

# FROM LINDLEY



## Alumni Newsletter of the Department of Geography University of Kansas 2004-2005

<http://www.geog.ku.edu>

### A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The Atmospheric Science Program has now completed its move from Physics & Astronomy to Geography. The good news is that we were able to hire another atmospheric scientist (Nate Brunsell – land-atmosphere interactions, remote sensing, and micrometeorology). Thus, our Atmospheric Science Program now has three full-time faculty and a lecturer. Other hires this past year include Shannon O’Lear (the Caucasus and resource conflicts) and William Woods (Amazonia, late prehistoric Eastern North America, cultural landscapes, and anthrosols). O’Lear’s appointment is a joint one with Environmental Studies and Russian and East European Studies, and Woods also will be Director of the Environmental Studies Program. Additionally, we have been given permission to search for a faculty member with a specialization in East Asia (China, Japan, and/or Korea). Assuming a successful hire, we could have 22 faculty on board in 2005!

As we have grown, Lindley Hall has also evolved. In last year’s letter, I mentioned alterations to the 404 complex (formerly Bob Nunley’s office, now Donna Tucker’s office and research space), the 413 complex (formerly Bob McColl’s office, now Dave Braaten’s office), room 405 (formerly a classroom, now the Weather Lab), and room 500 (formerly astronomy, now the graduate student penthouse). These changes were all completed last summer. In addition, we have extensively renovated several rooms on the second floor. First, we have removed the wall between rooms 224 and 226, creating a second computer laboratory that will complement room 310. We also have rotated usage in several rooms so that we now have a larger conference room (the old lunchroom) and a new lunchroom (Leslie Dienes’ old office); Leslie has moved to where the conference room was. I think you would be very pleased with the look of the new table, chairs, bookshelves, and plasma display in the conference room. These improvements were due in part to a donation by Jerry and Gwen Dobson, who wished to honor Bob McColl’s service to the Department. Finally, we have remodeled room 117 (formerly part of the Paleontological Institute) to create an office for Nate Brunsell.

Given our recent expansion and remodeling, it seems an ideal

time to develop an advisory board. Thus, I have asked the following to serve as members of an initial board:

John Augelli, Emeritus Professor, University of Kansas  
Kevin Blake, Associate Professor, Kansas State University  
Lisa Chismire, Corporate Counsel, E.I. du pont De Nemours & Company  
Floyd Henderson, Professor, University at Albany, State University of New York  
David Johnson, Director, National Weather Service  
Thomas Palmerlee, Transportation Research Board, National Academy of Sciences  
Robert Shapiro, Executive Director, Verizon  
Polly Stallings, Soil Conservation Technician, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rob Shapiro has graciously agreed to chair the board, which will have its first meeting April 14-16, 2005, when they will consider the ultimate nature, composition, and function of the board. Some potential purposes of the board include fostering better connections with alumni, assisting in fundraising, advising on the nature of the nonacademic workplace, and suggesting sources of research funding. These purposes are, however, quite preliminary, as I am encouraging the board to think creatively about a wide array of issues that impact students, alumni, and the department.

Some major accomplishments of our faculty this past year include:

- David Braaten (along with Professor Gogineni of EECS and others) is in the running for an NSF Science & Technology Center focused on ice sheets and sea level rise (KU was one of only 12 institutions chosen for a site visit, and NSF expects to fund six Science & Technology Centers from this group.)
- Les Dienes published the paper “Observations and the problematic potential of Russian oil and the complexities of Siberia” in *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 2004, Vol. 45 (5), 319-345.
- Jerry Dobson, Steve Egbert, and graduate student Matt Dunbar are testing a new GIS-based system for mapping minefields under diverse conditions of culture and

- environment. They have visited landmined areas in Chile, Albania, and Ecuador and recommended improvements based on field observations. Users have rated the new system to be faster, more accurate, safer, and requiring 40 % less labor than previous techniques.
- Johan Feddema received a \$169,000 NSF grant “Development of historical and future land cover and land use change datasets for the Community Climate System Model.”
  - Peter Herlihy was awarded a US Fulbright-Garcia Robles Grant for studying indigenous *ejidos* lands in Mexico for the Spring-Summer 2005.
  - Bill Johnson was one of four investigators to receive a \$500,000 award from the Keck Foundation to develop a state-of-the-art stable isotope research facility
  - Shannon O’Lear received the \$148,000 NSF grant “Geography of environmental conflict: The case of Azerbaijan.”
  - Pete Shortridge published the book *Cities on the Plains: The Evolution of Urban Kansas*.
  - Valery Terwilliger has received a grant from the Women’s International Science Collaborative to use carbon and nitrogen stable isotopic analyses of soil organic matter to reconstruct past environments in Ethiopia.

Successes of our graduate students include:

- Cristin Burke will be the primary instructor for REES 510/GEOG 571 (Understanding Central Asia) during the spring semester.
- John Bauer was a co-author of “Ecologic and geographic distribution of Filovirus Disease,” in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. The paper was spotlighted in the “Editor’s Choice” section of *Science* 303(5658): 591.
- Matt Dunbar was lead author of “3D Visualization for the analysis of forest cover change,” *Geocarto International*, 2004, Vol 19 (2), 103-112. Matt was also a co-author of “Visualizing the forest: A forest inventory characterization in Yellowstone National Park based on geostatistical models,” which appeared in the book *A Message from the Tatra: Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing in Mountain Environment Research*.
- John Kostelnick and Matt Dunbar hold major responsibilities in Jerry Dobson’s minefield mapping project. John has become the leading world expert on cartographic symbolization of landmines, minefields, and mine actions (impact survey, clearance, etc.). Matt is the team’s expert on new technology for mapping minefields at a safe distance--based on GIS, GPS, and binoculars that measure distance, azimuth, and elevation.
- Joshua Campbell was lead author of *Temporal Predictive Model for Fort Hood, Texas: A Pilot Study in the Cowhouse Creek Drainage*, and co-author of *Military Impacts and Archaeological Site Mitigation Methods at the Firebreak Site (41CV595), Fort Hood, Texas*. Both papers were published by the US Army at Fort Hood.
- Joshua Long received the Jenks Scholarship.

- Iwake Masialeti continues to be funded by a Fulbright/Africa-Exchange Visitor Program sponsored by the United States Department of State.
- Chris Post published the paper “Company Town Culture: Sunflower Village, Kansas, in the 1940s” in *Material Culture*.
- Scott Pusich was one of the top six finishers in the regional GeoBowl competition, and thus was qualified to participate with these top six finishers as a team at the national meeting.
- Matt Ramspott was a co-author of “Grassland Management and Soil Bulk Density,” *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science* 107(1): 45-54. Matt will also be teaching our introductory GIS course (358) this spring.
- RJ Rowley won first place in the student paper competition at the 2004 GIS Day at the University of Kansas for the presentation “Rangeland Remote Sensing and the Rancher: Linking Rancher Perception and Remote Sensing.”
- Sarah Smiley participated in the Fulbright-Hays Advanced Kiswahili Group Project Abroad—a 7-week language and culture program funded by the US Department of Education.
- Brian Wardlow received a 3<sup>rd</sup> year renewal on his NASA Earth System Science Fellowship to support his dissertation research.
- Henry Way received a PhD Supplemental Scholarship from the Graduate School.

Congratulations are in order for those who organized and participated in GIS Day 2003—the event was a huge success, as reflected by our receipt of the University of Kansas TEAM Award. Team leaders were Jerry Dobson, Kevin Dobbs, Matt Dunbar, and Joshua Campbell, with numerous faculty and graduate students also assisting. Since GIS Day is part of Geography Awareness Week, this year (2004) we had events throughout Geography Awareness Week—particularly popular was the Globe-O-Mania Trivia Bowl in which approximately 100 undergraduates participated. Thanks to Shannon O’Lear and the many faculty and graduate students who assisted in this event. This past year the department also received the Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising from the College. Thanks are due to Johan Feddema for serving as chair of our Undergraduate Studies Committee, and for submitting a proposal for the award.

If you would like to learn more about what is going on in the department, I encourage you to take a look at our new Web site, which is available at <http://www.geog.ku.edu/>. Peter Herlihy and members of our Outreach Committee have been instrumental in enhancing the Web site. Since we continue to revise the site, we would appreciate any feedback that you can provide; please send feedback to Bev Koerner ([koerner@ku.edu](mailto:koerner@ku.edu)). I do hope that you will consider paying us a visit if you should be traveling through Lawrence. Although we may seem busy, it is always a delight to see familiar faces.

**Terry Slocum (t-slocum@ku.edu)**

#### **THE LAWRENCE AND CAMPUS SCENE**

The vibrant growth of the department necessitates yearly rearrangements of Lindley’s internal geography. This time around we established a beachhead on geology’s first floor. Nate

- - Pete Shortridge

Brunsell (our new meteorologist) is in Room 117, recently vacated by the Paleontological Institute. Shannon O'Lear and Bill Woods, the other new faculty additions, are both on level two. Shannon is across the side hallway from George McCleary and Bill is in 217A, near Steve Egbert. The most talked-about renovation involves a three-way room swap. Leslie Dienes moved to the old seminar room to begin the process. His former space (Room 205) then became the lunch area, equipped with a new blue (not orange!) rug, tables, chairs, and refrigerator. It is a cheery, comfortable retreat for us all and the site of nearly continuous conversation. Our most stunning achievement is a new seminar room, however. With seed money provided by Jerry Dobson, the old lunch room has been beautifully redesigned for this purpose. It now features new wooden bookcases, a large central table, a plasma screen, and two rings of comfortable chairs (one at the table, another at the room's perimeter). Professors are fighting for prime-time scheduling rights.

Around the city, the on-again, off-again South Lawrence Trafficway is in the news once more. Last spring, proponents cheered when federal authorities announced that a new, buffered route along 32<sup>nd</sup> Street would meet all environmental guidelines. As soon as people began to digest this information, however, KDOT officials weighed in. Money for such construction had disappeared from the budget, they said, and could not return until at least 2009. The fate of the Baker Wetlands therefore continues uncertain. Local preservationists did receive two pieces of good news in 2004. KU has purchased the classic 1892 I-house at the corner of Louisiana and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets. This long-time home of Reginald and Juanita Strait (he a KU instructor of physical education, she a piano teacher) will be renovated as a gathering place for residents in surrounding scholarship halls. The Castle Tea Room at 1307 Massachusetts also will live on. Its owner since 1947, Libby Kriz-Fiorito, died in February, but left money to restore the 1894 mansion and keep its stone turrets and grand ballroom accessible to the public.

Downtown, a favorite part of Lawrence for geographers, constantly evolves. Forty-four liquor licenses now exist there, for example, a number some city officials think is too many. Rumors circulate that this license total may fall of its own accord, however, thanks to a citywide smoking ban in restaurants and bars that became effective July 31. (The law's immediate result was more cigarette butts on the sidewalks.) Two notable businesses ceased operation this year. Paradise Café, a fixture in the 800 block since 1984, closed in January. Its replacement, the Vermont Street Barbecue, is another local operation. Easton's Ltd., is in the process of closing as I write. Its passing will leave Lawrence without a men's clothing store for the first time since the 1860s.

Finally, two downtown landmarks are changing their looks. The financially strapped Eldridge Hotel that I wrote about last year has been purchased by former KU quarterback Bobby Douglas and several coinvestors. He plans to play up the building's historical architecture and keep it open as an inn. In contrast, the Egyptian-style Masonic Temple at 1001 Massachusetts will be completely reconceived. Declining lodge membership forced the sale, and the new owners envision a combination restaurant/entertainment venue that will take advantage of the building's existing 275-seat auditorium. Many of us await the chance to explore the chambers behind its intriguing façade.

## DEGREES AWARDED

Dissertation, thesis, and non-thesis MAs completed during the 2003-04 period are as follows (advisor in parenthesis):

Gabriella N. Blair, MA, "Soil Erosion on Chained and Unchained Slopes in the Garden Park Valley of South Central Colorado: A Comparative Analysis" (Curt Sorenson)

Clayton F. Blodgett, PhD, "Geostatistical Modeling of Lodgepole Pine Basal Area in Grand Teton National Park with Geostatistical Techniques and Satellite Imagery" (Kevin Price/Chris Lauver)

Mark D. Carper, PhD, "Household Energy Management Strategies in Bulgaria's Transitioning Energy Sector" (Garth Myers)

Jennifer A. Claybrook, MA, "Evolution of an Urban Fringe Landscape: The Case of Piper, Kansas" (Barbara Shortridge)

Kurt W. Davis, MA, "Depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer Water Reserves in Western Kansas" (George McCleary)

Mohamed A. Mohamed, PhD, "Urban Growth Through Time and Space: A Comparison Study of the Role of Planners in Dealing with Sprawl in Lawrence, Kansas, and Zanzibar, Tanzania" (Garth Myers)

Laura (Moley) McClain, PhD, "The Look of Overland Park: Landscape Creation and Meaning in an American Suburban Environment" (Pete Shortridge)

Julie S. Morris, MA, "Colonial Ambivalence and Women's Negotiated Moralities on the Zambian Copperbelt" (Garth Myers)

Patrick C. Taylor, MA, Non-thesis (Steve Egbert)

## 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](mailto:koerner@ku.edu) or fax at 785-864-5378. Thank you!

Abedfattach Abdallah (MA 1981)  
Hamiduddin Ahmad (PhD 1963)  
Othman A. El-Awshar (MA 1982)  
Rebecca Filer Ditgen (MA 1979)  
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)  
Jawat Saadeh (MA 1979)  
Samut Siriburi (MA 1977)  
Linus L. Smith (MA 1988)  
Shyammand D. Suman (MA 1970)

## EMERITI CORNER

I had unpleasant encounters with two very rough “ladies” in the fall of 2004. One of the charmers was named Frances and the other, Jeanne. I refer, of course, to the two hurricanes that zeroed in on my Florida residence and pretty much tore it apart. (Destruction was rampant over much of the Treasure Coast of south Florida.)

One positive consequence of trying to escape from the storm was that I kept on driving until I reached the safety of Lawrence, KS. Both the town and KU had changed a bit since I was there three years ago, but a quick visit to the Department to touch base with many of my old friends soon made me feel that I was home again. The second storm (Jeanne) was weathered in a stoutly built house in Stuart, Florida. The eye of the hurricane passed directly over the city, and for about an hour there was a dead calm. Then, all hell broke loose again.

Except for these storm-related interruptions and the loss of my house, my lifestyle remained unchanged in 2004. I lectured on five different cruises to Latin America, Europe and the Mediterranean, spending a total of 98 days at sea. But with my 84<sup>th</sup> birthday coming up in 2005, I have decided to slow down a bit, scheduling no more than one or two cruises for the year.

Not so incidentally, I was very much impressed by the progress of the Department. Terry Slocum seems to be an ideal chairperson, and I look forward to seeing more professional glory days for Geography at KU. God Bless!

- - **John Augelli**

Greetings to Present and Former Jayhawks of the Department of Geography:

Many politicians and unpoliticians are deeply concerned that the baby boomers are about to retire and ask for their monthly checks and find that the Federal kitty is empty and no one knows how to replenish it. Many states are broke or nearly so and the Federal Government is drowning in a sea of debt. This situation has the makings of a major catastrophe and no one knows how to avoid it.

I am becoming increasingly concerned about present as well as future retirees. Almost all of them are on Medicaid and Medicare which pays the cost of their institutional care. This arrangement has worked very well as long as the Government flourishes, but when it has financial troubles, the picture changes. At present, nearly all of the states are broke, or nearly so, and the Federal Government is hopelessly in debt! It has spent its surplus of billions and now, has a several trillion dollar debt which will increase rapidly as long as the war lasts.

The question is, therefore, who will pay the cost of these retirees in their retirement homes and institutions; and how, without Government support?

This problem developed in large measure because the retirement costs have become much greater than anticipated. To illustrate my own experience: my basic, monthly charge at this nursing home in Gretna, Nebraska, is \$4,400.00; add to this amount \$2,400.00 for medical expenses, plus \$800.00 a month for personal expenses—totaling \$91,200.00 a year! Fortunately, I am

able to take care of my obligations with my own personal resources.

Nearly all people are headed for institutional care, but do not prepare for it. To put it succinctly, I would like to reference a recent article by Gary Maydew, a retired associate professor of business at Iowa State University whereby he said: “A *Time* magazine poll showed that Americans ranked having enough money to retire last on a list of concerns...the average amount saved for retirement by families is less than \$10,000. The facts confronting baby boomers about retirement are almost uniformly gloomy. Consider: The rapid disappearance of traditional pension plans...underfunding of the remaining plans...increased life expectancies.” In this *Omaha World Herald* article dated 11/15/04, Mr. Maydew, in light of the above gloomy forecast, expounded on President Bush’s plan to privatize part of Social Security by stating: “The ultimate impact of his plan, if adopted, is unknown. Privatizing might well result in higher overall benefits to retirees. What is a given is that privatizing will introduce more uncertainty; i.e., the amount that future retirees would receive would be more variable and less certain. A prudent response to more uncertainty would be to save more.” “Optimism about the future is one of the great character traits of Americans. But casting a blind eye to the realities of the need to save for retirement does not constitute optimism, merely avoidance of bad news.”

A little personal news: On February 10th, I’ll be 98 years of age; I am hail and hearty; I have a “room with a view” and the attendants here take good care of me. I read about ten news magazines and the daily paper without glasses; and I play and enjoy my music from my collection of 600 CDs.

Finally, I affectionately embrace all the office workers, undergraduates, graduates, and colleagues for the fine cooperation they have shown to achieve a common goal.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year (You all)

- - **Walter M. Kollmorgen**

I continue to travel and explore. A trip to Morocco and the Sahara (including 2 day sandstorm) and southern Spain were the highlights of this year’s travel. Continued investments and time in Costa Rica and Southern Europe as well as lots of fun in the stock market have made retirement both fun and profitable.

Completion of editing a 3 vol Encyclopedia of Geography for Facts on File will complete this year’s activities.

- - **Robert McColl**

## FACULTY NEWS

**Steve Bozarth** had another busy year studying ancient pollen and opal phytoliths from sites in the American Southwest, the Great Plains and Central America. The high point was working with archaeologists from the National Park Service at the Goetz Site, located in the National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He camped out and enjoyed some excellent food prepared by a recently retired chef. Steve reconstructed the vegetative history and paleoenvironment at Big Basin in Clark County, KS in a pilot study for Bill Johnson. The most important discovery was that there were more trees at one point in the Holocene than in the Pleistocene. He found microfossil evidence of pre-Hispanic agriculture and deforestation at Nakbe in the northern Peten of Guatemala and Blue Creek in northern Belize. He was co-author on papers presented at the Geological Society of America and the Society of American Archaeology meetings and on a poster presented at the American Quaternary Association meeting.

**Dave Braaten** moved to Lindley Hall in January 2004 from Malott Hall along with the rest of the Atmospheric Science Program, and he views the move as an exceptionally good one. He chaired the committee that conducted the search for a new faculty member in atmospheric science, and we had the good fortune to hire an outstanding atmospheric scientist (Nate Brunzell) from an outstanding pool of applicants. Dave and his colleagues in engineering have been competing to bring an NSF Science and Technology Center on remote sensing of ice sheets to KU, and passed two critical hurdles this past year. At the end of 2003, NSF invited them to submit a full proposal based on their success in the pre-proposal stage. The full proposal was submitted in February. In June, they learned that they were selected to compete in the next stage – an NSF site visit to KU. The site visit was held Oct 18-19, and NSF will make their final decision on the new class of Science and Technology Centers early in 2005. Dave also spent part of this past summer up on the Greenland ice sheet conducting experiments that are part of two of his projects – the PRISM project (Polar Radars for Ice Sheet Measurements) and a “plane-wave” snow accumulation radar project. The ice sheet location this summer was Summit Camp which is run by the National Science Foundation. Summit is a year-round station that provides excellent facilities to researchers, although researchers still have to “rough it” by sleeping in tents despite overnight temperatures that drop below -20 C. The data collected this summer is now being analyzed, and other research trips to Greenland and Antarctica in 2005 are being planned.

**Chris Brown** continues a search for funds from NSF to begin a major project with Kevin Price and Wendy Jepson (Texas A&M) to determine the impacts of the expansion of soybean cultivation on Amazonian forests. In the meantime, pilot research, some co-authored with grad students Matt Koeppel and Ben Coles, has been accepted for publication in the journal *Ambio*, of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and the *Journal of Latin American Geography*. In the spring AAGs, Brown will present a paper co-authored with Price and Jepson on the use of high-temporal resolution remote sensing to study changes in modern agriculture in Amazonia. An NSF-funded grant with David Brown (Political Science at Colorado) and Scott Desposato (Political Science, Arizona) to study the political impact of

World Bank sustainable development grants to farmer, rubber tapper, and indigenous groups in the Amazon is finally winding down. Their research group is planning a co-authored book project and future grant/research projects. Latest results from this research will be published in an upcoming issue of *Political Geography*. At home, Chris and his wife Denise Perpich are kept quite busy (and amused) by their son, Jason, who is getting close to 2 years-old.

It's been a great year for Gwen and **Jerry Dobson**, and two events stand out above all others. In April, their son Craig returned safely from Iraq, where he served as a medical officer with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne in Fallujah. He's happy to be back home with his wife Nicole in Washington, DC. In February, their granddaughter Maggie Dobson was born in Charleston, SC, where she now lives with her parents, Eric and Molly, and two-year-old brother Collin. Gwen and Jerry have learned to love Kansas. This year they bought a few acres of it south of Lawrence and started building a new home. Gwen is president-elect of the University Women's Club. Jerry enjoyed working with Steve Egbert and graduate students Matt Dunbar and John Kostelick on the landmine project mentioned in Terry's Letter from the Chair. In October, Steve and Jerry traveled to an extremely remote part of Ecuador to test the system in tropical rainforest. Team members from six different armies declared it to be faster, more accurate, and safer while reducing human error and requiring 40% less labor. This current project and his earlier work on populations-at-risk are continuing reminders of just how satisfying a career in geography can be. Jerry has been president of the American Geographical Society for two years now, and he hopes to continue for many more (the record is 35). It's a source of constant surprise. He learned, for instance, that AGS was responsible for drafting President Woodrow Wilson's famous Fourteen Points. At the Paris Peace Conference, for a while Wilson even ordered his own State Department and Military Intelligence officials to report to him through AGS director Isaiah Bowman. Later, Franklin D. Roosevelt served on the AGS's governing council for a decade and chose Bowman as one of his closest advisors throughout World War II. In that role, Bowman was one of the top six architects of the United Nations, the only one there from start to finish. Today, America is facing a crisis in foreign intelligence, and the public doesn't even know to call it geography. Leaders of both parties would be wise to follow Wilson's and Roosevelt's examples and bring geographers back to the fore in matters of foreign intelligence and policy. AGS is trying to spread the message.

**Johan Feddema** is currently on sabbatical at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO. He is working with a number of Scientists at NCAR to simulate the effects of land cover change on climate in the past and future. This effort is being conducted in two parts. First they are creating new components for and improving the Community Land Model (CLM); the land model for the Community Climate System Model (CCSM). They are in the final stages of a two year effort to construct and test an urban model to include in CLM. Second, Johan is developing representations of land cover from 1870 to 2100 (one per year) that will allow the model to simulate changing land cover throughout this time period. The model has not had the capability of allowing for land cover to change during simulations, so there have been a large number of changes to make. This new model will run at a higher resolution compared to previous GCM studies (T85) and should be a significant improvement on previous work involving land cover change effects on climate. These studies take

lots of time and computer resources, simulating 3-4 model years per clock day, a top 25 super-computer still takes well over 100 days to complete model initialization, control simulations and the transient land cover simulations. After about 6 months of simulations on NCARs older Parallel Climate Model they also have produced the first fully coupled GCM runs to include land cover change as part of future Inter-Governmental Panel of Climate Change climate change scenarios. So far the visit has been very productive, and there should be a lot more to post here come this time next year.

**Peter Herlihy** traveled to the Peruvian Amazon during spring semester on a US Dept. of State Exchange Grant between KU and the University of San Marcos, and he studied communal land titling focusing on the lower Huallaga River – where he did his MA thesis work in 1978. In the summer, Peter joined daughter Simone (5 yrs. old), son Hobbs (1 year old), and wife Laura living in Bilwi/Puerto Cabezas on the Nicaraguan Miskito Coast. Laura had a Fulbright Grant and she was teaching anthropology at the indigenous university in the northern autonomous region (RAAN); Peter studied communal land titling there too. Chancellor Hemmingway, Deans Wilcox and Weaver, Geography Chair Terry Slocum, and others visited Peter's first World Regional class this fall to present him a Kemper Award for Teaching Excellence. He also won a U.S.-Mexican Fulbright-Garcia Robles Grant for teaching and research at the Universidad Autonoma de San Luis Potosí in San Luis Potosí. He will teach and help develop a participatory project on communal land titling (especially *ejidos*) in the Huasteca region from January to July 2005, while he and family enjoy living in the historic core of this beautiful colonial city. Peter is also happy to report that his second doctoral advisee Roberto Castillo graduated (his dissertation on the indigenous Maleku people), and returned to his position in the Department of Geography at the University of Costa Rica.

**Xingong Li** is learning how to fix the problems of his first house in Overland Park and is getting used to the commute between Overland Park and Lawrence (he's sure he will be tired of commuting soon). He published two journal articles this year and had a contract from the Kansas Biological Survey for developing an ArcView extension for the BATHTUB lake water quality model. Thanks for the great work Matt Harman has done. They are finishing up the extension and in the process of writing a journal article.

This term has been a busy one for **Garth Myers**, with his usually large lecture for Principles of Human Geography coupled with an unusually large graduate seminar (17!) in Social Theory. He has finished the text for his 2nd book, *Disposable Cities: Garbage, Governance and Sustainable Development in Urban Africa*, that will be published with Ashgate in 2006. Martin Murray (SUNY Binghamton) and Garth have an edited volume that they will pull together and send in during the Spring, *Cities in Contemporary Africa*, to come out with Palgrave Press in 2006 as well. After getting his hopes for glory raised up by finalist status in the MacArthur Research and Writing grant competition, he came down kinda like KU in the title game two years ago, but without any Carmelo Anthony to blame for his troubles. He will be a Distinguished (apparently?) Visitor for a few weeks in March next term at University College London, though, so he can drown his sorrows in some English bitter the next time KU

makes the finals. The menagerie at home grows, with the addition of a dog (he was outvoted here, 3-1, but if the two cats' provisional ballots had been counted, they would have had Ohio on their hands). Phebe is 11 and in the middle of 6th grade. Atlee is 5 and in her last year of pre-school. Melanie soldiers on as assistant dean in the School of Social Welfare.

**Shannon O'Lear** arrived as a new faculty member in summer 2004 after conducting fieldwork in Azerbaijan and Georgia. She has a 50% appointment in Geography and 50% in the Environmental Studies program. The courses that she is teaching at KU, Principles of Human Geography, Geopolitics of Russia and Eurasia, and Environmental Policy, reflect her research interests in the Caucasus, resource conflict, and environmental politics.

During the past several years, **Kevin Price** has increased his service responsibilities. He has recently served on two National Research Council Committees, served on the National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Advisory Panel for Geography and Regional Science, and he has served for two years on the University of Kansas College Committee on Promotion and Tenure. Kevin is also finishing up several research projects funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to study the use of satellite imagery for modeling soil carbon sequestration in the agroecosystems of the Central Great Plains. He is also leading a study to estimate rates of red cedar tree invasion into the region. The distribution of this evergreen tree has increased by over 150% in the last decade in many places throughout the region. Associated with its invasion is reduced rangeland quality, increased soil erosion and changes in nutrient cycling. Kevin is also overseeing the remote sensing component of a study funded by the US Department of Agriculture, Risk Management Agency, to develop a method for assessing drought impacts on rangelands so that a national rangeland, pastureland and dryland hay federal insurance program can be implemented. When people think of KU, they do not often think of agriculture, but KU is taking the lead in developing the mechanism needed to implement this national insurance program. Kevin is also pleased to announce that Xulin Guo, one of his Ph.D. students, was recently informed that she will be promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor at the University of Saskatoon. He frequently hears from his former students and is pleased to report that they all have successful careers working in their field of training.

**Barbara Shortridge** reports that 2004 has been a more-than-busy year for her and she's hoping that the next one will be more sane. Both daughters moved within a period of two weeks last summer and she somehow was involved in packing and unpacking in four houses in Kansas City, Ohio, and Virginia. She also played the mother-of-the-bride role by putting on a lovely wedding at Danforth Chapel on campus. Professional trips to meetings in Philadelphia, Hyde Park, New York (Culinary Institute of America), and Biloxi, Mississippi, allowed her to eat regionally once again. The C.I.A. fare was especially good and she recommends their public restaurants next time you are in the Hudson Valley. Barbara reports that the next issue of *The Geographical Review* includes an article by her about Great Plains food, the next *Journal of Geography* will have one on Appalachian food, and a food chapter in *Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Regional Cultures: The Great Plains Region* arrived in her mailbox today.



**Pete Shortridge** was between research projects this year. His book about urban Kansas, Cities on the Plains, came out in the spring. Next in line is a volume about Kansas City's neighborhoods and landscapes, and so he's busy collecting dusty maps and concocting a prospectus.

Two of his students completed dissertations in 2004: Laura Moley McClain with a study of new suburban landscapes in Overland Park and Aaron Ketchell with one on the interplay between religion and leisure in Branson. The best part of Pete's year had nothing to do with geography, however. He spent six weeks in Salem, Virginia, helping daughter Kate renovate her "new" 1940s house. They did lots of scraping and painting, some plumbing and roofing, and a little tree felling--all in all a wonderful father-daughter adventure.

The big news for **Terry Slocum** is that he finally finished the second edition of his book *Thematic Cartography and Geographic Visualization*. This task would not have been possible without the assistance of his three co-authors (and alumni!) Bob McMaster, Fritz Kessler, and Hugh Howard. Although his chair duties continue to keep him busy, he has found time to develop a research interest in stereoscopic displays for large audiences (e.g., the GeoWall—[www.geowall.org](http://www.geowall.org)). The other big news is that his family now resides in North Lawrence, away from the hustle and bustle of the rest of Lawrence. They have already had several departmental parties there that folks seemed to enjoy (although he suspects the Free State kegs may have had something to do with their enjoyment).

**Curtis Sorenson's** friends and alumni might be interested in learning that he is not dead yet. He has been busy teaching five courses per year plus the field experience course, which he has taught the past four summers. His comments are focused around field camp. There have been major changes in Garden Park in the past four years. The most apparent among them is the fact that the Dilley Ranch has been sold to a developer and subdivided into approximately 35 acre parcels. Subdivision has brought new roads, newly drilled wells, a few houses, and a major change in the overall look of the area. You hardly see a cow any more. Pressure is on other landowners to sell as well, and the high elevation sites east of the old Fancher Ranch have been converted into the Cooper Mountain subdivision. Steve Schnell, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, taught field camp in 2001 with Curt, and they have an article coming out in the Montana Magazine of Western History detailing the changes they have noted in Garden Park. It is a nice companion piece to the article they published in 1980 looking at what changes they expected in the area in the future. In other news, daughter Anna is living and working in Pinedale, WY, and son Spencer is a junior at Lawrence High. Peggy is still teaching geography and world history at Lawrence Free State High, and they continue to enjoy summers in Pinedale. Retirement is on the horizon, but he will at least get Spencer through high school before he takes that step.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### 50's

**Charles Heller (MA 1957):** I am retired eight years now. For several years, a colleague in history and I investigated the role of women in providing mortgage to farmers in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Kalamazoo County, MI and this year a report of our investigation was published in the Journal of Interdisciplinary History. Currently we are looking at the flow of money from very successful 19<sup>th</sup>-century farmers in Kalamazoo County into other economic ventures. It's a great way to spend some of that retirement time! I also serve on the Kalamazoo County Wellhead Protection Team.

### 60's

**Byron Augustin (MA 1968):** There has been a little water pass under the bridge since last year. We changed the name of our university from Southwest Texas State University to Texas State University. I served as an editor for the new addition of the Goode's World Atlas, made a two-week trip to Panama to shoot the photos for a book I completed on Panama for Scholastic Publishing, and turned in the manuscript for a book on Paraguay. I was very pleased that one of my ex-students is now enrolled in your Ph.D. program. His name is Josh Long and he is a wonderful addition to the department. This year I will complete 37 years of full-time university teaching. I may teach three or four more years and then hang it up and head for Mexico for my retirement. By the way, even though I live in Texas, the Jayhawks got a bum call on the offensive pass interference and should have knocked the Longhorns out of BCS consideration.

**Eric S. Johnson (PhD 1968):** No real news from me, but a new address. I moved to Asheville NC a year ago, mainly for the climate. I have not been disappointed, the winters are milder and the summers are cooler than what I tolerated in central Illinois.

**Roger McCoy (PhD 1967):** After retirement from the University of Utah in 1998 Sue and I moved to Green Valley, AZ. We're glad to get out of the dirty air of Salt Lake City, and enjoy some winter sunshine. My book on field methods in remote sensing came out in November 2004, and now I am finishing up a book about Alfred Wegener. Sue is back to exhibiting paintings.

**Richard H. (Dick) Skaggs (MA 1963; PhD 1967):** After 38+ years on the faculty at the University of Minnesota, I will retire at the end of this academic year. I am always grateful for the wonderful education that I received as a graduate student at KU; it prepared me well for my career. My work at the University of Minnesota has been made much more enjoyable and easier by the comradeship of fellow Jayhawks Dwight Brown, Bob McMaster, and Mark Lindberg. Mary Jo and I will continue to reside in the Twin Cities and maintain close ties with the geography department here.

### 70's

**Lewis Armstrong (MA 1975):** I retired from the Emporia State University Library in June 2003 where I was serving as the Special Collections Librarian. Plans are to move from Emporia to a home in Fayetteville, Georgia by the end of 2004 with an address of 500 Georgia Avenue East, Fayetteville, Georgia 30214. Our daughter is a physician assistant in Fayetteville and the move puts us closer to her. Time is being devoted to maintaining some popular websites. They include Electronic Resources for Geography: [Http://www.acu.edu/~armstrong1](http://www.acu.edu/~armstrong1). Web based

Resources: <http://ejw.i8.com>, Online Recipe Sites: <http://recipites.5u.com>. Vietnam: <http://ejw18.com/vn/vn.html>. The webring on the Vietnam site contains over 1,000 links.

**Delmar E. "Andy" Anderson (PhD 1976):** During the past 10 years, I have spent most of my time in the work place as a consultant / contractor in the geospatial arena supporting business and government clients...such as the Massachusetts Highway Department, Space Imaging, and Raytheon. On the recreation front, I especially enjoy going to CSU football and basketball games, traveling in the Rockies, and seeing relatives in Nebraska. We like Fort Collins, CO a lot and the climate agrees with me...in Reston, Virginia I was in pain with the tree pollen every spring. Not here. Speaking of Virginia, I get back there for short visits to see friends at the Agency. All in all, retirement from federal government has been good...nice to have some free time for other activities.



**Vicki Prince Dennison (MA 1977):** Greetings to all I've not seen or heard from recently. I continue to reside in San Clemente, California (twelve years now, except for a two year hiatus in Chicago). I have co-managed an organic fruit and vegetable farm in San Juan Capistrano for nearly four years now ([www.southcoastfarms.com](http://www.southcoastfarms.com)), and attempt to manage two dogs, a horse and a husband. I must boast that my year old chocolate lab retrieved his first two ducks this month, and is headed back to field school in the new year. I've been fortunate to travel a good bit this year – horseback riding in Spain, Virginia and Northern California; and rediscovering the joys of cross country driving up through Montana and Oregon, keeping an eye open for a (dare I say retirement?) place to land that is less expensive and less crowded than San Clemente. I can be reached at [vpdennison@earthlink.net](mailto:vpdennison@earthlink.net).

**Jay Farrell (MA 1974):** After a stint in the Defense Mapping School in Washington and in Transportation Planning for the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation back in the mid-70's, I returned to school and got a Master's in Architecture at UT there in Austin. Am still here and have a residential practice. Recent fun projects include a new ranch house compound about 70 miles west in a very German part of the Hill Country and a restoration of a 1911 Neo Classical house close to the center of town. Austin has experienced a lot of the same growth problems afflicting other places in the country, but continues to be a great place to live. Of course I still remember those happy years back at KU. I thought of our old Lindley geomorphology professor, Wakefield Dort, last summer as I vacationed at Big Sur and in the Sierra.

**Richard Groop (PhD 1976):** Well, much to my amazement, I received an invitation from the Dean to sign on for another 5-year term as department Chair at Michigan State and, surprisingly, the Geography faculty agreed! Possible retirement in 2009 looks a long way off. Last May (in a weak imitation of John Augelli), I was a guest lecturer on a Crystal Cruise ship from England to Greece for two weeks. Other frequent travel and four grandchildren keep me busy.

**Norm Hardy (MA 1972; PhD 1976):** Although technically retired since March 2002, I continue to be active in University

life as an Associate instructor at Royal Roads University here on Vancouver Island. I offer a core course in Environmental Management to senior undergraduates during the third quarter, and to graduate students on a demand basis. Recently, I have lent my expertise to the Peace and Conflict Division as they consider the possibility of establishing a graduate program focused on Disaster Management. Having become very appreciative of the freedom associated with retirement, I walk a fine line to avoid being drawn back into regular University commitments. Our five acre rural property has provided me with all of the commitments I really need. It continues to yield opportunities to observe natural

processes at work as well as providing me with some significant landscaping challenges. Bonnie and I have traveled extensively since leaving the regular work force, visiting various locations in Europe. We have also done extensive travel in Canada and the United States including Hawaii, and I have twice visited California to take training in Digital Video. My expanding knowledge of DV stands me in good stead as I travel and prepare various short documentaries for personal and commercial consumption. I continue to work on a couple of major British Columbia documentaries which I hope to be able to market.

**Vern Harnapp (PhD 1972):** I retired from teaching at The University of Akron in June 2000 after 28 years of service. Unfortunately, my wife Lavada, is struggling with Pick's disease, a dementia with similarities to Alzheimer's. So since retirement I have been her fulltime caregiver. To make things easier for us, we just moved to Longwood, Florida (greater Orlando) to live near our oldest daughter and her family. The Florida weather agrees with us better than the cloudy cold weather of northeast Ohio. So, we are looking forward to good times in The Sunshine state. We moved after the four hurricanes hit this area and, fortunately, our house sustained only minor damage. With relatives in northeast Kansas and southeast Nebraska, Lincoln and Beatrice, we frequency get back to the Midwest. But, now that will be less frequent. We appreciate the department newsletter and news of alumni. Keep up the good work.

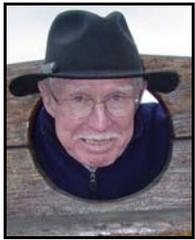
**Gregory M. Hembree (MA 1978):** Talk about getting old, I turned 50 this year with all the rights and privileges that go along with it (plus, well never mind that!). Anyway, I have evaluated my cache of pictures and nothing really good rises to the surface as I am the one usually taking the pictures. I am attaching one taken at Wall Drug in Wall, SD, as part of our great 2004 Lewis & Clark trip this summer. We traveled some 5400 miles from our



house in Centreville, VA, to as far west as Hardin, MT. In addition to traveling along the Missouri River from St. Louis (through Kansas City, of course) to Fort Union, ND, we also took in the sights around the Bighorn National Battlefield, then through Sheridan, WY, Devil's Tower and spent a couple of days in Deadwood, SD, before starting the return trip

home. I am now planning a 2006 Lewis & Clark West trip to pick up the sites from eastern Montana west to the Pacific Ocean (probably will have to add Mount St. Helens and Crater Lake to that trip—ever the geographer). Anyway, all the pertinent information about the job, house, wife, etc., is still the same, except we added a front portico on the house to distinguish it from all of the other houses that look the same on our cul-de-sac. Overall, life remains good.

**Don Johnson (PhD 1972):** I retired in July, 2003, and am now able to pursue my first love -- doing research full time without the necessary multitudinous other distractions required of university professors. Research pathways include: 1), expanding the biomantle concept to the global substrate -- both subaerial and subaqueous substrates; 2), Polishing and refining the dynamic denudation framework of landscape evolution; 3),

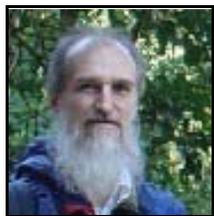


Continuing research on the origin, nature, and differences of Mima-type mounded tracts in areas west of the Mississippi River, and in Illinois and Wisconsin; 4) Writing books on these three themes, plus an autobiography for my children and grandchildren.

**Tom Luellen (MA 1978):** I'm starting my 20th year as the planner for Stormont-Vail

HealthCare in Topeka. This May my youngest will graduate from KU with a degree in Environmental Studies. She is lining up a teaching job in Japan. In September we purchased land in Osage County. The south branch of the Wakarusa runs through it. The property has tallgrass prairie, Oak-Hickory and floodplain forests. Professor Kuchler would be proud of me.

**Alan MacEachren (PhD 1979):** I continue as a Professor of Geography and Director of the GeoVISTA Center ([www.geovista.psu.edu](http://www.geovista.psu.edu)) at Penn State, where I've been a faculty member since 1985. Academic high points this year were a pair of honors that I was very pleased to receive. The first was the 2004 Canadian Cartographic Association Award for Exceptional Scholarly Contributions to the Practice of Cartography. The second was being named as 2004-2007 E. Willard and Ruby S.



Miller Professor of Geography at Penn State. My travel high point of the year was spending several days in Greece with my wife Fran. The timing of an invited talk at the 2nd EURESCO Geovisualization Conference (in Crete, the following week) made this spring break excursion possible ... and resulted in 5 new species for my birding life list.

**Roland D. Mower (PhD 1971):** All is well at the Horse Shoe Mountain Ranch, here in the mountain of central Utah where our llama herd is still growing. I've spent a lot of time trying to write histories of people and places in these parts. I enjoy the challenge, and it keeps me busy and out of trouble. Some of my old KU colleagues have been mentioned in some of my work, but I won't send copies because I don't want them to be offended.

**Bill Phillips (PhD 1973):** I retired from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas in 1995. I will be President of the Emporia School Personnel Organization in 2005. I continue to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals for the City of Emporia



and Lyon County. This year will be 32 years in service on this Board. One of my granddaughters is attending Kansas University one is attending Emporia State University and one grandson is attending Johnson County Community College. Two grandsons are in High School in Augusta,

Kansas. I try to keep fit by working out at the Emporia Recreation Center and taking Yoga Classes.

**George Pangburn (MA 1974):** My wife Pam and I continue to live just outside Philadelphia where I serve as a Division Director for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission' Region 1 office. Over the past year my scope of responsibility has expanded to include licensing and inspection of 2500 license holders in the northeastern and southeastern United States. Outside of work I enjoy modifying and riding my Triumph Bonneville motorcycle, reading, working out, woodworking and, of course, following the



Jayhawks (along with the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pitt Panthers). This year Pam and I traveled to the Northwest for vacation, visiting Seattle, Mt. St. Helen's, the eastern slope of the Cascades and Victoria, British Columbia - - a truly lovely city, for those who have not been there. My daughter, Carrie, graduated from Pitt this year and started her graduate program in Education at the University of Maryland. She hopes to

teach in Howard County, MD upon her graduation next summer. I had hoped to visit KU again this year, serving as a de facto tour guide for some friends whose son was very interested in going to KU. However, at the last minute, his mom's preference for having him close to home won out and he entered school here in Philadelphia. It's a nice place, but we are planning to link up with other Jayhawk alums here on January 22 to see the KU-Villanova game.

**Dave Schwarz (PhD 1976):** This photo was taken just before I retired three years ago, but I may need a new one because I have returned to work for the 2004-2005 academic year. I was asked to help out in the college office here at San José State, and it's good to feel indispensable. Working again was quite pleasant until students and faculty returned for the Fall Semester. Then I began to appreciate the benefits of retirement, including the possibility of a mid-afternoon nap. I did manage to get to the AAG Meetings in Philadelphia, attended mostly by children in recent years. The Retired Geographers' party across the hall from the Kansas affair was more comfortable for me. I knew more of them than I did the Kansans, recognizing only Barbara "Gimla," who must have selected the great food, for which I thank her. Maintaining a tradition of the discipline as I know it, the retired folks had nothing but endlessly flowing beer.... and great stories.



80's

**John Beets (MA 1980):** I am still working for M. J. Harden Associates in Kansas City, Missouri. A little over a year ago, M. J. Harden was acquired by Pipeline Integrity International, a subsidiary of GE Energy. This has resulted in our Pipeline GIS and Integrity Services taking on a more international slant. In the



last year, I have been to Australia and Malaysia for technical marketing seminars and have made two trips to China for initial GIS implementation meetings with PetroChina Pipeline Co. and Beijing Huayou Natural Gas. More trips to China will occur in January and February - I plan on taking my wife with me on the February trip. Australia is a wonderful place - I would love to live there for a while. China is a fascinating place to visit, but is extremely

polluted. You must not drink the water and pick your restaurants with caution. It took me 4 weeks to get over my first trip there.

**Mark W. Bowman (MA 1986):** I live in Aberdeen, Scotland, and work for ConocoPhillips as an exploration geologist. This is my 7th year working the North Sea as I spent the previous 5 years in Stavanger, Norway, also working for ConocoPhillips (previously Phillips Petroleum). Kristi and I have 2 children, ages 9 and 12, and we all enjoy hill climbing in Scotland despite the usually wet weather. We have enjoyed our stay in Europe and have taken advantage of the opportunity to see some interesting places both on and off the standard tourist routes.

**Jim DeMeo (MA 1979; PhD 1986):** continues research and writing at my rural institute in Southern Oregon ([www.jamesdemeo.org](http://www.jamesdemeo.org)). Since the terror attacks of 9-11 there has been an upsurge of interest in my cross-cultural work "Saharasia", including within the ivory tower, given its power for



understanding the high levels of social violence within the Islamo-fascist regions. World Cultures journal, devoted to cross-cultural findings of a similar nature, published several of my papers, and several chapters will soon appear in compendiums on cross-cultural studies forthcoming through the University of Texas Press, and Kluwer Press. I was an invited speaker at the "1st International

Congress on Matriarchal Studies" in the Luxemburg, where my Saharasia findings received praise from most in attendance, but also stirred up the largest controversy and debate at the Congress for reasons obvious to those familiar with the findings. My other work -- on the question of "energy in space" -- has also garnered support among physicists who have replicated the old ether-drift experiments, but with positive results this time around, and one of my articles on this subject was invited for a physics journal. H I report no cloudbuster rainmaking projects for several years, given the chaotic international situation and dangers to Westerners in undertaking field expeditions into the big desert regions, as was done for much of the 1990s. I also edited a new book titled "Heretic's Notebook: Emotions, Protocells, Ether-Drift and Cosmic Life Energy, With New Research Supporting Wilhelm Reich" (check Amazon.com) and seminars continue on such subjects at my Greensprings Center. My website has more

info on all of this. It appears, after many decades of prominence on the Index Expurgatorius, this work comes out of the shadows.

**Liz Hines (MA 1985):** who sometimes uses Bob Dole's style of self-referral, is teaching new undergraduate and graduate seminars on American race relations and world foodways, co-editing the journal *The North Carolina Geographer*, and may finally be getting a sabbatical to write a book on race riots in NC and LA, if the gods are smiling.



**Mike Hogben (MPhil 1981):** I retired on April 15th of this year after four years with Ingenix doing health data processing on their UNIX system. Two weeks later we moved to Nampa, ID which is about 20

miles west of Boise. We were looking for low humidity, low cost of living, and four distinct seasons of which we found all except for experiencing winter which is just ahead. With two golf courses within a mile of the house, I can't complain. Now that the house and yard is pretty much completed, I expect that after the first of the year a search for a part-time job will be in order. However, a Walmart greeter is not what I have in mind. Our son, David, is in New Jersey where he works for Cendant.



He was recently made a Director over systems development which made us pretty proud

**John Hutchinson (MA 1983):** I'm celebrating my 21st year at the USGS EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. These days, the USGS makes many fewer printed maps than when I started, so my job now entails less map design and production and more data assembly and distribution. The biggest chunk of my work is on the National Atlas of the United States, and if you get the ACSM Bulletin, you can read all about it in the September/October issue, in which I have an article. On the personal side, my wife, daughter, and I live on a 3-acre homestead on the outskirts of fast-growing-yet-still-small-town Sioux Falls. The city is coming to meet us, and there is a beltway road planned for 2015 that will come within a half mile of our house. Time to move further out. The daughter is looking at colleges, but alas, the 6-hour drive to KU from Sioux Falls looks too distant to her, at least for the first year. Drop me a line at [hutch@dakota.net](mailto:hutch@dakota.net) if you're curious about the National Atlas, urban sprawl in Sioux Falls, or why the heck South Dakota voted the way it did last election.

**David Linthicum (MA 1984):** After living on the Chesapeake from '93 to '00 (in a house destroyed by Hurricane Isabel in '03), longtime partner Peggy Brosnan and I still live on tidewater 20 miles east of Washington, D.C. in Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. I believe it's the only house that close to D.C. with an uninhabited square mile around it, and says to hike over and visit if you're in the area! It's in the middle of a big hiking-kayaking map, one of my park or camp maps that I had on sale in half a dozen states. For volunteer mapping, I spend most of my time trying to put small citizen environmental groups on an equal cartographic-geographic footing with the limitless resources of the region's mega-developers. These efforts have been major educational components in campaigns that snatched thousands of acres of

Maryland's newest tidewater park lands away from the jaws of the developers at the last moment. Last year Peggy and I camped in the Kilimanjaro crater and I mapped much of the mountain's trail network accurately, correcting errors of up to two kilometers on the "best" published maps. Over the past nine years we have also done treks in Tasmania and the Alps plus 100 miles near Everest, and long sea kayak trips in the Lofoten and Queen Charlotte Is., New Zealand, Glacier Bay, Baja, Thailand, and around Elba. After adopting Adobe Illustrator for cartography work in 1991 and running the CIA's number two cartography shop from '91 to '98, for the past couple years I have been one of the State Department's two coordinators for sovereignty and international boundary issues and depiction. I will take outdoor map use over the GIS work any day, and am in my 22nd year of teaching map use and orienteering at the National Wildlife Federation "Summits" held at various N. American sites. (Yes, yet another McClery student who's unapologetically still orienteering!)

**Kent MacGregor (MA 1976; PhD 1982):** This is my 23rd year at the University of North Texas. My article, "Huntington and Lovelock: Climatic Determinism in the 20th Century," will appear in the next issue of *Physical Geography*. My wife, Pat, is a psychologist for the Lewisville Independent School District.



Our son, David, is 15 and plays percussion in the Denton High band. Our daughter, Katy, is 11, and enjoys playing soccer.

**Joe Poracsky (PhD 1984):** I am beginning my 23rd year in the Geography Department at Portland State University, teaching mapping, cartography, GIS and urban natural

resources courses. I and my son Rome made a road trip back to Lawrence in August to visit daughter Kristina, son-in-law Michael and two grandsons (Finley, 2-1/2 years in December and Sawyer, 8 months). Getting to see many of the familiar and new faces from the department was a highlight of the visit, as was the unexpected opportunity to see and hear VP-candidate John Edwards. Lawrence was as friendly and comfortable as ever and downtown continues to be a wonderful place to stroll, sip on a coffee, or get a cold beer and observe the amazing variety of Jayhawk apparel that



EVERYONE is dressed in. An unexpected find was the Brit store which, in addition to lots of British snacks and doodads, seems to carry every Masterpiece Theater and Mystery ever produced for the unbelievable rental price of \$1. Thirty-five Inspector Morse's on one shelf! Amazing! Equally amazing was that apparently some of the Portland weather followed me to the Heartland, since the Lawrence temperature never got above 95 degrees for three weeks in August and it actually rained a couple times. Perfect weather for daily runs along the Kaw. Kristina & Co moved back to Lawrence from Portland last winter and will likely result in my repeating last summer's trip on an annual basis. In the meantime, much of the winter will be spent watching the final KU season of Portland's Jefferson High grads Aaron Miles and Michael Lee and wondering over the biggest

Jayhawk in the world painted in the middle of the Allen Fieldhouse court.

**Phil Rumbaoa (MA 1983):** Well, 2 years have passed since my last job change. The community was comfortable with me as the medical director of the Cooper County Memorial Hospital Emergency Department (CCMH ED) here in Boonville. The community would still prefer to have me in a local primary care clinic situation where I can be a "personal physician". However, God had other plans for my next "2-year tour"—it seems I was "forced" to change every 2 years and have done so since completing family practice residency in summer '98. This past summer, the ED staffing contract between the University of Missouri Hospital & Clinics and CCMH was allowed to expire. CCMH sought more cost effective staffing for the ED. I was offered the directorship with the new company for the CCMH ED—but at a salary decrease, without benefits, and at a tax disadvantage. I now work in a newer and much busier ED, with higher pay and benefits, as an employee of Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg, MO. Unfortunately, my commute has gone from 6 miles to 150 miles round trip. I still manage to help coach kids wrestling and serve as the high school football team physician—this past season, the Pirates honored my work by presenting me with a Boonville High letter and jacket. I was ecstatic to letter in football again, and Beth had never gone out with a Boonville High letterman! Finally, I am eagerly awaiting my 30-year Carson High Reunion (actually a joint reunion of the '74 and '75 classes) this coming July 23, 2005, at the Long Beach, CA Aquarium of the Pacific—the next big family vacation?

**Ronald V. Shaklee (MA 1979; PhD 1983):** I am still annually taking classes on field experiences to the Bahamas and compiling research on historical weather patterns in the Bahamas. The Field Station we use on San Salvador Island experienced major damage from the hurricanes this past Fall, but they have managed to put things together enough to accommodate my usual December class.

**Shigeo Takahashi (MA 1982; PhD 1988):** This year has been productive to me in that I have been engaged in a project to learn new skills. Although GIS has been widespread, I haven't had a chance to use it. It may be a bit too much and too ambitious, but with my colleagues I am at the last stage of writing and editing a textbook which explains how to use ArcGIS for social science majors. I have learned a lot from more experienced co-authors as well as from a struggling process of conducting a small analysis to write my own chapter. Now I think I am reasonably comfortable to use a GIS software to assist my future studies. To enjoy breaks from writing and teaching, I have participated in a circle to learn and appreciate Japanese traditional dancing.



The attached photo shows my performance on a Noh stage.

**Jerry Whistler (BA 1981, MA 1989):** There's not a lot of interesting news to report from my Rockfence home in Lawrence, but in the words of America's presently incarcerated favorite home diva, "that's a good thing." I did, however, spend large parts of the summer and fall tearing down a second story deck and painting the house. LeeAnn spent large parts of her time near the phone just in case a call to 911 became necessary. I'm scouting



out “volunteers” for the spring deck reconstruction. This past November, John Dunham (PhD’96) and I met up with Dave Baumgartner (MA’95) at Alan Arbogast’s (MA’91, PhD’95) home in East Lansing, MI. Jennifer, Al’s wife (department student assistant in the mid-90s), patiently put up with the nonsense.

This annual event featured “the boys” attending a classic Big 10 football game between Ohio State and Michigan State. It also featured some interesting lessons in dealing with scalpers. As was predicted by our host Al, the Spartans folded in the final minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter after leading nearly the entire game. Without going into details, it was a ghastly scene. As many of you know, I’ve been with the KARS Program as a research associate since 1986 (after a 3-year stint as a GRA). After nearly 20 years in Nichols Hall, I (and the Program) moved from Nichols to Higuchi Hall (the former, privately owned, InterX building) in early 2003. Like many moves, it was painful, but it was also a welcome change of pace. For those of you unfamiliar with Higuchi, it’s located on West Campus and is about a quarter mile south of the Geological Survey. If you’re in the neighborhood, I invite you to stop by and say ‘hi’.

**Bob Yoos (MA 1986):** I and my wife, Joanne, are doing fine and still living in Lawrence. Joanne stays busy running The Upholstery Shop and I am still cleaning up Lawrence via my garbage collection, recycling, and composting programs as manager of the city’s solid waste division. We set aside a month this past summer to travel to the southwest once again. Drove the backroads and hiked throughout Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. Highlights included four nights in a cabin right on the north rim of the Grand Canyon, visiting the Hopi Mesas, touring the Zuni reservation, and visiting Acoma’s “Sky City”. We managed to bring back some fine examples of native art and handicraft. And, believe it or not, one can find some mighty fine beer in Utah at the Moab Brewery and Pub. We suggest the Polygamy Porter or the Dead Horse Ale.

## 90's

**Neil Allen (MA 1995):** As far as the newsletter goes, please report that my family and I have moved into a larger house just a few miles away from our former residence. So our spring was spent settling into our new abode doing all of those things to make a house a home. This summer and fall we managed to take a few vacations in Yosemite, Los Angeles, and Portland (Maine). We’re looking forward to spending the holidays with family back in the Midwest. Kansas was my home for twenty-odd years, but even with my history there, I finally feel like Oregon is my home (even if the Jayhawks are my team). I have just finished my ninth year at Allan Cartography Inc. I am now a vested, partial owner in the company and also sit on the board of directors for Benchmark Maps. However, I am still mostly a mouse jockey for the plethora of cartographic production that comes through our shop.

**Alan Arbogast (MA 1991; PhD 1995):** I’m still at Michigan State University, where, unbelievably, I’m in the midst of my 9th (count em - 9) year here. That’s hard to believe, especially since

the Quaternary Deposits pub crawl of 1991 at good ole KU seems like it was yesterday. I vividly remember, for example, when Dave Baumgartner *tried* to jump over the park bench near the bar built on glacial till. Too bad it was the 13th bar we visited that night. Or, how about when Kelly Gregg and John Dunham tried to..... after only the 10th bar? Ah, memories. Anyway, I digress. Life is fine in south-central lower Michigan. There’s a lot of good work to do, the Department is pretty cool (2 KU alums besides me), and full-blown winter lasts for 13 (I mean, 5) months. In fact, we’re on the rapid descent to Arctic conditions as I write this note. We seem to lose about 47 minutes of daylight per day and the sun hasn’t shone for 6 weeks, but whose complaining? I might not feel that way, however, if I didn’t have my DirecTV dish system, accompanied by the ESPN Full Court package, that keeps me completely in touch with Jayhawk hoops. Who cares if the tech bubble burst in the late 90s, or that there’s 17 ft (~ 5.2 m) of snow on the ground for 3 straight months, so long as my wife Jennifer (another KU alum and former Geography office assistant), my daughters Hannah and Rosie (who, being impressionable 9 and 5-yr olds, respectively, are being brainwashed to love Wayne Simien, Bill Self, et al.) and I get to watch *every* second of Jayhawk basketball during the long winter months. It’s the perfect cave life. Beyond that, the years have settled into a nice rhythm consisting of 1) 4 or 5 months of beautiful weather, 2) the occasional outing to one of the Great Lakes or local winter resorts, and last, but not least, 3) the annual fall rendezvous of noted KU geography grads Jerry Whistler, the aforementioned John Dunham, the aforementioned Dave Baumgartner (who flew in from *Grand Forks, North Dakota*, believe it or not), with yours truly in south-central lower Michigan (as opposed to east-central-northern-lower Michigan). It’s not quite the mountain men gatherings of the 1820s, but it’s close, especially when we drink diet Coke and eat Pringles all day. Look out then. This year’s festivities centered around the Ohio State/MSU football game, which the Spartans predictably gave away in a colossal collapse in the last 2 minutes. The sorry state of the local gridiron team makes me yearn for KU where football is.....? Seriously, I hope all of you who co-habited with me in Lindley are doing well. I know that Chuck Martin, for example, must feel like his life is finally complete given that the Curse of the Bambino has finally lifted. I hear rumors, from time to time, that Dennis Dahms is living on a mountain top in the Wind River Range and has a 10-ft (3-m) long, white beard. I’d like to hear more about the rest of you. You can find me near the Arctic Circle or at: dunes@msu.edu.

**David Baumgartner (MA 1995):** I am working as a geospatial analyst for the Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium in Grand Forks, ND. UMAC is currently part of the Aerospace school at the University of North Dakota. We distribute Landsat imagery and other geospatial data to farmers, ranchers and other land managers in the upper midwest to assist them with precision agriculture and natural resource management. Two years ago last August I got married to my girlfriend of several years, Elke, whom I met while working in Germany. We had a small ceremony at Schwabacher Landing on the banks of the Snake River, right under Grand Teton.

**Kevin Blake (MA 1991):** A late afternoon walk with Lucky in early winter always puts me in an ideal frame of mind to reflect upon the recent past and that time in Lawrence a bit longer ago.

For among the many cherished identities I have that revolve around Lawrence, the Jayhawks, and KU Geography, one of the dearest is that of enjoying hundreds of similar strolls with her across the cuesta landscape of West Campus. Lucky is now 16, a cancer survivor, and feeling a bit more of an old dog's aches, yet she still lets me know the afternoon walk is required, not optional. From today's outing I can report the robins and juncos were enjoying the warmth brought to our Manhattan latitude by that ever-so-frequent Kansas south wind. Even more noticeable was how the recent rains, nighttime freezing, and daytime thawing have created an impressively saturated soil. After a few steps across bare earth I had a stratigraphy of soil on my shoes that I daresay would have excited Professor Sorenson, and Lucky was throwing mud clods that would have caused green envy at a monster truck show. Concern with the amount of mud on my shoes must not be construed as having nothing better to do with my time; it is exactly this sort of interest with the everyday world that caused my geographical passions to spring forth at KU. Allowing these local curiosities to ferment is also what recently caused me to set out along the Lewis and Clark Trail in the Great Plains to see how Native Americans are portrayed at the interpretive sites. This study appears in the fall 2004 issue of the Great Plains Quarterly, my first publication to encounter the land and people east of the Rockies. Diana and I continue to find life in Manhattan agreeable, and we still work in the same posts at K-State in information systems and geography, respectively yet daughter Jen has moved half a continent away to pursue a PhD in agricultural economics at the University of California-Davis. It seems more like half a world away after having her nearby while she completed bachelor's and master's degrees at K-State. So, I'm on the look out for meetings in California! The 2004 APCG meeting in San Luis Obispo gave me a chance to present a paper, visit Davis and Sacramento, and then continue with an ongoing study of lighthouse symbolism by visiting two beauties - Point Reyes and Point Arena. Although the GP-RM meeting in Sioux Falls lacked lighthouses and the family ties, it did offer a chance to get better acquainted with two KU geographers and to take another one of those pleasant late afternoon strolls, this time to the city's namesake water feature.

**Mary Dillworth Clinthorne (PhD 1990):** I'll be teaching Remote Sensing as an adjunct professor in the Natural Resources Management Department at Grand Valley State University this winter. I'm really looking forward to it, since it's been quite some time since I taught that class. Last year I taught World Regional Geography and discovered that those regional courses are lots of work too. (My heart is still with the geographic techniques.) As a family (husband Jim and son Kevin) we really enjoy camping. However, the tent has gotten increasingly uncomfortable as we've gotten older. So, we bought a pop-up camper this past summer. Watch out everyone ... you never know when we'll show up at your doorstep on one of the "great adventures" we have planned!

**Paula Crabbs (MA 1993):** I have been teaching as part-time faculty at Longview Community College for several years, but this is my last semester for a while. I'm tired of World Regional Geography and that's all part-timers are allowed to teach. I have especially enjoyed teaching evening classes full of older (more interested) students. I will just pick up more work in my nurse job, the methadone clinic at K.U. Med. Ctr. Terry and I continue our back road wanderings and I have taken up his lifelong avocation of tournament bridge, as well. This has uncovered a

hitherto unknown competitive streak in me! I am a volunteer English tutor for a young man who is a Sudanese refugee. As I am a "mile wide, inch deep" kind of student, teaching grammar challenges my patience-- it's vocabulary that's really fun. (That's the attitude that earned me a "C" in high school Latin.) I would encourage everyone to get involved in an E.S.L. volunteer program if you're near one; you'll learn as much as you teach.

**John Dunham (PhD 1996):** I celebrated my fifth year working for KU as a GIS specialist for the Kansas Data Access and Support Center, located at the Kansas Geological Survey. Still testing and verifying newly delivered Kansas datasets, I have also been involved in GIS education and spreading the word about the DASC ([gisdasc.kgs.ku.edu](http://gisdasc.kgs.ku.edu)), and various presentations. I have



been creating many thematic maps used by Gov. Sebelius' staff in policy decisions involving wind-energy development in the Kansas Flint Hills. Among other projects, I completed testing the new 2002 digital orthophotos for Kansas, a time-consuming task. On the home front, wife Cindy (KU Geography, '84) and I are kept busy with high-school junior daughter Tricia's basketball games, both winter (Lawrence

Free State HS) and summer. Tricia plays varsity basketball for Free State, which means lots of travel to games. Among other excitement this past year was a family vacation to the Florida panhandle in August (before Hurricane Ivan), where we spent time with KU Geography Renaissance man Kelly Gregg and wife Karen. There was also yet another annual road trip with fellow KU Geography alum Jerry Whistler to visit KU Geography quasi-legend, Al Arbogast, and his family in East Lansing, Michigan. Another KU Geography legend, Dave Baumgartner, was also able to make it in from the Great White North (Dakota). The highlight was the MSU-Ohio State football game - this year, I actually convinced the gang to stay for the whole game, even though MSU folded in the end, as predicted by Al.

**Daniel Gilewitch (MA 1992):** I am currently an Assistant Professor (my second tour) at West Point and having a great time. Life is good. My on-line bio is <http://usmasvdzdeanext/departments/geo/Faculty&Staff/bio-gilewitch.htm>.



**Michael Handley (MA 1994; PhD 1996):**

It has been another lovely year in Portland. After three years of working directly with refugees at IRCO (the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization), I took over the agency's volunteer tutor program this January. It is suprisingly challenging work, but it is the first job I have ever loved. No two days the same. Sue and I

spent part of the summer in England. After twelve years of feeling guilty about my negative opinion of Exeter, where I studied on graduate exchange, it was something of a relief to realize that it is, in fact, something of a dump. The rest of the trip was quite grand, especially three days on the Oxford Canal in my U of Exeter classmate's housebarge. Travelling by barge was possibly the most fun I've ever had. Yoyo the elderly cat, for anyone following these yearly reports, remains in only slightly

less kittenish good health.

**Joseph Kerski (MA 1993):** I serve as education geographer at the USGS in Colorado and part-time instructor of GIS at the University of Denver. During 2004, I taught workshops in Costa Rica, the UK, and in Texas, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Missouri, Minnesota, Michigan, California, Colorado, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Illinois.

**Fritz C. Kessler (PhD 1999):** Currently, I am half-way through my sixth year in service to the Department of Geography at Frostburg State University. July witnessed the publication of a coauthored work entitled Thematic Cartography and Geographic Visualization. The other authors include Terry Slocum, Robert McMaster, and Hugh Howard. I also made application for a sabbatical and tenure, both of which have been granted. In March, 2006 I will apply for promotion to Associate Professor.

**Taylor E. Mack (MA 1992):** I am still teaching geography courses at Mississippi State University. I am busy with teaching and committee work, and try to do some research when I can. I presented a paper at the AAG Centennial meeting in Philadelphia in March, and at the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographer (CLAG) meeting in Antigua, Guatemala in May. At the AAG conference I stepped down after serving 2 terms as president of the Latin American Specialty Group, and am currently a board member of CLAG. The highlight of my year was spending 3 months in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, conducting archival research in the National Archives of Honduras. I am gathering sources on the Pacific coast port of Amapala, contraband trade, and the Honduran military in the mid-1800s. I also discovered a few sources on a failed Confederate settlement in Honduras after the Civil War, and hope to pursue this topic in the near future.

**Chuck Martin (MA 1985; PhD 1990):** This past year has been another busy one for the Martin family. On the professional side, I completed my fifteenth academic year in the Geography Department at Kansas State University. Hard to believe it has been that long!! In addition to teaching responsibilities, I continue to serve as Director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Secondary Major, an interdisciplinary program with nearly 100 active students from across the university. Summers find me and the family in Giessen, Germany, where I do field and lab work on heavy metal storage in the Lahn River basin. I also returned to some old research roots with a student who examined historical channel change along the Cimarron River in southwestern Kansas. Sabine began her second year working as a hydrogeologist with the Hazardous Substance Research Center at Kansas State. And if that wasn't enough, she continues to work as part-time consultant with an environmental firm in Salina. Our work schedules became much more flexible this fall when Christine, our youngest, began first grade. Nicholas is currently in fifth grade, and almost as tall as his mother. Both have retained their German language skills, in no small part because they hear a fair amount of the language around the house and are immersed in it for at least six weeks in the summer. Between soccer, swimming, and ice hockey in the winter, it's a busy life! With all the activity, I still found the time to savor the end of many decades of frustration when the Red Sox won the World Series this year. The final out took me back to a Saturday evening in Lawrence in October 1986, as Ric

Miller and I watched in stunned silence while a harmless grounder trickled through Bill Buckner's legs in Game 6. (If Rob Shapiro reads this, I'm sorry for knocking the beer out of your hand that night as you cheered for your Mets!) After '67, '75, '78, '86, and '03, finally, finally, they did it ....

**Dave Ridgway (MA 1992):** I am still teaching eighth grade social studies in Connecticut. All of my students can confidently locate Kansas on a U.S. map, although one of them thinks the big square state directly to the west is "Spain". Maybe she, too, has hung out at that pool hall in Canon City. Karen T. and I were invincible there. I visited Lawrence in October, and Maine and Nova Scotia last summer. New England is nice, but the famous fall foliage loses its charm when you have to rake it. Hello to all my grad school colleagues - I hope you're all doing well.

**Amy Rork (MA 1997):** The year has improved a lot in the past two months! I recently quit my job to concentrate on some badly needed home clean up and re-organization, and to pursue that great euphemism - other opportunities (ie sewing, a small consignment furniture business, something crafty, etc.) Good news includes the arrival of granddaughter Mary Katherine in March - she's a cutie and just as much fun as her brother Will (3). My kids are all fine, working, and busy with their lives. Excursions this year were limited to TX, to be with my mom, and a September jaunt to Cape May, NJ. Cape May was a pleasant surprise from other East Coast experiences - nice beach, quaint hotel and town surroundings, good birding sites, a neat lighthouse and some shopping. Hope to get in some Midwest traveling soon while Gerald and I are still on the lam from 8-5 work. Happy holidays to all!

**Steve Schnell (MA1994; PhD 1998):** I am still living and teaching in Kutztown, PA, with Lisa and two-year-old daughter Marina. In February, we bought our first home, a passive-solar home just outside of town, and we've enjoyed the usual jaunts to the hardware store for home improvement projects. We're also looking forward to finally being able to plant rhubarb and asparagus (both of which require multiple years to produce). If



you're interested in catching up on Garden Park from your field camp days, I have written an article (along with Curt Sorenson, Soren Larsen, Matt Dunbar, and Erin McGrogan) about Garden Park for the journal *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* entitled "Old West and New West in Garden Park, Colorado." It explores the rapid changes coming to the Fourmile Creek valley (and to much of the Rocky Mountain

West) as ranches give way to subdivisions. By the time you read this, it should be in print in the Winter 2004 issue, pp. 34-49.

**Bjorn Sletto (MA 1999):** I spent the better part of the past couple of years in the Gran Sabana, Venezuela, doing dissertation research on the political ecology of fire and also conducting an activist, participatory mapping project with the indigenous Pemon people. I was funded by Fulbright-Hays, an NSF geography dissertation fellowship and a MacArthur foundation peace studies fellowship. Right now I am writing my dissertation and teaching GIS as a Lecturer at Cornell, and next year I will finish up my dissertation while a Mellon Fellow in the Society for Humanities at Cornell.

**Janice Sterling (MA 1996):** I accepted a promotion at USDA-NRCS as Cartographer, in Fort Worth TX. My start date is December 27, so I'll be leaving my job at US Army in Fort Riley.

**Hedley Swan (PhD 1995):** Professional news: none. I think I have finally retired after kidding myself for a number of years that I hadn't. Last spring I had surgery on my throat which has left me with a permanently hoarse voice, ruling out teaching or most other professional activity. However, I haven't consigned myself to a rocking chair yet. I am kept busy managing my real estate portfolio and clearing up after 4 teenage children.

**Karen Trifonoff (PhD 1994):** Greetings to all KU geographers, past and present. I am in my 13<sup>th</sup> year at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, and have found time to get together at local geography meetings with other KU alums, Steve Schnell, who is over at Kutztown, and Jim Hughes at Slippery Rock. The PA State System narrowly avoided a strike last year but things are moving along smoothly, at least for another few years. The

highlight of the year for me was a trip to Scotland for the IGU and also a preconference on Geography Education. The preconference field trips were great, except for the fact that the trip to the whisky distillery was cancelled due to landslides. This fall along with the usual hectic course schedule, we also had to deal with those pesky elections. I have had a difficult time coming to terms with

the election results, as I live in a beautiful blue state, but my son and other family members live in Ohio land. To sort of bring some healing and closure, son Bart and I made blue and red state cookies instead of turkeys.

**Laura Whayne (MA 1990):** I am still the librarian for the Kentucky Transportation Center at the University of Kentucky. My work is challenging and enjoyable. I am always learning something new. Over the holidays my family and I will be taking a cruise to the Eastern Caribbean. We will visit Bermuda, St. John and St. Thomas of the Virgin Islands, and St. Maarten. I am really looking forward to it as I have never been to that part of the world nor been on a cruise.

**Alan D. Ziegler (MA 1991)** I am an Affiliated Assistant Research Professor at University of Hawaii. Based in Chiang Mai Thailand, I am working on various projects related to watershed science, hydrological processes, erosion, process geomorphology, and climate change. Project sites include Hawaii, Thailand, China, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Vietnam. During the last year I co-hosted special sessions on tropical hydrology at the 2003 Fall American Geophysical Union Conference in San Francisco and an IUFRO Forest Hydrology Workshop in Sabah, Malaysia during July 2004. I am currently co-editing a special issue for the Forest Ecology and Management journal dedicated to tropical watershed processes. I maintain a website ([webdata.soc.hawaii.edu/hydrology](http://webdata.soc.hawaii.edu/hydrology)) where information, publications, and photos related to my research can be found.

00's

**Gabriella (Gabby Cohen) Blair (MA 2004):** Jason and I moved to Omaha, NE for his job with the Corps of Engineers in June, bought a house and are expecting our 1st baby in early March. Since pregnancy and soil field/lab work doesn't really go together, I am working part time at Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue, NE as an environmental Educator with K-6 school groups- it is fun and keeps me busy. I'll try to find a job more suited to my degree within the next year or so once jr. gets a little bigger! We are excited about the baby and miss Lawrence more than we ever expected!

**Craig Davis (MA 2001):** Greetings from Sacramento. I hope this note finds everyone well in these crazy times. I am still at Sacramento City College and was awarded tenure (end of probation) at the end of the spring semester. I have also found myself newly elected to the board of the California Geographical Society <http://www.calgeog.org/>. We are looking forward to our upcoming annual conference, which happens to be in Yosemite NP. Feel free to join us. I still keep in touch with some department alums and get the chance to see Jason Shields and John Banning on a semi-regular basis. Jason and I were able to take a backpacking trip into the Trinity Alps in July and had a great time despite an emergency room visit and a beverage fiasco. I was likewise graced with a visit from Josh Artman as he motored around the west this fall. I have



been able to keep up some pretty interesting travels and count myself lucky to have the time off. I have also been fortunate enough to lead field courses throughout California and Baja California, allowing me the opportunity to expose students to a variety of locales, environments and cultures. This semester's course in Lassen Volcanic National Park was a smashing success. I hope to make it to the AAGs in Denver and catch up with some of the KU gang. If not, I am sure I will attend the 2007 meeting in San Francisco. Until then...

**Soren Larsen (PhD 2002):** My wife Kristi and I recently were blessed with the arrival of our second son, Eli James, on October 12. He came in at 6lbs, 8oz and, at least for the moment, appears to look quite a lot like his dad (particularly striking in their resemblance is the non-stop drooling and slobbering!). The entire family is doing well in Statesboro, enjoying the 80-degree days in November but missing the Midwestern fall foliage. I continue to work in northern British Columbia, but recently have become involved in a Global Partnerships research program studying the Gullah/Guichee peoples of the Caribbean. My next trip will be to Jamaica and then later to the Turks and Caicos islands - quite a change of pace from the snow and ice-laden lands of Canada!

**Julie Morris (MA 2004):** After graduation in August, my husband and I moved to KC. I found a job with Catholic Charities in KCK teaching ESL to refugees, mostly from Africa. My primary group of students are Somali Bantu women who speak but are illiterate in Mai Mai, making English learning that much harder. All at once they are learning how to speak, write and read English and are making great progress. I usually have 4 or 5 students between the ages of 19 and 46. That's where I am!

**Michael Noll (MA 1993; PhD 2000):** The Noll Family has had a great year, although I recently started to consider emigrating with Karen, Jonathan and Sophia to Canada (how about

Germany?) as a result of the last elections. Now I could entertain you with such stories as the first tooth fairy coming to our house or Dad's unsuccessful attempts to understand the world of *Pokemons*, but I just ran across a description of "Bubba Claus" (author unknown) who apparently is a cousin of Santa Claus and seems to be helping out with the deliveries of toys to all the good boys and girls in the South. There are some noticeable differences between Bubba Claus and Santa Claus: 1) There is no danger of the Grinch stealing the presents from Bubba Claus. He has a gun rack on his sleigh and a bumper sticker that reads: "These toys insured by Smith and Wesson." 2) Instead of milk and cookies, Bubba Claus prefers that children leave Coke and pork rinds on the fireplace. And, by the way, Bubba doesn't smoke a pipe. He dips a little snuff, so please have an empty spit can handy. 3) You won't hear "On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen" when Bubba Claus arrives. Instead, you will hear, "On Earnhardt, on Andretti, on Elliott and Petty." 4) "Ho, Ho, Ho!" has been replaced by "Yee Haw!" And you also are likely to hear Bubba's elves respond, "I her'd dat!" 5) As required by Southern highway laws, Bubba Claus' sleigh does have a Yosemite Sam safety triangle on the back with the words "Back Off." 6) The usual Christmas movie classics such as "Miracle on 34th Street" and "It's a Wonderful Life" will not be shown in your negotiated viewing area. Instead, you'll see "Boss Hogg Saves Christmas" and "Smokey and the Bandit IV" featuring Burt Reynolds as Bubba Claus and dozens of state patrol cars crashing into each other.- Merry Christmas y'all!

**Sun Park (PhD 2003):** I just survived my very first semester here. I taught three courses from the beginning - Remote sensing, quantitative methods, and physical geography. This is a lot! My son, Charles, and my wife are also adapting to this new environment. Charles started going to preschool, which gave his mom a little bit of a breather. They are spending some time right now in Korea. I couldn't go even though my only brother got married a couple of weeks ago. I had to teach! This is not an easy job. That's for sure. No freezing rain, no snow, no ice, but lots, lots of rain. So, if you don't like rain, this is not the place for you! Next semester? Another three courses are waiting for me. I may want to transplant some nice KU cartography tradition into this island because I will teach the course. So, let me know if you have some cutting-edge cartography stuff!! I'm still communicating with my advisors-Steve and Johan. We just finished proof-reading an article, which will be published in International Journal of Remote Sensing sometime next year. I will keep it posted!

**Matthew Sampson (MA 2000):** I'm now stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado after spending a year in Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to experience the arab culture as much as I would have liked due to the high terrorist threat. It is wonderful to be back in the USA and to be with my wife (Elaine) and children (Noah and Rachel) again.

**Patrick Taylor (MA 2004):** Not a ton of news but here is what is going on since graduating with MA in May. Working at Coffman Associates in Lee's Summit, MO as an Airport Planner. Basically I write master plans for airports around the country. A portion of the work involves extensive GIS work to visually identify development alternatives for the airport over a 20 year period or so. I get to travel for a few days nearly every month, using GPS to locate airport facilities for including in the master

plans. I also use GIS for site selection of new airports. Our company also does environmental and noise studies for airports. I have lead a transition from CAD to GIS software for these studies. Prior to my arriving there was only 1 ArcView 3.2 license here. Now there are 3 ArcGIS 8.3 licenses and 1 ArcGIS 9 license. I have also developed a number of VBA scripts for use in identifying parcels effected by noise around airports. Very enjoyable work that I would not have been qualified for without getting my masters at KU. On the personal front. Living in Lenexa with wife Beth and son Callan who is now 19 months old.

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## KU Geography Party at the AAG Meetings

The KU Geography Party will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2005, from 8:00-11:00 p.m. at Duffy's Shamrock Restaurant & Bar located at 1635 Court Place in Denver, Colorado. See you there!

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*