



DEPARTMENT OF  
**GEOGRAPHY**

College of Arts and Sciences

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# Geography Newsletter

Winter 2021

## Geography Scholarships and Awards

The Geography Department would like to announce the following Awards and Scholarship winners for 2020-21, who will be recognized at the Awards Gathering on April 30:

- John F. Rooney, Jr. Scholarship for Outstanding Junior: **Caitlin Brooks**, Global Studies major with American Sign Language and Public Health minors.
- CAS Outstanding Senior: **Monique Walker**, Global Studies/Political Science double-major with an Economics minor.
- Robert F. Norris Scholarship for Outstanding 1<sup>st</sup> Year Graduate Student: **Ofuje Amune**, Geography PhD Student.
- Jerry Croft and Family Award in Geographic Education: **Stephanie Grace**, Geography MS Student.
- Dee Family Scholarship: **Philip Jones**, Geography freshman.
- Robert and Lucy Fite Scholarship: **Elizabeth Castillo**, Geography freshman
- Susan Shaull Medal for Outstanding GTA: TBA on April 29.

### Travel Awards for 2021-22:

- Stephen W. Tweedie Travel Award: **Clayton Lucas**, Geography PhD student, who hopes to travel to the UK in summer 2021.
- Alyson L. Greiner Undergraduate Travel Award: **Mike Lampkin**, Global Studies major.

## Upcoming Events

While February went out like a lamb, March and April are roaring back like lions!

- Friday, March 26, 3:30 PM – Zoom – **Department Meeting**
- Monday, March 29, 3 PM – Zoom – **Kianoosh Hassani**, PhD Student, will defend his dissertation proposal titled “Application of Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) in Monitoring Agricultural Crops During the Growing Season.” Dr. Hamed Gholizadeh, Chair.
- **AAG Annual Meeting** – virtual conference April 7-11
- Tuesday, April 13 – **Student Wellness Day** – no classes, but campus is open
- Friday, April 23, 5 PM – Student Union Ballroom – **2021 College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Awards Banquet**
- Thursday, April 29, 5 PM – Basement Auditorium (035 SSH) – **2021 Geography Awards Gathering**. See last page for this newsletter for details.
- Friday, May 7 – **2021 Spring Graduate College Commencement Ceremony**
- Saturday, May 8 – **2021 Spring Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies**

## Departmental News

On February 2, 2021, **Dr. Dale Lightfoot** officially became Professor Emeritus upon his retirement. Dale joined the department in 1994 and served as Head from 2000-2017.

**Dr. Thomas LaVanchy** published an article: LaVanchy, GT, JK Adamson, and MW Kerwin (2021). Integrating groundwater for water security in Cape Town, South Africa. In A. Mukherjee, B. Scanlon, A. Aureli, S. Langan, H. Guo, and A. McKenzie (Eds.), *Global Groundwater: Source, Scarcity, Sustainability, Security and Solutions*. Amsterdam, Netherlands: Elsevier, pp. 439-449.

**Dr. Tom Wikle** and Diana Sinton (Cornell University) recently published an article about academic cartography in the journal, *Cartography and Geographic Information Science*: "Where have the cartographers gone? The status of cartography instruction within U.S. geography departments and programs."

**Dr. Jackie Vadjunec** recently presented on the Ethical Spatial Analytics webinar. The inaugural webinar was part of a series in a broader, multi-year initiative on ethics in geographic research being jointly organized by The American Association of Geographers, Esri, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the Spatial Analysis Research Center (SPARC) at Arizona State University. The video of my talk and all the talks in the session, as well as more information on the series, is [here](#).

PhD Candidate **Samayita Bandyopadhyay** successfully defended her dissertation "Land-Use/Land-Cover Change and Vulnerability to Landslides in Kurseong, Darjeeling Himalayas, India" on January 29, 2021. Her advisor is Dr. Jackie Vadjunec with committee members Dr. Dale Lightfoot, Dr. Adam Mathews (Western Michigan), and Dr. Duane Gill (SOC).

## Recent publications by Dr. Carlos Cordova

*Ancient Mesoamerica*, page 1 of 16, 2021  
Copyright © The Author(s), 2021. Published by Cambridge University Press  
doi:10.1017/S0956536120000322

### LACUSTRINE DYNAMICS AND *TLATEL*-TYPE SETTLEMENTS FROM MIDDLE FORMATIVE TO LATE AZTEC IN THE EASTERN PART OF LAKE TEXCOCO, MEXICO

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#### Abstract

In the territories of the former lakes in the Basin of Mexico, a *tlatel* was an insular settlement associated with the exploitation of lacustrine resources. This study examines the stratigraphy and geomorphological context of three *tlateles* in the eastern part of the former Lake Texcoco and correlates their phases of development with regional paleoclimatic trends from the seventh century B.C. to the sixteenth century. The results of this research indicate that fluvio-lacustrine (i.e., deltaic) sedimentation and freshwater springs in the lake basin were important features for the establishment of *tlatel* settlements in the highly dynamic and saline lacustrine environment. The formation and abandonment of the studied *tlateles* correlate with changes in other settlements and developments recorded in other parts of Lake Texcoco. Sites and sediments in the eastern part of Lake Texcoco provide proxy information on the lacustrine changes that accompanied the development of Tenochtitlan and other lacustrine settlements in its western part.



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### Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/palaeo](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/palaeo)



### A 14000 year multi-proxy alluvial record of ecotone changes in a Fynbos-Succulent Karoo transition in South Africa

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#### ARTICLE INFO

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#### ABSTRACT

To address long-standing questions concerning Southern Hemisphere climate dynamics and palaeoecological change in southern Africa, a Late Glacial-Holocene alluvial sediment sequence from the relatively dry interior year-round rainfall zone in South Africa was investigated. The study site borders the Fynbos biome and Succulent Karoo biome ecotone, and comprises a rare stratified sequence of sandy and organic-rich silt deposits, shown to span the last 14,000 years. A high resolution multi-proxy record of ecological change was derived using pollen, phytoliths and organic geochemical analyses. For the period 14–11 ka, significant valley aggradation occurred under relatively drier conditions, followed, during the early and middle Holocene, by alternating phases of humid and dry events with higher stream energy, slower accumulation or subtle seasonality changes. A transition from relatively humid to more arid conditions at 4–3 ka is identified and is consistent in timing with several interior year-round rainfall zone records. Results revealed alternations of fynbos and karroid elements and C<sub>3</sub>/C<sub>4</sub> grasses throughout the last fourteen thousand years, but did not suggest large-scale biome shifts. The record joins a growing number of sites contributing to debate over the complex inter-hemispheric seasonality of palaeoclimate

## 2020-21 Awards Gathering

On April 29, the annual Geography Awards Gathering will take place in the basement auditorium (SSH 035) starting at 5 PM. Unlike years past, no refreshments will be served. The Awards Ceremony will start at 5:15 and Gamma Theta Upsilon inductions immediately thereafter. Nearly \$16,500 of awards and scholarships will be recognized:

### 2020-21 Recognition Awards:

- John F. Rooney, Jr., Scholarship for Outstanding Junior
- A&S Outstanding Senior
- Robert E. Norris Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding 1<sup>st</sup> Year Graduate Student
- Jerry Croft and Family Award in Geographic Education
- Dee Family Scholarship
- Robert and Lucy Fite Scholarship
- Susan Shaull Medal for Excellence in Teaching

### 2021-22 Travel Awards:

- Alyson L. Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship
- Stephen W. Tweedie Travel Award

Other awards and honors earned by students, staff, or faculty (on campus or off) will be recognized, so if you received some type of award or scholarship in the past year, please let [Jon Comer](#) know so he can add it to the list to be announced at the Gathering.



**2020-21  
GEOGRAPHY  
AWARDS  
GATHERING**

**WHEN:** THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021, 5:00-6:00 PM  
(Awards presentation and will begin at 5:15)

**WHERE:** 035 SSH (BASEMENT AUDITORIUM)