Geography

Without it, you’re nowhere.

42° 49’ 16” N, 75° 32’ 13” W

Colgate University, Hamilton NY 13346
Faculty
(Academic years Sept 2008-May 2010)

Kevin Borden—Postdoctoral Fellow in Environmental Studies
Jacob Brenner—Visiting Assistant Professor
Adam Burnett—William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Geography, Chair ’08-’09
Craig Colten—NEH Distinguished Scholar in Geography, Fall 2009
Robert Elgie—Professor, Emeritus
Jessica Graybill—Assistant Professor
Maureen Hays-Mitchell—Associate Professor
Peter Klepeis—Associate Professor, Chair ‘09-’10
Ellen Percy Kraly—William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Geography, Director of Upstate Institute
Tamar Mayer—NEH Distinguished Scholar in Geography, 2008-2009
William Meyer—Lecturer
Dan Monk—George R. and Myra T. Cooley Professor of Peace & Conflict Studies and Professor of Geography; Director of PCON
Peter Scull—Associate Professor
Daisaku Yamamoto—Assistant Professor of Geography and Asian Studies

Staff
Linda Rauscher – Administrative Assistant
Myongsun Kong – Research and Teaching Support Technician
NOTES FROM THE CHAIR
From Department Chair Peter Klepeis

Happy autumn greetings!

Thank you to everyone who has been keeping in touch. The Department is building momentum with the newsletter, which seems to be working well in maintaining, strengthening, and re-establishing connections among Colgate geographers.

The Department remains an active and exciting place. We just finished our third year in the Robert Ho Science Center, with its expansive offices, plentiful student and faculty research spaces, and state-of-the art GIS lab. Whether it is our high profile location on campus or the sheer charisma of its faculty, Geography courses are in high demand. Indeed, the class of 2010 set a record for the number of seniors graduating with Geography and Environmental Geography majors: 45!

Beyond its size, the performance of our seniors was outstanding: 23 graduated with Latin honors; Erin Hatch, Jennifer Frenett, and Dara Seidl were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa; and 10 students achieved honors in Geography. In addition, Jennifer Rusciano (“Bittersweet: Exploring the Light and Dark Sides of Cocoa Production”) and Shae Frydenlund (“The Yarsagumba Effect: Documenting the Ecology of Medicinal Plant Markets”) received Watson fellowships, which award $25,000 for independent exploration and travel. Alison Wohlers won a Fulbright Fellowship (Morocco) and Samantha Zuhlke will be working as a National Geographic Society intern in the Education Division this fall. End of the year departmental awards went to Dara Seidl (Shannon McCune Prize for academic excellence in Geography) and Allison Taylor (Peter Gould award for exceptional service to the geography community at Colgate).

Things are boding well for this year’s class. Two seniors received summer research grants: Sam Walker is working with Jake Brenner on invasive weeds in the American southwest; and Alex Pons is working with Maureen Hays-Mitchell on sustainable agriculture in Latin America.

Beyond academics, this past year’s Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) group was one of the most active in recent memory. Among their many community-building events and projects, GTU organized a fund raiser for Kevin Williams, a geographer senior who became ill in fall 2009. The news of Kevin’s recent passing has hit everyone in the Colgate Geography community very hard, and we extend our thoughts and support to his family and friends.

On the faculty side of things, we are extremely pleased that Dai Yamamoto joined our ranks this past year and we continue to celebrate the tremendous contributions to our program by Bill Meyer. In important recognition for his many contributions to Colgate, Adam Burnett was awarded an Endowed Chair: he is now the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Geography. We are sad to bid farewell to Jacob Brenner, who is finishing a 2-year visiting assistant professor position, but wish him the best as he starts a tenure-stream job at Ithaca College. Other visitors who enriched our program this year are Craig Colten (LSU) and Kevin Borden both of whom made the department even more fun than normal. As described below, there were many excellent public lectures by

Hi, I just wanted to let you know about the disposition of your old space in Persson. Educational Studies is moving down there after this semester; I think that will work out very well for them.

Jill Harsin, Director, Division of Social Sciences
faculty and visitors alike. We thank Craig Colten, Elizabeth Armstrong ('81), Wei Li, Lesley Head, and Heather Merrill for enriching our program this past year.

In terms of curriculum, the department is excited to start a new methods program this upcoming year. The broader mix of qualitative and quantitative methods courses will more effectively (we hope!) expose students to the diversity of analytical approaches within the discipline. It will also allow students to gain more in-depth training in the suite of methods that make the most sense for their particular interests. For example, this year, in addition to both the introductory GIS course and Social Science Research Methods (Geog 225), we’ll be offering one-half credit courses in Advanced Geographic Information Systems, Qualitative Research (Content Analysis), Qualitative Research (Focus Groups), Cartography, and Community Based Participatory Research. More courses are to be developed in the future.

Newsflash! Physical geographers are natural scientists! Long overdue, revision of Colgate’s Core Curriculum finally allows the Department’s four physical geography courses — GEOG 131 (Physical Geography), GEOG 332 (Weather and Climate), GEOG 335 (Soil Geography), and GEOG 336 (Biogeography) — to fulfill the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Areas of Inquiry requirement (i.e., the new way of describing the “distribution requirement”).

Finally, it is with mixed feelings that we celebrate the retirement in August 2010 of our outstanding administrative assistant, Linda Rauscher. She is a great friend and colleague and we will miss her. But we know the time is right for her, and we wish her the very best.

Enjoy the rest of the season and keep on “doing geography”!

Very best,

Peter
stated that the Chinese limit the Uighurs’ ways of expressing their (national) identity, they resort more and more to their religious identity, which together with their neighbors in Muslim central Asia is starting to look more and more militant. This increased religiosity together with separatist tendencies on the part of a few Uighurs, as far as the Chinese are concerned, cannot be tolerated and therefore, justifies further disciplining of the Uighurs, who see the Chinese treatment, in turn, as a systematic attempt to erase their unique cultural, ethnic, and national identities.

I was very fortunate to share my thoughts and preliminary findings with colleagues and students at Colgate and am thankful for the opportunity. It is clear that my connection with Colgate’s geography department will continue through the many friendships that I have established and through professional connections. I am delighted that I accepted the honor bestowed on me. This was a fantastic year and I thank all of you, friends.

Jake Brenner
I joined the Colgate Geography faculty in a two-year visiting job in fall of 2008. The move from Tucson, Arizona was a dramatic one--at least in environmental terms--but one that my family and I welcomed. Being from Wisconsin, I wasn't wholly unaccustomed to life in the cold, but I wasn't prepared for the snow that pours off of Lake Ontario in waves. It seems that everywhere has its intriguing weather phenomenon. While I was a bit sad to say so long to the lightning, torrents of rain, and flash floods of the Sonoran Desert's summer monsoons, I was equally excited to get to know the squalls of lake-effect snow. So I boxed up the sandals and donned the insulated boots. In terms of landscape, I had feared that I'd miss the vast horizons of the West, but I was pleasantly surprised to find a similar sensation looking out across the hilltops of the Chenango valley. And the mountain bike trails here are even closer to the doorstep. I'd say that my family and I have adjusted to life in central New York quite well.

My research interests remain in the desert southwest, where this year I wrapped up my dissertation work on ranching and landscape change in Sonora, Mexico, and began to think about the urban environment of Tucson. Buffelgrass (my pet invasive grass) is the common link between these two diverse sites and projects, and I've managed to pique the interest of a few students in this over the course of my first year here. My Water Resources and Society course (Geography 325) has also given me an opportunity get involved in some work focused on the controversies surrounding the global freshwater crisis--particularly its potential to spawn violent conflict. And my Global Change course (Geography 111) continues to keep me on my toes.

Newsflash! (March 13, 2010)
Hi Family & Friends!!!

We are thrilled to announce the twins have arrived!!! We'd like to introduce the newest members of our family!

Zachary Sky Brenner (formerly known as "Skyscraper") weighed 5 lbs. 11 oz. and was 19 1/2 " long.

Sally Meadow Brenner (formerly known as "Mr. Lightbulb") weighed 6 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20" long.

Rebecca is doing fine. She impressed all the labor/delivery staff for carrying 12 lbs. of twins to term (38 weeks) and then taking care of them immediately!

Jacob Brenner with wife Rebecca and son Morgan in the Adirondacks, 2008.
GTU News

Current GTU Members

2009
Janice Jones
Meredith Rosenberg
Erin Sinnott
Samuel Torrey

2010
Frenett, Jennifer
Frydenlund, Shae
Green, Carly
Hatch, Erin
Kahn, Becky
Kimber, Leighann
Maguire, Kevin
Oliver, Emily
Plessier, Becky
Pokorny, David
Ramsdell, Kathlin
Rusciano, Jennifer

2011
Aschheim, Sara
Bohar, Stephanie
Engelsted, Anna
Hanley, Margaret
Kana, Christine
O’Brien, Stephanie
O’Shea, Grace
Pons, Alexandra
Walker, Samuel

Dear all,

Happy New Year from snowy Russia! We are having a great time here, but wish this greeting for a happy, healthy and peaceful new year could be in person. Have a wonderful time ringing in 2010 wherever you may be.

All our best,
Jessica, Sergei, and Nikita

Professor Graybill sent a holiday message while she was on research trip in Kamchatka.
Passion for the Climb: Ellen Kraly & Son Jimmy to Ascend Mt. Rainier
07/23/2008
radiofreehamilton.com
It's before 6 a.m. and Ellen Kraly is walking.

Unlike most Hamilton walkers, the path the Colgate geography professor and director of the Upstate Institute is vertical, not horizontal. A trail of footprints in the heavy dew mark her steep path up the former ski slope at Colgate.

She leans into the hill. Each boot she wears weighs three pounds. She carries a pair of ski poles and has a backpack filled with four gallon jugs of water strapped on.

This is no morning stroll.

Then again, Kraly is not just any walker.

Kraly is in the final days of training before joining her son Jimmy for a climb up Washington State's Mt. Rainier. The mother/son team is part of a group climbing the 14,411-foot volcano to help raise money for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

This will be the second such climb for Ellen and Jimmy. Several years ago, they climbed Mt. Baker and raised $10,000 for the Hutchinson Center.

It's no coincidence that they are making the second ascent Aug. 13-15. Kraly has soft spots in her heart for the research center, Seattle and mountain climbing in general.

Kraly's love for mountains and mountain climbing began as a child. While she grew up in table-flat Ohio, Kraly said she her parents wanted their children to be exposed to and educated in the East. She went to college at Bucknell and her brother wound up at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy.

But it was while working at a girls camp in the Adirondacks that Ellen discovered and was smitten by mountaineering. She has since climbed the 46 peaks of the Adirondacks and made an ascent of Mt. Kenya, Africa's second highest peak, on ice and snow, the kind of climb she will be making in August.

But it's not just her love of mountains that is driving Ellen and Jimmy toward the top of the mountain known historically by American Indians in the Pacific Northwest as Tahoma or Tacoma, "mother of waters". It's Ellen's history of having breast cancer that provides the strongest motivation.

In 1994, Ellen was preparing to lead a study group to Australia with another Colgate professor, Randy Fuller. Part of the preparation was a thorough health check. A chest x-ray showed a tiny spot. Because her impending trip, her doctors expedited exams and not one, but two biopsies.

"Everything kept coming back clean," she said.

Then, on the day she went to Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse to have the stitches removed, her doctor told her the pathology exam detected cancer. Australia would have to wait. Surgery didn't.

Instead of Ellen going to Australia, the entire Kraly family made what amounted to a pilgrimage to Seattle after Ellen's successful surgery.

A family with a deep love of music, they visited the grave of guitar legend Jim Hendrix, a son of Seattle. It was in a Seattle music store that her younger son Geoff, then a pre-teen, bought his first bass guitar. They even stayed at the Paradise Lodge on Mt. Rainier.

It was a therapeutic trip that summer, she says.

It was a prophetic journey as well. Now, 14 summers later, Ellen and Jimmy are returning to the Pacific Northwest to join others climbing Mt. Rainier on behalf of scientists working to spare
other women from what Ellen faced.

While cancer does not dominate Ellen Kraly's daily routine, she remains aware of it.

"You don't want to pretend it's not part of your life," she says.

At times, it seems as though cancer is an intellectual challenge to be solved. Ellen tells of having spoken with her doctor about what verb to use when talking about her cancer: its a "have" versus "had" question.

Today, this energetic professor, loving wife and proud mother -- and cancer survivor -- does not seem overly concerned about parsing out the language of the disease. For the next couple of weeks, her focus is on the final preparations for the trip to Seattle and the Cascade Range; wondering if she has climbed the hill at Colgate enough, lifted enough weights.

Once out west, she, Jimmy (who will celebrate his 29th birthday during the climb) and others in the climbing party will train on the mountain. They will learn to climb on a mountain covered in glaciers, to self-arrest, to stop themselves if they begin to slide on the ice and snow.

"It's come full circle," she says.

If all goes as planned, the team that Ellen and Jimmy are part of will stand atop Mt. Rainier and unfurl a string of Tibetan prayer flags. There will be names on each. On one will be the name of Scott Kraly's Aunt Irene, who died from cancer not long ago.

International Outreach—

Frank Frey, Ellen Kraly, and Peter Scull
Departments of Biology and Geography
Colgate University

Mountain gorilla (Gorilla gorilla beringei)

are found in rainforests that share borders with Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. They are a critically endangered species with approximately 750 individuals left worldwide. Working in collaboration with the Ugandan Wildlife Authority and Conservation Through Public Health, Professors Frey and Scull have been working to better understand infectious disease dynamics in this species by utilizing a suite of biological and geographic methods. Over the past year approximately 400 mountain gorilla fecal samples have been screened for a number of pathogens including Salmonella enterica ssp. typhimurium and Shigella flexneri/sonnei, the infectious agents behind salmonellosis and shigellosis. In addition, GIS has been used to place the infectious disease data into a spatial and temporal context with GPS data obtained during fecal sample collection. Preliminary results suggest interesting links between the incidence of Salmonella and Shigella infection and group identity (tourist vs. non-tourist) and ranging behavior (time spent near waterways and boundary villages).

Professor Kraly has joined the team in this second year of funding to expand the scope of the research. Professor Kraly’s expertise in public health and population geography will enable the team to investigate disease prevalence as well as knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding health and disease, environment, and population dynamics among people living in villages surrounding the park. The importance of these considerations became apparent during an extended study research program to Uganda last spring. A dozen Colgate students participated in the month long program. Preliminary results from that trip underscore the critical importance of an integrated and interdisciplinary perspective on human-gorilla interactions that includes community health and attitudes toward the environment in the villages to develop a comprehensive understanding of infectious disease in the mountain gorilla in this region of east Africa.

Newsflash! June 2010 update from Uganda: a small article from the Bwindi Hospital newsletter:
In the last [sic] year, we have been registering and collecting data from all households in the Bwindi area to help in the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of our health care interventions in the community and to ensure that they have access to appropriate and cost-effective care, including health promotion, disease prevention services, and evaluation of the effectiveness of our care.

We have completed the process in two sub counties of Kayonza and Mpungu and now rolling to the third sub county of Kanyatorogo. We have collected their bio-data, medical information including socio-economic aspects such as levels of education and income. Every household’s GIS Coordinate (Geographical location, Easting and Northing, using GPS Receivers) has also been taken and added to the database.

Every time patients visit the hospital, their information is updated in the database with data related to diseases diagnosed and treatment given, among others. We are also updating all the patients’ information since January 2008 in the database to further enrich it.

With all this data, we can generate maps that can help in analyzing disease occurrences and how we can more strategically plan for appropriate interventions.

We recently had a team from Colgate University (US) who trained our IT team to be able to locally produce such maps using GIS software, ArcGIS.

This software can generate various kinds of maps for example we can have maps showing water sources against occurrences of waterborne diseases. This will help us in investigations related to the safety of water sources in the area leading to an appropriate intervention from our community health team.

We are very happy that we now have the database running and the skills to extract relevant information for decision making. What we are now lacking is the license to the ArcGIS software to be able to run this on our own. At the moment, we
have to send data to Colgate University for analysis.

We are grateful to all supporters who have helped us to set up this system at the Hospital. Our work is a lot easier and faster following this development.

More info and full article here:

**Australia Study Group 2008**

Every year since 1994 the University of Wollongong (UoW) has hosted students from Colgate’s Geography Department and Environmental Studies program. Continuing the tradition, this past July-November Peter Klepeis led a group of 17 students to Australia (eight of whom were geographers). In addition to the director’s course on Australian Environmental Issues, students enrolled in three UoW courses and participated in multiple group trips. Among the highlights was an overnight trip to Canberra to visit the Australian War Memorial, which attracts more Australian visitors than any other destination in the country, as well as Parliament House, the National Museum of Australia, and the National Gallery. Day trips in New South Wales included a bushwalk to learn about Aboriginal history and culture, a service learning project where the group planted trees along the Shoalhaven River to help control erosion, and a visit to the Croom Reserve south of Wollongong to consider challenges to conservation in urban areas.

Perhaps, the highlight of the study group was a weeklong trip to Queensland during UoW’s intersession break. Together the group explored the tropical rainforest of Daintree and Cape Tribulation as well as the Atherton Tablelands, a key agricultural region west of Cairns. Subsequently, students visited the Great Barrier Reef on their own. In the end, all study group participants agreed: nothing beats getting out and doing geography, not just talking about it!

**2008-2010 Talks**

**Talks given by department members (at Colgate unless otherwise noted)**

**September 16, 2008.** Talks were given by Allison Taylor and Kevin Williams detailing their summer research at the second Annual Ho Symposium.

**September 18, 2008.** Daniel Monk. “Provoking Us into Provoking You”: Mutual Recrimination as Historiography in the Aftermath of the ‘Six-Day War.’

**March 1, 2009.** Daniel Monk at Syracuse University. “The Geopolitics of Greenscrubbing.”

**April 3, 2009.** Jake Brenner “Razing, Grazing, and Invasion in the Sonoran Desert: The case of buffelgrass (Pennisetum ciliare) pasture conversion.”

**September 15, 2009.** Talks were given by the following students for the third annual Ho Symposium on Students’ Summer
Research:

-David Pokorny '10 worked with Jessica Graybill, assistant professor of Geography.

-Kathlin Ramsdell '10 worked with Adam Burnett, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Geography.

-Ben Taylor '10 worked with John Pumilio, sustainability coordinator.

September 28, 2009.


Talks given in the department

GTU talk: October 15, 2008.
Professor Tamar Mayer, Department of Geography, Middlebury College, NEH Distinguished Visitor to the Geography Department, presented a talk titled, “Landscape and Nation: The Case of China’s Uighurs.”

February 19, 2009.
Professor Bill Easterling, Department of Geography and Dean of the Penn State College of Earth and Mineral Sciences: Current research focuses on the potential for agriculture in developed and developing countries to adapt to climate variability and change; the role of scale in understanding the vulnerability of complex systems, especially agro-ecosystems, to environmental change; how land use change may influence the uptake and release of carbon in the terrestrial biosphere; the use of experimental long-term climate forecasts to assist decision making under conditions of uncertainty; and the development of methodologies for detecting the impacts of observed 20th century climate change on natural and managed ecosystems. "Will We All
Be Forced to a Bread and Water Diet by Climate Change?

CEWS, Cosponsors: ENST, Geography.

February 26, 2009

NEH Distinguished Visitor in the Geography Department, Professor Tamar Mayer gave a talk titled: "Contested Landscapes: The Case of Uighur's Mazars in Xinjiang, China."

April 19, 2009

Professors Peter Scull and Frank Frey gave a Science Colloquium entitled “Modeling infectious disease dynamics in Ugandan mountain gorilla, a critically endangered species” to showcase some of their research results. 

Sponsored by the Harvey Picker Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies in the Sciences and Mathematics.

GTU talk: October 7, 2009.

Craig E. Colten, Carl O. Sauer Professor Department of Geography and Anthropology Louisiana State University and Lindsay O’Conner Chair of Geography at Colgate University. His talked was titled: “Losing Resilience in the Fight against Floods in New Orleans.” His research interests are Environmental Historical Geography, Urban Environments, Louisiana and the South.

Among Professor Colten’s recent work is his 2005 book, An Unnatural Metropolis: Wrestling New Orleans from Nature, and many articles on themes, such as the reconstruction of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, environmental equity, wetland restoration, and community resilience to environmental hazards.

November 9, 2009.

Liz Armstrong ‘81 gave a public talked entitled "What does it take to have a career these days?" She also spoke during an Environmental Hazards class. Liz is a co-manager of EMSOURCE Blue Hill and is a senior vice president at EMSOURCE—a privately-held company in the business of acquiring other companies' environmental liabilities, which has successfully structured innovative environmental liability acquisitions since 1997.

Feb 1, 2010.

Professor Jorge Francisco Liernur: "Villas Miseria: Urban Dysfunction and Distorted Development in Buenos Aires, Argentina"

Professor Liernur directs the Center of Studies on Contemporary Architecture at the Torcuato Di Tella University in Buenos Aires, and is a Senior Researcher at the Argentine National Council for Research on Science and Technology. At the University of Buenos Aires he was director of the Instituto de

Professor Kevin Borden with Allison Taylor ’10 and David Pokorny ’10 during Colgate Hazards Week 2009.
Arte Americano e Investigaciones Estéticas, and founder and director of the Juan O'Gorman Latin-American Architecture Chair. He acted as visiting scholar and critic at several universities in America and Europe, and his many studies on South American urbanism include The Threshold of the Metropolis. Cosponsored by the Geography Department and ALST.

**Peter Gould Lecture:** April 8, 2010
The 9th annual Peter Gould Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Wei Li from Arizona State University. Her talk was titled, “New Geographies of Migration? A US-Canada Comparison of Highly-Skilled Chinese and Indian Migrants.” Her research interests include; Immigration and integration, geography of race/ethnicity, comparative urban ethnicity, Asian American community development, ethnic finance, urban housing demographics, GIS applications in geography and ethnic studies.

April 19, 2010.
Lesley Head — Professor of Geography at the University of Wollongong, Australia, recent Head of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Australian Laureate Fellow — visited Colgate in April and gave a presentation on the new Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER), which she directs.

**AAG Meeting News**

**National AAG:**
March 22-27, 2009 in Las Vegas, NV.

**Papers Presented:**

Jacob Brenner—“Buffelgrass and "Buffelismo" in the Sonoran Desert of Northwestern Mexico”

Jessica Graybill—People, Nature & Cities: Directions of Urban Ecology for the 21st Century -- Organizer, Panelist
Social and economic perspectives on the Russian Far East -- Chair

Views from the Margins of Eurasian States -- Organizer, Panelist

Ellen Kraly—“‘This disease is not for one person. It is going to affect a lot of people’: Vulnerability of Women and Girls to HIV Infection in Rural South Sudan”

Population Specialty Group Student Paper Competition -- Chair, Organizer

Peter Scull—“Analyzing range behavior of Ugandan mountain gorilla, a critically endangered species”

**National AAG:**
April 14-18, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

**Papers Presented:**

Jacob Brenner—“Using Image Segmentation and Ancillary Variables for the Classification of Buffelgrass (Pennisetum ciliare) Pasture”

Adam Burnett (co-authored by Kathlin Ramsdell ‘10)—“The Impact of Global Warming on the Strength, Track, and Frequency of North American Winter Extratropical Cyclones”

Jessica Graybill—“Climate change, hydrocarbons and salmon: narratives of vulnerability around the Sea of Okhotsk”

Maureen Hays-Mitchell—“Claiming Citizenship: Political Participation of Marginalized Populations in Post-Conflict Peru”

Dan Monk—“New 'Battlespaces' and Old Romanticisms in Contemporary Military Doctrine: The Case of the 'Ecological Insurgent.”

**Sessions:**
Adam Burnett—Climate Change and Storm Frequency -- Chair, Presenter

Jessica Graybill—Conservation, Development and the Production of Urban Vulnerabilities -- Chair
Ellen Kraly—Population Specialty Group Student Paper Competition -- Chair, Organizer

Maureen Hays-Mitchell—"What do we mean by 'critical'?" "Critical" Geographies of Latin America and the Caribbean, Part 1 -- Discussant

Dan Monk—Spatializing "Camps:" Lived Experiences and Built Environments of Confinement II -- Discussant

2008-2010 Faculty Awards

Adam Burnett, Professor of Geography and Presidential Scholar, has been named William R. Kenan Jr. Professor effective July 1, 2009.

Jacob Brenner successfully defended his thesis and completed his Ph.D. from Clark University.

Jessica Graybill successfully passed Third-Year Review.

Peter Scull received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

Ellen Kraly was named 2008-2009 Phi Eta Sigma Professor of the Year

2009 Student Awards

Janice Jones—Peter Gould Prize for exceptional service to the Geography community at Colgate.

Samuel Torrey—Shannon McCune Prize for academic excellence in Geography.

2010 Student Awards

Shae Frydenlund—Watson Fellowship for her topic: “The Yarsagumba Effect: Documenting the Ecology of Medicinal Plant Markets”

Teddi Hofman—Konosioni Senior Honor Society Class of 2010

Jennifer Rusciano—National Geographic Internships (declined NGS to pursue Watson Fellowship)

Jennifer Rusciano—Watson Fellowship for her topic: “Bittersweet: Exploring the Light and Dark

Dara Seidl was awarded the Shannon McCune Prize for academic excellence in geography.

Doneisha Snider— Konosioni Senior Honor Society Class of 2010

Allison Taylor—Peter Gould award for exceptional service to the Geography community at Colgate.

Alison Wohlers—Fulbright Fellowship to Morocco. It is a Research/Study Grant for 2010-2011 on the topic of “Dualistic Cities: Colonial Legacies and Geographic Identities in the Global Present”

Samantha Zuhlke—National Geographic Internships (Education
Division in fall 2010)

**2008 Summer Undergraduate Research**

Swetha Peteru ‘08  
Sponsor: Ellen Kraly  
Title: Community Foundation of Oneida & Herkimer  
Funding: Upstate Institute

Sarah Hesler ’09  
Sponsor: Jessica Graybill  
Title: Greenspace in Utica: a spatial and geographical analysis of urban nature  
Funding: Upstate Institute?

Miguel Rodriguez ‘09  
Sponsor: Rich April  
Title: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Critical Zone, Boulder Creek Catchment, Front Range, Colorado  
Funding: Doug Rankin ’53 Endowment-Geology Appalachian Research Geology Department & Keck Geology Consortium

Samuel Torrey ’09  
Sponsor: Ellen Kraly  
Title: Central Adirondack Lab for Environmental Studies  
Funding: Upstate Institute

Shae Frydenlund ’10  
Sponsor: Jessica Graybill  
Title: Ethics of Adventure: Earth Profiters or Environmental Educators  
Funding: SOSC, UNST

Trevor Kreznar ’10  
Sponsor: Jessica Graybill  
Title: Ethics of Adventure: Earth Profiters or Environmental Educators  
Funding: SOSC, UNST

Meghan Lawler ‘10  
Sponsor: Danielle Garneau

Title: Sampling Small Mammal Biodiversity within Beech Bark Disease Affected Areas in the Northeastern United States  
Funding: Mellon Foundation Grant

David Pokorny ’10  
Sponsor: Ellen Kraly  
Title: House of the Good Shepherd  
Funding: Upstate Institute

Allison Taylor ’10  
Sponsor: Ellen Kraly  
Title/Project: Madison County Department of Health  
Funding: Upstate Institute

Kevin Williams ‘10  
Sponsor: Ellen Kraly  
Title/Project: Cazenovia Preservation Foundation  
Funding: Upstate Institute

**2009 Summer Undergraduate Research**

Name: Jennifer Frenette ’10  
Sponsor: Ellen Kraly  
Title/Project: Kelberman Center  
Funding: Upstate Institute

Name: Sarah Hesler ’09  
Sponsor: Ellen Kraly  
Title/Project: Department of Health  
Funding: Upstate Institute

Name: Emily Katz ’09  
Sponsor: Ellen Kraly  
Title/Project: Youth Philanthropy  
Funding: Upstate Institute

Name: Leighann Kimber ’10  
Sponsor: Ellen Kraly  
Title/Project: Bankruptcy  
Funding: Upstate Institute

Name: Michael Palmer ‘10  
Sponsor: Ellen Kraly
Title/Project: Cornell Cooperative Extension
Funding: Upstate Institute
Name: David Pokorny ‘10
Sponsor: Jessica Graybill
Title/Project: Geographies of Public Gardens in Utica, NY
Funding: Upstate Institute
Name: Kathlin Ramsdell ‘10
Sponsor: Adam Burnett
Title/Project: Land Cover Changes near Cayuga Lake, New York: Using Lake Sediments to Evaluate Native American Agricultural Influence
Funding: Research Council
Name: Kevin Williams ‘10
Sponsor: Ellen Kraly
Title/Project: CACDA
Funding: Upstate Institute

Senior Honors Presentations—2009

*Kate Serrurier: “The Social Geography of Asthma Control”


Geography 2009 Award Recipients: Janice Jones and Samuel Torrey.

Professors Scull and Burnett with the Geography 2010 Student Award Recipients (l-r): Jen Rusciano, Shae Frydenlund, Dara Seidl, and Allison Taylor.
Janny Jones: “Art and Experience as Evidence for Environmental Change: The Changing Landscape of Western Australia”

**Senior Honors Presentations—2010**

Shae Frydenlund: "Dark, Dry Shangri-la: Understanding the Kathmandu Valley Water Crisis"


Emily Oliver: “Ahmedabad & Kanpur: A case-study on regional economic resilience in two Indian cities”

Michael Palmer: "An Analysis of GIS Home Range Methods"

Jennifer Rusciano: "Food Security and Access for Low-Income Residents of Madison County, NY”

*Dara Seidl: “The Dirt on Worms: Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors Concerning Invasive Earthworms in Webb, NY”

Allison Taylor: “Forgetting the Senior Citizens: Risk Communication before Hurricane Katrina”

Benjamin Taylor: “Small Farms and Sustainable Agriculture in Madison County, New York”

Sarah Titcomb: "The Human Survival Theory of Conservation"

Samantha Zuhlke: “Invasive Species as Evolution: the Case of the Emerald Ash Borer in Upstate New York”

*received honors in Geography

**Concentrators 2009**

Cody Cowper (co History)
Ryan Dowgin
Samuel Evans
Samuel Ginocchio
Michael Grandy
Stephen Haskin
Sarah Hesler (co Japanese)
William Haydock
Frederic Hills
Janice Jones
Emily Katz
Kathryn-Louise Meng (co PCON)
William Morse
Christopher Nulty (co History)
Patrick O’Halloran
Sophia Ressler (co Spanish)
Michael Roos (co ECON)
Richard Rosabella

Myongsun Kong posing with some amused students at the Spring ‘10 GIS poster presentation. “Act like you’re taking notes!”
Meredith Rosenberg (co Spanish)
Katherine Serrurier (co PCON)
Erin Sinnott (co Religion)
Samuel Torrey (co Spanish)
Glenn Volk
Andrew Watkins

Environmental Geography 2009
Zachary Hicks
Merryl Pohl
John Stratton

Concentrators 2010
Jennifer Cahn
Dana Curtis (co Spanish)
Austin Douglas
Jennifer Frenett (co Spanish)
Marc Fulton
Nicole Gordon
Carly Green
Ryan Gross (co Greek)
Erin Hatch
Scott Herling
Katherine Holland
Rebecca Kahn
Michael Ketcham
Leigh Kimber (co French)
Meghan Lawler
Kevin Maguire (co History)
Evan Minnick
Emily Oliver
Brooke Ousterhout (co Spanish)
Michael Palmer
Rebecca Plessser
David Pokorny
Erich Rentz (co History)
Jennifer Rusciano
Dara Seidl (co French)
Doneisha Snider
Kathryn Stewart
William Stout
Allison Taylor
Kevin Williams
Alison Wohlers (co SOAN)
Samantha Zuhlke

Environmental Geography 2010
Greg Bricca
Sarah Finn
Shae Frydenlund
Julie Gibbons (co Education)
Theodora Hofmann
Trevor Kreznar
Brian Martin
Jacqueline Stimmel
Alison Stokes
Benjamin Taylor
Sarah Titcomb
Catherine Weiss
Sara Zurmuhlen

Concentrators 2011
Sara Aschheim
Stephanie Bohar
Andrew Colbert
Anna Engelsted
Amanda Fernley (co ENEC)
Vildana Hajric
Margaret Hanley
Christine Kana
Jane Kelly
Stephanie O'Brien (co Music)
Grace O'Shea
Lesley Parrish (co POSC)
Alexandra Pons
Kathlin Ramsdell
Emily Riley
Zachary Szabo
Andrew Woizesko
Timothy Yeskoo (co PHYS)

Environmental Geography 2011
Adam Costello
Nicole Dennis
Alex Felicetti
Annabelle Glass
Connor Hedges
Tara James
Meghan Kiernan
Antoine Kinkead
Adam Kobayashi
Haley Parry
Andrew Pettit
Malcolm Piper
Sam Walker (co German)

Kevin Williams Tribute

As we celebrate the many and diverse accomplishments of our members, we also mourn the loss of one of our fellow GTU members, Kevin Williams, who after struggling with cancer for almost a year, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family and friends in Santa Clara California. We share in the grief that his family and fiancé, Kathlin Ramsdell, another GTU member, are experiencing right now and extend our most sincere condolences to them at this time. Kevin Williams was a dear friend and student who touched so many of us during his time at Colgate, and who will be missed dearly. He will be remembered as a loyal friend and a bright student who had a love for life and learning. Tonight we celebrate his life, knowing full well that he is with us in spirit as we proceed with the evening events—Alex Pons’ speech from the GTU 2010 Induction Ceremony.

In addition to taking his studies seriously, Kevin always brought a smile with him to class. His enthusiasm to satisfy his curiosity serves as a model for other students. What I’ll remember most, however, is the time we spent together in office hours chatting about whatever was on his mind. Kevin and I shared many common extracurricular interests and it was fun to swap stories—that’s what I’ll miss most—Peter Scull.

Kevin represented the very best of our geography program—a terrifically engaged student, and a man with a huge heart and soul. We—and the entire world has lost a fine and dear person and a good friend—Ellen Kraly.

Kevin was a joy to teach and I miss seeing him in our computer lab working away on his GIS projects. Although he would sometimes become grumpy when the computer would not obey his commands, he was a true pleasure to be around and I miss the sound of his laugh in the halls of our building. I will never forget the time we ran into each other in the Toggenburg parking lot. He was coming to practice with the Colgate ski team and I was dropping off my children for their junior race practice. It was very cold and the parking lot was a mess but we stood there and had a great conversation about different types of race skis and ski tuning strategies. I’m not sure why we didn’t go inside. Perhaps it was the fun of finding a common interest outside of the classroom. I’m going to miss Kevin very much—Adam Burnett.
**Alumni News!**

1982. Casey Chandler says that “despite telling my husband that if we ever moved to New Jersey I would leave him, I’ve been living very happily with Carl in Westfield, New Jersey for the past 18 years. I’ve recently left my job as a legal assistant at a small NJ law firm and am now at home raising my 6th Seeing Eye puppy. Jade is a lab/golden mix and a real joy. She’ll go back to the Seeing Eye next year for harness training and placement with a blind person. My daughter Jill is a junior in high school and is looking for a college that has lots of cold and snow. If my memory serves me, Colgate would seem to fit that bill pretty well!”

1991. Craig Dana has “just begun my third year of living in Hong Kong where I am the Managing Director for AnnTaylor Sourcing Far East Ltd. My work is to oversee raw material and manufacturing sourcing in Asia for AnnTaylor, AT Loft and AnnTaylor Factory Stores. I’ve been with Ann Taylor for nearly ten years, and previously I was a management consultant focused on the retail industry. Joining me in Hong Kong are my wife, Sarah Dyer ‘91, and our kids Ned (7) and Eleanor (5). Living in Asia and running a sourcing operation is not something I could have envisioned when studying geography and political science at Colgate, but here we are and it works for us.”

1993. Not long after graduating, Sloane (Albright) Castleman “got my teacher’s certificate and began teaching elementary school in northern New Jersey, where I grew up. Last year I completed my Master’s Degree in Education and became a Reading Specialist for the Bernards Township public school system in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. I am so tickled to now serve in the school where I attended Kindergarten through fourth grade! I live with my wonderful husband, Jim, and our three year-old son, Spencer and our daughter, Grace, who was born February 12, 2009.”
1997. Claudia Cesca has “been living in Turin, Italy for the past three years and have taken every opportunity to go explore the parts of Europe that are within driving distance. There's nothing like living by the Alps for winter skiing, which Ella (4 years old) enjoyed with her dad, Greg (Class of '99) every weekend. Tommy (1 year old), our little Italian man and I, enjoyed hanging out at the foot of the mountain (just for this year at least!). We're looking forward to what seems to be our last summer in Italy followed by a huge move back to the US at some point this year.”

Tania Connaughton-Espino considers: “Well, that baby is now almost 4 years old (Matias). Keeps us plenty busy.

“I've gone through a few job transitions in the last couple of years. I took on a grant funded project working on sexual and reproductive health issues of Latinas here in NC and there were plenty of challenges but most definitely a very rewarding experience. I completed a series of in-depth interviews with 9 women which resulted in a bilingual publication. You can see it at: http://www.ipas.org/Library/News/News_Items/Spotlight_on_Ipas_Latina-focused_publications.aspx

“I also participated in producing spanish language radio shows: http://www.ipas.org/Publications/InterSEXiones.aspx?

“The grant ended so I moved on, but still doing similar work and volunteering with a local Latino group where we did trainings for lay health advisors.

“The NC Healthy Start Foundation focuses on developing a variety of materials to help improve women's health and I am in charge of the Spanish side of things. I am working on a couple of publications to improve women’s nutrition during pregnancy.”

1996. Lynne E. Wekerle has “been very busy for the past 12 years since I graduated. I completed my Teach For America commitment in Baltimore ten years ago already. (After two challenging years - each ending in a five-day field trip to Quebec City with over forty students, I decided to end my French teaching career for a while.) Some of my former students have already completed college and apprenticeships, so I realize that I am older than I thought. I also finished my MPH at Columbia University in 2000 and then returned to the classroom in New York until 2001. I married my Colgate boyfriend that summer and began my doctoral program at NYU that fall.

“Needless to say, seven years, five moves, and two children later (Nathan—4.5 years and Ingrid 1.5 years), I am finally at the point where I...”
will be defending my dissertation in Sociology of Education. I took a few years to focus on the little ones while also completing my ethnography. I am finally almost done with school. I can hardly believe it.”

1998. Jennifer C. Critchley remarked that “Reunion was good, though, we didn’t stay for the whole time. We came in on Thursday night for Marty Erb’s retirement dinner. On Friday we played golf, but we were out in the sun for about 7 hours...By the time we got to the tents that night, I was totally exhausted....Anyway, we decided to leave Saturday afternoon so I could get some rest. Plus, we missed our daughter Sidney. It was our first time being away from her.”

2001. Kathryn Roberts wanted to “give a quick update on life out in NM. With the help of Professor Adam Burnett, I was accepted into the Nicholas School for the Environment at Duke University this past fall. I am pursuing a Masters in Environmental Management. I just finished my first year and am on track to graduate in May of 2011.

“On another note, I was recently selected to serve on the Alumni Council beginning this fall. I will be a Regional Vice-President for the Southwest Region. I’m very excited to be on the Council and be able to provide input and suggestions on various issues related to Colgate. “My husband Tal-ee Roberts ’01 and I are doing quite well. He made it into the NYC Marathon in November, so we will be heading back to the east coast yet again!”

2002. Stentor Danielson will be starting a tenure-track job in the Geography, Geology and Environment department at Slippery Rock University (Slippery Rock, PA) fall 2009. (Good luck, Stenny! You’ll see how it goes on this side of the podium....)

2004. Katie Halet writes “things have been crazy the past couple of years...I was trying to decide if I should move to Colombia or Puerto Rico -- I ended up choosing Ponce, Puerto Rico...moving back to the states after a month and a half. I then moved to Boston and worked for a corporate interior design firm for over 2 years and recently left that in order to teach over in Seoul, Korea for a year. I’ve been thinking a lot about going back to grad school and want to get some teaching experience under my belt so I figured this was a good opportunity. We shall see!”

2005. Allison Bernardini writes: “When I graduated, I was looking to continue on with either 1. my life long passion of soccer as a coach or 2. what I had spent the last four years of my life studying (Environmental Economics and Geography) as a ??? It turns out that there was a greater demand for soccer coaches on soccer fields than consultants for Brownfields when I returned to my hometown in upstate New York. For the next two years I was the assistant women’s soccer coach and assistant
men’s lacrosse coach at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. Although being on the soccer field is a passion of mine, I had a strong desire to explore further what I had learned while studying at Colgate. I mean I didn’t pull all-nighters and walk home from Case in a foot of snow for nothing... So, I began to look for environmental consulting jobs in the dirtiest places I know.

“Well, I never thought I’d say this, but I currently reside in the dirty Jers (New Jersey) where I am working as an Environmental Scientist at a private environmental and engineering consulting company, E2 Project Management (E2PM), out of Rockaway, NJ.

“We work on all sorts of exciting environmental remediation and redevelopment projects mainly in formally industrial, urban centers such as Jersey City and Newark. My work is very similar to what Katie Flood ’06 is doing in Syracuse, NY (who inspired me to write in after reading about her in last summer’s (2008) Newsletter). Like Katie, part of my time is spent in the field conducting environmental assessments or soil and groundwater sampling, while the other is spent in the office writing reports on my findings and analytical results or permitting. Redeveloping contaminated land in NJ requires great involvement and knowledge of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). I have become well versed in reading and interpreting environmental regulations, “The Regs” which is not exciting.

“When a site is suspected to have contamination or would like to receive basically a clean bill of health usually for a property sale, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) is performed. If potential Recognized Environmental Conditions (REC’s) are identified, a Phase II is recommended that often involves some sort of subsurface evaluation. Deciding what contaminants to sample for based on past and current use of the property as well as where and how much to sample the property is really the science behind its all. I’ve learned a great deal of Chemistry working in the field including; understanding why certain chemicals appear in certain areas and the nature of metals, volatile/semi-volatile organics, pesticides and PCBs and how they behave in different soils and groundwater. My ability to use GIS, thankfully learned from Professor Scull while at Colgate, has definitely been a useful asset here at the company. Yes, I am writing this while currently at work (lunch time of course). I am actually supposed to be working on my Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (SESC) inspection report for the Brooklyn Bridge Park redevelopment project, which involves the redevelopment of ~85 acres of land along Brooklyn’s East River waterfront and south of the Brooklyn Bridge. Really exciting project!

“As a senior, I wrote my economics thesis on the effect of NJDEP designated Brownfield sites (specifically in Camden, NJ) on surrounding property values. The correlation revealed to be positive indicating that contaminated sites have an adverse environmental, social and economic affect on the surrounding area. I think that project influenced me in choosing to get involved in this field and I will say (and I’m sure Katie will agree) that it is rewarding to think that cleaning up a parcel of contaminated, blighted land, no matter how small, will have a positive impact on the surrounding community.

“Thank you for allowing me to share my life with you. I look forward to reading about my fellow classmates. If anyone finds themselves in the dirty Jers, please

Allison Bernardini ’05 all geared up to remediate and redevelop.
Sandra Butler writes that “all continues to go well in DC--I am still working for a USAID contractor and continue to learn more and more about the ins and outs of international development and foreign assistance. I have spent time working on projects in Sudan, Peru, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea and am currently working on a Cuba program. But come this summer, after three and a half years living and working in DC, I’ll be leaving the District for Boston University’s School of Public Health. I have loved my time in DC and will be sad to leave but at the same time am thrilled at the thought of going back to school for a masters of public health in international health. My passion for public health and development was sparked in the halls of Persson Basement years ago, specifically by two courses taught by Professor Kraly and Professor Hays-Mitchell, both of who were tremendous help and wonderful mentors throughout my application process (and beyond!). My Geography friendships and connections never cease to amaze me. Very much looking forward to returning to campus for our first class reunion!”

Newsflash! “In July 2009, I left DC after almost four years living there and working for a USAID contractor to return to school to pursue a masters in public health at Boston University. Specifically, I'm concentrating in international health and will be spending the summer interning for the Ministry of Health in Belize, working on malnutrition programs. Once I return from Belize I'll have one more semester until I graduate, at which point the employment hunt will begin! However, before heading off to Belize I'll be returning to Hamilton for the first time in four years for my first reunion- -I can't wait!”

Jessica Gregory “can't believe it's been five years since I graduated, and that we're coming up on our 5-year reunion! I've been in Boston now for the past four years, working as a Project Manager at The New England Journal of Medicine. I moved home to Rochester, N.Y. after graduation, and then came to Boston shortly thereafter. I love my job, and love living in Boston - lots of other 'Gaters here that I get a chance to see quite frequently. “I'm happy to share that I got engaged in January to Joseph Crowley, a longtime family friend, and we're planning a September wedding in Cape Cod. Sandra Butler ‘05 (and also currently living in Boston), is a bridesmaid, as is Mary Virginia Yurch '05. Lots of other alums will be in attendance, as well; between all of them, our huge families, and other friends, it should be quite the party! We're headed to Hawaii for our honeymoon, and we can't wait.”

Marissa Lubeck sends “Cheers from Colorado! 2008-9 brought a lot of positive change for me, much of which couldn't have happened without my roots in the Colgate Geography department. I finished graduate school at the University of Colorado-Boulder in May 2009 and received my M.A. in

Dan Malessa ’05, Marissa Lubeck ’05, Kath Shelley’05 and Sandra Butler ’05, hanging out in D.C.
environmental journalism and mass communication research. Although no walk in the park, Thesis #2 came together perfectly in the end, no doubt as a result of the experience I earned writing my Colgate Geog. thesis under the brilliant guidance of Professor Elgie. Titled “War of Words and Crisis Warnings: The Role of Environmental Media in America Wartime Culture,” my CU thesis was a theoretical history of the modern environmental movement through the lens of popular media (books and film), using rhetorical analyses of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring and Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth as bookend case studies that ultimately demonstrated how authors internalize and rhetorically manipulate war discourse to advocate for environmental change. I can thank Professor Hays-Mitchell for introducing me to Rachel Carson and Silent Spring in a few of the classes I took with her, which fundamentally inspired my entire master's thesis.

"After graduation, I was fortunate enough to be hired into my current position as a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Geological Survey. Doing communications for a Geology/Geography/Biology/Water Science agency perfectly bridged my geography background with my environmental journalism experience. In fact, I've been told by my boss that the combination of my two academic concentrations is what sealed the deal for him. So, thank you to the Colgate Geog. department for my job! I couldn't be happier working for the USGS. I do mostly media relations, serving as a liaison between our scientists and the media. Basically, I translate newsworthy USGS research and present it to the media and the public.

“My job is in southwest Denver, but I still live in Boulder. It's a 45 minute commute each way - actually an enjoyable and scenic ride along the foothills of the Rockies. I live with my recently adopted cat, Keenan, who is my baby and constant companion.

“I just returned from an April work venture to D.C., which was timed perfectly as I was in town to celebrate Kath Shelley's '05 birthday! It was a mini Geog. reunion; I met up with Mia Mabanta '05 briefly, and then spent most of the weekend with Kath, Dan Malessa '05, and Sandra Butler '05. It wasn't the same without Lindsay MacKenzie!"

Mia Mabanta has been “living in DC for nearly four years now, but with frequent travel to other cities in the U.S. Last year, my boss and I moved our portfolio of work from the Brookings Institution to the Pew Charitable Trusts. At Pew, I'm a senior associate and help run the Safe Banking Opportunities Project, a two-year initiative whose goal is to develop and promote safe bank account standards for consumers. About a month ago, we helped Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa of Los Angeles launch a campaign aimed at helping low-income consumers succeed in mainstream financial institutions. In December, we joined Gov. Schwarzenegger and former President Clinton do the same in California. All is going very well but I will be ready to go back to school soon. I'm currently studying for the GMAT and plan to apply to business school for fall 2010.”

Lindsay Mackenzie’s internal geographer “continues to drive me to see and experience new places. Since graduation I have spent the majority of my time traveling (I am writing to you now from Palermo, Italy). Upon graduation from Colgate I spent a year as a Watson Fellow studying transboundary conservation and development on 4 continents. After returning home from an incredible year I attempted to settle down in Vancouver, Canada where I spent a year working as a research assistant for the University of British Columbia’s Liu Institute for Global Issues. I enjoyed the atmosphere of the building that I was working in and had the opportunity to meet a number of very interesting and dynamic Canadian academics. However, it seems that I was not ready to settle into a life in one place and my itchy feet led me to a job I never really considered until seeing an advertisement in a local newspaper - I applied and was accepted for the position of Tour Leader with a small Canadian company called Adventures Abroad (www.adventures-abroad.com). For the last two years I have been leading small group cultural tours all over the world for Canadian and American travelers. I lead
tours most often in Italy and Croatia/Montenegro, but have also been sent to Malta, Romania, Bulgaria, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Iran. I would have to say that my favorite tours have been Brazil and Iran, very different countries but both full of extraordinarily kind and generous people. I manage tour logistics, organize dinners for my group (a very fun thing to do in a place like Italy!), give talks about the places we are seeing (my geography seminar class with Prof. Elgie was great presentation preparation as I give talks almost every day on tour) and generally try to make sure that the tour runs as planned and my clients come away with great experiences. The job is hectic but as you might imagine it has great perks. I love that I am continually meeting new people and exploring and learning about new places. If anyone is interested in seeing photos from the last couple years I have some online albums at www.lindsayonthego.smugmug.com.”

Dan Malessa is “putting the final touches on my Masters thesis at the George Washington Univ. Geography Dept. Building off what I did in Professor Elgie's Senior Seminar and other interests, I am looking at the viability of a Southern Sudanese state, as the region is supposed to vote on independence in 2011. After graduation, I will be returning to work at the National Geographic Society in the Maps Division to do research on their forthcoming World Atlas. I also plan to apply to international development jobs and have a Peace Corps application working its way through that process.

“Otherwise, I am continuing to enjoy life in Washington DC with friends (many fellow Colgaters/geographers) and taking trips around the country, with the last being a visit to the Grand Canyon and Sedona. Volunteering with the Obama Campaign in Northern Virginia summer and fall 2008 was also a rewarding experience as it was great to finally see the political process at the local level. Best to all.”

Kath Shelley has been living in Washington D.C. for the past 4 years. “In 2007, I finished my MPH in Epidemiology from George Washington University and I have almost completed a certificate in Global Health. As a research associate at GWU I have been working on several HIV/AIDS behavioral health studies of high risk populations in DC as well as on an operational research project to introduce rapid syphilis testing into antenatal care in Uganda and Zambia with the aim of decreasing cases of congenital syphilis. Since 2006 I’ve been TAing the GIS public health class at GWU.”

2006. After graduation, Tara Lalonde “headed to East Lansing, MI to the masters in geography program at Michigan State University. While at MSU, I worked on digital terrain

Lindsay Mackenzie ’05 in Iran with some new friends.
analysis research projects. After completion of my Master of Science thesis, I headed back to the east coast for a position at GeoEye (Dulles, VA). At GeoEye, I work as a Production System Operator. This has been an exciting experience in the geospatial technology field. I work with other geographers and geospatial analysts in assessment of satellite imagery on a daily basis. This position really combines knowledge of geographic areas and geospatial technology.”

Jayna Richardson and Joe Kurstin (Math '06) biked all over Washington last summer to find (and take a picture with) every single outdoor statue depicting a real human being within the District of Columbia. They keep finding more statues, so it's a perpetual work in progress, but they've visited over 200 statues so far. The results are captured in a Google Map that can be viewed here - http://maps.google.com/maps/user?uid=115716977322696636140&hl=en&gl=us (look for the link to statues of DC.—sorry, the address was causing serious formatting difficulties—ed.)

Brent K. Smith is “working in New York City as a sales representative for CIGNA HealthCare. In an effort to differentiate myself in this urban jungle, I decided to try something different and make a film. With the help of a fellow Colgate ‘06 graduate, I spent my own time, energy, and resources to write, direct, and co-produce a video titled SICKCARE. Realizing the subject of healthcare often puts people to sleep, I made efforts to keep the balance of the film entertaining and educational. After receiving feedback, I have decided to continue interviewing and filming to give it more weight. My goal is to film a power point at Colgate (like The Inconvenient Truth) in front of students and make the video a full length documentary. (some copies are available upon request—ed.)

“I’ve also taken a trip to Muir Woods in California and spent a week and a half in Alaska with family.”

Jessica Winans was “teaching World Regional Geography now and loving it. I'm going to start a Ph.D. program this summer. Everything else is going well.”

2007. Jacob Anderson “will be pursuing a Masters of Urban Planning at the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. (Boy is that a mouthful). I'm really excited to be moving to Ann Arbor and can't wait to start.

“This past year I have been working for a virtual biotechnology company in Waltham, Massachusetts that is developing antibodies to treat auto-immune diseases. Since the company relies on collaboration with contract organizations, my role has primarily involved developing a system to track and inventory our products.”

Donald Boyajian is at Cornell Law School. He just “wanted to check in and say hello. I hope that all is well in Hamilton. Unfortunately, a hectic first-year law school schedule prevented me from getting up to Colgate last year. I am hoping to
visit soon. Currently, I am working in the Environmental Bureau of the Attorney General's Office."

Following a 2007 summer geography internship, Sarah Caban continued working with National Geographic's Education Programs division in Washington, D.C. “I love National Geographic and couldn't be happier! It's like I never left college: there are always exhibits, cultural performances, and lectures to attend right here on campus.

“Of course, the "real work" aspects of the job are pretty great, too. I'm currently employed as a Public Engagement Specialist and Manager of "My Wonderful World," a public awareness campaign to expand K-12 geographic learning in schools, at home and in communities (MyWonderfulWorld.org). I do a whole host of things in that capacity: I write a monthly e-newsletter distributed to 85,000 campaign members, I edit a blog connecting geography to the everyday, and I manage a grassroots network of state-based geographic activists (mostly K-12 teachers).

“I also help with development of geography curriculum and professional development programs for K-12 teachers, and I do a little political lobbying for K-12 geography funding. It's pretty exciting to work in education reform, about which I am very passionate, and particularly in geography education. Of course, I owe it all to Colgate Geography, and to Dan Malessa '05 and Jayna Richardson '06, who both had such great experiences with my internship supervisor that she committed to choosing Colgate interns whenever possible. She even told me she recommends Colgate to all her friends with children!

“It's always nice to run into Jesse Quinn '07 in the halls, who works for National Geographic Television. I see Meg Reed '07 and Zabrina Krishnamoorthy '07 often, and for the last several months I've been living in an apartment with Donnie Boyajian '07, who is working for an NY Congressman on the Hill.” (Check out Sarah’s blog: http://blog.mywonderfulworld.org/)

Elizabeth Marr wrote “for the winter and spring of 2009, I measured, tagged and mapped trees in two experimental forests on the big island of Hawaii. In 10 days I am joining an Outward Bound sailing crew in Annapolis, Maryland for the second leg of a Florida to Maine staff expedition.”

Jane Phelan comments “My, time flies in the real world! I'm still living in Washington, DC, working for a contractor for the United States Agency for International Development and thinking about next steps. Learning more and more everyday! I keep in touch with too many of my fellow Colgate geographers to name, as many of us live, work, or go to school here.”

Shannon Sweeney “will be starting my PhD in Planning and Public Policy at the Bloustein School at Rutgers University in the fall.”

2008. Since graduation, Erin Brown has “moved to Hoboken, NJ and taken a job in the Higher Education division of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Publishers. I work in the sales and marketing department. So basically, we try to get professors
(cough - including those at Colgate! - cough) to adopt our books. It has allowed me to stay in arms reach of geography….I tend to pick up our geography textbooks and flip through them when I get a chance. All in all, things are well. Looking forward to my next trip back to ‘Gate!”

Laura Kavanaugh “finished my Student Conservation Association internship in August and now I am in Baltimore working as a “Global Peace and Security Fellow” with Americans for Informed Democracy (AID). I love this organization – basically we work with youth, particularly college students, to engage them on global issues. We have four program areas – Global Environment, Global Health, Global Development, Global Peace & Security – and we provide resources for students to initiate their own campus events, host/attend one of our regional events/conferences, or apply for special national events and opportunities.

“I did a few events with AID at Colgate (Videoconference with Jeffrey Sachs was one) and I found them to be a really good resource for student groups. I also enjoyed their range of issue areas that tied into all the different aspects of human and physical geography I was studying. Lucky for me, they had an opening, so from now until next December I’ll be working with AID’s small central staff full-time organizing events from the other side. So that’s “where I am now.”

“It’s a really great job and Baltimore is a fun place to be, so tell all your students looking to go into non-profits that there is (paid) hope! Also, if any of them are looking to connect to events, campaigns, grants, internships etc on the environment, health, development, or peace, I’d be glad to help out. There is more information on AID’s (soon-to-be-updated) website. And we also have a monthly AID e-newsletter that lists our upcoming events if any of you or your students would like to subscribe. We have a lot of cool events and resources that are directly related to the geog curriculum, so maybe they will be of some use, and you have a personal contact who can connect you!”

Bill Kindler is happy living and working in San Francisco.

Nicole SvaJlenka notes from a postcard: “Hi—My boyfriend Tom and I have been traveling around Europe for the past two months and it's been a blast. We started in Spain, traveled through France, Northern Europe, and Germany. In Italy we met up with Steven Fuller and were able to spend time together in 3 different cities. This is the last week of my trip and it is being spent relaxing in the sun of Lugano and Nice.”

Annaya Williams wanted to “send a quick note to say hello and see how things are going at Colgate. Every month I look at the scenes pictured on the Colgate calendar and think of how different the scenery in Upstate New York is from my new Moroccan home. It is hard to believe that I have gone from New York to Milwaukee to Washington DC to middle of nowhere Morocco…all in the span of two years! It has certainly been an exciting journey, since I have left Colgate.

“Things in Morocco are getting busier by the day! I am finishing my housing negotiations with my future landlord and could not be happier to be done with my housing search. Although frustrating, my housing search has helped me learn more about community dynamics, the local culture, and has helped me improve my language skills tremendously.

“I have also started working with my counterparts at the local health clinic to figure out how I can assess the community health needs and form an effective outreach plan. And, of course, I am continually working on my language and introducing myself to the hundreds of people in my new mountain top community. Ait Hamed, my site, is in the middle of their harvest season for barley. It truly is a community effort to harvest the hundreds of acres of barley and to start planting for the corn season. I have learned so much about property ownership, gender roles, work ethic, and cultural songs from the time I have spent in the fields with my host family. My harvesting skills are nowhere near as fast as the community members, but I think they really appreciate me trying. The other day I visited a neighboring
community and was convinced to help them harvest some of their barley. They were impressed my skills (I’m assuming they didn’t think I was going to know my left hand from the knife I was using in the my right) so I’m guessing that I must be doing something right.

“Overall, I’m having an amazing time. I thought I would have tons of time to read, journal, and reflect…but my time has been consumed by trying to figure out an action plan for how to start my job. Unlike other Peace Corps programs (small business development, youth development, environment, etc.) the rural health education program relies on volunteers to perform a community assessment of the health issues (after getting to know their community) and then to form a unique action plan on how to address the most pressing needs, with the help of community resources and counterparts. It has not been easy and I’m sure that I will spend several months “analysing the communities’ needs”, but in the meantime I have started thinking about small projects that I can do with the local schools and established community organizations (such as the womens’ association) to establish my role as a health educator and an active community member. I also will begin several community surveys (and hopefully a few focus groups) in the coming months to help me learn more about some of the community resources and needs. I’m surprised how much information I have retained from the Quantitative Methods course (and I’m really thankful for that knowledge).

“It’s a day by day experience, with ups and downs, but I couldn’t be happier to be where I am! I hope that you can say the same. How are things in the Geography Department? Has there been a lot of added work with the Upstate Institute? I hope your family is doing well and that you are enjoying a beautiful summer in Hamilton!”

2009. Kathryn-Louise Meng has been accepted into the doctoral program at Clark.

Glenn Volk’s parents sent a photo and an update: “Glenn is living in San Francisco having turned down a 2nd year of a professional soccer contract as he works 2 jobs and finishes up classes to apply to medical school. He has been working with a physician on a rehydration product, and is now in Pakistan on a relief aid/health care NGO team. He has been there for almost 10 days-sometimes changing clinic locations in the middle of the day because of security concerns. Although Kurt and I are very proud of his work, we have not slept much as we wake up every morning to yet more suicide bombings, often in places he was slated to visit. They kept their locations private. This week has been better, as the UN/Red Cross clinics have entered the country.

“They have been running a series on CNN AM about the team he is with (Team Rubicon).”

Here are some photos from Linda Rauscher’s retirement party. Above: Linda. Below: Bob Elgie, Ellen Kraly, Scott Kraly and Dan Monk.

**Linda Rauscher Retires**

Linda started at Colgate on August 12, 1985 as secretary for the Assistant Dean of Faculty and Coordinator of International Programs. Then she spent seven years with the History department. Finally, she joined the Geography Department in 1994, in a joint position with Social Sciences Division, bringing with her a wealth of contacts and experience. All in all, she worked for Colgate for almost exactly 25 years, and the Geography Department for 16 years.

Linda retired on August 13, 2010, having seen it all; from a manual typewriter and replacing ribbon to the most recent version of Microsoft Word and replacing toner cartridge; from handwriting envelopes and dot matrix to auto-collating laser printing. And of course, generations of students, faculty and staff. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for all the work she has done for us and with us, and with such dedication, grace and good humor.

Enjoy your retirement—you deserve it!
Page remains blank for replies to newsletter and updates.
Have any news to share with the Geography Department? Just cut out (or photocopy) this sheet and send it to Myongsun Kong, Colgate University Geography Department, 13 Oak Drive, Hamilton NY, 13346, or email mkong@colgate.edu.

We’d love to hear from you!

Name (and name you were known by while at Colgate):

Year:

Partner? Their name?

Children?

Pets?

Occupation:

What have you been doing since we last contacted you?
The Colgate Geography Departmental Newsletter is edited by Myongsun Kong (send all comments to mkong@colgate.edu).

This year’s cover adapted from a t-shirt designed by Janny Jones ‘09.

We will be taking alumni news submissions continuously throughout the year, up to the deadline of May 1 annually. If there is anything in particular you’d like us to include (i.e. news article featuring you or your work), please feel free to send it along.

Pictures submitted to the newsletter can be either traditional print or electronic, but electronic pictures should be medium to high resolution in order to reproduce well on paper. Please indicate what you would like in the caption of the photo.

If you have a change of address or other correction to the address list and would like to keep getting your newsletter, please contact the Alumni Office (at 315-228-7453 or alumnirecords@colgate.edu). Also, if you know of any alumni who isn’t getting their letter (because their address isn’t current), refer them to the previous sentence, as we get all our addresses from the alumni records folks.