PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Worldwide, there are approximately 253 babies born every minute. Of those 253, seven are born in the United States. On Wednesday May 24, 2006 at 23:52 UTC (4:52pm PDT) my lovely wife Nancy - one week overdue! - gave birth to one of those precious seven, a little girl by the name of Noraleigh Frances Weyburne Aubert. She was 8 pounds, 15 ounces and 20.5 inches at birth, with eyes open wide. Nancy is doing great; Genevieve, our three year old, is adjusting well to big sisterhood; and I am happily outnumbered.

As some of you may remember, it was nearly a month earlier that I missed the opening day of our annual conference on concerns of Nancy’s imminent labor. You see, our first child came three weeks early, so the slightest labor pain put me on high alert. Little did I know that I'd be waiting another month for our new arrival.

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2006 CONFERENCE IN REDDING

This year’s annual meeting hosted by Shasta College in Redding showed the energy, goodwill, collective knowledge, and spirit of inquiry that define the California Geographical Society. After a wet spring and unseasonably warm temperatures in the North State, the 2006 meeting got underway, treating geographers from across the state to fascinating landscapes and an engaging geographic discourse.

Friday field trip participants returned with smiles, stories, and perspiration-soaked brows from their excursions to Mt. Shasta, the Sacramento River (on bike!), and beyond. The Sundial Bridge and Turtle Bay Museum provided a fine setting for getting reacquainted with old friends and meeting new friends. Bill Hirt (College of the Siskiyous) captivated the crowd with his slides and insightful address on Mt. Shasta, the mountain that Joaquin Miller called “lonely as God and white as a winter moon.”

Saturday's events got underway at Shasta College with breakfast and a historical map exhibit of the North State. During the Presidential Plenary Session Stephen Cunha (Humboldt State University) chronicled twenty years of landscape change in Glacier Bay, Alaska through his signature mix of slides, anecdotes, and scholarly research. Throughout the course of the day paper, poster, and map presenters demonstrated a great breadth and depth of geographic inquiry. One particular highlight for students was the working geographers panel discussion, where job seekers gained valuable information to help in their geography career searches. Lastly, with the Shasta College cafeteria decked out in a western motif and live music playing in the background, the Saturday evening awards banquet was a joyous, energetic event. President John Aubert, despite nearly missing the event due to his wife’s false labor, deftly orchestrated the awards ceremony.

Sunday provided yet another sunny day as field trippers headed to Mt. Lassen, Hat Creek, Weaverville, and downtown Redding to explore

(Continued on page 2)
**CGS 2006-2007 Officers, Board Members and Associates**

**President:**
John Aubert, American River College  
aubertj@arc.losrios.edu

**Vice President:**
Jennifer Helzer, CSU Stanislaus  
jhelzer@csustan.edu

**Secretary:**
Robin Lyons, San Joaquin Delta College  
ryons@deltacollege.edu

**Treasurer:**
Dan Walsh, Saddleback College  
dwalsh@saddleback.edu

**Past President:**
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sharked@crc.losrios.edu

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**ASSOCIATES (non-Board members):**

**CGS Business Manager:**
Steve Slakey, La Puente High School  
jhpeeps@aol.com

**Editor, CGS BULLETIN:**
Michael Wangler, Cuyamaca College  
michael.wangler@gcccd.edu

**Editor, CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHER:**
Dorothy Freidel, CSU Sonoma  
dorothy.freidel@sonoma.edu

**CGS Webmaster:**
Steven Graves, CSU Northridge  
steve.graves@csun.edu

**2007 Conference Organizer:**
Michael Wangler  
michael.wangler@gcccd.edu

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**WORKING GEOGRAPHERS PANEL DISCUSSION**

This year’s CGS Conference in Redding hosted the first **Working Geographers Panel Discussion**. Panels from a variety of backgrounds working in geography-oriented fields gathered to answer questions and share their experiences on employment trends, career development, and “marketing” geography to employers who aren’t familiar with geography. Panelists included: Gregg Werner, Project Director for the Nature Conservancy, Chuck Nelson, Director of the Geographical Information Center in Chico, Annette Faurote, Guide/Interpreter, Denali National Park, Lisa Fischer, Program Manager, Forest Health Monitoring for the Forest Service, and Michael Cobbold, Safety Officer, Shasta-Trinity and Mendocino National Forest and self-described “geographic schizophrenic.”

Not surprisingly, panelists varied widely on how geography shaped their lives and ultimately their careers. For some, geography is about discovery and the accumulated experiences through travel and living abroad that served as the basis for past and present careers. Others spoke of the importance of internships in establishing early connections with potential employers, as well as for “finding out what you don’t want to do.” Still others spoke of accumulating practical geographic skills that employers want. Panelists shared stories of career paths ranging from those with “no plan” to those with clearly defined career interests and goals.

Panelists offered the following websites for job searches and career information:

- Jobs for Denali Concessionaire: [www.coolworks.com](http://www.coolworks.com) (navigate to Denali Park)
- Employment with the State of California: [www.spb.ca.gov/employment/](http://www.spb.ca.gov/employment/)
- Check county or city GIS/planner positions by contacting the Human Resources/Personnel office in the jurisdiction of interest.
- See the AAG Career Guide: [www.aag.org/Careers/Intro.html](http://www.aag.org/Careers/Intro.html) which offers resource links and information on resumes, interviewing and networking.
- See the recent article in the journal *Nature* entitled “Mapping Opportunities” which talks about the future demand for geospatial techniques: [www.aag.org/nature.pdf](http://www.aag.org/nature.pdf)

The CGS looks forward to offering similar panels at future meetings and would like feedback from the membership regarding specific topics of interest, as well as suggestions for possible panelists. Contact: jhelzer@csustan.edu

Jennifer Helzer  
Vice President & Panel Organizer

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**2006 Conference Report (Continued from page 1)**

local and regional geographic curiosities. As the last folks loaded up to head home, I was left feeling exhausted, yet gratified. It was clear to me that geographers know how to make the most of the environs in which they find themselves. I will not soon forget the strong sense of camaraderie and of shared interest among those in attendance. I am already looking forward to the 2007 meeting in Borrego Springs.

Dan Scollon,  
Shasta College Geography
Greetings fellow California Geographers!

My name is Robert Voeks, and I’m a new Board member for the California Geographical Society. Originally a biology major, I was drawn to geography by a mountain field class offered by Larry Price. My life was never the same after that experience, and I’ve been a geographer ever since.

I earned Bachelor’s (1975) and Master’s (1980) degrees in Geography at Portland State University, where my thesis was on the biogeography of Oregon White Oak. I later worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Sacramento, in the nascent Endangered Species Office. It was there that I caught the tropical bug, soon resigned, and matriculated at UC Berkeley.

My mentors were Hilgard Sternberg, James Parsons, and Herbert Baker in Botany. I had the opportunity to TA for Doug Powell and Ted Oberlander as well. I ultimately wrote my dissertation on the biogeography and economic botany of a Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest palm, *Attalea funifera*. I was hired at CSU Fullerton in 1987, and have been here ever since.

For the last 7 years, I have been the chair of the environmental studies graduate program. I had the splendid opportunity to do a Fulbright in Brazil for a year, as well as a 3-year visiting professorship in Brunei Darussalam, Borneo (1992-1996).

My interests and research have shifted away from pure biogeography over the years to ethnobotany and cultural ecology. I am especially interested in the evolution of tropical plant healing systems, and the role of the African diaspora as agents of ecological change.

I have four sons, and I recently bought a house and forested property in the Columbia Gorge. I shuttle back and forth between Fullerton and Hood River, a bit of a commute, but worth it.

John Aubert

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**DAVID LANTIS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Congratulations to the winners of *David Lantis Scholarship for 2006*! The Undergrad winner was **Cary Blocker** from American River College. The Graduate winner was **Mary Brown** from San Francisco State University.

Students please watch newsletter and conference package to apply for the 2007 David Lantis Scholarships to be awarded in Borrego Springs, March 16-18, 2007.

The undergraduate scholarship is $400, and the graduate scholarship is $500.

John Aubert and Noraleigh

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Robert Voeks and son, Owen, on the Mist Trail in Yosemite National Park.
CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY’S
2006 AWARD WINNERS

DAVID LANTIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
Graduate Award ($500):
Mary Brown, San Francisco State Univ.

Undergraduate Award ($400):
Cary Blocker, American River College

GEOSYSTEMS AWARD ($250)
Kevin McManigal, Humboldt State Univ.
Paper Title: “Applying Remote Sensing and GIS Techniques in Measuring Mass Loss in the Palisade Glacier, Sierra Nevada, California”

TOM MCKNIGHT PROFESSIONAL PAPER AWARDS
First Place, Undergraduate ($125):
Julia Howland, Univ. of Southern California
Paper Title: “The Effects of Highway Fragmentation on Neotropical Birds In Braulio Carrillo National Park, Costa Rica”

Second Place, Undergraduate ($100):
David Scott, Humboldt State Univ.
Paper Title: “High Populations of Llareta at 5300m on Nevado Sajama, Bolivia”

Third Place, Undergraduate ($75):
Frank Gravante, Sonoma State Univ.
Paper Title: “Territoriality and the California Secondary School District System”

First Place, Graduate ($125):
Adam Tischler, CSU Chico
Paper Title: “Residential Housing Policies in Eugene, Oregon’s Central Business District”

Second Place, Graduate ($100):
Shasta Ferranto, Univ. of Nevada, Reno
Paper Title: “Assessing Mule Deer Habitat in the Eastern Sierra Nevada”

Third Place, Graduate ($75):
Zia Salim, CSU Fullerton
Paper Title: “‘Artivist’ Landscapes: Community Murals in South Los Angeles”

JOE BEATON PROFESSIONAL POSTER AWARDS
First Place ($100):
HeatherAnn Van Dyke & Amy Avery-Grubel, Humboldt State Univ.
Poster Title: “Student Perceptions of Continental United States Regions”

Second Place ($75):
Cassandra Hansen & Kevin McManigal, Humboldt State Univ.
Poster Title: “Taku Glacier GIS Project”

Third Place ($50):
Peter Hansen & Dustin Granville, CSU Chico
Poster Title: “Crime Analysis of the California State University, Chico Campus: Correlation of Lighting and Crime Occurrence”

MAPPING AWARDS
PROFESSIONAL PAPER CARTOGRAPHIC AWARDS
First Place ($100):
Becki Huntoon, CSU Chico
Map Title: “Oil in the Middle East: Production, Use, and Export”

Second Place ($75):
Morgan Crane, Humboldt State Univ.
Map Title: “Mapping the path of Wal-Mart”

Third Place ($50):
Robert O’Keefe, CSU Northridge
Map Title: “Saguaro Cacti in the Whipple Mountains of California”

PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER DISPLAYED CARTOGRAPHIC AWARDS
First Place (Two-way Tie- $100):
Kevin McManigal, Humboldt State Univ.
Map Title: “The Evolving Map of the Middle East in the 20th Century”

Jennifer McCard, Olena Horcajo, Brian Selogie, Ryan Terwilliger, Univ. of Southern California
Map Title: “Taking Back the Beach: An Interactive Map of Beach Access Issues Along the Los Angeles County Coastline”

SPECIAL AWARDS
Outstanding Educator Award:
Nancy Wilkinson, San Francisco State Univ.

Distinguished Teaching Awards:
Jill Montgomery, Sequoia Middle School, Redding
Ron Zimmerman, Anderson Alternative Technical High School

Distinguished Service Award:
Matt Ebiner, El Camino College

Special Thanks to 2006 Conference Organizer:
Dan Scollon, Shasta College
Kevin McManigal accepts Geosystems Award from CGS President John Aubert.

Adam Tischler accepts First Place Graduate Tom McKnight Professional Paper Award.

Cary Blocker accepts Undergraduate David Lantis Scholarship Award.

Julia Howland accepts First Place Undergraduate Tom McKnight Professional Paper Award.

Becki Huntoon accepts First Place Professional Paper Cartographic Award.

Jennifer McCard, Olena Horcajo, Brian Selogie and Ryan Terwilliger accept First Place Professional Computer Displayed Cartographic Award.
Minutes: CGS Board Meeting  
Shasta College  
April 29, 2006

Present: John Aubert (President), Jennifer Helzer (Vice-President), Robin Lyons (Secretary), Bill Holder (Treasurer), Debra Sharkey (Past President), Julie Cidell, Matt Ebinner, Richard Eigenheer, Lisa Fisher, Steven Graves, Emily Lieb Townsend, Mike Murphy, Irene Naesse, Bruce Townsend, Lin Wu, Virginia Humphreys (Student Representative, Northern California), Robert O’Keefe (Student Representative, Southern California).

The meeting was brought to order at 5:05 p.m. by President John Aubert. Bruce Townsend moved and Richard Eigenheer seconded that the distributed agenda for the meeting be approved. The board approved unanimously. New student board member Robert O’Keefe was welcomed by the president.

2007 Conference Site: President John Aubert passed out information prepared by Michael Wangler related to the site of the next CGS annual meeting in Borrego Springs. The date change for the meeting from April to March in 2007 was noted to fit better into the local climatic situation and to avoid a conflict with other professional geography meetings scheduled for April. Cooperation and encouragement from the State Park Service and the local community in Borrego Springs for the meeting was noted. Facilities at this location, including the local school, hotels and camp grounds and state park amphitheater were described. Lisa Fisher moved to officially sanction the Borrego Springs site for the next annual meeting in March, 2007. Mike Murphy seconded and the board unanimously approved.

Election Results: Richard Eigenheer reported on the results of the recent CGS election. Robin Lyons was elected Secretary, and Dan Walsh, Treasurer. The following board members were also elected: Matt Ebinner, Mike Murphy, Robert Voeks, and Nancy Wilkinson.

Board Duties: A master list was distributed outlining the current board members and their duties. The question of adding promotional sales as a board duty was discussed. Irene Naesse moved and Emily Lieb Townsend seconded that a CGS board member be assigned this duty. The motion was approved by the board.

Treasurer’s Report: CGS Treasurer Bill Holder gave his final fiscal report noting that the financial status of the CGS is in excellent condition. He also said that the new Treasurer, Dan Walsh will meet with him during the summer for training and coordinating the transfer of these duties.

Membership Report: Debra Sharkey, Past President, presented membership statistics to the board. She noted that memberships had increased during the past year, particularly student memberships. Greater participation in the annual meeting last year in Yosemite was cited as a major reason for this increase in membership.

Vendor Report: Irene Naesse reported that some new vendors were in attendance at the meeting, while other previous vendors were absent. Irene volunteered to revise the procedure for soliciting vendors during the summer in advance of fall semester registration in order to encourage higher vendor participation at the annual meetings. Steven Graves suggested that one person geography departments are well represented in our annual meetings and explained how this information is important to textbook companies.

California Geographer: President John Aubert forwarded a message from Dolly Friedel, the CG editor, that she is recruiting articles for the next issue of the CG. President Aubert also suggested that we encourage submittal of excellent student papers for the CG. Past President Debra Sharkey, on behalf of Dolly Friedel, asked for help in recruiting reviewers for CG submissions in Physical Geography.

Bulletin Editor’s Report: On behalf of Mike Wangler, the bulletin editor, President John Aubert issued a request for more bulletin articles from CGS members. News worthy articles on geographic events in the classroom or in the field were welcomed. It was also noted that Mike Wangler may be retiring from his position as bulletin editor, necessitating a replacement.

Webmaster Status: Steven Graves, CGS webmaster, agreed to add SLO discussions, which took place during the annual meeting, to the website. He also noted that there had been significant problems with transferring the site from

(Continued on page 7)
**Budding Geographer, by Don Vermeer**

James Stratton, a seventh-grade student at Old Mission Elementary School, San Luis Obispo, again has surfaced as a state finalist in the National Geographic Society Bee in Sacramento. He began his reign as champion of his school and of the Central Coast Region in 2004 as a fifth-grader, eleven years of age. He failed being among the top ten state finalists that year by missing one question. In 2005 James was one of the top ten finalists in the state competition and he ended tied for seventh place; he was among the youngest of the finalists. In 2006, now a veritable veteran at age thirteen, James once again has successfully competed to be top both in his school and in the Central Coast Region of the state.

James’ keenness for things geographic appear derived largely from his own personal traits and curiosities enhanced by supportive parents and teachers at Old Mission Elementary School. He reads voraciously in history and geography, and he has particular focus on cartography, languages, and peoples in the world; his spatial interests seem linked to those of his father while his human interests seem tied to those of his mother. At school his Social Science teacher, Jeff Palaszewski, has nurtured his geographic horizons. It takes a family and community to rear a child!

James had the good fortune to tour Lithuania in 2005, followed by a brief stopover in London. In the summer of 2006 he will tour Italy, Austria, Switzerland, and France as a Student Ambassador with the People-To-People organization. Perhaps this budding geographer will also travel as champion of the National Geographic Society GeoBee for the state of California, in which case he will also be invited to Washington, D.C., to compete as the California representative at the national level for a $25,000 scholarship.
Southeastern California warmly invites you to explore the unique geography and arid landscapes of Borrego Springs and the surrounding Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOVES TO MID-MARCH FOR 2007!**

Field Trip Possibilities in the Anza-Borrego Desert Region:
- Wildflowers and plant communities
- Biogeography of migrating birds
- Earthquake faults and natural hot springs
- Badlands, mud caves and slot canyons
- Saving the Salton Sea
- Marshall South homestead and cabin
- Borrego Palm Canyon hike (after the flood)
- Agricultural tour of Borrego Valley
- Walking tour of Old Town and modern Borrego Springs

To avoid a conflict with AAG and to maximize our chances for mild weather and wildflowers, the CGS Annual Conference will be held in Borrego Springs

**March 16-18, 2007**

Look for registration information in the Fall.
2007 Conference Coordinator Michael Wangler
(619) 660-4511, michael.wangler@gcccd.edu

Visit the CGS website at WWW.CALGEOG.ORG