



A Letter from the Chair

As usual, I first would like to write about the changes in our faculty composition over the past year. Although we have lost some valuable faculty, we continue to make excellent hires, and so I think you will agree that our department is as strong or stronger than we were five years ago. Departures this past year included Valery Terwilliger and Curt Sorenson. Technically, Valery is still with us as an Adjunct Professor, but she is presently spending most of her time in France and Ethiopia (the latter in association with an NSF grant). Curt Sorenson is now an Emeritus Professor and is assisting the department by continuing to teach our field course (Geog 714). Not only does this course provide useful field experience for our students, but it also has led to some interesting research (see the piece on exurbanization in the November 2007 issue of the *Professional Geographer*). More recently, we have learned that Kevin Price will be leaving us for a position in the Departments of Agronomy and Geography at K-State (yes, for you diehard KU fans, Kevin is leaving KU for K-State!).

Fortunately, we've been able to hire some new faculty who make these losses less painful. First, this fall, David (Dave) Mechem joined us as an Assistant Professor. Dave comes to us from the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies in Norman, OK, where he was a Research Scientist. I encourage you to go to our home page where you can find more about Dave's research (http://www2.ku.edu/~geography/peoplepages/Mechem_D.shtml) which focuses on how small-

scale cloud and precipitation processes can influence the global climate system. In addition to having a solid research record, Dave is very interested in teaching, as he has willingly taken on the role of our Ambassador to the Center for Teaching Excellence.

This past month we have hired two new faculty who will be joining us in the fall of 2008: Jay Johnson and Barney Warf. Jay will be joining our department as an Assistant Professor, and also will be contributing to the teaching needs of the Indigenous Nations Studies Program (<http://www.indigenous.ku.edu/>). Jay's research interests comprise areas important to Indigenous peoples' self-determination including resource management, international law and cultural politics, as well as the "politics of place".

Barney Warf comes to us from Florida State University where he held the Earl and Sophia Shaw Distinguished Professorship. Given his authorship of more than 100 scholarly papers and numerous books, we are certainly excited to have Barney on our faculty. Barney is an economic geographer, but his expertise is far ranging, including services, telecommunications, and globalization. Barney is interested in social theory and political economy and how social relations and spatial structures are intertwined. His current research interests include the historical geography of time-space compression.

Obviously, the recent hires of Johnson and Warf strengthen the human/cultural side of our

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The Lawrence and Campus Scene

It is hard not to begin with the obvious, sports fans. This year began normally: the first three months were dominated by basketball, and the KU team earned its way to the Elite Eight in the NCAA tournament. (I was glad I was not home when the *Lawrence Journal-World* reporter called in an attempt to use me as the lead for a story about KU people with UCLA roots...). But the last three months have been very strange. The KU football team rose to the top in national rankings - seemingly out of nowhere - and surged to an 11-0 record heading in to the final game of the season. Aha, but then came the controversies. KU and Missouri entered into an agreement a while back to play their 2007 and 2008 football

games at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri. Lawrence people grouched about the possible business lost to Kansas City as a result, but otherwise the waters of the Kaw above the Bowersock dam did not seem to have much of a ripple about this. (More rippling was caused by the new Rowing facility KU is putting there!) Financially this was a win-win situation, and the



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department. To strengthen the physical and technical areas of the department, we presently are searching for a soils/geomorphologist who will join us in the fall of 2008, and over the next two years we hope to hire both a remote sensor and biogeographer.

Optimistically, we could have 24 faculty two years from now—are there any alumni who would like to assist us by funding an addition to Lindley Hall?

Each year I take pleasure in listing the successes of our students and faculty. Below are just some of our recent successes:

Two of our graduate students, Cristin Burke and Thomas Overly, received prestigious Fulbright awards for study and research abroad for the 2007-08 academic year. Cristin is a doctoral student who will study in Kazakhstan and received a Critical Language Enhancement Award to study Russian. Thomas is a master's student who will study Greenlandic peoples' perspective on climate change.

Josh Campbell received the 2007 Thesis Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He was honored at the CLAS Master's Hooding Ceremony in May of 2007 and received a prize of \$500.

Angela Gray received a Dissertation Fellowship from the Graduate School

for the 2007-08 academic year; Angela was one of only three students to receive this award.

The Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers awarded Professor Bill Woods the 2006 Carl Sauer Award for outstanding Latin American scholarship.

Johan Feddema contributed a piece on land cover change in the latest IPCC report for which Al Gore and the IPCC shared a Nobel peace prize.

Stephen Egbert and Brian Wardlow (a PhD student at the time) received the Leica Geosystems first place award for best scientific paper and the John I. Davidson President's first place award for best practical paper for a paper they co-authored for *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*. Jude Kastens of KARS/KBS was also a co-author.

In addition to his continuing work with CReSIS (<https://www.cresis.ku.edu/>), Dave Braaten received a \$597,000 NSF grant to conduct radar mapping of the Gamburtsev subglacial mountain range in East Antarctica as part of the International Polar Year in 2008/09.

Bill Johnson received a \$250,000 EPA grant to develop a model/protocol for evaluating the status of playa wetlands in Kansas. Steve Egbert is another faculty member involved in this project.

Garth Myers is working on a \$124,000 NSF grant to analyze the



interactions between land reform and political-economic reform in the peri-urban areas of Zanzibar, Tanzania.

Jerry Dobson's concept of AGS Bowman Expeditions has caught on in a big way. The idea is to send teams of geographers from KU and other institutions to conduct fieldwork, build GIS databases, and study property regimes in foreign lands. Since 2005, the program has received more than \$2,000,000 from Ft. Leavenworth. The Mexico prototype, led by Peter Herlihy with graduate students John Kelley, Aida Ramos, and Andy Hilburn, is now such a success story that it's "selling" the program elsewhere. Expeditions are underway in Mexico, the Antilles Region, Colombia, and Jordan, and others are expected soon.

Nate Brunzell and Johan Feddema received a \$36,000 grant from The Land Institute (<http://www.landinstitute.org/>) to study climate change in Kansas.

Don't forget that we will have our usual alumni party at the national AAG meeting in Boston in April. We'll let you know the details concerning time and place in a subsequent e-mail message. If you have not received previous e-mails from the department concerning such events, please send a message to Bev Koerner (koerner@ku.edu).

Terry Slocum
t-slocum@ku.edu

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logic would have been inescapable in a normal year when a 5-6 team met a 6-5 team for the right to play in a forgettable mid-December bowl game against, say, the fifth-place team in Conference USA or something. But this was, alas, not a normal year. KU went in to the game ranked 2nd, and Missouri 3rd in most polls, and number one LSU



had already lost earlier in the week. The Jayhawks, as most of you will know, lost

a heartbreaker, 36-28, and fell out of contention for the national title. But the story here is not completely bleak, since this is still the greatest football season KU has ever enjoyed, and the team is still headed to a major bowl game and

ranked 5th at present. The finances for Lawrence may not have been as damaged as the grousers claimed (many bars and restaurants hosted watch parties for the nationally-televised game), and, after all, a season with seven home wins and record attendance could hardly have been damaging to downtown businesses.

And, for the locals, what a treat to see a home game against Nebraska when red was not the color of absolutely every car, shirt or coat in a five mile radius of downtown. Next year will be the year to banish the purple hoard.

Of course, it would be ridiculous to make my whole article about football. Lawrence has experienced a number of other events and processes worthy of note. The Spring brought a Lawrence City Commission election that has had important implications for the urban geography and economic development

debates in town. Only one member remains from the now-defunct Lawrence Progressive Campaign that had held a majority in



Lawrence through most of the first year of the decade, and the two new commissioners are now the most staunchly and forthrightly pro-growth members of the commission. One, Mike Dever, happens to have studied with us in the department and makes frequent reference to his interest and expertise in environmental planning. However, the net result seems to be a mostly 4-1 majority in favor of nearly every development project that breathes. The most obvious example came when the



new City Commission reversed the earlier commission's opposition to Walmart's plans for

a larger, second Lawrence store at the rapidly expanding intersection of 6th and Wakarusa in far western Lawrence. The new commissioners reversed the old commissioners' opposition to the South Lawrence Trafficway's completion on a 32nd street alignment (watch this space: as I wrote last year, I expect this controversy to outlive me). The new commission has also looked very favorably on new plans for a second major industrial park, bizarrely proposed for the floodplain near the Lawrence airport. Until yesterday – literally – they seemed uniformly keen on a major new hotel development, to be called the Oread Inn, planned for the former site of the Crossing at the dead end of Jayhawk Boulevard. New changes to the design – which, in my humble opinion as someone who actually likes the basic idea of the hotel, look monstrously ugly – apparently must meet the historic preservation board's approval, and so as I write, the Oread Inn is a seven-story red blob of an architectural drawing only. Maybe I should be more charitable: having a building that is bigger and uglier than Wescoe Hall might take some of the pressure off of that poor place. And, after

all, Wescoe's new office space at the back that led to the relocation of the History Department and a few others this year has received rave reviews – imagine this: faculty, staff, and student residents of offices in Wescoe have actually been heard saying things like, "Oh, I LOVE my office! I am so glad to be in WESCOE! Look at the VIEW!"

Besides the usual excitement about basketball, the unusual excitement about football, and the absurd excitement about the new addition to Wescoe, the campus has had a comparatively uneventful year in comparison with last year. The new Provost and all the new deans are settling in to their jobs in their second year, slowly but surely making a mark on the place. There seem to be more and more people who are the Vice Provost or Associate Vice Provost of something or other. We no longer have a Graduate School, replaced by an Office of Graduate Studies that is overseen by a VP for Research and Graduate Studies with two AVP's under her/him (for Research and Graduate Studies, respectively). There is a new AVP post that will start in Fall 2008, too, for International Programs, reporting directly to the Provost. The new Provost tried to claim credit for the football team's success since so many of the great young players came

from Texas, as did the Provost, but it was only in jest; he can claim credit for making the upper administration's structure more coherent to the rest of us and for making long overdue necessary decisions, however unpopular. And after all, if you really want a coach that knows about things like



linebackers and quarterbacks, you find him coming from Pennsylvania, like KU football coach Mark Mangino (ok, ok, I'm biased, I'll admit it).

All in all, the weird year of 2007 has been a decent one for Lawrence and the campus, and a spectacular one for the Geography Department, which keeps getting bigger and better. Who knows: if you all donate enough money, we might be the ones building the new building. Imagine the Kansas Geography Center towering over GSP-Corbin in 2017...

Garth Myers
gmyers@ku.edu



Degrees Awarded

Dissertations, thesis, and non-thesis MAs completed during the 2006-07 period are as follows (advisor in parenthesis):

Mohammad Alsahli, MA, "Estimating Chlorophyll Concentrations of Kuwait's Coastal Environment Using Sea WIFS and MODIS Satellite Data" (Kevin Price)

Jared M. Beeton, PhD, "Late-Quaternary Landscape Evolution and Geoarchaeology of the Cottonwood River Basin, Flint Hills, Kansas" (Curtis Sorenson/Rolfe Mandel)

Joshua S. Campbell, MA, "Archaeological Predictive Model of Southwestern Kansas" (William C. Johnson)

Victoria S. Downey, MA, "Representations of Waikiki: An Analysis

of Hawaiian Tourism Through Hotel Brochures and Websites" (Garth Myers)

Stephan R. Fuchs, MA, "Migration Routes and Settlement Patterns of German Immigrants in Douglas County, Kansas, 1860-1880" (James Shortridge)

Jakob A. Goldman, MA, Non-thesis option, (George McCleary)

Lucius F. Hallett, IV, PhD, "Kansas City, Modernity, and the Geographies of Food" (James Shortridge)

Hilary B. Hungerford, MA, "Onitsha Market Literature and Negotiations of Modernity in Nigeria" (Garth Myers)

Trisha L. Jackson, MA, "Developing a Dataset for Simulating Urban Climate Impacts on a Global Scale" (Johannes Feddema)

R. Ryan Lash, MA, "Managing Malaria: Selected Maps of the 20th Century" (Garth Myers)

Christopher W. Post, PhD, "In Memory: Landscape Memorialization of the Guerilla Warfare on the Kansas-Missouri Frontier" (James Shortridge)

Heather R. Putnam, MA, "Meaning and Progress in the Fair Trade Movement" (J. Christopher Brown)

Simeon Kohlman Rabbani, MA, "Counting Populations-at-Risk: Co-Verification of Landsat Database and Building Occupance Coefficients" (Jerome Dobson)

Sarah L. Smiley, PhD, "Patterns of Urban Life and Urban Segregation in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania" (Garth Myers)

Globe-O-Mania 2007—Another Huge Success!



This year's Globe-O-Mania event had record-breaking participation with over 350 students competing! We moved the event to a larger auditorium in the Kansas Union this year to accommodate the

growing interest in this lively event. The organizing committee, Team Globe-O-Mania, included graduate students new to the Geography Department, graduate students who are Globe-O-Mania veterans, and a few undergraduate Geography majors – all of whom made valuable contributions to the many elements of the event including making team signs, developing questions



for the game, managing team sign-up, distributing information about the event within and beyond the department,



seeking funds from the campus student organization, coordinating the room reservation and catering (yes, pretzels and lemonade can be catered!), developing the visual presentation of questions, keeping score, planning for prizes, and organizing the food drive. The food drive outcome was not as

large as we had hoped despite our offer of a bonus point in Round One for teams who brought food items to donate. ECKAN, the East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Center Food Bank in Ottawa, will receive the food donation. We were pleased that four

of our own alumni joined us as scorekeepers: Rob Shapiro, Randy Baker, David Stearns and Victoria Downey. Prizes this year came from local businesses that sponsored the event: Local Burger, Global Café, Au Marche, and Liberty Hall Cinemas, and of course, the inflatable globes and globe keychains proved to be popular items again this year. This year's MC was Levi Gahman (donning a suit, wig and handlebar mustache), and the winning teams were:

- 1st Place: Shake Djibouti
- 2nd Place: Best Team Ever, Dominators, and Hungary for Turkey
- 3rd Place: Spatial Ed, One in a Brazilian

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's event!

Shannon O'Lear
olear@ku.edu



Advisory Board Update

The Geography Advisory Board assembled for its third annual meeting in mid-November. The trip was timed with GIS week and the annual Geography Globe-O-Mania event. Shannon O'Lear runs the event which this year attracted over 400 students from around campus. Several of the Board members participated as scorekeepers and learned a few unusual geographic factoids too. The Board also made contributions to students in other ways. Randy Baker and David Stearns gave presentations to meteorology and GIS classes, and Randy, David, Pat Murphy and Lisa Chismire did one-on-one mentoring sessions with 5 students.

Our all day meeting session was very

informative. In addition to normal Board business, we had research updates from two faculty and one student and visited the KARS facility on West Campus. That proved to be an important stop. We listened to a student presentation on using LIDAR, 'Light Detection and Ranging' radar, for accurately predicting flood zones. Board member Pat Murphy saw an immediate connection between that advanced research and work going on at his NOAA office. Pat will be working with NOAA to leverage the work.

Another highlight of the trip was our Board-sponsored "tailgate" prior to the KU-Iowa State football game. We invited alumni and about 20 attended,

including several on-air meteorologists. KU blew out Iowa State, so it was an all around great day.

Robert Shapiro, Chair
robert.f.shapiro@verizonbusiness.com





John Augelli

I hope to celebrate my 87th birthday soon. There will be a cake but no candles. (The candles would cost more than the cake.) Except for a

weak leg that weds me to a cane, I feel no different than I did on retirement in 1991. Somebody up there must like me.

The sun is finally setting on my lecture cruising days. My last gig was in January of 07, and there probably won't be another. The drag of my leg is partly to blame, but more telling, repetition has eroded the sense of excitement that once went with cruising. How many times can one see St. Petersburg or Rome or Rio? Fifty plus times through the Panama Canal is a bit much even for the wanderlust of an old geographer.

With no cruise lectures to prepare, my time goes to other activities, such as writing a biography. No, it won't be published. In fact most of it will be kept secret until I cash in my chips. The project was not my own idea. I was conned into it by my friends and family who think that growing old gives me the privilege to reminisce and pontificate. But I find that looking back can be very unsettling. Change is inevitable, but is it always for the best?

It is disturbing that the Great Depression and World War II that molded my generation have been boiled down to a few lines in history books. It is even more disturbing to realize that the values of my yesteryears have been largely eroded. Where is the sense of national unity and purpose that was felt after Pearl Harbor? It seems to have been replaced by a political and social polarization that are akin to the state of things on the eve of the Civil War. What has happened to the kingdom-of-my own family farm that was the foundation of American democracy? It has been replaced by a "get big or get out" trend resulting in corporate ownership of land that smacks of monopolistic Latin American latifundismo. Nor is this "get big or get out" limited to agriculture. The supporters of this trend argue that

"bigness" makes for greater economic efficiency and lower costs. Great! But what about the social costs? Most important for those of my generation who are still around, what has happened to that once proud and socially stabilizing American middle class and its values? All of which leads to the mother of all questions: Quo Vadis? Which is pig Latin for "Where you all going?"

But enough of this Gloomy Gus bit! The world is still a lovely place to live in; and tomorrow is always a lovely day.

Until next year, hopefully

jaugelli@comcast.net



Walter Kollmorgen

This report is the same as my Christmas Letter. Beverly's endless letters were sent to other geographers on how to organize and administer the affairs of the Association of American Geographers. She typed and never complained; for this service she deserves a warm embrace.

It has been some time since I turned 100 years old, but have found that my hair has not turned white and my face has not developed any wrinkles.

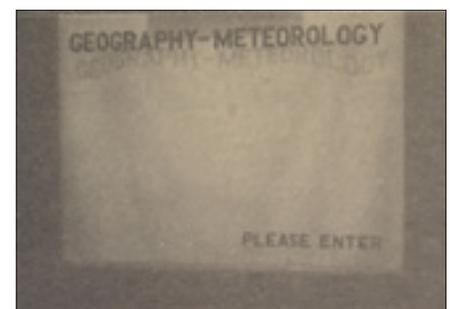
I am suffering from polio syndrome. This means (as I understand) that other compensatory muscles serve for years but will eventually give up and leave me helpless. I must use a mechanical lift in my activities. In other words, I use a lift to be lifted in and out of bed, and into my chair. This means that I need total care, which I am getting at Assisted Living.

I am sure that the people of Lawrence are proud of the recognition they received in a recent Newsweek, which listed them as perhaps the only planned town while other recommended retired communities are in spectacular settings (physical and otherwise). I am proud that my sister Johanna—now buried in Pioneer Cemetery in Lawrence—played a role by working on the planning board and

the county commissioners. She helped to formulate the city plan, typed this document. I, too, contributed to the development of Lawrence. I started Water District No. 5 because local supply of underground water is often distasteful and of limited supply. I also helped initiate the city community's use of the water of Clinton Lake and the water that has been processed by the city water system.

I live here at the Gretna Community Living Center with other retirees. Gretna is the fastest growing town in Nebraska and is part of the larger urban sprawl that surrounds the city. Across the road from here is a section of land that is divided into 5-acte lots. This section is only one of several developments that are underway. West of this place are numerous houses that are built on 100 or more acres just to gain a pleasant view from the picture window. Abandonment of the city by these people has created a serious problem because it has left stranded Mexican Americans and Blacks. These people can't afford to leave the city, and so lose their jobs, many of which have gone with the people who move to rural areas. At the same time, we read about icebergs and glaciers melting—they say they'll be gone in 20 or so years. This means that the ocean water will rise and inundate large tracks of urban land and either drown the people or drive them into other areas already occupied. Not a pleasant prospect to contemplate.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Faculty News



Dave Braaten

This spring, Dave Braaten and CReSIS (Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets) were invited by the

International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) to host a Russian scholar, Dr. Sergey Chernyakov, at KU. Dr. Chernyakov is head of the Geophysical Observatory at the Polar Geophysical Institute (part of the Russian Academy of Sciences), in Murmansk, Russia. He also teaches courses at Murmansk State Technical University, Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography, and St. Petersburg State Medical Academy. Dr. Chernyakov spent his ten-week visit studying the system of financial support for higher education in the U.S. Dave Braaten co-authored a policy brief with Dr. Chernyakov that they presented at the U.S. Russia Experts Forum in Moscow, Russia in November. During his trip to Russia, Dave Braaten also traveled to St. Petersburg and gave a talk to students at the North-West Academy of Public Administration.

In October, Dave Braaten and Prasad Gogineni in Electrical Engineering received a four-year \$597,000 NSF grant to conduct airborne radar mapping of the Gamburtsev subglacial mountain range in East Antarctica as part of the International Polar Year in 2008/09. This grant is one of several large grants linked in a collaboration that is being led by Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. The airborne mapping will also include gravity and magnetic fields. Little is currently known about this phantom mountain range (about the size of the Alps) since it is buried under the Antarctic ice sheet and is located in a remote corner of Antarctica near the "Pole of Inaccessibility."

braaten@ku.edu



Chris Brown

Chris Brown was granted promotion and tenure and will take a sabbatical in the spring of 08. His plans are to

develop a new research agenda entitled

"Food, Fuel, and Forests: a Comparative Analysis of Efforts to Produce Alternative Fuels in the US and Brazil". His research on the expansion of mechanized agriculture in the Amazon is ongoing, and it fits in to this broader agenda. A recent trip to Brazil led to some promising new contacts in Brazil's Agricultural Statistics and Agronomy Research Agencies that should facilitate future work and possible partnerships with Brazilian academics in training students. Chris's teaching in the coming years will include a new introductory course for Geography and Environmental Studies called Environment and Society.

jcbrown2@ku.edu



Jerry Dobson

In October 2007, it was announced in *Science* magazine that Jerry Dobson has been elected to be a Fellow

of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The accompanying citation recognizes his "diverse work on geographic information systems, advanced remote sensing and large-area change analysis, as well as for exemplary editorial and administrative work in geography."

Jerry is President of the American Geographical Society (AGS) and Chair of the Honors Committee in the Association of American Geographers.

Jerry's article, "Bring Back Geography!" which appeared in *ArcNews* (350,000 worldwide circulation) last summer has become a rallying cry for the discipline in many quarters.

Jerry has six active research projects underway at KU, including the four AGS Bowman Expeditions mentioned in Terry's overview.

Jerry, Zane Price, and Dave McDermott are working with the North Central Regional Planning Commission to analyze skill sets and commuting patterns in a 19-county area centered on Beloit, KS.

Jerry, Steve Egbert, Matt Dunbar, and Jon Thayne are assisting the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. Since 2003, the project has established a new world

standard for cartographic representation of land mines, minefields, and mine actions (led by John Kostelnick); improved minefield mapping technology; provided geographic data to minefield operations in more than 40 countries, and trained regional coordinators who go out from Geneva to coordinate minefield mapping efforts all over the world.

dobson@ku.edu



Steve Egbert

KU's work with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian

Demining, led by Jerry

Dobson continues to be an important focus of Steve's research efforts. As in past years, they conducted workshops, hosted visitors from Geneva, and continued field testing of a field data collection system. A major focus this year has been development of map and image databases, fact sheets, and other resources for regional and national demining programs. This promises to be a long-term relationship, especially as they transition to providing long-term training support. Through a grant proposal by Jerry Dobson and several other KU Geography Faculty, they also have a tentative agreement to study property regimes in areas of the Middle East for the coming year. This is part of the Bowman Expedition concept pioneered by Jerry that focuses on the unique contributions that geographers can make to understanding complex international issues.

Steve continues to teach his "standard" courses: introductory remote sensing and GPS in the fall, a remote sensing seminar in the spring, and physical geography in the summer. Thanks to the willingness of Shannon O'Leary to team teach with him, he was finally able to offer a course he has long wanted to teach: Geography of Genocide. They offered the course in seminar format and it was very well received. They hope to make the course a repeat offering in the near future, and they are currently preparing a paper on teaching geography of genocide.

Kathy continues her substitute

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teaching in the surrounding school districts (mostly Baldwin), with many interesting anecdotes; and both of them continue to try to keep ahead of the deer, possums, and raccoons, who seem to enjoy their gardening efforts as much as they do. A hard spring freeze destroyed their fruit and berry crops, but they were compensated with excellent tomatoes, melons, and other goodies from a large garden plot on their "country" land – all in all, a good year.

segbert@ku.edu



Johan Feddema

Johan Feddema was promoted to full professor last year and he has continued to work on the development of human impacts into the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Community Climate System Model. As part of his previous work, he was asked to provide a short section on the effects of land cover change on climate in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report. He was also asked to participate in an IPCC conference to design scenarios for use in any future IPCC reports. As part of this process he has continued to refine land cover datasets for simulating human land cover change, now including new datasets as a result of this conference. In addition, he is looking to develop data over the last millennium to see if land cover change may have played a role in the little ice age.

Johan has also worked closely with Trish Jackson to develop a new global urban dataset that provides 1km resolution urban land cover information and data on the materials and building properties for different regions. Together with the urban model developed jointly with NCAR (to be included in the CCSM), this work will give the GCM community the ability to simulate the impacts of urbanization on climate and the ability to assess how urban environments might respond to climate change.

Finally, the topic of climate change seems to finally be a serious issue in Kansas, and Nate Brunsell and Johan and several students have just received a grant to assess the impacts of climate change on the state. They are really looking forward to this topic and hope to help shed more light on a topic that seems to have taken on more of a political rather than scientific discussion in the larger community.

feddema@ku.edu



David Mechem

This past summer, David Mechem and his family moved to Lawrence from Norman, OK, so he could join the Atmospheric Science Program in the Geography Department. Growing up in Oklahoma, Lawrence already feels like home—only slightly colder and with better restaurants. His wife and three daughters are adjusting to the move well, having made friends, finding a good piano teacher, and discovering Syllas and Maddy's ice cream.

After getting his B.S. at OU, David moved to Seattle to attend graduate school at the University of Washington. In between sampling the culinary landscape, playing bass in smoky bars as part of a bad rock ensemble, and various other avocations, he found the time to investigate the nature of inflows and momentum transports in tropical mesoscale convective systems.

David's move back to Norman also coincided with a shift in research topics from tropical rain systems to low-level stratus clouds that play such an important role in the global energy balance. His topics of study are typically tied together by containing either some form of cloud microphysical component or a numerical modeling methodology. He considers himself predominantly a modeler, though he has been known to fly infrequently on the NOAA P-3s and the NCAR C-130. He is looking forward to collaborating with the other Geography faculty on problems of regional climate variability.

dmechem@ku.edu



Garth Myers

Garth has been busy running the Kansas African Studies Center this year. They have hosted a number of major events and speakers with the support of the Title VI National Resource Center grant. He has also been continuing the research on his NSF grant, studying land reform and

political-economic reform in the context of peri-urban Zanzibar, 1985-2007. This project gave him the opportunity to conduct a week or so of research in Helsinki, Finland, since the Finns have been the major donors for Zanzibari land reform. While there in May, he also traveled to Uppsala, Sweden, to talk at the Nordic Africa Institute. In the summer, he was back in Zanzibar for 5 weeks of research. He presented some of the research at the Institute of British Geographers annual meeting in September, then the Mid-America Alliance for African Studies in Lawrence, and the African Studies Association in New York. Garth has just published a piece co-authored with Mohamed Dosi and Leonce Rushubirwa on Tanzanians in Wichita, in *Social and Cultural Geography*, and another co-authored with Richard Harris on colonial hybrid-style housing in Zanzibar in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*. His family is well. Phebe continues to excel in school, as a 9th-grader at Central Junior High, and Atlee has entered 2nd grade at Cordley Elementary. They accomplished the singularly amazing feat of a vacation in Arkansas - by far the most exotic place he visited this year, truly beautiful.

gmyers@ku.edu



Shannon O'Lear

Shannon O'Lear was awarded tenure in the spring of 2007. During that semester, she also co-taught a new course with Steve Egbert, "Geography of Genocide", which was well-received by the small but diverse group of students enrolled in the course. She also presented a paper, co-authored with Steve Egbert, titled, "Geography of Genocide: Preliminary Thoughts" at the Political Geography Preconference (Political Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers) in Berkeley, CA prior to the Annual Meeting of the AAG in San Francisco in April 2007. In addition to organizing sessions focused on the theme of geography and genocide at that meeting, Shannon was elected as President of the Russian, Central & Eastern European and Eurasian Specialty

Faculty News

Group of the AAG. Over the summer, she was invited to make presentations on Central Asian Energy and Security and on Caspian Basin Geopolitics at the South/Central Asia Orientation Course at Hurlburt Field Air Force Special Operations Command in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. She was also an invited panelist for a public program commenting on the art exhibit "Phantasmia" at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Missouri. Recently, Shannon was selected to serve a two-year term as a Faculty Fellow at KU's Center for Teaching Excellence. She presented her ongoing work in Azerbaijan at the Central Eurasian Studies Society conference in Seattle in October. She is also teaching a new course, cross-listed with Environmental Studies, on Environmental Geopolitics. Her recent publications include:

O'Lear, Shannon. 2007. "Azerbaijan's Resource Wealth: Political Legitimacy and Public Opinion", *The Geographical Journal* 173(3), pp. 207-223. In print Sept. 2007; available electronically at:

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1475-4959.2007.00242.x>

O'Lear, Shannon and Paul F. Diehl. 2007. "Not Drawn to Scale: Research on Resource and Environmental Conflict" *Geopolitics* 12:1, pp. 166-182 (roundtable discussion centerpiece)

olear@ku.edu



Kevin Price

Kevin Price joined the Geography faculty in August of 1989. After almost 19 years of working at KU he will be transferring in August of 2008 to a split appointment of 80% Agronomy and 20% Geography at Kansas State University. Kevin served as the Acting Associate Director of the Kansas Applied Remote Sensing (KARS) Program from 1991 to 1995 and as the Associate Director from 1995 to 2006. His research has focused on the use of remotely sensed data and Geographic Information Systems for characterizing natural and agro-ecosystem dynamics. In recent years, he has focused on time-series analysis of multitemporal satellite datasets to study ecosystem

response to varying climatic conditions and changing land use practices. Since Kevin's BS and MS degrees were in Botany and Range Science, he is looking forward to returning to some of his early academic interests, while retaining his opportunity to teach courses and work with the faculty in Geography at KSU. Kevin has the greatest admiration for his fellow colleagues in Geography and other departments across the KU campus. The Department of Geography continues to grow and add considerable strength to its program. He will greatly miss his friends at KU and wishes them all the very best in the future.

price@ku.edu



Pete Shortridge

This year Pete finally practiced what he had been preaching and published an article about his home town of

Pleasant Hill, Missouri. He argued that the community is the best example of urban speculation by builders of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and showed how this speculation resulted in a flood-prone business district, a needlessly indirect rail route between St. Louis and Kansas City, and considerable profits for several people, including his great-great uncle. For details see the July issue of the [Missouri Historical Review](#).

Pete continues to work on his Kansas City book and has enjoyed a new garage/workshop that calls out for a junky old Ford to restore. He also has stayed busy on the student front with three new graduates in 2007. Lucius Hallett completed his PhD (food distribution networks in Kansas City) while Aaron Gilbreath (effects of population decline in Gove County) and Stephan Fuchs (German immigration to Douglas County) were awarded MAs.

shortrid@ku.edu



Terry Slocum

In January of 2008, Terry will celebrate five years as departmental chair. After completing his current term, which ends in the spring of 2009, Terry hopes to take a year-long sabbatical. Arlene and Terry would both love to spend a

year overseas. Terry wouldn't mind a sabbatical in Switzerland, but Arlene favors Korea, partly because of her thirteen years of Tae Kwon Do training. When not busy with his chair activities, Terry has been working on the third edition of *Thematic Cartography and Geovisualization* (alumni Bob McMaster, Fritz Kessler, and Hugh Howard are co-authors). Their hope is that the third edition will be out in time for the AAG meeting in Boston. In his free time, Terry continues to ride his bike to work, work out at the gym (mostly with the Mad Dogs running club; <http://www.kumaddogs.org/>), and, if he has enough energy, join Arlene in Tae Kwon Do workouts.

t-slocum@ku.edu



Kees van der Veen

For Kees van der Veen, the highlight of the past year was the Wheat State Whirlwind Tour of Kansas, May 21-25,

which offered a smorgasbord of interesting facts, sites and trivia of Kansas - who knew there is more than wheat fields out west? During Spring semester, he presented an online class "Introduction to Glacier Dynamics" primarily for students at the University of Stockholm, Sweden, but with participation from students at Penn State, Ohio State University, and University at Buffalo. A weeklong visit to Sweden afforded the opportunity to meet with students in person and to wrap up the assigned student projects. Following the criticism of sea-level predictions issued in the latest IPCC report, and in particular the omission of possible rapid changes in the polar ice sheets, Kees has been rallying the glaciological community to formulate strategies to develop more realistic ice-sheet models. This effort finally seems to be catching on and next summer, a workshop will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia, to discuss strategies for the future.

cjvdv@ku.edu

Alumni News 60s

Byron Augustin (MA, 1968)

I am still teaching at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. This is my 30th year at Texas State and this year I will complete 40 years of full-time teaching at the university level. In November of this year, I was awarded one of six Regents' Professors awards from the Texas State University Systems Board of Regents. There were only six professors selected from the eight campuses in the system and I was proud to represent geography as

the only geographer selected.

In May, I made my annual migration to Juniata, Nebraska, to visit my 96 year-old mother for Mother's Day. She still lives by herself on the original family farm and is in excellent health. I stopped in Gretna, Nebraska and paid a visit to Dr. Kollmorgan, who had celebrated his 100th birthday this past year. He was in excellent spirits and when I asked him if he remembered who I was after 40 years, he said, "Augustin, um? Oh yes, you were always quite frisky weren't you." I am not sure what that meant, but it probably had

something to do with Friday afternoons down at the Dynamite Club with other geography grads. Best wishes to all for a great holiday season.

ba04@txstate.edu

Tom Martinson (PhD 1969)

I have retired after 40 years of teaching and administration—20 years at Ball State University and 20 years at Auburn University.

martitl@auburn.edu



Roger McCoy (PhD 1967)

I'm retired for the past nine years now and continuing to write. Two books have come out since retirement. One called *Field Methods in Remote Sensing*, and one named *Ending in Ice*, about the life of Alfred Wegener...his continental drift theory and his Greenland expeditions. Sue is back to painting and is getting work accepted into juried shows. We're living in Arizona to get away from the respiratory effects of the dirty air of Salt Lake City.

mccoy48@sisna.com

Donations to the Endowment Association

Our SPECIAL THANKS to the following recent contributors:

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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.

Richard Groop (PhD 1976)

Greetings from Michigan. It's hard to believe that it has been 30 years since leaving Lawrence. I am in my 9th year as Chair of Geography at Michigan State and, while the job has its ups and downs, it has not yet driven me completely crazy. Retirement may loom in the not-too-distant-future but enough time (maybe) and enough money (certainly) are major deterrents. I'm able to travel quite often, mainly to California to visit grandchildren, but also had recent expeditions to China, Spain, and Rome. A lecture opportunity on a cruise ship through the Panama Canal was a highlight last winter. Hello to all at KU.

groop@msu.edu

Greg Hembree (MA 1978)

Of course, we are most excited by the abilities of our Jayhawks football team and the long wait to get there (108 years). It has been equally fun to "work over" those Cornhusker friends who have been on an extended high all these years.

As for Marla and I, we still live in Centreville, VA, with the two cats (Indiana and Dakota), and I just passed my 20-year mark as Planning & Zoning Director for the Town of Vienna, VA. All other particulars remain the same from last year (there is something to be said for continuity).

Marla has really progressed on her family history web site (<http://www.miller-malcom-familytree.net>) and we have been driving to such places as Tama, IA, Jackson, MI, and Woonsocket, RI, to check out her ancestor's grave sites. One family cemetery that we will have to visit in the future is on my side, but will require a little work as it sits on the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee.

gregor-the-great1@earthlink.net

James Hughes (MA 1968, PhD 1971)

It's hard to believe that I have been retired since May of 2005. In that time

I've taken eleven college courses for credit--everything from computer programming to history, literature, etc. Spring break 2008 I will go as part of an art history class to the Netherlands and Belgium. Judy and I remember our days at KU with fondness, and found the Jayhawk football team to be really exciting this fall. Have a happy new year!

james.hughes@sru.edu

Donald Johnson (PhD 1972)

Diana and I are thoroughly enjoying retirement, relaxing, writing, traveling, attending national meetings, interacting with extended family, playing racquetball (Don), shooting hoops with friends (Don), and eating out occasionally in non-noisy, good food-and good serviced-restaurants in Chambana. We also travel west, south, and southeast 2-3 times/year to visit friends, experience the splendors of western-southern North America, and to continue collecting resources for our biomantle/dynamic denudation/Mima mound books. Life is good, and we wish the same for KU Geographers, and for all peoples in strife-torn areas of the world, especially the Middle East. Let us hope that peace and a major change in U.S. direction is on the way!

djohns@uiuc.edu

Alan MacEachren (MA 1976, PhD 1979)

I am enjoying a sabbatical year that has included a term in the Computer Science Department at Stanford collaborating on research in visual analytics. I remain busy directing the GeoVISTA Center and (within it) the DHS-funded North-East Visualization & Analytics Center, part of a 5-center consortium coordinated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Fran and I (and dogs Kea & EleEle) enjoyed a 12 day drive to CA in Sept. where I picked up my 1000th life bird (an American Dipper) and look forward to a return trip in late Dec. when Fran can reunite with her horse Simon Says.

maceachren@psu.edu

Roland Mower (PhD 1971)

Well, while you were not paying attention, the Mower family did it again. Yes, we sold our Horse Shoe Mountain Ranch and have now retired to the nearby country town of Mt. Pleasant, Utah. There will be no more throwing snow covered bales of hay, nor wallowing through knee-deep manure to check on our new-born live stock during the winter months. I suppose we'll now have to purchase one of those new, state of the art, digital TV sets and two large recliner chairs so that we can keep abreast of what's going on in the real world. We've also decided to get one of those large pool tables for our lounge area so that we can get a good physical workout each day. Oh yes, life is great for us old retired academics (Nona and I are both 78 this month). Happy birthday to each of you and have a wonderful New Year. In this region we still celebrate Christmas during this winter holiday season. Try it, you'll enjoy remembering it -- besides, it's my Birthday.

rdm@cut.net

William Francis Phillips (PhD 1973)

It has been a difficult year as I have had a recurrence of colon cancer, twenty-five years after the initial surgery. Because of complications from the surgery I have spent 108 days in the hospital during the last year— 28 days at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, KS and 80 days at Newman Medical Center in Emporia, KS.

All my news isn't bad though. My two year old great granddaughter is a delight. Two of my granddaughters will receive Masters degrees this year, Molly with a Masters in History from Emporia State University and Chelsea with a Masters in Speech Pathology from Wichita State University.

washphillips@yahoo.com

Anke Wells (MA 1965; PhD 1979)

After my retirement from public school teaching at Seaman High School in Topeka in the summer of 2005, I took a year off, but returned to part-time teaching in the fall of 2006 as an adjunct German instructor at Baker University in Baldwin City, KS, where I taught a beginning German course for a colleague on sabbatical leave. In the spring of 2007, I substituted full-time at Olathe Northwest High School for a colleague on maternity leave during the last quarter of the 2006-07 school year. Currently, I am adjunct Assistant Professor of German at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS, where I am teaching a 5-credit introductory German course two nights a week. During the coming spring semester, I will continue teaching in The Foreign Language Department at JCCC, possibly two courses, and German for Travelers through the JCCC Continuing Education Department. Last week, I accepted another part-time position as specialty teacher at the Prairie Moon Waldorf School in Lawrence, teaching German to first, second, and third graders two days a week. As you can see, life has become almost as busy as during the time when I was teaching high school. However, I don't have to do as much administrative work and can concentrate upon teaching. This is much more fun! I greatly enjoy it! I have two grandkids now, Katelyn, almost six, and Alexander, almost 2 1/2 years old. They visited over Thanksgiving with their parents, Axel and Michelle, and will be back for Christmas. I wish they would live not so far away (Atlanta, GA) so that I could see them more often.

ankewells@yahoo.com

Larry C. H. Chow (PhD 1982)

I am still teaching at Hong Kong Baptist University, where I am Professor of Geography and Director of the Hong Kong Energy Studies Centre. I am actively engaged in teaching and carrying out activities connected with the Centre. I am the President of the Hong Kong Association for Energy Economics, and have been elected council member of the International Association for Energy Economics for 2008. I serve on the editorial board of Energy Policy and Energy Sources Part B. Any staff or alumni of Geography or cognate disciplines with an interest in energy is welcome to contact me at larryc@hkbu.edu.hk. Professor Leslie Dienes, my PhD advisor, was a visiting fellow of the Centre a few years ago. Have a merry Xmas !

larryc@hkbu.edu.hk

Michael Hogben (MPhil 1981)

We've been in the throes of moving from New Jersey. The Hogben's can't seem to find a place to call home. Hopefully this is it. Two golf courses within a mile and half can't be all bad.

We found a home in Frederick, CO (about 35 miles north of Denver) and moved in last weekend. Only problem was that we received 2/3's of our household stuff. The other 1/3 is somewhere in the icy midwest, we think Iowa City. The load was supposed to be here tomorrow, but most likely won't be

here until this weekend. The positive side is that we have most of the first load unpacked!

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

pookbombay@hotmail.com

Shigeo Takahashi (MA 1982; PhD 1988)

Starting August 2006 and throughout the year 2007, I have been engaged in preparation to establish a new department which emphasizes public and regional issues and approaches in the College of Economics, Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo. I expect that my background in economic and urban geography can contribute significantly to the new department. The new department (Department of Public and Regional Economics) will start April 2008, and we are in the final phase of finishing the preparation. As the prospective head of the department, I have spent most of my time on the preparation in addition to regular chores and have made little achievement to report academically. However, I am looking forward to seeing students in the new department receive more practical education to learn contemporary issues such as declining central cities and growing suburbs, expanding the gap between central and peripheral regions, and the limitation of the market economy to handle these issues.

shigeo@econ.aoyama.ac.jp



Craig Campbell (PhD 1993)

I am still keeping busy as chair of the Department of Geography at Youngstown State University. I did get to visit Lawrence in Sept. of 2006, a year ago, and see Pete and Barbara and Steve Egbert, which was great. I have mostly been teaching and doing administration with the hire of two new faculty over the last couple of years (a biogeographer-climate change person, and a medical geographer). I remember on my Ph.D. comp questions, Pete asked me how I would "build" a geography department given the opportunity. I remember that Pete said my answer to the question was "OK". Well, now I'm getting a chance to put theory to practice, and, I suppose I've done "OK". The only travels done over the last year have been to Kansas City/Lawrence to attend the John Whitmer Historical Association meeting (Mormon studies) and to Lansing-Ann Arbor, Michigan (mainly East Lakes AAG). The family is doing well. Justin and Mickey are attending YSU. Marta has spent the last 6 months in the Orem-Provo, Utah area, but will be coming home probably before you read this. The family moved about a mile and a half from their old home (still in Boardman, Ohio) so that made for a busy summer. Best wishes to everybody.

cstevenccampbell@sbcglobal.net

John Dunham (BA 1984, PhD 1996)

I'm now well into my third year as Cartographic Services Manager for the Kansas Geological Survey, producing geologic maps and geologic GIS data for the KGS. I now have three student employees and one former student working for me on several mapping projects. We released several new county geologic maps during 2007, and my goal is for more of the same in 2008. One of my students also finished creating GIS data layers from old county geology maps created in the pre-GIS era, so that we now have geologic GIS data for a large portion of the state. Though my office couldn't get

by without my students, I still enjoy doing some of the mapping and GIS work in addition to my management tasks.

At home, wife Cindy (KU Geography, '84) and I keep busy exercising and socializing through Red Dog's Dog Days (<http://www.reddogsdogdays.org>), attending KU basketball and football games, and keeping up with our daughter, Tricia, who is now a sophomore at KU after transferring from the University of St. Mary. Tricia tried out for the KU rowing team and made it, and had a good fall on the novice squad. As a reward, she gets to go to Texas for training with the varsity during semester break.

dunham@kgs.ku.edu.

Daniel Gilewitch (MA 1992)

All is well with the Gilewitch family, although we are apart this year. I left my wife and son at West Point and volunteered to serve a one year tour in Iraq. I am a Security Assistance Officer in Baghdad, part of the Multinational Security Assistance Transition Command - Iraq (MNSTC-I). I arrived in the country in August when it was literally 140F. You know it is hot when your fingers feel like they are burning as you walk, simply from the heat emission off concrete. In any case, things are busy. We work until about 2200 or so every night, but we do get a half day off on Friday mornings (Muslim 'Sabbath'). I work in the International Zone, and from where I sit, the surge has worked wonders. When I arrived, we were being hit at least once a day, but now it is rather rare to even hear an explosion. There is still violence, but the Iraqi Police Forces and Army have really stepped up into the fight and are doing rather well under the circumstances. Life is exciting although I really miss being at home, especially as the holidays approach. My wife, Cathy, is pulling double duty at West Point, NY where she works as a school nurse and takes care of our youngest boy, Tom, who was born right there in Lawrence while I was slaving under the tutelage of Drs. Shortridge, Shortridge

and Augelli on my Masters. Ha, those were the days! Tom is a junior in High School now and is on the rifle team and the crew team. He just earned Eagle Scout last year - we are very proud of him. My older boy, Nick, is graduating from the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State this year. I hope to come home on R&R to be there and to proudly administer the oath of office and pin on his 2LT bars. I am glad for this chance to say hi to my friends from KU including Kevin Skirdulus, Jon and Shiela Avellanet, Bill Belcher, Karen Triffinoff, Curt Sorensen, Pete and Barbara Shortridge, John Augelli and a host of others. Especially, Bev Koerner!

Regardless of your political beliefs, remember that Freedom isn't free. Support the men and women who are away from home this holiday season.

daniel.gilewitch@iraq.centcom.mil

Mike Ingram (PhD 1996)

Bonnie and I had a much quieter year than usual. Other than some minor challenges with home maintenance, the U.S. health care system, and dealing with aging parents our lives were pretty calm. I only made one trip for work, that being to Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri for a week. I also continue to teach at community college part time, even teaching a Geography course this year. Bonnie took several trips across Kansas and Missouri that involved quilting. Most significantly, this year we made the leap into the 21st century, buying a 40 inch Sony High Definition TV and getting back on cable for the first time in 22 years. Although KU football was rarely broadcast even with the great year they had, I got to watch the Georgia Bulldogs 8 times! Go Dawgs! And Rock, Chalk, Jayhawks!

DrTastee@kc.rr.com

Joseph Kerski (MA 1993)

I serve as Curriculum Development Manager for ESRI in Colorado, where I work on educational partnership initiatives with National Geographic, the

AAG, and other organizations, write GIS-based lessons for educational audiences, operate exhibits and teach workshops at conferences, and conduct research in the effectiveness and implementation of GIS in education. I had the good fortune to take business trips this year to Hawaii, England, New Zealand, and about 10 US states. I also continue to teach at the University of Denver and congratulate the KU football team on a wonderful year!

jkerski@esri.com

Lori Koepsell (MA 1992)

I am still working for the same DoD government contractor as I have for the last 7 years. I just finished a two year project working at USNORTHCOM at Peterson AFB in Colorado helping the Critical Infrastructure Protection group (in the J34) get their GIS up and running. I enjoyed my time there and learned a lot as I helped them become operational. I am currently back at my corporate office working on other projects that are also DoD-centered. Because of the various projects I have worked on, my focus has shifted from Remote Sensing to GIS in general. On a personal basis, my husband and I built a new house last year in the woods north of Colorado Springs and just love it. My oldest daughter got married a couple years ago and currently lives in Buffalo NY with her husband and my youngest daughter is a senior at Colorado State graduating this December – tuition payments are DONE – WooHoo! I always enjoy reading the newsletter every year and catching up with people.

lori.koepsell@tsc.com

Taylor Mack (BA 1989; MA 1992)

I am in my second year as the geographer at Louisiana Tech University, in Ruston, Louisiana. Although my PhD is from LSU in South Louisiana, and North Louisiana is quite different, culturally and environmentally, from the southern part

of the state, I really enjoy the area. As a selective-admissions public university, LA Tech gets a little better quality of student, and that's real nice! I'm teaching a wide range of courses, from Cultural, World Regional, and Latin America, to Urban, Economic, and Physical Geography. It's a busy schedule, but in a good way, and I enjoy teaching a wide-range of courses. My research continues on the historical geography of Honduras, but I have started looking at agricultural change in North Louisiana since the end of World War 2 - a complete change from cotton and a little timber, to a lot of timber, corn, specialty crops, and almost no cotton outside of the Delta region. I have been the editor of the joint newsletter of the Latin America Specialty Group and the Conference of Latin American Geographers (CLAG), and am co-chair of the planning committee for the CLAG 2009 meeting in Granada, Nicaragua.

tmack@LaTech.edu

David Myers (MA 1998)

Greetings from Los Angeles. I'm still working for the Getty Conservation Institute, where I've now been for the past six and a half years. In 2007 we started working on a national GIS database for Jordan's archaeological sites which will be web-based and mostly developed using open-source software. After being implemented for Jordan, it will be modified for implementation in Iraq. I'm continuing work 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 September for 2 weeks with consultants using laser scanning to produce a new topographic map and DEM of the Valley of the Queens, in part to analyze the risk of flash flood to significant tombs and then develop options for interventions to reduce these risks. I'll be back in Egypt in January and February for more fieldwork there. I just returned from a

training workshop at Mapungubwe National Park and World Heritage Site in South Africa for participants from national and regional parks in South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe on the interpretation and presentation of rock art sites for visitation. And I'm managing a project to produce a didactic case study (to be published in English and Arabic) focusing on the role of values and stakeholders in the management of the archaeological site that was the Roman provincial city of Jarash in Jordan, which will be published in the second half of 2008.

Please stop by for a visit at the Getty Center if you're in Los Angeles.

DMyers@getty.edu

Severin Roberts (MA 1999)

I'm working at Grinnell College in advancement in College and Alumni Relations. I'm the director of the annual fund, the Pioneer Fund, with population geography as part of my day-to-day work life. It's a good mix of quantitative geography, working with students, and talking with alumni, parents, and friends. I'll have been here three years this winter. I spent my most recent summer painting, gardening, and traveling around in Iowa. I serve on the board for the Community Vitality Center of Iowa (www.cvcia.org) promoting community philanthropy and entrepreneurship in rural Iowa. The organization is receiving national attention by interested parties. Some of the studies will interest migration, aging, and rural development geographers. Feel free to drop me a line or hop off I-80 at exit 182.

robertss@Grinnell.edu

Amy Rork (MA 1997)

Another year, another job - well, actually back to the old job of grant management here at KU. Suffice it to say that it is working out well. Spent a week in Cocoa Beach FL in June in great anticipation of a shuttle launch or

landing, BUT the shuttle left earlier than planned (re-scheduled after we bought our tickets), landed in CA as we landed in FL and then didn't return to FL until after we departed. Still, we had a great time on the beach, visited NASA twice and Seaworld, saw manatees in the wild and a Manatees baseball game, and shopped at Ron Jon's. Disney will wait until the grandkiddies are older. Also trekked to CA (handy to have a sister in Napa with grapes in her yard), MN and ND (south of Fargo is the flattest land I've ever seen!). My family is well, as am I. Best wishes for the new year.

arork@sunflower.com

Janice Sterling (MA 1996)

I am still with USDA - NRCS in Fort Worth, TX, and was promoted recently at work. Also I am still taking classes at the University of Texas at Dallas, and ESRI classes, just to improve my skills.

Janice.Sterling@ftw.usda.gov

Karen Trifonoff (PhD 1994)

It hardly seems possible, but I am in my 16th year at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. The big event this

spring and summer was the threat of a strike, as our contract expired June 30th. But calmer heads prevailed and things were eventually settled in late August. So to celebrate I spent September and part of October back in Lawrence working on my sabbatical project—a study involving PA population and cartographic visualization. Terry and the rest of the department faculty and staff were extremely supportive; and I found many new things in Lawrence, but also found that much has remained the same. A Friday night walk down Massachusetts Street with a stop at the Harbor Lights was like a trip in a time machine. And I found a trip to the newly constructed Brookville Hotel (in Abilene) somewhat disappointing; how can it still be the Brookville Hotel if it is in Abilene? Back in Bloomsburg I continue to be active in my quilt study group, and finished up a Mariner's compass quilt I have been working on for 5 years. My son Bart is now a LtJg in the Navy and flying P3's out of Jacksonville, Florida, and husband Bill Belcher is still working for a distance learning company as the warehouse manager.

ktrifono@bloomu.edu

John Bauer (MA 2001, PhD 2006)

Greetings from central Nebraska! I'm in my second year as Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Our geography program has gone through major transition over the last year and I am excited to be a part of the changes. Homelife has changed too. In July, Anne and I welcomed our first child, Nathan Thomas. He is already 15 pounds and loves to roll over. Nathan is quickly becoming a traveler, too; he has already visited 5 states and will add 2 more over Christmas. Friends are always welcome to stop by if they are in Nebraska. After all, Kearney is in the middle of everywhere.

bauerjt@unk.edu

Gabriella Blair (MA 2004)

I am still living in Omaha with my husband Jason (M.S. 2003 Geology) and am lucky enough to be able to stay home and raise our two young sons Noah (3) and Miles (1).

blair_jg@yahoo.com

Craig Davis (MA 2001)

A lot has changed in my life since the last time I submitted to the newsletter. I am the proud father of a nine month old baby boy - Luka Yanko Davis. My wife Gorica and I are enjoying parenthood very much. We all had a great trip to see Luka's grandparents this summer in Belgrade, Serbia. On the way we stopped in Switzerland for a week of relaxation with some of Gorica's relatives and then hung around Belgrade for a month. On the professional front, I continue to be part of a two member faculty team at Sacramento City College. I had the chance to catch up with many KU folks at the KU mixer at last year's AAGs in San Francisco. It was nice seeing that all was well with everyone. I still keep in touch with a handful of KU alums and get to see Jason Shields regularly. I am still working on getting him to leave the city and the glamour at Google for the simple life in the valley, but have found it more difficult than expected. Happy Holidays to everyone.



davisca@scc.losrios.edu

Stephan Fuchs (MA 2007)

After completing the Masters at KU in Spring 2007, I am now back in Germany and I will start my PhD at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in spring 2008. I will keep my research interest on the Midwest and Kansas and especially work on German-Americans in the region.

stephan2240@yahoo.com

Dietrich Kastens (MA 2000)

In March, we were blessed with our third child Clara. Welcoming Clara home were Eliza (7yr) and Henry (5yr) both of whom attend school in Atwood, KS. Jennifer continues to grow her professional photography business (jenniferkastens.com) while I remain active on the farm (kastensinc.com). The family continues to enjoy living on the farm in rural Rawlins County, KS.

dietrich@kastensinc.com

Soren Larsen (PhD 2002)

I am in my third year in the Geography Department at Mizzou. I and my family are finally well-settled in Columbia, and loving it. Jonah just started kindergarten and Eli is tearing up the front yard looking for earthworms and ladybugs. Kristi is now teaching piano in a business partnership with a local instrument repair technician. Though the outcome will be well known by the time of this publication, the whole family is eagerly anticipating the KU-MU football showdown in Kansas City – because we all know that no such rivalry will materialize this year in college hoops!

larsens@missouri.edu

Julie Morris (MA 2004)

I am living in Roeland Park, KS and still teaching one class at Kaplan University (an online school). Mostly, my time is taken up by my two year old, Drew, and five month old, Quentin.

juliefunk@hotmail.com

Michael Noll (MA 1993; PhD 2000)

Year seven of the Nolls in Georgia and Dad is FINALLY catching the football fever. Strangely enough, though, it is not because the most successful high school football coach of all times (Nick Hyder) is buried in a local cemetery, but because of the Jayhawks. My students have been teasing me for years for my distaste in sports (e.g. soccer), but recently they started treating me with a bit more "respect" because of my occasional comment on being a Jayhawk. Wow! Who would have thought I would ever enjoy watching football, and now the VSU Blazers are in the Quarterfinals too! As for the family life, we are doing great! Mom is now working full-time as a supervisor in the speech clinic at Valdosta State University and seems to enjoy her job. Sophia (6) just had her first visit of the Tooth Fairy, but Jonathan (8) is rather unimpressed by such matters as he figured out a "looong time ago" that both Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy are "not real". What is reality, though, is the fact that these guys are growing fast! Whether you believe in the Tooth Fairy and Santa Claus or not, have a Merry Christmas Y'All!

mgnoll@valdosta.edu

Sun Park (PhD 2003)

Aloha, Everybody!

It's been more than three years now since I arrived in Hilo, Hawaii. My family and I have been enjoying Hawaiian trade winds and we are doing good.

This is an early part of the rainy season in Hawaii, but we have lots of warm aloha everywhere in this holiday season.

Since there is not much temperature variation throughout the year in Hawaii, the native Hawaiians recognize only two seasons.

They have a fruitful season, when the sun is directly overhead and the weather is warmer and drier. They call this season Kau (May-October).

In the wet season, the sun is in the south, the weather is cooler, and the trade winds are often interrupted by other winds having more frequent storms. This is Hoo-ilo (November-April), the wet season. Make sure you

remember this next time you visit Hawaii.

Here comes another quick fact. If you teach GEOG 100, you'd better know this.

What's the rainiest city in the nation? Seattle?

No.

Miami?

No

Then, where?

If you said Hilo, you guessed it right!

Statistics says that Mobile, AL is the rainiest city in the mainland with ONLY 67 inches a year.

Not even close. We have about 130 inches a year right here in Hilo.

Although I am quite isolated from the freezing rain, I met many KU friends in San Francisco in the AAG meeting early this year. If I didn't meet you there, I want to say aloha and hi. It was a great re-union and I really enjoyed it. Thanks everybody.

I'm working hard to survive these harsh assistant professor years, and I hope to see you again in Boston and other places.

Happy holidays and good luck to you and your family.

Alooooha!!

sunypark@hawaii.edu

Chris Post (MA 2003; PhD 2006)

It has been another good year at the University of Georgia. I continue to teach United States Cultural Geography here with an excellent section of honors students this semester. Next spring I will teach an undergraduate/graduate course on Landscape and Memory that will approach issues such as memorialization, preservation, sense of place, the power of landscape in collective memory, invented traditions, and other topics. This comes from my dissertation work at KU that has been picked up for publication by the Center for American Places (big thanks to Pete Shortridge and my committee for their help)! The due date is 2010 so get ready to run to the local bookstore for your copy. You may have come across an article that I helped with in the *Professional Geographer*. I want to extend my thanks for this project's success to Curt Sorenson, spear-header

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and fellow alum Soren Larsen, and grad students Dave McDermott and Josh Long. In the past year I also took on duties as the co- review editor (soon-to-be full) for *Material Culture*, the peer-reviewed journal of the Pioneer America Society, and the Awards Chair for the Cultural Geography specialty group of the AAG. Please let me know if you are interested in writing up a review (visit the books available at my website) or know a student who should submit to the CGSG graduate student awards (deadlines looming). It is very dry here, as most of you have heard and seen, but rain has come recently. Nobody in Atlanta or Athens is willing to stop growth, so the impetus for change is on developing "green" construction alternatives, which have been little applied and of little success thus far. I worry that most folks assume this is temporary; that it is raining again and we can go back to "normal" use. That's simply not the case for such a big city on such a minuscule watershed. In better news, Amy is doing well as a local graphic designer and new owner of a 1978 convertible VW Beetle (that I'm told will be painted pink someday). As many of you know I am a huge college football follower and fan of Oklahoma, my undergrad alma mater. The KU team has likewise made us very proud and we will cheer hard during their Orange Bowl game. Hey, OU, KU, and UGA all in BCS bowls...that's a good year! We wish everyone there in Lawrence and elsewhere the best of the season's spirit of peace and joy.

cpost@uga.edu

Matt Sampson (MA 2000)

I'm nearing the end of my 15-month tour of duty in Iraq and finally enjoying mild temperatures in Baghdad after a sweltering summer that lasted well into October. I'm looking forward to returning to my wife and children in Colorado. And I plan to visit Curt Sorenson in Garden Park. He said that he would have a "cold one" waiting for me! That will taste very refreshing after a "dry" year in Iraq.

sampsonmr@yahoo.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)
Carol L. Baxter (MA 1992)
David D. Daniels (MA 1966)
Vicki Prince Dennison (MA 1977)
Othman A. El-Awshar (MA 1982)
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.

If you don't want to submit an Alumni Directory information form, but would like to receive e-mails directed to our alumni, please send your e-mail address to koerner@ku.edu.





Happy Holidays!

www.geog.ku.edu

Department of Geography
University of Kansas
1475 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 213
Lawrence, KS 66045