

**Diffusion - Tuesday, October 05, 2010**

**Department of Geography  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**

The department welcomes Maureen Deisinger as our new Undergraduate Academic Adviser. Maureen comes to us from the Cranwell International Center here on campus and prior to that as an adviser for the Department of Journalism at Iowa State University. She brings great enthusiasm and will be a huge benefit to our undergraduates in getting through the major on time.

This fall find us without two familiar faces. We miss Larry Grossman after his retirement, and Kirsten de Beurs upon her move to the University of Oklahoma. We wish both our best for the future.

All of our classes remain popular this fall as enrollments continue to increase. Classes with over 100 students enrolled are: Introduction to Human Geography, World Regions, and Introduction to GIS. John Boyer is teaching his large World Regions section again this fall, this time as a hybrid on-line and live class. His enrollment as of today in that class is 2642!! In yesterday's conversation with the Dean on our 2009-2010 review, Paul commented on the quality of our teaching – clearly we are doing that with quantity as well!!

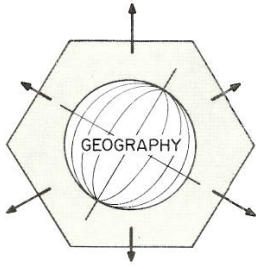
The GEA PhD. program has progressed to the point that we are beginning to distribute academic job advertisements to our graduate students. Candice Luebbering is the first Geography GEA student to write applications for the professorate. There will be others close behind. Good luck to all the GEA students on that quest.

As of Friday afternoon, October 1, 2010, we have two faculty positions posted in the jobs.vt.edu website, and with the AAG. We look forward to the new hires in Meteorology and Geospatial for the fall of 2011.

This edition's interesting link: <http://bigthink.com/ideas/24357> Interesting class discussion?

The next departmental faculty meeting will be held at 2PM on October 15 in the conference room.

*Please remember to send your news for diffusion (or an interesting link) to [carstens@vt.edu](mailto:carstens@vt.edu). Please put the word "diffusion" in the subject so I can sort them.*



**Diffusion - Thursday, October 28, 2010**

**Department of Geography  
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We welcome Maureen Deisinger to the department. Maureen is our first undergraduate adviser and she comes to us from her previous position at the Cranwell Center. Maureen has just survived her first course request advising period and is a great resource to our undergraduate students.

GEA student Emily Smith-McKenna was invited to give a paper entitled "Assessing the Impact of Blister Rust Infected Whitebark Pine in the Alpine Treelines of Glacier National Park and the Beartooth Plateau, U.S.A." at the "Global Change and the World's Mountains" conference in Perth Scotland, during the week of September 26-30, 2010. The Poole foundation helped support her participation.

Jen Porter, a Geography double major with Biology won the Austin Michelle Cloyd Memorial Honors Scholarship last year and spent a portion of last summer in Central and South America as a part of her geography degree's field experience requirement.

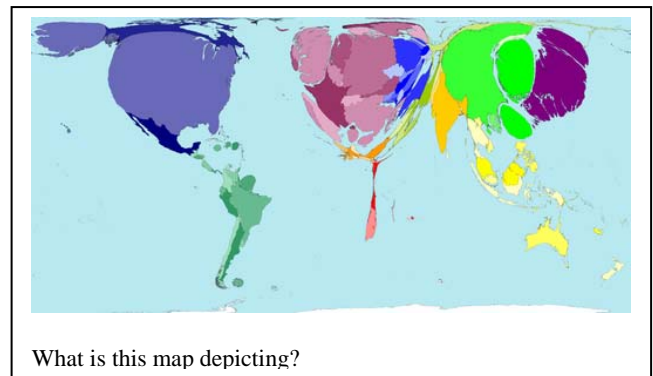
Lisa Kennedy has travelled to Morgantown, WV and to Austin and College Station, TX in the past five weeks for invited presentations.

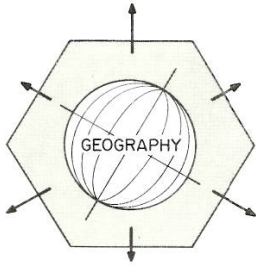
Eighteen students from Bob Oliver's class "The U.S. City" spent the weekend of October 22-24 in New York City being guided on a walking tour of Brooklyn by noted Urban Geographer Robert Lake of Rutgers University.

Jim Campbell attended the America View board meeting in Madison, WI October 9-13. He especially enjoyed a field trip to Baraboo-Devil's Lake State Park.

Interesting link the issue: WorldMapper – 696 world cartograms – by country with almost every imaginable topic. Want to make a point to a class, friend, or colleague? Look at <http://www.worldmapper.org/about.html>. Have a good site that you use? Please let me know for a future issue of Diffusion.

The department's new major in Meteorology is presently under review by the governance system at Virginia Tech. The proposal for the BS in Meteorology degree will go forward to the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia by the end of the year for a proposed launch in fall of 2011. It may be possible to grant a few Meteorology degrees as soon as the spring of 2012.





Diffusion - Wednesday, February 09, 2011

**Department of Geography  
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**Korine Kolivras** has recently returned from the NCGE meeting in Savannah Georgia with a Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award!! This is a national award made to a very limited number of professors each year. She also presented a paper on *Interpreting landscapes using webcam and field visits*.

A thankful parent of a student in **John Boyer's** geography world regions class appreciated his instruction so much the family made a financial gift to geography this week!

Former graduate student **Mindy Butterworth's** thesis research has appeared in print at Butterworth, M.K., Kolivras, K.N., Grossman, L.S., and Redican, K.J. 2010. Knowledge, perceptions, and practices: Mosquito-borne disease transmission in southwest Virginia, USA. *The Southeastern Geographer* 50(3): 366-385.

**Baojuam Zheng**, a doctoral student in the GEA program working with Jim Campbell, was the grand prize winner of the ASPRS Nomination Campaign and has won an all expenses paid trip to the ASPRS national conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin next May.

The department of geography has three students participating in the College of Natural Resources and Environment's Leadership Institute: **Walker Baldwin**, a senior geography major from Huddleston, Va., **Lydia Eggleston**, a junior geography major from Danville, Va., and **Patrick Trail**, a junior geography major from Richmond, Va.

The department's 2011 outstanding awards have been named: Geography's Outstanding Senior is **Kathryn Procriv**, and our David W. Smith Service Award winner is **Kaitlin Morano**.

The department's undergraduate students in the university honors program this year are: **Katherine Barnes**, **Whitney Clark**, **Kirsten Miller**, and **Matthew Robinson**.

**Mark McKenzie**, a double major with PUA has been selected as a summer orientation leader for the upcoming summer.

The Geography department is pleased to report that we are back in the growth mode with an expected return to eight tenure track lines by the fall of 2011, including a new line in

Meteorology, and a second line in Geospatial Analysis. We are in the midst of interviews for a new Meteorologist faculty member this week with two interviews: Monday-Wednesday we are hosting **Drew Ellis** from Arizona State University, and Wednesday – Friday, we host **Nathan Moore** from Michigan State University. **Grady Dixon** from Mississippi State University spent January 26-28 with us. Next week we begin interviews for our Geospatial position. Our three candidates for that position are **Christopher Lippitt** visiting February 16-18 from San Diego State University, **Yang Shao**, visiting February 21-23 from UNC-Chapel Hill, and **Hua Liu**, visiting February 23-25 from Old Dominion University.

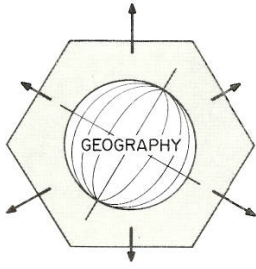
*They are everywhere. The history of American business is full of early family businesses started by one or two partners which have become national giants due to franchising. This set will test your knowledge of businesses that we see everywhere in the US today, but which all began somewhere. But where? For each of the following very familiar parts of the American landscape, you are to identify the STATE in which the first store opened.*



(answers on next page)

Home Depot – **Georgia** (Atlanta)  
Hardees – **North Carolina** (Greenville)  
A&W – **California** (Lodi)  
Shoney's – **West Virginia** (Charleston)  
Subway – **Connecticut** (Bridgeport)  
La Quinta – **Texas** (San Antonio)

Lowes – **North Carolina** (North Wilkesboro)  
McDonalds – **Illinois** (Des Plaines) - also accept **California** (original McDonald brother's site in San Bernardino)  
Wendy's – **Ohio** (Columbus)  
Carl's – **California** (Los Angeles)  
Pizza Hut – **Kansas** (Wichita)  
Marriott – **Virginia** (Arlington)



Diffusion - Friday, February 25, 2011

Special International Presence Edition

Department of Geography  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

John Boyer and Klaus Shmidheiser's characterization of Muammar al-Gaddafi from the Plaid Avenger website (below) has been adopted by protestors in Egypt (far below).

Muammar al-Gaddafi | World Leaders | The Plaid Avenger - Mozilla Firefox

http://plaidavenger.com/leaders/profile/muammar-al-gaddafi/

World Leaders | Previous Muammar al-Gaddafi Next

## Muammar al-Gaddafi

Colonel, De Facto Leader of Libya

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
IN-COUNTRY POWER										
INTERNATIONAL POWER										
RESPECT										
MILITARY STRENGTH										
INTELLIGENCE										
SPECIAL SKILL: MURDEROUS MAD DOG										

Official Stats

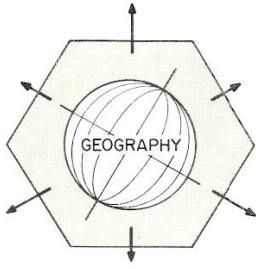
Name | Muammar Abu Minwar al-Gaddafi

Plaidavenger.com



A Libyan protester burns a poster of Libyan Leader Moammar Gadhafi, during a protest in front of the Libyan embassy in Cairo, Egypt, Monday Feb. 21, 2011.





Diffusion - Monday, April 25, 2011

**Department of Geography  
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- **Lynn Resler** has been asked to serve on the College of Natural Resources and Environment's Water Resources program planning committee to develop a new degree in water to be housed in the college.
- Several graduate student authored manuscripts have or are about to appear in the literature:

**McManamay, R.**, Resler, L.M., Campbell, J.B. 2011. Assessing the impacts of balsam woolly adelgid and anthropogenic disturbance on the stand structure and mortality of Fraser fir in the Black Mountains, North Carolina. *Castanea* (In Press).

**Smith, E.K.**, Resler, L.M., Vance, E. Carstensen, W., and Kolivras, K. 2010. Modeling the Incidence of White Pine Blister Rust Infection in Whitebark Pine at Alpine Treeline in the Northern Rocky Mountains using GIS. *Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research*. (In Press).

**Stine, M.B.**, Resler, L.M. and Campbell, J. B. 2010. Vegetation and soil patterns of a Southern Appalachian, mountain wetland ecotone. *Catena* (In Press).

**Hudson-Dunn, A.**, de Beurs, K.M., 2011. Land Surface Phenology of North American Mountain Environments Using Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer data. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, vol. 115(5), p1220-1233.

- Congratulations to our Geography graduate student winners at this year's **OGIS poster Competition**. OGIS is the campus affinity group for Geospatial Information Technologies and hosts a symposium every spring.

First Place: **Matej Muza**

*Development of a Spatial Decision Support System for Emergency Medical Service Facility Siting*

Second Place: **Baojuan Zheng**

*Using Sequential Landsat Imagery to Improve Monitoring of Conservation Agriculture*

- Congratulations to Peter Sforza for winning the XCaliber Award for Integrating technology into teaching. Peter received the award in recognition of his course, Geography 4984/5984: Web Mapping

- We also recognized three of graduate students at this year's recent College of Natural Resources and Environment awards banquet:

Outstanding MS Student: **Matej Muza**

Outstanding PhD. student: **Candice Luebbering** (Candice also won the award as the college's outstanding PhD. student for 2011. She is our first PhD. student to complete her program in the department)

A.B. Massey Award: **Emily Smith.**

Outstanding GTA: **Stewart Scales**

- A record number of members of the department made presentations at the recent AAG National meeting in Seattle:

**Erica E. Adams:** *Operationalizing Scale in Watershed-based Stormwater Management*

**Keri Agriesti & Maria Elisa Christie, Ph.D.:** *Political Ecology, Gendered Landscapes, and Sense of Place: Local Soil Knowledge and Access to Agricultural Resources in Smallholder Farming Communities in Cochabamba District, Bolivia*

**Arvind Aniel Rombawa Bhuta & Lisa M. Kennedy, Ph.D.:** *Climate-radial growth relationships for a second-growth pine forest in the Alabama Fall Line Hills*

**Bill Carstensen** – *World Geography Bowl* (Bill was recognized for his 10 years of service to the WGB and AAG after the bowl was completed)

**Jiaxun Chai & Kirsten M de Beurs** - University of Oklahoma: *A phenological comparison of GIMMS AVHRR NDVI, MODIS NDVI, and SPOT NDVI*

**Lauren N Franklin, Lynn M Resler & James B Campbell, PhD :** *Landscape pattern and white pine blister rust incidence in whitebark pine at alpine treelines of the Northern Rocky Mountains, USA*

**Lisa M. Kennedy, Michael Burn** - University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, **Allison Bain** - Université Laval, Québec, Canada, **Allison LeBlanc, Anne-Marie Faucher** - Université Laval, Québec, Canada & **Sophia Perdikaris** - Brooklyn College, New York, United States: *Long-term Human Ecodynamics of Barbuda/Antigua from Sedimentary and Archaeological Records*

**Lauren Kimbrell, Korine Kolivras & Candice Luebbering:** *Access to healthy living opportunities in Danville, VA*

**Korine N. Kolivras, Candice R. Luebbering & Lynn M. Resler:** *Evaluating differences in landscape interpretation between webcam and field-based experiences*



**Allison LeBlanc, Lisa Kennedy, & Kam-biu Liu, Ph.D.** - Louisiana State University: *A 1000-yr record of fire, hurricanes, and erosion events from a coastal lagoon in southwestern Dominican Republic*

Paul Knox, Jim Bohland, **Link Elmore, Peter Sforza & Larry Shumsky**: *Dynamics of an Urban Health Care System: Case of San Francisco 1880 to 1930*

**Candice Luebbering**: *Visualizing linguistic diversity through cartography (award winner from the 2011 Student Illustrated Paper Competition Sponsored by the Remote Sensing/GIS/Cartography Specialty Groups)*

**Jess Martin** (Jess is an undergraduate major) & Maria Elisa Christie: *Space and Place through Soils: Participatory Mapping, Ethnopedology, and the importance of Local & Gendered Knowledge*

**Tammy Parece**: *Promoting environmentally relevant behavior in a university's on-campus residence halls*

**Brent S. Sams, Lisa M. Kennedy, Stewart Scales, Allison LeBlanc, Arvind A.R. Bhuta, Lauren Franklin, Keri Agriesti, David Selnick & Dan Goff** - *Potential for long-term fire history from charcoal preserved in small wetlands on Warm Springs Mountain, Virginia*

**Brent Sams**: Potential for long-term fire history from charcoal preserved in small wetlands on Warm Springs Mountain, Virginia

**Stewart A Scales & Lisa M Kennedy**: *Spatial patterns of soil charcoal deposition after a prescribed fire on Middle Mountain, VA*

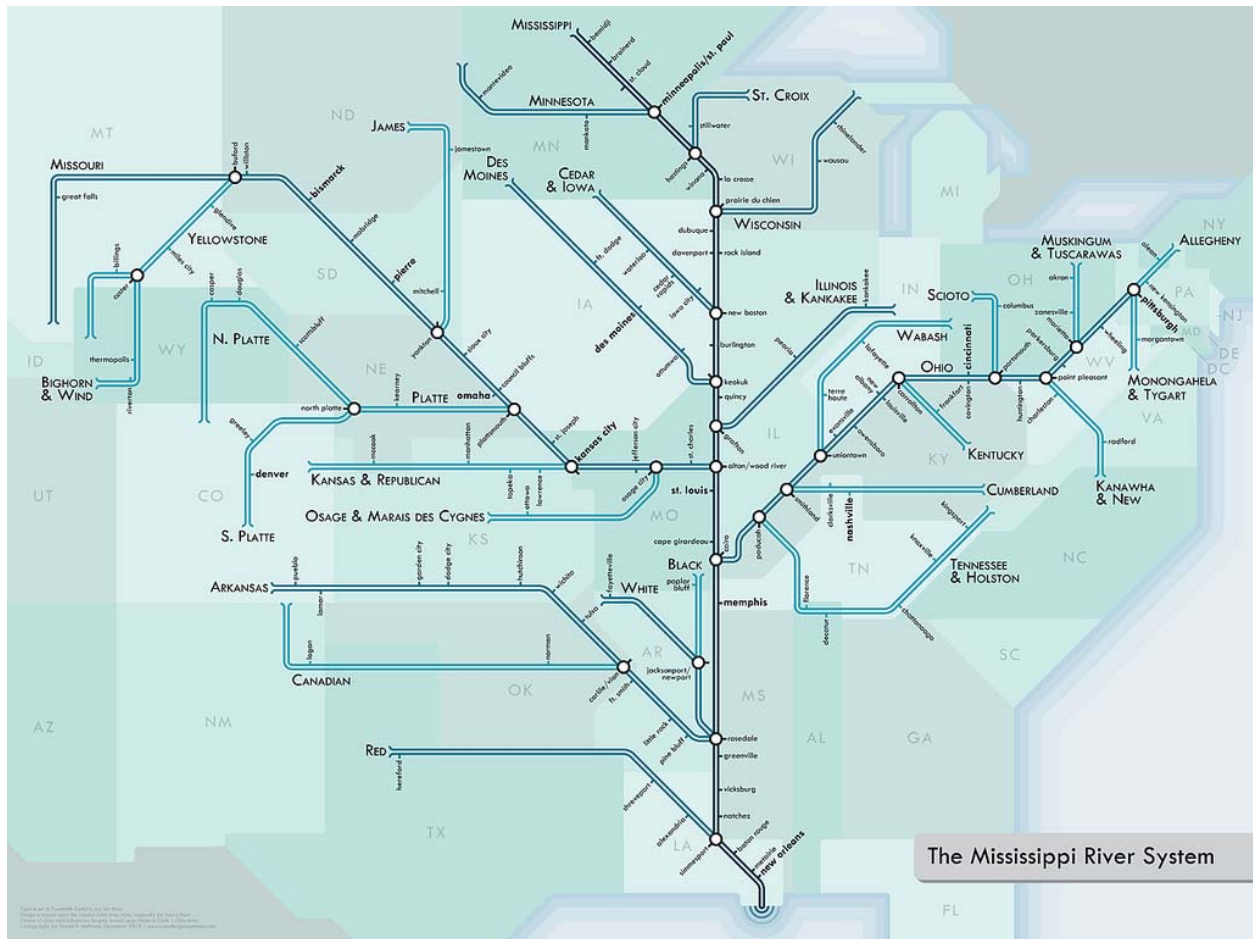
**Emily K. Smith-McKenna & Lynn M. Resler**: *Blister Rust Infected Whitebark Pine in the Alpine Treelines of Glacier National Park and the Beartooth Plateau, U.S.A.*

**Baojuan Zheng & James B. Campbell**: *Mapping Agricultural Tillage Practices Using Multi-temporal Remote Sensing Imagery*

- This month's interesting Geography:

How about a "metro" style river system map of the Mississippi? (Found at the Strange Maps blog: <http://bigthink.com/ideas/26914>)

If you like to look at strange maps, you can sign up for a weekly dose at <http://bigthink.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f4d80d83b2b3a40cbc4ddaf7a&id=d8638373f1>.



*This map shows that riverine network in the manner of Harry Beck's oft-imitated 1930s London Underground map. Like Beck's map, this one uses straight lines, and a limited choice of angles (45° and 90°) to simplify geography for the benefit of clarity. At one glance, the whole tangled mess of tributary rivers, and twists in the main river itself, becomes much clearer.*

Would you agree? Is this the future? Is topology more important than shape?