The Department of Geography hosted the sixty-ninth annual meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG) at the University of Oregon from September 6 to 9, 2006.

The event was a great success, with 316 people participating and attendees coming from as far away as Italy and Slovenia. The meeting opened on a near-perfect late-summer evening with a barbecue on the lawn behind the Erb Memorial Union. Attendees were welcomed by University of Oregon administrators and APCG president Jenny Zorn, from California State University, San Bernardino. Two former graduates of the geography master’s program at the University of Oregon—Lane County commissioner Pete Sorenson and Lane County planning director Kent Howe—then discussed planning and land-use challenges facing Lane County.

Thursday and Friday featured thirty-nine regular paper-panel sessions and one poster session (held in conjunction with the president’s reception). In addition to many organized paper sessions, panels were convened to consider grant writing, internationalization, the role of the social in U.S. social and cultural geography, graduate school preparation, critical pedagogy, the teaching of quantitative methods, and the impact of Jane Jacobs. Graduate student Eve Vogel also organized an undergraduate lunch to consider life after a bachelor’s degree in geography.

Jenny Zorn’s plenary session, “Geography in a Diverse World,” took place during the latter part of Thursday afternoon. A panel offered their thoughts on the challenges and opportunities of enhancing the diversity of the discipline of geography. Following the plenary session, meeting attendees were invited to the president’s reception at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, which was attended by more than 150 people.

Friday was capped by the annual banquet. APCG president-elect Kate Berry, from the University of Nevada, Reno, emceed the occasion. After a reception and dinner, Jenny Zorn presented an enlightening overview of the changing role of women in higher education. The awards ceremony followed. Kate Berry then offered a review of the status of geography programs in the APCG region.

On Saturday, five field trips led by UO geographers highlighted aspects of the human and physical geography of the southern Willamette Valley and the central Oregon coast: Megan Walsh led an exploration of the ecological history of the Eugene area; Pat McDowell escorted a group to the central Oregon coast to explore the area’s landscapes and hazards; Donald Holtgrieve offered an excursion focused on the historical geography of the southern Willamette Valley; Pat Bartlein led a trip to the vineyards south of Eugene; and Ev Smith was the guide for a walking tour of downtown Eugene. An expanded version of this report will appear in the 2007 APCG Yearbook.

Megan Walsh leading a field trip to Mount Pisgah Arboretum for the APCG conference.
From Pat McDowell

As I write this column, we have just finished the second week of classes for fall term 2006. Like most professors (and, I hope, most students), I feel the beginning of fall term is a special time. The juxtaposition of the winding down of the natural world’s year with the beginning of the academic year—with new students, new faculty colleagues, and new courses (or the opportunity to reshape old courses)—creates an atmosphere of change, movement, and excitement that is familiar from past years but also refreshing each year.

I’m proud of what was accomplished in our department in the past year. We hired an outstanding young faculty member, Dan Gavin, to continue our tradition of biogeography and paleoecology. We graduated 69 geography majors during academic year 2005–6, our largest graduating class ever. We have 148 undergraduate geography majors, an all-time high, and 41 graduate students, including seven new students coming from institutions such as Yale, Oxford, and the University of Hawaii, among others. Professor Ron Wixman stepped down from full-time teaching at the end of last year. Fortunately, we won’t lose Ron’s experience and teaching energy. He will continue to teach a course or two each year, even as he expands his world travels.

Our biggest events of the past year occurred in early September before students returned to campus. We hosted the annual meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, September 6–9, 2006. It was delightful to see 300 geographers on campus. Several hundred talks were given by meeting attendees, including many of our faculty members and grad students. We held events at several locations around campus, including a welcoming banquet on the lawn of the Erb Memorial Union. Field trips led by our department’s faculty members and students took us to oak woodlands, the Willamette Valley, the Oregon coast, and wineries south of Eugene.

Following the APCG meeting, on the evening of September 9 and the day of September 10 we held the sixth reunion of Oregon geographers. All of the department’s master’s and doctoral alumni were invited back to campus for a dinner Saturday night, and on Sunday a symposium was held on geography’s connections to current issues our society is facing, such as terrorism, global warming, and education. Attendance at the reunion was the largest ever, with about 100 people attending the dinner. The warm response of our alumni to the reunion and to each other demonstrated to me, once again, how special this place is. Read about this event on p. 3 of this newsletter.

I’m excited by what we have to accomplish in the year ahead. We will be searching for a new faculty member in human geography, specializing in East Asia. The state of Oregon has strong economic and cultural connections with East Asia. The University of Oregon has an impressive roster of faculty members in disciplines other than geography, working in East and Southeast Asia. Adding a faculty member who specializes in East Asia in our department will allow us to foster geographic learning and research in a critical region of the world, and to connect to other programs on campus.

The Department of Geography will also undergo a substantial review by the university administration this year, a process that happens about once every ten years. The program review is a chance for us to reflect critically on what we are doing well and what we can do better in our teaching, research, and service mission. It will be a chance for the department to set our goals for the next ten years. An external review committee of three distinguished geography teachers from other universities will visit the department in the spring to examine our record and our goals, producing a report to the university administration. We have had strong support from the administration in the past. I’m hopeful that the review will allow the department and administration to agree on a set of goals for the department that will make us an even stronger and more effective department ten years from now.

Another goal for this year is to enrich the support we offer to geography undergraduate students. The number of geography undergraduate majors has increased about 30 percent over the past five years. Last year we added an undergraduate adviser position, currently occupied by graduate student Eve Vogel, to improve the quality of academic advising we offer. This year we are exploring how best to support undergraduates in other ways, such as internship access and career orientation. We want to help our undergraduates take advantage of the growing job market for geographers in government, business, and education.

One of the ways we accomplish our goals is through support from the alumni and friends of the department who donate to us through the UO Foundation. To all of you who have donated to us in the past year (listed elsewhere in this newsletter), thank you so much. Your gifts mean a lot to us.

Pat McDowell leading a field trip to the central Oregon coast for the APCG conference. Jong Wook Kim of Seoul National University, a sabbatical visitor, is pictured in the middle of the photo.
The weekend of September 9–10, more than sixty of the department’s master’s and doctoral degree recipients gathered on the UO campus for a reunion. This was the first official gathering in seven years. Present were former students from the area, the extended area (Cascadia and California), and a few from as far afield as bluegrass country and Old Dominion. It was heartwarming to see so many familiar faces back in the hallowed halls of Condon. The relaxed late-summer atmosphere of the university provided an ideal environment for reuniting old friends, making new acquaintances, and engaging in stimulating discussions on important issues of the day as well as on current trends in the discipline.

The reunion commenced Saturday evening with a reception in the lovely—if acoustically challenging—atrium of Willamette Hall (built in 1989). Guests enjoyed local wines and beers and hors d’oeuvres, followed by a buffet dinner. After mingling, participants settled in for official welcomes from department head Pat McDowell, emeritus professor Everett Smith, and the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Wendy Larson. Alec Murphy delivered thoughtful after-dinner comments on the role of geography in the public debate.

Sunday was a full-day workshop on a broad range of topics, including presentations by current UO faculty members as well as graduates of the department. Discussion was lively, as subjects such as the global war on terror, the Middle East conflict, global climate change, and water rights were addressed. The common thread holding the diverse presentations together was geography’s capacity to contribute to a better understanding of these incredibly complicated and contentious issues.

During lunch on Sunday there was an opportunity to take a tour of campus, which has undergone some notable changes since the last reunion. Gone is Commonwealth Hall (1952), replaced by the new Lillis Hall which, along with Peterson and Gilbert halls, forms the Lillis Business Complex. From 2003 to 2005, the Museum of Art underwent a two-year, multimillion-dollar renovation that nearly doubled its size. It was renamed in honor of a major benefactor of the renovation, Jordan Schnitzer. The Living-Learning Center, the first new dorm to be built since 1963, is the most recent addition to the built environment. It is located in the space once occupied by the outdoor tennis courts between Earl and Walton complexes.

Attendees at the reunion included geography faculty members, practitioners in private industry and government, and even a few who continue to practice geography only for fun. The distinguished guest list included Keith Mountain, a barrel-chested Aussie who, naturally, studies mountains and glaciers. He is now chair of the department of geography and geosciences at the University of Louisville. He described the department football team, organized in the early 1980s. Their success was limited, but Keith’s face lit up describing the glory of a (lone) touchdown. Nancy Wilkinson, chair at San Francisco State University, shared with the audience her love for a place in Yosemite called Hetch Hetchy, and in so doing illustrated very nicely the importance of a human-environment perspective on water resource issues. Geography is the second major career of David Keeling, a political and transportation geographer at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. He came to his senses late in life, but played catch-up well, managing to complete bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees (all at Oregon) in five years. Barb Bailey, who had a distinguished three-decade career with the CIA, shared how instrumental her geographical training had been in responding to the shifting challenges facing the intelligence community. Sarah Shafer of the U.S. Geological Survey in Corvallis is at the forefront of government research on climate change.

One of the most unique contributions to Sunday’s events was a poem composed and read by Howie Horowitz. Typeset on an outline map of the Oregon coastline (with support from Stuart Allan, of Allan Cartography in Medford), the piece is a historical-geographical journey from north to south. A few attendees who are not actively practicing the geography trade nevertheless credit their training for shaping their outlook. Jeff Wilson of Grass Valley, California, whose company, A-1 Door and Building Solutions, makes custom-crafted wood products, shared in touching terms how personally formative his time in the department had been.

The reunion concluded, as have so many geography department events in the past, with a reception hosted by Ev and Sally Smith at their home. It capped off a very busy week for the department, coming on the heels of the annual Association of Pacific Coast Geographers meeting. Most would agree that the planning and hard work required to put together and host two major events in the same week was well worth the effort. Thanks to all who attended for the fellowship and good times.
Dan Gavin
Joins Faculty

The Department of Geography is pleased to welcome Assistant Professor Dan Gavin to the faculty and the university community. Dan comes to Oregon from the University of Vermont, where he was an adjunct faculty member in the geography department, and a postdoctoral fellow in the botany department. Dan’s general research interests center around investigating the role of climatic variability in controlling vegetation patterns and the spatial and temporal patterns of fire.

Dan recently initiated a large project addressing how spatial patterns of wet forest types in the Columbia Mountains of British Columbia came into existence during the Holocene. Dan is also interested in examining forest history through tree-ring analysis. While at Vermont, he used the tree-ring record to address the impact of acid rain in causing forest decline in the Green Mountains. He is currently establishing tree-ring projects in Oregon.

Dan is settling into the department, updating his laboratory space, and preparing to teach. In winter term, he will hold a graduate seminar on the development of theory in biogeography, and teach an advanced biogeography class focusing on climatic and nonclimatic controls of species distributions. He will teach biogeography in the spring.

Dan and his wife Melanie moved to Eugene in August and purchased a house near campus. Melanie now works as an ob-gyn with the Oregon Medical Group. One highlight of his move was listening to Darwin’s The Origin of Species on a cross-country drive with his father. Dan thanks Pat and Bart for their help and hospitality before, during, and after his move to Eugene.
This has been a busy year for the InfoGraphics Lab staff. Progress has been made on several continuing projects. Key work areas continue to be campus mapping, projects with the Oregon Department of Transportation and other state agencies, enhancements to the Nolli map of Rome website, and the atlas-making efforts on Yellowstone and the Altai region of Mongolia. A series of school watershed maps for Oregon Trout was also completed this summer.

The lab is currently in the final stages of completing a new interactive campus map for the University of Oregon. Thanks in great part to GTFs Ben Humphrey, M.Arch. ’06, and Jacob Blair, the major technical achievement of this project is the creation of a seamless connection between a web browser and an ESRI geodatabase, such that different map users can view as well as directly edit the most current geospatial data for campus. In the future we hope to use this model for making other databases accessible on the web for teaching and research applications. Ken Kato and Erik Steiner lead this effort.

Over the past year, the lab has continued its partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) by assisting on a variety of projects. Recent highlights include completing data integration for a combined Tillamook County road layer in support of the statewide Oregon Transportation Management System project, and producing the annual statewide district maintenance map.

Current research efforts are centered on helping ODOT with migration of their city and county planning map series production from the current CAD environment to a GIS platform, to take greater advantage of newer geodatabase capabilities. Based on the success of the lab’s campus-mapping program, we expect that the interaction of the latest GIS, database, and mapping technologies will enable us to streamline our workflow on future ODOT projects such as redesigning the official state highway map. Mike Engelmann and graduate research fellow Nick Martinelli are responsible for this work.

Over the past year, the lab has also continued its innovative work in the area of historical cartography and urban representation. In collaboration with Jim Tice in the Department of Architecture, the lab was awarded a two-year major grant from the Getty Foundation to build on the success of the Nolli project by extending its scope to include over 200 engravings of Rome by Italian master Giuseppe Vasi. The Nolli map website will eventually add Vasi’s work in a rich interactive environment where users can effectively navigate the eighteenth-century city through the air and on the ground, all the while comparing it to the modern context of satellite imagery and surface photography. The Nolli map website won a Planetizen Award as one of the top ten websites of 2006, promising continued success. The Samuel H. Kress Foundation is also supporting the project in the form of funds to plan a major exhibit of the Nolli and Vasi works at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. Erik Steiner is the lead designer for this project.

The Atlas of Yellowstone is continuing to make progress with the creation of several more topic pages being completed under a grant though the Yellowstone Park Foundation and Canon USA. Alethea Steingisser has joined the staff as the primary production cartographer, working with senior editor Andrew Marcus and cartographic editor Jim Meacham.

Jim Meacham and Esther Jacobson-Tepfer have signed a publishing contract with ESRI Press to publish their book, Cultural Atlas of the Ancient Mongolian Altai. This work will represent the culmination of fourteen field seasons of surveying and documenting the surface archaeology of the Mongolian Altai. Publication is expected at the end of 2008 or early 2009.
Geography Ph.D. Student Studying in Russia

Megan Dixon has been in St. Petersburg since August 15 and will be there until December 15 as part of her dissertation research. She is conducting interviews with ordinary citizens, including Chinese immigrants and exchange students, and local experts about changes in the urban landscape shaped by new visions for St. Petersburg as a transportation node, architectural site, and residential-commercial zone. Megan will also be using GIS to visualize some of these changes and how people experience them in their daily routes. Megan is enrolled in the geography department of St. Petersburg State University, and also visits the Institute of Sociology, the Leontiev Urban Research Center, and the Center for Independent Social Research. Megan is keeping a blog outlining impressions from her travels and research, which can be accessed at meganinpiter.blogspot.com.

Graduate Students Earn Awards and Fellowships

The geography department is pleased to recognize the achievements of several graduate students who have received prestigious awards and fellowships from a variety of sources. Megan Dixon was awarded an NSF grant, the Society of Women Geographers Evelyn L. Pruitt National Fellowship for Dissertation Research, and a Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) Graduate Fellowship for International Research, funded by the Nippon Foundation.

Justyna Goworowska received the 2006 Outstanding Student Award from the National Council for Geographic Education.

Demian Hommel was awarded a SYLFF Graduate Fellowship for International Research, funded by the Nippon Foundation.

Erin Machell received a graduate research award from the UO Center on Diversity and Community.

Ginger Mansfield received a graduate research award from the University’s Center on Diversity and Community.

Lee Pera received a graduate research award from the UO Center on Diversity and Community.

Lynn Songer is a coprincipal investigator on an NSF grant to integrate GIS into the college curriculum at Lane Community College.

Eve Vogel received a travel grant from the American Society for Environmental History to present at their annual conference.

Graduate Student Awards

In conjunction with the Graduate School, the Department of Geography awards summer research grants to help fund graduate research during the summer months. Recipients of this award in 2006 were Christy Briles, Mary Crooks, Ginger Mansfield, Jennifer Marlon, Kate Metzger, Lee Pera, and Guoping Tang.

Recent Department Graduates

Doctor of Philosophy

Mitchell J. Power
“Recent and Holocene Fire, Climate, and Vegetation Linkages in the Northern Rocky Mountains, U.S.A.”

Hunter W. Shobe
“Més que un club: Place, Identity, and Futbol Club Barcelona”

Master of Science

Jonathan W. Day
“Historical Savanna Structure and Succession at Jim’s Creek, Willamette National Forest, Oregon”

Kimberly S. Hernandez
Geography Education Summer Program

Christopher Holman
Geography Education Summer Program

Scott Peters
Geography Education Summer Program

Eric A. Sproles
“Integrating Hydrologic and Geomorphic Processes in River Restoration”

Alethea Y. Steingisser
“Losing Steam: A Multiscale Historical Analysis of Human Impacts on Geyser Basins”

Master of Arts

Nancy A. Hiemstra
“Latino Immigrants, Spaces of Interaction, and the Politics of ‘Being Illegal’ in Leadville, Colorado”

Brittany G. McBurney Jones
“Ethnic Communities in Diaspora: Constructing Tibetan Identity in the United States”
Welcome, New Graduate Students!

The Department of Geography is pleased to welcome its new graduate students, who bring a variety of experiences and skills to the department.

**John English** has a B.S. in geography from Southern Oregon University and is currently a light detecting and ranging specialist for Sky Research. John is interested in focusing on data resolution issues in remote sensing relating to fluvial processes.

**Justyna Goworowska** earned a B.A. in geography from Hunter College and attended high school in Poland. She is interested in population and migration, and the integration of GIS into these fields.

**Nick Martinelli** received his bachelor’s degree from Oregon in geography. Nick is interested in cartography, GIS, and spatial cognition.

**Leslie McLees** has a B.S. in zoology from Washington State University, and a master’s in geography from the University of Hawaii. Leslie is interested in studying land conflicts in Asia from a political ecology perspective.

**Ingrid Nelson** has a B.A. from Dartmouth and a master’s degree from Cambridge. She is interested in cultural and political ecology with a focus on Africa.

**Hari Ososky** has a B.A. and a J.D. from Yale and is currently an assistant professor at the UO School of Law. She is interested in international law and climate change for her geography Ph.D.

**Suzanne Walther** recently completed her M.S. in geological sciences at Oregon. She also received an M.S. in environmental science at the University of Virginia and a B.A. in international relations and political science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is interested in modeling sediment transport.

The new AP program offered by the department fits in well with the goals of the summer master’s program for high school geography teachers. The summer master’s program has been offered by the department for more than fifty years and is the only geography education program offered exclusively in the summer months in North America. The program takes participants two to three summers to complete and consists of graduate-level courses related to teaching geography at the K–12 level. Students take both human and physical geography field courses that teach participants how to conduct geographical research. Students are also required to complete comprehensive exams and a final project. The demand for this program has been increasing in recent years and admission is becoming extremely competitive. The program attracts students from around the country, with teachers coming from as far away as Alaska and Tennessee.

There is also an increasingly popular undergraduate geography education track in the department that caters to students who wish to pursue a career in teaching geography. Many of the students in this track elect to take the summer geographic education seminar with teachers in the geography of education master's program. This course gives undergraduates the opportunity to interact and share ideas with actual geography teachers. Many students in this track also elect to teach geography in local classrooms.

In October, Susan and Joe Searl attended a conference sponsored by the National Council for Geographic Education at Lake Tahoe, where they presented a workshop on the department’s unique summer graduate program for teachers.

Students form ASPRS Chapter

A group of mostly geography students has formed a UO chapter of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. The chapter aims to promote student use and understanding of GIS, remote sensing, and cartography through activities, financial support, and connections with the larger geospatial world. Founding members are Jake Bartruff, Jacob Blair (president), Megan Lawrence (vice president), Nick Martinelli (secretary-treasurer), and Gretchen Stolte. Any students interested in joining should e-mail jblair@uoregon.edu or visit the webpage, uoasprs.blogspot.com.

Congratulations!

Natalie Cannon was the recipient of the 2005–6 Trussell Family Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a geography undergraduate student with high scholastic ability and an interest in pursuing a career that serves humanity. Natalie graduated in spring 2006.
Several geography professors are conducting ongoing research in international locations.

Since joining the UO faculty in 2000, Susan Hardwick has been studying refugees and immigrants in Oregon and Washington. Last year she became the chair of the University of Oregon Canadian Studies Consortium, which allowed her to travel more extensively in Canada. Her travels brought her to the realization that, in order to understand immigration in Cascadia, she needed to include Canada in the picture. She has recently shifted her research to focus on the impact of U.S. immigration on western Canada. Susan is currently investigating the spatial patterns of U.S. immigration as well as conceptions of citizenship and how that is being shaped by the changing identities of recent immigrants in British Columbia. In July, Susan worked on a participatory cartography project in Castlegar, British Columbia, with a group of U.S.-born Canadian residents. Susan also had the opportunity to speak at the first meeting of Vietnam War resisters who left the U.S. for Canada in the late 1960s and early ’70s. Susan is currently working with master’s student Ginger Mansfield on the submission of a coauthored article on this research to The Canadian Geographer. Susan plans to continue her research on this topic during her travels in Canada on her winter and spring sabbatical with her husband Don Holtgrieve.

Since 2003, Shaul Cohen has been traveling to a town in Northern Ireland with two names: Catholics call it Derry; Protestants call it Londonderry. Derry was the site of a siege in the seventeenth century where Protestants withstood a Catholic attack; it also was the site of the 1972 Bloody Sunday massacre. The town is emblematic of religious struggles of the region in both modern and historical times, and continues to be a powerful evocative space in Northern Ireland. Shaul studies the traditional sectarian parades the town hosts in August and September in an effort to understand how the territorial space of these parades is shared through the negotiation process. These parades make political statements with regard to territory, and have historically generated widespread violence. In recent years, however, the parades have become less contentious through negotiations between extremists on both sides. As part of his research, Shaul works with negotiators during this process and then watches the parades to observe how the negotiation translates into action. Shaul is developing a riparian model of negotiation where, if land is treated as water, people may begin to share contentious spaces more peacefully.

Peter Walker has been traveling to Malawi since 2002 as part of a twenty-year project to investigate how structural adjustment policies have affected food security. Now Peter and Pauline Peters, from Harvard’s anthropology department and its Kennedy School of Government, have received a grant from the International Food Policy Research Institute to empirically assess the impact of the AIDS epidemic on food security in the same originally studied households. Peter traveled to Malawi for three weeks in September to investigate these questions, primarily through household surveys. In his last visit, Peter noticed general improvements in the quality of life based on increased access to antiviral drugs from funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Peter notes that, although some progress has been made, the effects of AIDS on Malawi citizens continues to be devastating, with nearly every family in his study area being affected in some way by the virus. This results in changing familial structures and changes in the manner in which food is secured.

**Congratulations!**

Nicole Lamb and Nicholas Martinelli were the 2005–6 recipients of the Bill Loy Award for Excellence in Cartographic Design and Geographic Visualization.
Faculty Updates

Patrick Bartlein

Patrick Bartlein’s research on understanding past climatic changes took him to Madison, Denver, the United Kingdom, and, indeed, Corvallis, over the past year as he continues to work with a number of friends, colleagues, and students (and he notes that the distinction among those groups is really quite blurry). In Madison, he gave the annual Trewartha lecture—named after Glenn Trewartha, the geographer who coined the expression “greenhouse effect”—in a classroom first used in 1887, and where Bart had his first class in college (somewhat later). The things he’s currently working on include more work on understanding the regional-scale controls of and responses to past climatic changes, the meteorology and climatology of fire (including variations in paleo-fire), and the characterization of climate variations with methods used by economists to understand volatility in the stock market.

The 2006 harvest in Oregon is likely to turn out to be one of the best the state’s wine industry has ever experienced, with a long dry spell finally giving way to showery weather in the middle of October. Pinot noir is still the king of Oregon grape varieties, and the emphasis on the “high end” of the market has created the happy situation of increasing the amount of high-quality grapes in general, and therefore greatly improving the “entry level” pinots, too (i.e., those accessible on a geographer’s budget). What may be more important in the long run, however, is that the warm-weather varieties continue to excel, too, as each year appears warmer than the last. The wines of King Estate, just outside of Eugene, are still the most widely available ones outside of the state, and the recently expanded Oregon Wine Warehouse in downtown Eugene (www.oregonww.com) provides a good place to explore Oregon wines online. They specialize in the high-end pinots, but also have a good selection of other interesting varieties.

Shaul Cohen

This year Shaul Cohen has primarily been pushing ahead with his work on ethno-territorial conflict. He was invited to join a working group organized by Tel Aviv University to assess the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. That group includes scholars and practitioners from Israel, Palestine, the United States, Lebanon, Canada, India, and Great Britain. Shaul’s Northern Ireland research received a grant from the Northwest Institute for Conflict Resolution, and that work has entered a new phase of focus group interviews in Derry-Londonderry, where it is being supported by St. Columb’s Park House, a nongovernmental organization specializing in mediation. Publications related to both these conflicts are in print and in the pipeline, and his writing projects have dovetailed with teaching in the Clark Honors College and the School of Law. He has also joined the faculty of the master’s program in conflict and dispute resolution.

To keep himself off the streets, Shaul serves as an undeclared major adviser for the College of Arts and Sciences, and in addition to his departmental courses he teaches both a College Connections course and a faculty perspectives seminar. Shaul continues as codirector of the Peace Studies Program. His committee work includes the Senate Executive and the faculty advisory to the university’s new provost, as well as both the Savage and Wayne Morse programs. Sadly, his progress made last year in regard to office tidiness has evaporated.

Dan Gavin

Dan Gavin arrived on campus in August, only to leave shortly thereafter to present invited papers to the American Statistical Association in Seattle and the American Quaternary Association in Bozeman. This fall, however, he is trying to stay away from conferences in order to complete papers, initiate new projects, upgrade equipment in the Pacific Hall labs, and plan two new courses for winter term. Dan’s major project is reconstructing the history of the interior wet belt forests in the Columbia Mountains of British Columbia. The setting for this study is outlined in the August issue of the Journal of Biogeography; six sediment records he and colleagues analyzed from this region will be the focus of forthcoming papers. This fall he is starting a collaborative project with Pat Bartlein on forecasting forest change under future climate scenarios. He is also training two undergraduate students to use a new tree-ring measuring system to address questions of climate change and tree growth in old-growth forests from the central Cascades and Vancouver Island.

Susan Hardwick

Susan Hardwick continues her research program on immigration issues in the western U.S. and Canada. Her latest project is investigating the migration experiences, political and social networks, and identities of U.S.-born immigrants in British Columbia between 1966 and 2006 with the help of graduate student Ginger Mansfield. This project took her to a remote corner of rural B.C. this summer to participate in the first reunion of Vietnam War–era resisters in Canada, where she conducted interviews and focus groups.

Susan has also completed two books for publication in early 2007. The first is a coedited book comparing suburban immigration patterns and landscapes in twelve cities in the U.S. (including Portland—a chapter coauthored by Jim Meacham), entitled Suburban Gateways: Immigration and Incorporation in New U.S. Metropolitan Destinations (Brookings Institution Press) and a textbook for Prentice Hall coauthored with Don Holtgrieve and Fred Shelley, Regional Geography of North America: Environment, Political Economy, and Culture.

Susan also continues her efforts on the geographic education front by directing our department’s innovative summer graduate program for teachers (featured elsewhere in the newsletter); serving as principal investigator for a three-year project in support of rural Oregon teachers, funded by the U.S. Department of Education (with the help of graduate student Mary Crooks); developing and teaching a new online course to help prepare advanced placement human geography teachers in the U.S., funded by a three-year grant from the National Geographic Society; and serving as coordinator of K–12 education initiatives for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Continued on next page
Amy Lobben

Amy Lobben has spent much of the past year working on continuing research projects and writing papers and new proposals for planned research. She continues to serve on the U.S. National Committee for the International Cartographic Association and is the chair of the Cartography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). She is very excited about the progress made in the National Science Foundation–funded project investigating map tasks, strategies, and spatial abilities associated with navigational map–reading activities engaged by blind and partially sighted map users. She looks forward to attending upcoming conferences in Madison, Wisconsin (North American Cartographic Information Society), San Francisco (AAG), London (International Conference on Information Visualization), and Moscow (International Cartographic Conference).

Andrew Marcus

Andrew Marcus’ big project this year was jointly organizing (with Allan James of the University of South Carolina) the thirty-second annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium. This yearly symposium is dedicated to a specific research theme in geomorphology. Andrew and Allan convened over 150 scientists to review how our understanding of human impacts to fluvial systems has evolved (or not!) over the last fifty years since the publication of the landmark volume Man’s Role in Changing the Face of the Earth (W. L. Thomas, ed., 1956). The conference had participants from Australia, Canada, Great Britain, India, Italy, Nepal, Romania, Sri Lanka, and the United States. A striking theme of the conference was the repeated call for a greater understanding of the role of culture in driving geomorphic change in river systems—a theme that certainly resonates with geographers. The conference resulted in a 350-page volume of the journal Geomorphology entitled The Human Role in Changing Fluvial Systems.

On the teaching front, the 2005 trip with a freshman seminar to the Elwha River in Olympic National Park was such a success that Andrew is repeating the trip this year, but making it a day longer and bringing along his graduate seminar. Both the first-year and graduate students will be examining the potential impacts of removing two dams on the Elwha River, the largest dam removals ever done for purposes of stream restoration. These field trips have been made possible by the generous support of Jim and Shirley Rippey. Photos of the 2005 trip are posted at geography.uoregon.edu/amarcus/geog199f05/thumbprints.htm.

In the near future, Andrew plans to work on acquisition of further funding for the Atlas of Yellowstone, which has received seed funding from the university and Canon USA. In addition, he will continue his river research, focusing on remote sensing of rivers and his work with Pat McDowell and geography students on the human impact on Oregon rivers. And he is always open to suggestions for great student field trips!

Pat McDowell

Pat McDowell continues to work on understanding Oregon rivers and the historic human impact on them. Work on the Umatilla and Applegate rivers is coming to an end, and work continues on the Sprague River. One Sprague project, funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, focuses on channel and floodplain processes and change, with Pollyanna Lind as the graduate research assistant. A second Sprague project, funded by the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, focuses on riparian vegetation, with Chris Massingill as the research assistant. This past summer, Pat, Pollyanna, and Chris spent several weeks in the field in the Sprague River valley. Undergraduates Hilary Lewis, Dave Watson, and Jeff Ashford were the hard-working field crew on the vegetation project. Pat also works with doctoral students Kevin Green (geography) and Michael Hughes (environmental studies–geography), and master’s students Kate Metzger (geography) and Chris Jones (environmental studies). During academic year 2005–6, Pat revised her fluvial geomorphology course, which continues to draw a good audience of undergraduate and graduate students interested in river science and restoration. (Change is good!) Pat stepped down after two years of service on the review panel of the National Science Foundation’s Geography and Regional Science Program.

Jim Meacham

Directing the InfoGraphics Lab and its many projects has taken up the majority of Jim Meacham’s time this past year. One of his key projects is his work with Andrew Marcus on the continuing effort of producing the Atlas of Yellowstone. Developing maps and atlas pages on subjects including grizzly bears and geothermal activity has kept this project an exciting one.

This past summer, Jim had the opportunity to travel back to Mongolia for a final field season of mapping archae-
ological features in the Altai Mountains of western Mongolia with art history professor Esther Jacobson-Tepfer and expedition photographer Gary Tepfer. This was his third trip there. They were in the field over thirty days and mapped several hundred points. These points locate archaeological features, including petroglyphs, standing stones, mounds, and other stone monuments in the high glacial valleys of the Altai Mountains. During the field season they traveled over 1,000 kilometers of rough roads and trails and set up nineteen camps. Four major vehicle breakdowns and several serious river crossings added to the adventure. Jim and Esther have signed a publishing contract with ESRI Press to publish their book, Cultural Atlas of the Ancient Mongolian Altai. The book is expected to be completed by early 2009.

Jim’s other projects have included collaborating with Susan Hardwick on the Oregon Immigration Project as well as a chapter in a new Brookings Institution book. He is also working with Amy Lobben on a chapter in the University of Chicago Press book Cartography in the Twentieth Century.

Alec Murphy

Alec Murphy has had another busy year. As the coordinator of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers meeting in Eugene, Alec’s summer was dominated by the joys and frustrations of event organization. He also managed to put the finishing touches on an article on the status of geography in U.S. colleges and universities for a forthcoming special issue of the Journal of Geography in Higher Education and to complete articles on the enlargement of the European Union and the changing landscape of U.S.-Europe relations. Among the highlights of the past academic year were an invitation to give the opening academic address at the Mackinder Forum in England (an article based on this presentation, coauthored with graduate student Demian Hommel, is forthcoming in a new electronic journal, Projections) and the opportunity to visit his fiftieth U.S. state while giving the presidential plenary session address at the annual meeting of the National Council for Geographic Education in Birmingham, Alabama. Alec’s missionary activities on behalf of geography continued apace, with two op-ed pieces in the Chicago Sun-Times; public addresses for the Houston World Affairs Council and St. Paul’s School; and talks at several universities (Middlebury, Sonoma State, the University of New Mexico, Texas A&M, the University of Wyoming, and Montana State University).

Lise Nelson

During the last academic year, Assistant Professor Lise Nelson had two articles printed, one in the Journal of Latin American Geography and the other in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers. She also submitted two articles based on her research in Woodburn, Oregon, to the Geographical Review and the journal Cultural Geographies. This summer Lise and a colleague, Peter Nelson of Middlebury College, resubmitted a National Science Foundation grant proposal to study linked migration and social interaction in the rural United States. If funded, the project will use qualitative and quantitative methods to examine the socio-economic linkages between domestic baby-boomer migrants and Latino immigrants in rural America. Undoubtedly her biggest project this last academic year, however, was giving birth to her son, Axel Nelson-Schulz, born on April 9, 2006. Since then, Lise has tried to remain focused despite his seemingly endless capacity to distract her with laughter and playfulness.

Emeriti News

Carl Johannessen

After lecturing about the dispersal of plants and animals in pre-Columbian times at the conferences for the Association of American Geographers and Society for Economic Botany, Carl felt it appropriate to investigate more information on black-boned chickens in the Americas. Imus Geographics has assisted with the production of new maps for this project. In June 2006, Humboldt State University invited Carl to join a symposium of storytellers discussing conditions in Latin America and China that indicated the significance of Alexander von Humboldt and Admiral Zheng He as discoverers of the natural world in the Americas and around the pre-Columbian world. Carl spent a week in both Beijing and Xian, China, for this event. Many scholars and students from Mexico and China discussed their topics with the students and staff from Humboldt State. Carl also finished a new book in June with John L. Sorenson entitled Biology Verifies Ancient Voyages.

Joe Searl

Joe and his wife Jan continue to enjoy retirement in Eugene. Joe recently returned from a ten-day cruise to Skagway and Glacier Bay. Joe made a similar journey thirty years ago, and could not help but notice the enormous growth of the cruise industry since that time. Joe continues to serve on the Eugene Irish Cultural Festival steering committee. He has given three workshops on Irish genealogy throughout the year: one for the Oregon Genealogical Society and two for the Eugene Irish Cultural Festival. Joe also traveled to Lake Tahoe with Susan Hardwick to present at the National Council for Geographic Education.

Continued on next page
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Ev Smith
Ev and his wife Sally plan autumn around the Sun Valley Swing ‘n’ Dixie Jazz Jamboree in October as well as Duck football games in Eugene. Ev greatly enjoyed the department reunion in September and felt it was a wonderful occasion to see geographers who once “lived” in Condon Hall and now have scattered all over the map. In his spare time, Ev has committed to a monograph series initiated by George Thompson of the Center for American Places. Each title in this series begins with the phrase “My Kind of...” Ev hopes to offer stories about “My Kind of Willamette Valley.” Good health and a good extended family continue to make Ev and Sally’s lives satisfying, joyful, and meaningful.

Ron Wixman
Ron Wixman is retired but will be teaching two classes in spring 2007.