From the President
Marianne Wright

UCLA Geography is growing and so is the UCLA Friends of Geography (FoG)! Expect some changes in 2015 that will make it easier for you to keep up with news of the Geography Department and more great events to attend as FoG members. First, look for news of an updated website, electronic communication and an active Facebook page. Second, there are lots of great events being held at UCLA Geography that members will be able to enjoy.

Especially save the date of **Sunday May 17, 2015** for a wonderful Friends Luncheon and a stimulating talk on current conditions in Indonesia – one of the most important countries in SE Asia – by **Von Humboldt Chair Eric Sheppard** and **Professor Helga Leitner**. The luncheon and many other activities are complimentary for FoG members. So please join us in an exciting year by renewing or instituting your membership and helping support UCLA Geography! Please also tell your former classmates and friends about FoG and our activities. The more the merrier as we set off for 2015!

PLEASE E-MAIL US NEWS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE BY SENDING NEWS TO FoG Secretary mary_miller@earthlink.net

so we can include that news in future editions.

Save the Date
Sunday May 17th for the 2015 Friends of Geography Luncheon and Lecture

This year’s FoG Luncheon and Geographical Lecture will be held on Sunday May 17th at 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM at the UCLA Faculty Center.

Join us for a full sit-down lunch, a briefing on the Department and a lecture by Von Humboldt

**Professor Eric Sheppard** and **Professor Helga Leitner** on their work in Indonesia. This is the second largest majority Muslim nation in the world, with considerable Buddhist and Christian minorities, an economic powerhouse in Asia, environmentally diverse and a simply incredibly interesting and important nation of the Pacific Rim. The lunch also provides a great chance to meet old friends from Geography and make new ones amongst our faculty, students, alumni and friends.

**This Event is Free to FoG Members.**
**Additional Tickets are $35 Invitations to Follow**

Sponsored by the UCLA Geography Department and UCLA Friends of Geography
**From the Chair**

**Professor and Chair Laurence Smith**

Welcome to the 2015 and this year’s first FoG Newsletter. I have had another great year at the helm of a really wonderful Geography Department and this Newsletter will tell you about some of the events that have made this year memorable. We are attracting fantastic students and seeing growth in our undergraduate and graduate programs. A recent study of geosciences career opportunities for undergraduates found Geography will have the greatest proportional growth amongst all of the geosciences. Many of our recent doctoral students are going on to their own careers at professors in top departments. Our own department has also added two new faculty, filled an endowed chair and launched an exciting program in Geographical Sciences Technology. As ever, our students and faculty continue to garner many awards and recognitions.

This year FoG is growing too. We want to see more communication and more activities for our members. We want to reach out to all of our alumni to join us and also to share their experiences with us and their fellow alumni. Please let the FoG leadership what you would like to see as a member of our alumni and friends and I and the Department will work hard to make this happen.

The year 2019 marks the Centennial of UCLA's founding and this year the university has launched an impressive campaign to celebrate this and keep UCLA a preeminent institution in its next century. Did you know that the Times of London ranks UCLA 10th in its Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings (2014) and UCLA ranked 12th in the World University Rankings (2014-15)? This places us amongst elite institutions such as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Oxford and Cambridge. The Geography Department was ranked by the National Research Council amongst the top 5 in the nation. We could not achieve these goals, and we cannot maintain this stature for the generations of new students to come, without the help and support of FoG and our alumni. On behalf of our faculty, staff and students I thank you for your continued support and look forward to sharing a great 2015 with you all.

**Breaking News**

**Geography and UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability Receive Joint Gift**

Mr. CAMERON WHITEMAN and Vertum Partners have made a gift of $30,000 to the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and the Department of Geography. The gift is to support the development and growth of the UC White Mountains Research Center (WMRC). The WMRC is directed by PROFESSOR EMERITUS TONY ORME of Geography and managed by the IoES.

Mr. Whiteman is a multi-generational Californian and proud Bruin. The firm Vertum Partners is focused on innovative environmental research that benefits the State and region. Professor Orme commented “As a UCLA geographer and director of the White Mountain Research center, I am naturally delighted with Cameron's kind donation. At WMRC we conduct research from A to Z, from anthropology to zoology, from UCLA and throughout the UC system, and indeed from overseas. With Cameron's help we will develop our base of supporters and WMRC alumni to build on the past and present with a view to a glorious future of activities in the high country.”

http://www.wmrc.edu/
Geography Adds Two New Faculty Including a Member of the National Academy!

This Fall UCLA Geography was proud to add two new faculty members to our team. These are Distinguished Professor Dennis Lettenmaier and Assistant Professor Kyle Cavanaugh.

Dennis (Ph.D., University of Washington, 1975) is a Distinguished Professor with interests in hydrologic modeling and prediction, hydrology-climate interactions, and hydrologic change. He is a world leader on surface water resources and an author or co-author of over 300 journal articles. He was the first Chief Editor of the American Meteorological Society Journal of Hydrometeorology, and is a past President of the Hydrology Section of the American Geophysical Union. He is a Member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Kyle (PhD. UC Santa Barbara, 2011) is an Assistant Professor with research interests in coastal ecology, spatial ecology, biogeography, and remote sensing. Prior to joining us at UCLA Kyle held a Post-Doc at the Smithsonian Institute.

We will have more about Dennis and Kyle and the attraction of UCLA Geography in our future newsletters. Join us in welcoming Dennis and Kyle to the Bruin Family!

UCLA John Muir Memorial Chair in Geography Appointed

Professor Glen Macdonald has been selected as the first holder of the John Muir Memorial Endowed Chair in Geography, funded by two generous gifts from 1971 UCLA graduate Hollis Lenderking. Mr. Lenderking holds a minor in Geography and is keenly interested in the geography and environment of the West. This appointment will allow Professor Macdonald to focus on his research on the impacts of climate change. The Chair comes to Glen after he spent five extremely successful years leading UCLA’s Institute of the Environment and Sustainability. The award was celebrated at a November 13 symposium — “A Century Beyond Muir” — which offered a stimulating day of talks and panel discussions on California wilderness issues and Muir’s impact and relevance (or the lack thereof) for us today. The kick-off talk was by former California Attorney General John Van deKamp and concerned the efforts to reclaim Yosemite’s Hetch Hetchy Valley which is currently a reservoir serving San Francisco. Some 350 people attended. Full details can be found at:


Coverage of the Symposium included a large story in the Los Angeles Times. The Fall, 2014 issue of Boom: A Journal of California is focused on the issue; see Glen’s article and all the great pieces from the Symposium at:

http://www.boomcalifornia.com

Glen will write about his vision of the Muir Chair and the Muir Studio in a future Newsletter.

Friends of Geography Student Award Winners 2014

Sam Geldin is a fourth-year geography major (also doubling as an environmental science major) studying climate change. His career intentions lie in climate policy analysis on a national or international level. He has plans to attend graduate school to study environmental management, focusing on elements of geographic social science in particular. He would like to explore potential careers with the government, NGOs, think tanks, and academia. The Scholarship not is helping fund his education. He would like to thank UCLA’s Friends of Geography for generously offering this opportunity.

Madeline Routon is a fourth year Geography/Environmental Studies major studying transnational economic actors and the geography of food. She is currently completing an honors research thesis on socio-agrarian reform in Brazil, focusing specifically on the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra.

After graduating, Madeline hopes to work in management consulting, in order to make global businesses more environmentally and economically sustainable. The Friends of Geography scholarship
allowed Maddy to focus on her research as a full-time, full-ride scholarship student, and she is incredibly grateful for the generous sponsorship provided by the Friends of Geography.

**Santa Monica College Geography to UCLA Geography: A Smooth Transition and Long Tradition**

William A. Selby, Santa Monica College

Some of you already know that Santa Monica College has transferred many exceptional geography majors to UCLA. I have a photo on my desk of six of at least ten former SMC graduates celebrating their graduation day from UCLA Geography in 2010 and we have been known to send at least a dozen students in one year into UCLA’s Geography Department, though these numbers are difficult to track. As the leading transfer institution in the state for many years, SMC is also fortunate to have a strong geography program.

Our three full-time professors Vicki Drake (Earth Science Department Chair), Pete Morris and I are also fortunate to work with some of the best adjunct professors that include several instructors also known for teaching courses at UCLA. We trust this atmosphere of geographic discovery that includes several different diverse options ranging from physical to human to regional to geospatial techniques and field studies courses allows our students to gain the necessary skills for success when they move on. We now even offer Geography, Environmental Studies and Environmental Sciences AA Degrees for students who may or may not transfer into four-year geography programs. Perhaps this is why so many of our former students have become leaders in the UCLA Geography Department and are now literally scattered around the world making positive ripples. Here are a few examples:

After working as a journalist in public relations and the entertainment industry, Belinda Waymouth in 2008 decided to go back to school to learn about the planet and how to help save it for her then three-year-old daughter. Her eclectic and interdisciplinary courses at SMC eventually moved her toward a major in Geography and Environmental Studies as she started blogging about the science behind ecosystem degradation for United Nations University and then (and more recently) for the Huffington Post. She won two Global Citizenship awards here at SMC in 2012, the year she also transferred to UCLA and was an Honors Collegium student at both SMC and UCLA. I and other instructors here remember her as one of our best. Belinda graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2014 from UCLA and won the Blackman Family award for one of the top UCLA Geography GPAs. Belinda Waymouth is now a member of the UCLA chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Honors Society and is pursuing her dream job in marine ecosystem conservation and advocacy.

Angela Forero is another transfer student and leader I will never forget. She completed a research project that resulted in summarizing the physical and human geography stories behind the most famous classic songs about California that still share with our geography class. She writes (with some editing): “I took my first Geography class at SMC as part of the general requirements for graduation. I fell in love with the subject and realized studying Geography involved all other subjects I was interested in. By following the Geography Program at SMC I felt really prepared to transfer to my dream University. At UCLA, I was very pleased to see many of my classmates from SMC taking the same classes with me. With them, we continued showing the same leadership we had since SMC, and decided to restart the Geography Club.” Angela went on to lead the UCLA Geography Club and earn her degree. She moved from the USA to the UK in 2011 to raise her family and is sharing green living tips with her colleagues at work. After she gets her British Citizenship, she will try for a Masters in either GIS or Green Economy. Angela then hopes to find a position at an Environmental Consultancy Agency or working with the community to raise awareness in environmental issues.

Also in the UCLA graduation photo with Angela is Shoko Kagawa, another SMC star transfer student who moved back to Japan and we think is working with her family’s company. Yohanan Ermias (Yoh) was another exceptional scholar and personality I
will never forget who also transferred and graduated and continued to make positive change in this world with his work for UNEP; we recently heard Yohi was earning his Masters at UCL-London. We can speculate about the many other fine SMC/UCLA transfer scholars worthy of mention from those who have earned PhDs to those who have taken professional leadership roles, but we will stop with notes about these last three since we have the specifics.

Diane Ward was another memorable SMC star and is now working on her PhD in Geography; her dissertation will be on the L.A. River and changing conceptions of human-nature interactions. Diane also reports that Tanja Hrast has been working in Gregory Okin’s lab, at the front office in the geography department and has just started a job at UCLA’s Cotsen Institute for Archaeology as the office coordinator. She plans to continue in Okin’s lab on some nights and weekends.

And finally, we must mention Kaya Foster. After taking geography and environmental studies classes from SMC to UCLA, Kaya also earned her degree and is now a respected professional with many leadership roles at Sustainable Works that include coordinating the Student Sustainability Workshops at our Center for Environmental and Urban Studies.

We want to thank all the people from Santa Monica College to UCLA, and all the other universities, that have inspired, challenged and equipped so many of our transfer students and graduates that are leading and making positive waves that have spread from the Los Angeles area all over our planet. We are proud of our cooperation that together has led to so many incredible success stories.

Get Connected
We Need Your Help!

E-mail Addresses – If we do not have your e-mail – please send this to us ASAP so we can make sure you get information and invitations to FoG events. We also hope you can help us get the e-mail addresses of other alumni and potential Friends of Geography who would be interested in FoG events. These e-mails will not be released to outside interests and communication will be kept to the minimum needed to make sure you get information on events held by the Department of Geography that you are interested in. Please send e-mail addresses to Mary Miller (FoG Secretary)
mary_miller@earthlink.net

Join us on Facebook – We hope to use our Facebook page as a way to exchange information with FoG Members and others and for Members and Alumni to stay in contact with each other. Please Friend us:
https://www.facebook.com/UclaFriendsOfGeography

Alexander Von Humboldt Lecture

This year’s lecture was given by USC Professor Laura Pulido, who spoke on “U.S. Representations of Mexican Air Pollution during the Age of NAFTA” on October 15. Dr. Pulido, a multiple award winning scholar and well-known community advocate in Los Angeles spoke about contentious environmental issues and how they have been reported in the U.S. press over time. The annual Alexander Von Humboldt Lecture is organized by Distinguished Professor Eric Sheppard (the Von Humboldt Professor) and is open to all FoG Members. Stand by for your invitation to next year’s stimulating lecture!

Departmental News and Awards

Professor Helga Leitner was appointed to the scientific advisory board of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, of which she is a corresponding member.

Professor Eric Sheppard was awarded an honorary doctor of laws by the University of Bristol, gave the AAG presidential address, and was appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board of the University of Vienna’s Faculty of Earth Science, Geography and Astronomy.

Professor Yongkang Xue received a $2.15 million National Science Foundation award to study “Surface-induced forcing and decadal variability and change of the East Asian climate, surface hydrology & agriculture”.

Doctoral Student Andrew Fricker received a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant and a UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship.
DOCTORAL STUDENT KATIE GLOVER received the 2014-2015 Society of Women Geographers National Fellow, 2014 John Muir Memorial Chair Summer Fellowship, 2014 Tom McKnight Graduate Paper Award – 1st Place, California Geographical Society, 2014 Visiting Graduate Student Travel Grant, Limnological Research Center, University of Minnesota and the 2014 Graduate Research Grant, UCLA La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science.

DOCTORAL STUDENT ALI NEHMÉ HAMDAN received a AAG Political Geography Specialty Group travel grant to present at the AAG Annual Meeting.

Alumni and Friends News and Awards

CAROL MEDLICOTT’s (2004 Ph.D.) book Issachar Bates: A Quaker’s Journey, has been chosen as the “Best Book in the Field of Communal Studies Research”; the book looks at Quaker expansion on the frontier. Dr. Medlicott is a geographer at Northern Kentucky University.

http://www.nku.edu/features/2014/october/medlicott.html

Bruce Gervais a UCLA Ph.D. graduate and the current Professor at California State University Sacramento has just published an exciting new multi-media textbook – Living Physical Geography with MacMillan Higher Education Publishers.

http://www.macmillanhighered.com/Catalog/product/livingphysicalgeography-firstedition-gervais

Opening on the FoG Board
(The Board has an opening for a treasurer. This is a very manageable job as most of the work is done by the UCLA Foundation, which holds our funds. Please consider helping us support the Department by volunteering for this position. Contact FOG President Marianne Wright at:

mkw@sound-advice.com

If you look like your passport photo, you’re too ill to travel. — WILL KOMMEN

Contributors

The FOG HORN is a publication of the University of California, Los Angeles, Friends of Geography (FOG), an alumni and friends support group of the Geography Department, dedicated to furthering the discipline of Geography.

Thanks to those in the Geography Department:
LAURENCE SMITH, Chair
KASI McMURRY, Management Services Officer
MATT ZEBROWSKI, Cartographer

Thanks to: Glen McDonald & Marianne Wright (Editors) and those who contributed to this newsletter: Laurence Smith, Matt Zebrowski, Glen MacDonald, Mary Miller and William Selby.

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To receive invitations to all of the great Department of Geography and Friends of Geography Events please join or renew your Friends of Geography Membership online at:

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Or by filling out the form below and mailing it and a check payable to: UCLA Foundation – FOG #5747

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Thank You for your Support!
Save the Date:

Sunday, May 17th, 2015

for the

FRIENDS OF GEOGRAPHY LUNCHEON AND LECTURE

(details inside)