



# Geography News

January 2010

## GTU Induction Ceremony

Gamma Theta Upsilon was founded in 1928 by a Clark geographer. The Clark chapter was established in 1951 and restarted in 1991.

Election to GTU is a departmental recognition of high academic standing and interest in the field of geography. This year's GTU Induction Ceremony will be held on **March 24th, 2010** in **Jefferson 222**, at **1:30pm**.

Election to GTU is a departmental recognition of high academic standing and interest in the field of geography. This year's GTU Induction Ceremony will be held on **March 24th, 2010** in **Jefferson 222**, at **1:30pm**.

## Faculty Sabbaticals.

### Fall 2010

Professor Frey

Professor Rogan

### Spring 2011

Professor Kulakowski

### Full Year 10/11

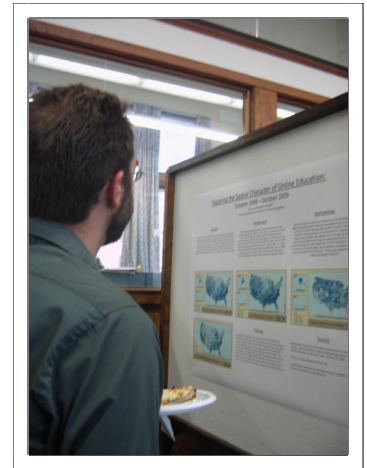
Professor Polsky

### Calendar Year 2011

Professor Eastman

## Undergraduate Poster Session and Holiday Potluck

This year the geography department did things a little differently by combining the end of semester undergraduate poster session and its annual holiday celebration. Both were a great success. The following undergraduate students presented their research: Jason Black, Micah Gensler, Claudia Olcese Lira, Laurent Marshall, Rebecca Ravitch, and Elliot Steinhardt.



The turnout was excellent, with many students, both graduate and undergraduate, faculty and staff, all coming together to start the holiday season. This gave everyone a chance to learn about undergraduate research and all in all join in for a little time together before the end of another fall semester. The potluck luncheon included a great array of appetizers, main dishes and desserts. Thank you to all who contributed and joined the department in this festive occasion. We hope you had a wonderful winter break with friends and family and are ready for the spring semester!

## Geography students win Best Poster at NESTVAL

The annual meeting of the New England, Saint Lawrence Valley Geographical Society (NESTVAL) was hosted by Salem State College in November with a theme on "Climate Change in the Northeast." Students were encouraged to attend and there was both a paper and poster competition, awarding cash prizes for the best in show. Three Clark students, **Brenna Schwert** ('10, Geography Major), **Max Wright** ('10, Geography Major) and **Andrew Caiazza** ('10 B.A./M.A. in GIS) won the best poster award for their research for HERO in which they produced high resolution object oriented maps of several towns in the Ipswich and Parker Watersheds in Massachusetts.

# News:



## **Prof. Frey appointed to AICC**

Professor Karen Frey was recently nominated and appointed to serve on the [Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee](#) (AICC) for a three-year term. The AICC serves as a national liaison group providing oversight and advice to the US National Science Foundation Office of Polar Programs and to the U.S. Coast Guard for the purpose of enhancing scientific facilities and capabilities aboard the icebreaker fleet. To carry this out, AICC solicits, synthesizes and presents the needs of the arctic science community to the Coast Guard and NSF, fulfils an ombudsman role when necessary, and facilitates the efficient and effective execution of scientific research by U.S. icebreakers.

## **Last winter's ice storm serves as research for professors and students**

With the one year anniversary of the epic 2008 ice storm in December, local newspapers and T.V. featured interviews with both Prof. Rogan and graduate students in which they discussed their research and reactions related to the event.

### **Full Newspaper Articles:**

[Worcester Telegram and Gazette](#)

[The Landmark](#)

## **Geography Major and HERO Fellow featured in Hometown Newspaper**

Geography major and Summer 2008 HERO Fellow, Thomas Hamill, was interviewed by the newspaper in his hometown of Scarborough, Maine. In the article for the *Scarborough Leader* Hamill discusses his involvement with HERO, the research he has been working on and what it means to be a geography major. The article is available to read online at [KeepMEcurrent](#). Be sure to check it out.

## Grants

### **National Science Foundation**

In November 2009, Professor Karen Frey was awarded as Lead PI of a grant from the National Science Foundation's Office of Polar Programs, Arctic Research Support and Logistics which helped her to lead and organize the Arctic in Rapid Transition Workshop held in Fairbanks, Alaska November 7-9, 2009. The grant also allows her to begin developing a science and implementation plan that integrates, up-dates and develops priorities for internationally coordinated Arctic Marine Science activities for the next decade.

### **US National Science Foundation**

Professor Colin Polsky was recently awarded, as co-PI of a multi-institutional team, a two-year, \$298k grant from the US National Science Foundation's "ULTRA-ex" competition, for the proposal "Boston Metropolitan Area ULTRA: Exploring past, current and future socio-ecological dynamics in a founding city." The PI is Professor Paige Warren, U. Mass-Amherst.

# Internships and Research opportunities:

## GIS Internships at Iracambi Research Center *By Kate Doiron*

The GISDE Masters Program, a joint program between the Geography and IDCE Departments, sends students every summer to a warm, sunny tropical place where you can drink water out of forest springs and watch parrots fly overhead while you sway in a hammock. Not a bad way to spend a summer GIS internship! Since 2005, GISDE students have journeyed by bus six hours north of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and found themselves at the heart of the highly endangered and fragmented Atlantic Rainforest. The Iracambi Research Center in Rosario de Limiera is a community oriented conservation non-profit which aims to make forest protection more desirable than its destruction. They perform medicinal plants research, have an extensive native plants nursery, reforest degraded land, and teach local children about plants and animals that call the Atlantic Rainforest



home. And, luckily for the GISDE students, they have a GIS computer lab! This past summer, Yingzi Yang and Kate Doiron ('10) lived at the Iracambi Research Center, in their own tiny green and white house, and worked in the GIS lab about a two minute walk away. Kate updated the Iracambi GIS data with geo-databases and a new set of user guidelines and comprehensive plan documents, and connected all former Iracambi GIS volunteers through a Google group. Yingzi found and downloaded satellite data for the area surrounding Iracambi, including the Serra do Brigadeiro State Park, and worked with a former



volunteer in England to get Iracambi GIS data online and viewable in a Google Earth format. Work in the lab was offset by hiking in the nearby

mountains, swimming at the waterfall, cooking group dinner, and singing around the campfire! The experience of doing GIS work surrounded by the environment and community that the organization is trying to protect and integrate made the hours spent in the lab very worthwhile. The relationship between Iracambi and the GISDE program continues to grow, with a record four new internships available for summer 2010, good news indeed for the large first year GISDE class! Past Iracambi volunteers from the GISDE program have gone on to work at ESRI in California, Conservation International in Virginia, and as an environmental services professional in Colorado.

## HERO Fellowship

*Clark University's Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO), located in Worcester, Mass., offers an exciting opportunity for up to 12 undergraduate students from institutions across the country to collaborate with experts conducting original research on land change and vulnerability in summer 2010.*

This eight-week curriculum is sponsored by the U.S. National Science Foundation through its Research Experiences for Undergraduates Site (REU Site) program. HERO Fellows analyze the causes and consequences of global environmental changes at local scales in faculty-led research

projects. Each Fellow is paired with a Clark faculty mentor and other researchers on the HERO team in one of three research domains. Fellows will learn how to use various research methods, including GIS, remote sensing, geostatistical modeling, interviews and focus groups.

Research Areas Include: Vulnerability Analysis, Land Change Prediction, and Forest Change Monitoring.

HERO Fellows are paid \$4,000 for the eight weeks of full-time research, in addition to a substantial (possibly

100%) allowance for room and board, round-trip transportation from your home to Worcester, Mass., and an expenses-paid trip to the March 2011 Association of American Geographers scholarly meeting in Seattle to present your research to an audience of like-minded scholars and professionals.

### To Apply:

Visit [hero.clarku.edu](http://hero.clarku.edu) for an online application and instructions.

Applications are due via email to Professor Colin Polsky at

[cpolsky@clarku.edu](mailto:cpolsky@clarku.edu) no later than Sunday **February 14, 2010.**



## Important Dates:

January 28th	Last day to add/drop
January 28th	<i>Graduate Speaker Series:</i> Alison Mountz Grace Conference Room 12:00-1:30 <i>MARSH Lecture:</i> Jennie Stevens Grace Conference Room 12:00-1:00
February 4th	<i>MARSH Seminar Series:</i> Wayne Gray Lurie Conference Room 12:15-1:15
February 14th	HERO Applications due
February 18th	<i>MARSH Seminar Series:</i> John Rogan Lurie Conference Room 12:15-1:15
March 4th	<i>MARSH Seminar Series:</i> Timothy Downs Lurie Conference Room 12:15-1:15
March 8-12	Midterm Break

## Publications:

**Prof. Chris Williams** has been invited to serve as an Associate Editor of "[Biogeochemistry](#)", a highly-ranked international journal publishing original papers on ecosystem carbon and nutrient cycles. With his new position, Prof. Williams has been asked to help raise the journal's profile with regards to plant and ecosystem carbon cycle science.

## The 2010 Peter Condakes Summer Research Fellowship

The fellowship is made possible by a generous gift from Peter Condakes, an alumnus and geography major from the class of 1978. The fellowship provides a stipend of \$1,000 for an undergraduate geography or GES major to work as a summer research assistant with a geography faculty member. Talk to a geography professor and ask whether she/he is interested in working with you on a research project this summer. You should discuss possible research topics and the nature of the work you would carry out. The fellowship is open to current **Sophomores and Juniors**, and students who have taken Geog141 Research Methods will have preference. To apply you must submit:

1. Jointly with your sponsoring professor, a one-page statement summarizing your proposed research
2. A letter of support from your sponsoring professor
3. A copy of your latest transcript.

Applications are to be submitted to Somer Jones ([sjones@clarku.edu](mailto:sjones@clarku.edu)), Undergraduate Program Assistant for the School of Geography (in Main Geog Office, JF220) no later than **Friday, March 5th, 2010**.

