



### *From the President*

**Marianne Wright**

The 2016 Friends of Geography luncheon was held in the Faculty Center on Sunday, May 22. The gathering opened with a welcome from President Marianne Wright, who gave a brief review of the history of FOG, which had been started by the late Geography Professor Tom McKnight in the 1980's. Marianne introduced the FOG Board and announced our fall special event – an October 22 Downtown walk led by Board member Bill Selby. The twelve first-time attendees then introduced themselves; we were delighted to have such a varied group joining us as well as former FOG president Bob Sarto and his wife Harriet. A tasty lunch and much convivial chatting followed.



FoG members enjoying conversation and lunch

After the meal Marianne introduced our 2015 scholarship winners, invited attendees to consider joining the Board, and turned the meeting over to Department Chair Laurence Smith who spoke of the strength of the Department in teaching, scholarship, and public outreach. Highlights are included below.



Prof. John Agnew,  
Keynote Speaker

See "From the Chair" for additional department news.

#### **FACULTY HONORS:**

- Tony Orme, Dickson Emeritus Award
- Judy Carney and team, Lemelson Award for Innovative Digital Projects in Social Research, which will fund a short film about their work on mangroves in West Africa
- Michael Storper, Founders Medal of the Royal Geographical Society

#### **FACULTY TEACHING, RESEARCH AND MEDIA CONTACTS:**

- Research is being done in the fields of urban studies, the California drought, heat waves, drones, and technology dissemination patents.
- Department members have had articles, letters, and commentary published in the LA Times, the NY Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Washington Post, and presented on NPR and KPCC, among others.

#### **STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS:**

- Students have been selected for numerous awards and fellowships and have been hired at Cornell, the University of Massachusetts Amherst and UCSB.

#### **ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENT NEWS:**

- Beloved Professors Norman Thrower and Charlie Bennett, both in their 90's, could not be with us but remain inspiring.
- Deaths—Dr. Anna Dvorak, who earned her Ph.D. from the Department and died in a mountain climbing accident
- The Society of Women Geographers has ended its 38-year awards program.



(L to R) Long time supporters of FoG Rosemary and Reese Benson and Judith and Gerald Tyner

The meeting continued with Professor John Agnew's very timely presentation on "The 2016 Presidential Election: Why Geography Matters and What to Expect". Dr. Agnew made many interesting points, key among them was the unpredictability of this year's contest due to its failure to follow the



(L to R) FoG member Anthony Hoffman and recent graduate KeBonye Dintwe

usual models in having an electorate that seems to be attracted more by performance than policies, in the importance of racial politics, in the end of the US as the center of the liberal world order, and in an increasing concern about income inequality.

Dr. Agnew then spoke of three aspects of elections as "geographical events" — the geography of partisan polarization as exemplified by the Red State/Blue State divide, the geography of primaries and caucuses with their low turnouts, and the Electoral College with information supported by maps based on simulations of several possible scenarios. Subsequent questions from the audience brought up multiple issues:

- Candidates' high unfavorability ratings,
- The possibility that Donald Trump's unusual route to the nomination or that the heavy influence of caucuses despite their small number of participants might change future procedures,
- Whether the fact that the "electoral middle" is not being represented this year might create an opening for a third party,
- The effect of women voters' distaste for Donald Trump,
- The best approach for the Republican National Committee in a year without stable core issues,
- The possibility that California might attempt to move its primary to an earlier date in an effort to have more impact on candidate selection, and
- The changing demography of the electorate.

Following enthusiastic applause from the audience, Marianne thanked Professor Agnew and all who support the Department.

To travel is to discover that everyone is wrong about other countries.

— ALDOUS HUXLEY



*From the Chair*

**Professor and Chair**

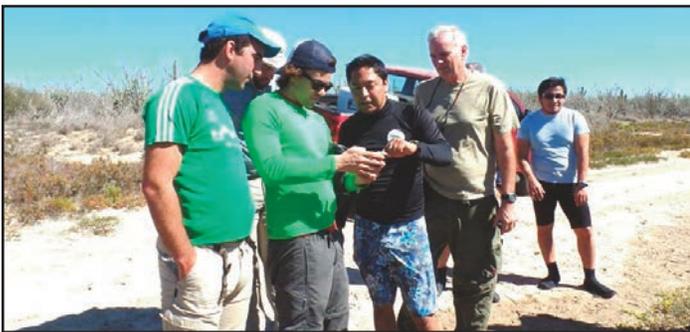
**Laurence Smith**

I am pleased to report that 2016 was a banner year for our world-class faculty, students, visiting scholars, and alumni of the UCLA Department of Geography. As just a few examples, some sample highlights of timely, impactful research conducted in the department includes a remarkably prescient new book by Professor Eric Sheppard, "Limits to Globalization: Geographical disruptions of capitalist development" (Oxford University Press, 2016). Other high profile research discoveries include UCLA geographers linking the prolonged California drought to climate warming and Pacific sea surface temperature, a provocative discovery that was featured in Nature, The Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times. UCLA geographers conducted a field expedition to study melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet that was featured in The New Yorker magazine. Numerous other examples of cutting-edge geographical research by UCLA students and faculty appeared across the leading scholarly journals and book presses of our discipline.

The department continues to excel in teaching. Professor Thomas Gillespie won the UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest honor for undergraduate teaching offered on our campus. We continue to grow our offering of online classes in GIS and geospatial technology, under the leadership of Professor Michael Shin and Academic Coordinator Nick Burkhart. These new courses are now offered not only to UCLA students, but across the UC system and to the general public via UCLA Extension. We also offer an online GIS certificate attractive for returning and professional students (for more see [gis.ucla.edu](http://gis.ucla.edu)). We continue to offer a full range of courses across the spectrum of geography to serve the broader UCLA campus as well as our Geography and Geography/Environmental Studies undergraduate majors. Community outreach by UCLA geography faculty and students includes numerous interactions with the broader public through public lectures, online forums, book reviews, and Op-Eds. Several UCLA Geography PhD students accepted faculty positions last year including at highly ranked institutions like UC Santa

Barbara, Cornell, UMass-Amherst and others, where they will apply the training and experience they received at UCLA to other undergraduate and graduates students in some of the world's best universities.

Numerous recognitions and honors were awarded to UCLA Geography faculty, students, visitors and alumni. These include election of Professor Glen MacDonald to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and election of Professor Yongkang Xue as Fellow of the American Meteorological Society. Assistant Professors Daniela Cusack and Kyle Cavanaugh won a Department of Energy Early Career Award and NASA New Investigator Award, respectively. Professor John Agnew was selected as one (of just two) 2016-2017 Faculty Research Lecture awards. As part of this award, he will deliver the 122nd Faculty Research Lecture titled "Is There a Post-Place Politics?" on March 9, 2017. This campus-wide event is one UCLA's most respected occasions of the year.



A recent field expedition in Baja, with Prof. Kyle Cavanaugh and Prof. Glen MacDonald, grad students, and some off their collaborators from Mexico

Many of our graduate students won external fellowships from NSF, NASA, and others. One of the Department's fourteen postdoctoral scholars, Dr. Kang Yang, won a 2016 UCLA Chancellor's Award, a first for our department and one of just four winners selected from over 1,300 postdoctoral scholars at UCLA. At the 2016 American Association of Geographers (AAG) annual meeting in San Francisco, some of the UCLA Geography alumni that were honored included Dr. Audrey Kobayashi (AAG Presidential Achievement Award), Dr. George Malanson (AAG Lifetime Achievement Award), Dr. Sophie Webber (Award for Best Dissertation in Economic Geography), Dr. Linda Mearns (AAG Distinguished Scholarship Award) and Dr. Richard Marston (Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award).

In sum, the Department continues to excel in geographic scholarship, teaching, outreach and service.

## FoG Downtown Tour

**Mary Miller**

**FoG Board of Directors, Secretary**

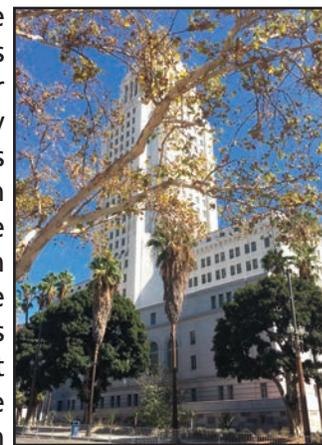
If you weren't able to join us for our October 22 tour of Downtown Los Angeles led by Professor Bill Selby, recently retired from Santa Monica College and a FOG Board member, you missed a wonderful event. We assembled in Pershing Square on a beautiful fall day for an introduction to LA history, enhanced by Bill's display of historic maps and his introduction of particularly useful books. We learned about the stunning Biltmore Hotel across the street and of various transformations of Pershing Square itself, now due for another revision to make it more engaging for the new DTLA that has been developing. That change was on full display:



Prof. Bill Selby explaining the morning route

- Signs on many old commercial/financial buildings that indicated they were being remodeled into residential lofts,
- A Ralphs that was the first supermarket in the area in fifty years, recently joined by a Whole Foods and other markets,
- A man apparently carrying all his possessions as we passed a restaurant offering truffle fries.

Bill detailed some of the causes of Downtown's decline as a vibrant center during the mid-1900s. They included "white flight" as families fled to suburban settings with more space for children. New urban centers throughout the metropolitan area (such as in Orange County, the West Side, South Bay, and the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys) grew more independent at the expense of DTLA.

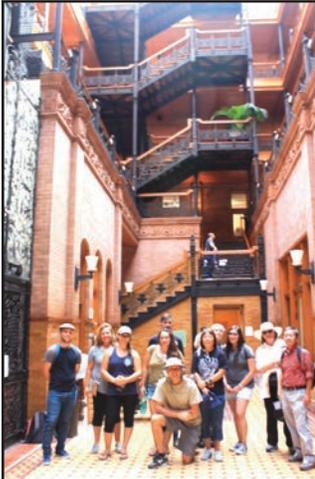


Los Angeles City Hall

This downtown decline was encouraged first by the Red Car system and accelerated with the extension of freeways. By the late 1900s, these separate centers squeezed into each other, and the sprawl grew into a densely populated conurbation with epic transportation problems that included intolerable commute times. In recent decades, adaptive reuse

and gentrification have accelerated, transforming Downtown into multiple vibrant 21st century commercial and entertainment centers, complete with hipsters seeking walkable living environments and cosmopolitan lifestyles.

We then toured various “Districts”, starting with the Theater District along Broadway. While a few of the grand old movie palaces still serve their original purpose, others exemplify adaptive reuse, having been turned into everything from jewelry shops to



Group shot in the historic Bradbury Building on Broadway at West 3rd

an Urban Outfitters store. Fortunately, many of the exteriors have been retained due to LA Historic-Cultural Monument status or through the work of the LA Conservancy. Another highlight on Broadway was a parade in celebration of Panama’s Independence Day, full of joyful dancers and drummers, but we also learned of the area’s troublesome history as Bill pointed out a theater’s back entrance, formerly used by people of color.

Then it was on to Clifton’s Cafeteria, a visual wonder at any time of year but especially appealing with its current extensive fall décor. We passed the stunning façade of the Stock Exchange building, popped into the Latino Theater Company, strolled through the Spring-to-Broadway Arcade Building with its glass roof, visited the extraordinarily beautiful Bradbury Building, and ended the historic part of our tour at the Grand Central Market.

The tour of “newer” LA commenced with stops at the art deco LA Times Building and City Hall, LA’s tallest building until 1964. We then headed up Grand Park and along Grand past the Music Center, Disney Hall, the DWP Building, and the US Bank Building, ending at our lovely Central Library. The grand finale was a view and discussion of LA’s new tallest building—the Wilshire Grand, due to open in 2017. Its ornamental spire was the subject of much negotiation, as that spire meant the roof could not be used to land fire-fighting helicopters. Technical fixes – a special landing platform, a dedicated elevator, and a video surveillance system – resolved those concerns.

Some group members returned to earlier stops for lunch, others headed home, but all agreed that they had learned much and now matched Bill’s enthusiasm for frequent visits to DTLA as he had guided us in what to look for in an urban geography environment.

## 2016 FoG Scholarship Winner

### Ryan Lam

His application essay for the scholarship as follows:

I view college as a way to gain as much information as possible within a four year time span. This logic



has motivated me to double major in Geography and Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Environmental Science as well as minoring in GIS & T (Geographic Information Science and Technology.) Through this academic journey, I have covered my bases where I have a prolific

background of the biosphere – air, land, and sea– and gained a technical understanding of the principles that govern the Earth, complemented by a social consciousness of the issues which humanity faces.

Outside of my immediate geography coursework, my aim as a student is to get involved. I constantly seek opportunities to further my geographic interests in other departments, apply my knowledge to assist others, and to apply my geographic knowledge through research. This year, my involvement within the department has flourished through a curiosity for pursuing research. I took a graduate course in the AOS Department and I wrote a term paper on the principles and applications of the remote sensing of vegetation. I capitalized on an opportunity to have this paper published in the 2016 UCLA Undergraduate Science Journal. With my knowledge of GIS, I decided to offer my assistance to Professor Li Min, in the Anthropology Department, to recreate maps for his upcoming publication. GIS support has also extended to the Electrical Engineering Department where I have completed several maps for Professor Mike Briggs to aid in his research for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). After a successful final project in Geography 168, I presented my work through a poster with the Los Angeles Geographic Society at a Student Research Symposium and will present in the upcoming UCLA Undergraduate Research Week. Currently, I am taking a 199 course with Dr. Tom Gillespie to learn

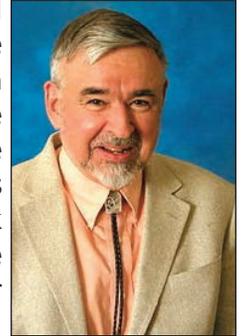
## Alumni and Friends

### LOSSES

#### Dr. Karl Butzer

Submitted by Prof. Glen MacDonald, FoG Board of Directors

Karl was a giant in physical geography, landscapes and culture and the interface between geography and archaeology. He presented the Humboldt Lecture at UCLA in 1998. Many of us learned from his classic textbook on geomorphology. I have extracted from what Billie Turner has passed along about Karl:



Karl W. Butzer examined human-environment relationships, foremost in historic and prehistoric context, and was a leader in the development of cultural ecology during the 1960s. Trained in geomorphology, with important work on Saharan and North African deserts, he increasingly expanded his research throughout his career to include societal and cultural interactions with the environment. He unraveled important interactions that affected ancient Egyptian and Ibero Peninsula peoples, ultimately tackling Mesoamerican and Hispanic period interactions in Mexico. He authored several path-breaking books on such topics as archaeology as cultural ecology. Karl held positions at the University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago, and University of Texas at Austin and received research honors from various organizations representing geoscience, geography, and archaeology. Karl had a stroke in March 2016, and passed away the night of May 4, 2016.

#### Sandra Mabritto

(June 15, 1949 – January 28, 2017)

Committed supporter of the UCLA Department of Geography, fought bravely stage four cancer since initial diagnosis in August 2009, supported by a considerable range of fine medical personnel.



Sandra Mabritto with UCLA Prof. Stephen Bell

more about species distribution modeling, and am engaging in kelp research with the guidance of Professor Kyle Cavanaugh in AOS 130: California's Oceans. Next year, I will continue my research in species distribution modeling in my senior honor's thesis with Dr. Gillespie.

Although vegetation has become my niche and expertise within the biosphere, my immediate future dictates that I turn my efforts toward Geospatial Intelligence where I will hopefully serve as an Intelligence Officer in the Air Force after graduation. Although my second degree is in atmospheric science, I have the option to also become a Weather Officer. Putting aside the fact that an Intel Officer receives an automatic Top Secret security clearance, I wish to build on my geography education to utilize GIS and remote sensing. Through the Air Force, I hope to receive additional training at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to learn more about information systems and analysis. After I have served my time in the military, I hope to earn my PhD someday, preferably at UCLA, to pick up where my undergraduate education left off with the biosphere and vegetation.

Geography is my love and passion because all of the course material is around us. From my courses, I have inadvertently become a tour guide when walking the UCLA campus where I will narrate the history and details of various plants I come across. The most exciting experience that I had was actually on a bus ride while attending military training in Alabama. Despite explicit instructions to keep my head facing forward, I saw a familiar plant from videos in class. It was Kudzu, an invasive species from Japan that grew rampantly in the South after World War II. Although I risked getting yelled at and embarrassed in front of my peers, I could not pass up the opportunity to finally see a specimen that I had learned about only months prior. I became hooked, wanting to see more images on a PowerPoint out in the field for myself. I plan on using the funds to travel up and down the coast of California so that I can observe the most diverse habitats on the planet after learning about them for three years.

He who hesitates is not only lost,  
but miles from the next exit.

— UNKNOWN

## APPOINTMENTS

### Dr. Vena Chu



Ph.D., Geography, University of California, Los Angeles (2015)  
M.A., Geography, University of California, Los Angeles (2009)  
B.A., Geography and Economics, University of California, Los Angeles (2006)

Dr. Chu has been appointed Assistant Professor of Geography at UC Santa Barbara.

I am interested in Arctic climate change and impacts on hydrology, particularly for the Greenland ice sheet. Currently, my work deals with understanding the spatial and temporal dynamics of the Greenland ice sheet hydrologic system from snow to sea using geospatial technologies and field techniques. My research has focused on meltwater input into the ice sheet (through supraglacial rivers and moulins) as well as meltwater export into the ocean (through proglacial rivers and fjord sediment plumes).

---

## Geography in the News

Department Chair **Larry Smith** in the October 24th edition of the New Yorker – an article on the amazing work of Larry and his Graduate students – check it out!!

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/10/24/greenland-is-melting#>

Professor **Glen MacDonald's** research on California droughts has been in the news. Below is a link to the LA Times article – which includes a link to the full journal article.

Please take a look and see the work he and his team are doing!

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-warming-drought-20160915-snap-story.html>

The CIA Is Celebrating Its **Cartography Division's 75th Anniversary** by Sharing Declassified Maps Decades of once-secret maps are now freely available online

As much as James Bond is defined by his outlandish gadgets, one of the most important tools for real-life spies is actually much less flashy: maps. Whether used to gather information or plan an attack, good maps are an integral part of the tradecraft of espionage. Now, to celebrate 75 years of serious cartography, the Central Intelligence

Agency has declassified and put decades of once-secret maps online.

Read more from the Smithsonian Magazine at:  
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/cia-celebrating-its-cartography-divisions-75th-anniversary-declassified-maps-180961419/#h3Hkzus88loypLM.03>

---

## Faculty Focus

### Kyle Cavanaugh

**(PhD. UC Santa Barbara, 2011) is an Assistant Professor with research interests in coastal ecology, biogeography, spatial ecology, and remote sensing**



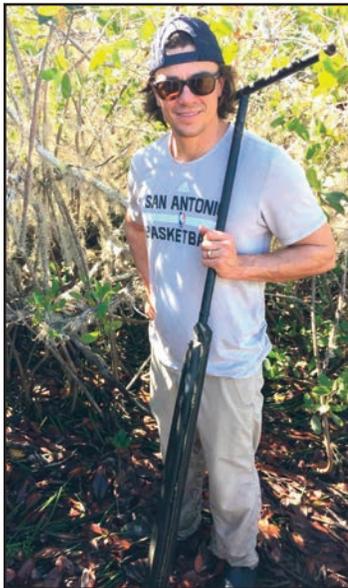
I am a coastal/marine scientist interested in understanding how coastal ecosystems are being impacted by climate change and human development. Prior to my appointment at UCLA I received my PhD in Marine Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara and then worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD. Since joining the UCLA Geography faculty in 2014, I've been teaching a range of physical geography courses while building my research program. This latter task has been facilitated by the creative and hard working graduate students and undergraduate research assistants that I have managed to recruit to my lab.

Recently a major focus of our research group has been on understanding the processes that control the distributions and range limits of coastal plant species. Climate change will have an especially large impact on the coastal zone, a region that includes more than 70% of the world's population and some of our most important ecosystems. For example, rising temperatures have shifted the abundance and distributions many species towards higher latitudes, while sea level rise is driving similar landward shifts. Species that cannot migrate or adapt face loss of habitat and in some cases, extinction. These changes will have major impacts on the health and functioning of coastal ecosystems.

One of our exciting current projects is a NASA funded study of the processes that control the poleward range limits of mangrove forests around the world. Mangroves are salt tolerant trees and shrubs found in coastal wetlands throughout the tropics and subtropics. These forests are highly valuable ecosystems that protect and stabilize

shorelines, serve as nurseries for commercially important fisheries, filter sediments and nutrients from upland runoff, and sequester large amounts of carbon. Recently we have been studying the northern range limit of mangroves on the west coast of North America. Their range limit in this region is in Punta Abrejos, Baja Mexico, and we are trying to figure out why they aren't found further north along this coastline. It may be that mangroves cannot tolerate the colder air or water temperatures found to the north. Alternatively, there may be some barrier to dispersal (e.g. ocean currents, headlands, etc.), which limits the ability of mangroves to expand further north. The answer to this question has important implications for understanding how mangroves in this region will respond to climate change.

This project has recently inspired a new collaboration with my colleague Glen MacDonald. Glen and I received funding from the University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS), an academic research institute dedicated to supporting binational research and understanding. In February we traveled the length of the Baja Peninsula with our



collaborators from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur in La Paz, Mexico as well as graduate students from Mexico and UCLA. The goal of this expedition was to collect sediment cores from both sides of the mangrove range limit. We will analyze these cores with radiocarbon dating and pollen analysis to reconstruct mangrove distributions over the past 6,000

years and document how these ecosystems have responded to past climate variability. Driving across Baja was an amazing experience. We collected valuable data and initiated a close international collaboration that will hopefully last for many years.

In March, I will be travelling to Hawaii to conduct fieldwork for a different project with Greg Okin, another colleague from the Geography Department. We have received funding from NASA to develop new methods to map coral reefs

from aerial and satellite imagery. Coral reefs around the world are facing a number of threats including warming waters, ocean acidification, overfishing, pollution, and the spread of invasive species. However, data on coral reef condition is actually very limited. Most measurements are obtained through costly, time-consuming SCUBA expeditions, and many reefs have never been surveyed. New satellite sensors and analytic techniques can provide the tools to monitor the health of coral reefs over much larger scales.

My first 2.5 years at UCLA have been busy and rewarding. The Geography Department has been welcoming and supportive, and it's inspiring to work amongst such an intellectually diverse group of scholars. Addressing today's most pressing environmental problems requires perspectives from both the physical and social sciences, and the UCLA Geography Department's rich interdisciplinary setting makes it an ideal place to work on these issues.

## CONTRIBUTORS

*The FOG HORN is a publication of the University of California, Los Angeles, Friends of Geography (FOG), an alumni and friends support group of the Geography Department, dedicated to furthering the discipline of Geography.*

*Thanks to those  
in the Geography Department:*

LAURENCE SMITH, Chair

KASI McMURRY, Management Services  
Officer

MATT ZEBROWSKI, Cartographer

Thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter: Laurence Smith, Matt Zebrowski, Glen MacDonald, Mary Miller, William Selby Marianne Wright and Kyle Cavanaugh

### FRIENDS OF GEOGRAPHY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARIANNE WRIGHT, President

BILL SELBY, Vice President

TANISHIA WRIGHT - Treasurer

MARY MILLER, Secretary

STEPHEN BELL, Faculty Representative

GLEN MACDONALD, Member at Large

**GF-29**  
**Friends of Geography**  
**UCLA Geography Department**  
Box 951524  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1524

**Annual Geography Department & FoG Luncheon**  
**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 20th, 2017**

Noon to 3:00pm  
UCLA Faculty Center

**“Greenland Melting”**  
**A High-Tech Geographical Expedition**  
**to Greenland’s Ice Cap**

with Larry Smith,  
Professor and Chair of UCLA Geography

Contact:  
UCLA Department of Geography  
at 310-825-1071  
for reservations  
and more information

