in the Gulf of Mexico. I developed my experience as a GIS analyst/Coordinator, providing different types of analysis for ground breaking studies in the Atlantic, Department of Defense (DOD) needs in the Middle East, endangered species habitat modeling across the U.S., and due diligence for large corporations. During this time, I also expanded into the wildland fire field becoming certified as a wildland firefighter and obtaining certifications in wildland fire behavior. I've been providing fire behavior modeling, risk assessments, and analysis for DOD, US Forest Service (USFS), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for several years as well as working on new approaches to improve upon static management practices. As a member of our company dive team and American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) I've been fortunate to work with divers from around the world and assist in natural disasters assessing damage. **I am also now the proud new owner of my own consulting company.**



From left to right, Me, Greg, and Amy. Just another typical work day diving in the Gulf of Mexico.



Endangered species aerial surveys in New Mexico.

On the personal side, I've been married for over 15 awesome years now and have a daughter in high school learning to drive, and another in middle school driving me crazy.

**What's next?** Next, is working on a couple of opportunities that will keep me in the Caribbean sun and sea doing coral restoration for the next few years.

**How did your geography degree help you?** It definitely helped to get me into some entry level GIS work while I was still in school.

**Do you have any recommendations for future alumni?** Listen to what everyone has been telling you about getting an internship. You need experience if you want to be a valued addition to any team. Oh, and one another thing, get an internship.

## ***Congratulations to the Spring 2015 Graduating Class!***

Article by Carol Campbell

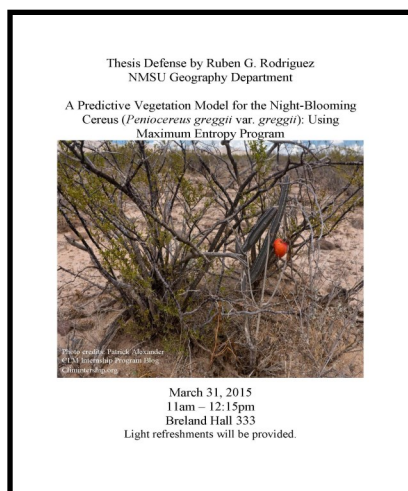
It was my honor to represent the Geography department at the 2015 spring commencement. It always touches me to see their faces and the looks of accomplishment as they cross the stage and accept their degrees. Our graduates for the Master of Applied Geography are Ronny Forney and Ruben Rodriguez. Our graduates for the BS in Geography are Ruben Baca, Shannon Harris, Ian Miller, Gracia Nunez, Shenoah Padilla, and Brooke Stathis.



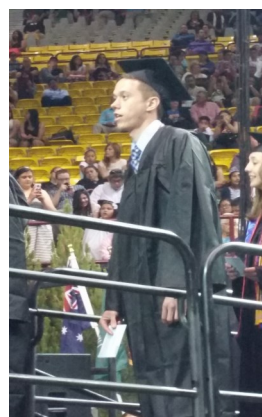
Gracia Nunez and Dr. Campbell at lineup.



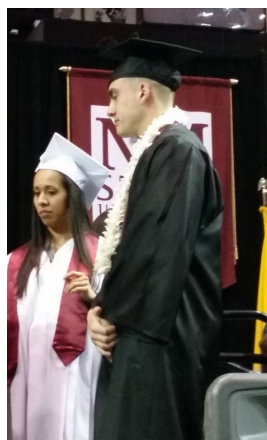
Ruben Rodriguez, MAG



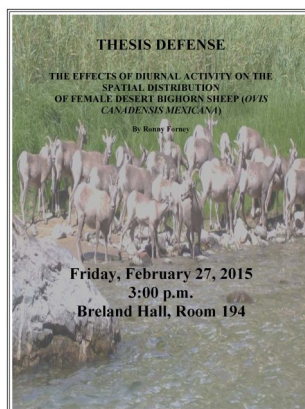
MAG Ronny Forney wins Second Place in the 3 –Minute Thesis competition. Ronny's thesis explored desert bighorn sheep habitat. Congratulations Ronny!



Ian Miller



Marcus Gay



Ronny Forney (left) and Associate Dean Ken Van Winkle (right).



## Department News

### NMSU Geography Department produces new t-shirt, brochure, and booklet

Article by Michaela Buenemann

The NMSU Geography Department created a new departmental brochure, booklet, and t-shirt this semester. The brochure provides information on the department's mission, vision, programs, resources, and faculty. The booklet provides information on knowledge and skills a geography student acquires, jobs available to geographers, and much more. Both the brochure and booklet are available at no charge as digital files or hard copies. The t-shirt is available in women's and men's cuts, in dark gray, and features print on the front (Keep Calm and GEOG On) and back (Geographer & NMSU Geography Department logo). T-shirts may be purchased for \$10 per shirt. Questions about the t-shirt, booklet, and brochure may be directed to Dr. Michaela Buenemann.



## SpARC Updates



SpARC welcomes new coordinator Hugo Rojas-Villelobos to campus. Hugo brings his friendly smile and computer science savvy to that wing of the department, whether he is organizing student employees or scheduling meetings with the collaborators and Dr.'s Czerniak and Brown.

Hugo was born in Mazatlan Sinaloa Mexico, a tourist marina facing the Mar de Cortez. He studied Computer Systems Engineering at the Durango Institute of Technology, then began working as administrator of the Geographic Information Center at the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juarez where he earned his master's degree in Environmental Engineering with specialization in Surface Hydrology. He is full professor in the career of Geoinformatics and currently has a permit to study a PhD in Water Science and Management at NMSU.

Current projects include El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization Ozone Source and Distribution Study, Dona Ana County Business Mapping Project and Tucumcari's Historic Route 66 Center Project, and Remote Sensing of the City of Las Cruces trees. The lab also supports the Viva Dona Ana GIS Portal and Viva Dona Ana User's Group.



Hugo Rojas-Villelobos, seen here at the spring banquet, 4-31-2015

Photo by C. Campbell

## Pubs & Papers

Department faculty continue their active research activities within their specific area of research. Through such efforts, we are able to share the outcomes of our work with a broad audience, inform our teaching and service, and provide a model for our graduate students on the value of the applied research that is at the heart of the Department.

### Christopher Brown

Brown, C. 2015. "Scale and Subnational Resource Management: Transnational Initiatives in the Salish Sea Region." *Review of Policy Research*. 32(1): 60-78.

Brown, C., M. Schoderbak, and R. Carr. 2015. "The spatial distribution of assets and challenges driving the quality of life in Dona Ana County, New Mexico." Paper in review by the *Papers of the Applied Geography Conference*.

Mumme, S. and C. Brown. 2015. "The Real ID Act and the Tijuana Border Fencing: The New Politics of Security and Border Environmental Protection." Paper in press with *Trilateral Politics: North American Environmental Issues and Policies*, edited by O. Temby and P. Storrett, to be published by SUNY Press.

### Michaela Buenemann

Diallo, D., Sall, A. A., Diagne, C. T., Faye, O., Faye, O., Ba, Y., Hanley, K. A., Buenemann, M., Weaver, S. C. 2015. "Zika virus emergence in mosquitoes in southeastern Senegal, 2011." Paper in press with *Public Library of Science Neglected Tropical Diseases*.

Diallo, D., Sall, A. A., Diagne, C. T., Faye, O., Hanley, K. A., Buenemann, M., Ba, Y., O., Weaver, S. C., Diallo, M. 2014. "Patterns of a sylvatic yellow fever virus amplification in southeastern Senegal." *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 90(6), 1003-1013.

### Carol Campbell

Druskat, E., W. Whitford, C. Campbell, "Population trends of American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and White-winged Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) during an agricultural shift in the Rio Grande Valley of southern New Mexico". Paper in review in *Southwestern Naturalist*, January 2015.

### Mike DeMers

Al-Ajlouni, M. G., VanLeeuwen, D., DeMers, M. N., St Hilaire, R. 2014. "A Method to Quantitatively Classify Residential Urban Landscapes in a Desert Environment." *HortTechnology*, 23(4), 474-481.

DeMers, M. N. 2014. "Zoogeography." Paper in press with *International Encyclopedia of Geography*.

DeMers, M. N. 2014. "Cartesian Coordinate Systems." Paper in press with *International Encyclopedia of Geography*.

### Dan Dugas

Cortes, D., Bandini, P., Weldon, B. D., Dugas, D. P. 2014. *Development of Subgrade Stabilization Protocol*. Technical paper submitted to the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) in support of sponsored project funded by NMDOT.

Dugas, Daniel and John B. Wright. 2015. "El Cabrón: The Southwest's Spring Wind." Paper in review by *The Southwestern Geographer*.

### Jack Wright

Wright, John B. 2015. "The Changing Tibetan Buddhist Landscape of Upper Mustang, Nepal. Paper in press with *Focus on Geography*.

Wright, John B. 2015. Comparing Strategic and Opportunistic Approaches to Land Conservation. Paper in review by the *Papers of the Applied Geography Conference*.

## Research & Teaching

### 2015 Biogeographer's Ball

Article by Carol Campbell

This year's Biogeographer's Ball included posters of eleven species including American marten, Meadow Jumping Mouse, Gila Trout, Bison, Mexican Grey Wolf, wild Horse, Grey Fox, Black Bear, Greater Roadrunner, Mallard and Mountain Lion.

Many students create their first poster in Geography 351/557 Biogeography and the printed poster provides tangible evidence they can take home and share with friends. Something I hope we can continue to provide for future students.



### Spring 2015 Cartography Olympics

Article by Michaela Buenemann

The Cartography Olympics are an individual- and team-based competition held by Dr. Michaela Buenemann upon completion of all major topics in GEOG 381/571 – Cartography and GIS.

The winning students in this year's Cartography Olympics are:

1st Place Individual: Grecia Nunez

2nd Place Individual: David Jaurequi

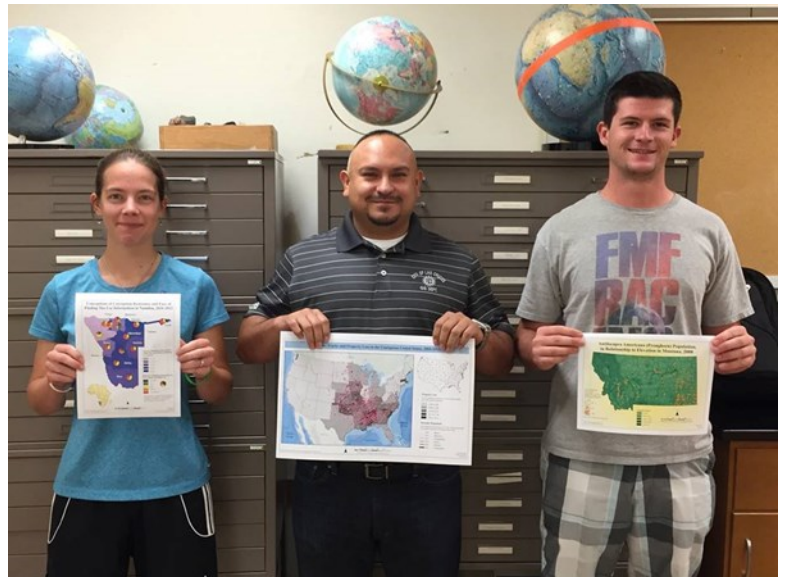
3rd Place Individual: Holly Baker and Randy Coryell

The winning student teams in this year's Cartography Olympics are:

1st Place Team: Geo Geeks (Michele Darby, Sky Hays, David Jaurequi, Taylor Lowe, Ian Miller)

2nd Place Team: Map Quest (Holly Baker, Sam Bridgewater, Marcus Gay, Lilyan Sensiba, Russell Sensiba)

3rd Place Team: Three Muskateers (Dosi Alvarez, Coury Dorn, Grecia Nunez, Michael Specht).



Holly Baker (3rd Place, left), David Jaurequi (1st Place, middle), Taylor Lowe (2nd Place, right).

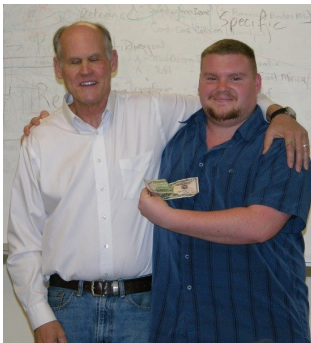


## 2015 Spring Banquet

### Award Recipients



Dr. Brown presents Gaurav Thapa with the Robert & Beth Czerniak Outstanding Geography Graduate Student Award



Dr. Wright presents Lucas Fullam \$100.00 cash for the



Dr. Wright congratulates Paige Ramsey after she wins the \$100.00 cash in the New Major Drawing



Dr. Wright presents Robert Sabie with the James J. Parson's Award for Excellence in Thesis Research. Robert donated his award monies to the Nepal Relief fund.



Dr. Brown presents Ryan Blickem the Richard D. Wright Award for Excellence in Applied GIS Undergraduate Award.



Dr. Brown shakes Charlie Jackson's hand after he is awarded the Richard D. Wright Award for Excellence in Applied GIS Graduate award.



Zach Taraschi receives the Robert & Beth Czerniak Outstanding Geography Undergraduate Award presented by Dr. Brown.

Good turnout and good food for the Spring Banquet. Thanks to Dr. Brown and Susan DeMar for their work to organize.



## NMSU Geography Outreach

### College of Arts and Sciences Community Engagement Event

Article by Christopher Brown

On 15 April 2015, the public service work of students and staff that work in the Departments Spatial Application Research Center (SpARC) was recognized at a reception hosted by Christa Slaton, Dean of the NMSU College of Arts and Sciences. Dean Slaton feels very strongly about the value of faculty, staff, and students working with members of the community on service projects, and the event was to recognize the partnership between College faculty, staff, and students with community leaders to help improve the lives of people in the community.

Each faculty member involved invited their community partners, and Department Head Christopher Brown invited Nicole Martinez, Executive Director of the Community of Hope (CoH), an organization that works to provide a range of services to the homeless population of the Las Cruces Region. In her comments to the group, Nicole recalled the story of how staff within the SpARC Lab did some pro bono mapping work in support of the CoH's application for a zoning variance that would allow Camp Hope, the tent city that provided a safe place for transitional homeless people to live on the CoH's campus, to become a permanent City-sanctioned facility. Kaitlyn Jeffs and Randy Carr worked together to do the mapping work needed, and Nicole used the map to obtain the needed variance and also win grant funds that supported improvements to Camp Hope to allow it to meet City requirements. Brown tapped some discretionary funds under his control to pay Carr and Jeffs to do the work, and all involved were happy to help Nicole in her important work and help improve the lives of less fortunate members of our community.



Figure caption—Brown and Nicole at awards reception

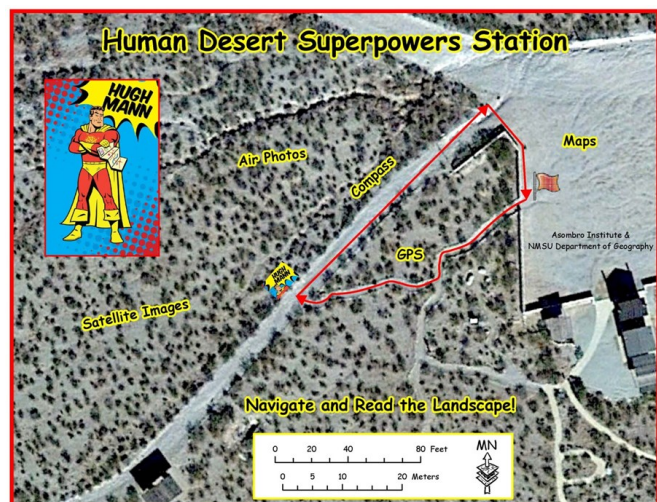
### NMSU Geographers at Asombro Institute's Desert Superpowers Event

Article by Michaela Buenemann

Six NMSU geographers participated in this year's Desert Superpowers, an event hosted by the Asombro Institute for Science Education in the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park on March 5, 2015. The event was aimed at helping visitors learn about the native animals and plants of the Chihuahuan Desert. NMSU geographers hosted the "Hugh Mann" station, which focused on teaching visitors about the human "superpowers" of map, compass, and GPS use. Activities at the station were well received. The NMSU geographers included Holly Baker, Devin Cahill, Jake Dialesandro, Armando Morales, Zach Taraschi, and Dr. Michaela Buenemann.



Jake Dialesandro, Zach Taraschi, Devin Cahill, Armando Morales, Holly Baker (left to right).





## New Mexico Geography Bee, State Finals, 2015. NMSU Department of Geography Alumni Give Back to Kids of New Mexico

*Article by Christopher Brown*

The National Geographic Society (NGS) partnered with geographers in New Mexico to host the State of New Mexico NGS Geography Bee in Albuquerque, NM on 27 March 2015. The finalists that gathered at the New Mexico Dance Institute for what proved to be a fiercely competitive event were 75 students that won their individual school geography bee competitions and that also demonstrated geographic proficiency through a written exam. Daniel Estrada (BS, class of 2006, and MAG, class of 2012) and Jack Toomey (BS, class of 2009) took a day off of work from their jobs at the State of New Mexico Office of the State



NM Geography Bee winner, Lakshay Sood with officials and family members.

Engineer (Estrada) and the NM Gas Company (Toomey) to participate in putting on the Bee, and they were most helpful in making this a great event. The 75 grade 5-8 students that began the Bee engaged in a preliminary round of 9 questions, and the going was tough. An unnamed Ph.D. geographer in the crowd admitted to getting several questions wrong! After a very competitive tie-breaker, Lakshay Sood of the Manzano Day School in Albuquerque, NM was the last student standing in a single elimination final round that crowned Lakshay as the State of New Mexico NGS Geography Bee Champion. Department Head Christopher Brown traveled to the Bee to support his son, Jared Brown, in the competition, and Brown noted, "It was really great to see so

many kids and parents so excited about geography. Seeing Daniel and Jack there, taking time out of their busy professional lives to volunteer to make the event so successful, was a special treat and evidence of what a caring Department we are and what a caring group of people our students and alumni are."



Daniel Estrada left, Jared Brown, center and Christopher Brown right.



### Dr. Dugas Trains Science Olympiad Students

Since last year, Dr. Dugas has been working with a team of students from Sierra Middle School here in Las Cruces, under the leadership of Angela Frausto and Sophia Baloun. They were training for the city and state Science Olympiad competitions.

These are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 team events. Science Olympiad requires preparation, commitment, coaching, and practice throughout the year. At the completion of this year's events, the Sierra team placed first in the city, and third in the state competition.

Dr. Dugas trained students in the "Roads Scholar" portion of the Olympiad in which students were tested on their knowledge of maps and their use. The students were coached on numerous aspects of map use, from scale and coordinate systems, to map design and navigation. Dugas' reflection on the event: "I was incredibly impressed with the curiosity and dedication of these students. They were hardworking, intelligent, and quick to learn these complex geographic principles. I had a lot of fun working with them and look forward to next year."



## Geography Talks & Meetings

Dr. Campbell is a member of the A&S Colloquium committee and this year she hosted Dr. DeMers who spoke to the college about Geographic Literacy.

This talk describes the efforts to eventually reintroduce geography back into our K-12 schools, suggests how these efforts, if well structured and focused can provide an opportunity for American citizens and their leaders to transition to a geographically literate and globally sensitive society we need to be in today's global society.

**Geodatabase Workshop**

Focusing on conceptualization, implementation, and management of databases in support of applied GIS&T projects

Add to your KSAs!!

- Organization
- Data Integrity
- Metadata
- Datasets

Given by  
Kate Higgins  
Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
5-7 pm  
Breland 192

Kate Higgins returned to the department in April to present a workshop on geodatabase management. We appreciate the participation and opportunity for networking that these workshops provide our students and the local GIS community.

NM College of Arts and Sciences

Spring 2015 Colloquium: "Transitions"

Monday, March 2, 2015 Carol and Elbert Walker Room Science Hall 107 4:00 - 5:15 pm

Monday, March 2, 2015  
Hosted by the Department of Geography  
"Transitioning to a Geographically Literate Society"

Dr. Michael DeMers  
Professor  
New Mexico State University

During the 1970's US K-12 geography education fell victim to a trend in social engineering that considered the subject irrelevant. Traditional geography courses were supplanted by social studies which combined civics, economics, political science, history, and to a lesser degree, geography. Fortunately, there is a movement to reverse this trend in geographic education, spurred partly by the increasing demand for geographic information systems tools whose underpinnings are fundamentally geographic. Joint ventures spearheaded by the National Geographic, Environmental Systems Research Institute, the National Council for Geographic Education, the Association of American Geographers, and the efforts of fifty four geographic alliances show promise to incorporate geographic thinking within existing courses and possibly to eventually reintroduce geography back into our K-12 schools.

Dr. DeMers is Professor of Geography at New Mexico State University specializing in Geographic Information Science, Landscape Ecology, and Geographic Education. DeMers is the 2010 winner of the Anderson Medal of Honor in Applied Geography awarded by the Applied Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). He is the Immediate Past President of the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) and holds positions as GIS Section (Editor of Geography Compass, Chair of the Anderson Selection Committee (AAG), and the Coordinator of the New Mexico Geographic Alliance.

NM College of Arts and Sciences

Series Sponsored by the Arts and Sciences Research Center

## NMSU Geography Department Hosts Annual Spring Meeting of the Rio Grande Chapter of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

Article by Michaela Buenemann



For the fifth time in six years, Dr. Michaela Buenemann organized the Annual Spring Meeting of the Rio Grande Chapter of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. The meeting was held in the NMSU Geography Department on April 11, 2015, and was attended by more than twenty-five participants from New Mexico State University, University of New Mexico, New Mexico Highlands University, NASA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and several businesses. The meeting included presentations by students, faculty, and professionals from across the state and ranged in topics from unmanned aerial systems and vegetation mapping to the monitoring of surface coal mines. The meeting also featured a handheld spectroradiometer workshop, organized by students and faculty from the University of New Mexico. The meeting concluded with a potluck and camp-out at Dr. Buenemann's place.



## Susan DeMar Awards Ruth Mary Webber Scholarship in Honor of Her Mother 2015 Scholarship Award Recipients (May 13)

*Las Cruces Sun-News*

POSTED: 05/13/2015 01:00:00 AM MDT

The NMSU Women's Club recently hosted their 2015 Spring Scholarship Awards Luncheon on April 18, at the Sunset Grill. Not pictured Maria Ornelas recipient of the new Ruth Mary Webber Scholarship. The purpose of the NMSU Women's Club is to welcome newcomers to New Mexico State University, promote educational and social activities, and pursue special service projects that enrich the university community. Among other special projects, the club raises money for scholarships for returning women students.



Pictured here, from left, Dinah Jentgen; Tammy Benally, returning student scholarship recipient; Olivia Acuna, scholarship recipient of the Carol Stathis, Ruth Blanch, and Virginia Jacquez Book Scholarship; Esther Devall; Susan DeMar; Olga Conter; and Pam Jeffries.





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## WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://geography.nmsu.edu/>

NMSU DEPARTMENT OF  
GEOGRAPHY LAUNCHES ITS OWN  
FACEBOOK PAGE!

THE NMSU DEPARTMENT OF  
GEOGRAPHY HEARTILY  
INVITES 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!

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
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ARTICLES CONTRIBUTED BY  
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STAFF AND ALUMNI.

### How can you help?

The realities of limited budgets and competing demands for funds make it a challenge to do many of the creative things we do in the Department. We have developed an easy way for alumni and "friends of the Department" to help us with these efforts. The ["Make a Gift"](#) link at our Departmental Website takes you directly to an easy to complete and secure form at the NMSU Foundation where you can make a donation to the Department's General Scholarship Fund. Gifts donated in the next 6 months will support "The Biogeographers Ball," a wonderful event that Carol Campbell organizes in which students conduct applied biogeographic research of T&E species in NM and produce posters that summarize their efforts. This year's Ball is featured on page 8 of the newsletter. For many students this is their first poster and Dr. Campbell feels that the lasting evidence of a printed poster is worth the cost. Your help to support the production of the large format posters that are the highlight of the event will greatly ease pressure for funds in other areas. Thanks in advance for your support.

Christopher Brown, Department Head.

