

Hi Everyone:

It has been a while since I let you know of the achievements of our group. Well here goes!

1) Congratulations to Priscilla McCutcheon and Brittany Davis, first year Ph.D. students who have just received a \$300 grant from the 2007 seed grant program of the Center for Research & Engagement in Diversity (RED). Their proposal "Colorism on campus: intra-racial attitudes among undergraduate African American students in the Atlanta metropolitan area", was one of only five selected for funding. Well done from all of us!

2) Sarah Connell one of our undergraduate majors was given an internship at National Geographic. She will be in D.C. for 4 months presumably working on grants for Geography education programs in schools. Well done Sarah!

3) Yanbing Tang won the 2006-2007 Clarke County Geographical Society Travel Stipend Award of \$600 to assist with the costs of attending the San Francisco AAG meeting.

4) Well done Pauline Lunceford of the University of Georgia Food Services, Faculty Center, Memorial Hall, who performed a Heimlich maneuver on Audrey Hawkins to prevent her from choking.

5) Amy Ross who was one of the "coaches" of the honors students who participated and impressed in "The Carter Presidency: Lessons for the 21st Century" event.

6) Andy Herod's book "The Dirty Work of Neoliberalism: Cleaners in the Global Economy" (edited w/ Luis Aguiar, Sociology, UBC) has been published by Blackwell. Way to go Andy!

7) Andy Herod was appointed by the ACC Mayor and Commission on Dec 6 to a seat on the ACC Planning Commission. The Planning Commission reviews all ordinances and zoning requests before making a recommendation to the Mayor and Commission. He had previously been appointed to the ACC Hearings Board, which hears requests for ariances from ACC zoning and other ordinances. You will have noticed lately that Andy is now running for the vacant 8th District Commissioner position on the Planning Commission and is seeking your vote.

8) Marshall Shepherd has been appointed to a 3-year term on the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) Earth System Science Council. The Universities Space Research Association was incorporated in 1969 as a private, nonprofit corporation under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Besides the 92 member institutions in the United States, there are two member institutions in Canada, three in Europe, two in Israel and one in Australia. USRA provides a mechanism through which universities can cooperate effectively with one another, with the government, and with other organizations to further space science and technology, and to promote education in these areas. Its mission is carried out through the institutes, centers, divisions, and programs.

9) Thanks to Marshall Shepherd the Geography Dept. globe made the NASA website. Check it out. <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Study/UrbanRain/>

10) Matt Mitchelson achieves stardom! Over the MLK-Day weekend, an article inspired by a forthcoming paper with East Carolina colleagues ran in: The Atlanta Journal and Constitution The Birmingham News The Charlotte Observer The Kalamazoo Gazette The Kansas City Star The New Orleans Times-Picayune The St. Paul Pioneer Press From: <http://www.newhousenews.com/archive/tilove011007.html> "...a first-of-a-kind study by three geographers, from the University of Georgia and East Carolina University, has compared the economics of all King streets nationwide with Main Streets, streets named for John F. Kennedy, and U.S. streets generally. The study, which will appear in the March 2007 issue of Social Science Quarterly, found the stereotype of King streets is just that -- a stereotype, and, based on the hard numbers, wrong." Well done Matt!

11) Hearty congrats to Georgeta Connor who just received the following message: "On behalf of the AAG, and of the George and Viola Hoffman Award Committee, I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected as one of two recipients of the 2006 George and Viola Hoffman Award for your dissertation entitled "The Rural Dimension of Romania's Integration into the European Union: The Impact of the EU Enlargement on Romanian Agriculture and Rural Areas." The award consists of a certificate and support for your dissertation research in the amount of \$500. We hope you will be able to accept this award in person at the AAG Awards Luncheon to be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 11:40 to 2:00 p.m. in conjunction with the AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco. This is great news and congratulations once more to Georgeta.

12) Mario Giraldo has just accepted an Assistant Professor position at Kennesaw State in Atlanta. Well done Mario, it will be nice to have you close by for a few more years.

13) Congratulations to John Frye, Seneca Holland, Josh Inwood, and Megan McCarthy who have recently received letters from Arnett Mace, Senior Vice President and Provost informing them that they are the recipients of the *Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. *They will be recognized on Honors Day and receive a certificate attesting to their effectiveness as teachers. Well done!!

14) Our own Fausto Sarmiento was recognized by the Student Government Association (SGA) for excellence in teaching and valuable contributions to the students of UGA. During a banquet at the Georgia Museum of Art, eight professors from across campus received framed certificates conferred by students this year. Hearty congrats Fausto!

15) Fausto was also named to the International Editorial Board of "Pirineos", the flagship journal for mountain ecology studies. This trilingual publication (English, French and Spanish) is supported mainly by the European Union and the Spanish High Council of Scientific Research (CSIC) through the Instituto de Ecologia Pirenaico. Well done Fausto!!

I know I have missed many kudos but if you don't let me know about them I can't let others know. Send 'em in and I'll send 'em out.

George