

# Florida Society of Geographers

## Fall Newsletter

### SAVE THE DATE: FSG Annual Meeting January 15-17 in Tampa.

September, 2009

This year, the Annual Meeting of the Florida Society of Geographers will meet in Downtown Tampa at a hotel at a spot near where the Hillsborough River empties into Tampa Bay.



Downtown Tampa. Site of the 2010 FSG Meeting

The planning Committee has a wonderful meeting planned. Along with the usual paper sessions, we will have two field trips that will be of interest to participants: one to MacDill Airforce



USF and Local AMS Members tour the hurricane hunter airplane at MacDill Airforce Base.

Base to see the hurricane hunter airplanes and to speak with hurricane meteorologists and pilots, and the other to one of the

oldest buildings in Tampa, Plant Hall with a tour by local historian Robert Kerstein. Plant Hall, a national historic landmark on the University of Tampa Campus in Downtown Tampa boasts some of the most unusual architecture one can

find in Florida.

Specific information on the hotel and registration information will be sent in the coming months. The hotel will have free transportation available to the famous nightspots of Tampa: Ybor City and the Channelside



Attendees of the annual meeting will have an opportunity to tour historic Plant Hall in Downtown Tampa.

area. In addition, trolley and water taxi will be available.



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## Robert Kerstein to Lead Tour of Plant Hall at Annual Meeting

Robert J. Kerstein, the Dana Professor of Government and World Affairs will lead the field trip to Plant Hall at the University of Tampa Campus at the Annual Meeting of the Florida Society of Geographers.

Dr. Kirstein has written extensively on political and history issues in the Tampa region. His book, Politics and Growth in Twentieth-Century Tampa was

published by the University Press of Florida in 2001.

Dr. Kirstein teaches courses on urban politics and policy, American national Government, and history and politics in Tampa. He specializes in urban politics, public policy analysis, and American national government.



Dr. Robert Kirstein, Dana Professor of Government and World Affairs at the University of Tampa.

## FSG attendees will have an opportunity to tour NOAA's Hurricane Hunters

Dr. Jennifer Collins of University of South Florida will lead a tour to MacDill Airforce Base to see NOAA's Hurricane Hunter operations and aircraft.

Space on this tour is limited, so please email Dr. Collins at [jcollins@cas.usf.edu](mailto:jcollins@cas.usf.edu) to get on the early list for this tour. The NOAA

hurricane hunter missions to the Atlantic region are based out of Tampa. They conduct a great deal of research on hurricanes and assist with detailed forecasting.

**Space on this tour is limited so sign up early!**



Dr. Jennifer Collins from USF will lead the tour to NOAA's Hurricane Hunters.

## A note from the President of FSG, Bob Brinkmann

In thinking about the location for our next annual meeting, we had a number of locations to pick from in the Tampa area. West-central Florida has several interesting spots that Geographers would find interesting.

The Planning Committee selected downtown Tampa for a number of reasons including location, ease of transportation, and

amenities. However, we also wanted to showcase how Tampa is changing. Not too long ago, downtown Tampa was sleepy and desolate. Now it is vibrant with a growing residential presence and with a lively nearby nightlife. Geographers will find much to do and see during their visit.



FSG President, Bob Brinkmann

# From the Geographic Centers

## Florida Atlantic University

The big news at Florida Atlantic is the approval and implementation of a Ph.D. in Geo-



sciences for the Fall 2009 semester. This professionally oriented program combines department specialties in geography and geology with other cognate areas through an innovative curriculum that includes ecology and conservation biology, chemistry, anthropology, civil engineering, geomatics engineering, ocean engineering and urban and regional planning. The Department expects doctoral students in the program to specialize in one of the following three areas:

### ~Hydrology and Water Resources.

Research in the areas of hydrology and water resources aimed at developing a more complete understanding of both surface and sub-surface processes and their practical applications, especially dealing with flow issues, supply issues and water quality, as well as the effects of global warming. Studies also include coastal and wetland environments. This research area combines coursework and faculty expertise in spatial information technology including GIS, hydrologic modeling, digital image analysis and geovisualization as well as geology, geography, biology, civil and ocean engineering and chemistry.

**~Urban Development and Sustainability.** Research on urban land use change, urban environmental systems and urban economic development utilizing geographic information science and other spatial analysis tools to incor-

porate sustainable urban development in the subtropical environment of the everglades ecosystem, including the local impact of globalization and global environmental change on South Florida communities. This research area combines coursework and faculty expertise in GIS, remote sensing, geovisualization and cartography as well as faculty expertise in geography, geology, biology and urban and regional planning.

**~Cultural and Spatial Ecology.** Research focused on the biogeography of natural ecosystems as well as ethnobotanical studies focused on the cultural variations in human uses and sustainability of plants. Em-

phasis on reconstructing past environments and analyzing present environments utilizing field work, satellite imagery, aerial photographs and archival research as well as extracting environmental information from advanced and specialized remote sensing imagery for mapping and modeling of vegetation, ecosystems and natural resources. This research area combines coursework and faculty expertise in field methods and spatial information technology such as GPS, GIS, satellite image analysis, and geovisualization as well as geography, geology, anthropology and biology.

For more information on the program, please contact Dr. Charles Roberts, Graduate Program Director at [croberts@fau.edu](mailto:croberts@fau.edu).

## University of Florida



Geography at UF appears to be weathering the storm quite well. We completely escaped the "butcher's list" that the various Presidents around the state were preparing, and seem to have

had no other reductions in budget. In fact, we were delighted to see that the College had actually increased graduate student funding by 41%, which will finally allow us to offer assistantships at levels close to the national median for Ph.D. granting institutions.

A state funded interdisciplinary Emerging Pathogens Institute has provided a perfect showcase for the skills that Geographers can bring to bear on current issues involved environmental change and health. We have benefitted greatly from two important joint hires with the Institute specializing in the interaction of the environment, both physical and human, and human health. **Dr. Andy Tatem** (Ph.D., Southampton, UK, 2002) joined in January following a 6 year post-doctoral research position at Oxford working on the Malaria Atlas Pro-

## University of Florida Increases Graduate Student Funding

ject. He specializes in the spread of vector-borne diseases and has worked extensively in East Africa on the eradication of malaria. **Dr. Jason Blackburn** (Ph.D., LSU, 2006) will join us in August from Cal. State Fullerton, his research focuses on the environmental conditions necessary for the survival and propagation of the Anthrax bacillus and its close cousins, Bubonic Plague and Brucellosis! In addition to working in the U.S., Jas also has access to unique records from the former-Soviet republics of central Asia (the "Stans"). The support of EPI was also instrumental in securing **Dr. Youliang Qiu** (Ph.D., Chinese Academy of Sciences, 1999) a tenure-accruing position as Assistant Professor.

This has also been an excel-  
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## From the Geographic Centers (Continued)

lent year for department in terms of grant awards. **Julie Silva** received \$450,000 for an NSF Career Award and has been away in Namibia since January looking at tourism as a possible engine of economic growth. **Brian Child** headed up an inter-disciplinary team (African Studies, Geomatics and Political Science) which received \$600,000 from USAid to support graduate education and research in southern Africa. **Jane Southworth** will be trying to maintain control over a large team covering a broad spectrum of sub-disciplinary interests in a project investigating adaptations by communities to environmental change in southern Africa, sponsored by NASA for \$870,000. **Joann Mossa** received \$161,000 for her geomorphic research on the restoration of the Kissimmee River. **Andy Tatem** and his collaborator in Zoology secured \$1,500,000 from the Gates Foundation to continue their work on the eradication of malaria and **Jason Blackburn** will be bringing over \$1,000,000 of funding from the Department of Defense with him.

Also of note: **Cori Matyas** won an award for her teaching from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, making her the third such recipient in the department in the last 7 years. **Grant Thrall** will be recognized by the Business Geography specialty group of the AAG for his services to Business Geography and received a \$2,000 honorarium to be the Burns Scholar, at Daniels School of Business, University of Denver. **Stephen Golant's** co-authored book with Joan Hyde, entitled, *The Assisted Living Residence: A Vision for the Future*, was published by John Hopkins University Press.

The generous support of our *Partners in Education - Target Copy* - and our alumni allows us to maintain a strong graduate presence at state, regional and national meetings, despite the declining

support from the state. This year we have also had several students who have been granted significant support to attend prestigious international gatherings, including **Sanchayeeta "Sanchi" Adhikari** (7th International Science Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, Bonn, Germany), **Nick Campiz** (39<sup>th</sup> St. Gallen Symposium, St. Gallen, Switzerland) and **Pinki Mondal** (Coupling Humans and Complex Ecological Landscapes, International Association of Landscape Ecology, Snowbird, Colorado).

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### University of South Florida

The University of South Florida Department of Geography started to offer a masters in Urban and Regional Planning in the Fall of 2009. This degree program is new for USF and has already drawn dozens



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### USF begins new masters in Urban and Regional Planning

of applicants for a limited number of seats. The Department hired Dr. Ambe Njoh as the Director of the Program. Dr. Njoh is an expert in

International development planning with a focus on Africa, public transportation planning, research methods, quantitative methods, and urban and community development.

The Department's international efforts continue to expand with Pratyusha Basu, along with Carlos Lopez of the Department of Religious Studies, leading a Study Abroad program to India last summer (May 15-27, 2008) titled

"Urban-Rural Contrasts in India: Culture, Economy, Globalization." The aim of the course was to acquaint students with the regional diversity of India, focusing specifically on the meanings of development across metropolitan centers, small towns, and villages in India.

Robert Brinkmann and Bogdan Onac of the Department of Geology are developing a study abroad to caves of Europe called, "Underground Europe". It will be offered in the summer of 2010. The students and faculty at the University of South Florida continue to conduct research in a variety of locations including China, India, Belize, Guyana, Surinam, Sierra Leone, Italy, Palestine, Israel, and Spain.

The Department also hired GIS Expert and Ohio State grad, Dr. Michael Niedzielski to teach GIS courses in the 2009-2010 academic year.



# From the Editor of the Florida Geographer, Russ Ivy

## *The Florida Geographer*

The Florida Geographer is the official publication of the Florida Society of Geographers and is distributed free to members of the society. The Editor encourages topics on all aspects of physical, human and applied geography, as well as geographic education. There is a preference for topics with a focus set in Florida, but national and international research by geographers based in Florida is also considered.



Russ Ivy, Editor,  
*Florida Geographer*

Manuscripts are solicited on an on-going basis. Currently, *The Florida Geographer*, is published once per year, usually in late Fall. Deadline for submissions is July 15. Manuscripts should be submitted directly to the Editor. Please see <http://www.geosciences.fau.edu/fsg> for more information on submission instructions.

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## *Forthcoming in Volume 40*

### **The Changing Face of Florida's Hispanics**

Luis Sánchez

### **Temporal Change and Disturbance in a Mixed Hardwood Forest in Blood**

#### **Mountain Wilderness Area**

Scott Markwith

### **The Greek Community of Broward County, Florida: Its Origin, Growth and Evolution**

Mary Caravelis

### **Household Water in Northern Trinidad: Source, Collection, Storage and**

#### **Socioeconomics**

Siana Lakhan, Maria Fadiman and Tara Root

### **Identifying Prospective Sites For Industrial Solar Power**

### **Facilities in Eastern Central Florida Using Geospatial Analysis**

J. Anthony Abbott and Daniel Krinsky

Please send manuscripts and inquiries to:

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## **Annual Meeting a Big Success**

The 2009 FSG Annual Meeting in St. Augustine was a big success thanks to former FSG President Jeanne Fillman-Richards. Jeanne did a wonderful job in putting the meeting together and the historic setting provided a unique background to FSG Activities which included a Friday night mixer put on by Jeanne's husband, dozens of presentations, an interesting talk by noted Geographer Harm de Blij, and a ghost tour of the town.



Past FSG President Jeanne Fillman-Richards

# 2009 Meeting Minutes from Maria Fadiman

**Florida Society of Geographers  
Annual Business Meeting Jan, 2009  
Saint Augustine, Florida**

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>I. Meeting Called to Order 10:00 am.</b> | <b>Jeanne Richards, President</b> |
| II. Minutes from January 2008 Meeting       | Maria Fadiman, Secretary          |
| Miami, FL                                   |                                   |
| III. Treasurer's Report                     | Mary Caravelis, Treasurer         |

Balances from last meeting to beginning of current meeting

Beginning Balance Feb 8, 2007:	\$3,531.14
Ending Balance January 7th. 2008:	\$6,180.90

Major Expenses:

Postage for <i>The Florida Geographer</i> :	\$148.33
Publishing for <i>The Florida Geographer</i> (Kinkos):	\$ 526.45
Supplies for <i>The Florida Geographer</i>	\$ 11.76
<b>Total, <i>The Florida Geographer</i></b>	<b>\$686.54</b>
Wine, cheese, crackers, plates and cups for wine tasting at Miami 2008 meeting	\$ 226.92
Annual meeting planning expenses	\$ 254.49
Plaques	\$51.00
<b>Total meeting expenses</b>	<b>\$592.41</b>

Major Forthcoming Expenses:

Meeting expenses	
Dinner and breakfast	\$ 2, 250.00
Coffee	\$ 30.00
Lunch	\$ 250.00
<b>Total meeting expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2, 530.00</b>

Student Honors Competition:

Graduate 1) "Founders and Distinguished Members Award"	\$200.00
Graduate 2) 1 <sup>st</sup> prize "Richards/FSG"	\$200.00
Graduate 3) 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize "FSG"	\$150.00
Undergraduate "Richards/FSG"	\$100.00
Poster "FSG"	\$100.00
<b>Total Awards</b>	

\$750

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## Revenue Sources

<b>-Total Membership Dues and Registration Fees Amount</b>	
<b>collected for the January 27 2008 Annual Meeting:</b>	<b>\$3,802.50</b>
-Pre-meeting Faculty Registration	\$1,790.00
-Pre-meeting student Registration	\$1,180.00
-Membership fees total	\$ 832.50
-Memberships and fees collected at meeting	\$1,397.50
-Lunch payment	\$230.00
- Raffle tickets	\$150.00

### Projected Money Balance at meeting

-Current Bank Balance + money collected at meeting	\$7, 577.90
<b>-Total Amount minus all meeting expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,157.99</b>

#### **IV. *The Florida Geographer* Report-Russ Ivy**

High number of submissions

Considering digital copies

#### **V. Approval to update the FSG By-Laws**

- Postponement of approval, because discussion about changes still needs to occur.

#### **VI. Non Profit Status**

Costs 75.00 each year, and FSG will pay 150.00 to file the paper work so that FSG can solicit funds.

#### **VII. Fundraising**

The fundraising committee will be meeting to discuss ideas this year

Chair: Harm di Blij

Committee members: Russ Ivy, Roy Oldekowski and Storm Richards.

- The money raised by selling advertisements in the program will be considered for the 2010 meeting.

#### **VII. Membership**

- Approved to increase from \$15.00 to \$25.00 for non-students beginning for the 2009 January dues.

- Life time membership is still under discussion.

#### **VIII. New Business**

A motion was made to purchase the website domain.

Approved

Motion made to include paypal as a payment option.

Approved

#### **IX. Old Business**

- Announcements:

-Student Honor Awards:

-Five awards were given

*Minutes Continued on Next Page*

**X. Nominated and elected positions**

**- Board members**

Jennifer Gebelein  
Corene Matyas  
Derek McDonald  
Jeff Martin  
Klaus Meyer-Arendt  
Jeanne Richards

**- Student Representative:**

John McEwen

**- Vice President**

Heidi Klum

**- President**

Bob Brinkmann

**- Treasurer**

Mary Caravelis

**- Secretary**

Warren McKay

Send your newsletter items to FSG President, Bob Brinkmann at: [rbrinkmn@cas.usf.edu](mailto:rbrinkmn@cas.usf.edu) by the middle of November for the winter newsletter.



FSG is now on FACEBOOK. Search for Florida Society of Geographers and join today. Stay in touch with Geographers from around the state.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue background, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the right.