

Profiles of professional geographers

Compiled by Joy K. Adams and Mark Revell

Slide design by Samar Ibrahim

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For more profiles, visit our website (www.aag.org/careerprofiles) or see the book *Practicing Geography: Careers for Enhancing Society and the Environment* (Pearson Education 2013).





ANDREW TELFER

Sustainability Manager

Walmart Canada | Mississauga, Ontario

Influences every part of the company's environmental strategy, from purchasing to store building to operations

*"Sustainability is the new normal,
the new cost of doing business"*

MARK BARNES

A photograph of Mark Barnes, a Black man, standing on a train platform. He is wearing a blue Rutgers University hoodie with "RUTGERS" in red letters, blue jeans, and a watch on his left wrist. He has his hands in his pockets and is looking directly at the camera. To his left are train tracks with a gravel bed and a metal fence. A red "DANGER" sign is visible on the fence. The background shows green trees and a clear sky.

**Eagleton Governor's
Executive Fellow,
2010**

**Ph.D. Candidate,
Rutgers University**

His dissertation explores
how institutions create
policies to address
vulnerability to climate
change

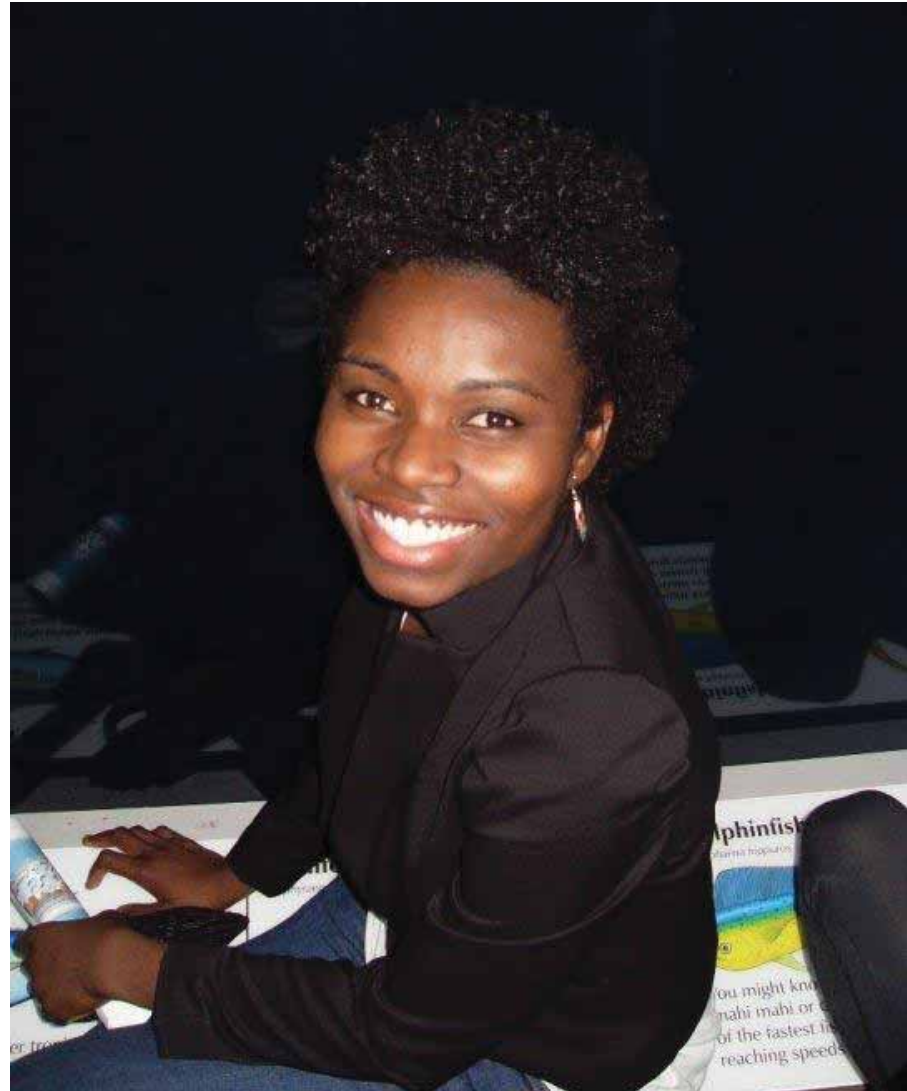
His internship was an “opportunity to step back
and **gain another perspective** on politics”

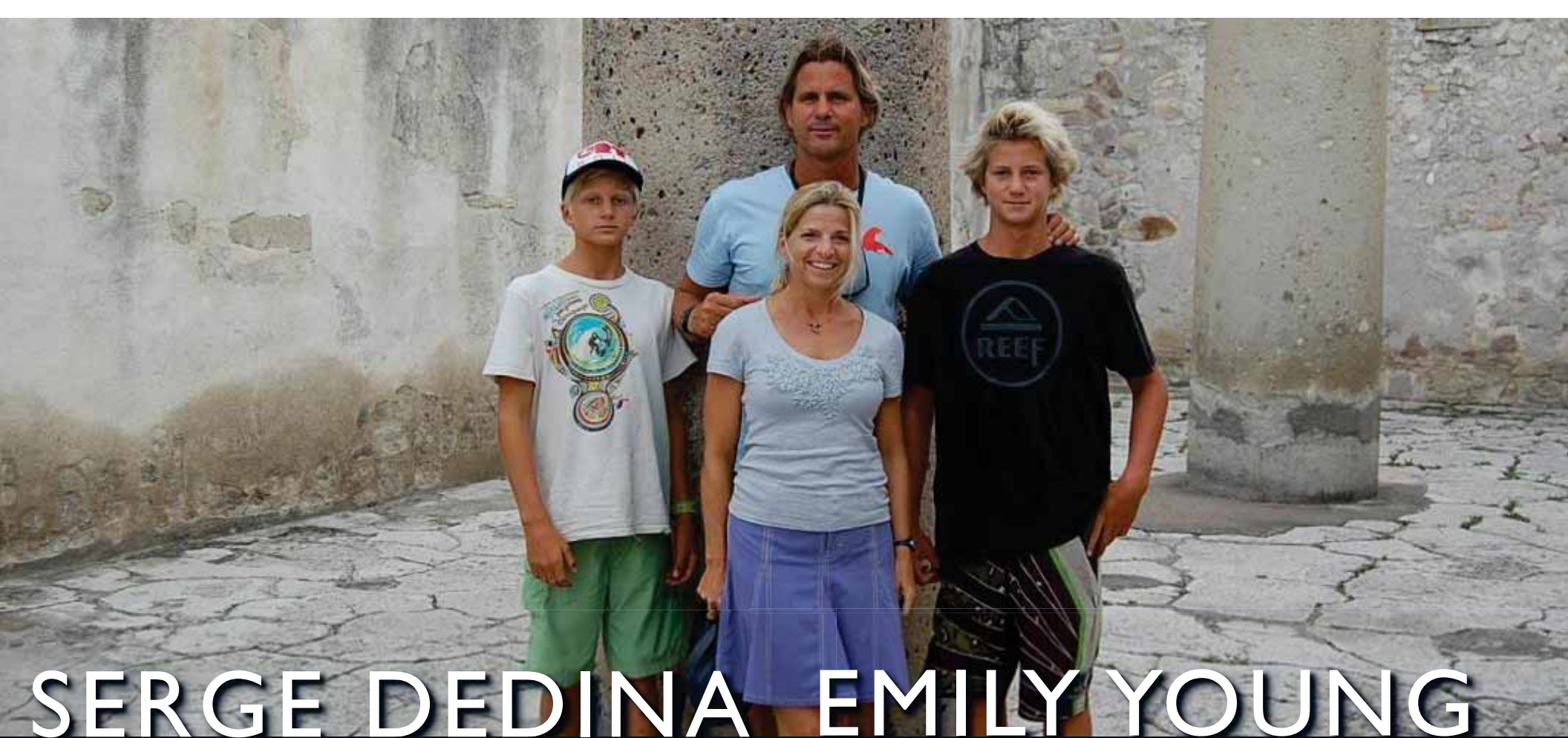
ESTHER OFORI

Marketing Analyst | Macy's, Inc. | New York, NY

Uses her training in **geodemography** and **retail geography** to support retail site selection, market analysis, and forecasting

*“A big part of our job is to predict customer behavior... having a **GIS and statistics background** is a huge plus.”*





SERGE DEDINA EMILY YOUNG

Executive Director | WILDCOAST/
COSTASALVAJE | San Diego, CA

*"It's more important than ever that geographers **get out there** and use their skills and training to **make a difference.**"*

Senior Director of Environment Analysis
& Strategy | The San Diego Foundation

*"Geography is uniquely positioned to prepare the next generation of **well-rounded and innovative thinkers** to address environmental issues."*



TARA GETTIG

**Environmental
Education Specialist**

**Pine Grove Furnace
State Park**

Gardens, PA

Uses her geography training to
interpret physical and cultural
landscapes

*“I love seeing
visitors have
that ‘A-ha’
moment”*

MIKE RATCLIFFE

**Assistant Division
Chief**

U.S. Census Bureau
Suitland, MD

Oversees the creation
of maps and data for
public use



*“Geography has a **central** role in
everything the Census Bureau does”*

JIM HIGGINS

*“Right now is
the most
exciting time
to be a
geographer”*



Regional Manager | Esri
Philadelphia, PA

Helps businesses throughout the central-eastern region of the U. S. use geography and GIS to enhance their operations



KRISTEN CARNEY

Co-founders of
Cubit Planning
Austin, TX

Using technology
to automate
boring work

*Living proof that careers sometimes arise from **unexpected** opportunities!*

ANTHONY MORALES

Providing
environmental
data to clients in
seconds through
a Google map
interface





SONIA ARBONA

Medical Geographer
Austin, TX

Studies HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases using GIS and geographical analysis

*“Even though we're all human, we have different risks of becoming infected because of **where we are.**”*

ELIZABETH LYON

Research Geographer | U. S. Army Corps of Engineers | Washington, DC

Focuses on geographic research, modeling, simulation, and data requirements for civil-military operations.

Helps federal agencies collaborate regarding geospatial technology and information.

*“Geographers need to learn how to **market themselves** in a way that people in a lot of other fields don't need to.”*





DAVE SELKOWITZ

**U.S Geological
Survey Research
Geographer**

Alaska

Uses geospatial
technology to
assess the effects of
climate change on
Alaska's landscapes

Traveled over 100,000 miles
in 2009 to do fieldwork and
present his research



JANE DANIELS

Director of Preservation Programs

Colorado Preservation, Inc.
Denver, CO

Oversees historic preservation projects throughout the state

*“In non-profits, there's an opportunity to become **personally invested** in whatever work you're doing”*

TOM DWYER

*“I am amazed when I see colleagues **struggling** over questions that could easily be **answered** through spatial analysis.”*



Principal | Dutch Hill Consulting
Poughkeepsie, NY

“The valuation of real estate is very much a problem of geographic analysis. It involves understanding how numerous characteristics of a property come together to influence its value.”



NANCY DAVIS LEWIS

**Research Program Director
The East-West Center
Honolulu, HI**

Promotes better relations and understanding between the peoples of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific

*“Fill your toolbox
with as many tools
and experiences
as possible”*

GLENN LETHAM

A photograph of Glenn Letham, a man with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a dark t-shirt over a white long-sleeved shirt. He is holding a black microphone in his right hand and gesturing with his left hand. He is looking upwards and to the left. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a presentation screen with a person's image.

**Co-founder, Spatial
Media, and Managing
Editor, *GISuser.com***

Victoria,
British Columbia

Technology evangelist
who uses **social media**
to maintain his extensive
professional network

*“People often feel they know me even
if they haven’t met me.”*



MARSHA HENDERSON

**Vice President for External
Affairs, SUNY at Buffalo**

Helps build partnerships between
the university and industry, alumni,
government, and civic leaders

*“Geography gave me a framework for
understanding why things are the way they are.”*

PAULA ANN TREVINO

*“The possibilities
for teaching with
GIS are endless...”*

*...I’m constantly
amazed at the
projects my
students come
up with.”*



Grade-Level Principal
Helix Charter High School
La Mesa, CA

Uses GIS in the classroom to help get kids
excited about science



DAN HAUG

**IT Director | Confederated Tribes
of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**
Pendleton, OR

Coordinates natural resource
management, data and mapping, and
governance functions on tribal lands

*“What I do on a daily
basis has an **impact**
on the lives of the
people I work with.”*

STEVE FEARN

Director | Real Estate Market Research | Ross Stores | Pleasanton, California

Evaluates potential retail store locations using GIS and assesses how current events and global trends will affect business

“My work is inherently geographic – looking at how things interact over distance, but at the neighborhood scale.”





TODD VOTTELER

**Executive Manager for
Intergovernmental Relations & Policy**

**Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
Seguin, TX**

Helps develop state and federal policies
to develop, conserve, and protect water
resources in Central Texas

*"The best professors I had were the ones who had
full careers and started teaching after that."*

REENA PATEL

Foreign Service Officer | U.S. Department of State

Acts as a liaison between national governments, informing policies on international religious freedom, human rights, and bilateral international relations

*“It feels a little like being a **professor**, but instead of changing **classes** every semester, you change **countries** every few years.”*





WILLIAM SHUBERT

**International Editions
Coordinator**

***National Geographic
Magazine***
Washington, DC

Guides the preparation of
articles for publication in two
dozen international markets

*Helps ensure
that writers'
meaning isn't
lost in
translation*

A photograph of Nancy Tian, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a red zip-up jacket with white trim and blue jeans. She is standing in front of a wide, light-colored stone staircase. On the stairs behind her is a bronze sculpture of a reclining figure. Several large, shallow, oval-shaped planters with greenery are arranged on the steps. Other people are visible in the background, including a woman sitting on the stairs to the left and a man standing to the right. The ground in the foreground is paved with light-colored stone tiles.

NANCY TIAN

Research Geographer

U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
Research Triangle Park, NC

Studies why certain health
issues occur and what
environmental factors are
responsible

*Recommends post-doc positions as a way to
get started in a government research career.*



CARMEN TEDESCO

Senior Spatial Planning & Development Specialist

Development Alternatives, Inc.
Bethesda, MD

*“My work is **really eclectic** – but that’s one of the main benefits of being a geographer.”*

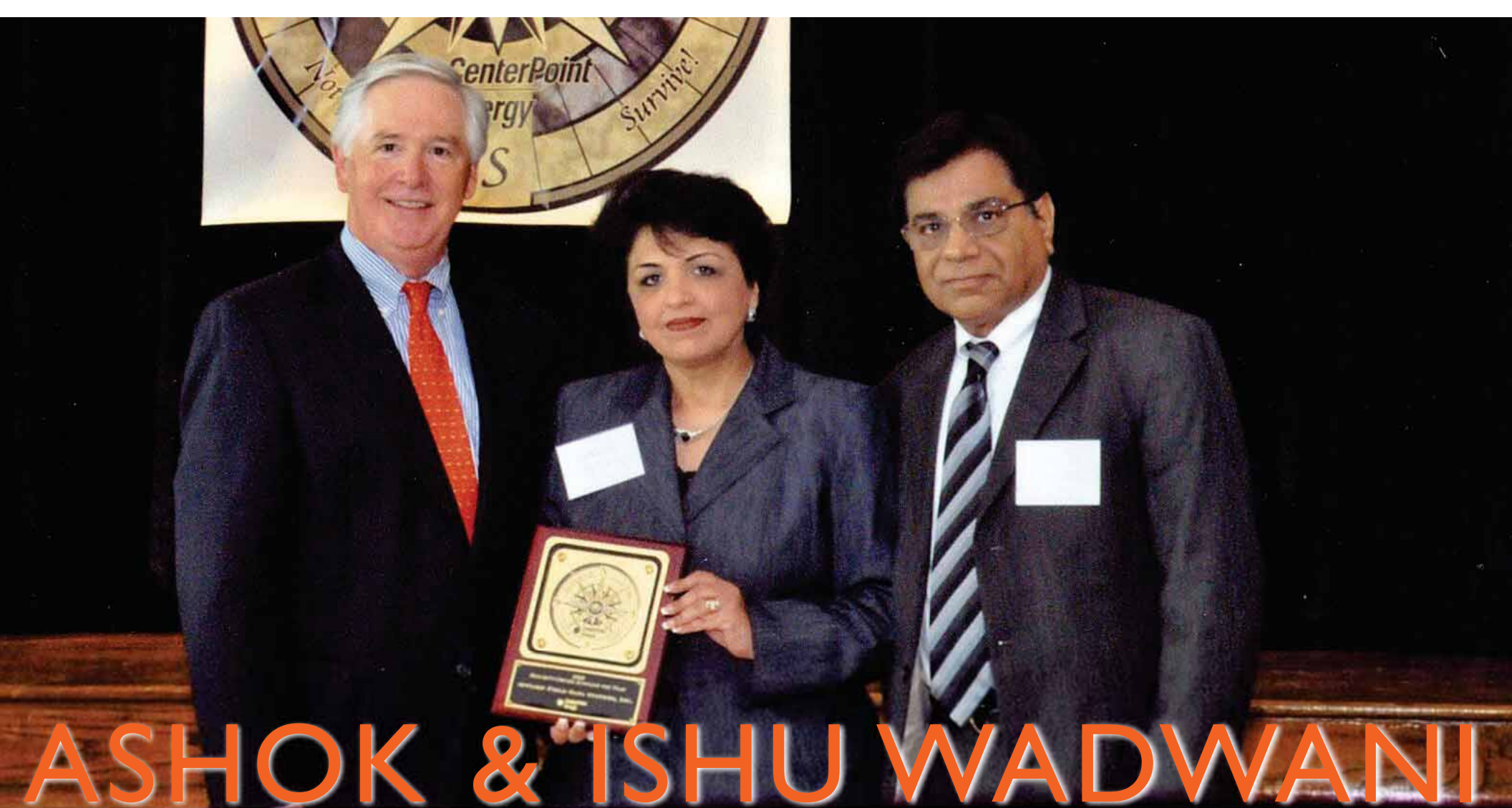


MAX BABER

Director of Academic Programs
U. S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation
Washington, DC

Stewards university geointelligence accreditation programs and develops resources to support geography education at all grade levels

“Business is booming – national security will always be a top priority.”



ASHOK & ISHU WADWANI

Founders and Owners
Applied Field Data Systems
Houston, TX

Specialize in field-based GPS, GIS, and
mapping services, consulting, and training

**“We firmly believe
there are skills we
can teach, but **we**
can't teach attitude”**

JASON WELBORN

Biological Science
Technician

Tumacácori National
Historical Park, Arizona

*“A geographer can
do **a number of
different jobs**
without ‘geography’
in the title.”*



Geographic **techniques and technologies** are part
of the National Park Service's "common language"

ANNE MIGLARESE

Principal Director, Booz Allen Hamilton | Washington, DC

Advises federal government clients on geospatial operations, policy, and governance issues

*“With the right combination of **skills and attitude**, the job prospects in geospatial consulting are excellent.”*



KATE PEARSON

Kate's team
raised **over**
\$45 million
for disaster
response after
the 2010
earthquake in
Haiti



Habitat for Humanity International
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Establishes partnerships with donors and
coordinates fundraising efforts to provide
safe housing and to boost local economies

MICHELLE KOOY

A photograph of Michelle Kooy, a woman with dark hair and sunglasses on her head, wearing a white button-down shirt. She is gesturing with her right hand towards a group of people. In the background, there are several men, including one in a grey button-down shirt and another in a white shirt and a white bucket hat with a blue patterned band. The setting appears to be an outdoor or semi-outdoor area with a wooden door and some foliage in the background.

**Research Fellow, Water Policy Group
Overseas Development Institute | London, UK**

Conducts research on international aid effectiveness to improve access to water and sanitation and to increase water security

Notes that the line between “public” and
“private” entities is blurring as **business skills**
are needed across sectors



VALERIE MOYE

**Green Infrastructure Coordinator
City of Chattanooga, Tennessee**

Harnesses natural resources to provide services that are typically handled by built infrastructure

Fostering Chattanooga's transformation from one of America's "most polluted" cities into a model of sustainable urban planning



DMITRY MESSEN

**Socioeconomic Modeling Group
Program Manager**

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Develops, analyzes, and disseminates information on land use, economy, and population to support long-range planning and forecasting for the greater Houston, Texas, region

“It’s a quintessential geographer’s job: we pay no attention to disciplinary boundaries.”



KEN TURNBULL

**Independent Accredited
Land Consultant**

Denver, CO

***“Face-to-face
networking
is more
important now
than ever.”***

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