

# Los Angeles Geographical Society

## Southland Geographical Notes

www.lageographic.org



October

2009

### Annual Banquet

*A Photographic Safari to Tanzania and Kenya*  
**James Woods, Geographer and World Traveler**

On December 4, the Annual Banquet will again be held at Taix French Restaurant near Downtown Los Angeles and will feature *A Photographic Safari to Tanzania and Kenya* by James Woods (MA, California State University, Long Beach). Mr. Woods will share a portion of his extensive travels in East Africa. This should be an enjoyable illustrated excursion to a scenic part of Africa following the installation of Officers and the Raffle fundraising towards Student Scholarships. And of course everyone will again have the opportunity to meet returning and new friends in this annual social event for the Los Angeles Geographical Society

### Annual Banquet

December 4

Taix Restaurant

1911 Sunset Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

6:00 pm – Social Hour

7:00 pm – Dinner / Raffle

8:30 pm – *Photo Safari*

\$30 – Members

\$35 – Non-members

Menu – Short Ribs  
Grilled Salmon

**RSVP by November 23**

(Return form and check  
to LAGS mail box)

*Remember to RENEW DUES for 2010  
when Reserving for Annual Banquet*

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## 2009 Scholarship Awards

The Los Angeles Geographical Society annually awards merit-based scholarships of \$500 to outstanding Geography majors.

The McKnight-Clemons Scholarship fund is a memorial to the late Tom McKnight of the University of California at Los Angeles, and Joan Clemons of Los Angeles Valley College. McKnight-Clemons Scholarships are awarded to students majoring in Geography at local Community Colleges.

The Richard F. Logan Scholarship fund is a memorial to the late Richard Logan of the University of California at Los Angeles. Richard Logan Scholarships are awarded to Upper Division students majoring in Geography at local Universities.

2009 scholarships were awarded May 9. McKnight-Clemons Scholarships awarded to Community College students were:

Christine Brink, Cerritos College  
Kwan Luu, El Camino College

Richard Logan Scholarships awarded to Upper Division students were:

David Abbott, CSU Northridge  
Kyle Williams, CSU Pomona

Our members and the family of Tom McKnight and Joan Clemons generously fund these scholarships, in addition to raffle ticket sales at the annual Banquet. Donations towards either Scholarship fund may be included when you renew your membership on the form enclosed herein. Minimum qualifications and application may be found at: [www.lageographic.org](http://www.lageographic.org) (click on "Scholarships").



## Los Angeles Geographical Society

Free illustrated lectures are presented each month during the academic year about geographical research and world travel. Lectures are usually on the first Friday of the month at 8:00 pm at Los Angeles City College. For current room location, go to the website at:

[www.lageographic.org](http://www.lageographic.org)

Inquiries may also be addressed to either our e-mail or mailing address:

[lageographicalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:lageographicalsociety@yahoo.com)

Los Angeles Geographical Society  
Los Angeles City College  
855 North Vermont Avenue, Box # 1259  
Los Angeles, CA 90029

President	Gary Booher
Vice President	Matt Ebner
Secretary	Rebecca Donegan
Treasurer	Douglas Goode
Webmaster	Christian Vasquez
Other Councilors	Cesar Espinosa Julienne Gard Kris Jones Zia Salim Vienne Vu
Student Rep.	Pam Patipanavat

April 2009 Lecture

*Greek Agora to CityWalk –  
The Decline of Public Space*

Presentation by Dr. Ron Davidson  
Assistant Professor of Geography  
California State University, Northridge

Review by Andrew Hashimoto  
El Camino College Student

When the question “What is a city?” is asked there can be many answers. One definition says that it is a place that has public space. Different types of space include: private space, parochial space, and public space.

Private space involves people who you encounter in your own family at home and also friends and co-workers at an office.

Parochial space is neighborhood space, and is where children growing up find their way outside their home and learn about the real world and how to communicate with people. Not trusting your neighbors by taking your children to the mall on Halloween instead of trick or treating in your neighborhood is an example of parochial space. People don't trust others in their neighborhood, but sometimes have a good reason to be cautious where there is a higher rate of crime.

Public space is any place where you can find random strangers, including the mall, beach, school, coffee shop, or restaurant. Many geographers believe that public space is necessary and very important for a healthy function of society. Don Mitchell argues that public space is necessary for social justice.

William Fulton says that public space is important for the rational management of society. Fulton believes that we should jointly solve region-scaled issues such as homelessness, but that this is impossible because we are too fragmented. Fulton discusses how we are connected to each in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.

Ray Oldenburg states that people in the United States cannot socialize in places such as a coffee shops, book stores and bars as well as people in other countries such as Ireland. In Ireland people are very friendly and enjoy starting conversations with people whom they do not know well. In the United States there are more places where people socialize less, such as in a sports bar where the television is loud and there is not much communicating between people. Oldenburg says people in the USA have lost the social skills to casually have a conversation with strangers.

Richard Sennett believes that people try to avoid public life because they want to avoid stress. However, he says that people should work through the stress because that is how people mature.

William Cronon theorizes that public space used to be good but it has since declined. Cronon also says that public space used to be the meaningful core of cities. When people recount the past they tell how great it was and better than now. People think of past public space Edens, such as the Athenian Agora, the pre-industrial western city, and contemporary European cities, all versus today's virtual space of the internet.

A concluding thought was that people with weak social skills should improve them, and they will feel better about themselves and better converse with strangers.

May 2009

*Student Presentations  
and Posters Night*

On May 9, 2009, the annual Student Presentations Night was held on the campus of Los Angeles City College in the Chemistry building Lecture Hall. After announcing Scholarship Award recipients of the Los Angeles Geographical Society (see separate article on page 2), the following presentations were given by graduate and undergraduate students in Geography programs at local universities:

*Coca as a Threat to Cultural Diversity*  
Jenae Woodward, California State University Fullerton

*The Geography of Foreclosure:  
Los Angeles County Focus*  
Juan R. Morales, University of Southern California

*River of Water, River of Stars:  
The Separation of Earth and Sky  
in Cultural Landscapes*  
Cameran Ashraf, California State University Fullerton

*Vietnamese Immigrant Kitchen Gardens:  
Cultural Change from an Ethnobotanical  
Perspective*  
Kim Pham, California State University Fullerton

The last presentation by Kim Pham was a reprise of a presentation at the recently held 2009 Conference of the California Geographical Society. Her prior expert presentation was awarded First Place for a graduate student paper for the Tom McKnight Student Paper Award.

The following excellent Posters were also exhibited:

*The Accessibility of Farmer's Markets  
in Los Angeles County*  
Pam Patipanavat, University of Southern California

*Where is the Green? Community  
Gardening in South-Central Los Angeles*  
Patrick Weber, CSU Long Beach

*"If you want to run, run a mile. If you  
want an Experience, run a marathon":  
Geographies of Emotions, Health and  
Well-being*  
Andreea Greavu, CSU Long Beach

*Loss of Identity: The Emotional Battle  
to (Re)gain Federal Recognition and  
Reparation by the Winnemem Wintu  
of McCloud River*  
Mary Ngo, CSU Long Beach

*Post World War II Expansion in the  
City of Orange*  
Matt Ottosen, CSU Fullerton

*Housing Compounds in Saudi Arabia:  
Spatial Distribution and Urban Form*  
Tiffany Steele, CSU Fullerton  
Zia Salim, San Diego State University

Geography students at local universities are encouraged to present their latest research at the next annual Student Presentations Night on May 7, 2010.

November 6, 2009

*Deserts and Desert  
Environments: The Role of Wind*  
**Dr. Julie Laity, CSU Northridge  
Chemistry Lecture Hall, LACC**

## September 2009 Lecture

*Global Warming and Meeting Our Energy Demands*

Presentation by Dr. Helen Cox  
Associate Professor of Geography  
California State University, Northridge

Review by Matt Ebiner

Dr. Helen Cox started her lecture by discussing the energy pathways of the earth-atmosphere system, stating that carbon dioxide was not the only greenhouse gas that has increased in the last century. Methane from cows and landfills as well as nitrous oxides from fertilizers have also become more abundant in the atmosphere, adding to the greenhouse effect. She explained how melting of the ice caps would amplify global warming as less sunlight would be reflected back to space.

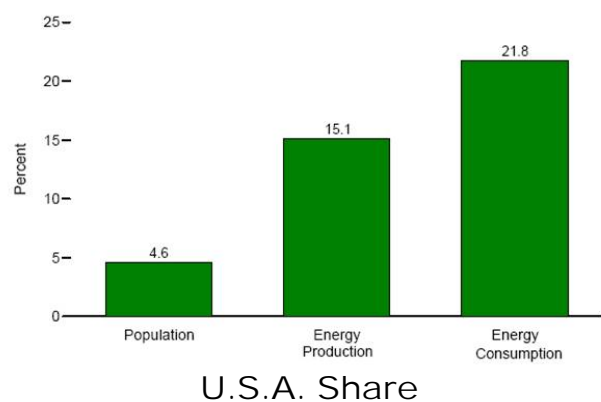
Global warming skeptics have dismissed anthropogenic causes of global warming, pointing to natural cycles of solar radiation. Dr. Cox believes that the atmosphere would be on a slight warming trend even without human influence, but still thinks that human activities are impacting global climate. An important question is how much of global warming is man-made?

Some models forecast a temperature change of +2-3°C by 2100, although California could well experience a temperature rise even more than that. Global warming would affect rainfall regimes, with dry areas becoming drier and wet areas becoming wetter. Since more of California's winter precipitation would fall as rain instead of snow, reduced

snowpack would adversely impact the state's water supply. Water scarcity could become even more severe.

Americans consume 22% of the world's energy even though our population is less than 5% of the world. Dr. Cox's lecture discussed the possibility and feasibility of meeting domestic energy demands with renewable energy. Currently these sources satisfy only 7% of America's energy demand. Our main renewable energy resource is hydroelectric power, but now the general consensus is that no more large dams are going to be constructed in the U.S.A.

That leaves wind and solar power as the two most likely sources for expanding our renewable energy production. Dr. Cox said that if all homes in America had solar panels, if 5% of the U.S.A. land area was covered with wind turbines, and if 1% of the country was covered with photovoltaic panels, this would still not generate all of the energy that we consume on an annual basis. The conclusion was that a future solely reliant on renewable energy is highly unlikely. Reduction of energy consumption is a more realistic goal, along with a moderate increase of renewable energy production. These would help reduce the carbon dioxide emissions and could help battle adverse climate change.



## October 2009 Lecture

*Slumdogs and Millionaires:  
Making Sense of Contemporary India*

Presentation by Dr. Bipasha Baruah  
Assistant Professor in International Studies,  
Interim Director of the Center for India Studies  
California State University, Long Beach

Review by Gary Booher

This insightful presentation by Dr. Baruah began by probing the audience as to their prior conceptions of what "India is...." Beginning with independence in 1947 until 1980, the government ran a social democracy with government control of the private sector, import substitution, a state-led model of industry with intervention in labor and financial markets, and a "Hindu" rate of growth where population grew faster than the economy.

From 1980 to 1990, the government initiated pro-business measures, with removal of price controls and reduced corporate taxes. From 1990 to the present, economic liberalization eliminated public monopolies and foreign direct investment was approved. Although the overall direction of the economy remained the same, India emerged as one of the wealthiest economies in the developing world with corresponding, but not commensurate, improvements in life expectancy, literacy and food security.

The population of India is 1.2 billion, or 18% of the world. Dr. Baruah claims that India has a "Demographic Dividend" because of a large young population with 600 million below age 25. Meanwhile, dramatic drops are occurring in both death

rates and fertility rates. While the Total Fertility Rate now averages 3 babies per woman, urban professionals are having less than 2 children.

However, the complexity of India mostly concerns balance between development and population, with the challenge of closing inequalities in educational level and economic status. India has great extremes between wealth and poverty, and all with large populations. Wealth and poverty co-exist in the New India with "Slumdogs and Millionaires: Beggars and Billionaires". 40 million have incomes over \$600,000 and 300 million are middle class (according to Purchasing Power Parity) with incomes of \$20,000 to \$120,000. 350 million are "aspiring" Middle Class while 400 million are poor (only \$1.25 per day for 40% of population). Although 40 million escape poverty each year, there are more poor people today than 50 years ago because of overall population growth.

Photos of contemporary India show these contrasts with the concern that illiteracy equals poverty. There have been 100,000 farmer suicides since 1997 while others abandon their farms and migrate to the cities. Social unrest may result if the poor do not ultimately benefit from globalization.

Environmental challenges increase for energy, water, pollution, climate change, and biodiversity as infrastructure is built and more people achieve upward economic mobility. Also discussed were HIV, politics of "Indian Exceptionalism", status of women, and migration effects in the Indian Diaspora. Dr. Baruah closed by stating that India is a microcosm of the world as it experiences the same transition and problems as the rest of the world.



**Los Angeles Geographical Society**

Los Angeles City College  
 855 North Vermont Avenue, Box # 1259  
 Los Angeles, CA 90029

***Free Public Lecture Series***

8:00 p.m. – First Friday of most months

**Los Angeles City College**

855 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles CA

**Room Location: Chemistry in Fall; Science-Technology in Spring**

Complimentary Refreshments after the Lecture

[www.lageographic.org](http://www.lageographic.org)

FALL 2009	SPRING 2010
<p><b>September 11</b></p> <p><b><i>Global Warming and Meeting Our Energy Demands</i></b></p> <p><b>Dr. Helen Cox</b> Associate Professor of Geography, CSU Northridge</p>	<p><b>February 5</b></p> <p><b><i>Environment in Western China: The Disappearance of Lop Nur Lake</i></b></p> <p><b>Dr. Hong-lie Qiu</b> Professor of Geography, CSU Los Angeles</p>
<p><b>October 2</b></p> <p><b><i>Slumdogs and Millionaires: Making Sense of Contemporary India</i></b></p> <p><b>Dr. Bipasha Baruah</b> International Studies Program, CSU Long Beach</p>	<p><b>March 5</b></p> <p><b><i>Arabian Opposites: Yemen and Dubai</i></b></p> <p><b>Matt Ebner</b> Professor of Geography, El Camino College</p>
<p><b>November 6</b></p> <p><b><i>Deserts and Desert Environments: The Role of the Wind</i></b></p> <p><b>Dr. Julie Laity</b> Professor of Geography, CSU Northridge</p>	<p><b>April 2</b></p> <p><b><i>Easter Island: Mysteries and Adventures of Rapa Nui</i></b></p> <p><b>Dr. Ray Sumner</b> Professor of Geography, Long Beach City College</p>
<p><b>December 4</b></p> <p><b>Annual Banquet</b></p> <p><b><i>A Photographic Safari to Tanzania and Kenya</i></b></p> <p><b>James Woods</b> Geographer and World Traveler</p>	<p><b>May 7</b></p> <p><b><i>Student Presentations, Posters and Maps</i></b></p> <p><b><i>by students at universities in Southern California</i></b></p>

California Geographical Society  
Annual Conference  
April 30 to May 2, 2010

Save the dates and start making plans for the Spring Conference of the California Geographical Society on April 30 to May 2, 2010 in Fullerton, California (in the "OC", home of Disneyland, Crystal Cathedral, Gwen Stefani and Fender Stratocaster).

The Conference will be hosted on the campus of California State University Fullerton and there will be a wide range of exciting field trips focused on the human and physical geographies of the local area. The conference is sure to appeal to those interested in planning, urban conservation and tourism. The event will kick off with the Friday barbeque at the Fullerton Arboretum and the newly constructed "green" Nikkei Heritage Museum Pavilion.

Conference information and registration materials are forthcoming and will be available later at:

<http://www.csun.edu/~calgeosoc/meetings/CSUF/home.html>



*Beginning February 2010, the monthly Lecture will be in the new Science-Technology building at Los Angeles City College.*

*For updates go to:*

[www.lageographic.org](http://www.lageographic.org)

2010 SarDesai Prize

Center for India Studies

California State University Long Beach

The Center for India Studies at California State University Long Beach is sponsoring the 2010 SarDesai Prize for writing an essay. The competition is open to full-time undergraduate students at all Southern California universities and community colleges. The award is \$1,000 and the submission deadline is Friday, January 29, 2010. Student essays must address the question: "What are the major challenges and opportunities facing India today?" More information may be found at:

[www.csulb.edu/indiastudies](http://www.csulb.edu/indiastudies)

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New Zealand Study Abroad

January 2010

El Camino College

Matt Ebiner

Study Abroad to New Zealand and Sydney, Australia in January 2010 with Matt Ebiner of El Camino College. All ages are welcome, and you do not have to be an El Camino student to join. More information can be found at:

[www.elcamino.edu/faculty/mebiner](http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/mebiner)  
[mebiner@elcamino.edu](mailto:mebiner@elcamino.edu)