New Tenure-Track Faculty, Dr. Ariane Middel

In fall 2017, we will welcome Ariane Middel, PhD, as a new Assistant Professor in our department. Dr. Middel’s expertise is in the areas of sustainable cities, climate change, and spatial modeling. Her research areas include developing climate adaptation and mitigation strategies to minimize the impact of environmental changes and extremes on society. She addresses the challenges of sustainable urban form, materials, design, and landscapes in the face of climatic uncertainty in rapidly urbanizing regions. For the past five years, she has employed local and microscale modeling and monitoring to investigate sustainability challenges related to human-climate interactions in cities, extreme heat, Urban Heat Islands (UHI), water use and quality, energy use, and thermal comfort.

Dr. Middel received her PhD in 2008 in Computer Science at the University of Kaiserslautern (Germany) with a dissertation entitled “Visualization of Urban Futures – A Framework for Visualizing Multidimensional Geospatial Data.” She received her diploma in Geodetic Engineering from the University of Bonn in 2003 where she majored in GIS, Cartography and Photogrammetry. From 2009-2013, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Decision Center for Desert City at Arizona State University. Since 2013, she has been an assistant research professor in the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning at ASU.

Dr. Middel’s ongoing research activities highlight the importance of shade for human health and thermal comfort and for designing more pedestrian-friendly outdoor spaces. We are excited to have her join our faculty.

Pictured above: Dr. Christina Rosan’s Urban Environment class tests permeable asphalt with Big Green Block’s Sandy Sorelien.

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Alumni,

Greetings from the Department of Geography and Urban Studies! It has been an exciting semester as we say farewell and congratulations to our most recent graduates.

This newsletter highlights some of the accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alumni in the realms of research, teaching, service, and careers. We are a vibrant community and are excited to expand our GIS and sustainability science involvement in Philadelphia and beyond.

It was great to see some of you at our alumni panels and happy hours. We would welcome more involvement from our alumni in departmental events and would like to facilitate alumni networking. Please contact me if you have any suggestions or questions. I’d love to hear from you.

Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Melissa R. Gilbert
Professor and Chair
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**Environmental Studies Seniors**

Every year, insightful and empowered students walk through the doors of Dr. Christina Rosan’s Environmental Studies Senior Seminar. In that class, she challenges them to think critically and analyze real-world problems and relate them back to the themes and skills learned throughout their undergraduate career.

This spring, seminar students were required to develop two projects with a focus on sustainability. Their first project required students to work in groups to develop ways for Temple University to become more sustainable in one or more conservation areas. Each student was then required to expand their thinking through a research poster and paper focusing on a sustainability measure in a scope far wider than Philadelphia. Students went above and beyond to develop four measures of conservation that were then presented to Kathleen Grady from Temple University’s Office of Sustainability. Projects included topics such as waste reduction within communities, tiny house construction, food bank creation, and increases in current composting initiatives for the university. Some of these projects had been put into place within the past year, while others were simply products of student conceptualization.

While students worked on these projects in groups, they also completed individual projects that addressed wider ranges of sustainability in the larger global community. Some projects of note included cohousing creation in America, solar tax breaks and rebates, the elimination of nutrient dead zones between nations, green infrastructure in Philadelphia to reduce ground water, and many more.

By Julia Wolanski, PSM in GIS student

**Where are they now?**

PhD Alumna **Dr. Colleen Hammelman** recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

PhD Alumnus **Dr. Michael Schwebel** recently joined the 100 Resilient Cities’ New York team. He will be a key member of the new in-house Strategy Delivery Unit, focusing on providing technical support to cities that are creating their resilience strategies and/or defining projects to operationalize their strategies and build resilience.

Recent Environmental Studies alumni **Darion Porter** and **Taylor Johnson** are working with MA alumnus **Dave Hatten**, using GIS/GPS to both collect and maintain new data concerning Philadelphia Parks and Recreation resources.

Geography and Urban Studies alumnus **Dan Bussell** successfully completed the ProRanger program at Temple. He will now complete his EMT certification and Seasonal Law Enforcement Training Program before joining the National Parks Service as a law enforcement officer.

Environmental Studies alumna **Jessica Waldinger** will be joining a Master’s of Natural Resource Management at the University of Manitoba with a specialization on plasticity in Canadian grassland bird.

**Pictured above**: Current and past grad students meet at the annual American Association of Geographers meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Pictured left**: ES major **Michael McKelvy** presents his poster in class.

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**Beyond Temple**

Environmental Studies major **Aaron Weckstein** won a 2017 Udall Scholarship. Learn more about Aaron and the Udall Scholarship.
Mapping their next move

On April 26th, graduate and undergraduate students participated in the Professional Science Master’s in GIS Capstone Presentations and a concurrent poster session to show their work from this semester.

Under the instruction of Dr. Hamil Pearsall and Dr. Victor Gutiérrez-Velez, students in Environmental GIS and Remote Sensing showed their final projects in a poster session attended by students and faculty, as well as the Professional Science Master’s in GIS capstone supervisors from Temple and beyond.

A key facet of our Professional Science Master’s in GIS is hands-on professional development. As their culminating experience in the graduate program, our students are paired with their employer or a prospective employer to see through an in-depth project that utilizes the skills taught in the program. This spring, our students had the following placements:

**Matt Quackenbush:** "Space Management GIS/CAD Integration & Classroom Utilization," Temple University Facilities

**Kamol Sarker:** "English as a Second Language Classes Database and Map," City of Philadelphia Office of Adult Services

**Joshua Sonntag:** "Image Registration Mosaic of City Historical Maps," City of Philadelphia GIS Services

Josh recently accepted a position as a senior research analyst at Comcast.

**Nick Wade:** "Traisr New Layer Type Implementation," McMahon and Associates

This summer, students in the Professional Science Master’s in GIS working with the City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Want to participate in GIS Day 2017 or learn more about our GIS programs? Email psmgis@temple.edu to get involved.

**Recent Faculty Publications**

The Other One Percent: Indians in America by Sanjoy Chakravorty, Devesh Kapur, and Nirvikar Singh, published by Oxford University Press.

Governing the Fragmented Metropolis: Planning for Regional Sustainability by Christina Rosan, published by University of Pennsylvania Press.

**PhD Student Sarah Stinard-Kiel Awarded Prestigious NSF Grant**

Sarah Stinard-Kiel was awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation grant to fund her dissertation project entitled “Geographies of Urban Trauma: Examining a social service paradigm shift in two US cities.” Sarah was awarded the Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant for a total of $15,561 and is working under the direction of Dr. Melissa Gilbert. Sarah’s dissertation research investigates and analyzes how trauma-informed approaches in social services are shifting understandings of and responses to urban poverty. Sarah was also awarded the 2016-2017 Harris Webber Fellowship, made possible by the generosity of Temple alumnus Harris Webber (CLA, ’65).

Learn more about Sarah’s dissertation research and NSF grant award here.
Geography and Urban Studies at the Philadelphia Science Carnival

Dr. Kevin Henry and Dr. Hamil Pearsall participated in this year’s carnival at Penn’s Landing.

This year, two faculty members participated in the annual Philadelphia Science Carnival at Penn’s Landing, part of Philly Science week. Last year, Dr. Allison Hayes-Conroy was awarded a National Research Foundation trainee (NRT) grant to pursue a new model of graduate education that centers the body as a link between the social and life sciences. This grant has included a course on Bio-Social Partnerships, co-taught between Geography and Urban Studies and Biology faculty. This spring, Dr. Kevin Henry co-led the course with Dr. Tonia Hsieh and, for the second year, students involved with this grant attended the Philadelphia Science Carnival, testing their project with hundreds of children interested in hands-on science. This year, graduate students asked “How connected are you to the world around you?,” showing children how stress and other external factors can affect your immune system. This grant will eventually lead to an interactive exhibit at the Franklin Institute, examining where biology and society meet.

Dr. Hamil Pearsall asked “How can you stay cool in during a heat wave?” and challenged children to come up with more creative and sustainable ways to stay cool than turning on the air conditioning. The children then drew their answers on a large poster, showing the variety of ideas. As it was a hot day, children and parents showed up ready to think about ways to stay cool.

Pictured above: Graduate students in the Bio-Social Partnerships course test their interactive game at the Science Carnival.

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