



GEO GRAPH

Volume 15, Issue 1 • Summer 2016

ERIC A. WALKER BUILDING





From the Department Head

Poised for success

Over the last two years, the department has been reworking our undergraduate curriculum. We begin transitioning to the new set of courses this coming year, with both trepidation and enthusiasm.

We are getting a jump on the university-level revamp of general education requirements and Penn State's new emphasis on engaged scholarship: out-of-class experiences that complement in-class learning, such as undergraduate research, internships, study abroad, service learning and community-based learning. Our UROC program that pairs undergrads with grad thesis research work (Geog 494) is a successful aspect of research engagement for geography majors. We are also poised to offer some of the first gen eds categorized as meeting the new Integrative Studies (IS) requirement. All Penn State general education courses will be re-certified this year, and we are ready. Brent Yarnal, whose retirement is celebrated in this issue, was a leader in both these initiatives at the university level as past Senate chair.

In addition to serving the broader undergraduate student body with new offerings, we want to recruit more majors to geography. At Penn State, and for much of the

United States, geography is a discovery major. Students are more likely to discover their interests and passions in our discipline when they take our gen ed courses. Few plan to major in geography as first-year students. Many of our current introductory courses at (zero to 100 levels, such as 10 and 115) serve both as core courses required of our majors and as the gen ed discovery. We are splitting these course roles to do better at both goals. We are launching zero-level courses that focus on fascinating problems and broad overviews of geography. At the zero level we have already begun "Global Parks and Sustainability" (GEOG 001) online, which rapidly filled to 250 students last spring. "Maps and the Geospatial Revolution" (GEOG 006) and a course on environment and food (GEOG 003) are scheduled for this coming year, with two in planning. We have great faculty getting geographic perspectives out to large groups of students with these new efforts, so we can actively recruit majors—the world needs more geographers.

Our majors will have a new set of 200-level core courses that lay groundwork for the advanced topics in our four fields: Human Geography, Environment and Society, Physical Geography, and Geographic Information Science. The 200-level courses are the prerequisites for 300-level courses that offer key themes at intermediate levels for each of the

four fields. For example, climate, biogeography, geomorphology, and field methods for physical. These intermediate offerings will allow the 400-level courses to engage students in more complex and advanced topics given stronger prerequisite foundations. Behind the scenes, Jodi Vender (our undergrad adviser) and Rachel Isaacs (senior PhD student) have been assisting in the preparation of the Senate course proposal submissions and setting up consultations with the many Penn State programs and campuses that include geography in their offerings.

Our geospatial online programs group, led by Anthony Robinson, has begun planning for undergraduate program offerings to complement our popular online post-baccalaureate certificate programs and GIS master's degree (MGIS).

Renewing our curriculum—the gen eds, student engagement, global experiences, and scaffolding advanced study—is all to support better student success in an environment where Penn State is emphasizing program assessment (for example, adding a vice provost for planning and assessment last fall). We're poised for transitioning to new curriculum in the next academic year, for recruiting new majors, and sending better-prepared geographers out into the world.



Department comings and goings

Farewell

Brent Yarnal, professor of geography since 1985, retired at the end of the 2015–16 academic year. Please see the appreciation on page 8.

Vit Voženílek, professor and department head at Palacky University Olomouc, Faculty of Science, Department of Geoinformatics, was here as a Fulbright Scholar during the spring 2016 semester. Voženílek is a vice-president of the International Cartographic Association and vice-president of Czech Cartographic Society.

Welcome

Melissa (Missy) Fischer is our new undergraduate administrative assistant. She started on July 15, 2015.

Katherine Foo joined us on August 1, 2015 as a postdoctoral scholar with a two-year appointment.

Fritz Kessler was appointed as a senior research associate with the John A. Dutton e-Education Institute and online geospatial programs.

Bronwen Powell joined us as an assistant professor, joint appointment with Geography and African Studies, on January 2, 2016.

Jennifer Baka joined us July 1, 2016 as an assistant professor of geography, with emphasis on energy policy.

Joshua Inwood joined us July 1, 2016 as the geography of global ethics co-hire with the Rock Ethics Institute.

Adrienne Goldsberry will join the online geospatial program as a full-time faculty member on September 1, 2016. She will focus on GIS Certificate program student advising and teaching.

George Panteras joined the department in as a postdoctoral scholar with the Geoinformatics and Earth Observation Laboratory in fall 2015.



PennState
College of Earth
and Mineral Sciences

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Recognition Reception recap

Students honored for annual accomplishments

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the Department of Geography gathered on Friday, April 29, 2016 in Walker Building for the annual Recognition Reception to give awards and honor achievements for the year.

Socializing and refreshments took place in room 319 Walker Building as participants had the opportunity to examine research posters prepared by the completing master's degree students. Then everyone moved to 112 Walker Building for the awards presentation.

Cynthia Brewer served as the master of ceremonies, sharing the lectern with Donna Peuquet, director of undergraduate programs, and Alexander Klippel, director of the resident graduate program, to recognize students, faculty, and staff who won awards this year.

For the first time, the awards ceremony was webcast live via

Sciences representatives, and then introduced the Gockley Family. Gwen McCauley presented the Jeff Gockley Memorial Award. The award was established in 2005 to honor the memory of her brother, alumnus Jeff Gockley (BS '97). It is awarded to top rising senior(s) in the GIS option. This year's recipient was John Swab. Swab could not attend the Recognition Reception because he was studying at the University of Oxford. "It is a true privilege and honor to be selected as the 2016 winner of the Jeff Gockley Memorial Award. Ever since I discovered geography as an academic discipline in high school, I have been enamored with it. Penn State has allowed me to both further my knowledge of geographic principles while providing the necessary GIS skills to visualize data," Swab said.

Peuquet presented the departmental undergraduate student awards and acknowledged a few other awards that students had received this year.



Left to right: Carolyn Fish, Nari Senanayake, and Sara Cavallo at the 2016 Recognition Reception.

Mediasite, and can be viewed in the Coffee Hour To Go Current Season folder. [Tip: sort by date, new to old.]

In her opening remarks, Brewer acknowledged special guests, including College of Earth and Mineral

Balmat Family Scholarship in Geography: Christopher Mertz and Doran Tucker.

Balmat Family Fund for Honors Scholars: William Coughlin, Ryan Gallagher, and Sonia Kaufman.

G.D. Richardson and Kathy LaSauce Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences: Matthew Diaz, Ruiqi Guo, Quincy Morgan, McQuillan Murphy, Sophia Najjar, Yuying Ren, and Grant Smith.

Geography Alumni Scholars (Outstanding Undergraduate Student) Award: Adrienne Cooke, William Coughlin, Aaron Dennis, Ryan Gallagher, and Blake Naito.

Jodi Vender presented the inaugural Peter R. Gould Center for Geography





Left to right: Blake Naito, Adrienne Cooke, Aaron Dennis, and William Coughlin are four of the five recipients of the Geography Alumni Scholars Award.

Education and Outreach Student Engagement Award to Marissa Defratti, Margaret Norton, and Patrick Stephens.

Klippel presented the departmental graduate student awards and acknowledged a few other awards that students had received this year.

E. Willard Miller Award in Geography:
 PhD paper: Paulo Raposo (first place), Carolyn Fish (second place)
 PhD cartography/software: Morteza Karimzadeh
 PhD proposal: Nari Senanayake (first place), Adrienne Tucker (second place)
 MS paper: Elizabeth Dzwonczyk (first place), John Dzwonczyk (second place)

Ruby S. Miller Endowment for Geographic Excellence:
 Yanni Cao, Li-San Hung, Morteza Karimzadeh, Audrey Lumley-Sapanski, Mario Machado, Azita Ranjbar, Ramzi Tubbeh

Geography Outstanding Research Assistant Award: Audrey Lumley-Sapanski.

James T. Meyer Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award: Sara Cavallo

In introducing the Staff Outstanding Service Award, Brewer said “We’ve been working on curriculum revisions and our undergraduate academic adviser Jodi Vender guides us through all the details of that. In addition, the University is implementing new systems for course scheduling: Lionpath, Talisma, College Net, and it’s been a big year and a lot of hard work.”

After the awards were presented, graduates were recognized. Undergraduate geography degrees were earned by 36 students in summer 2015, fall 2015, and spring 2016. Also during the 2015–16 academic year, there were 52 GIS degrees, 8 master of science degrees, and 6 doctor of philosophy degrees awarded. There were 29 students who completed the graduate certificate in Geospatial Intelligence Analytics; 193 students who completed the postbaccalaureate certificate in Geographic Information Systems; and 14 students who completed the postbaccalaureate certificate in Geospatial Intelligence Applications.

To conclude the event, officers of the Gamma Theta Upsilon international honor society in geography held a ceremony to induct new members.



Source: UNHCR / 18 June 2015

Mapping refugees through online engaged scholarship

This summer, Penn State Department of Geography online geospatial education program instructors Beth King and Fritz Kessler took ten students in the online Master of Geographic Information Systems (MGIS) program on a unique travel experience. In the new course, GEOG 597G: Challenges in Global

for mass migration, humanitarian aid, resettlement, and it affects nations worldwide. Our students developed visualization solutions using the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) database to provide assistance to refugees,” King said. The solutions entailed developing software, identifying

learning tools. They also partnered with ITC students and began interacting online, Kessler explained. After that, the Penn State students and instructors traveled to Enschede, Netherlands to collaborate in person with ITC students in an intense one-week project development experience. During the second week of their trip, they visited national mapping agencies in the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland to talk about their results and make professional contacts with geospatial professionals. After the two weeks of travel, they returned home to complete their final project.

“We wanted our students to work on an applied research project with students at another university, and ITC students come to the Netherlands from all over the world, so that aspect was appealing to us as well.”—Anthony Robinson

Geospatial Analytics, Penn State students collaborated with graduate students from ITC - University of Twente located in Enschede, Netherlands to develop solutions to analyze spatio-temporal patterns in refugee migration data.

“The current refugee crisis is unprecedented and has implications

potential funding sources, and making recommendations on how best to allocate resources to benefit refugees.

The first six weeks of the course featured collaborative learning at a distance. Penn State students spent that time engaged in problem-solving activities using a range of digital

“Our students had the opportunity to present their work and develop new connections with EU geospatial professionals via the site visits,” King said. “They also worked in teams to tackle this global-scale data set, and use geospatial analytics to arrive at a solution to visualize refugee





migration patterns over space and time.”

This class has been in development for several years. “The core idea emerged after Cindy Brewer and I took undergraduates around the world for a CAUSE trip in 2012,” said Anthony Robinson, director of online geospatial education programs and assistant professor in the Department of Geography. “We talked on that trip about how something could be created to serve the needs of our professional MGIS students. I’ve been working on the proposal and logistical details since then, in coordination with Professor Menno-Jan Kraak at ITC,” Robinson said, adding, “Penn State and ITC have had a lot of collaboration on research over the years,

so making a connection to ITC was a natural for this. We wanted our students to work on an applied research project with students at another university, and ITC students come to the Netherlands from all over the world, so that aspect was appealing to us as well. Professor Kraak at ITC is also the current president of the International Cartographic Association—an organization that I’m quite active in, along with others in the department like Cindy Brewer and Alan MacEachren. We saw this as a unique opportunity to create a new model for how to couple research with online learning at the graduate level, and to do it in a way that reflects the unique abilities of our professional World Campus students.

“We’ve had a lot of support from the Department of Geography, John A. Dutton e-Education Institute, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, World Campus, and the Office of Global Programs,” Robinson said. “We are actually the first online graduate program at Penn State to offer a study abroad experience like this, and the first among our peer institutions who offer online geospatial education programs. It’s not easy to set everything in motion, but it’s never easy when you’re blazing the trail. We’re really excited to see what our students have produced in this class, and to refine the model we’re testing here to deliver an impactful study abroad experience tailored to our online graduate students.”



Master of Geographic Information Systems (MGIS) and Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security: Geospatial Intelligence Option (iMPS-HLS) students traveled to University Park Campus from California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Before attending graduate commencement at Bryce Jordan Center, they attended a reception with their families at the Dutton e-Education Institute. Back row, left to right: Alan Szulwach, Tanner Allshouse, John Saunders, Ann Masangcay. Front row, left to right: James Spayd, Kym Kelly, Sherry Roth, Richard Boruta, Myia Woodson.





Because of mentors like you

By Tim Frazier

I was asked to write a few words about Brent and it is with pleasure that I do so. Brent Yarnal is my academic father. As a professor, I am often asked to write letters of recommendation or support for students and colleagues and I always try to do so as best as possible, but this letter or short note is special. I can honestly say that outside of my parents no one has had a more positive influence on my life than Brent Yarnal. I have known Brent for about thirteen years, having met him when I arrived to attend the graduate program in the Department of Geography at Penn State. Brent was my adviser for both my master's and doctoral degrees; as such, I spent many hours with Brent as a student and later as a colleague. I could not have asked for a better mentor and friend.

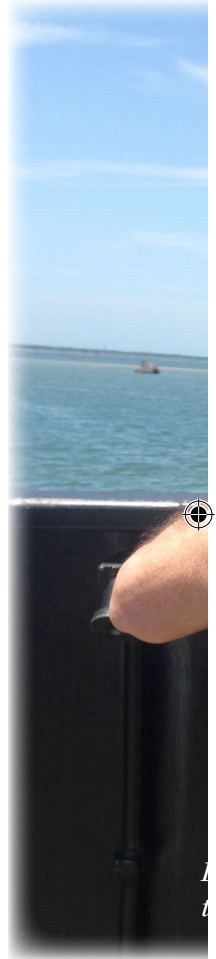
“One of the most beneficial things for student development is ‘face time’ with faculty, and if Brent was your adviser, you were sure to get it.”

Brent taught me how to be a scientist, a professor, including how to be a good teacher and adviser. In terms of teaching and advising, some students respond well to criticism and hard guidance, while others require a softer approach. I have seen firsthand how Brent has altered his approaches and teaching styles to bring out the best in students. Sometimes Brent uses traditional teaching approaches and at other times employs active learning strategies to ensure his students are progressing through difficult course material. Brent cares about his students and as such is always available for counseling and advice. This access to Brent does not end after you graduate and move on (Brent, I know I left a dangling preposition

here just for you). I have had many occasions to bother Brent for advice and he has never failed to come through for me with sound, steady advice given in a very respectful and loving manner. In all my interactions with Brent he has never talked down to me and instead has always attempted to elevate me to a higher status that I am still not convinced I deserve.

In one of my classes with Brent, he divided the class into groups of four based on the sub-disciplines within geography and had these groups work to write a full mock National Science Foundation (NSF) proposal complete with budgets. After writing the proposals, Brent had each group present their proposals to the class where following that, he arranged for Pull Quote a Saturday daylong evaluation of our proposals with senior graduate students within the department. Brent awarded the winning proposal writing team by taking them to lunch, awarded the senior graduates student evaluators with his time and experience in reviewing proposals, and the class as a whole, the experience needed to write and submit successful grant proposals.

I wrote my first grant in this class as an exercise but then proceeded to write four more with Brent throughout my graduate education including one to NOAA that funded my doctoral work. With Brent's encouragement and the grant writing and research skills he taught me, I wrote a successful NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement proposal that not only supported a portion of my fieldwork, but also helped separate me from other





you, I can say ‘we got this’

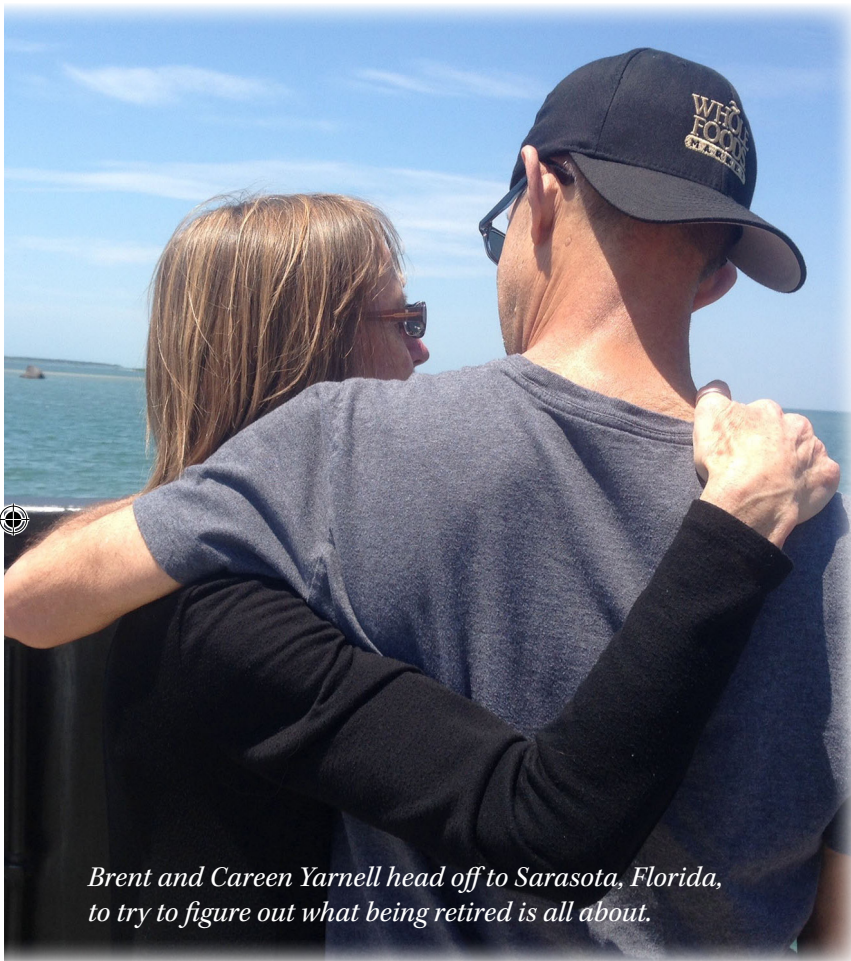
candidates when I entered the job market upon graduation.

One of the most assuring things as a student is to be able to go to your adviser and always get positive, upbeat support and advice. Brent

continue to do so now that I have been promoted to associate professor. I am determined to give my students the same positive experience in the manner that Brent gave me.

The highest praise that I can give

Brent is to say he truly cares about students to the point that he was my adviser, transitioned into my mentor, and has now become my friend. We as geographers are fortunate to have people like Dr. Brent Yarnall in our discipline. He has worked tirelessly for many years and has maintained a standard of excellence that most of us will never reach. Not only has Brent done an excellent job of teaching and mentorship, his efforts in the climate change and natural hazards areas of research have helped train



Brent and Careen Yarnell head off to Sarasota, Florida, to try to figure out what being retired is all about.

is one of the few professors that I have known that always works with his door open, and in spite of being incredibly busy would always stop what he was doing and make time for his students. One of the most beneficial things for student development is “face time” with faculty, and if Brent was your adviser, you were sure to get it. As a new assistant professor, I tried to model my interaction with students after my experiences with Brent. I

the next generation of climate and hazards scientists at a time when this information will be critical to our planet’s sustainability. Brent, it is okay to retire; for because of mentors like you, I can say, “we got this.”

Tim Frazier ('05g, '09g) is an associate professor with the Emergency and Disaster Management Program and Director of the Hazards and Climate Change Impacts Research Center (HAZCirc) at Georgetown University.





Geography students bring open-source mapping group to State College

Two geography students started a Maptime chapter in State College to support community cartography and teach people how to use and create maps. The endeavor is co-sponsored by The Peter R. Gould Center for

“I really want to put State College on the map. Literally.”
—Carolyn Fish

Geography Education and Outreach in Penn State’s Department of Geography. “I really want to put State College on the map—literally,” geography graduate student Carolyn Fish said. “So much open-source mapping is centered in large cities, such as New York, Washington and San Francisco.”

Fish initially learned about Maptime via Twitter and got involved with Maptime Boston during the summer of 2014. Not long after that, then-senior Marissa Defratti ('16) attended a presentation by Maptime co-founder Lyzi Diamond at the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) meeting in Pittsburgh. “I met with [Diamond] after the presentation and we

talked about starting up a group in State College,” Defratti said.

“I really like Maptime’s philosophy of focusing on beginners. I want to show people that there is more than ArcGIS and that many cool projects can be accomplished through a variety of mapping platforms,” Defratti said.

Anyone interested in mapping and GIS can come and learn how to use open-source online mapping platforms and learn how to visualize the data they care about.

“Students and anyone from the community are welcome to join: librarians, data managers for the municipality, people who enjoy outdoor activities. Even if someone has no idea how to use GIS, but they are interested in learning, we want them to come and learn,” Defratti said. “We see this as an opportunity to connect locals and students.”

Fish added, “Absolutely no experience is necessary. We are looking forward to teaching you how to quickly make web maps and build technical skills with the free

open source mapping technologies.”

“While we are two women who started the Maptime chapter here, in general it is fairly male-dominated. I would love to see some more female mappers joining in. Kids are welcome, too. We have crayons,” Fish added, noting that middle-school-age kids would be able to participate in using the open-source mapping technologies.

Maptime was started by several mapmakers in the San Francisco area in 2013. Since then, the group, dedicated to creating and learning new open-source mapping technologies, has spread to dozens of cities all over the world. The goal of Maptime is to learn new open-source mapping tools and is meant to be open to everyone, especially beginners. To learn more about the Maptime movement visit maptime.io.

On hiatus for the summer, the club will resume meeting monthly at Schlow Library starting in September.

For more information or to sign up, visit: www.meetup.com/Maptime-State-College/



Pennsylvania & Friends
Spatial Cognition Symposium

Symposium

shows the transdisciplinary nature of spatial cognition

By Alexander Klippel

The third “Pennsylvania and Friends Spatial Cognition Symposium” took place in State College, Pennsylvania in May 2016. It was organized by the Penn State Department of Geography in collaboration with the Spatial Intelligence and Learning Center (SILC) at Temple University and the School of Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh.

The symposium reflects the transdisciplinary character of spatial cognition; while geography is a spatial discipline, there are areas in disciplines such as psychology, information science, architecture, and others that explicitly address how humans think about, represent, and interact with their spatial environments.

The symposia organized so far have a stable number of 35-plus participants, yet with different disciplinary foci. The 2016 symposium featured a larger number of participants with more substantial travel distances within the US, and also internationally. Presenters

and participants came from an eclectic canon of disciplines such as psychology, geography, education, architecture, applied research labs, geoinformatics, industry, information science, and design computing.

One of the defining characteristics of the symposium is the commitment of senior scholars in the associated fields. Either as keynotes or as participants, these scholars join the meeting largely at their own expense allowing young scholars, the focus of the symposium, to benefit from their research in form of keynotes or through the discussion of their research in presentations and through the interaction at different social events.

2016 featured four keynotes. While the details can be found on the website (sites.psu.edu/spatialcognition-symposium2016/), we briefly name the speakers here to underline the exceptional quality of this meeting: Barbara Landau, distinguished professor from Johns Hopkins University;

Thomas Shipley, leading professor in the SILC network at Temple University; Christian Freksa, professor at Bremen University, Germany, and long standing principal investigator of Germany’s Spatial Cognition Network; and Bimal Balakrishnan (’04g, ’08g) professor at the University of Missouri and a Penn State alumnus. Balakrishnan’s participation was of particular interest as the Department of Geography is developing intensive collaborations across campus focusing on 3D modeling and virtual reality.

This year’s symposium was special treat for me; it was the first time that my supervisor, Christian Freksa from the University of Bremen, Germany, my first Ph.D. Student, Rui Li (’12g), an assistant professor at the University of Albany, and Mark Simpson, a current Ph.D. candidate on my team were able to participate. We celebrated with steaks grilled on a Himalayan salt stone and Creamery ice cream.





Shrubs take over a former forest area that burned 18 years ago.

‘Landscape trap’: Severe fires turning forest to shrubland in California

By Matt Carroll

Large tracts of forest in California are being destroyed by severe fires and some may struggle to recover, instead being replaced by dense shrubland, according to researchers.

A new study found that large, intense burns brought on by fire suppression, drought and other factors may result in historically forested areas of the state changing to shrubland. The shrubs are adept at growing after burns and can keep a hold on these large areas long term, even permanently.

“It’s a landscape trap — a situation where you can get an alternative

stable state,” said Alan Taylor, a Penn State geography professor and associate in the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute. “Basically we are switching forest to a permanent shrubland. And it could happen at very large scales. There’s evidence it’s happening now.”

Small patches of shrubland, called chaparral, existed stably next to forests in the past, maintained by returning fires that would kill any trees trying to retake the land. The surrounding forest burned more often and less severely, and trees would often survive these fires. The

dynamic maintained a balance between the two landscapes, the study found.

But that balance may be threatened by uncharacteristically severe fires burning in recent years, which have destroyed large areas of forest and created ideal conditions for shrubland to spread to areas it didn’t historically cover.

“Because forest conditions have changed, when they burn now they are switching to large shrublands that can persist,” said Taylor, a co-author of the study. “There’s not a whole lot known about this dynamic. It’s potentially a really big issue. That’s what we are trying to tackle — to see if these systems persisted stably next to each other for long periods of time or not, and what controlled the dynamic.”

Chaparral is common in the state and often grows alongside forest, but the relationship between the two landscapes and how they interact under modern fire suppression methods has not been well understood. Taylor and a graduate student, Catherine Airey Lauvaux, studied the dynamic and recently published their findings in the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*.

They examined an area of forest that had never been logged and found fire historically returned



to chaparral and forest at different intervals. Shrubland burned less frequently and more severely, killing any trees trying to reclaim the land.

“There seems to be evidence that initial severe burns set up the conditions for the next severe burn,” Lauvaux said. “Whatever trees might have come in that decade or so, they are taken out in that second severe burn. It’s repeating.”

Forest can creep in on shrubland from the edges, but it’s a slow process. It takes even longer when there are larger patches

of chaparral, like the kind forming after recent severe fires.

For the last 100 years, the U.S. Forest Service has practiced a policy of total fire suppression, or fire exclusion, in forests they manage. This means many smaller fires have been prevented, and things like small trees, forest litter, and underbrush that would have burned has built up over the years. When fires get out of control, this increased fuel load in the forests can lead to burns so intense they kill trees on a large scale.

“We are able to put out most fires most of the time, but the ones we aren’t able to put out then get really severe, really fast, and so they then create these shrub fields and other severe effects,” Taylor said. “If a fire gets away it creates these really big patches of chaparral. And then they are hard to deal with from a management standpoint. It’s hard to reforest them and they burn again. It’s a real challenge.”

The research on this project was funded by the National Park Service.

Community updates

Faculty and Staff

Clio Andris received an EMS Wilson Research Initiation Grant for her project, “Where do Nittany Lions come from?”

Todd Bacastow was the commencement speaker at the US Army Sergeants Major Academy graduation on June 8, 2015.

Justine Blanford was appointed as an assistant professor with the John A. Dutton e-Education Institute.

Justine Blanford and **Fritz Kessler** received Gladys Snyder Education Grants from the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences (EMS).

Guido Cervone was named to the Faculty Fellowship Program by the National Center for Atmospheric Research for Summer 2016.

Sarah Chamberlain was named Curator of the PAC Herbarium at Penn State. The Herbarium is located in Whitmore Laboratory.

Lorraine Dowler received the Faculty Mentoring Award at the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Wilson Awards Banquet.

Christopher Fowler was named as associate faculty with the Population Research Institute and as a faculty member in the graduate program in Demography.

Alex Klippel, together with colleagues from Vanderbilt and Johns Hopkins,

received a three-year NSF–Cyber-Human-Systems award for “Improving Wayfinding and Navigation in Immersive Virtual Environments.”

Stephen Matthews is the co-editor of a book (released by Springer): *Recapturing Space: New Middle Range Theory in Spatial Demography*.

Doug Miller was promoted to senior scientist.

Doug Miller, Rob Brooks, Erica Smithwick and other colleagues were awarded a PSIEE grant for their project: “Mapping and Measuring Forests and Wetlands with a UAS-Based Lidar/Multispectral System.”

Donna Peuquet was awarded Fellow status by The University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) at its May 2016 Symposium in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Anthony Robinson was appointed as a tenure-track assistant professor on May 1, 2015.

Sasha Savelyev (’15g), currently a GeoVISTA post doctoral scholar, accepted a tenure-track position in cartography at the Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

Erica Smithwick was named director of the EESI Center for Landscape Dynamics.

Updates continue on page 14 →





UPDATES *from page 13*

Alan Taylor received his 25-Year Service Award at the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Wilson Awards Banquet.

Brent Yarnal received the Wilson Award for Outstanding Service at the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Wilson Awards Banquet.

Karl Zimmerer received a 2015 Fulbright Specialist Grant for the project “Latin America, Program Evaluation and Design for University Teaching and Joint Research in Environmental Science, Global Change, and Geography in Peru.”

Students

Megan Baumann and **Jamie Peeler** received Graduate Research Award funding from the Center for Landscape Dynamics.

Jase Bernhardt accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position in atmospheric science with the Department of Geology, Environment and Sustainability at Hofstra University.

Yanni Cao, pictured below with President Barron, was nominated to represent EMS at the Chinese Student Presidential Reception on April 27, 2016.

Jenna Christian was awarded a doctoral dissertation improvement grant from the NSF for her doctoral project titled: “Geopolitical Youth: Race, Citizenship, and a School-to-Military Pipeline in Houston, Texas.”

Carolyn Fish won Best Paper in the AAG Cartography Specialty Group Honors Student Paper Competition.

Nathan Frey has accepted a postdoc at the Population Studies and Training Center at Brown University, to begin in September 2016.

Lucas Harris received a NASA Space Grant Fellowship and a Travel Grant to give a paper at the Sixth International Fire Congress.

Russel Hedberg received funding from the NSF for a doctoral dissertation research improvement grant. “Social and Biogeophysical Factors Contributing to Soil Fertility Sustainability in Local and Regional Food Systems.”

Morteza Karimzadeh received a US Geospatial Intelligence Foundation 2015 Doctoral Scholarship.

Eun-Kyeong Kim received grants from KUSCO, KSEA, and Penn State UPAC for the conference she

organized “The 1st Symposium on Research Methodologies in the Big Data Era,” May 13–15, 2016 in Walker Building.

Eden Kinkaid received a Critical Language Scholarship from the US Department of State to study Hindi in Jaipur, India, this summer.

Catherine Lauvaux received a Joint Fire Science Program grant with Alan Taylor on the interactions of land use and climate change on fire and on forest change in the Sawtooth Mountains in Idaho and a Travel Grant to give a paper at the Sixth International Fire Congress.

Emma Gaalaas Mullaney was awarded Penn State’s Harold F. Martin Outstanding Teaching Award for 2015–2016.

Sterling Quinn accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor of geography at Central Washington University, beginning September 2016.

Azita Ranjbar’s proposal “Silence, Silencing, and (In) Visibility: The Geopolitics of Tehran’s Silent Protests” was selected for the Glenda Laws Student Paper Competition Award from the AAG Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group.

Paulo Raposo accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship in GIScience at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, to start in fall 2016.

Nari Senanayake received the Evelyn Pruitt National Fellowship for Dissertation Research from Society of Woman Geographers and the Whiting Indigenous Knowledge Research Award from the Penn State Inter-institutional Center for Indigenous Knowledge





Ramzi Tubbeh received the AAG's Latin America Specialty Group Field Studies Award to support fieldwork for his master's thesis.

Adrienne Tucker was named as the winner of the Supporting Women In Geography Nancy Brown Community Service Award.

Amanda Young won the Best Student Oral Presentation for her paper at the Ameridendro 2016 conference in Mendoza, Argentina.

Travis Young received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Award.

Alumni

Mark Monmonier ('67g, '69g) is quoted in a September 2015 news story about the Board on Geographic Names.

Vaclav Smil ('69g) was mentioned in Bill Gates book blog: www.gatesnotes.com/Books/Should-We-Eat-Meat

Anne Mosher ('83g, '89g) was appointed chair of the double major in Citizenship and Civic Engagement at The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

Jeremy Crampton ('87g, '94g) was appointed director of the Committee on Social Theory for 2016-2019 at the University of Kentucky. The CST was founded in 1989 by J. P. Jones III, Wolfgang Natter and Ted Schatzki as a graduate certificate program and distinguished lecture series in social theory.

Martin von Wyss ('94g) wrote the Practical Cartographers' Corner column in issue 79 of *Cartographic Perspectives*.

Michael Hermann ('95) was interviewed on Aug 26, 2015 on 98.7 FM the *FREQ* about Penn State Geography being one of the first schools to offer digital cartography.

Susan Lechtanski ('97) was named to the Graduates of Earth and Mineral Sciences Board of Directors.

Elizabeth (Libby) Wentz ('97g) was appointed dean of social sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University.

Amy Griffin ('00g, '04g) is president of the North American Cartographic Information Society.

Sunil Yapa's ('02), son of professor emeritus Lucky Yapa, first novel, *Your Heart Is a Muscle the Size of a Fist*, was published in January 2016.

Rachel Headley ('03g) received a \$100K grant from the USDA Local Food program to connect local food producers to cafeterias in nursing homes and hospitals in her community.

Tom Auer ('09g) has taken a new job at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology as a GIS developer.

Rob Roth ('11g) had an article in *Cartographic*, Vol. 50, No.2, summer 2015.

Tim Yuskavage ('11) enrolled in the Master of Arts in the Security Studies program at Georgetown University in January 2016. He is currently employed as an analyst for the US

Department of Defense.

Shaunna Barnhart ('12g) is the director of the Place Studies Program in the Center for Sustainability and the Environment at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

Raechel Bianchetti ('14g) had a commentary in *The Conversation* on expertise in image analysis: "In sea of satellite images, experts' eyes still needed."

Ann Myatt James ('14g) accepted a position as senior research analyst at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, Maryland.

Wei Luo ('14g) was elected as a board member for the International Association of Geographic Information Sciences.

Marina Burka ('15) was a 2015-16 Fulbright award recipient.

Greg Milbourne ('15) accepted a position with Vricon in McLean, Virginia, as a 3D geospatial specialist.

Brian Swedberg ('15g) was presented with a US Army Commendation Medal for Valor for his actions during deployment to Afghanistan in 2011.

Britt Eckerstrom ('15) was drafted to the Western New York Flash of the National Women's Soccer League.

Kimberly Struthers ('15g) received 2nd place at GIS in the Rockies for her poster presentation "Conservation strategy: where it matters most. Integrating demographics, socioeconomic, lifestyle and biodiversity."

We want to hear from you!

Send your good news to geography@psu.edu



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