GREETINGS.

Welcome to the first edition of the G&E newsletter, thirty-nine, seven. As the name of the newsletter indicates our latitude, the goal of this bimonthly update is to give students, alumni and friends of the Rowan University Department of Geography & Environment an indicator of where we are and where we are going. And there are many exciting changes to announce including a new departmental name, a new college in which we are housed, a new tenure-track faculty member and two new degree programs.

We are also now involved in exciting new research and outreach projects. The coming year ahead and beyond is promising to continue this trend of innovation and growth with two new faculty hires in the queue for the fall of 2013. I can honestly say that I’m thrilled to be in such a great place with so much potential, a great group of students and an outstanding faculty and staff. The following is just a glimpse of what’s going on at 39° 7’ in the department of G&E.

Cheers,

John Hasse, Department Chair

Geography & Environment Programs & Minors

GEOGRAPHY – BA and Minor
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES – BA, Major and Minor
PLANNING – BS, Major and Minor
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE – BS, Major and Minor

Concentrations

- Geoscience
- Global Issues
- Environmental Science
- Geographic Education

List of Current Projects

- Changing Landscapes in the Garden State
- NJ Geographic Education Alliance
- New Jersey Land Use Change Viewer
- National Guard Facilities Data Management
- Rowan Facilities Web Mapping
- Rowan Landscaping and Tree Inventory
- NJ MAP (Municipal Asset Profiler)
- 2013 Geography Bee

WHO’S THE NEW GUY?

Dr. Zachary Christman joined the Department of Geography & Environment faculty at Rowan this fall. Dr. Christman completed his Ph.D. at the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University in 2010 on a project assessing landscape changes in Central Mexico, focusing on some of the difficulties and uncertainties separating change due to “natural variability” from change associated with human actions. Prior to his arrival at Rowan, he served as a postdoctoral researcher at Rutgers, on a project measuring and monitoring the impacts from Hurricane Dean in the Yucatan Peninsula in 2007, and as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Middlebury College in Vermont.

Dr. Christman is a bearded, bicycle-riding GIS and Remote Sensing aficionado. Look for him teaching sections of Intro to Mapping & GIS, Remote Sensing & the Environment, and Geospatial Modeling. If you haven’t run into him in the halls yet, here is a bit of his background.

October 12, 2012
MEET ZACH.

I knew I wanted to be a geographer when…

I didn’t learn about geography as an academic discipline until after my undergraduate education was complete, but I did have some (frustrating) experience trying to learn GIS on my own for archaeology. After asking everyone I could for GIS help (and finding few answers), I discovered graduate programs in which I could specialize in this, applying the same technology and methods to modern problems. Retrospectively, visiting national parks and moving around several times throughout my youth certainly contributed to an appreciation for the diversity of places, too.

First thing I do when I wake up is…

Make a cup of coffee, walk the dog, and read the comics (which I have been doing every morning since I was about 5, and I often bring comics into my classes)

Rowan is…

A great place for geospatial education, with numerous opportunities for classes and research, tremendous growth, and a lot of interesting people doing neat things...

Most common GIS complaint...

Chasing scrollbars across the screen, programs not responding, and unmapped working directories

If I weren’t a professor, I would be…

… a brewer

Favorite Philly-only place/event/food

The Italian Market! So many great foods and interesting cultures squeezed into one short stretch of city… (and in my neighborhood).

Geography, to me, is…

An amazing perspective with which to study the diversity of the world and the people and processes that shape it.

Dr. Christman has ongoing research projects regarding deforestation and the expansion of cattle grazing in Chiapas, urban vegetation and socioeconomic factors in Philadelphia, social and ecological responses to natural disturbance in the Yucatán Peninsula, and several new ideas in the works for the NJ, Philadelphia and greater Delaware Valley region. If you are interested in learning more about possible opportunities or ideas, stop by to chat with him in Robinson 315B or send an email him an email at christmanz@rowan.edu.

WORKSHOP:

Geography & Environment - What is it all about?

We’re holding a workshop to give students who might be interested in programs in the Department of Geography & Environment a chance to come and get an idea of what we offer and how it may be a great path to a rewarding and meaningful career.

Geography & Environment - What is it all about?

There have been a lot of exciting changes going on since Geography merged with Environmental Studies. Join fellow students for a workshop to learn more about the possibilities of our degree programs, concentrations and minors.

Come to our workshop on Friday, October 19th to learn more about our department and to find out what program & track best suit you. All are welcome!

Who: This is an open event. Anyone interested in learning more about Geography & Environment at Rowan University are welcome!

What: Get familiar with our programs and find out more information with a Q/A session.

Where: Geography Department Conference Room (3rd floor Robinson Hall, adjacent to Men’s Restroom)

When: Friday, October 19th at 11:00 a.m.

Why: Graduates of our programs have had very good rates of employment in various careers that are involved in making the world a better place. Please join us to find out more!

GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK 2012 IS COMING!

A weeklong celebration of all things Geography kicks off with Burlington County College GIS Day on November 9th followed by a slew of Geography Awareness Week Worldwide Events from November 11-17.
SAIL AROUND THE WORLD USING ONLY THE STARS: CHECK!

Ninety-six year old Rowan Geography professor emeritus returned to campus to share his story of sailing around the world using only the stars and his knowledge of geography. Dr. Marvin Creamer is the only human to ever circumnavigate the globe on a sailboat using NO navigational instruments. After 510 days of raging seas and unrelenting obstacles, Dr. Creamer returned to the safe harbors of New Jersey.

On Thursday, September 20th, Marv shared his epic tale with over 300 people. On March 23, 2013 we will be hosting an evening with Marv in Edelman Planetarium that will let the imagination explore how his knowledge of the celestial sky kept his 36’ Globe Star on course!

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:

Position: Environmental Program Advisor, National Guard Environmental Internship Program

Department: Geospatial Research Laboratory, Department of Geography & Environment

Description: The NJDMAVA is a state agency responsible for supporting the New Jersey Army National Guard (NJARNG) and veterans of the state by providing training lands and building infrastructure for the NJARNG. The NJDMAVA Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) implements various environmental programs that support the missions of the NJARNG and the NJDMAVA including but not limited to:

1. Compliance Management including air and water quality management and permitting, underground and above ground storage tank management, hazardous waste management, asbestos management, spill prevention management.

2. Natural and Cultural Resources Management including rare species, wetland, predator, Canada geese, and historic building management and archeological surveys.

3. Policy and Planning Management including complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), implementing the Army National Guard (ARNG) Environmental Compliance and Assessment (ECAS) and ARNG environmental management system (EMS) programs, geographic

4. Information system (GIS) data development, conducting environmental training, and developing and implementing the EMB budget; and

5. Remedial Investigations and Cleanup including conducting ARNG Environmental Condition of Property, Environmental Baseline Surveys, and Preconstruction Assessments (EBS/ECOP/PCA) surveys and remediation of contaminated sites.

NJDMAVA EMB has established an effective, year round, credit bearing, internship program managed by Rowan University. The Environmental Program Advisor will act as a full time project manager, internship advisor and will instruct and mentor between one and three student interns for the purpose of implementing this program. The Environmental Program Advisor will support NJDMAVA EMB staff on a series of tasks, including, but not limited to:

- Air and water quality management and permitting,
- NEPA compliance,
- Storage tank management,
- Spill prevention,
- Cultural and natural resource management,
- Environmental training,
- Hazardous waste management,
- GIS data development,
- Site investigations and remediation, and
- Asbestos management.
The Environmental Program Advisor will also be expected to lead a group of interns to develop Project Management Plans, monthly and annual reports, and any other deliverables related to the tasks set by NJDMAVA and Rowan Geospatial Research Laboratory staff.

Qualifications:

- Must be a legal citizen of the United States and submit to a Department of Defense (DOD) national agency background check in order to obtain a DOD Common Access Card (CAC),
- Have or be able to obtain prior to employment a valid State of New Jersey driver’s license,
- Have graduated with at least a Bachelor of Science majoring in Environmental Sciences, Geology, Geomatics, Biology, Geography, Forestry, Wildlife Management, or related cultural and natural resources programs,
- Have at least one year experience working in Environmental Management or a related field.

Starting Date: Candidate will begin approximately two weeks after application period closes.

Salary: Competitive

General Info: All positions are contingent upon budget appropriations.

Rowan University is a comprehensive public institution with over 12,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in seven colleges (Business, Communications & Creative Arts, Education, Engineering, Performing Arts, Graduate and Continuing Education, Sciences & Mathematics and Humanities and Social Sciences) and with a branch campus. Rowan University at Camden is the branch campus located in the University District of Camden, New Jersey. Rowan at Camden has over 700 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in day and evening courses. The campus offers academic programs with an urban focus. Rowan at Camden is located 15 minutes from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and 30 minutes from the main campus in Glassboro, New Jersey.

Rowan University values diversity, is committed to equal opportunity in employment, and encourages members of diverse groups to apply.

Contact: Interested applicants should send a cover letter highlighting relevant education and experience and a resume and references by COB November 2 to:

Geospatial Research Lab
Rowan University
201 Mullica Hill Road
Glassboro, NJ 08028
gis@rowan.edu
856-256-4670 (FAX)

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT:

The degree programs in the Rowan University Department of Geography and the Environment offer an exciting pathway for learning about the world, understanding environmental challenges and developing a career that can help foster a sustainable future.

Graduates of our programs have gone on to rewarding professions as environmental managers, earth and environmental scientists, teachers, professional land planners, GIS specialists, and many other rewarding and meaningful careers that meet the challenges of our times.

For more information about programs offered please visit www.rowan.edu/geography or contact department chair, Dr. John E. Hasse at hasse@rowan.edu or 856-256-4811. The department offices are located on the third floor of Robinson Hall.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION: 🌍 Facebook 🌍

For all job/internship postings, interesting geofindings and more on what’s happening check us out on Twitter, Facebook & at www.rowan.edu/geography

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD
PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT
CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE