



**Chair's Column**

***Rebuilding time...two new faculty***



Last year was spent searching for two new colleagues to join the geography faculty. Everyone was excited and flattered when Tetsuo Kobayashi (left) and Joe

Pierce agreed to start their tenure-track academic careers with us in August 2011. Tetsuo defended his doctorate on space-time models at the University of Utah under the auspicious gaze of his supervisor Dr. Harvey Miller, while Joe completed his on urban sustainability at Clark University working with Dr. Deborah Martin. Both come to us with the desire to strengthen our reputation in spatial



analytical research and to build our growing prominence in urban-environmental interactions. And both come to us during a particularly sad period which has seen Lisa Jordan, Tony Stallins and Kelly Watson all leave for new pastures. Lisa is heading to New Jersey while Tony and Kelly will be Kentuckians at Lexington and Richmond respectively.

Our programs remain as popular as ever. The geography major and environmental studies major are both serving a sizeable student body, keen to explore and understand how global changes are affecting society and how modern computer-based methods help to represent and visualize these changes. Indeed our focus on computer techniques and geographic information systems was further underlined last year with the launch of the online graduate certificate in geographic information systems. We now have over 80 graduate students, 40 of which focus on GIS, as well as 22 doctoral students.

Victor Mesev

## Faculty News



**Victor Mesev**, Professor & Chair, Bellamy 323A  
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Victor attended the GIScience conference in Zurich and was invited to the NSF-sponsored workshop on Urban Remote Sensing in Phoenix, AZ. He is in his fifth year as departmental chair and teaches classes on advanced GIScience and map analysis.

**Jim Elsner**, Shaw Professor, Bellamy 310, 850/644-8374  
jelsner@fsu.edu.

At the time of writing, Jim was again on his annual storm chase across the Great Plains. Over the year, his international fame took him to Switzerland, Bermuda, Greece, Norway and San Francisco where he presented work on climate change and strong hurricanes, and consulted with insurance companies. At home he continues to teach courses on quantitative methods courses, programming and storm chasing. Jim will be focusing on writing a book during his two-semester sabbatical next year.



**Phil Steinberg**, Professor, Bellamy 305, 850/644-8378  
psteinbe@fsu.edu

After five years Phil finally stepped down as director of FSU's Living-Learning Community. Many thanks for his dedicated service. Fortunately, he continues his sterling efforts for the United Faculty of Florida, especially crucial during these uncertain times. Phil's dedication to his graduate students was officially recognized when he was bestowed with one of the four FSU mentor wards—congratulations! And yet he still has time to travel to cold places and to

investigate the Deepwater Horizon disaster.



**Jay Baker**, Associate Professor, Bellamy 303 850/644-8380  
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Jay gave a number of talks on evacuations and public response to hurricane warnings. He teaches courses in natural hazards and physical geography.

**Tony Stallins**, Associate Professor, Bellamy 317A  
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Our loss of Tony is the University of Kentucky's gain. We all wish him well on his new adventure and thank him humbly for his decade of service to FSU, where he has been involved in dozens of graduate student committees, won university-wide teaching awards for classes such as biogeography and research methods, and written a truckful of peer-respected papers. We'll miss you!



**Xiaojun Yang**, Associate Professor, Bellamy 321, 850/644-8373  
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Xiaojun continues his dedication to international committees; Cartographic Association, Autocarto, and the Geographical Union, and as a guest at China's National Laboratory on Urban and Regional Ecology during his sabbatical. He also edited a Wiley-Blackwell book on *Urban Remote Sensing*, and co-edited a Springer book on *Advances in Earth Observation of Global Change*.

**Mark Horner** Associate Professor, Graduate Director, Bellamy 306  
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Mark continues his excellent service as director of graduate studies. His research attracted funding from two sources: a dental project from the University of Kansas Medical Center and a huge 3-year grant with Joni Downs (PhD 2008) from the NSF titled, *Developing a statistical time geography for analyzing animal movements and interactions*.



**Lisa Jordan**, Assistant Professor, Bellamy 311 850/644-8386  
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Our fondest farewell to Lisa, her husband Jason and son Jake who will be moving to New Jersey in August. The Department would like to express its deepest appreciation for all her dedicated work teaching valuable classes on GIS, medical geography and social science applications of GIS. Her infectious smile will be missed!

**Tingting Zhao**, Assistant Professor, Bellamy 304 850/644-8379  
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Tingting welcomed her first baby, Audrey in March. She is taking a well deserved break from daily duties, but over the year Tingting still managed to help produce two papers for the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. Both are derived from her work on carbon emissions stemming from the IESES (Institute for Energy Systems Economics and Sustainability) project. She also contributed a class to our new online GIS certificate and oversaw her first graduate student defend their thesis.

**Kelly Watson**, Instructor, Bellamy 309, 850/644-8375, kcw03c@fsu.edu  
Kelly is also leaving and will be sorely missed, but we are proud of her securing



an assistant professorship at East Kentucky University. We would like to thank her for her amazing advising skills (the undergrads admire, respect and fear her!) and for teaching topical classes on food & environment and local/global issues. Personally, I have lost my afternoon coffee buddy.

**Patrick O'Sullivan**, Emeritus Professor, Bellamy 302, 850/644-8381. Pat teaches classes on Europe and Britain & Ireland.

**Mort Winsberg**, Emeritus Professor. Mort teaches classes on Latin America and Florida.

**John Fradel**, Adjunct. John continues to teach our very large classes on World Geography, Europe, and the Middle East. He has become important as a member of the course curriculum committee.

The Department would also like to thank the following for their excellent adjunct teaching: **Rich Miller, Scott Weisman, John Morgan, George Cole, Catherine Howard, Genevieve Brackins and Aaron Binns.**

### Graduate Student News

**Baerbel Bischof** (PhD 2010) successfully defended her dissertation, *"The coral reef environmental "crisis": Negotiating knowledge in scientific uncertainty and geographic difference."*

**Dan McGowin** (PhD 2011) successfully defended his dissertation, *"National identity in a 'state' of limbo: scale, surrogation and identity in Taiwan."* And congratulations for securing a tenure-track position as assistant professor at Alabama State.

**John Morgan** (PhD 2010) successfully defended his dissertation, *"A visual time-geographic approach to crime mapping."* And congratulations for winning Best Poster at the GIScience Conference in Zurich, Switzerland in September

2010. John is a GIS Developer at the FL House of Representatives and an adjunct with us.

**Christopher Whitaker** (PhD 2011) successfully defended his dissertation, "*The domino theory In the popular geopolitics of the US news media, 1989-2009.*" And is currently an assistant professor at Daytona State College.

Congratulations to **Heather Gamper** for being selected as one of the recipients of the Graduate Student Research and Creativity Awards.

Congratulations to **Libin Zhou** for being the lead author of *An assessment of internal neural network parameters affecting image classification* to be published in *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*. This is her second paper in an international premier academic journal in remote sensing.

#### Staff

Thanks to our front office staff, **Brenda Daniels Lamb**, **Christina Dippre** and the college GIS technician, **Shawn Lewers** for keeping the Department ticking over.

#### Departmental Publications

**Jay Baker** 2011 Household preparedness for hurricane aftermath in Florida *Applied Geography* 31

T Jagger and **Jim Elsner** 2010 A consensus model for seasonal hurricane prediction *Journal of Climate* 23

K Scheitlin, **Jim Elsner**, S Lewers, J Malmstadt and T Jagger 2011 Risk assessment of hurricane winds for Eglin Air Force Base in northwestern Florida, USA *Theoretical and Applied Climatology*

T Jagger, **Jim Elsner** and K Burch 2011 Climate and solar signals in property damage losses from hurricanes affecting the United States

#### Natural Hazards

**Mark Horner**, I Casas and J Downs 2010 Exploration of a polygon decomposition technique based on the ordinary Voronoi diagram *Annals of GIS* 16

**Mark Horner**, **Tingting Zhao** and T Chapin 2011 Exploring opportunities for GIScience in the age of climate change and energy sustainability: towards a Research Agenda *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*

C Coutts, **Mark Horner** and T Chapin 2010 Using GIS to model the effects of green space accessibility on mortality in Florida *Geocarto International* 25

J Downs and **Mark Horner** 2011 A Comparison of trajectory- and Euclidean-based kernel methods for home range analysis *International Journal of GIS*

**Lisa Jordan**, B Watkins, P Biegon, M Mwangi and R Rose 2010 Practical approaches to spatial estimation of disaster-affected populations *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research* 1

**Victor Mesev** 2011 Exploring the temporal lag between the structure and function of urban areas. In Xiaojun Yang (Ed) *Urban Remote Sensing: Monitoring, Synthesis and Modeling in the Urban Environment* Wiley-Blackwell

**Victor Mesev** 2010 Classification of urban areas: inferring land use from the interpretation of land cover In T Rashed and C Jurgens (Eds) *Remote Sensing of Urban and Suburban Areas* Berlin: Kluwer

A Ignatius and **Tony Stallins** 2011 Assessing spatial hydrological data integration to characterize geographic trends in small reservoirs in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river basin *Southeastern Geographer*

**Tony Stallins**, M Nesius, M Smith and **Kelly Watson** 2010 Biogeomorphic characterization of floodplain forest change in response to reduced flows along the Apalachicola River, *Florida River Research and Applications* 26

M Bentley, W Ashley and **Tony Stallins** 2010 Climatological radar delineation of urban convection for Atlanta, Georgia *International Journal of Climatology* 30

**Phil Steinberg** 2011 The Deepwater Horizon, the Mavi Marmara, and the dynamic zonation of ocean-space *The Geographical Journal*

G Hannes, **Phil Steinberg**, J Tash, S Fabiano and R Shields 2010 Contested sovereignty in a changing Arctic *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 100

J O'Loughlin, P Raento, J Sidaway and **Phil Steinberg** 2011 Academic reterritorializations: gatekeeping, power, and responsibility *Political Geography*

**Xiaojun Yang** (Ed) 2011 *Urban Remote Sensing: Monitoring, Synthesis and Modeling in the Urban Environment* Wiley-Blackwell

**Xiaojun Yang** 2011 Parameterizing support vector machines for land cover classification *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing* 77

**Xiaojun Yang** and L Chen 2010 Using multi-temporal remote sensor imagery to detect earthquake-triggered landslides *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation* 12

L Zhou and **Xiaojun Yang** 2010 Training Algorithm performance for image classification by artificial neural networks *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing* 76

**Tingting Zhao**, **Mark Horner** and J Sulik 2011 A geographic approach to sectoral carbon

inventory: examining the balance between consumption-based emissions and land-use carbon sequestration in Florida *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*

**Tingting Zhao** 2011 Impacts of urban growth on vegetation carbon sequestration In Xiaojun Yang (Ed) *Urban Remote Sensing: Monitoring, Synthesis and Modeling in the Urban Environment* Wiley-Blackwell

### Support FSU Geography

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