

November 2006

Hi everyone:

I think the last time I issued a list of kudos was in April 2006. Sorry for not keeping you all up to date on happenings in the department. Below I have listed some student and faculty achievements in the last several months but I know there are many more that I don't have details on. Please let me have any additional information on your major achievements so I can let everyone know about them. For now here are a few that indicate UGA Geography is alive and well and maybe even thriving.

1) Sheika Aragundi has been selected for a training program on systematics of high elevation flora of the Andes (from the 20th November 2006 to the 21st January 2007) at Aarhus University in Denmark. Only one person from each country is chosen. She has been awarded the COIMBRA Group Scholarship and the ISOBIS Scholarship for this training. The Coimbra Group is an association of European Universities committed to creating academic and cultural ties in order to promote academic collaboration at an international level. The International School of Biodiversity Science, ISOBIS, is a Conglomerate of Danish research groups within the field of biodiversity science which offers research education at a postgraduate level. Well done Sheika!

2) Lauren Hand, who joined our department in fall 2006, was awarded the prestigious American Meteorological Society Industry Fellowship given to students in the fields of meteorology, climate, oceanography, and hydrology. As a part of this award, she will participate in a summer seminar series in Washington, DC with NASA, NOAA, and Congressional policy officials. Good to have you on board Lauren!

3) Fuyuan Liang (and Major Prof. G.A. Brook) was awarded an NSF doctoral dissertation grant of \$12,000 for his proposal "Doctoral dissertation research: Monsoonal Climate of China and the Southeastern U.S.A." Well done Fuyuan, now you have to spend the money.

4) Hilda Kurtz was elected Secretary of SEDAAG. Well done Hilda!

5) Marguerite Madden and C.P. Lo have received a UGA Applied Instructional Technologies (CAIT) grant of about \$15,000 for their proposal "GeoWall for Stereo Visualization in the Geography-Geology Classrooms". You may remember we saw a demonstration of this technology last year and it was kind of neat to put on our colored glasses and become part of the landscape being shown on the screen.

6) Fausto Sarmiento was invited by the Generalitat de Catalunya and the World Conservation Union to attend the experts' meeting on WCPA Protected Landscapes held at the Parc Naturel de la Zona Volcanica de la Garrotxa in Olot, to define the global strategy in favor of conservation of biodiversity in cultural landscapes. This planning is in preparation for the Categories Summit to be held in Seville in 2007.

7) Each year the geography graduate students at Wisconsin Madison invite one 'early-career' geographer to come to Madison to give a talk as part of the Yi-Fu Tuan lecture series. This year they chose Nik Heynen. Well done Nik, enjoy your trip back to Wisconsin.

8) Marshall Shepherd has received several extra-mural grants since joining us in fall 2005. Marshall now has so much money he is thinking of establishing his own bank to give loans to needy researchers! His awards include:

a) A 3-year grant of around \$450,000 from NASA for urban climate-water cycle studies. This grant is in partnership with the universities of Utah and Maryland but Marshall is the PI.

b) A \$500,000 grant from the Department of Defense's Defense Threat Reduction Agency. The grant, spanning FY 2006-2008 will study "Urban Enhancements to Meteorological Modeling and Observations." The team is led by Dr. Steve Burian (University of Utah) and includes Marshall and M. Jin (University of Maryland). Up to \$150,000 in funding could come to UGA over the three-year period.

c) A \$106,974 grant to conduct research on "The Impact of Urbanization on Climate: Integrated Modeling to Couple Urban Growth, Land Use Change, and Weather-Climate Models.

d) A 1-year \$55,000 grant from NASA for "Science Support for the Development of The NASA Global Precipitation Measurement Mission's Science Implementation Plan and Continuing Precipitation Science Team Activities"

5) A 1-year planning grant of \$5120 from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center for "Developing a Framework for Understanding the Titanian Methane Cycle using Remote Sensing Techniques Developed for Studying Earth's Water Cycle." This work is in conjunction with ongoing collaborators at the University of Michigan and Goddard Space Flight Center.

6) A \$7790 grant from The Northeast Georgia Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics (PRISM) for "Enhancing Climate Change Science Education Through Inquiry-Based Concepts and Real-World Simulations." This grant is in collaboration with Dr. Robert Hill in the College of Education. Co-Investigator, Robert Hill (UGA, COE) (\$7790)

WELL DONE MARSHALL, KEEP THE MONEY FLOWING!

9) Marshall Shepherd had an Opinion Editorial in the AJC during the 2006 Hurricane Season (Shepherd, J.M., June 11th, 2006: Op-Ed on Hurricanes and Global Warming, Atlanta Journal-Constitution).

10) Marshall Shepherd was a featured guest on the PBS newsmagazine "Georgia Weekly" to discuss the 2006 Hurricane Season, Climate Change, and the Impact of Cities on Weather. One of his recent studies was also highlighted in a report by CBS Channel 46-Atlanta.

WELL DONE EVERYONE AND CONGRATULATIONS.

Sorry if I have missed your particular achievement. If I have send me the details and I will pass them on.

Best,
George