



School of Geography and Development  
 University of Arizona  
<https://geography.arizona.edu/>

Spring 2019

## Greetings to friends and alumni of the School of Geography and Development

We are pleased to publish our Spring 2019 newsletter with news about new faculty, student and faculty success, and other information about the program including the Masters in Development Practice (MDP) hosted by the school.

We would like to invite you to a couple of events this Spring.

The annual 'My Arizona' lecture is Friday April 12th 2019. We invite a colleague to talk about their career and interests in our state. This year we have Barbara Atwood talking about "Gender, Race and Family in Arizona: Looking Back and Looking Forward". All are invited to the reception and talk 3pm-5pm in ENR2 lecture room S107.

On Friday April 19th we are honoring retiring faculty member *David Plane* with a symposium from 1pm to 5pm in ENR2 S107. Come and celebrate David with us!

The *AAG 2019 Wildcat Party* is a pub crawl in Adams Morgan DC on Thursday April 4th - starting around 8pm at Shenanigans and progressing to Grand Central and the Town Tavern.

Lynn Staeheli (Director), Diana Liverman and Carly Simon (Newsletter editors)



## WELCOME TO NEWEST SGD FACULTY LISE NELSON!



Lise Nelson joins the SGD faculty from Penn State University, where she was jointly appointed in Geography and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her research agenda explores labor, identity, and place in the context of neoliberal globalization, with particular attention to how these are crosscut by race, gender, class and immigrant legal status (real or perceived).

Lise's previous research examined shifting geographies of gender, indigeneity and political authority as Purhépechan communities of Michoacán, Mexico grappled with broader forces of political and economic change. She has also conducted research—developed in collaboration with farmworker advocacy organizations—exploring struggles over efforts to build decent and safe farmworker housing in Woodburn, Oregon. For both of these projects the forces unleashed by globalization over the last several decades provided a crucial backdrop for understanding 'local' struggles over identity, power, and place. [CONTINUED ON P. 8]

## SGD UNDERGRADS WIN DEPARTMENT AND COLLEGE AWARDS!

Every semester SGD honors six majors for their outstanding scholarship and overall contributions to the school and broader community. [You can find out more about the awards here.](#) Meet our Fall 2018 Award Winners!

### HECHT SENIOR AWARD

#### ROBERT RILEY



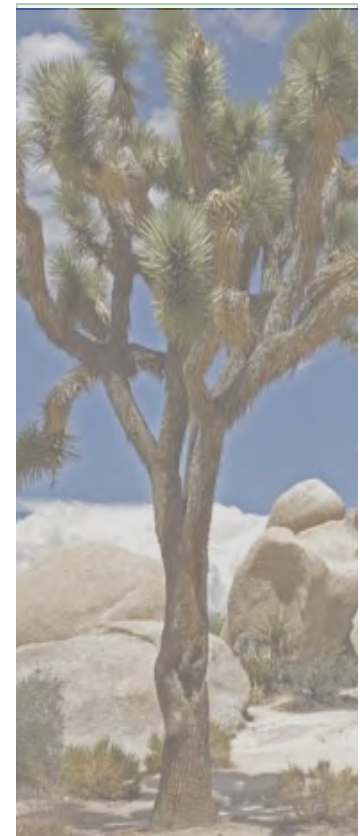
I enjoyed my time at SGD as it really allowed me to grow in my understanding of global conservation efforts and sustainable development. I'm especially grateful to Debbie Marlow for helping me navigate the degree process by ensuring that I received the most well rounded

education regarding environmental studies.

### HECHT JUNIOR AWARD

#### ANDREA LARA GARCIA

I am incredibly thankful for the broad lens through which to view the world that the School of Geography and Development has provided me. My classes and professors have proven to me that you really can have it all in one discipline, with the diversity of thought and disciplinary approaches encompassed within Geography. With any luck, I will continue to study the world through a spatial perspective in my graduate studies and beyond.



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***SGD says farewell to two faculty David Plane and Vin Del Casino (p. 2 & p. 8)***

***SGD has been all over the national media (p. 6)***

***Journal 'you are here' celebrates 20 year anniversary (p. 7)***

## We want to hear from you SGD Alumni!

The School of Geography and Development is revitalizing its connections to alumni and friends so please send us your news and contact information! [You can leave SGD a message and update here](#) or email our front office by contacting [amandab@email.arizona.edu](mailto:amandab@email.arizona.edu).



## *Professor Carl Bauer links research and teaching on water governance in Chile and California*

Carl Bauer has been thinking about the connections and comparison between Chile and California, especially in terms of water rights, geography, and political economy, for almost 30 years. At SGD he has advised six PhD students whose dissertations have examined water in either Chile or California. In recent years Carl's own research has focused on the California side of the relationship,

starting with [a paper](#) with Chilean colleague Luis Catalán about the importance of water and law in Chile/California development cooperation in the 1960s-1970s.

Carl is now studying the history of hydroelectric power in California, a topic generally (and wrongly) considered secondary in the epic California water

stories. As he found in his [earlier work in Chile](#), hydropower development and governance have been driven by energy policies more than by water policies. Carl thinks this trend will continue and he worries about worsening conflicts with other uses and values for rivers.

Carl is also exploring hydropower in the U.S. West in his undergrad teaching. In Spring 2019 he is teaching an Environmental Studies capstone class which is a group project focused on Glen Canyon Dam, on the Colorado River in northern Arizona. Students in the class, which Carl is teaching in tandem with his course on Environmental Law, Geography, and Society, are analyzing the past, present, and future issues involving the dam. Carl is leading a five-day field trip to Glen Canyon and surrounding area during spring break. Carl says he has been "lucky to have expert help from Surabhi Karambelkar, one of my PhD students, who is writing her dissertation on Colorado River hydropower."

## *SGD Assistant Research Prof. Stephanie Buechler in binational applied research project in the sister cities of Nogales.*



Stephanie Buechler has an ongoing collaborative project with a Research Professor at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Dr. Rigoberto Garcia Ochoa, as well as Udall Center colleagues Adriana Zuniga-Teran and Christopher Scott and MDP program graduate Karina Martinez.

This project, financed by the North American Development Bank, is identifying the changes in the quality of life in both cities (Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora) as a result of the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant that treats sewage from both cities. Within the framework of sister cities, it will be seen how the improvements in the sanitation infrastructure of one city benefit or impact

the neighbor city on the other side of the border.

The project is assessing if the infrastructure in each city reached the objectives originally established, but also to identify the impact it has had on the perception of the quality of life of the inhabitants of those two communities.

According to Stephanie, these projects reflect the efforts both countries have made related to binational environmental cooperation. To carry out the project, the team conducted interviews with staff from different city government agencies, as well as with the border communities in Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora.

## WELCOME TO THE NEW MASTERS IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE (MDP) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, RAYMOND SMITH



Raymond Smith, Ph.D., LL.M., joined the Master's in Development Practice (MDP) Program in 2018 as its Assistant Director. Previously, he had spent more than 20 years in New York City, where he was on the adjunct political science faculties at Columbia and NYU. There he taught politics and human rights, with a focus on issues of majority rule and minority rights and on comparative political systems.

Ray also spent more than a decade as a researcher and administrator in the Division of Gender, Sexuality, and Health at the Columbia University Medical Center, including as associate director of a fellowship program for emerging community leaders in South Africa. His authored and edited books include *Drugs Into Bodies: Global AIDS Treatment Activism* (2006), *The Politics of Sexuality* (2010), *Importing Democracy* (2010), *Global HIV/AIDS Politics, Policy, and Activism* (2013), and a political science textbook, *The American Anomaly* (4th Ed., 2019).

Most recently, Ray has been working on a project to promote engagement by the World Health Organization (WHO) with the UN Human Rights Council. He is currently writing a book entitled *Extending the Aegis: Human Rights and Vulnerable Populations* (Routledge, 2020).

## FAREWELL TO LONGTIME SGD PROFESSOR DAVID PLANE

This spring SGD bids farewell to longtime SGD professor David Plane, after his impressive 38 years of service in the school. Here Dave reflects on his time in SGD and what comes next for him in retirement.

**When did you start in SGD?** I was offered the position (at a salary of \$19,500) in 1980, at age 26, and started in January, 1981. The Department of Geography and Regional Development was in the College of Business and Public Administration. We had seven regular faculty (all white males), a Secretary, and about 15 graduate students, mostly older than me. My enormous desk-top terminal – hooked up to the UofA's mainframe – was the first piece of computer equipment in the department. Geography did own two IBM 'Selectric' typewriters, plus a ditto machine.

**What is the biggest way the department has changed between then and now?** We got bigger. And better. When all academic units were told to "transform" themselves, we became a School.

**What has been your favorite part of being a faculty member in SGD?** Having such a multi-faceted job: the grand freedom to choose what to devote my time to. SGD has been a great milieu to base a plethora of diverse ventures. (continued on page 8)

# STUDY ABROAD & INTERNSHIPS @ SGD

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*One of the most exciting parts of an SGD major is the internship and study abroad opportunities that can contribute to your degree. Below are some SGD students who share about their experiences*

## ***Rebekah Ulmer, BS Geography, Water, Land, Society Track***

Rebekah worked as a research assistant on SGD faculty Andrea Gerlak's project that used collaborative methods to address Green Infrastructure in South Tucson (see more on this project on page 6). Here Rebekah talks about her interests and involvement with this project.

Most of my undergraduate interest has been water, health and sustainability. I had worked previously with Dr. Andrea Gerlak on a project for a research program I was involved in last semester based around water privatization and remunicipalisation. She invited me to work on the project because of my interests in water and sustainability.

From an academic standpoint, one of the most important things I learned about on the project was the importance of differ-

ent agencies, like the City of Tucson, UA and Watershed Management Group working together to achieve a common goal. Without the cooperation of each, projects like this cannot move forward.

This is also true for the individuals participating. It requires a team of people, each with different talent and ideas to truly bring a project together. Knowing how to organize and utilize different talents and abilities is often half the battle. It was exciting for me to participate and really see the hard work of the entire group come together to physically build and create this new landscape.



## ***Joe Meisburger, Urban and Regional Development and BS Geography (GIS Track) Majors, Class of 2019***

A first glance at my current resume reveals an odd professional chronology. The past year has seen me create, maintain, and manage cartographic databases for the state geological survey, perform economic research and write feature articles for an international relations institute in Washington, DC, and now assist in the construction of an urban redevelopment strategy for a non-profit organization dedicated to housing and community development. While the specialist may scoff at the breadth of these responsibilities, the generalist would argue that my experiences embody the interdisciplinary spirit of geography.

I've been fortunate to enjoy incredible counsel from Dr. Dereka Rushbrook regarding two of these internship opportunities. It was she who first sent out the notice for a GIS internship opening at the Arizona Geological Survey, and it was she who recommended I pursue my current research position at Habitat for

Humanity. My experience at the East-West Center in Washington came courtesy of Dr. Orhon Myadar, who suggested I explore their opportunities after voicing my strong interest in Asian foreign affairs.

My greatest takeaway from these experiences has been the reinforcement of my belief that geography is not only a crucial study, but an essential study. Geologic mapping, international affairs, and community development may all seem like disparate fields, but what geography does is fill the gaps in between. Is a community development framework generalizable to other countries? How can we invoke policy to address implementation challenges? How can we then visualize that spatially? These internships, coupled with the academic training I've received at the School of Geography and Development, have equipped me with the technical skills and knowledge foundations necessary to not only answer these questions, but pursue a long-term career in international development.

## **SGD OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AWARD**

### **SAGE DONALDSON**

"In my times as an SGD undergraduate, I felt very lucky to have many incredible professors, such as Dr. Bauer, who helped me to narrow down my interest in Environmental Studies and create my thematic minor in Water Resource and Quality Science. I was also able to participate in many different studies and field experience, from Dr. Woodhouse's research class, Dr. Barron-Gafford's Agrivoltaic project, or Dr. Marston's School and Community Garden class, I have gained experiences that have improved my understandings of a variety of different subjects, cultures and interactions



## **SGD OUTSTANDING URBAN & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

### **YAO JIAN**

Throughout my SGD experience, the most important thing I learned is to be ready to communicate and collaborate with instructors and students, since it is the best way to get unique experience outside the book. Thank you to all the people in SGD, for their contribution, dedication, and devotion on teaching and researching Geography. I will continue my academic career next fall as a graduate student in Canada.



## **JOHN BUTTERY AWARD (FOR GIS/REMOTE SENSING)**

### **WARREN KILGORE**

The most meaningful experiences I had involved staying engaged with my professors during their lectures. They did an effective job of entertaining my curiosity in the subject matter and always knew how to answer my constant questions, which I attribute to most of my success. I am currently pursuing a GIS internship with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and have plans to apply for the MS-GIST program through SGD this fall



### **JE JIAO**

I am so grateful for the 4-year experience in the School of Geography and Development. From the diverse courses, I have learned the way to consider the social-related geographical issues with critical thinking and apply GIS technique to realize the spatial analysis effectively. I hope that I will engage in more community works in the future and contribute what I have learned to promote their development.



## WHERE ARE OUR BA/BS ALUMNI NOW?

Paige Suvalsky, URD\* 2017, Research Analyst, CBRE– San Antonio, TX

Sara Mattio, URD 2014, GIS Analyst, City of Philadelphia

Patrick Brewer, EVS\*\* 2015, Energy Fellow, City of San Jose

Stephen Ludwig, BS Geography 2013, Senior GIS Technician, City of Phoenix

Andrew Cunningham, BS Geography 2017, Geological/ Environmental Consultant, Mining Company

Jessica McGarey, EVS 2015, Wildlife Intern and Science Communicator, Sonoran Desert Network Desert Research Learning Center

Brianna Zurita, EVS 2016, Project Coordinator, Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions

James Cornish, URD 2012, Commercial Office Broker, CBRE Inc, Phoenix, AZ

Kyle Hartfeild, BA Geography 2008, Assistant Research Scientist, Arizona Remote Sensing Center

Melanie Summers, BS Geography 2012, Product Engineer, ESRI

Gary Sumner, URD 2009, Planner and Real Estate Developer, Houston TX

Kyle Nelson, URD 2016, Transportation Planner, Michigan Department of Transportation

Gregory Christakos, BS Geography 2013, Enterprise Specialist, ESRI

Thomas Lovelis, BS Geography 2017, GIS Technician, TerraSouthwest Systems

Blake Fisher, URD 2017, City Planner, City of Sierra Vista

### KEY

\*URD = BS Urban and Regional Development

\*\*EVS = BA Environmental Studies

# SGD UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

*SGD is a wonderful community for it's four majors. Meet some recent alumni here!*

## Ashley Quay, BS Geography, Class of 2014: *Graphic Design Specialist, Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Service, Arizona State University*

Ashley is currently working at Arizona State University as a graphic design specialist for the Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Service. This is an outward-facing unit at the university that helps companies, governments, non-profits, and other implement sustainability solutions around the world.



As part of an Executive Masters in Sustainability Leadership, Ashley has launched a new blog/online publication that shares positive stories around sustainability in a unique way. It can be found at <http://www.positivelyimpactful.com/>

This is what Ashley had to say about how SGD prepared her for her current role: "Looking back, my experience with the School of Geography at UA has really helped prepare me for the field I am in now. I find myself pulling lessons from all of the classes that I took in discussions about sustainability. For example, when speaking about building sustainable cities or providing water to developing countries, knowing what make these challenges truly wicked problems is helpful in planning and discovering solutions. I have also been able to use this knowledge to help simplify issues and educate others about sustainability through my design work. While I enjoyed most of the classes that I took, there are two in particular that always stand out: a rain water harvesting course and school garden internship. Both classes were very hands on and offered practical applied knowledge. I find myself still pulling out books and assignments to reference."

## James Crawley, BS Urban and Regional Development, Class of 2015: *Multifamily Investment Sales Advisor, Marcus and Millichap, Tucson AZ*

Upon graduating from SGD, James began his career in Marcus and Millichap's Sales Internship Program in September 2015. He was soon presented the opportunity to join the growing David-Gebing Multifamily Team, the top producing Marcus & Millichap multifamily group in Arizona. In 2016, James was promoted to Associate to help grow the group's multifamily brokerage presence in Tucson.

James says his background of Urban and Regional Development has helped build a profound understanding of multifamily construction and macro-socioeconomic trends regarding regional planning and development. According to Marcus and Millichap, James' combination of geography and development training along with his history in Tucson

and feverous work ethic has allowed him to quickly become one of the most successful new agents in Marcus and Millichap's Arizona office.

Thus far, James has participated in more than 47 transactions totaling over \$249 million. James has witnessed the transformation of Tucson since beginning at the University of Arizona and enjoys being a leader in multifamily advisory and brokerage services to instill a new level of enthusiasm and high standard for the Tucson market.



## Jessica McGarey, BA EVS 2015: *Wildlife Intern and Science Communicator, Sonoran Desert Network Desert Research Learning Center*



Jessica works for the National Park Services Sonoran Desert Network (SODN). Her job includes several different responsibilities. First, she is the lead biotechnician for the wildlife protocol where she deploys wildlife cameras in 8 networks of the 11 National Parks and Monuments. Second, she hosts citizen science

weekends where the public helps and is taught how technicians perform science in the National Parks. Third, she interprets science via speeches, tours, social media, and creating videos at the headquarters—the Desert Research Learning Center (DRLC). Fourth, she takes care of the animals that live at the DRLC,

including the Rio Sonoyta Pupfish, desert suckers, speckled dace, lowland leopard frogs, and a desert tortoise. She also created a native foods garden that she now maintains. And finally, Jessica helps with maintenance at the DRLC and works with international interns that stay at the learning center and help technicians perform research with the SODN.

This is what Jessica had to say about how SGD helped her find her current job: "I found this job because of the UA Environmental Awareness Society (ENVAS)- A School of Geography and Development club. I volunteered at the DRLC with ENVAS and expressed interest in a summer internship and later was informed of a position that I applied for. Immediately after graduation I started working for SODN/ DRLC full time. Professor Tracey Osborne was one of the most influential people I had the pleasure of studying under. I also enjoyed water and society and border lands classes through the SGD major as well."

# SGD GRADUATE PROGRAM

*SGD has so many amazing grad students: here a few of them tell us about their research and field work*

## *Bokjin Roh, PhD Candidate*

My research covers two main concerns: urbanization and climate change. I analyze flood risk management practices in urban areas, particularly focusing on: a) institutional aspects that allow for collaborative efforts between various stakeholders, b) the effect of these efforts on establishing and maintaining risk governance, c) the way risk governance contributes to building urban resilience to flood risk under climate change. I also explore adaptive capacity and vulnerability reduction within the given

social, cultural, and economic conditions of an urban area. My current research consists of three parts that include i) a case study of Seoul, South Korea – where I am closely working with the city government, ii) a review of multiple worldwide case studies in peer-reviewed journal articles, and iii) media discourse on urban flood risk management.



Last fall, I sat down with 16 undergrad students, grad students, and alumni from UA's bioscience programs who self-identified LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\*, queer, and more minority gender identities and sexual orientations). My goal was to talk about their academic experience, and I wanted to know if they thought that they were welcome in their fields, what

unique challenges they faced as LGBTQ+ bioscience students, and generally what it's like to mash together identities that include LGBTQ+ person, bioscientist, student, and academic. I found, to my surprise, that most folks believe that bioscience is one of the best places in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields to be as an LGBTQ+ person, though I don't have any firm conclusions yet. I'm continuing to work with this data, but I'm curious to see how true this may be beyond UA.

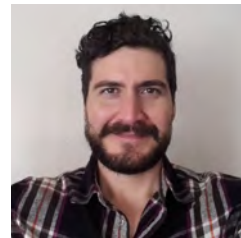
## *Tony Colella, PhD Candidate*

## *Antonio Cabrera, PhD Candidate*

I am a CONACYT scholar (funded by Mexico's Ministry of Science and Technology), and my background in applied economics, and experience as a spatial data research assistant took me into Geography.

I study entrepreneurial ecosystems, which constitute new business support configurations. Ecosystems are becoming ubiquitous in economic life all across the globe: incubator and accelerator programs, venture capital funds, and large firms come together in creating and nurturing business-making. In specific, I study how place plays a role in determining how ecosystems come to form. To test my results, I collected fieldwork data from Monterrey, Mexico. The city currently debates between its manufacturing trajectory and nurturing a digital industry sector.

My fieldwork consisted in holding conversations with two interrelated populations. First, with incubators, accelerators, investment funds, government agencies, and any other site or facility supporting new venture creation. Then, with venture makers, or actual projects who received support. I analyze this data in two ways. Quantitatively, I apply network analysis to understand ecosystems as arising structural relations: capital-venture-making. Qualitatively, I explore how assumptions on place arise within industrial change (in my research, from manufacturing to digital economies).



## *Talia Anderson, MA Student*

I am a master's student in the School of Geography and Development and the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research. My research is broadly focused on understanding climate variability and

thesis. For my thesis, I am using satellite imagery from 1984–2018 to evaluate changes in the productivity of high elevation wetlands, locally known as bofedales, across the Chilean Altiplano. Eventually, I plan to combine the satellite data with tree rings to develop a more comprehensive understanding of water resources provided by wetlands in the Chilean Andes. This data can be used to investigate historical droughts and wet periods and to detect shifts in wetland activity in a region that is likely to be affected by future water shortages.

change in high-elevation environments. I recently returned to Tucson after spending a year in Valdivia, Chile on a Fulbright Study and Research Grant to work on my master's

## WHERE ARE OUR PHD ALUMNI NOW?

PhD (2017), Jacob Miller, Lecturer, Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK

PhD (2018) Sarah Kelly, Postdoctoral Researcher, Dartmouth University

PhD (2017) Lily House-Peters—Assistant Professor, California State University-Long Beach

PhD (2017) Katharine Sammler—Assistant Professor, California State University-Maritime Academy

PhD (2017) Miriam Gay-Antaki, Lecturer, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

PhD (2017) Sonya Ziaja, Climate Policy & Research at California Public Utilities Commission,

PhD (2017) Marissa Isaak, Assistant Professor, Central New Mexico Community College, Albuquerque, NM

PhD (2016) Zachary Sugg, Program Manager, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, Phoenix, AZ

PhD (2015) Melinda Butterfield, Assistant Professor, Wilamette College

PhD (2015) Melanie M. Colavito, Human Dimensions Specialist with the Ecological Restoration Institute, Northern Arizona University

PhD (2015) Jeremy Slack, Assistant Professor, University of Texas - El Paso

PhD (2014) Manuel Prieto-Montt, Instituto de Investigaciones Arqueológicas y Museo, Chile

PhD (2013) Jamie McEvoy, Assistant Professor, Montana State University

## RECENT GRAD STUDENT AWARDS

William Tintor, 2019 Carson Scholar, Institute of the Environment, University of Arizona

Andrew Zimmer, 2019 Carson Scholar, Institute of the Environment, University of Arizona

## RECENT GRAD STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

[Lynch, Casey](#) (2018). "[Representations of Utopian Urbanism and the Feminist Geopolitics of 'New City' Development](#)" Urban Geography. DOI: [10.1080/02723638.2018.1561110](#)

Gerlak, A., Saguier, M., [Mills-Novoa, M.](#), Fernside, P. and [Albrecht, T.R.](#) (In Press) Dams, Conflicts, Chinese Investments, and EIAs: A Race to the Bottom for South America? Ambio

# SGD IN THE MEDIA

*SGD has had an impressive presence in the media this year. We continue the strong tradition of writing op-eds and contributing to mainstream media and have also had many of our research projects covered in major publications.*



SGD faculty have made a name for themselves as active contributors to the public conversation on such important issues as climate change, immigration, and debates about the border. Professor Margaret Wilder (pictured, left) [published an op-ed in Scientific American](#) looking at the environmental aspects of the debate around a border wall. Associate Professor Liz Oglesby (pictured, below left) continued her active role in contributing to debates on immigration coming from Central American states with an [op-ed in The Hill](#) (pictured, right) as well as serving as an expert guest on an episode of the NPR News Show '1A', entitled [Why Are Migrants From Central America Coming To The U.S.?](#)

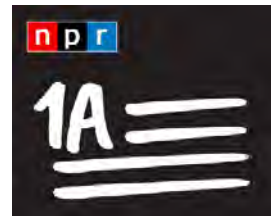


Professor Diana Liverman (pictured, middle left) was also featured as an expert guest on NPR's 1A for her role in the IPCC report released last fall. In an episode entitled [U.N. Report Says We Have About A Decade To Turn Around Climate Change Effects](#). Diana was also quoted in media outlets such as [The New York Times](#) about the National Climate Assessment that was released in October 2018.



**Exploring the Ecosystem of the U.S.-Mexico Border - Scientific American Blog Network**  
[blogs.scientificamerican.com](https://blogs.scientificamerican.com)

The wetlands are springing back to life in the Colorado River delta located mostly in Mexico just at the border with the United States. The endangered Yuma clapper rail croaks a funny song in the ...



## SGD RESEARCH IN THE NATIONAL MEDIA



Greg Barron-Gafford's (pictured, left) agrivoltaics research, which examines how photovoltaic solar power can be combined with agricultural production, has been generating lots of media coverage this year. In October there was a feature in the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (pictured, left) and January saw [an exciting cartoon rendition of his work](#) in the online magazine [Wired](#) (below, left). Greg has documented all of the media coverage on this project on his website, which you can find [here](#).

SGD faculty Andrea Gerlak (pictured, left) wound up her collaborative project on green infrastructure in South Tucson with a big event at Star Academic High School that saw more than 80 volunteers come out. [High Country News](#) (pictured below right) and the [Udall Center](#) both ran features on this innovative project. Many UA students also participated, including SGD Major Rebekah Ulmer (featured on page 3)



**Tucson elementary students help UA study how well plants grow under solar panels**

By Markia Hoffmann [Arizona Daily Star](#) Nov 23, 2019



Kindergarten at Maricopa Elementary School on Tucson's west side last week helped UA study how well plants grow under solar panels. The school placed green mesh in shade under solar panels and kept a log of a research project being done by the University of Arizona.

## High Country News

**Extreme heat hits Tucson's poor neighborhoods hardest**

Where city efforts fall short, activists try to add shade to the heat-stressed south side.

Jessica Kutz [NEWS](#) Dec. 6, 2018 From the press release



**WIRED**



**A tech revolution will help farmers harvest sunshine with their crops**

Agri-voltaics will combine plants with power to make full use of scarce land - and give growers an extra income.

# CHANGING TUCSON

## MURALS OF TUCSON: CULTURAL LEGACY THROUGH CONTEMPORARY STREET

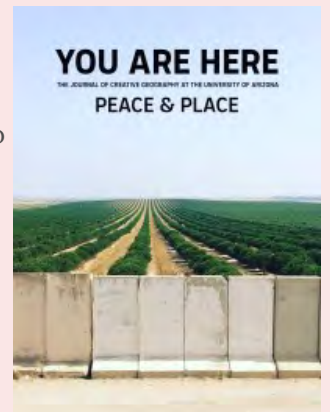
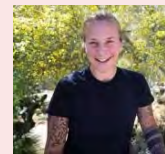
Since many of our alums left the city of Tucson, especially downtown, has seen many changes. Downtown has been revitalized with new bars, restaurants, hotels and housing. But one of the best recent additions to Tucson's built environment has been the many murals that have appeared around the city. Painted by local, national, and international muralists these public art-works reflect the diverse cultural and environmental geographies of the Sonoran borderlands. SGD PhD student Laura Sharp made a Story Map of the mural for the City of Tucson, which can be found [here](#).



## You Are Here: The Journal of Creative Geography at The University of Arizona celebrates its 20th Anniversary



*you are here: the journal of creative geography* has been published by SGD graduate students for 20 years. Founded in Spring 1998 by then SGD MA Student [Kimi Eisele](#) (pictured bottom, left), the journal is an annual publication that seeks to explore the concept of place through essays, fiction, poetry, maps, photographs, sketches and any kind of creative expression of place. The editor of *you are here* rotates annually to new and interested SGD graduate students who pick the theme to explore each year. The editor in chief for the last two years has been [SGD PhD student Taylor Miller](#) (pictured, right) whose 2018 issue, themed Peace and Place (pictured, right) was a follow up to the 2017 issue, which ruminated on the spaces of war. The [entire archive is available here](#) and includes issues on themes as diverse as The Montage Effect (2015), Memory (2017), The Borderlands (2009), and Dislocations (2011). The 2018 edition featured prose, poetry and photography from artists/scholars/activists from Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, Kurdistan, France and Chile-- as well as original essays by James Beard nominee Reem Kassis and 2018 SBS Alumnus of the Year David Yetman. As editor-in-chief, Taylor finds this project immensely fulfilling-- a way to bridge her passion for art making and creative writing with critical geography. *You are here* connects The University of Arizona community and studies of the southern Arizona borderlands with larger conversations on geopolitics, aesthetics and placemaking.



## SGD ALUM AND FOUNDER OF *YOU ARE HERE* KIMI EISELE HAS FORTHCOMING NOVEL

Kimi has made a name for herself in Tucson as a multi-disciplinary artist whose work aims to “dissolve the perceived separation between humans and the natural world.” The 2014 recipient of the “Lumie” Award from the Tucson Pima Arts Council Kimi’s work has ranged from the 3-act performance piece entitled “[Standing with Saguaros](#)” that sought to celebrate natural and cultural significance of the saguaro cactus to her most recent work a forthcoming novel entitled, [The Lightest Object in the Universe](#), which is about loss and adaptation in a post-apocalyptic America. The book will be available from Algonquin Press in July 2019.



# SGD FACULTY NEWS (CONT.)

## Dave Plane Retirement (Cont.)

**Do you have a favorite memory from your time in SGD?** Holly Smith, the fourth of the deans I worked under while Head in the 1990s, had informed me she needed to protect flagship doctoral programs: “So Geography is a department I’m not going to be able to do much for.” I responded: “We might surprise you.” Two years later, the National Research Council released rankings of Ph.D.-granting programs. Geography was among just six “Top-Twenty” UofA departments. Walking across campus I ran into Holly, who sheepishly said, “Wow, what you’ve been telling me is actually all true!”

**What are your plans now that you are moving on to the exciting world of retirement?** That question reminds me of asking our young daughters what I should put on my annual report to the Dean under Personal Goals for the Year Ahead. They shouted: “Make better French toast!” Kathy and I want to continue splitting our years between winter/spring in Tucson and summer/fall on the Maine Coast. I’ve begun co-editing a new book series, “Great Minds in Regional Science.” I’m going to continue cycling, sailing, hiking, and umpiring fast-pitch softball. It would be good to complete my last sabbatical project: a book on the geography of the American canal era. And maybe I’ll even finish my great American novel, *The Infield Fly Rule*.



## FAREWELL TO SGD PROFESSOR VINCENT DEL CASINO

SGD Professor Vincent Del Casino, who also served as the Interim Senior Vice Provost and Vice President of Academic Initiatives and Student Success, will be leaving Tucson in July 2019 for a new job as Provost of San Jose State University in California. Vin is excited for his new role but says that he will dearly miss the wonderful geography community at the University of Arizona. He will especially miss working with students in SGD. At UA, Vin made geographers proud by providing oversight for online education initiatives as well as UA’s “100% Engagement Initiative” that allows students to participate in “extra-classroom” activities through credit-bearing and non-credit engaged learning experiences.

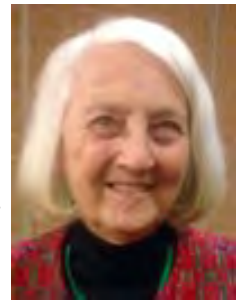


## SGD PROFESSOR EMERITA JAN MONK TO RECEIVE 2019 AAG STANLEY BRUNN AWARD FOR CREATIVITY IN GEOGRAPHY

The AAG Stanley Brunn Award for Creativity in Geography is given annually to an individual geographer or team of geographers that has demonstrated originality, creativity and significant intellectual breakthroughs in geography. The award includes a prize of \$1,000.

According to the AAG, “Professor Monk is one of the most influential figures in the disciplines of geography and women’s studies. Her interdisciplinary research in geography education and feminist/gender studies has played a pivotal role within the discipline.” They continue that “Professor Monk forcefully demonstrates the highly creative and consequential place that geographers can have in engaging in and shaping broader transdisciplinary discussions and debate.” Jan has been extremely active in university-level teaching and graduate-level geography education, particularly in pursuing projects that allowed greater representation of women within the discipline. In addition to her advocacy work around inclusion and diversity in geography, Jan has a large body of publication and has been co-editor of two series: “International Studies of Women and Place” and “Society, Environment and Place.”

To read more about the Stanley Brunn Award for Creativity in Geography and Professor Monk’s very impressive body of work see the AAG webpage, [here](#).



## LISE NELSON (CONT)



Her current book project examines shifting geographies of Latinx immigrant settlement in the United States, specifically the arrival of immigrants to high-amenity rural communities—from Jackson Hole, Wyoming to Cooperstown, New York. Based on research developed in collaboration with Peter Nelson of Middlebury College, the book examines how the migration of wealthy, white exurbanites to high-amenity rural areas generates economic changes that function to recruit low-wage and often undocumented immigrant workers to these same areas. The book traces the history of how employers in constructions, landscaping and a range of ‘high amenity’ services found and recruited immigrant workers to rural Colorado and Georgia—places that had been largely off the map of Latinx immigrant settlement prior to that time. Equally important, it examines how labor regimes, broader social geographies, and the meanings of place were transformed in the wake of these recruitment processes.

At its heart *Illegality and the Production of Affluence* will paint a fine-grained portrait of the tensions between the emergence of economies dependent on immigrant labor and processes of racialized social exclusion in the context of every day life. The book is part of Nelson’s ongoing commitment to fine-grained, historically situated qualitative analysis connecting processes of everyday life and ‘local’ change with global transformations and power dynamics.

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Snyder, Katherine A., Andrea F. Corral, Gwendolyn J. Woods, Andrea Prichard, Melissa Montgomery, Vasiliki Karanikola (2018). Challenges and lessons learned from a sanitation project in rural Bolivia. *Development in Practice*. DOI: 10.1080/09614524.2018.1481198

Myadar, Orhon and Sara Jackson (2019). Contradictions of Populism and Resource Extraction: Examining the Intersection of Resource Nationalism and Accumulation by Dispossession in Mongolia. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 109(2). <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2018.1500233>

Emerton, Lucy and Katherine A. Snyder. (2018) Rethinking sustainable land management planning: Understanding the social and economic drivers of farmer decision-making in Africa. *Land Use Policy*, 79: 684-694. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2018.08.041>

Goldstein, Jenny E., Kasia Paprocki and Tracey Osborne (2019) A Manifesto for a Progressive Land-Grant Mission in an Authoritarian Populist Era. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 109(2). <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2018.1539648>

# MASTER'S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE (MDP) PROGRAM NEWS

## Record number of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers/Coverdell Fellows Join MDP



One-third of the MDP class of 2020 are returned Peace Corps volunteers and Coverdell Fellows. From left to right are Abdul Sigal (Ghana 2013-2017), Robert Hartwell (Cameroon 2016-2017), Avery Julian Baker (Vanuatu 2015-2017), and Jake Meyers (Benin 2015-2017).

The competitive Coverdell Fellowship, available only to returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCVs), covers many tuition and expenses at UA while also providing Fellows with a built-in community of more than 50 RPCVs who have served around the world. Another important component is community service activities within Tucson, a city that in some ways is a microcosm of concerns found worldwide such as accessing to health care, managing climate change, and combating entrenched poverty. In line with the Peace Corps ethos that RPCVs should "bring their experience home," Coverdell Fellows also undertake an Outreach Assistantship for ten hours a week with a local organization in Tucson. You can [read the full story](#) on the MDP newpage.

## Recent MDP alumni based domestically, working globally



**Fardous Rahmani** (2017) is a project manager for Tetra Tech Management Systems International (MSI) in Washington D.C. He manages five different U.S. government-supported projects across regions, ensuring that USAID strategies and programs on fragility, conflict, and violence reflect the highest quality, evidence-based research, and need analysis.

**Paige Klotzman** (2017) is a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Officer with Perkins International, a global organization for people with blindness that is based in Massachusetts. She recently led a program evaluation in Indonesia and now coordinates an initiative in India to partner with hospitals and state-level governments to develop more sustainable and scalable solutions for children with blindness.



## Recent research by MDP Students

In December 2018, three MDP students graduated after submitting their master's reports on the research from their summer field practicums.

**Amanda Hixson:** *The Missing Piece of World Food Program's Strategic Plan: Cambodia as Illustration of WFP's Need to Lead and Collaborate in Addressing the World Obesity Epidemic*

**Karina Martinez:** *Challenges of Studying Energy Poverty in Hermosillo, Sonora.*

**Sandra Wiebe:** *The Integration of More Plant-Based Foods in Our Diet: Reformulating our Assumptions about Consumption*



The Fall 2018 edition of the [MDP Blog](#) includes contributions from students **Deborah Dimmett**, **Philana A. Jeremiah**, **Sandra Wiebe**, **Joseph Stewart**, and **Michelle Schatz** related to their MDP summer field practicums, as well as other research and advocacy activities.

## MDP Students bring their development skills to the Community Food Bank

UA and SGD have a wide range of interconnections with the Community Food Bank (CFB) of Southern Arizona, which provides an array of services in Pima County and beyond.

Two current MDP students work full-time at CFB. In the process, they are demonstrating that although the field of "sustainable development" is most often associated with the developing world, it

can be just as relevant "in our own backyards."

**Chris Mazzarella:** "Southern Arizona is one of the most impoverished regions of the U.S., existing within a bioregion facing a critical future with climate change and as a nexus point for Central and South



American migration and economic activity. There are myriad development problems here, including aging infrastructure, high poverty rates, immigration issues, underfunded public education, and water security."

**Samantha Turner:** "I was drawn to the MDP Program because of my experience working across Arizona on food security projects in low-income communities... It has been great to see that the Food Bank, and many other domestic nonprofit organizations, are increasingly shifting from 'charity' to 'justice' models which include the empowerment of community members through education, civic engagement, and economic development."

More about the [MDP-CFB connection](#) can be read on the MDP newpage.

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH SGD!

The School of Geography and Development is revitalizing its connections to alumni and friends so please send us your news and contact information!

You can leave SGD a message and update [here](#) or email our front office by contacting [amandab@email.arizona.edu](mailto:amandab@email.arizona.edu).

**To read a detailed history of the School, click on the old department sign to the left.**



## HOW TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND DEVELOPMENT

We work very hard to support our students, secure research grants, and connect to the community. We are always grateful for any contribution to support deserving students, invest in faculty research, encourage our outreach activities, or fund lectures, fieldwork and internships.

For more information and to donate please go to: <https://geography.arizona.edu/donate> Thank You!

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## SPRING 2019 SGD COLLOQUIUM SERIES TO FEATURE SEVERAL SPECIAL LECTURES



On March 22nd there will be the 13th Annual Jan Monk Lecture, which features a feminist geographer in honor of SGD Professor Emeritus Jan Monk. This year we will host [Dr. Julie Young](#) from the University of Lethbridge, Canada (pictured, left) who will give a talk entitled "The Border as Archive: Reframing the Crisis Mode of Governance at the Canada-US Border."

March 29th is the Annual SAGA (Southern Arizona Geographers Association) which features a speaker who has been invited by the SGD graduate student association. This year's lecture features the political geographer [Dr. Reece Jones](#) of The University of Hawaii - Mānoa (pictured, right) who will give a talk entitled, "Violent Borders and the Right to Move."



April 12th is the Annual My Arizona Lecture and will feature [Professor Barbara Atwood](#) (pictured, left) who is the Mary Anne Richey Professor Emerita of Law at the James E. Rogers College of Law at UA. Professor Atwood, who has authored numerous books and is the Co-Director of the Family and Juvenile Law Certificate Program, will give a talk entitled, "Gender, Race, and Family in Arizona."

On April 26th from 1:30-5:30PM there will be a special event in honor of the retirement of longtime SGD faculty David Plane (see p. 2). This event entitled, "Migration, Population, and Spatial Interactions: A Symposium in Honor of David Plane and His Contributions to Geography" will feature keynote speaker [Research Professor William A.V. Clark](#) of UCLA (pictured, right).

