



All Things Geography

Brown Bag Speaker Series

Spring 2010



Jointly Sponsored by Department of Geography and WyGISc

Fridays - 12:00pm - 1:00pm, AG C 316

1/22: William Gribb, Associate Professor, GEOGRAPHY

--- *Linking the Lewis and Clark National Historical Trail to the 21st Century*

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail was authorized by an Act of Congress (PL-95-625) in 1978. With the enactment of this law, a new era had begun to preserve and promote one of America's most significant historic events and the corresponding route in the western United States. This project was designed to assist the National Park Service in maintaining, updating and expanding the directional and interpretive information along the Lewis and Clark National Historical Trail Auto-Route and to provide the information and procedures that will be the foundation for a flexible spatial data collection and maintenance system. Primary elements of the project consist of a GPS based inventory of the auto-route signs and trail assets as well as analysis of the distribution of signage and cultural/historical sites using spatial analytical techniques. This system will provide the background and base for long term auto-route planning.

1/29: David Messenger, Assistant Professor, HISTORY

--- *Finding 'Dangerous Germans' in Spain: American Policy and Nazi Movement after the Second World War*

Major war criminals like those tried at Nuremberg after the Second World War were not the only Nazis sought by the Allied victors. Other officials who had been members either of Nazi Party organizations like the overseas association (*Auslandorganization*) or those connected to various police and intelligence agencies, such as the *Gestapo*, the party's own intelligence agency, the *SD (Sicherheitsdienst)*, or military intelligence, the *Abwehr*, were also sought, especially in the American zone of occupied Germany. Many of these people, however, were based in neutral states like Spain when the war ended. Given the title 'dangerous Germans', these figures were sought after by a series of Allied intelligence and diplomatic officials charged with repatriating these men and women to occupied Germany where they could be interrogated, possibly arrested, and perhaps even tried. An examination of both Allied aims in seeking these individuals and the methods used by such individuals to flee repatriation and interrogation will form the basis of this talk.

2/5: Kenneth Driese, Associate Research Scientist, BOTANY & WYGISC

--- *One School at a Time: Education in Rural Uganda*

Ugandans are passionate about educating their children, but in rural Uganda especially, resources are scarce and schools are primitive. In this presentation Ken Driese will give an overview of Uganda and show you some work that is being done by a Boulder-based non-profit called One School at a Time to involve Ugandan communities in improving their local schools. The work suggests an aid model that offers resources while insuring local buy-in, improving the chance that projects will be sustained.

2/12: Arjun Dongre, GEOGRAPHY, & Melissa Thompson, WY GEOLOGIC SURVEY

--- *The American Landscape through the Eyes of Two Cyclists*

Two Laramie residents rode bicycles across the U.S. last summer. One rode solo from San Francisco to North Carolina. The other went from Los Angeles to Boston with two people she had never met before. They each rode over 3,500 miles. Come see the American landscape from a different perspective.

2/19: Crystal Cooling, GEOGRAPHY

--- *Travels through Japan*

This presentation will focus on a two-week expedition through popular locales of Honshu. Travel begins in

Asakusa, Tokyo, proceeds through Hakone and Kyoto and finishes in Shinjuku, Tokyo. Anecdotes will include learning to use public transportation, random observations, and personal interactions.

2/26: Simon Brewer, Post Doctoral Research Associate, BOTANY

--- *Learning from the past: Forests in space and time*

Information about long-term changes in vegetation may be inferred by studying sequences of fossil pollen taken from sediment cores. The development of continental –scale databases, which group together a large number of sites, allow scaling from sites to regional analyses and provide a unique dataset for studying the changing distribution of forests through time. Spatial analysis of this dataset shows forests to be highly responsive at long timescales, and provides insight into modern genetic distribution, ecological processes and the environmental factors driving the observed changes.

3/5: Mathew Salava, GEOGRAPHY

--- *Integrating Ecological and Visual Approaches to Land Management*

The Wyoming landscape is changing at an accelerated rate. These changes are due, in part, to the development of natural gas fields and wind farms. Many of these developments occur on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM policy requires the use of visual resource management (VRM) techniques to help mitigate the visual impact of such developments. At the same time, the BLM is also charged with managing the ecological integrity of the landscape; however, this is done in a manner separate from the VRM process. This presentation addresses the challenges and approaches for considering both ecological and visual impact in an integrated manner.

3/26: Carl Legleiter, Assistant Professor, GEOGRAPHY

--- *Measurement and Mapping of Riverine Environments via Optical Remote Sensing*

Our understanding of rivers has, in many ways, been limited by the techniques we have used to measure them. The logistical constraints associated with conventional, ground-based surveys have tended to restrict researchers to short, isolated study reaches. As a result, we know relatively little about the manner in which reach-scale processes give rise to organized patterns of channel form and behavior at watershed scales. By enabling continuous, synoptic measurement of river morphology, remote sensing techniques could foster novel insight regarding the dynamics of fluvial systems. In this forum, I will explain the physical basis for remote sensing of rivers and describe various techniques for inferring stream attributes from image data. Examples will be drawn from my previous research in Yellowstone National Park and an ongoing study focused on the Laramie River. The capabilities and constraints associated with remote characterization of riverine environments will be discussed, and I will conclude the talk by identifying research needs and outlining future work.

4/9: John Harty, Visiting Assistant Professor, GEOGRAPHY

--- *Legends on the Landscape*

Paul Bunyan and his blue ox are well known folklore characters in both Canada and the United States. A number of features, including businesses, statues, festivals, and public landmarks, have been added to the landscape as a means of identifying with the folk heroes of the lumberjacks. This work analyzes the geographic distribution of such landscape features and how different items suggest the level of attachment local residents have to such items.