



A Letter from the Chair

Advisory Board Activities

This past April we held the second annual meeting of the Department of Geography Advisory Board. I continue to be impressed by the effort board members are putting forth to assist current students and develop better linkages with alumni. Along these lines, you should have already received or will soon be receiving a letter from Rob Shapiro (our board chair) requesting that you consider becoming part of our Professional Network and that you complete an Event Survey for alumni. Just in case you miss Rob's request, you can become part of our Professional Network by going to our homepage (www.geog.ku.edu), and click on "Careers and Employment", "Professional Network", and "instructions" in the body of the page. To complete the Event Survey, click on "Advisory Board" and "Event Survey". You can also provide your contact information (so that other alumni can reach you) by clicking on "People", "Alumni", and "Directory Listing Form". In the fall of 2007 the board is planning to host an alumni reunion—we will recognize the fact that the department has been in existence for more than 60 years!

We'll let you know more details about the reunion as soon as we have them.

Recent and Forthcoming Hires

Recent faculty hires include So-min Cheong (coastal environmental management in Korea) and Kees van der Veen (glaciology and global change). These appointments strengthen our ties elsewhere on campus, as Cheong will be teaching in the East Asian Studies program,

and van der Veen will be affiliated with the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets (CRE SIS; <http://www.cresis.ku.edu/>). This year we are searching for an atmospheric science regional modeler (the appointment will begin in the fall of 2007). This is an exciting development for our atmospheric science program, which currently consists of three faculty (Braaten, Brunsell, and Tucker) and one lecturer (Hall), but handles approximately one-half of our 160 undergraduate majors. Next year the College hopes to search for a position in glaciology (in association with CRE SIS and geology) at the Assistant Professor level, and geography will be involved in this search.

Reflecting our increased faculty, we have expanded our departmental office staff by a half-time position. Bev Koerner has retired from her full-time position and taken on the half-time position—this is good news because Bev continues to handle the newsletter! Janice Andes (formerly of French and Italian) has taken over Bev's position and Bev Morey has replaced Karen Ward. Our technical support has also increased, as Mel Kroeger continues to handle our PC Windows-based needs, but we now have a full-time person (Wen-shiang Chen) to handle our PC Linux needs. Together Mel and Chen are now supporting over 130 workstations and servers.

Recent Student and Faculty Accomplishments

Each year I take pleasure in highlighting some of the accomplishments of our graduate students and faculty. Recent accomplishments

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The Lawrence and Campus Scene

This is my first opportunity to write this column of the newsletter, and I have some rather large shoes to fill. Over the years, Pete Shortridge has made this column a comprehensive and entertaining picture of the year in town and on Mt. Oread, and he has done so as our field's leading scholar on Kansas geography. On the other hand, he does come from Missouri, and so some of you were probably never sure if a hidden bias lurked in there somewhere. Since I have not even lived here for a dozen years, rest assured that I couldn't compare myself with Pete in knowledge base or ability. My only advantage may appear in the fact that no one from my home state, Pennsylvania, has never to my knowledge burned

this town down, so perhaps I can be counted on to be historico-geographically predisposed to my ignorance. Seriously, I hope you will all write to Pete to thank him for writing this piece over the years.

As ever, Lawrence continues to grow, and in fact we were told in October that it grew faster than the Census Bureau originally said it did. The bureau revised its numbers upward after the city's protestations, so that our city is now estimated to have 88,664 people (with 111,519 in Douglas County overall), when earlier Bureau estimates had us barely creeping over 81,000 and 102,000, respectively. Anyone driving around the city probably could have told the census how inaccurate their

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of our graduate students include:

Mark Bowen gave an invited lecture at a University of Missouri colloquium entitled "Human Constructs, Channel Morphology, and the 100- to 500-year Flood Along the Colorado Front Range".

Dave McDermott published the paper "Animate Time and Space to Visualize Economic Change" in *GeoWorld* in the Nov. 2006 issue (http://geoplace.com/UploadsFeatureArticle/0611_AnimateTime.asp)

Heather Putnam received a Summer Research Grant from the Center for Latin American Studies to conduct fieldwork in Nicaragua for her master's thesis.

Henry Way received the Carlin Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, one of only two such awards in a university-wide competition (<http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/may/2/gtaawards.shtml>).

Faculty accomplishments include:

David Braaten continues to serve as Deputy Director of the \$19 million CReSIS Science and Technology Center, which is now in the second year of a five-year funding cycle.

Chris Brown received a Kemper Award (<http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/august/17/kemper1.shtml>) for excellence in teaching. This is the fifth Kemper for the department (Egbert, Herlihy, Myers, and P. Shortridge were prior winners).

Jerry Dobson and **Peter Herlihy** have received an additional \$250,000 grant from the Department of Defense to evaluate land tenure systems in Mexico (funding for this grant now totals \$500,000).

Johan Feddema had a paper on simulating climate change published in *Science* (Dec. 2005, 1674-1678).

Garth Myers received a \$124,000 NSF grant to analyze the interactions between land reform and political-economic reform in the peri-urban areas of Zanzibar, Tanzania.



Pete Shortridge received a Highuchi Research Achievement Award (<http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/September/8/higuchiawards.shtml>).

Bill Woods received the Robert McC. Netting Award for distinguished research that bridges geography and anthropology (for information on Bill's research, see <http://www.oread.ku.edu/Oread06/May15/amazonia.shtml>).

Annual Alumni Gathering at the AAG
After last year's successful alumni gathering at The Berghoff in Chicago, we are planning another get-together at the AAG this year. We'll let you know the details concerning the time and place in a subsequent e-mail message. If you have not received previous e-mails from the department announcing such events, please send a message to Bev Koerner (Koerner@ku.edu).

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Scene

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original estimations were, given the traffic, congestion, and new construction. Housing units stretch well beyond Wakarusa in the west, and the city is now filling in its northwest corner rather intensively. That hidden little formerly rural idyll in the northwest, Martin Park, is soon going to resemble a wooded Centennial Park (think: 9th and Iowa, or Bucky's Hamburgers), as the houses crowd in around it. There has been quite a bit of in-fill development in East Lawrence completed during this last year, much of it more affordable than most of our housing. A recent study found that the city ranks as the most-expensive in terms of housing costs among comparable Midwestern university towns, with the average selling price of all homes up to \$187,465 in 2005; only Austin and Boulder top us among the Big 12 towns.

Much debate has surrounded the shape and character of the city's expansion to the southeast and to the south; and, of course, the South Lawrence Trafficway issue remains unresolved. Its completion has been in limbo since I took this job, and if I were a betting man, I'd say I'll retire with the debate

still raging. Transportation more generally continues to be a hot topic, with a recently completed study of the proposed merger of the city's bus service, the "T", with the university's system, KU on Wheels, offering little resolution. KU has initiated a Transportation Research Institute, headed by a friend of geography, Bob Honea, so there is some hope for the future, not to mention some grant and job opportunities for KU geographers, one surmises.

Beyond transportation and road issues, Lawrence politics are as interesting as ever. We've progressed from a grocery-checking piano tuner to an activist lawyer to a barber in the rotating mayor's office over the last three years. The city's congressional representation turned blue all over once again, with Democrat Nancy Boyda's November 2006 upset victory over the Republican incumbent, KU sports legend Jim Ryun, in the 2nd congressional district that took over Lawrence west of Iowa in the post-2000 redistricting, and Democratic incumbent Dennis Moore's lopsided reelection win in the 3rd district that covers the eastern half of town. Lawrence's stature as a blue island in a red sea is a

bit more purplish after the state's slight shift toward the Democrats, with a re-elected Democratic governor, a new Democratic Attorney General, and a shift toward the political center on the State Board of Education and in both houses of the Legislature.

Barber-mayor or no, downtown Lawrence continues its steady evolution. The new, prize-winning, elite Hobbs-Taylor Lofts building on New Hampshire Street has some new neighbors, including the relocated and equally posh Pachamama's Restaurant. Several other loft projects or intensive housing units are planned or underway in downtown or just east of it. My utter delight at the 2005 opening of an Ethiopian restaurant downtown crashed the day I saw its window repainted as a Spanish Tapas restaurant-and-bar, only to subsequently discover that it is still Ethiopian-owned and the food is even better. Much as it pains me that Africa is shut out of the remarkable internationalizing of the downtown restaurant scene in my 12 years here, it is an exciting sign of the global sense of place that has become possible to contemplate in Lawrence to consider the presence of

Thai, Japanese, Indonesian, Indian, Vietnamese, Mexican, Asian-fusion, Latin American, Greek-Italian, World-cuisine, Mediterranean, and of course American restaurants (along with an upscale European food market) on – or within a block of – Massachusetts Street between 6th and 11th. Almost none of this diversity existed in 1995.

Probably the most interesting new restaurant in the downtown area for geographers, though, is a place called Local Burger. It prides itself on its use of – you guessed it – local meats in its burgers. The twist is that the “burgers” can be local bison, elk or veggie as well as beef (I’d say the bison ones are the best, myself). The restaurant even hosts a winter local-meat market that takes over from the long-standing Farmers Market in downtown when it gets too cold to stand around the parking lot on New Hampshire Street (to which that Farmers Market relocated this year). Now, I’m not certain how Local Burger’s shtick can be stretched so far as to include tasty little cartons of Brazilian coconut juice, but the “politics of scale” geographers will have an answer for us on this “rescaling” to make Brazil *local*, I am sure.

Now, let us move on to the campus. This Fall has turned out to be positively weird, because almost everyone in charge of anything is a new face at KU. We have

a new Provost (Richard Lariviere), and a new Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Joe Steinmetz), alongside new deans at the Libraries, Law School, School of Social Welfare, School of Education, School of Fine Arts, and probably some school I never knew existed. It all makes for far too many meetings as the folks at the top get to know the rest of us and tell us what they think we should do, but I’d have to say in another way that it makes the meetings much more fun, because no one has heard these people’s jokes and unpredictable things can happen. One predictable thing that has happened again is that the university is trying to rebuild something in the middle floors of Wescoe Hall, in the never-ending struggle to make that building somewhat less of an architectural embarrassment. This time, though, the remodeling – to add many new offices for Humanities departments, squarely on top of the last remodeling that created a food court called The Underground – comes with a sweeping health survey, investigating the widespread concerns fueled by an alarming number of severe health disorders among people who’ve worked in the building over long periods.

It is hard not to move from a debate about sick buildings to the campus sports scene. This was not a year to remember for most KU teams, other than the ever-successful Debate Team and Bowling Team. The rest of our Jayhawks seem comfortably ensconced in the middle of the Big 12 table for their respective sports, with a few nice moments here and there (the baseball and softball teams made their NCAA tournaments, after long absences from said tournaments). Even the glorious men’s basketball team lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament for the second year in a row (although the recent overtime victory over the defending national champions from Florida will have those of us in the fan base smiling for weeks to come). It may be that the Geography Football Club in the (co-ed recreational) Lawrence Adult Soccer League has, without fanfare, become the most successful team on campus. Having had to play against them, I will say they provide a nice sense of camaraderie to the graduate student community in Lindley Hall and a model face of KU in the Lawrence community. I might even have to start playing for them!

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Degrees Awarded

Dissertations, thesis, and non-thesis MAs completed during the 2005-06 period are as follows (advisor in parenthesis):

Naeema Al-Hosani, MA, “Arab Wayfinding on Land and at Sea: An Historical Comparison of Traditional Navigation Techniques” (George McCleary)

John Bauer, PhD, “Stability and Change in United States Religious Regions, 1980-2000” (Pete Shortridge)

Shawna Wright Brinson, MA, “The Development and Preservation of Character in Downtown Lawrence, Kansas” (Pete Shortridge)

Nathan Brinson, MA, “Political, Economic, and Cultural Revival in Kansas City, Kansas” (Pete Shortridge)

Timothy Brock, MA, “The Brazilian Demarcation Movement: Examining the Assumptions of Indigeneity and Scale” (Chris Brown)

Cristin Burke, MA, “Territorial Cohesion in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan” (Leslie Dienes)

Matthew Koeppe, PhD, “Environment, Urbanization, and the Rise of Mechanized Agriculture in Southeastern Rondonia, Brazil” (Chris Brown)

John Kostelnick, PhD, “An Interactive Mapping System for Exploring the Geography of American Religion” (Terry Slocum)

David McDermott, MA, “Political Economics and the Location of Domestic Coal Mining” (Chris Brown)

Amy Potter, MA, “Haiti’s Identity Crisis: Representation in U.S. Newspaper Coverage” (Garth Myers)

Matthew Ramspott, PhD, “Remote Sensing-Based Characterization of Land Management and Biophysical Factors in Grassland: Implications for Understanding Carbon Stocks in the Plant/Soil Interface” (Kevin Price)

Brian Wardlow, PhD, “An Evaluation of Time-Series MODIS 250-Meter Vegetation Index Data for Crop Mapping in the U.S. Central Great Plains” (Steve Egbert)

Jason Woods, MA, “A Historical Geography of Kansas City’s Jazz District” (Pete Shortridge)

Globe-O-Mania 2006—Another Huge Success!

The KU Geography Department held our third annual Globe-O-Mania trivia bowl event during Geography Awareness Week. The event is becoming so popular (particularly with extra-credit seekers!) that we will have to move to a much larger venue next year to accommodate the growing enthusiasm for this event. This year, 65 teams (roughly 266 people), mostly undergrads, and mostly non-majors (yet!) participated in the event. GeoClub and the Geography Graduate Student Organization sponsored the event. This year, GeoClub made some fabulous T-shirts (designed by Hilary Hungerford) which sold like hotcakes and helped to defray some of the costs associated with the event. Graduate students and faculty helped to check players in and keep score, and they were joined by our very own Alumna, Anke Wells (who also worked hard keeping score and cheering on “her” teams)!

For those of you unfamiliar with this new tradition in our department, Globe-O-Mania is an event that showcases the breadth and relevance of Geography to our undergrads while demonstrating that the members of our department—from undergrads to grads to all levels of faculty—know how to have a good time. We play a special selection of place-relevant, upbeat music ranging from the musical stylings of Frank Sinatra to the B-52s (thanks to Victoria Downey for another entertaining compilation!) and for those teams that did not come up with their

own team name, we devised geographically appropriate team names. This year’s winners, following a gripping tie-breaker round, were Intellectual Gluteus Maximus and One in a Brazilian (tied for 1st place) with Deep Desire coming in 2nd place.

We worked out some wrinkles with the check-in process, but we still had a few problems this year. We had a few teams show up that were not signed up, so we did not have team signs made for them. We gave them the signs from the check-in tables (e.g., Team A-F), and we had to give one team a box because we had no sign materials left (hence, Team Box)!

This year, we also included a food drive as a community service activity sponsored by GeoClub. We collected approximately 150 donated items overall, and we hope that next year we can boost participation in the food drive.

Thank you, everyone, who participated in this year’s event. We will take a little rest and then gear up for more mania next year!

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Emeriti Corner

John Augelli

2006 saw little change in my peripatetic ways. I lectured on five different cruises, and I am scheduled to do a sixth one in December. One of these cruises was in my old Caribbean stomping grounds; another was from San Diego along the Mexican Riviera to Central America, to the Pacific coast of South America and to the Panama Canal. Three other voyages were to the Baltic.

While I had already been in most of the places we visited on these cruises, I did manage to get to a few ports that I had never seen before. These included Arhus, Denmark; Warnemund and Rostock, Germany; Gdansk, Poland; Santa Cruz de Hualtaco, Mexico; Manta, Ecuador, and Salavery, Peru.

In addition to these cruises, I undertook a two-week, 5000-mile automobile journey to visit kith and kin all over the country. (There is no fool like an old fool). It was especially rewarding to visit my granddaughter in Charleston, South Carolina, and become much better acquainted with that charming old city.

Except for my gimpy left leg that ties me down to a cane, I seem to be carrying my 85 (almost 86) years well. And so it goes.

My warmest best wishes to all of you who are still in the Department and to the others who, like me, have had to wander off.

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Donations to the Endowment Association

Our SPECIAL THANKS to the following recent contributors:

Kollmorgen Geography Fund

David Ridgway
Richard Skaggs
Alan Arbogast
Noel Kaplan
Jerry Whistler
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Paul Crawford

Stu Shea
Anke Wells
Joe Poracsky

If you wish to make a contribution to the Kollmorgen Geography Fund, the George F. Jenks Scholarship Fund, or the Marie Kabelitz Field Camp Award, you can send that contribution to the Kansas University Endowment Association, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044-0928 or to the Geography Department. Be sure to indicate which fund on your donation.

Faculty News



Steve Bozarth

Steve had another busy year studying ancient pollen/opal phytoliths from sites in the American Southwest, the Great Plains, Central and South America. In May, he assisted with the collection of a sediment core from a marsh at Blue Creek, Belize, for microfossil analysis. In August, Bill Woods and Steve visited archaeological sites built on anthropogenic *terra preta* (black earth) in the central Amazon. Last year, he discovered maize and squash phytoliths in one of these sites that dated at ca. 1,000 BP. While in Manaus, they discussed future work with several Brazilian archaeologists and soil scientists. This fall, Steve taught phytolith analysis to graduate students from geography, geology and anthropology. He published a pollen and biosilicate study in *New Excavations at Wilson Butte Cave - South Central Idaho* (Occasional Papers of the Idaho Museum of Natural History). Steve was co-author with several archaeologists at the Kansas State Historical Society on a study published in *Plains Anthropologist*.

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Dave Braaten

This past June, Dave Braaten and his colleagues in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) celebrated the completion of the first year of CReSIS (Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets). CReSIS is a NSF Science and Technology Center that began in 2005. Dave Braaten is the Deputy Director of CReSIS and Prasad Gogineni in EECS is the Director. CReSIS is developing ice penetrating radar systems along with UAV's (unpiloted aircraft) and surface-based rovers to carry out research on the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets. Last winter (Dec. 2006 and Jan. 2006), Dave spent about 4 weeks in Antarctica. He was a member of a team of 10 students, faculty and technical staff from KU that operated a suite of radars in West Antarctica to image the ice-bed interface, measure ice thickness

(~3400 m), map internal layers of volcanic ash in the ice that date back up to 30,000 years ago, and to map near surface internal layers that provide information on snow accumulation. This work was in support of a major glaciology project. Next year at this site in West Antarctica, the U.S. will begin a drilling project that will recover an ice core all the way to the bed. This will take several years to complete, but will eventually provide a climate record that is unsurpassed in time resolution for Antarctica.

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Steve Egbert

Much of the early part of the year was focused on research and field work for the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. In January and again in July, Steve and Matt Dunbar traveled to Switzerland to present workshops in geospatial concepts to regional coordinators and central office staff. In February, he flew to Beirut where he spent two weeks with his Geneva Centre colleague, Jean-Paul Rychener, field testing a hand-held mapping system for creating spatial databases of minefields to a group of military engineers at the National Demining Office. The training session was very successful and became a key part of the project final report that they submitted in May. His other key research focus this year has been the use of MODIS time-series satellite imagery for characterizing land cover on the Great Plains. Brian Wardlow, a 2005 KU PhD who is now at the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is the project lead – a second key partner is Jude Kastens, a PhD candidate in mathematics who is working at the Kansas Applied Remote Sensing Program.

On the home front, Kathy and Steve still haven't quite finished making repairs from the microburst that hit Lawrence earlier in the year (no major damage, just procrastination on his part). They are also enjoying working to maintain and improve their small acreage in the country by planting fruit

trees, removing honey locusts and poison ivy, and other "country" chores.

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Bill Johnson

Research-wise, most people don't get too excited about lists of publications, so, in brief, Bill does have four journal articles, three significant research reports, and several county-level geologic maps out or coming out soon. Funding is pretty good, with two USGS grants to map geology in central and western Kansas, a 3-year EPA grant to study playa wetlands of western Kansas, and two small U.S. Army and one Bureau of Reclamation archaeologically-related contracts. Two National Science Foundation and one Petroleum Research Fund proposals are in the preparation stage and will be submitted shortly. All of these projects contain a significant level of undergraduate- and graduate-level student support. One project will take Bill and a student to work on an archaeological site in central Alaska this summer, otherwise research activities will be focused in the central Great Plains.

In the realm of teaching, Bill has assumed one new course—Geography 107, Honors Physical Geography. His first offering, this Fall Semester, left a lot to be desired in that he did not anticipate the changes necessary to down-size from a class of 200 students to one of only 15, comprised of motivated students. The experience for Bill was a breath of fresh air in that students were engaging and expecting a lot in terms of stimulating hands on experiences and substantive answers to questions. Two exercises that Bill did arrange appeared to be big hits: a two-hour session learning about Geographic Information Systems, and an assessment of their diet (carnivore vs. vegetarian) using the stable isotope signal obtained from each student's eye-brow hair. In sum, the students were particularly helpful in providing pithy suggestions for future offerings of the course. Beyond this course, Bill offered a graduate seminar on the

Faculty News

interpretation of historic and prehistoric riverine deposits which was punctuated with a two-day field trip to western Kansas. Also, he continues to teach his usual fare, i.e., the large Geography 104 (Introductory Physical Geography) section and the 800-level Graduate Research course for incoming graduate students.

On a personal level, Bill's life has been pretty lack-luster. But maybe no news is good news. Bill's spouse Claudia continues in her role as a research attorney for the Kansas Supreme Court. One step daughter graduated from Baker University and is going into graduate school at KU, and the other is an UG at KU. His step son is a senior in high school and plans to go on to art school. His daughter graduated from art school in Boston and now works at the Boston Museum of Art, and his son attends Humboldt State University in northern California. The dogs Circee, Violet, and Max are fine, as is Stinky the cat.

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Xingong Li

Xingong submitted an article on global inundation impacts from sea level rise to the journal of *Transaction of GIS*. The research is supported by CReSIS and is a year long joint effort with several graduate students and faculty members from the geography department and the Haskell Indian Nations University. In the project of calibrating a non-point source pollution model for the Cheney Lake watershed, which is supported by USDA, the NEXRAD precipitation data was found to be a reliable source for calibrating the model. Working with graduate students Justin Penka and Justin Busboom, they are developing GIS tools to visualize and analyze hourly NEXRAD precipitation data for hydrological modeling and are finishing up an article on the research. Xingong and Keith French, an undergraduate student in the geography department, are extending the cartographic modeling framework into the vector data model, which will provide a new perspective of spatial analysis in the vector data model. They

are currently finishing up an article on the research. With the support from a KU general research fund, Xingong went back to China in the summer and had a field trip to the Yarkant mountain watershed which has an average elevation of 4000 m in western China. The research is an effort to model snow runoff using MODIS snow cover data. He collected five years of daily stream flow and climate data at two gauging stations. He hopes to find time to focus on the research soon. The biggest news from Xingong this year is a new member in his family. His second child and first son Kevin was born in April. Xingong and his wife are having fun and are kept busy with their new son and second-grade daughter Lucy.

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Garth Myers

Garth has been busy since the first of August as the Director of the Kansas African Studies Center, a Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language & Area Studies fellowship center. It is very exciting to have the good fortune to have started this task just as the Center received four years of major funding from the US Department of Education. He actually heard the good news by phone while in Tanzania, on the first leg of his 2006-08 NSF research project on Peri-Urban Land Reform and Political-Economic Reform in Zanzibar, 1985-2005. He just finished the proofs on the book he has co-edited with Martin Murray of Binghamton University called *Cities in Contemporary Africa* (Palgrave Macmillan, due out in December 2006). He has a new article just out in Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography, and a few other articles and book chapters on the way for 2007. His directorship means he is only teaching one course per term. This term, he is lucky enough to have it be the graduate seminar in social theory, and next term it will be Cities and Development. His family is well; Phebe (13) is a bright and enthusiastic teenager, and Atlee (7) stars in her own opera every day while

shining in Map Skills in 1st grade.

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Shannon O'Lear

Shannon O'Lear is continuing her work on impacts of resource wealth in Azerbaijan. In December, *Area* will publish an article from this work titled, "Asking the right questions: Environmental conflict in the case of Azerbaijan". This article, which Shannon co-authored with Ang Gray who worked as an R.A. on the project, questions some of the assumptions made by the literature on resource conflicts and argues for more meaningful approaches to assessing resource wealth that do not assume a trajectory toward conflict. Another item that is hot off the press is the special issue of *GeoJournal* focused on territorial conflict that Shannon guest edited with colleagues at the University of Illinois. Shannon contributed an article which details geographic oversights of large conflict data bases. Despite the fact that these data bases are frequently used by top scholars in International Relations, their incorporation of geographic data is often incomplete and incoherent which can lead to flawed conclusions about the role that natural resources and terrain might play in conflict. Shannon also has an article on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict coming out soon in *National Identities*. This is Shannon's last year as President of the Political Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, so this fall she is helping to organize a preconference for this group that will be held just prior to the national AAG meeting in San Francisco in April. She is also preparing to co-teach a course, Geography of Genocide, with Steve Egbert. The course will be taught as a seminar in the spring 2007 semester. Shannon and Steve are also organizing two sessions on the topic for the AAG meeting, and Shannon has made arrangements with a leading journal to consider the papers for a special issue.

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Pete Shortridge

This fall saw the publication of a new encyclopedia, The American Midwest, from Indiana University Press. Pete edited the section on regional images, and several KU geographers are authors. The list includes Byron Augustin, Kevin Blake, Craig Campbell, Scott Campbell, Cary de Wit, Steve Foulke, Charles Heller, Bill Johnson, Jim Kelly, Soren Larsen, Chuck Martin, Tom Martinson, Peter McCormick, Bob Rundstrom, Tom Schmiedeler, Steve Schnell, Mark Schwartz, Dave Schul, and Barbara Shortridge. Pete continues working on a book about the growth and character of Kansas City. In October he spoke about rural depopulation at the AAG regional meeting at Lincoln, Nebraska. Last month KU gave him a career research award. Four students graduated in 2006 under his direction: MAs for Nate Brinson (revitalization of KCK) and Jason Woods (KC jazz), and PhDs for John Bauer (American religious regions) and Chris Post (memorialization of guerilla warfare). The year's trip highlight was the research room of the Missouri Historical Society, adjacent to Forest Park in St. Louis. Located in a converted synagogue, its ceiling is an immense, ornate dome. Here is adaptive reuse at its best.

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Terry Slocum

The big news for Terry Slocum was a two-week trip that Arlene and he took to Europe this past summer. The first week they took a Boat/Bike Tour through The Netherlands. If you've never been to The Netherlands, Terry highly recommends it—the bike trails are fantastic! The second week they went to Germany to visit the family of a high school exchange student who lived with them for a year and then they hiked for several days in Switzerland. The latter was definitely a highlight for Terry, as he actually got to hike on the trails he had only seen on topographic maps.

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Valery Terwilliger

Valery Terwilliger decided to put what she learned from teaching with Bill Woods last spring (Geog/EVRN 420/531) about relationships between environmental change and the rise and fall of

civilizations into practice. This fall, she, post doctoral researcher Nikki Strong, collaborator Zewdu Eshetu, and Addis Ababa University graduate student Tsige Gebru spent two months scaling gullies in northern Ethiopia in search of strata that might yield information about climate change and land use practices over the last 7000 years. The study sites occurred from present day Mekele to Adigrat. At one time, they were in a likely center of origin of agriculture. Later, they were an agricultural backbone to Axum, one of the four most powerful commercial empires of the Old World during the first few hundred years of the Common Era. Other sophisticated societies supported by the area, subsequently rose and fell. Although very sophisticated socially, it is presently one of the poorest places on earth. Terwilliger et al. are interested in whether there are repeatable relationships between climate, land use, and the rise and fall of societies in this region. In collaboration with Yongsong Huang at Brown University and the radiocarbon dating lab at the University of California, Irvine, Zewdu and Terwilliger will now date their samples and do a variety of stable isotopic analyses to gain some inferences about climate change and land use. Strong is performing physical analyses of the samples and working on a model of paleochannel dynamics. Tsige found nice chunks of charcoal in most of the paleostrata and suspects their analyses will lead to some revisions in assumptions about what the native vegetation was in the study areas.

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Joe Alford (PhD 1968)

The big news from the Gulf Coast is that we had no hurricanes this year. As a result we were finally able to repair our house. However, our beautiful town still appears devastated. We have perhaps 500 trees in our immediate area that are dead. They stand as stark sentinels -- victims of salt water flooding. The fifteen foot storm surge pretty well leveled our barrier island. In places where there has been no sand replenishment the island has slid about forty yards north. For people interested in the effects of hurricane impact this is a great place to study.

Last February we enjoyed a great visit from two old Lindley hands. Tony Lewis, Don Johnson, and their wives dropped by to talk about old times and the nature of mima mounds and other assorted features.

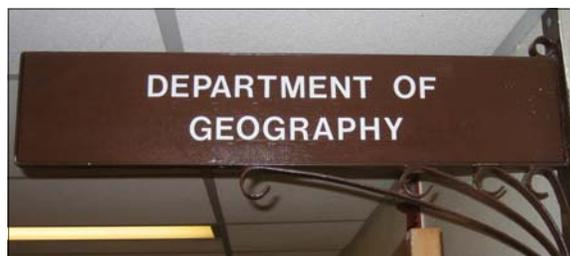
Hope all is well in Lawrence.

alfordd@hotmail.com

Byron Augustin, (MA 1968)

I have started my 29th year in the Department of Geography at Texas State University this fall. I still teach large section classes of World Regional Geography (390 students) and take students on Study Abroad Programs in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Scholastic Publishing released my new book on Iraq in March and I am currently working on a book on Andorra for Marshall Cavendish Publishing. During my spring break in March, I will spend 8 days in Andorra doing research and photography for the book.

ba04@txstate.edu



Fred Caspall PhD 1970

This is my last semester of teaching at Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL. I will retire at the end of this fall term. I have been at Western since the fall of 1969 after finishing my studies at Kansas. I have taught at WIU in the Geography Department, the Agriculture Department and I am retiring from the Geology Department. Along the way, I have taught at Penn State and in Canada at Truro, Nova Scotia. My research has ranged from developing map projections, land reclamation, oil and gas discovery and development, paleopedology and soil development, and soil analysis in archeology. I have worked as a consultant for the Midland Coal Company, a division of ASRCO, Chevron and many other small independent oil and gas companies in the Midwest. I am currently working as a soil scientist in exploratory archeology. In addition, I have been actively engaged in farming for the last 20 years and currently operate a medium-sized cash grain farm (1500 acres) with 100 head of Angus cows and their calves. I will continue my farming habit as long as I can afford it and my health holds out. Eloise and I are avid sports fans (at least she goes to the games with me) and attend all of the WIU home basketball and football games. We also like to watch our grandkids play when we can. The boys are all sports kids and the girls are cheerleaders, dancers and actresses. We love it. I loved teaching and we are both healthy and have had a good time. We are also proud to be Jayhawks.

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Vern Harnapp (PhD 1972)

The news from Florida is that the 2006 hurricane season is near its close and there have been no landfalls in the U.S. of named storms, unlike 2005 which was a record setter. And in that we are very thankful. Just drought and sunshine to cope with now.

To show my allegiance to KU in University of Florida "gator country",

today, I just mounted my new vanity plate on my Chrysler which reads, KUPHD. Unfortunately, I couldn't get a Jayhawk logo, but instead, a shark will have to suffice.

I am still fulltime caregiver for wife, Lavada, who is in her 11th year of battling the deteriorating effects of Pick's Disease which has many of the characteristics of Alzheimers. The most debilitating aspect is primary progressive aphasia which has robbed her of any ability to communicate in any fashion. Yet, she still enjoys travelling and can get around okay. We enjoy the daily fine weather and our ability to go to either the Atlantic or Gulf beaches since, in Orlando, we are midway in the state.

Three weeks ago, while on a trip to Lincoln, Nebraska, we were able to get into the state of Kansas to visit relatives, albeit only 6 miles into the state at Herkimer (near Marysville). Over the past 50 years, in my experience, the landscape of Kansas in that area is unchanged, which is comforting that some things never change, unlike Central Florida where everything is changing. My youngest son sent me a birthday card showing a man prostrate on a sidewalk with two people bending down over him. The title was CSI: Topeka. One person replied: "I believe he died of boredom". Inside it said, "I hope your birthday was more exciting than this". I did survive living in Topeka from 1964-1969. Well, life in Florida is more exciting than that. I'll have to look up John Augelli in Stuart one of these days and talk over old times in Lawrence. Ciao from Florida.

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Gregory Hembree (MA1978)

All personal information for Greg and Marla Hembree remains the same as last year (Greg now has 19 years at the Town of Vienna), only we're all one year older, etc. We still have two cats with state's names: Indiana (black male) and Dakota (grey female).

We did enjoy an interesting summer vacation trip designed around attending the sesquicentennial

celebration of the incorporation of Marla's home town of Cherokee, IA; following in the footsteps of Lewis & Clark for a portion of our 3,325-mile car trip from/to Omaha, NE, north and west through the Dakotas, Wyoming and Montana; and visiting the graves of Marla's ancestors in Eastend, Saskatchewan, and the remnants of the town of Ravenscrag, Saskatchewan, where her maternal great grandparents lived one hundred years ago. During our afternoon in Canada we discovered that the term "major road" is a loosely-defined term (especially that gravel road that is called a major highway in far southeastern Alberta).

While in Montana, we visited Pompey's Pillar near Billings where William Clark signed his name and the date (August 25, 1806), and the Great Falls of the Missouri River (unfortunately each has a dam behind it now) and the Giant Spring that ends at the river after carrying water some 100 miles from the Continental Divide to the south.

Ever the geographer, while in eastern North Dakota, I had to visit the "world's tallest structure" (2,063 feet) which is a television tower near Blanchard. While driving to this tower, Marla noticed another tower about five miles away that had to be equally as tall. It turned out to be just three feet shorter in height; the real excitement was the unmarked construction ditch on the gravel road that really bottomed out the rental car and caused momentary concern for the integrity of the oil pan underneath.

Other features of this two-week trip that only a geographer could love was inspecting deed books in the Lyman County Courthouse in Kennebec, SD, and standing on the land (now a wheat field) that was homesteaded by maternal grandfather in 1908.

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James Hughes (MA 1968, PhD 1971)

Life is good! I am presently in my second year of retirement, and was given the title Professor Emeritus, Slippery Rock University of

Pennsylvania. I'm taking an eclectic assortment of classes for credit, volunteering at the local public library, and doing some traveling. This year Judy and I were in the Hawaiian Islands, the Bahamas, South Padre Island (Texas), Boston, Chicago, and New York City (twice--that's where our daughter lives). We'd love to hear from old Jayhawk friends. Stop by if you are in western Pennsylvania.

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Roland.D. Mower, (PhD 1971)

Merry Christmas to you and the staff, the faculty, and to all those who joined the melee at KU and won. God Bless Ya All. From R.D. & Nona Mower at the Horseshoe Mountain Ranch in Utah.

rdm@cut.net

Tim Rickard (PhD 1974)

I am in my 36th year at Central Connecticut State University. I am currently on sabbatical leave researching sustainable rural development in rural-urban fringes. I and my wife, Louise, also not yet retired, went to the July IGU Congress in Brisbane and a Commission meeting in Cairns where I presented some of my research contrasting American and British national park philosophies and their implementation. Daughter Diana is in her second year of residency at UCLA Medical Center. I currently represent the New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society on the AAG Council. I went to the KU party at the Chicago meeting but found nobody of my generation. Better luck in San Francisco??

Rickard@mail.ccsu.edu

Jon Woodward (MA 1970)

No big changes for me to report this year other than turning the big 60 and looking more and more at retirement all the time so I can spend more time playing with my new grandson.

Vickie and I are still in Lawrence, with hopes of finding something soon in a warmer part of the world so we can

escape the snow.

I'm still working for L&B (aviation environmental planning firm) in Corporate Woods in Overland Park, Kansas and directing the Environmental Division of the firm worldwide.

I hope all are well and look forward to the next reunion since I missed the last one while getting a new hip (should' a done it years ago).

jwoodward@landrum-brown.com



Mark Bowman (MA 1986)

We are currently living in Aberdeen Scotland where I work for ConocoPhillips as an exploration geologist. We have been here for three years and enjoyed 5 years in Norway previous to this assignment. I work on near-infrastructure exploration in the Outer Moray Firth and South Viking Grabens of the North Sea. Despite the maturity of the area as a hydrocarbon province, the industry here remains quite active and keeps me rather busy, especially at this time of the year. Scotland is a great place to live and we have been taking advantage of being here by engaging in intense hill-walking activities in the summer and fall and trying to sample all that the country has to offer. It is nice as a jumping off place to see the rest of Great Britain and Europe also. We have two children, Brett 13 and Emilie 11, who also enjoy being overseas and attending international schools. If you are passing through Scotland, feel free to stop by for a visit!

Mark.W.Bowman@conocophillips.com

David Butler (PhD 1982)

I am happy to announce that William D. (Will) Butler, son of Janet and David, is now a Freshman at KU! He is majoring in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, but I hope he'll get involved with the physical geography program in the department also. Will is in Templin Hall.

Janet and I visited Will during KU's Parent's Weekend in September, and had a great time revisiting old campus haunts. We also attended the football game and had a good time watching a Jayhawk victory.

During the spring of 2006 I was honored as the recipient of Texas State University's Presidential Seminar Award, for which I presented a campus-wide seminar on my research on alpine treeline. At the AAG Meeting in Chicago, I also received the Mountain Geography Specialty Group's Distinguished Career Award. During Summer 2006 Will and I carried out fieldwork funded through a cooperative agreement with the US Geological Survey in the White Mountains and Sierra Nevada of California, and in Glacier National Park. A short family vacation followed on the beautiful Oregon Coast. During the fall 2006 semester I have been busy giving invited presentations at the annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium,

at Texas A&M University, and to the Department of Biology at Texas State. My wife, Janet, is an Assistant Professor in Accounting at Texas State, and we continue to live in Austin, TX.
db25@txstate.edu

Mike Hogben (MPhil 1981)

We're now living in Parsippany, NJ although the mailing address is Morris Plains. Strange divisions by the post office tend to confuse the newcomer.

After 2+ years in Idaho, we decided we wanted to be closer to Dave. So we elected to live in the same apartment complex where he resides. It has been nice to be much closer; NJ to ID was an all day trip with at least one connection either in Minneapolis, Denver, or Salt Lake City.

It has taken us awhile to get used to living in an apartment once again after 40 years of owning a home or at least trying to own it. We can see the Empire State Building and other NYC buildings on the horizon from our living and dining room. Very different from the views in ID.

NJ has taken some getting used to with its high population density. One nice thing is that I don't face a daily commute to work. Instead, I can go against the traffic to get to the nearest golf course.

We have signed a year lease on the apartment which means we will be faced with a move next summer. The housing costs and property costs are astronomical here. It is common to hear of \$8,000 dollars a year in property taxes and that is considered low. Obviously, we will be looking elsewhere in our relocation search. At this stage, Knoxville, TN is going to be our first ground truth target as it is a 2 hour flight from Newark for Dave and us.

Pass on regards to all our old friends. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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Joe Poracsky (PhD 1984)

24 years at Portland State University and counting. Time flies when you're having fun. I still consider myself primarily a map-design-oriented cartographer, even though I teach just one course a year in map design. I also teach a couple sections of "Maps & Geographic Information," the

introductory course in our techniques program and a prerequisite to all our courses in GIS and remote sensing and that lone cartography course.

A colleague and I are also working on an NSF-supported project to develop courses in spatial quantitative methods that rely heavily on graphics rather than equations to help students understand what numeric description and analysis is all about. We had a session on this at the APCG meeting at the University of Oregon this Fall and brought Terry Slocum out to serve as a panelist.

I spent 10 days in Lawrence during September visiting my daughter and her family and got to see my 4-year-old grandson, Finley, learn to ride a two-wheeler with no training wheels. The bike being a bit big for him, the only way he could stop was to turn onto the grass, step on the brakes, lean sideways and just fall off. It looked strange but worked and he always came up smiling. Meanwhile his 2-year-old brother, Sawyer, gave up trying to follow him on a scooter and just looked in awe whenever Finley passed by.

Next year I hope to be on sabbatical and do some long-delayed writing and travel a bit. Lawrence, New England and (hopefully) Italy will be among the destinations.

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Ron Shaklee (MA 1979, PhD 1983)

Things are still pretty much the same. This is the twentieth year that I have led students on travel/study classes to San Salvador Island in the Bahamas. We sponsor scholarships for Bahamian students to attend Youngstown State University as a part of an exchange agreement. I continue to hold a split teaching/administrative appointment with half-time teaching in the Department of Geography and half-time administration as the Director of the University Honors Program. In October I was elected to a three year term as President of the East Lakes Division of the AAG.

I hope all is well in Lawrence! I need to sneak back into town one of these days to see all of the changes!

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Gray Tappan (MA 1981)

After an early life of moving around internationally, we've been in Brookings, South Dakota for 21 years -- much longer than anywhere. I'm still with the USGS EROS Data Center, and continue to make 4 annual trips to West Africa. Since the early 80s, I've focused on the French-speaking countries of the Sahel, from Chad to Senegal, mapping and monitoring land cover change. Although I use remote sensing extensively, I've usually managed to spend a fair amount of time in the field, looking at changes in landscapes, including biodiversity, and driving forces of change. No question that there's a lot of land degradation, but there are also some amazing successes in land management. It is these successes that my colleagues and I are trying to share with the world. While there, I try to save time for bird watching, and hiking with a GPS to "capture" degree confluences (check out www.confluence.org). On the domestic front, our eldest son left for college (where has the time gone?), is a freshman at KU and is even giving Geography a try. He's a third generation Tappan Jayhawk (Dad graduated from KU in geology in 1951). We'll be seeing much more of Lawrence -- always a treat!

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Bob Yoos (MA 1986)

Joanne and I are still in Lawrence. I am still the Solid Waste Manager for the city. Our big event in the past year was a six week trip to the southwest. The main highlight was a 10 day, 226 mile raft trip through the Grand Canyon on the Colorado River. What an adventure! There were tremendous hikes up side canyons, wonderful sights, excellent food prepared by our guides, and about 2 billion years of geology. What more could one ask for? Oh, and the starry nights were fantastic. Another highlight was two back country ranger-led excursions in Mesa Verde National Park. This year was the 100th anniversary of the park and they offered limited opportunities to sign up for these trips. One went to Mug House and the other to Oak Tree House. Neither has been open to the public before and they said they wouldn't again in our lifetimes. We can usually be found in the Free State Brewery Friday evenings and often those old geographers Tom Schmiedeler and Jim Alldritt show up.

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Scott Ackerman (MA 1992)

It has been a busy year for us. I decided to leave the Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla, WA and join the BLM in Vernal, Utah. I started in Vernal on March 20th. We sold our house in Walla Walla and bought a new one in Vernal. Between work and upgrading the new house, we've had a little time to hike, bike, golf etc. I made the shift for many reasons, but the main one was to get back to the Rocky Mountain area close to our property north of Moab. I've been working as Natural Resource Specialist in our Minerals Division. This is basically coordinating environmental compliance for oil and gas field development on public lands. I will soon be shifting over to a Wildlife Biologist position in the same Division. It has been very busy in our office, but I like the field work a lot. Diane has been adjusting to the new surroundings. It was hard to leave friends behind in Walla Walla. As the house and yard have developed over the summer and fall she has warmed up to the area. The setting here is quite scenic, and our house is situated to capture some of this. Diane has started a job delivering meals to the elderly in the region. She needs work on her orienteering skills, but she's slowly getting the hang of it. GIS and GPS use has been very important for me to perform this job. I've been honing my ArcMap skills. The BLM database is actually very good. I've been using it extensively to plan field work to evaluate new well pads, roads and pipelines. That's about it in a nutshell.

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Kevin Blake (MA 1991)

Greetings to all Jayhawk geographers! I had the good fortune in fall 2006 to be on a research sabbatical from the K-State geography department, so I took that opportunity to write several articles and make progress on the research for my book on the Colorado Fourteeners. Several years of work came to fruition this year with the publication of *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*, edited by

Barry Lopez and Debra Gwartney and published by Trinity University Press; I am one of the contributing editors. In spring 2007 I again look forward to teaching World Regional Geography and Geography of the American West. Although we continue to enjoy living in Manhattan, I sated my love for travel this year with trips to Chicago, St. Louis, Oregon, Colorado, Oklahoma, Las Vegas (Nevada), and Death Valley. The trip to Oregon filled in several more places in the West that I hadn't visited before, such as Crater Lake, the Siskiyou Mountains, and the Great Basin ("High Desert") section of Oregon. Although I had been to Death Valley just two years ago, I was excited to go again to this surreal and grand landscape. A side trip from Death Valley garnered my first view ever of Mount Whitney; at 14,497 feet above sea level it towers nearly 11,000 feet above the Owens Valley. A real treat for a geographer is to be able to travel in the same day from Whitney, the highest point in the coterminous U.S., to the salt pan of the Badwater Basin in Death Valley, the lowest point in the western hemisphere (282 feet below sea level).

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Craig Campbell (PhD 1993)

I am now in my fifth year as Department Chair at YSU (that's 1 interim and 4 according to contract). We hired a new faculty member this year in general physical geography and global climate change. YSU Geography is progressing well, though with a reorganization of the colleges in store (sciences splitting from the social sciences and humanities) we have had to question which college would be best for us.

Our family is well. Betty is well. Justin and Marta are both sophomores at YSU, so I see them both at home and at work! Justin is majoring in biology and Marta in studio art with an emphasis in photography. Mickey is in his 10th month as an LDS missionary in the Colorado Denver South mission. He's in Littleton which incorporated a

few years ago and gave itself the official name of Centennial, Colorado. We are still very active Mormons. I have served as Ward Clerk keeping track of congregational membership records and financial information. We all keep busy there.

It was good to see several of you in September when I attended the John Whitmer Historical Society meeting in Independence, Missouri, and took a couple of side trips over to Lawrence. It had been 14 years since I was there, and I felt chills go down my back as we drove along the top of Mt. Oread.

I also have been active with automotive interests. After doing some volunteer work I was appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Packard Museum in Warren, OH. In planning for a YSU-GM Centennial in 2008, I'm also helping to organize a symposium on the automobile. So, life is fun. Best wishes to all.

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John Dunham (PhD 1996)

I'm now well into my second year as Cartographic Services Manager for the Kansas Geological Survey, responsible for the cartographic production and some of the GIS data aspects of KGS' geologic maps and mapping projects. I now have four capable student employees working for me on various tasks. Among other things, we are working on a redesign of our county geologic map template, which includes hillshading to show topography; a new statewide geologic color scheme; and creating GIS data layers from old county geology maps created in the pre-GIS era. Though much of my work is in supervising and overseeing these projects, I still have opportunities to work with GIS and mapping. I am currently developing methods to automate some of our GIS processes.

On the home front, wife Cindy (KU Geography, '84) and I are "empty-nesters" with daughter Tricia off to college at the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth. She still keeps us busy going to games, however, since she

plays on the USM basketball team. Tricia ended her high school sports career at Lawrence Free State by finishing third in javelin at the 6A state meet, which earned her honorable-mention track all-metro in the *Kansas City Star*.

We made our annual vacation trip to the Florida panhandle in September this year, where we spent time with KU Geography's Kelly Gregg and wife Karen. The area is recovering from the recent hurricanes, though some areas are taking longer than others. There was also the 9th annual road trip with fellow KU Geography alum Jerry Whistler to visit KU Geography alum/MSU prof Al Arbogast and his family in East Lansing, Michigan. Yet another alum, the legendary Dave Baumgartner, flew all the way from Germany to join us. We made the trip late enough this year that Jerry and I ran into snow on the way up. And, as has become customary, we attended another MSU football game that the Spartans tanked.

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Steve Foulke (PhD 1998)

Currently, I am an Assistant Professor of History at Ottawa (KS) University. We moved back to Kansas three years ago following a stint in upstate New York at St. Lawrence University. At Ottawa I primarily teach courses in cultural geography, American history, and composition. In January, we'll move to Skopje, Macedonia, where I'll start a Fulbright teaching assignment at the University of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

-all the best.
steven.foulke@ottawa.edu

Dan Gilewitch (MA 1992)

Wow, how time flies. It has been over 14 years since I was at KU studying under John Augelli working towards an MA. A lot has happened since 1992. Cathy and I left KU for West Point, where I taught human geography for several years. We then moved to Fort Knox, Kentucky where I served as an operations officer in the 16th CAV. I then moved the family to

Cairo, Egypt where I worked in the American Embassy for a couple of years. It was a great tour - we lived 20 minutes from the pyramids at Giza and we traveled extensively. The Middle East is an interesting place! After that tour, we moved to Phoenix where I earned a Ph.D. in physical geography (a strange turn of events) and I started my second tour here at West Point in 2003. I am currently an associate professor teaching physical geography and geomorphology. I will depart USMA this summer and probably go to a warmer climate where my current research in 'desert surficial processes and military operations' will probably come in handy. We will find out our next assignment for sure in January, but wherever it is, it will be an adventure. Join the Army and see the world! My best to the outstanding faculty in the KU Department of Geography. Say hi to Curt Sorenson for me!

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Kelly Gregg (PhD 1994)

Having been at Jacksonville State University for fifteen years now, and having given the same Physical Geography lectures countless times, my main activities lately have been attempts to stave off complete boredom. During the last year, I've been involved in a few fun projects. We are in the process of constructing a combination National Park Service visitor center and remote JSU campus on some property adjacent to nearby Little River Canyon National Preserve. As part of our educational program, I convinced a local family to donate an 1830s-era log cabin to the facility. With the help of our undergraduates, we carefully disassembled the structure and are now preparing to reconstruct the cabin at its new location. Also, the cabin contained numerous period artifacts, including a large, badly abused, fabric loom from the early 1800s. Since I had taken a two-day weaving course from Carol Dahms about 20 years ago while still in graduate school, that made me an "expert" on such things. I've spent the last six months restoring the loom, and

we are currently weaving fabric on it for the first time in many, many years. The next artifact on the restoration list is a large moonshine still. Finally, as further evidence of the deterioration that can occur after becoming a Full Professor, I have joined a steel drum band. Several of the younger guys want to grow out their hair into dreadlocks, but since I'm nearly bald on top, I don't know if that would be a good look for me or not!

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Mike Ingram (Ph.D. 96)

Bonnie and I are living more happily than ever in Leavenworth, Kansas. Most notably this year we paid off our mortgage, built a garden shed, and installed hardwood in the remainder of the first floor of our house. We also had a fairly busy year traveling. We went to West Palm Beach in March to celebrate Bonnie's parents' 50th anniversary. Then in May, we went to Atlanta for a surprise party for my sister's 20th anniversary. In July, lured by a beer and wine tasting, we stayed over at a Bed and Breakfast in Syracuse, Nebraska where we attended the town's annual German Fest. During August, we headed to Lynchburg, Tennessee. On the way there we stopped in and drove around Bonnie, Illinois. It was a bit of a letdown, but our night at Rend Lake Resort was pleasant. In Lynchburg we stayed at the local B & B and toured both Jack Daniel's and George Dickel's, the only two distilleries of charcoal filtered Tennessee sipping whisky. On the trip home, we stayed at a combination B & B / coffeehouse / used book shop in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The next day we toured the Anheuser Busch brewery in St. Louis before staying overnight at a B & B in Fulton, the scene of the Churchill Iron Curtain speech at Westminster College. There is now a section of the Berlin Wall there. Although previous guests at this B & B have included Margaret Thatcher and Lech Walesa, it was not nearly as cool as the coffeehouse. I am still teaching at the community college as a hobby. The

year ahead already looks to be interesting, as I am going to expand my horizons beyond teaching economics and teach a course in human geography. Best wishes to all.
 ingramm@lvnworth.com

Joseph Kerski (MA 1993)

After 17 years as Geographer at the USGS, I took a position as Curriculum Development Manager on the Education Team at ESRI, Inc., in Denver. Another KU alum, Tom Baker, was hired at ESRI at the same time. This year I taught in 10 different states and completed visits to 100 latitude-longitude intersections.

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David Myers (MA 1998)

Greetings from Los Angeles. I passed my five-year mark working at the Getty Conservation Institute. I'm continuing my work on the Iraq Cultural Heritage Conservation Initiative. During the past year we've supported 2 staff members of the Iraq State Board of Antiquities and Heritage to attend a 4-month training program on remote sensing and GIS for documentation and assessment of archaeological sites, and we're also continuing to develop a national GIS database for Iraq to manage archaeological sites and monuments. I'm working on a project with the Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt to prepare and implement a site conservation and management plan for the Valley of the Queens, part of a World Heritage Site in Luxor. I was in Egypt in February and March this year and going back again in February. I was involved in fieldwork in August at Mapungubwe National Park and World Heritage Site in South Africa to assess and recommend improvements to management plans for rock art sites within the park. And I'm managing a new project to produce a didactic case study (to be published in English and Arabic) focusing on the role of values in the management of the archaeological site that was the Roman provincial city of Jerash in Jordan.

DMyers@getty.edu

Amy Rork (MA 1997)

After choosing not to work for almost two years, I am back in the Medicinal Chemistry department at KU in a new position as a program assistant doing graduate student recruiting. I work with a professor who serves as the graduate studies director (and the rest of the professors too) to bring high quality domestic and international graduate students to the department. This involves writing and re-writing brochures, posters, fliers and email blurbs, editing and re-working the web site, bringing in selected students for interviews, developing new contacts among other universities and students, maintaining contact with students who are applying, gathering application paperwork, and various "other duties as assigned". So far it's been fairly low key and "meeting" rich, and I've had time to take some computer classes, but I'm sure that will change come spring. On the home front, my son completely remodeled our master bath, and painted, repaired and spruced up a number of sore spots – what an improvement. Geographically, I wandered to MN for a family reunion, to Napa for the grape harvest and a ferry ride to SF & Chinatown, and to Independence, KS for my 40th high school reunion (which truly amplified how fast time flies!). My family is well and the grandchildren are growing fast. It's hard to believe it's been almost 10 years since I finished my degree. Best wishes to all for a great New Year!

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Steve Schnell (MA 1994, PhD 1998)

I am currently still in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, teaching at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. I am currently President of the Middle States division of the AAG, and will be organizing next year's divisional meeting in Reading, PA. I also have now seen two issues of the *Geographical Bulletin* (GTU's peer-reviewed journal for student geography research) into print under my editorship, and would

like to encourage any of you that have students that are doing original research to encourage them to submit an article to the journal. My wife Lisa is currently working on several writing projects and dancing in the Nutcracker ballet; daughter Marina is now four, has just started preschool, and is learning to read and write; daughter Fiora is 1 1/2, and is now sprinting around, climbing everything in sight, and beginning to talk.

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Hedley Swan (PhD 1995)

Perhaps the greatest contribution I have made to geography over the last few years is to refrain from any professional activity. I am retired and am occupied pretty much in sorting out the messes my four teenagers land themselves in. I am a grandfather of a toddler and another is expected in December.

Last spring I attended the annual reception given by KU in London for British based alumni, and wished I had gone in previous years. It was a seriously bibulous event that would even satisfy geographers. I can recommend it if any of our readers are in the vicinity next year.

Looking forward to reading the newsletter.

hedleyswan@onetel.net

Alan Ziegler MA 1991

I am adjunct assistant professor in the Geography Department at the University of Hawaii. I am based in Chiang Mai Thailand working on various projects related to global change, watershed hydrology, and geomorphology. Publications and more information regarding current projects can be found at my website: webdata.soc.hawaii.edu/hydrology.

adz@hawaii.edu



John Bauer (MA 2001, PhD 2006)

Last year was a very busy year. In the spring, I accepted a tenure-track job at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. After defending my dissertation in June, Anne and I moved northwest to the Cornhusker State. We purchased a wonderful house five blocks from campus and we love it. There is a never-ending list of home improvement projects to occupy our spare time! Occasionally the Nebraska Cornhusker football mania can get a bit overwhelming for two KU fans, but we take it in stride. We have tickets to UNK Loper (the Antelopes) sporting events which allows me to be a part of Nebraska sports without ascribing loyalty to the Big Red. I would love to hear from you. Look me up at www.unk.edu or stop by if you're ever in central Nebraska.

bauerjft@unk.edu

Gabby Blair (MA 2004)

It has been another busy year for me and husband Jason. Jason is still working at the Corps of Engineers and I have chosen to stay home and care for our son Noah (21 months) and prepare for the arrival of his little brother, due around December 1, 2006.

Update—On November 30, 2006 at 3:15 PM, God graced our family with the arrival of Miles Owen Blair. He was born healthy, happy, and easily after 5 minutes of pushing. He weighed in at 8 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches long. Mama, Papa, and Noah are doing well and are looking forward to having Jason off for the next month.

blair_jg@yahoo.com

Mohamed Mohamed Dosi (PhD 2003)

Thanks for your mail requesting information for the newsletter. I guess for a brief writing on the newsletter, you can emphasize that after graduating geography in July 2004, I taught as a lecturer in the department of African and African American Studies, University of Kansas (academic year 2004/2005). From August 2005 to today, I am currently working as

Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Memphis, Tennessee. I worked together with Garth Myers to study Immigration of Tanzania in Kansas during summer of 2005.

Any additional information that you may need are available on my website: <http://umpeople.memphis.edu/mdosi>
mdosi@memphis.edu

Michael Noll (MA 1993, PhD 2000)

Another good year for the Noll Family, and that despite the fact that Germany did not win the world cup in soccer (fútbol, Fussball), you know, that sport where they actually use their feet!? Jonathan (7) is now a second-grader, who loves math and is very much into doing "science". Grandma Pat, a retired chemistry teacher, just visited and both had loads of fun experimenting in the kitchen. And, yes, the house is still standing as they kindly continued their experiments outside whenever it became too dangerous. Sophia (5) is still our Princess, but she is already in pre-K. In the beginning of her school year she proudly announced that she is NOT in "baby-school" anymore! Mom is continuing to work at the English Language Institute at VSU, and Dad, as always, enjoys teaching, doing a bit of research here and there, and leading the yearly Summer Study Abroad Programs in Germany. - Merry Christmas Y'all!

mgnoll@valdosta.edu

Chris Post (MA 2003, PhD 2006)

A year of change has ended with Amy and I in Athens, Georgia. Last year's job search ended with my accepting a job at the University of Georgia for a one-year appointment to teach Human and U.S. Cultural Geography, including a pair of honors sections. It has thus far been an incredible experience. I arrived here on August 12, one day after successfully defending my dissertation: "In Memory: Landscape Memorialization of the Guerilla Warfare on the Kansas-Missouri Frontier." Amy moved in early September and has been working

as a graphic designer for a local apparel company. Athens is a great community — a Southern-fried Lawrence with much more football, gardens, and many local activities. Lilly, our dachshund, truly enjoys the new smells. Alongside teaching, I have remained active working on manuscripts out of my dissertation and other new projects, plus my role as graduate student rep for the Cultural Geography Specialty Group of the AAG. The tenure-track appointment search continues, while the opportunity to stay may also be present (if you know of anyone who needs a quality, hard-working cultural/historical geographer...). Amy and I (and Lilly) wish everyone a great holiday season and hope your scholarly and personal pursuits are going swimmingly.

cpost@uga.edu

Matt Sampson (MA 2000)

I deployed with my unit from Fort Carson, Colorado to Baghdad, Iraq this fall for a one-year tour of duty. My focus is countering the IED threat to the soldiers in my unit. It is an ever-evolving challenge. It is interesting to see the various ways that GIS is being employed by the Army. I see it used primarily in map production and intelligence analysis.

sampsonmr@yahoo.com

Patrick Taylor (MA 2004)

I am a Project Manager/Airport Planner with Coffman Associates headquartered in Lee's Summit, Missouri. Since joining Coffman Associates in 2004, I have participated on more than 20 airport master plans and have recently been promoted to project manager. I am currently leading master planning efforts on six airport master plans including projects in Johnson County, Kansas (Johnson County Executive Airport and New Century AirCenter), Hutchinson, Kansas (Hutchinson Municipal Airport), Lincoln, Nebraska (Lincoln Airport) and three in the Phoenix, Arizona area (Glendale, Deer Valley, and Goodyear Airports). In addition to

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those duties, I am leading company expansion into airport asset management utilizing GIS technologies.

I am married and have two children, Callan (3 1/2 years old and Clare 17 months).

ptaylor@coffmanassociates.com

Brian Wardlow (PhD 2005)

I completed my Ph.D. in December of 2005 and am now an Assistant Professor at the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) (<http://www.drought.unl.edu/>) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I am the remote sensing/environmental geography specialist within the NDMC's 15-member multidisciplinary team of faculty and staff that focuses on a variety of drought-related research topics that include developing enhanced monitoring tools, advising organizations on planning and mitigation activities, investigating socio-economic and environment impacts, and developing integrated decision support systems. I also have a courtesy appointment as a graduate faculty member in the Department of Anthropology and Geography at UNL. I am continuing to work with Dr. Chris Brown at KU on developing a remote sensing-based strategy to characterize and monitor agricultural intensification in the Brazilian Amazon.

On a personal note, my wife Lori (M.S.W. 1997 from KU) has made the transition to Lincoln and is working as a medical social worker for the U.S. Veterans Administration. Our 2-year old daughter Madeline is doing well and keeping us very busy. Our life will become even busier this upcoming May with the addition of a second child to our family. Best wishes to all in 2007.

Bwardlow2@unl.edu

Jason Woods (MA 2006)

I am working in Lima, Peru, with Asociación Paz y Esperanza, a non-profit organization based in Peru that works in a variety of human rights issues.

jasonmwoods@gmail.com

Lost Alumni

Help! If you know the whereabouts of any of these lost alumni, please send a note to Beverly Koerner or e-mail to koerner@ku.edu or fax at 785-864-5378. Thank you!

Abedfattah Abdallah (MA 1981)
Hamiduddin Ahmad (PhD 1963)
Othman A. El-Awshar (MA 1982)
Josef Cihlar (PhD 1975)
Erik C. Diekmeyer (MA 1995)
Eugene Franckowiak (MA 1960)
Bruce M. Hall (MA 1984)
Chien-ti Huang (MA 1965)
James E. Kellogg (MA 1971)
Wen C. Lin (PhD 1976)
Jose del R.S. Loazia (MA 1969)
Jane MacGee (PhD 1974)
Mary C. Prante (PhD 1997)



Updating Your Information

The KU Geography website now has a new Alumni Directory page for alumni information. Simply go to www.geog.ku.edu and click on **Alumni News**. Then click on **Alumni Directory** and then **information form**. After you have entered your information, click **Submit** at the bottom of the form.

We will be developing an alumni database, so your updated information is important.



Happy Holidays!

www.geog.ku.edu