

Department of Geography & Planning Newsletter



Volume 6: Winter 2010

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Message from the Chair

Welcome to the sixth volume of the department newsletter. It's been a busy year full of many accomplishments and I'd like to highlight a recent event—Geography Awareness Week. The department organized multiple events for Geography Awareness Week (GAW), which was November 14-20. GAW is a national event that started in 1987 by a joint resolution of Congress. The theme of GAW this year was freshwater and the department pulled

together to host four main events, plus a geography t-shirt day, that revolved around the theme. The first event was a photo contest. Faculty, staff, and students could submit digital photos in five categories including freshwater, weather/climate, nature & animals, people, and places. Sixty two people submitted over 180 photos to the contest! It was a hard contest to judge because so many of the submissions were really wonderful. In the end, we had one grand prize winner, Ms. Rebekah Guetti, a psychology major, and three winners in each category. Photo contest winners were announced at our Kick-off event, which was held during Bengal Pause on Tuesday the 16th (see photo). The Kick-off event also highlighted the week's activities, including a GAW and freshwater presentation, a preview of the Tuesday night's movie FLOW, and a discussion of Thursday's 3.7 Mile Walk for Freshwater. On Tuesday evening, we showed the award-winning documentary, For the Love of Water, which is about the global water

crisis. FLOW focuses on the privatization of water and the impact of that in developed and developing countries. A group of about 60 people turned out to watch FLOW and eat freshly popped popcorn. Our final event, a 3.7 Mile Walk for Freshwater, took place on Thursday (see photos). Why 3.7 miles? Because, on average, women in developing countries walk 3.7 miles each day to bring freshwater home. Walk participants were asked to get sponsors and proceeds of this event will be donated to the Pong Num Rong



GAW Kick-off Event

Department News

hilltribe school in rural northern Thailand. A group of ten Buffalo State students will be travelling to the school in January to deliver the donations and supplies. I would like to take this opportunity to, once again, thank everyone in the department for doing an outstanding job organizing our very first Geography Awareness Week and gratefully acknowledge the support of the Center for Health and Social Research and the Center for Southeast Asia Environment & Sustainable Development.



The group after the walk

A New Center for Southeast Asia Environment and Sustainable Development

Kim Irvine

The College officially recognized the Center for Southeast Asia Environment and Sustainable Development this year. The Center's mission is to improve the understanding of complex environmental

and development issues facing Southeast Asia by fostering multidisciplinary, international collaboration in research, education, and capacity building. The Center works with Southeast Asian universities, government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector in its initiatives to develop effective environmental planning and management solutions to environmental problems.

Already the Center has been active with the release of a book *Water Resources and Development in Southeast Asia*, edited by Kim Irvine, Tom Murphy, Vida Vanchan, and Stephen Vermette and published by Pearson Learning Solutions. The book is a collection of 12 invited and peer-reviewed papers by authors from Southeast Asia, North America, and Europe that focus on water resource, environment and development



The 3.7 Walk for Freshwater in Delaware Park

Department News

issues facing the region. Recent Center research activities have focused on sewer and wastewater quality assessments in Thailand; pesticide use in Cambodia; and water quality assessment of the Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia. Future plans for the Center include student field courses in Thailand and Malaysia, development of a dual masters degree program with the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, and establishing a guest speakers series in the Spring Semester, 2011.

Questions and ideas for the Center are always welcomed. Please contact the Center Director, Dr. Kim Irvine, irvinekn@buffalostate.edu. For additional information about the Center, visit our website: <http://www.buffalostate.edu/geography/seasia.xml>.

High on New York Alpine Field Course – Fall'10

In September 2010, Buffalo State College students from an array of majors spent a long weekend camping and hiking on Mount Marcy, the highest peak (at 5344 ft) of New



Sampling for oxygen isotope analysis in the flooded forest of the Tonle Sap, Cambodia (left) and demonstrating water sampling methods with the ED78.15 Wastewater Design class at Asian Institute of Technology (right)



Faculty: Stephen Vermette, Camille Holmgren, Veryan Vermette, and Karen Wehn
Students: Aaron Boci, Nicole Bennett, Anthony Hartman, Nicole Kmiotek, Amanda Pratt, Joseph Petre, and Araon Straus.

York's Adirondacks. This one-credit field course focused on how geography – an understanding of place - is influenced by elevation. Topics addressed throughout the four-day adventure included elevational changes of biomes, alpine climatology, gneiss rocks, and basic geographic skills including the use of compass, GPS, and topographic maps (...not to mention how to 'survive in the wild' with marauding bears...and rampaging chipmunks!) As with the other 'experiential' courses we offer, the field notebook served as the academic core of the course because it is here that students recorded key points of in situ lectures, made observations, recorded data, drew maps, graphs, and diagrams, and journaled about their experiences. The ultimate challenge was the climb (scramble, clamber, drag) to the summit where we planted the flag of Buffalo State College, witnessed an Arctic biome, and had stunning views of the other Adirondack high peaks below us. " *There is no substitute in the classroom for the intense satisfaction on feels at the summit of a mountain they just climbed.*" – Amanda Pratt.

Arctic: The Unexpected Frontier

The lecture series 'Arctic: the Unexpected Frontier', was built on three lectures presented in April 2010, posing the question: What will the Arctic in 2030 look like? As the ice melts and water levels rise, the boundaries of the land and the ocean are changing, we wanted to have a series of lectures to present the economic and political issues as well as the environmental issues. The first lecture, titled: 'The Arctic: Exploring its Lands and Peoples' was given by Stephen Vermette. The second lecture, titled: "Arctic Meltdown? Environmental Impacts of a Climate Change' was given by Charlotte Roehm. An

internationally renowned expert on Arctic sovereignty and security, Franklyn Griffiths (professor emeritus of political science and George Ignatieff Chair Emeritus of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Toronto) presented the third lecture, titled: 'The Political Impacts of a Warmer and Ice-Reduced Arctic.' We hoped to interest other people from campus in Arctic issues and perhaps spark more interdisciplinary research in the region. Charlotte Roehm and Stephen Vermette organized the series. Veryan Vermette assisted with the Inuit art display and the mixer. Charlotte obtained funding for the series from the Faculty-Student Association.



Stephen Vermette chairing the video presentation given by Franklyn Griffiths.

Kim Irvine continued working on research, education, and capacity-building projects both locally and in Southeast Asia. Locally, a new project was started to assess the water quality of Smokes Creek. Funded by Erie County, and in partnership with Conestoga Rovers Associates of Buffalo, this project had Mary Perrelli and a team of students from Buffalo State and U.B. on call and tracking storm events 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, as well as the more regularly-scheduled dry weather sampling. A second project continued the sampling on Scajaquada Creek to evaluate levels and sources of E.coli. This effort spanned the winter through summer seasons and was ably assisted by students Lauren Cross (a Manchester Metropolitan University exchange student), Allyson Zurowski, and Alex Strait. Lauren is using some of the data collected for her senior thesis in Manchester, while Allyson, an Environmental Engineering major at U.B., took the lead on presenting results at the annual Middle States Division, Association of American Geographers conference.

Connections with Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok were strengthened this year when Dr. Irvine was named an adjunct professor in the Environmental Engineering and Management

program. As part of this appointment he continued to assist with the teaching of the ED78.15 Wastewater Design class and is co-supervising a PhD student, Ms. Thitirat Chaosakul, for her thesis research on biodegradation in sewer systems as a source of greenhouse gases. Ms. Chaosakul also took the lead on developing a poster presentation of class fieldwork and modeling results from the ED78.15 course which won best poster prize at the 8th International Southeast Asian Water Environment Conference in Phuket, Thailand. Dr. Irvine was invited to participate in an NSF-funded workshop in Singapore that was organized by the Association of American Geographer's Center for Global Geography Education. The workshop was aimed at fostering new educational collaborations among geography faculty and students in the United States, East Asia, and Southeast Asia through the development of on-line education modules. Drs. Irvine and Firuza Mustafa (University of Malaya) and Mr. Ross Martin (Georgia State University) developed one of the water resources modules, focusing on Integrated Water Resources Management: <http://globalgeography.aag.org/WaterResources1e/cs-4/index.html>. As an outgrowth of the Singapore workshop, Dr. Irvine was invited to University of Malaya to make a presentation on Buffalo River restoration and to discuss collaborative field courses with our

department.

Dr. Irvine had eleven publications this year which can be found [here](#).



Sampling water on Smokes Creek (top) and Scajaquada Creek (below)



Invited lecture at University of Malaya (left) and Ms. Thitirat Chaosakul with the best poster of the conference, 8th International Southeast Asian Water Environment Conference in Phuket, Thailand (right)



prior to the park developing an effective remediation and preservation plan. Funding was provided by the Great Lakes Research Consortium and a New York State Water Resources Research Grant and supports two graduate students (Joseph Petre and Tom Reeverts).

During the winter my research interests shifted to Watertown, NY. The goal of this project is to investigate reasons for the uncharacteristic cooling occurring under radiational cooling conditions at the NWS station in Watertown. This project is funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and supports the thesis work of undergraduates Alyssa Russell and Christopher Miller.

Stephen Vermette worked on a number of research projects in New York State. The summer was occupied with a study of the wetlands at Woodlawn Beach State Park, along with Charlotte Roehm. The Blasdell Creek wetland, located at the north end of the park, is located adjacent to and on former industrial land. The objective of this research is to characterize the wetland so as to gain a better understanding of the cycling of water and pollutants within and out of the wetland (including the impact of Lake Erie)



Survey Team



Using a dye marker

Ultrasonic snow sensor and vertical tower



Faculty News

A number of activities occurred over the past year. Students once again travelled to see Punxsutawney Phil. SkyWarn Spotter training (severe weather) was provided to our students by the National Weather Service, students studied the unique climate of the Niagara Escarpment and placement of vineyards on a 'Tasting the Climate' tour, OSHA 40 hour training was provided to our students, and Aaron Mentkowski (WKBW-TV) was our invited speaker for the 'Lunch with a Meteorologist' series.



Stephen introducing Aaron Mentkowski



Kelly Frothingham has been keeping busy with department work, but has managed to keep her hands in research, too. She worked with a Buffalo State

geography major, Mr. Nick Conwall, who was selected to participate in an NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) in Ecosystem Restoration program at UB. Nick's research project characterized geomorphological conditions of a reach of Cayuga Creek in Niagara County and investigated using hydraulic geometry relationships to design a stream restoration project at that reach. They spent a number of days in the field with the REU "Stream Team" (see photo) and got some great data.



GEG 421/521 Class on a field trip to Bull Creek

Dr. Frothingham attended the Middle States Division of the Association of American Geographers annual meeting held in October at West Point University. She presented a poster on her Cayuga Creek questionnaire results at the meeting and has submitted a paper for publication to the *Middle States Geographer* entitled "Community input to the watershed management process: determining the perceived state of Cayuga Creek, Niagara County."



NSF REU Stream Team

Finally, Dr. Frothingham is teaching GEG 421/521 *Watershed Analysis* this fall semester and students are working on a stream assessment of Bull Creek, which is in the Niagara River watershed. Six undergraduate and seven graduate students are studying watershed management from a

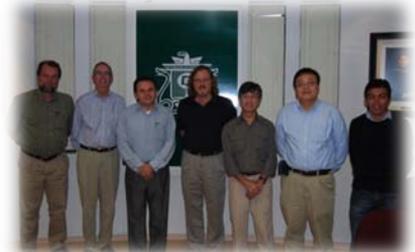
fluvial geomorphological perspective and getting hands-on experience out in the creek (see photo). The final report from the class project will be submitted to Vic

DiGiacomo, Jr. who is the Eighteenmile Creek Remedial Action Plan Coordinator at the Niagara County Soil & water Conservation District and a Buffalo State geography program graduate ('04).



Buffalo State College undergraduate student, Mr. Lei Cai is conducting field measurement with graduate students at the Capital Normal University in Beijing, China

he conducted with the faculty and graduate students of Capital Normal University, China since 2004. He also published a paper entitled "Spatial Statistical Modeling of the Pollution Impact of Old Industrial Sites on Colon and Lung Cancer Incidents in New York State, USA" with a former student, Casey Anderson. Dr. Tang visited the Quintana Roo University, Yucatan, Mexico during the winter break of 2009-2010 with a Buffalo State College faculty delegation. As an outcome of the visit, he hosted a visiting scholar from Mexico, Mr. Elias Montes, the Director of Geographic Information Center at the university in the fall of 2010. In the summer of 2009, he mentored one undergraduate student, Mr. Lei Cai to obtain a NSF funded Undergraduate Research Scholarship. Mr. Cai went to Beijing, China with Dr. Tang to conduct field work of measuring air particle pollutions, and he did GIS analysis for his research project.



Buffalo State College Faculty delegation visit to Quintana Roo University, Mexico



Ancient Mayan ruins – Chichen Itza, Mexico, the United Nations cultural heritage site

Tao Tang published four research papers as the first author. In particular, he published a paper on the Journal of Environmental Geosciences entitled "GIS Spatial Analysis of Population Exposure to Fine Particulate Air Pollution in Beijing, China". This publication is a result of long term collaborative researches

Wende Mix was busy preparing and delivering many research presentations this year. In October, at the 25th Annual NYS GIS conference in Lake Placid NY, she presented a paper entitled "Point Pattern Analysis of Parcel Based Land Information Data".

Faculty News

On Nov 17, Dr. Mix was an invited panelist at the Partnership for the Public Good Forum in Buffalo, NY, presenting "Investing in Transit: Current Challenges and Opportunities in Transportation Policy and Practice". In February, Dr. Mix was invited to speak at the Poverty Research Workshop sponsored by The Homeless Alliance of Western New York, the Partnership for the Public Good, the Western New York Service Learning Coalition, and the University at Buffalo Civic Engagement and Public Policy Faculty Research Initiative. Her presentation, entitled "Geography of Urban Poverty: Part II" was featured in a Buffalo News article on Feb 27th. Dr. Mix presented "Population Change in Western New York: What Story Does the Data Tell?" to the FRBNY-Cornell ILR School Local Economic Roundtable in April. Finally, in May, Dr. Mix presented research entitled "Evaluating Personal Response Devices (Clickers) in Urban Geography", at the CIT 2010, Plattsburgh, NY. This work was completed in collaboration with Dr. Kelly Marczyński, Assistant Director/Senior Research Scientist at the Center for Health and Social Research. Dr. Mix also collaborated with Dr. Marczyński in assisting Mr. Dave Bauer, President Sustainable Earth Solutions, Inc., evaluate and modify his Change

Leadership Inventory survey that is used to collect pre- and post-data from participants in the annual Environmental Youth Summit. This information will be used to justify the Summit program in future grant proposals. In May, Dr. Mix and Mary Perrelli were awarded an Office of College and Community Partnerships mini-grant entitled "West Side Community-based Internet Mapping and Analysis System"

Dr. Mix served as the faculty mentor to Biology students Andrew S. Harrison and Nicole Wood, who presented at Student Research and Creativity Celebration in May their research entitled "Geographical Spatial Analysis of Northern Diamondback Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) Movements In Response To Boat Traffic and Being Displaced In Barnegat Bay, NJ". She also was the senior thesis advisor to Keith Benes, Steve Chappel, and Carl Morse and mentored McNair Scholarship recipient Bernice Radle. In addition to her typical courses, Dr. Mix taught, for the first time, two sections of BSC 101 Foundations of Inquiry which focuses on exposing freshmen to the why's and how's of critical thinking. The theme for her sections was Urban Sustainability. Dr. Mix truly enjoyed this challenge and opportunity to (re)learn and emphasize the importance of critical thinking.



Vida Vanchan was selected as one of the 40 participants among 186 applicants from more than 40 countries to attend the Summer

Institute in Economic Geography at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada from June 26 to July 2, 2010. This Summer Institute featured contribution from internationally renowned figures in economic geography and provided an opportunity to investigate leading-edge theoretical and methodological questions as well as a range of associated professional development issues in the field of Economic Geography." theoretical and methodological questions as well as a range of associated professional development issues in the field of Economic Geography.

In addition, Dr. Vanchan has accepted to serve as chair of the Early Career Development Committee (ECDC) of the Industry Studies Association for two years. ECDC is dedicated to promoting industry studies scholarship by working to develop the community of early career scholars (nationally and internationally), who pursue

industry studies research and further their academic careers. ECDC members' institutions include Penn State University, University of Pennsylvania, New York University, Northwestern University, London Business School, and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna.

Dr. Vanchan taught a new course entitled "Globalization, Technology, Competition, and Service Economies" this past spring 2010 semester, which has been designated as one of the IF applied science/tech courses. This course is a combination of studies from various disciplines which address globalization issues; technological development and innovation; service economies and competition. It exposes students to recent studies in economic geography, information technology, and business and management. She is also teaching another new course entitled "Geographies of Development" in the Spring of 2011. This course further broadens the Geography and Planning Department's offerings in human geography and gives students a better understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of geography. It also supports the recently established Center for Southeast Asia Environment and Sustainable



Group Photo: University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Development within the department by providing students in-depth understanding of development, including its theories, history, progress, issues and challenges across space, particularly in developing areas around the world. It will expose students to a spectrum of topics, news, and recent events relating to development and help them develop critical thinking about poverty and development, especially amid globalization, on how politics, religions, cultures, people, and places help shape the

understanding of development and development outcomes in developing regions around the globe.

Dr. Vanchan co-edited a book entitled [Water Resources and Development in Southeast Asia](#). She also presented at the 2010 Annual Conference of the Industry Studies Association and published one paper and a book chapter.

Veryan Vermette Since the last newsletter, I have done quite a lot of traveling (ie: ‘living the geographer’s dream’): New York’s Adirondacks including Mount Marcy; caves and deserts in Texas; Carlsbad Cavern, White Sands National Monument, and the Guadalupe Mountains of New Mexico; the Great Dismal Swamp (and others) and Lake Drummond of Virginia and North Carolina; Puerto Vallarta, San Sebastian, and the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico; and - drum roll here - South Korea.

여보세요 (Hello – ‘awng yon ha say oh’). My ‘big trip’ this year was the two weeks in June I spent visiting my daughter in Seoul. What a *fantastic* cultural experience that was! The sights/sites (places, shrines, mountains, city)! The sounds (traffic, traffic, traffic)! The smells (good and bad were pervasive)! The food (even dog)! The crowds of people (happy, friendly, courteous, curious)! Monsoon season temperatures were in the 90-105°F range and humidity not much lower; the periods of rain were actually a welcome relief. The weather, coupled with

atmospheric pollution, left me short on stamina and the ‘ajumas’ (Korean women of middle age and older) were quite amused by my inability to skip up the mountains as they did. The Korean women were also highly amused, dare I say ‘scandalized’?, by my ‘functional’ sandals and casual dress versus their high heels and fancy dress. I don’t know which situation was more delightful: people watching, or watching people watch me! My suggestions for travelers to South Korea are to try different foods every day, buy a subway pass, expect advanced technology, and beware of ‘love hotels’!! 당신을 감사하십시오 (Thank you – ‘com som nee da’)



Buddhist Prayer Lanterns – Seoul, South Korea



Camille Holmgren

This year Camille Holmgren had a grant proposal funded by the National Geographic Society’s Committee for Research and Exploration to support her paleoecological research in Baja California, Mexico. This study, which uses

packrat middens to reconstruct vegetation and climate patterns from the last ice age until present, is being conducted along with Julio Betancourt of the U.S. Geological Survey in Tucson, Arizona and two collaborators in Mexico: Jose Delgadillo at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California and M. Cristina Peñalba at the Universidad de Sonora. The fieldwork component of this

grant was carried out during Spring Break 2010 when Dr. Holmgren traveled to the Sierra Juarez in northeastern Baja California, along with three undergraduate students from the Geography and Planning Department, to collect samples (Figure 1). In total, 81 middens were collected by the group—quite a haul! Laboratory work is ongoing, but radiocarbon analyses indicate this record contains samples dating back over 50,000 years before present and the most complete record from the ice age found in any packrat midden series to date!



Dr. Holmgren and undergraduate students Christopher Keroack and Courtney Sugg collecting a packrat midden in the Sierra Juarez, Baja California, Mexico.

Other research activities over the past year included giving invited talks at the University of Rochester in a seminar sponsored jointly by the Departments of Biology and Earth & Environmental Science and to the Niagara Frontier Biological Society. Dr. Holmgren also attended the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. where she gave an oral presentation and co-organized and chaired two sessions: *Advances in Paleoclimatology I* and *Advances in Paleoclimatology II*.

Over the past year, Dr. Holmgren also taught courses in Biogeography, World Natural Environments, BSC 101: Foundations of Inquiry, and worked with Dr. Stephen

Vermette and Professors Veryan Vermette and Karen When to develop and lead the Alpine Field Course in Fall 2010.



Charlotte Roehm

has been actively working on several projects this year. One project focuses on characterizing

the hydrology of the Woodlawn Beach wetland in order to better define the dynamics of E. Coli, nutrient and pollutant contamination. Thomas Reeverts is working on his Master’s thesis with Dr. Roehm and is focusing on developing a coupled hydrologic-biologic model of the wetland, that can be used to determine best management approaches for New York State Parks and Recreation in order to reduce nearshore Lake Erie E. Coli numbers. Dr. Roehm continued her work with the student interns on the NYSDEC funded project aimed at re-mapping NY State wetlands using GIS. Ben Bissel and Lei Cai have both been actively learning and applying the skills of wetland identification and delineation – not an easy job! More recently, Dr. Roehm was awarded an EPA funded Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant to install high-tech equipment into Lake Erie to permanently observe and monitor the water quality and physical dynamics of the lake in real-time. On the international scene, Dr. Roehm continued her collaborative research program in Northern Sweden.

In the spring semester, Charlotte in conjunction with Stephen Vermette, was awarded a Faculty-Student Award to run a

Lecture series "Artic: The Unexpected Frontier". She was also invited to present her work on ecosystem metabolism in arctic and sub-arctic watersheds, at the ASLO (American Society of Limnology and Oceanography)/NABS conference in Santa Fe, NM, in June 2010. She presented at the Buffalo State College Tenth Annual

Faculty/Staff Research and Creativity Fall Forum. More recently, following several workshops Dr. Roehm attended in Toronto, CA and Detroit, US, she has taken on the lead as

the American counterpart, along with a colleague from UB, for the TRUN (Transboundary Research University Network) water management project: "Our Water, Our Future". Dr. Roehm was co-author

on the article "Karlsson, J., T. R. Christensen, P. Crill, J. Förster, D. Hammarlund, M. Jackowicz-Korczynski, U. Kokfelt, C. Roehm, and P. Rosen (2010), Quantifying the relative importance of lake emissions in the carbon budget of a subarctic catchment, *J. of Geophys. Res.-Biogeosciences*, 115, G0300."

Over the past year, Dr. Roehm has taught courses in Conservation and Resource Management, Hydrobiogeochemistry and Soil Science and Management. She also developed a new upper division course "Watershed Pollution".

William Wieczorek a professor in the Department of Geography and Planning, is the full-time Director of the Center for Health and Social Research at Buffalo State College. Dr. Wieczorek remains highly involved in departmental activities, in addition to his overseeing a busy research center, which has ten full-time research staff. D. Wieczorek and the Center provided support for Geography Awareness Week in November of this year. In addition, he just finished a course proposal for GEG/PLN 396 Research Methods, which is scheduled to be

offered in Fall of 2011. This course is a tangible example of the cooperation between the Center and the department; it draws on the expertise of both entities to provide a methods course specifically designed for Geography and Planning majors. The course will be offered each Fall to provide a strong foundation for majors who are completing their senior thesis in the following Spring semester.

The year was also busy in terms of publications, presentations, and externally-funded projects. Dr. Wieczorek was a coauthor of publications on suicide risk factors in China (in *Psychological Medicine*), suicide ideation and neighborhood factors (in *American Journal of Psychiatric Psychiatry*), alcohol-impaired driving (in *Journal of Criminal Justice*), and risk for early drug use (*Journal of Early Adolescence*). Most notable among the conference papers were presentations at the AAG meeting on methods for analyzing neighborhood data and access to emergency care as a risk factor for suicide, and a presentation of drunk drivers and alcohol treatment at the International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety held in Oslo, Norway. He

also provided an invited workshop on impaired drivers at the Rutgers University Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation Annual Safety Forum in October 2010.

Two new funded projects have just begun at the Center. One is a Project Safe Neighborhoods grant from the Department of Justice (through a subcontract with RIT). This project supports the West Side Violence Prevention Coalition, which includes the Center and the Buffalo State College-Community Partnership Office) in efforts to reduce gang influences, drug use, and violence in the 14213 ZIP code area. Another project is creating data bases and conducting data analysis of health information and health risk factors for the Western New York Community Health Planning Institute.

Dr. Wieczorek has also continued his service as an editorial reviewer for scientific journals and for grant and contract reviews. Among the journal he reviewed for this year are *Crime Mapping: A Journal of Research and Practice*, *Addiction*, *Addictive Behaviors*, and *Prevention Science*. He was appointed a standing member of the NIH National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism,

Clinical, Treatment and Health Services Research Review Subcommittee, as well as conducting other grant reviews for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

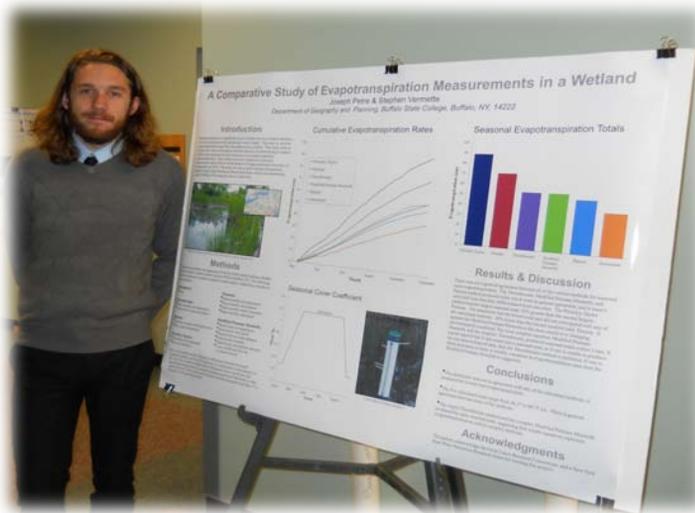


Dr. Wieczorek (on right) with Professor Antoine de Falguerolles (Univ. of Toulouse) at COMPSTAT 2010 in Paris

Student News

Fall 2010 Pumpkin Drop

In recognition of the Fall Equinox students Alyssa Russell, Aaron Boci, and Rob Moore organized our second annual pumpkin drop. Student signed the pumpkin and enjoyed cider and cookies before the pumpkin was sent hurdling to Earth. We attracted a good crowd, including students from the Physics Club, to take part in the festivities. [Click here](#) to see a video of the pumpkin drop.



Notable Accomplishments

Joseph Petre (graduate student of Stephen Vermette) presents his poster, titled: 'A Comparative Study of Evapotranspiration Measurements in a Wetland' at the 37th Annual Fall Scientific Paper Session of the Rochester Academy of Science. The poster is based on his research at Woodlawn Beach State Park.

Alumni News

Student Awards The 2010 student award winners were:

Katheryne T. Whittemore Award – Lindsey Higgins

Western NY APA Award – Keith Benes
NCGE Award in Geography – Joseph Petre
NCGE Award in Planning – Not awarded
David Bullough Memorial Award – Not Awarded

Please visit our [web site](#) for more information.

Vince Cautero '80 wrote:

"I currently work as the Administrative Services Director for Hendry County, FL where I supervise eight Departments including Planning and Zoning. I have worked in similar positions for Collier and Citrus Counties in FL and well as the City of Marco Island, FL. My first job out of graduate school (University of Illinois, 1982) was for the Missouri Cooperative Extension Service in St. Louis. This position enabled me to work with smaller communities that were in need of services but had little funds to spend on planning. I am married and have



Thanks to all Alumni who responded to our newsletters. Here is a sample of what you have told us about your careers and lives.

two teenage daughters. I am active in community activities and serve as the District Governor for Rotary International District 6960, which covers eight counties in southwest Florida."



Lindsey Higgins '09 is currently working on her Master's at Ohio State University. Some recent e-mail excerpts:

"Everything is going pretty well, and I'm keeping very busy. Ellen (Mosley-Thompson) has me working on two projects right now. I am working on a project that will end up being a melt history of a core from Greenland. I am also still working on a core from Antarctica. What I like about the Greenland project is that Ellen has pretty much let me run with it. She seems pleased with my progress so far, so that has been

really reassuring. So far I have learned how to process beta samples to test for radioactivity and right now I am learning how to run a coulter counter to look for dust particle concentrations. I'm not sure what my master's thesis topic is yet, but I have a little bit of time to figure that out".

"That summer program (Mesoscale & Climatological Studies at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY) was a really great experience and I owe a lot to it, and to you for presenting it to me. I really wouldn't be where I am without it. Having as much research experience as I did as an undergrad really opened a lot of doors for me."

Josh King '07 is a Regional Planner/RPO Coordinator/Brownfields Project Manager at Isothermal Planning and Development Commission in North Carolina. He recently wrote:

"One of the more interesting things I've had the opportunity to be involved as part of my job, is implementing a brownfields grant. It really takes some finesse and skill to move projects forward, none of which would be possible without the diverse background I

received at BSC. Exposure to the American Planning Association Conference, helped define and empower me as a planner. EPA is holding their national conference in Philadelphia this year, and as part of the conference is a sizeable poster gallery. Poster entry is free, and I hope both the environmental studies and urban planning students will participate. It would be a great chance to showcase the work done in your PLN 412 or PLN 488 classes."

Alumni: We want to hear from YOU. Please send us a note or email to let us know what you are doing.

Please feel free to send any comments or questions to our Newsletter Editor, Dr. Wende Mix, at mixwa@buffalostate.edu

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