RP Graduates 2009

We are excited to announce the following regional planning graduates for May and August 2009: Jonathan James Baczek, John David Beaulieu, Adam J. Bozek, Eric M. Conlon, Aniel A. Diaz, Michael Paul Framarin, Nicholas James Frugale, Frederick Edwin Gerber IV, Kristen E. Gorski, Spike J. Klowicz, Emily Anne Leveille, Cassandra J. Masse, James Francis Maxwell, John N. Messer, Robert P. Mills, Kelvin Molina, Sean Christopher Shelander, Gregory Sluss, Derek Michael Strahan, Michael Kenneth Thompson, Kenneth F. Ventullo, Timothy Daniel Verrochi, and Philip Scott Warren.

GIS minors were earned by: Anthony Azevedo, Jonathan Baczek, John Beaulieu, Adam Bozek, Deanna Deacon, Nicholas Frugale, Frederick Gerber, Emily Leveille, Cassandra Masse, James Maxwell, Robert Mills, Gregory Sluss, Derek Strahan, Michael Thompson, Cagney Turner, Kenneth Ventullo, and Timothy Verrochi.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE.

So far, Michael Framarin has a job with Con-Test in East Longmeadow, Ken Ventullo works at U.S. Environmental in Waltham, and Kelvin Molina is a transportation planner at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC).

Interns and New Supervisors

Spring interns did extraordinarily well at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), where four worked in the transportation division collecting traffic data, entering data into software programs, and analyzing data for transportation demand studies. Two interns worked in the Land Use division at PVPC as part of the Gateway Grant to revitalize downtown Westfield. One student collected and analyzed survey data about potential economic development projects for the downtown, and one student generated GIS maps depicting suitable sites for development and a transportation loop connecting the college with the downtown.

Two students worked for the planner in Holyoke developing new GIS techniques for Homeland Security. Other students interned at: Con-Test Analytical Labs, the Springfield Water and Sewer, the City of Westfield Engineering/ GIS Department, and GIS at PVPC. Other interns worked at planning departments in Granby, CT, Northampton, and SRPEDD in Taunton.

Summer interns are working for the Massachusetts State Police, and Franklin Conservation Department. Aaron D'Mario, who works at Hatch Mott MacDonald will be supervising two WSC interns for the fall. Talk about coming full circle!
New Faculty Research: Dr. Braun

Carsten Braun’s research for 2008-09:
- Deployment of microclimatology network around Westfield State College and Stanley Park in collaboration with Westfield State College students.
- Development and planned submission of a proposal to the National Science Foundation to quantify the three-dimensional geometry of the Arctic ice shelves along the northern coast of Ellesmere Island, Canada (in collaboration with the Climate System Research Center and Microwave Remote Sensing Laboratory at UMass Amherst).
- Planning and expedition to the Venezuelan Andes in December 2008 / January 2009 to map the extent of glaciers in the Sierra Nevada de Mérida.

Dr. Braun’s Research

Carsten Braun’s research:
- Analysis of GPS data collected in June 2007 and June 2008 around the Quelccaya Ice Cap (Peru) to quantify changes in ice extent over the last few centuries.

The history of exploration and scientific research on Arctic Ice Shelves and Ice Islands. Chapter 13 in Copeland, L., and Mueller, D. (eds.) Arctic Ice Shelves and Ice Islands, Springer Verlag. (invited co-author)

Expert reviewer of research proposal ‘Climatic Sensitivity of Andes Glaciers’ and Water Resources’ (€ 387,759) for the Austrian Science Fund.

Dr. Bull’s Research

Dr. Bull’s Presentations:
- Presenter and organizer for session at the National American Planning Association Conference, April 2009 in Minneapolis MN, titled, “Engaging Citizen Planners through the Humanities.”

Presentation to Overseas Educational Advisors on Regional Planning Program, WSC, June 1, 2009.

Professional Development and Research:
- Completed 23 credits for AICP Certification Maintenance including units in Ethics and Health Impact Assessments.
- Awarded WSC STARS grant for spring 2010 research work in Kenya on Public Participation Methodologies.