The Geography Programme is delighted to welcome Dr John Lowry to its staff on the Palmerston North Campus. John has a BA in International Relations, a MS in Geography and a PhD in Ecosystem Science at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji. During his seven years at USP he was instrumental in developing a three-year Bachelor’s of Science degree programme in Geospatial Science. Prior to USP he was Associate Director of the Remote Sensing/GIS Laboratory in the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University, USA; a position he held for eleven years. His research focuses on applying innovative methodologies within geospatial science to address questions and objectives in urban ecology, environmental planning and management, public health and epidemiology, and disaster risk assessment. He has been hired by PEP to help revitalize the School’s GIS Programme, and with assistance from Rachel Summers will be developing a new 200-level GIS course (145.203) and reviewing two postgraduate GIS courses in Environmental Planning for 2018. In addition, he contributes to Massey’s Master of Analytics programme offering a course in geospatial analytics (230.705) through block mode.

John is married to Brenda Jarvis and they have two sons. Brenda has degrees in Horticulture and Plant Science, is currently working as a consultant for USP, and will be joining John in Palmerston North at the end of August. Brenda is a member of USP’s 6-person outrigger canoe paddling team. Their sons, Toby (age 21) and Sam (age 18), are currently studying at university in the US; Toby in Utah and Sam in Hawaii. They are anxious to visit their parents in New Zealand at Christmastime! The family enjoys backpacking (tramping) and camping. While John and Brenda will miss the balmy weather of the tropics and friendly people of Fiji, they are very excited to call Palmerston North “home” and have already been made to feel very welcome by genuine Kiwi hospitality! JL
Environment.

School of People, Environment and via posters in the Massey News email, the Seminars are advertised on the University.

colleagues, and visitors to geography staff, speakers including post normally have a range of Massey Campus and we These are held on the geography seminars.

- Image 162x434 to 388x734

- Image 177x59 to 389x218

- Image 403x32 to 597x177

- Image 849x195 to 996x306

- Image 1065x120 to 1207x205

- Photo: courtesy of Ioan Fuller along with Jon Procter from the Institute of Agriculture and Environment.

Look out for the notices, and please come along. Everyone is welcome!!

Congratulations Dr. Simon Vale

PhD Graduate Simon Vale was awarded the New Zealand Geographical Society President’s Award for Best Doctoral Thesis for 2017. Simon graduated in May, his thesis in Physical Geography was titled, Application and Evaluation of Sediment Fingerprinting Techniques in the Manawatu River Catchment, New Zealand. Simon was supervised by Ian Fuller along with Jon Procter from the Institute of Agriculture and Environment, and Les Basher & John Dymond at Landcare Research.

EMOGEO 2017

During the Semester Break Juliana attended the 2017 International and Interdisciplinary Emotional Geographies conference in Long Beach, California and presented a paper on the relationship between ICT, older people and the emotional construction of identity. EMOGEO 2017 attracted a range of papers on topics as diverse as indigenous narratives of place to the politics of movement, all of which in some way emphasized the emotional and affective interactions between people in various spatial and social contexts, environments and landscapes Linda Johnston (Waikato University) and Liz Bondi (University of Edinburgh) gave thoughtful but challenging keynote addresses. With end on end presentations rather than concurrent sessions, all participants engaged with each other’s papers and the conference was a great opportunity to network—some of which occurred in 30 C sunshine (not that Juliana was complaining!). JM

Out and About...

We always appreciate when our post-graduate students send us photos. Pictured below is a photo taken by John Knox of the bushfires in the Port Hills in February, and to the left, a stunning Canterbury landscape shot in August.

Sam McCoil’s Travels

Sam McCoil was on sabbatical leave in Europe between May 26th to August 13th. He delivered papers at the World Landslide Forum in Ljublina, Slovenia, and at a conference and workshop on progressive rock failure, in Monte Verita, Switzerland. He spent 10 days visiting Prof. Tomas Panek’s landslide research group at University of Ostrava, Czech Republic, where he assisted with geophysics fieldwork in the Czech Carpathians, investigating the origin of some very peculiar hillslope forms. Afterwards, he was based at the Technical University of Milan for 8 weeks, funded by the August-Wilhelm Scheer Visiting Professor program, working with the Chair of Landslide Research. Half of the time at the TUM was spent assisting Dr Daniel Drabbing with fieldwork on alpine rockslides in Austria and Switzerland. Some day trips during the stay also included visits to some of the most impressive rock avalanches in the European Alps, including the giant 2.3 billion cubic-metre Koelfels landslide, and a walk over the 800 million cubic-metre long-runout (10 km) Kandersteg rock avalanche with Prof. Susan Ivy-Ochs. SM

Em geography in the News!

There’s been a lot of geomorphology in the news already this year. Some commentators have dubbed 2017 the year of the flood in NZ (although it probably isn’t any more exceptional than 2015, 2010, 2007, 2005, 2004…). This has given geomorphologists (especially fluvial ones like our own Dr Ian Fuller), an opportunity to contribute to public debate in the national and local media:


NZ Herald, 6 June 2017: Water, water everywhere - serious issues to solve on climate change, water quality http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?id=2808&objectid=11869645


Elsewhere in the rivers world, Ian led the first River Management Technical Seminar for Horizons Regional Council on 26th July 2017, discussing the impacts of control works on river morphology alongside Gary Williams from Water- scape. After a morning of presentations by Ian and Gary the afternoon involved field visits to strategically important sites (such as Ashhurst Domain) and discussion of potential approaches to solve ongoing problems in the Manawatu and Rangitikei Rivers.

DID YOU KNOW

We have a programme of geography seminars?

Each year we have a series of speakers at our geography seminars. These are held on the Massey Campus and we normally have a range of speakers including postgraduate students, geography staff, colleagues, and visitors to the University.

Seminars are advertised on the Massey News email, the postgraduate news site, and via posters in the School of People, Environment and Planning and the Institute of Agriculture and Environment.

Here’s another:

And can you guess which Physical Geographer was responsible for this….?