During the last week of October, Archaeology and Landscape in the Mongolian Altai: An Atlas (ESRI Press, 2009) was printed in California and the associated interactive website, mongolianaltai.uoregon.edu, was launched. This represents the finale of a sixteen-year effort to map and study the ancient rock monuments and petroglyphs within the mountainous region of northwest Mongolia. Principal investigator and art history professor emerita Esther Jacobson-Tepfer teamed

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MARY MILO has been the face of our department for ten years, the first contact for anyone trying to get in touch, get involved, or enroll in geography courses. She came to us from the registrar’s office, where she did classroom scheduling. She immediately enjoyed the more personal connections that geography offered and has appreciated the team atmosphere welcomed people to the department as it adapted and thrived. She feels the department was most deeply affected by the loss of Bill Loy, and she is glad that his legacy lives on through the success of the InfoGraphics Lab and the student awards in his name. She also recalls the hiring of new faculty members as a highlight as they energized the department.

Upon her retirement, Mary plans to get out more to go camping and hiking, expand her gardening activities, and start some long-awaited writing projects. She is grateful that retirees of the university get e-mail for life so that she can maintain connections with the people she has worked with over the years.

Mary added that it is a pleasure to work in the department. The University of Oregon is an energetic place to work and she cites helping people to do positive things with their lives as part of the joy of working there. She likes her work because it involves students, and she especially enjoys the graduate students, whom she gets to know on a more personal level. She loves to read and hear about their successes as they move on to new things. She feels that the department will be left in good hands as Sandra Knauber continues as office manager.

Thanks, Mary, for all your work, commitment, energy, laughter, and contributions to the department and our personal lives. We will miss you!

Mary Milo in the desert in Palmdale, California, after the spring rain.

The cover of the Altai atlas.
It has been another remarkable year in the Department of Geography. We are anticipating a 40 percent increase in the number of undergraduates taking our geography classes this year. The incoming cohort of graduate students is the largest in our recollected history (after last year's record breaking number of new grad students). Our faculty members have received more new research funding than at any time in the department's history. Finally, we are receiving strong university support and are conducting searches for faculty positions in urban sustainability and geographic information science.

What makes this especially remarkable is that these changes are occurring in the face of economically challenging times. Most departments and universities nationwide are facing reductions and difficult cuts. Our present success is a testament to the growing recognition of the importance of geography, to the people in our department, to our historical legacy of excellence, and to the quality of the University of Oregon experience. Yet at this time of success for our discipline and our department, we must remain sensitive to the difficult economic times our graduating students face. We therefore are working to help our students learn more about potential opportunities in geography. To this end, we are offering a new one credit undergraduate class that introduces students to work opportunities and research available for geography majors. This class was the brainchild of one of our Ph.D. students, Lindsay Naylor. In addition, we are continuing our career workshops that another Ph.D. student, Leslie McLees, initiated two years ago. Our faculty and InfoGraphics Lab continue to hire undergraduates for research positions that provide them with invaluable work experience.

Please do not think that we are abandoning our classic liberal arts mission; critical thinking, basic knowledge, and geographic perspectives remain at the core of our program. But at the same time, we want to provide our students with skills that help them vie for graduate school openings and jobs in an even more competitive world.

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with InfoGraphics Lab director Jim Meacham in 1993 to begin the mapping and documentation of cultural artifacts in a region that was inaccessible for many years to scientific inquiry. Each summer season, Esther and her husband, project photographer Gary Tepfer, would spend several weeks in the field exploring and surveying the high, glacial-carved valleys of the Mongolian Altai. Meacham joined them with field GIS-GPS equipment in 1997 and again in 2004 and 2006. This project was an international effort that included archaeologists from the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and the Russian Academy of Sciences. Several scholarly publications, authored by Jacobson-Tepfer, were produced from this effort.

As the initial project came to completion, Jacobson-Tepfer and Meacham wanted to find an avenue to present this research and their extensive collection of mapping data and photos in an integrated way to a broad audience. Building on the experience of the Atlas of Oregon, an idea for an atlas with an interactive website was conceived. The National Endowment for the Humanities Reference Materials Program seemed like an ideal fit to fund this effort to make it available for the scholarly community and cultural resource managers in Mongolia.

This is why portions of this newsletter are devoted to the intern experiences of some of our students. These students have had their educations and their professional résumés enriched by these experiences.

One of our obstacles to providing internships, however, is finding enough placements for all the students who are interested. This is where you can help. If your firm, company, or institution has potential intern opportunities for geography students, please let me know by contacting me at marcus@uoregon.edu. Some internships are paid, others are voluntary; some are local, some are international—they come in many flavors as you will see from the examples in this newsletter.

Providing internships is a major way you can help our students directly, while your firm benefits from working with some of our best and brightest students. So please, if you have not already done so, consider hosting one or more interns from the Department of Geography.

As always, thank you for listening. And please drop by to say hello if you are ever passing through Eugene.

Gary Tepfer, Esther Jacobson-Tepfer, President Richard Lariviere, and Jim Meacham, celebrate the publication of the Altai atlas.
The Department of Geography is pleased to welcome its new graduate students:

**Vince Artman** received a B.A. in history in 2003 and a B.A. in geography in 2009 from the University of Oregon. His research interests include ethnicity, religion and conflict, Russia and the Caucasus, and the 2008 Russia-Georgia war.

**Easther Chigumira** comes to us as a Fulbright scholar. She received a B.A. in geography and industrial psychology in 2000, honors in geography in 2001, and an M.S. in geography in 2006 from Rhodes University in South Africa. She is interested in human-environment dynamics.

**Aquila Flower** earned her B.A. in geography from Humboldt State University in 2004 and an M.Sc. in geography from the University of Victoria. Her primary interests are in dendroecological analysis of interactions between wildﬁres, insect outbreaks, and climatic variability in mixed conifer forests.

**Matt Goslin** received a B.S. in biology from Pacific Lutheran University in 1989 and an M.S. in forest ecology from Oregon State University in 1997. He is interested in interactions between physical and biological river processes and the effects of disturbance patterns upon landscape riverine patterns.

**Gretchen Hill** has a B.S. in geography with a minor in environmental studies from the University of Nevada, Reno. Her research interests include place, identity, immigration, and the Basque people’s attachment to place in both Spain and the Pacific Northwest.

**Rene Kladzyk** received a B.S. in American political studies with an emphasis in gender policy from Northern Arizona University in 2007. She is interested in gender, cultural, and political identities and space.

**Jennifer Kusler** earned a B.A. in geography from California State University, Sacramento, in 2008. Her research focuses on environmental change using proxies such as pollen and charcoal from sediment cores.

**Nancy Leeper** received her B.A. in studio arts—printmaking from Macalester College in 1976 and her M.A. in geography from the University of Oregon in 1996. Her current research is on democratization processes in postcommunist contexts, with emphasis on election observation.

**Graciela Lu** has a B.S. in biochemistry from San Marcos University and specialty studies in ecology and environmental management in 2001 from Cayetano Heredia University in Peru. She is completing her M.A. in international studies at the UO. Her research focuses on evaluating ecosystem and human health.

**Heather McAfee** earned a B.A. in political science from the University of Colorado in 2006. Her primary research interests are in migration and women’s and gender studies.

**Benjamin Metcalfe** received a B.S. in geography from the UO in 2009 and continues to work at the InfoGraphics Lab. He is interested in China and population.

**Sarah Praskievicz** received a B.S. in environmental studies from Southern Oregon University in 2006 and an M.S. in geography from Portland State University in 2009. Her research focus is on the impact of climate change on water resources.

**Amanda Reinholtz** earned her B.S. in geographic science from James Madison University in 2008. She is interested in studying disturbance regimes in rivers.

**Walter Ryce** earned a B.A. in 1985 in international relations at San Francisco State University and an M.A. in 1995 from the Stanford Teacher Education Program at Stanford University. His research focus is on geographic education and literacy.

**Laurie Trautman** has a B.A. in environmental economics from Western Washington University and an M.S. in Earth sciences from Montana State University. Her current research interests focus on Latino immigration to rural areas of the U.S.

**Denise Tu** received a B.S. in biological systems engineering, with an emphasis in ecology from the University of California at Davis in 2007. She is interested in river restoration, fluvial geomorphology, and human impacts on riparian ecosystems.
New Grants


**Amy Lobben**, National Science Foundation, “Spatial Thinking in the Curriculum of Students Who Are Blind or Low Vision”

**Amy Lobben**, National Science Foundation, “Tactile Mapping Dissemination Project”

**Amy Lobben and Andrew Marcus**, National Institutes of Health, “Exploiting the Power of GIS to Enhance Spatial Thinking in STEM Areas”

**Andrew Marcus and Jim Meacham**, Montana State University, “Atlas of Yellowstone”


**Jim Meacham**, Oregon Department of Transportation, “Restructure, Redesign, and GIS Support of Transportation Mapping”


Selected Graduate Student Updates

Social Science Research Council dissertation research fellowships. He is exploring the impact of political-territorial circumstances on Islam. More specifically, he is investigating competing visions of how Russia—and Tatarstan as a constituent region of the Russian Federation—should be configured as a political-territorial space to influence Muslim identity in this region. Kazan is the capital of Tatarstan, which is a semiautonomous region located in the heart of Russia and populated in roughly equal numbers by Muslim Tatars and Christian Russians. He spent the first months learning about the dynamics surrounding Islam and politics in Tatarstan and Russia. Last spring he was grateful for a visit from his adviser, Alec Murphy, who helped him reformulate research questions. He has been analyzing literature produced by various factions and conducting interviews with politicians, professors, imams, and mullahs to understand how different versions of the Muslim faith correspond to different visions of Tatarstan as a political-territorial space. He has also had some of his work published in journals focusing on the region. He was among ten people chosen to present research at a regional symposium in Washington, D.C. He also managed to fit in his own wedding in Portland in June, which was officiated by geography graduate student Pollyanna Lind. Days after, Matt and his new wife flew to Austria to begin a three-week tour on bike and train through Slovakia, Croatia, and Bosnia, before returning to Russia. Congrats, Matt!

During an extended winter break, **Shangrila Joshi Wynn** made a trip to Delhi, India, to conduct fieldwork for her dissertation, “Justice, Development, and India’s Claim to Ecological Space: New Discourses of the Environment Emergent in Climate Policy Discussions.” She spent the summer working on her data. She also worked with Patricia Solis at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) to gain observer status for the association at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Receiving that status enabled her to participate in the Fifteenth Conference of Parties in Copenhagen in December and constituted the final stage of data generation for her dissertation. On campus, she has been actively involved with the Graduate School Advisory Board and was asked to represent UO graduate students as part of a team of faculty members and administrators that has discussions with our new UO president, Richard Lariviere. She was awarded a dissertation fellowship for fall 2009 by the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics. And this past fall, she served as a faculty mentor to a UO Osher Reentry Scholar.

**Matt Derrick** sends greetings from Kazan, Russia. He arrived there a little more than a year ago to conduct fieldwork for his dissertation, with support from Fulbright-Hays and
Matt Landers spent four months in Spain carrying out his master’s fieldwork. Based in Barcelona, he was looking at the six UNESCO World Heritage sites in the Catalonia region. Site visits included not only the bizarre structures of Antoni Gaudi but also medieval churches and monasteries, Roman ruins, and Catalan art nouveau palaces. Fieldwork allowed him to explore many parts of Catalonia, from the Mediterranean beaches to the Pyrenean ski slopes. He also took the opportunity to personally experience Europe. After experiencing cheap, comfortable, and clean rail travel he is a firm believer in all types of trains (metropolitan, light-rail, commuter, and high-speed). He also had a good firsthand experience with socialized medicine in Germany. He learned that a smart car not only gets fantastic mileage and fits through medieval gates but is also surprisingly capable of navigating dirt roads in the mountains of Andorra. Former UO geography grad student Justyna Goworowska joined him for a week in Germany and Poland, culminating in a ferry trip to Hel (cold and rainy). Before flying back to the U.S, he met up with his freshman-year roommate in Bulgaria. He had a wonderful and productive time.

Suzanne Walther setting ground-truthing targets prior to the flight capturing aerial imagery of the McKenzie River.

One aspect of Suzanne Walther’s dissertation includes using aerial imagery to model the bathymetry of the McKenzie River, Oregon. From the start, this work was undertaken in collaboration with Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB). This past year she has worked on testing the model, and last summer and fall worked as an intern for EWEB at the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) in downtown Eugene. Since 2002, LCOG has worked with EWEB’s drinking water source protection program in protecting Eugene’s sole source of drinking water, the McKenzie River. LCOG’s Applied GIS and Data Services staff members are, among other things, providing hydrological modeling services to EWEB. They are currently in the process of implementing water quantity and quality models that will help EWEB answer important questions about where to focus their monitoring efforts and how water quality might change in the future. Suzanne has been incorporating the bathymetric model into the basin model and assisting with the model data management and development. She has learned a lot about not only the computer models and data management, but also the human side of collaborating on such a large-scale effort. Suzanne received the 2009 American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing’s William A. Fischer Memorial Scholarship for the geomorphologic portion of this work. She has found the opportunity to apply her research efforts in our community to be quite rewarding.
**GeoEd and Awareness Week**

### Summer Program for Geography Teachers Is Alive and Well in Condon Hall Projects

Our summer graduate program in geography education continues under the leadership of program co-coordinators Susan Hardwick and Don Holtgrieve. Assisting them with this teacher-centered program is Lynn Songer, a geography instructor at Lane Community College and a graduate of our Ph.D. program. Lynn regularly teaches seminars and workshops for the program and also provides advising and mentoring support for completion of the terminal projects required for completion of this degree. The past two years have featured a record number of geography and social studies teachers in residence each summer from our local area as well as from elementary, middle, and high schools in other parts of Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, Illinois, Missouri, and Tennessee. Our competitive application process is attracting some of the best teachers in the U.S. Many were recruited to the program by enrolling in Susan Hardwick’s web-based course, Preparing to Teach Advanced Placement Geography. After graduating from the summer program with an M.S. degree in geographic education, the teachers go on to assume leadership roles in the National Council for Geographic Education, state Geographic Alliances, and their local schools and districts.

### National Geography Awareness Week Activities, 2008–9

Last fall, the department outdid itself in celebrating national Geography Awareness Week with a series of geo-scavenger hunts on campus, visits to the Map Library and InfoGraphics Lab, and participating in a geography lesson inside a gigantic inflatable globe rented from the Chicago Children’s Museum. This globe, erected inside the EMU Ballroom, was large enough to hold an entire class of students at a time. Busloads of teachers and their elementary and middle school students from Eugene, Springfield, and Lebanon, Oregon, arrived on campus for a full day of events under the capable leadership of Ph.D. student Leslie McLees and professor Susan Hardwick. This fall, another round of activities was coordinated by McLees; fellow graduate students Tom Ptak, Gretchen Hall, and Walter Ryce; and Hardwick. Three busloads of elementary and middle school students were once again treated to another full day of events in Condon Hall and all across campus. Our focus this year was on Mongolia and Tibet to honor the release of the InfoGraphics Lab’s stunning new *Archaeology and Landscape in the Mongolian Altai: An Atlas* with a featured presentation on GIS Day by the director of InfoGraphics, Jim Meacham. In addition, a group of Tibetan children from the Portland immigrant community performed Tibetan folk dances in the EMU Ballroom and taught students from local schools how to perform traditional dances from their homeland.

Master of education students on a field trip to Mount Pisgah and Cape Perpetua last summer.
Denisse Guadarrama  
**Working in Chile**

Though fluent in Spanish, UO geography student Denisse Guadarrama said she spent the last term of her undergraduate career (spring 2007) relearning Spanish from fast-speaking, word-shortening Chileans. This was one of many challenges that she experienced in undertaking an internship through SEDEJ—Servicios para el Desarrollo de los Jóvenes (Services for the Development of Youth)—a small nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Santiago. SEDEJ began working directly with youths and has expanded its programs to include various parts of Chilean society. Denisse was assigned to investigate grants available through international organizations for which SEDEJ could qualify. Her end product was a database with information on the organizations, available funds, application cycles, requirements, and specific application contact information. The Chilean government had typically funded the majority of SEDEJ grants, and the directors hoped to refocus their grant applications towards international aid groups.

Denisse found that the opportunity to work with the NGO solidified her studies in international studies and geography (culture, politics, and place) and brought all her prior studies together. She quickly realized that her academic experience had given her the necessary tools to truly embrace and learn from her internship experience.

**Jesse Wilson  
**Working at Mount Pisgah**

Jesse Wilson is thoroughly enjoying his current work as an intern at the native plant nursery at Mount Pisgah, associated directly with Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah. Along with several other volunteers, he assists in the cultivation of native seeds as well as the drying, extracting, weighing, and recording of seed statistics. They tend to more than twenty-five plots of wild grasses, perennials, and annuals that thrive in the various microclimates found in the Willamette Valley and spend a lot of time weeding and removing invasive flora such as false brome (a grass) and blackberry. He has learned about plant identification, plant seeding cycles, the seasonal differences in native plant adaptations, and how different flora and fauna rely on one another through various symbiotic relationships.

Jesse has transferred his knowledge into planting and propagating various edible and medicinal plants in his own garden, such as salad burnet, cow parsnip, and even stinging nettle for making tea and steamed greens (more healthy than spinach and harmless once cooked). He also had the opportunity to volunteer during “Play in the Rain Day,” an annual event that brings kids and families to Mount Pisgah in an effort to get kids excited about our local habitats. They helped the kids transplant buttercups, walked them through nursery tours, and helped them to identify various seeds.

He feels fortunate to work with experienced and remarkably knowledgeable coordinators. After continuing his work through December, Jesse plans on returning to the nursery in March in preparation for the spring planting.

Students learn about native plantings at Mount Pisgah.
The InfoGraphics Lab continued to work on a number of interesting projects related to the Campus GIS and Mapping Program. This effort is coordinated by Assistant Director Ken Kato. A rewarding aspect of these efforts is the recognition from administrative department and program directors that space-related issues matter and that the methods and perspectives of geographers are highly valued.

This past year saw a continued growth in projects related to emergency management and safety. Our room-level GIS is playing a central role in the University of Oregon’s current work to model and plan for issues surrounding risk and vulnerability. Representatives of the UO Emergency Management Program are using the lab to better understand where campus risks and vulnerabilities coalesce and to identify opportunities to address them. Regarding issues of safety, the lab provided expertise to a campus task force that assessed issues of safety, security, and vulnerability to individual departments on campus. One particular aspect of that effort was providing spatial analysis of several years of crime data for the Department of Public Safety to assist them in identifying spatial and temporal patterns and to improve strategic planning.

Use of the lab’s web-based mapping applications continue to see tremendous interest. Jacob Bartruff, the lab’s programmer-analyst, has developed several custom applications to support these efforts. The Department of Public Safety can now track officers “live” throughout a major event (e.g., football games in Autzen Stadium) from a secure ArcGIS server application, and “incidents” can be mapped. After the event, the position of officers and events can be replayed as an animation to support analysis and after-action debriefs. Another application provides emergency personnel and other experts the capacity to explore our utility networks located under campus in tunnels. Experts can view both data and photography (inspired by Google maps with the “street view” option).

Another new area of work is around mobile GIS and mapping technologies. The lab is currently working on a collaborative project with researchers in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management developing a map application for iPhones, funded by a grant from the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium. With this application, campus community members will be able to survey or assess transportation and safety-related issues while traveling to or from campus. The Campus GIS and Mapping Program continues to employ a number of undergraduate students from the geography department and across campus, in addition to employing graduate students in five GTF positions.
### Spatial and Map Cognition Research Laboratory

The Spatial and Map Cognition Research Lab (SMCRL), housed in the Department of Geography and run by Amy Lobben, includes collaborative faculty members from geography and computer and information science, as well as colleagues from other universities. The lab focuses on studying map use, generally, with some specific current interests. In recognizing the map user as the most important part of the cartographic communication process, the lab researchers study how people use maps and interact with the environment (such as navigation). While some of the research focuses on sighted map users, a substantial amount of work includes blind or low-vision participants working with tactile maps.

The researchers conduct behavioral research in which they measure people’s perception, ideas about space, and abilities to complete prescribed map-use tasks. This research includes both in-lab testing as well as considerable in-field testing (a lot of time is spent walking around environments with research participants). Since people are not unidimensional and using a single measure may not provide an adequate explanation of map use, they also conduct a substantial amount of research using fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) in addition to lab- and field-testing. By measuring neural patterns as well as behavior and performance, they are able to obtain different data describing the same phenomenon.

Currently, several different research projects are underway in SMCRL, most of which include in-lab, in-field, and fMRI methods. In one project, the researchers are comparing the difference between map and simple geometry when people engage in mental rotation. Much of the past research in mental rotation focuses on geometry, not on maps. But as geographers, we hypothesized that mental rotation is mediated by the type of image being rotated. In other words, maps matter.

### Faculty Updates

**Dan Buck**

- Continued writing projects already in progress, resulting in the submission of two journal articles and one book manuscript for review.
- Initiated new research on the globalization of food in East Asia.
- Survived his first Oregon winter and underwent an intense process of localization, which included discovering Ninkasi IPA and attending the last Ems game at Civic Stadium.

**Shaull Cohen**

- Presided over the enrollment of possibly the biggest cohort of new graduate students in department history—an interesting marker of the interest in geography and our program.
- Had an article accepted for the special issue of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* exploring a new way of framing territorial conflicts based on his research in Northern Ireland (success) and Israel-Palestine (not so much).
- Initiated a review and restructuring of the peace studies minor that he codirects, with gratitude to Mary Milo for taking on the chores associated with having that minor housed in our department, a new and positive situation.

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**Dan Gavin’s GEOG 433 class trip to Santiam Pass.**

**Dan Gavin**

- Received funding from the Joint Fire Science Program (a collaboration of a few federal agencies) for a three-year project investigating interactive effects of insect outbreaks, climate, and fire severity from eastern Oregon to western Montana.
- Gave a keynote talk on the biogeographic implications of changing fire regimes in the Holocene at a conference on forest fire, held at a remote field station in northwest Quebec.
• Published papers in the journals Northwest Science and Diversity and Distributions on his work on the inland temperate rainforest of British Columbia and Idaho.

• During winter, Dan had his first term without a class in a few years—which was remarkably well-timed for a trip with his wife to Seoul to adopt their now nineteen-month-old son, Leo (considering the way Leo studies flight progress maps on international flights, he is destined to be a great geographer).

Susan Hardwick
• After the publication of her Annals article on Canadian immigration and identity this year, Susan is continuing to expand her work north of the Forty-ninth Parallel (with funding from the Association of Canadian Studies in Montreal and the Canadian Embassy) with a new project for Oxford University Press that compares the patterns and experiences of U.S. migrants in three Canadian metro areas—Vancouver, Toronto, and Halifax.

• Susan was also selected last fall as a funded participant in the International Network of Learning and Teaching Geography’s international symposium in geographic education, to be held prior to the AAG meetings in Washington, D.C., this spring.

• Susan also gave invited presentations on the results of her collaborative 2009 binational poll on the relationship between geographic literacy and national identities of more than 4,000 respondents in Canada and the U.S. She presented this work with the help of Legit Marketing (and cofunding by the AAG and the Association for Canadian Studies) at two press conferences: one held in Ottawa on Canada Day in July, the other at Johns Hopkins University in September.

Derrick Hindery
• Had the proportion of his appointment in geography increased!

• Returned to a long-standing research project comparing deforestation rates under neoliberalism versus socialism in the Santa Cruz and Chapare regions of Bolivia, a collaborative project with Danny Redo and Andrew Millington of Texas A&M University. Their article, “From Neoliberalism to Nationalization: Shifting Deforestation Dynamics under Evo Morales,” is in review at the journal Land-Use Policy.

• Is developing a research proposal analyzing the socioeconomic impacts of the Cuiaba and Bolivia-Brazil gas pipelines and associated mines with Alex Aguilar (biogeographer, Salisbury University), Andrew Millington (geographer, Texas A&M University), and Danny Redo (Ph.D. student, Texas A&M).

• Together with his wife, welcomed Sebastian Hindery Glasinovic into the world on May 29, 2009.

Amy Lobben
• Continued to work on past and new projects, focusing on map use, navigation, and spatial thinking with sighted and blind travelers. These projects continue to include both behavioral and fMRI research methodologies. On-campus project collaborators include faculty members from the computer and information science department.

Andrew Marcus
• Survived his first year as department head with a large lesson learned—being in a remarkably productive, collaborative department makes more work rather than less.

• Continued to make progress on the Atlas of Yellowstone, including production of new reference maps with Allan Cartography and collaboration with InfoGraphics Lab and experts in Montana and Wyoming to produce topical pages (which has led him to think a lot over the past year about Bill Loy, his spirit, and his legacy).

• Worked more closely with alumni and donors and developed a much deeper appreciation for their contributions to our continuing success.

Pat McDowell
• Stepped down after four years as department head and is enjoying her return to full-time teaching and research (especially since she knows the department is in good hands).

• Gave a presentation on her Sprague River (Klamath County, Oregon) research at the International Association of Geomorphologists in July, visiting Australia for the first time. The best part was an eight-day field trip into the outback to see desert dunes and rivers.

• Developed and taught a new course, Field Methods in Physical Geography, in fall 2008, integrating GPS, surveying, and field techniques for geomorphology and biogeography.

• Continued fieldwork monitoring restoration projects on the Middle Fork John Day River in northeastern Oregon, in June through August, with the help of grad students Pollyanna Lind, Didi Martinez, and Jessica Phelps (the project is funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, with support from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation).

Jim Meacham
• Directed the publication of two statewide maps this year under contract with the Oregon Department of Transportation: the Oregon Official State Highway Map and the Oregon State Bicycle Highway Map (Jim worked on the first digitally produced version in 1988).

• Progress on the Atlas of Yellowstone project has been a major focus, working with students, InfoGraphics Lab cartographer Alethea Steingisser, and Professor Andrew Marcus.

• The third major project has been the completion of an NEH-funded Mongolian Altai inventory effort with art history professor emerita Esther Jacobson-Tepfer, which includes the publication of a printed atlas and an interactive website. Read more about this project on page one.

Xiaobo Su

• Had an article accepted by Tourism Geographies.

• Together with his wife is taking great delight in the arrival of his son, Yufei, in September 2009.

Peter Walker
• Is very happy to have just started his first sabbatical in twelve years.

• Is writing a book (with UO geography alumnus Patrick Hurley) on the politics of Oregon’s land-use planning system—the first-ever comprehensive book on this topic—for the University of Arizona Press.

• Fixed the roof on his house.

The sculpture from the Hoysala Dynasty Halebid temple at Somnathpur, India, (dating between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries) includes representations of maize ears and a sacred gesture, signifying the importance of the context of the maize itself.

EMERITUS FACULTY
Carl Johannesssen
• Recently published (with John L. Sorenson) his book World Trade and Biological Exchanges before 1492, in which they present evidence that Americans traded overseas long before the arrival of Columbus.
Highlights of Professor Sabbaticals

Alec Murphy spent his sabbatical year in Eugene (fall), in England (winter, spring), and traveling through Europe (summer). Before heading off to England, Alec gave the keynote address at the National Geographic Society’s “Spatial Learning in Geography” workshop in Washington, D.C., last November. He spent his time in England as a distinguished visiting fellow in the Department of Geography, Queen Mary University of London. The fellowship gave Alec an opportunity to focus on his research and writing, and to participate in the life of one of Britain’s most vibrant geography departments. He collaborated with other geographers in residence on a symposium on territory (to be published in Geopolitics), and he continued his work on the forthcoming National Academy of Sciences study “Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences.” He also got a start on a book aimed at the general public on the consequences of ignoring geographical understandings for matters ranging from policymaking to the decisions made in everyday life.

Alec Murphy in front of the main geography building at the University of Leeds.

One of the benefits of the fellowship was a flat on the Queen Mary campus, which is located in a fascinating part of London’s East End. Long an immigrant neighborhood, the area around Queen Mary now bears the stamp of the recent wave of immigrants from South Asia. Alec and his wife, Susan, were able to enjoy the colorful markets and wonderful little restaurants near campus. Queen Mary is also just a few tube stops from central London, which gave Alec and Susan the opportunity to use their flat as a base for exploring one of the world’s great cities. Alec also made a few lecture trips to other universities in Britain, and he went to Paris in the spring to give a featured talk at the renowned École Normale Supérieure.

Before returning to Eugene, Alec and his wife spent some time exploring parts of southeastern Europe. After Alec gave a lecture at the American Corner at the University of Primorska (Slovenia), they headed to Croatia—first Zagreb and then Slavonia in eastern Croatia, where they visited areas of intense fighting during the 1990s. They continued on to see much evidence of the NATO bombings in Serbia, and then traveled through parts of Bosnia-Hercegovina, driving from Belgrade to Sarajevo, then on to Mostar. Driving the small highways was hair-raising at times—particularly in Serbia where passing on blind curves and tailgating is a national pastime—and all the evidence of conflict was sobering, but they came away with a rich set of understandings that will shape Alec’s teaching and research in the years ahead.

Alec has jumped fully back into the swing of things this fall, working on the various projects that he got going in London, teaching Political Geography, and sharing (with Andrew Marcus) in the teaching of the introductory graduate method and theory sequence.

Lise Nelson and her family spent her sabbatical year in Zamora, Michoacán, Mexico (five months) and Los Angeles, California (six months). Her work in Mexico was funded through a Fulbright grant, which gave her the opportunity to teach a graduate seminar (in Spanish) to first-year master’s students at El Colegio de Michoacán. The seminar, at the request of her colleagues in Michoacán, introduced the students to core theoretical and epistemological debates in U.S. and U.K. human geography. Living only an hour drive from the community where she has conducted extensive research in the past, Lise also took advantage of the opportunity offered by the Fulbright to reestablish relationships in the Purhépecha region and conduct some new research. Her son Axel (two-and-a-half at the time) thoroughly enjoyed attending preschool in Zamora. He embraced wearing the uniform each day, and was speaking Spanish quite fluently by the end of their stay. She continued work on chapters and articles for publication in the International Studies Association Compendium Project (edited volume) and journals such as Gender, Place, and Culture and Political Geography, and received a three-year research grant from the NSF for a project on Latino immigrants and “linked” labor markets in the rural United States to begin in 2010. In January she and her family moved to Los Angeles, where her husband, Andy (UO art history teacher), had a fellowship at the Getty Museum. Living in Getty-provided housing fifteen minutes from the beach in Los Angeles was quite decadent. Lise, at that point seven-and-a-half months pregnant, enjoyed the sunshine and lack of structure in her life until Simon arrived on February 27 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Axel enjoyed life in L.A. as much as he had enjoyed Mexico—happily trading Spanish for Hebrew in his Israeli-run daycare—while Andy had a spectacular view of Los Angeles from his office, where he made significant progress on a book manuscript. Quite a year!

Lise Nelson with her son, Axel, looking at the “carpet of flowers” made for the Fiesta de Cristo Rey in Patamban, Michoacán, October 26, 2008.
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