

UMW GEOGRAPHY CLUB

October 2006

Welcome Dr. Jacqueline Gallagher

President's Notes

Welcome to the Geography Club!!

Welcome back! Hope everyone had a great summer and is ready for another terrific year with the geography club. Thank you to those of you who came out to see us at the club carnival—it was great to see so many new faces. The fall picnic (held Sept 15) was also a rousing success and loads of fun. There's loads more great stuff for the fall, including movie nights, a hiking trip up Old Rag Mountain, and possibly a camping trip. Stay tuned and good luck with your semester!



**Vice President Alison Baker
&
Department Chair Dr. Stephen Hanna**

Congratulations!

Stephanie Barnes won the Geography Club t-shirt for her expert level of musically oriented geographical knowledge at the club carnival.



**Club Co-Presidents
Jessica Dewitt & Catherine Spoehr**



**Dr. Joe Nicholas
Associate Professor of Geography**

Good things to know

Lab Aides



Andrew Peters

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **SEDAAG Meeting**
Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers
The meeting lasts for a day and a half and scholars from around the region present their research on a vast array of topics. In addition to the paper presentations, students also have the opportunity to participate in the World Geography Bowl, a test of student knowledge of geographic trivia.
Practice in the Cart lab Sundays at 7:00
- ◆ **Dance Around the World**
- ◆ **Geography Awareness Week**
...More to come

People to know Club Officers

Presidents:
Jessica Dewitt and Catherine Spoehr

Vice President: Alison Baker

Secretary: Moira Riser

Treasurer: Scott Zagrodny

Department Rep: Colleen Earp

Historian: Jessica Stephens

Australia, New Zealand, & Fiji Summer 2007

The Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji Field Program is a four week summer study abroad program offered for academic credit by the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. It is open to U.S. and Canadian students from all schools, majors, and years of study. The Program has been in operation since 1999. Since then, over 100 students from dozens of schools in the US and Canada have participated in the Program.

Program Directors

Dr. Donald N. Rallis & Dr. Farhang Rouhani
Faculty members in the Department of Geography at the University of Mary Washington



Scott Zagrodny



Moira Riser



Hillary Lufkin

Tea Time in the Cart Lab every Wednesday at 4:00
Geography Club meetings are on the first Thursday of every month at 5:00

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

This year promises to be an exciting and busy one for the Mary Washington Geography Department. While the University is welcoming a new president, we are so pleased to welcome Dr. Jacqueline (Jackie) Gallagher to our department. Jackie is teaching one new course, Natural Hazards, already and will develop a course in Mobile GIS and GPS for next year. In the future, expect her to unveil some upper level physical geography classes and to make sure more students get their hands and feet dirty doing research in the field.

Jackie's arrival coincides with our plans to revise the geography major in response to last year's program review and in anticipation of major changes to the undergraduate curriculum at UMW. Our new major, if approved, will allow students more flexibility and help students begin to specialize within the discipline. We have identified three overlapping areas of emphasis that reflect faculty strengths and trends in Geography as a whole. These are Nature & Society; Community, Development, and Culture; and Globalization. After completing a streamlined set of introductory courses, students will select courses in consultation with their advisors that will build expertise and skills within one of these three areas. To support this new major, expect to see new courses including Climate Change, International Migration Politics, and Race & Place in America offered in the next two years. Other changes include introducing more GIS in GEOG 250 and allowing methodological and topical courses in related disciplines to count towards the geography major. If you want more details about our plans for the major, please talk to me or any of the Geography Faculty.

In the next three years, Mary Washington will celebrate its Centennial (2008) while the Geography Department will mark its 50th Anniversary. We are beginning to plan how we want to celebrate both and would love to have everybody's input. I hope to work with students to create an exhibit; both 'real' and 'virtual' called "Mapping Mary Washington." This will display air photos, maps, and satellite images of the campus dating back to the institution's founding and link them to stories, pictures, and memories of Mary Washington. Hopefully, this will just be one part of an expanded geography website that will provide a space for students, alumni, and faculty to share ideas, make connections, post job and internship announcements, and seek advice on careers and graduate school. If you have any ideas for this, please come see me or Donald Rallis.

Finally, I urge all students to take a study abroad class as part of their educational experience. Donald Rallis and Farhang Rouhani will lead another group of students to Australia and New Zealand next summer. The new version of the program will include a week in Fiji as well! In addition, Melina Patterson is launching a new program entitled "Environment and Community: Coastal British Columbia." In this gorgeous setting (I have been there!), students will learn about the issues and ethics involved in community-based research. Please take the time to explore these programs and talk with the faculty involved if you are interested.

Remember, Geography doesn't just rock, it *moves*. Enjoy the Year!

Best Wishes,

Stephen

