

# BULLETIN



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### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## Growth and Recruitment of New Geography Majors

*By Jodi Titus  
CGS President  
Irvine Valley College*

I have always been concerned about the growth and recruitment of new geography majors. I know my own pathway to discovering geography was as a re-entry student who changed majors when I transferred from Fullerton College. As we continue to see changes in funding and regulations from the State of California, I want to see how in particular the implementation of SB1440 has impacted the number of

geography majors transferring to Cal State Universities and UCs.

For those of you not familiar with SB1440, here is a brief overview. This bill, also known as the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act, was written to increase the number of students completing an AA degree with a guarantee transfer to a CSU. The bill was approved in 2010 and implementation began in 2011. The Ed Code states that all 112 Community Colleges must offer associate degrees for transfer (AA-T or AS-T). As a result of this new mandate, the Academic

Senates of both the CSUs and CCCs decided the best approach to meeting this new regulation was to work cooperatively to develop an intersegmental Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC), rather than 112 colleges develop unique degrees in each major.

For geography, we worked with faculty from both CCCs and CSUs during Faculty Discipline Review Groups to develop the TMC. Many of you participated in this process either at the regional meetings or by surveys online. The result was the

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## continued...

development of our AA-T in Geography. However, colleges were able to keep both the existing A.A. and A.S. degrees in Geography along with the A.A.-T or the college could just offer the A.A.-T. In reviewing the most recent academic year data from the State Chancellor's Office, there were 222 degrees and certificates awarded from Geography Programs in the Community College System. Interestingly, Orange Coast College awarded 8 A.A.-T degrees, the most in the state for AY 2014-15. The number of degrees in geography awarded by the CSU programs ranged from a high of 50 at San Francisco to Dominguez Hills with two degrees awarded. There is a need for us to find a better way to track our transfer students who then complete their undergraduate degree. Collaborating with our transfer institutions will help increase our degree completers. The University of California is also

accepting A.A.-T degrees at some institutions. There will continue to be more changes coming from state legislation, so we will need to continue to work together to keep our programs viable and up to date with changes the state will demand.

In light of this, I will be hosting a panel discussion at our spring conference to address the many needs our campuses face, especially our smaller programs. We will also begin our five-year TMC review process as required by the state next year. One of my goals as I serve as president is to see the growth of geography programs and to increase outreach and collaboration with our transfer institutions. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.



CSU Stanislaus students  
with their professor Dr.  
Allison McNally



## Northern Hospitality

*By Ben Wright and Claire Sarraille  
Students at CSU Stanislaus*

Hello, this is Ben Wright and Claire Sarraille, students from CSU Stanislaus. We would like to thank CGS for awarding us the 2015 Travel Grants and for the generosity of Dr. Bill and Marilyn Bowen for making it possible for all the students to attend the banquet. Dr. Peggy Hauselt and Dr. Alison McNally helped us prepare projects for the trip. Our experience behind the Redwood Curtain was spectacular, and included taking light density measurements in Redwood State Park, observing restoration of Humboldt Coastal Nature Center dunes, as well as stumbling around in awe in Fern Canyon.

Claire:  
My experience at CGS 2015 was a joyful reminder of the network

of support in our community. Our discipline's dimensions extend from the breadth of our content to the depth of connections we make across peer groups. Among the students I met were people studying subjects similar to my research, cartographers making gorgeous maps, and graduate students grappling with both spatial analytics and the task of consolidating life-long passions into realizable projects. I felt in good company! In turn, talks by faculty were a huge inspiration; especially in remembering to keep a balance of humor and excitement in the mix of academic rigor. I geeked-out over data models, applauded long-awaited studies, was wowed by accounts of field-class adventures, and was educated on injustices I had never before contemplated. I became a bit giddy over Biosphere 2. It

## Publish in the California Geographer!

The California Geographer is a **peer-reviewed** journal of the California Geographical Society, now fully online. Our journal provides the opportunity to share your work with other California geographers.

While we love submissions about our great state, the topic doesn't have to be about California. We are also open to considering articles outside the typical research piece, in addition to research papers.

Our journal has not had enough articles in the past couple of years and I can't build it back up without your help! We are open to work by established scholars, new scholars, independent researchers, and students.

Please email me if you have any questions or ideas.

Kate Davis, Editor  
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# 2015 CGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARD WINNERS!

Photos of those winners who were at the banquet can be found on the following page

## Joe Beaton Poster Award: Undergraduate

**1st Place. Cristina Bauss, et al., Humboldt State.**  
Mapping Marijuana Cultivation and Water Storage  
in the Redwood Creek Watershed

**2nd Place. Elizabeth Smith, CSU Northridge.**  
The Ideal Locations for Portable Ground  
Telescopes within California

**3rd Place. Jonathon Martinez, CSU East Bay.**  
San Francisco Underwater

## Joe Beaton Poster Award: Graduate

**1st Place. Joel Clark, San Jose State**  
Apping for Mapping: An Evaluation Of Mobile Data  
Collection System Applications

## Digital Map Award

**1st Place. Amber Salmon and Alicia Evans  
Cosumnes River College.**  
Empire Mine State Park: An Interactive Trail Guide  
to Historical Sites Within the Park

**2nd Place. Ashlee Fleming, Humboldt State.**  
The Home(s) of the Internet

## Paper Map Award

**1st Place. Christine Rosin, CSU Chico.**  
The Great Trek

**2nd Place. Alex Veasey, CSU Stanislaus.**  
Archaeological Site Risk Assessment within the Rim Fire  
Boundary, Stanislaus National Forest, CA

**3rd Place. Benjamin Wright and Stephanie Lopez  
CSU Stanislaus.**  
Examining the Extent of Potential Future Sea Level Rise  
and its Impacts on Coastal Habitat

## Tom McKnight Paper Award: Undergraduate

**1st Place. Kristopher Anderson, Humboldt State.**  
Preserving Identity, Tourism in Tibet

**2nd Place. Kinsey Brown, University of Nevada, Reno.**  
Household Kitchens and the Construction of  
Gender in Domestic Space

**3rd Place. Andrew Shensky, CSU Fullerton.**  
Enhancing Food Systems Education Through the Integra-  
tion of Technology Into a School Garden Curriculum

## Tom McKnight Paper Award: Graduate

**1st Place. Kathleen Koscielak, Humboldt State.**  
If These Walls Could Talk: Graffiti, Place & Culture  
in Iztapalapa, Distrito Federal, Mexico

**2nd Place. Zawisza Grabinski-Parker, Humboldt State.**  
Prior Burn Severity Predicts Reburn Severity in the  
Klamath Mountain Ecoregion

**3rd Place. Sarah Harris, UC Santa Barbara.**  
Characteristics of Atmospheric Rivers Impacting  
Southern California

## Geosystems Award Winners

**Mike Johnson, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.**  
Developing a Decision-Support System for Forecasting  
Future Water Availability in California

**Theodore Dingemans, University of Nevada, Reno.**  
Climatic and Cultural Implications of 3000 years of Environ-  
mental Change from Zaca Lake, California

## David Lantis Scholarship Winners

**Undergraduate:** Stephanie Lopez, CSU Stanislaus  
**Graduate:** Heather Lewis, CSU Stanislaus

## Friend of Geography Award

**Jerry Rohde**  
Author

## Distinguished Service Award

**Robert Voeks**  
CSU Fullerton

## Outstanding Educator Award

**Joe Leeper**  
Humboldt State University Professor Emeritus

## Student Travel Award Winners

Bertha Garcia Munoz, Cal Poly Pomona  
Ben Wright, CSU Stanislaus  
Claire Sarraille, CSU Stanislaus

## 2015 Award Winners with CGS President Jim Wanket!

# What ways does your campus promote student involvement in the California Geographical Society Annual Meetings?

We love our student members at the California Geographical Society, but we're always looking for ways to expose new students to our organization. In our next issue we will be tackling how to promote student involvement in the California Geographical Society. Faculty, what ways have you found effective in promoting student involvement? Students, what was the tipping point that got you to attend or present at a CGS annual meeting?

Please send your stories and suggestions to Tiffany Seeley at [tiffany.seeley@sjsu.edu](mailto:tiffany.seeley@sjsu.edu). These will be included in the winter edition of the Bulletin.



**Congratulations  
to the 2015  
award winners!**

BE SURE TO JOIN  
US FOR THE  
**2016 ANNUAL  
CALIFORNIA  
GEOGRAPHICAL  
SOCIETY  
CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 29TH -  
MAY 1ST**

HOSTED BY THE  
SAN JOSE STATE  
GEOGRAPHY  
DEPARTMENT  
IN SAN JOSE,  
CALIFORNIA!

## Northern Hospitality continued...

was a geo-wonderland in the Redwoods. Thank you CGS, and see you next year!

Ben:

The weekend in Humboldt for the 2015 CGS conference was one of many firsts for myself. I had never been to Arcata, except in passing, never explored the area around it in any detail, and most importantly, never been to a geography conference. I was approached by my professors early on in the semester and assertively encouraged to participate, not just as a spectator but to actually present some of my work. I haphazardly agreed, accelerating a semester of anxiety and headaches in preparation for the conference on top of a standard semester load of work, internships, and full time jobs. When the weekend finally arrived, every premonition I had about the conference was completely blown out of the water.

Awkward introductions were instantly replaced by a feeling of reunion as if these were friends you had not seen in a year or so, and hours began to pass in what felt like minutes. Students and faculty from every participating school were friendly, intelligent,

and encouraging, creating a strong geographical-based bond despite arriving from locations across the state. The presentations and posters each felt like a true culmination of the passions and accomplishments of every student or presenter, with proficiency and professionalism across the board. The Humboldt State team and CGS staff worked arduously in their preparations, executing the event flawlessly and creating a welcoming environment for all involved.

Placing 3rd in my category of presentations was extremely rewarding, but was only slightly overshadowed by the magnificence of the conference itself and the ability to share a weekend with so many gifted and passionate individuals. I'd like to thank my professors for the extra push I needed to participate, and the efforts of all Humboldt State and CGS volunteers. Not only do I fully intend on being present at next year's CGS conference, but it's entirely probable that I may be found at Everett's bar in downtown Arcata to experience more of the Humboldt welcome sometime before then.

**If you would like to submit an article or have suggestions for the winter edition of the Bulletin please contact Tiffany Seeley at [tiffany.seeley@sjsu.edu](mailto:tiffany.seeley@sjsu.edu)**