

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY NEWSLETTER

"The importance of recognizing our deep common roots as geographers and building and nurturing scholarly interactions across borders has never been more important than now, when other forms of positive engagement and discourse seem to be collapsing."

Kavita Pandit  
AAG President  
October, 2006



## USF GEOGRAPHY FORGES INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

USF's Geography Department is developing international partnerships to promote international cooperation and research in the field of Geography.

In the Fall Semester, the Department Chair, Robert Brinkmann, traveled to Riga, Latvia to sign an agreement of cooperation between the University of Latvia and USF in the area of Geography and Environmental Science and Policy.

The photo to the right shows Brinkmann (left) with the Rector, Dr. Ivars Lacis (center), and the Director of International Studies, Dr. Alina Grzhibovska (right) of the University of Latvia. Dr. Lacis is signing the agreement in the photo.

Brinkmann also traveled to Helsinki, Finland to begin discussions on the

development of a formal relationship between the Department of Geography at the University of Helsinki and USF. This Spring, Brinkmann will return to Helsinki and Riga along with another USF faculty member to solidify



those relationships. There may be some opportunities for research and student study in the region soon.

In addition, the Department is seeking to pro-

vide international study by encouraging students to undertake study abroad programs offered at USF.

The Department is planning to offer a study abroad program in India in an upcoming summer.

Over the holidays, Brinkmann will travel to the Bahamas along with Graduate Student Erin Hughey, an expert on the region, to initiate discussions with the College of the Bahamas and the Government of the Bahamas on potential partnerships.

We have one of the most globally diverse faculty of any geography Department in the country. We want our students to learn about the world by experiencing as much of it as possible.

## FREDDE WILLIAMS WINS AWARD

Congratulations go out to **Fredericka 'Fredde' Williams**, The Department's Office Manager, for receiving one of the College of Arts and Science's Performance Bonus Awards.

The award was given in recognition for her efforts in merging two departmental office systems. Her hard work

during the transition was noted by an evaluation committee of faculty and her peers.

Fredde, along with other winners, were recognized at a reception for College Staff at the USF's Botanical Gardens. The Department's own Vajaya Suryadevara and Karen Schrader won door prizes.



## DR. VAATTOVAARA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI TO KICK OFF SPRING COLLOQUIUM

NATHAN GOVE TO BE VISITING SCHOLAR

Dr. **Mari Vaattovaara**, a Professor of Urban Geography at the University of Helsinki, Finland, will be kicking off the Spring Colloquium this year on Wednesday, January 10th from 11-noon. Place to be determined.

Dr. Vaattovaara is an expert on urbanization in Europe. She is the author of many articles and papers on the topic of urbanization. She has focused her attention on topics such as equity differences within urban structures, housing differences in the information age, the use of GIS in measuring urban



patterns, social service delivery in urban areas, and metropolitan development.

**Nathan Gove**, a Ph.D. student at the University of Edinburgh Scotland at the Institute for the Study of Science, Technology and Innovation, will be in residence for a portion of the Spring Semester. He will be in the area studying the development of science-based policy associated with endangered species in Florida.

Mr. Gove will present a colloquium in January or February on his research.

*“Always design a thing by considering it in its next larger context —a chair in a room, a room in a house, a house in an environment, an environment in a city plan.”*

—*Eliel Saarinen*

## THREE DEPARTMENT SEARCHES UNDERWAY

The Department is currently searching for 3 new additions to the Department:

1. The Department is searching for an expert on **water policy**. This position is a full-time 9-month entry-level assistant professor position. It is expected that the successful candidate will teach undergraduate and graduate courses in support of the Envi-

ronmental Science degrees.

2. Another search is underway in the area of **urban and regional planning**. This is also a full-time 9-month appointment at the assistant professor level. The faculty member hired on this line will teach courses in support of the proposed new masters in Urban and Regional Planning.

3. Finally, the Department is seeking to hire a **Director of a new Cartographic Services Lab**. This position requires a masters degree or an undergraduate degree with 2-years of experience.

We anticipate that interviews for these positions will start in late January.

## TOBIN EARNS DISTINGUISHED AWARD

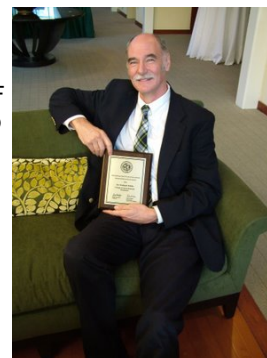
**Dr. Graham Tobin** received the competitive USF award for research known as the Theodore and Vanette Askounes-Ashford Distinguished Scholar Award.

Dr. Tobin received the award for his overall contribution to research during his career. Tobin, known for his work in applied geography, particularly in the area of hazards research, has a long list of research publications to

his credit.

He also served as Chair of the Department of Geography at USF from 1997-2001. Prior to this he served as Chair at the Department of Geography at the University of Minnesota at Duluth and as a faculty member at the University of Iowa.

Dr. Tobin received his award from



USF President **Judy Genshaft** and USF Provost **Renu Khator** at the Annual Faculty Awards Ceremony.

## APPLIED GEOGRAPHY CONFERENCE BLOWS INTO TAMPA

The Annual Meeting of the Applied Geography Conference was held in Tampa October 11-15th.

There were hundreds of participants from all over the country and several nations. Some highlights of the event were the keynote address by **Mr. Carl Smith** (shown in photo), the National Disaster Coordinator for The Bahamas, faculty and student presentations, and the opening address by local environmental communications expert, **Dr. Honey Rand**.

Two students, **Spencer Fleury** and **Sarah Koenig**,



won awards for their poster presentations. Two other

students, **Heather Bell** and **Erin Hughey** won awards for their formal research presentations.

In addition, **Sarah Koenig** co-lead a field trip to her study area in the phosphate mining region of Polk and Hillsborough Counties.

Congratulations to the local arrangements committee and the organizers of the event, **Dr. Graham Tobin** and **Dr. Burrell Montz** of Binghamton University in New York. It was great to see old friends including USF-ESP alumni, **Steve Carson**, who is starting his masters degree at Binghamton University.

Next year, the meeting is in Indianapolis .

## GIS FINDS ITS WAY TO SARASOTA IN THE SPRING

USF-Geography begins offering GIS courses on the Sarasota-Manatee campus this Spring Semester.

The first offerings will be an advanced course within the GIS certificate program and a course in GIS for Non-Majors.

There has been tremendous growth of popula-

tion in the central Gulf Coast south of Tampa and GIS training is needed in the region.

It is hoped that the Department will add a faculty member soon to teach on the Sarasota campus.

The campus recently moved from its old grounds it shared with New College to a brand new facility with mod-

ern teaching classrooms and state of the art facilities.

The new initiative will allow the Department to diversity its course offerings and allow students who commute from the southern service area to take courses closer to home.

## USF STUDENT ANSWERS SEDAAG QUESTIONS

USF ESP student, **Dustin Hinkel**, shown here with USF Geography faculty member, **Dr. Jennifer Collins**, competed for the acclaimed Geography Bowl at the annual SEDAAG (Southeast Division of the Association of American Geographers) meeting in November.

Dustin and his teammates vied with student teams from all over the southeastern U.S. in testing their

geographic knowledge.

Dustin's team came in 5th out of 10 teams. Congratulations Dustin and all of the participants representing Florida at the meeting.

Next year's SEDAAG meeting is in Charleston, South Carolina.



*“Up until 1800, Charleston was the fifth largest city in the North America...”*

*—Wikipedia*

## BOTANICAL GARDENS HAS SUCCESSFUL FALL FESTIVAL

The USF Botanical Gardens has been busy this Fall! They



enjoyed a tremendous fall festival, closed out the school year with a holiday poinsettia sale, and also began their music series.

Congratulations to Coordinator of Volunteers and Special Events, Kim Hutton, for putting so many wonderful things together this semester.

Also, big thanks to volunteers **Eileen Kahl, Cactus Bob Gallion, Jagoda Edelman, Jim Clarkson, Laurie Nissen, Glen Garry, Mike Fite, Rich Batty, Anita and Tom Loveland, A.D. Israel, Mary Kysor, Rennie Taylor, Stan Warner, and Daniel Seda** for all of their hard work as weekly volunteers.



Sad news: The Botanical Gardens received sad news at the passing of long-time volunteer, **Shirley Brown**. She will be missed and the flowers will not bloom so bright for a while.

*“A flower is an educated weed.”*

—*Luther Burbank*

## URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING WINS COLLEGE APPROVAL

The Department has gained College approval for the new master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

The College’s Graduate Committee unanimously approved the proposal and recommended that it be sent to the University Graduate Committee for review.

The program will be the fourth master’s degree in urban and regional planning in Florida and only the second in a large urban metropolitan area. It will be the only program housed in the large Tampa-Orlando metro area.

Our world is becoming more and more urban and the way that we create and de-

velop cities is of growing concern due to the overall issues of

sustainability, governance, and social interaction.

The new program will be a comprehensive Urban and Regional Planning program, but it will likely develop some unique areas of strength with time.

The program is developed in cooperation with a number of campus partners in many different departments and colleges. In addition, the program has the enthusiastic support of campus and community leaders.

We hope that the program will be fully approved this spring and that we can start enrolling students in the near future.

Thanks go to **Dr. Strom** for leading this effort.



# ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP EXPANDS AT USF

USF was recently ranked by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a "Community Engaged University". We are the only Florida university with this ranking. In addition, we are one of 10 public research universities classified at the top of the list in this important area.

We are included in this ranking with Arizona State, Michigan State, NC State, UNC Chapel Hill, UCLA, University of Minnesota, Virginia Tech, University of Cincinnati, and the University of

Kentucky. Our own **Robin Jones** was instrumental in



putting together the College's portion of the report that led to this ranking.

Engaged Scholarship is research and teaching with distinct interactions with the community. For example, students may conduct a GIS project within a class that has some distinct component of community interaction.

As the role of USF in the community grows, we will see more emphasis on engaged scholarship in the future.

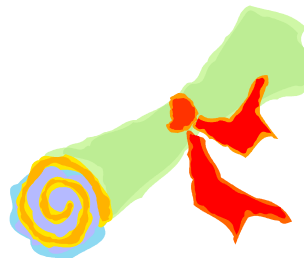
*"To make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe."*

*Carl Sagan*

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!

Three Masters students will graduate this semester. Daniel Dye completed his thesis on water quality at the Bill Young Reservoir, Per Nixon finished his masters thesis on the Burrowing Owl, and Kelly Gleaton completed her work on storm water policy

The Department also has a number of ESP and Geography undergraduate students marching in graduation this Fall. We are very excited about your accomplishments and proud of your efforts. We know we will hear good things about our alumni in the community. Do us all proud!!



## WELCOME BACK ALUMNI DAY—FEBRUARY 3

The Department will host a get together for alumni of Geography and ESP on Saturday, February 3rd at the Botanical Gardens from 9am-1:00 pm.

All faculty, alumni, students and their families are invited!

Our alumni are very volunteer oriented, so we wanted to invite them back for an informal lunch at the

Botanical Gardens. Prior to lunch, alumni are encouraged to join students and faculty who are working on restoring a scrub ecosystem at the gardens.

If you can attend, please email Bob Brinkmann at [rbrinkmn@cas.usf.edu](mailto:rbrinkmn@cas.usf.edu)

Bring your work gloves and your appetite!



## FACULTY ACTIVITY

*“A picture says a thousand words, but which words are these?”*

—Taeke de Jong

**Kevin Archer, Martin Bosman, Mark Amen and Ella Schmidt** published: Kevin Archer, M. Martin Bosman, M. Mark Amen, and Ella Schmidt, editors. "Globalizations and the Production of Cultures: Hybridity, Contestation and Recombinations. Special Issue, *Globalizations*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (January 2007).

**Pratyusha Basu** published Basu, P., 2006, The Gender of Successful Development: Women's Words and Dairying Work in Gujarat, *India International Journal of the Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*, V 1, No. 1, 2006. pages 61-68.

**Pratyusha Basu and Jayajit Chakraborty** published Basu P, and Chakraborty J, 2006 "Farmland Change in Florida: An Analysis Of Metropolitan - Non-Metropolitan Differences" *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences*, 29, 252-262. The paper was presented by Pratyusha Basu at the Applied Geography Conference.

**Robert Brinkmann** presented lectures on his karst research at the University of Helsinki and the University of Latvia.

**Martin Bosman and Jayajit Chakraborty** published Bosman and Chakraborty, "Revisiting the Digital Divide: Race, Region and the Everyday Uses of Internet Technologies." *The International Journal of Technology, Knowledge and Society*, Vol. 2. (Fall 2006).

**Melissa Grigione** received a \$65,000 grant from Mosaic phosphate to study the burrowing owl. She and her

students are involved in studying burrowing owl relocation on reclaimed mining land.

**Melissa Grigione** received a \$187,000 grant from Pinellas County, Florida to study the effects of newly colonizing coyotes in suburban Pinellas County.

**Melissa Grigione and Amanda Gilleland** are developing a research project with ranchers and the Chilean Agricultural ministry on the conservation of

Accepted for publication by Atmospheric Environment.

**Ruiliang Pu** published Pu, R., Z. Li, P. Gong, I. Csizsar, R. Fraser, W.-M. Hao, S. Kondragunta, and F. Weng, 2006, Development and Analysis of a 12-year Daily 1-km Forest Fire Data across the North America from NOAA/AVHRR Data, *Remote Sensing of Environment*.

**Rulling Pu** published Pu, R., P. Gong, R. Michishita, and T. Sasagawa, 2006, Assessment of Multi-Resolution and Multi-Sensor Data for Urban Surface Temperature Retrieval, *Remote Sensing of Environment*. 104:211-225.

**Elizabeth Strom** presented a talk on downtown development projects at the College's 'Evening with a Scholar' program.

**Richard Salkowe, Graham A. Tobin and S. Elizabeth Brid** presented Calamity, Catastrophe and Horror: Representations of Natural Disaster, 1885-2005 at the Applied Geography Conference.

**Philip van Beynen, Nilda Feliciano, Leslie North and Kaya Townsend** published Philip van Beynen, Nilda Feliciano, Leslie North and Kaya Townsend, 2006, Application of a Karst Disturbance Index in Hillsborough County, Florida, *Environmental Management*, DOI:10.1007/s00267-005-0393-x

**Paul Zandbergen** published: P.A. Zandbergen and T.C. Hart. 2006. Reducing housing options for convicted sex offenders: Investigating the impact of residency restriction laws using GIS. *Journal of Justice Research and Policy*.

puma within rangeland areas in Chile.

**Robin Jones** presented "Community Engagement's Role in Creating Institutional Change within the Academy: A Case Study of East Tampa and USF" presented with Robin Ersing (Assistant Professor of Social Work), Judy Jetson (Director of USF Collaborative), and Harold Keller (Associate Dean of College of Education) at the 6th Annual International Conference on Service-Learning Research in Portland Oregon

**Connie Mizak** published: Mizak, C., P. Tate, M. Begum, N. Poor. *Atmospheric Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) and Ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) Concentrations in a Subtropical, Coastal Urban Environment*.



NOTES FROM THE FACULTY.  
 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN  
 TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH  
 BY JAYAJIT CHAKRABORTY

Recent federal guidelines on evaluating transportation projects require increased attention to impacts on communities. While technical feasibility and economic efficiency have been traditionally used as criteria to justify transportation investments and projects, the focus is now shifting to the analysis of socio-cultural effects. One area receiving increasing scrutiny is the environmental justice (EJ) implications of transportation projects, which is concerned with the evaluation of adverse and disproportionate impacts on racial/ethnic minorities and low-income populations. Although the need to consider the EJ impacts of transportation plans and projects has been emphasized in several administrative orders and federal mandates, few specific guidelines exist for the implementation of EJ principles in transportation planning and impact assessment.

Since 2004, I have supervised two research projects funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) that focus on developing practical tools and methods which can be used to: (a) evaluate the adverse effects of proposed transportation projects, (b) determine if the disadvantaged groups of society will be disproportionately affected, and (c) help transportation planners integrate EJ considerations in their impact as-

essment methodologies. After consulting FDOT officials, the EJ research literature, and relevant federal mandates, a set of quantitative indices were formulated and applied to evaluate the EJ implications of proposed capacity improve-



ment projects in FDOT District Five—a nine-county region in east-central Florida. The EJ indices developed in these projects are preliminary indicators that address the key research dimensions of EJ, meet the requirements of administrative orders that enforce principles of EJ, and can be easily formulated by planners and analysts on the basis of census data and tools available in GIS software. The methods and indices can be applied to either evaluate a single transportation project or compare multiple proposed alternatives.

The FDOT is currently in the process of incorporating the EJ indicators I developed within their new GIS-based environmental screening tool that will be used to process local long-range transportation plans prepared by metropolitan planning organizations in Florida. The objective is to allow decision-makers and potentially affected populations identify the adverse impacts of transportation projects at an early stage of the review/approval process and thus provide opportunities for addressing the adverse consequences.

This research has led to the publication of a peer-reviewed article in the international journal *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, an invited talk at the USF Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)'s Transportation Seminar, and a presentation at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the AAG. I am planning to use my research experience to help students understand and appreciate how geographic data, methods, and tools can be used to address contemporary social issues and inform policy-making in the real world.



*“Thanks to the  
 Interstate Highway  
 System it is now possible  
 to travel coast to coast  
 without seeing  
 anything.”*

*Charles Kuralt*

## UPCOMING DATES

### Faculty Meetings:

January 12  
February 2  
March 9  
April 6

### Florida Society of Geographers Conference:

February 9-11

### AAG Annual Meeting

April 17-21st

### Alumni Picnic and Botanical Gardens Restoration

February 3

## Botanical Gardens Events

### Music In the Garden Series 5-8pm (\$3 members, \$5 non-members)

January 18  
February 15

### Plant Festivals and Events

March 10- Begonias! Begonia Society of Tampa Bay

March 17-Orchid Auction, Tampa Orchid Club

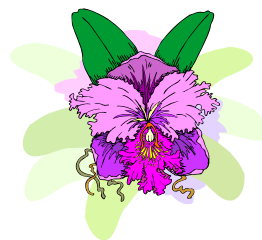
April 14-15 Spring Plant Festival

### Cultivate Your Creativity Workshop Series (3rd Saturday of the month, 10am-1pm). Register by calling the Botanical Gardens at 974-2329.

January: "Build Your Own" Hands-On Workshop: rainbarrels, stepping stones, grow boxes.

February: Landscape design.

March: It's orchid time!



*“Time is that quality of nature which keeps events from happening all at once. Lately it doesn’t seem to be working.”*

*Anonymous*