

# *KU GEOGRAPHY & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE*

FALL 2017 NEWS



# SNAPSHOTS



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**Professor Dan Hirmas**, far right, was an Integrated Arts Research Initiative (IRAI) Faculty Research Fellow with KU's Spencer Museum of Art this summer. The innovative program brings together academic disciplines and art. He worked with artists and provided soil cores that were incorporated into the Spencer's TERRA AN-IMA exhibit. PHOTO: Spencer Museum of Art Curator for Research Joey Orr (center), Associate Collection Manager Angela Watts (left) and Faculty Research Fellow Dan Hirmas (right) with soil cores used in the exhibit. Photo by Ryan Waggoner.



**At left:** graduate student Dakota Burt with a drone.



**At right, above:** The seemingly small addition of a new shared van parking space has proven to be a tremendous asset when packing up and unloading for field trips.



**At right below:** mortar boards are still decorated by students walking down the hill. We also hold our own recognition ceremony at Lindley Hall for graduates. This was one of our favorites from this year's ceremony!

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Nate Brunsell

## *Greetings from Lindley Hall!*



This has been a great and productive year for us in the department.

We welcome one new member to the department this Fall: Dr. Yasuyuki (Yas) Motoyama has joined the faculty this year as an assistant professor with a joint position with the School of Business. He joins the faculty after spending six years at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City where he was the Director of Research and Policy. He specializes in the economic geography, specifically the geography of entrepreneurship and innovation. This is an area of research that has been lacking in the department for quite some and he is already making a profound impact on the department!

The department saw the retirement of two faculty this year: Dr. Pete Shortridge and Dr. Donna Tucker. The department will greatly miss their contributions to the community in Lindley Hall! We wish them great happiness in all their future endeavors and hope they continue to pop into Lindley every once in a while to keep in touch!

The department went through our external review last spring and with the recommendations of the reviewers, we have focused on our efforts this year on revitalizing our curriculum. This has led to new Pathways towards the Geography degrees (stay tuned for more info!). The GIS certificates are now up and running for both undergrads and graduate students.

We launched several new initiatives in conjunction with our Alumni Board this year. In particular we held our first Career Day in which several companies came and interviewed students. There were several jobs and internships available, but this also helped to provide students with real world interview experience where they could receive feedback. This will be an annual event in the Spring. The Alumni Board is also working closely with the department on other initiatives, so get in touch with me if you'd like to participate.

One of the most notable changes around the department is the impending opening of the Earth, Energy and Environment Center. The buildings are nearing completion and we'll be teaching our Intro to Physical Geography there in the Spring! This will also open up some of the space in Lindley Hall for us to expand a little, which is always needed.

There are a number of new initiatives on the horizon as we move into the new year. We're finishing up our intensive focus on the curriculum, and now shifting to new ways to facilitate the diverse research experiences that we can offer our students. This requires continuing our efforts with new courses, new scholarship funds for research and teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as new facilities such as upgrading the computing and laboratory resources in the department. I look forward to updating you all on the many new things happening around the building. Feel free to contact me any time. **Rock Chalk!**

# FACULTY NEWS

## Dave Braaten



During the past year, Dave Braaten was unexpectedly thrust into the position of principal investigator (PI) of the Science and Technology Center (STC) funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) known as the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets (CReSIS). He knew this was a possibility from the time they started the Center in 2005, since the succession plan stated that he would take over as PI if the CReSIS PI (Prasad Gogineni) left KU. Prasad retired from KU in January, and also took a new position at the University of Alabama. His main job as PI this year has been to wrap up the NSF STC portion of CReSIS since the funding from NSF ended at the end of May 2017. Everything went fairly smoothly and a final report was written and submitted to NSF. A project outcomes summary was also written and is available at [www.research.gov](http://www.research.gov) for the CReSIS award (0424589) along with the extensive list of publications produced as a result of CReSIS.

The Center also produced a

legacy of radar instrumentation, and I submitted a new proposal to NSF this year to conduct radar measurements at Dome Fuji in East Antarctica. If funded, these measurements will be conducted next year as part of a Japanese, Norwegian and US over-ice traverse starting from Japan's Syowa Station.

## Nate Brunsell



In addition to his duties as department chair, Nate Brunsell found some time to investigate water and carbon cycling using eddy covariance and satellite data. These times usually came in the middle of the night, when the family was asleep. A research highlight of the year included the development of a new model to examine precipitation and burning on woody encroachment in the prairie. This work resulted from a collaboration with people at Konza as well as a mathematician. Another highlight included the work with the Land Institute on perennial agriculture.

On a personal note, the family journeyed to Costa Rica in July where they enjoyed seeing the sloths, monkeys, sea turtles, beaches, volcanoes and other fea-

tures. Along the way, there were also a few cups of coffee drunk.

## Abel Chikanda

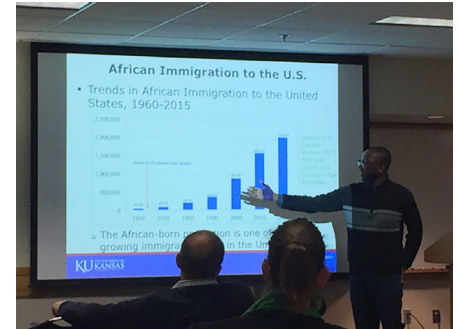


Photo: Abel giving a talk about the integration of African immigrants (KU Memorial Union).

Abel Chikanda continued working on his Kansas' Center for Migration Research funded project on the integration of African immigrants in the United States. He presented his research findings at a colloquium organized by the Center for Migration Research as well as at the Kansas Center for African Studies' *Ujamaa Food for Thought* lecture series.

He participated as a panelist on a workshop that was organized by the KU Center for Global & International Studies on *Executive Orders: Immigrants and Refugees*. He also gave a talk in Waterloo, ON (Canada) that examined the role of migration intermediaries in the movement of health professionals from the Global South.

Over the past year, he has published three journal articles, two book chapters and 3 project reports.

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## Alexander Diener



Alexander Diener begins his sixth year at the University of Kansas. During the 2016-2017 academic year he served as the interim Director of the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. With this administrative duty completed, he has returned to full time teaching in the Department of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences. Over the course of the past year he published "Assessing Potential Russian Irredentism and Separatism in Kazakhstan's Northern Oblasts" in the journal of Eurasian Geography and Economics, "Re-Scaling Citizenship: From Polis to Empire to State Formation and Beyond" in the Oxford Handbook of Citizenship, "Imagining Kazakhstani- stan: Negotiations of Homeland and Titular-Nationality" in Kazakhstan in the Making: Legitimacy, Symbols, and Social Changes, "Soviet Etchings on the Post-Soviet Parchment: The Past and Present of Mobility and Migration" in Questioning Post-Soviet, and saw his article, "Parsing Mobilities in Central Eurasia: Border Management and New Silk Roads," reprinted in The Central

Asia-Afghanistan Relation from Soviet Intervention to the US Silk Road Initiative. Alex also co-authored "Political Geography, New Regionalism, and Re-scaling Identity" with Austin Charron, in the SAIS Review and "Changing Modalities of Power in the 21st Century" with Joshua Hagen in Border Politics: Defining Spaces of Governance and Forms of Transgression. In the coming academic year Alex expects to see his co-edited book Urban Space, Place, and National Identity published along with a number of other works.

Alex has been a member of several university and departmental committees, while also serving on the Fulbright Selection Committee for South and Central Asia, as Opponent and Pre-Examiner for a Doctoral Dissertation at University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu. Alex represents the American Geographical Society in the Geography Education National Implementation Project (GENIP), serves on the Fellowship Selection Committee for the American Center for Mongolian Studies, and is on the editorial board for the Journal of Eurasian Geography and Economics. To advance his ongoing research projects, Alex was fortunate to attain funding from the College of Arts and Sciences General Faculty Research Fund, the Center for Migration Studies Research Seed Grant, and the Center for East Asian Studies Research Grant. Alex presented papers at the AAG, CESS,

Kennan Institute, and the Fischer Workshop at the University of Illinois. He also delivered invited lectures at the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Texas Asia Conference at the University of Texas at Austin, the Radcliffe Workshop on Urban Studies Fieldwork, Hokkaido University's Slavic Eurasian Research Center and the Graduate School of Public Policy's Border Studies Summer School, and the Oxford Handbook on Citizenship, Authors Conference in Florence, Italy.

## Steve Egbert



Steve Egbert is happy to report that the past year has seen a significant number of his M.A. and Ph.D. students complete their degrees and in most cases, go on to new jobs. Another three to five students will complete their degrees in the coming year. The satisfaction of seeing graduate students complete their theses and dissertations, especially for those who have encountered obstacles along the way, is truly one of the best parts of the job. His research in the past several years has turned almost exclusively to the impacts of Native land allotments, which has been funded in

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part by the Indian Land Tenure Foundation and the KU General Research Fund. Combining archival research records with GIS mapping and analysis capabilities permits him to merge two of his long-term interests. He makes regular research visits to the National Archives, both the main archive in Washington, DC and to branch archives in Kansas City, Denver, and Fort Worth. Each time, he makes new discoveries and has now photographed well over 10,000 records related to land allotment. Now all he needs to do is catalog them, analyze them, and put them online!

He presented a paper this November at the 12<sup>th</sup> Native American Symposium on the frauds committed in conjunction with allotment of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. He also continues to work with fellow faculty members at Haskell Indian Nations University and plans to submit one or more grant proposals with them in the coming year.

## Peter Herlihy



Since 2013, Peter Herlihy and Jerry Dobson, and their team of graduate students have trav-

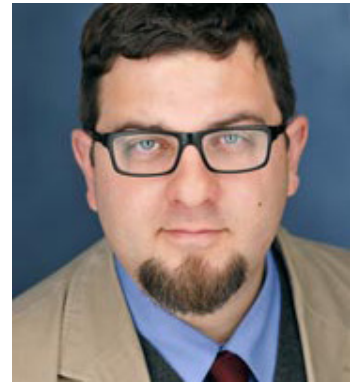
eled extensively and dedicated their time to researching the intersection of land tenure, natural resource management, and forest conservation in indigenous territories of Central America on a prestigious US DoD Minerva Initiative Grant. They have collaborated with indigenous, university, government, and NGO partners through participatory research mapping (PRM) case studies in Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica. A recent publication detailing some of the novel cartographic results appeared in *Cartographica* 52(1) by Peter and his past and present KU graduate students John Kelly (U. Wisconsin-La Crosse), Andrew Hilburn (Texas A & M International U), Taylor Tappan, and Matt Fahrenbruch.

Matt is now on a Fulbright Grant in Nicaragua doing his dissertation research on niche jellyfish markets, while Taylor is applying for external funding to begin his next year on indigenous territoriality and land use/land cover change in Costa Rica. The team also welcomes a new MA student, John Paul Henry, as he formulates his thesis research on indigenous and and resource management in Honduras using participatory videography.

Peter and students are also working with Costa Rican geographers to organize the May 2018 35th Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers in San José, Costa Rica. Please come, to enjoy or present/publish your geo-

graphic research on Latin America. See website at <http://clag-2018costarica.ku.edu/>

## Daniel Hirmas



This year, Dan Hirmas took on a new PhD student, Aaron Koop, who finished his MS degree with him last year examining the role of pedostratigraphy on the development and morphology of first-order canyon walls in the Arikaree Breaks of northwestern Kansas. For his dissertation, he is developing and applying a new quantitative model of soil genesis to understand the formation of soil morphological properties throughout the Great Plains.

His PhD student, Awesta Mohammed, is expected to finish her dissertation Spring 2018. One of her dissertation chapters where she quantified soil structure by applying an image analysis technique to soil profile photographs was published in the *Soil Science Society of America Journal (SSSAJ)* last year. This work opened up new questions about the characterization of horizons that

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contain compound soil structure and resulted in another publication in SSSAJ this year with his colleague, Daniel Giménez, where they derived a new general equation for aggregating soil structural information within a horizon.

He continues to work with Kurdish colleagues at the University of Sulaimani, KRG, Iraq on a variety of projects that were begun last year including a special issue entitled "Soils of Kurdistan" in the journal *Soil Science*. Other work includes examining the effects of using waste water for long-term irrigation on soil properties and developing a more robust method for the characterization of active calcium carbonate.

## Jay T. Johnson



Professor Jay Johnson is pleased by the recent publication of his book, *Being together in place*, with co-author, KU Geography alum, and University of Missouri professor, Soren Larsen. With the book finally in print, Professors Larsen and Johnson have begun the next stage of their research together with two publications

currently in process and plans for their next book underway. Jay has had the opportunity over the past few months to present some of the findings from *Being together in place* in plenary presentations at the Institute for Australian Geographers meeting in Brisbane, and the Royal Geographical Society meeting in London.

The Haskell Environmental Research Studies Internship program, a collaboration between KU and Haskell, has been awarded funding by the National Science Foundation to provide a pathways program aimed at preparing American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students for graduate study in STEM disciplines. Jay is the lead on this grant and will be directing the program over the next 5 years in collaboration with KU Environmental Studies Professor Joe Brewer, KU graduate students, and Haskell faculty members Dan Wildcat and Cody Marshall. In addition, Jay will be co-hosting a workshop early next year with Dr. Dan Wildcat entitled, *Mentoring Our Own Native Scientists*. This workshop is aimed at developing a model for preparing Native American students for scientific research and is funded through a National Science Foundation networking grant.

Looking forward, Jay will be organizing paper sessions at the combined meeting of the Institute of Australian Geographers and New Zealand Geographical Society in Auckland, NZ this coming July.

## William C. Johnson

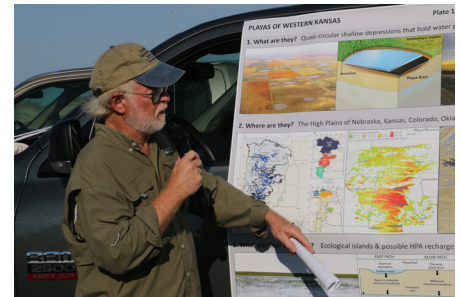


Photo: Bill presenting a field lecture in western Kansas to participants on the annual Kansas Geological Survey Kansas Field Conference for state legislators (August 2016)

Bill Johnson has had a pretty uneventful and low-profile professional year, primarily working with his students focusing on landslide modeling in Afghanistan, playa wetlands as point sources for recharge of the High Plains Aquifer, reconstruction of past climates from ancient soils, and deciphering prehistoric droughts from sand dune records.

Teaching-wise, in addition to the usual introductory physical geography lecture course and laboratory workbook editing, he and Steve Egbert offered a "beta" version of a new course on drone applications (piloting and data processing), which was facilitated by Bill's and graduate student Dakota Burt's drone pilot licensing and other training obtained at K-State Polytechnic in Salina. Bill has been and will continue spending most of his time preparing manuscripts for journal publication, at least until his retirement this coming summer of 2018.

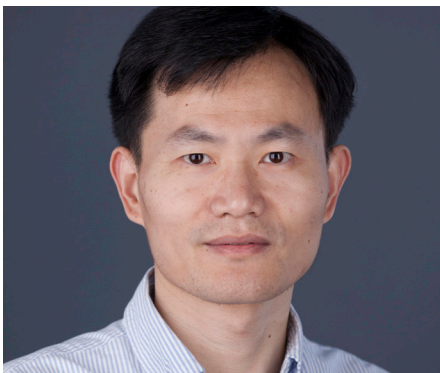
After forty years of teaching at

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KU, Bill figures that he has done this long enough, especially when combined with the prior years at UW-Milwaukee and the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Starting fall 2018, he and Claudia have a series of post-KU trips scheduled, e.g., Antarctica, Europe and the Mediterranean, and coastal South America.

Beyond that, Bill and Claudia plan to spend time in California wine country and Bill fly fishing with his son Ben in northern California.

## Ting Lei



During the past year, Ting Lei has been working on developing a graduate level Remote Sensing course (Remote Sensing of Environment II, Spring 2018), which, in addition to the new Location Modeling and Spatial Databases classes, is part of the curriculum for the GIS certificate program at KU Geography and Atmospheric Science. He worked on organizing the annual [GIS Day 2017](#) event as the faculty adviser. The one-day event aims at advocating the use and application of Geographic Information Systems

among students, and features guest speeches by experts and student poster competitions. Ting Lei also acted as the CTE (Center for Teaching Excellence) ambassador and attended the CTE activities for G.A.S.

He has completed a project for the Johnson Country governments, in collaboration with faculties from the School of Public Affairs & Administration and Department of Civil, Environmental & Architectural Engineering, as well as G.A.S. in investigating the relationship between residential property values and factors such as neighborhood characteristics, public investment, and infrastructure, among others.

## Xingong Li



is on sabbatical for the 2017-18 academic year. He spends most of his sabbatical time as a visiting professor in the Nanjing University in China, which is the university that Dr. Li got his Bachelor and Masters Degrees. He co-teaches a GIS course and collaborate with several professors and graduate students in the School of Geography and Ocean-

ography at the university.

Xingong attended the PECORA 20 conference (a special ASPRS conference focusing on Landsat remote sensing applications) in November at Sioux Falls, South Dakota and gave a half-day pre-conference workshop on spatiotemporal data analysis using Google Earth Engine. The workshop was well received by the conference attendants and got full registration. Xingong led the effort of establishing the GIS Certificate Programs for undergraduates and graduates and is currently serving as the director of the certificate programs. Both programs are now officially available in the university catalog and are open for enrollment and application.

## David Mechem



The Cloud Dynamics and Microphysics Group led by Prof. Mechem had a busy year. They were inadvertently involved in the construction of the new Earth, Energy, and Environment Center, with the EEEEC connecting to



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Lindley Hall through their old offices, necessitating a temporary 10-month stay on the third floor. The group recently moved back to the friendly confines of the second floor, right across the hall from their previous office.

Two new graduate students joined the group this fall. Jordan Eissner comes from Valparaiso University and will be working on a DOE-funded project to estimate shallow-cloud entrainment rates from radar observations. Laura Tomkins joins them from North Carolina State University and will be using the WRF model to help understand dramatic low-cloud clearing events off the coast of Africa.

This past summer, Dave was scheduled to participate in a DOE-sponsored aircraft field campaign headquartered in the Azores in the eastern North Atlantic. Unfortunately, problems with the small airline serving the Azores forced cancellation of the trip, so he spent the better part of the week in Massachusetts and New Hampshire participating in the forecast discussion and flight mission planning remotely via teleconference. In spite of the difficulties, 'virtual' participation in the field campaign was a fascinating and enjoyable experience. While in New Hampshire,

Dave made time to visit Mount Washington, a bucket-list item for meteorologists and home of the wind-speed record (231 mph, 372 km/h) for directly observed

winds not associated with a tropical cyclone.

## Yasuyuki (Yas) Motoyama



Yas joined the department as an assistant professor in August 2017 after six years of work as Director of Research and Policy at the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City.

His research area is in economic geography, particularly innovation and entrepreneurship. As he studies newly emerging local systems of entrepreneurship, such as in Kansas City, St. Louis, and Chattanooga, his works were cited in [Fast Company](#), [Montana Public Radio](#), and [Investigative Report](#). In April, he was invited as a keynote speaker at two events in Montana where Governor Bullock was also present. In the fall, he teaches an undergraduate course about economic geography and looks forward to teaching graduate students in upcoming semesters. *Read the faculty spotlight in this issue to learn more about Yas.*

## Shannon O'Lear



is in the second year of her position as Director of the Center for Global and International Studies which captures half of her faculty line. However, she continues to be active in both the Geography and Environmental Studies Programs. This fall, she is teaching an undergraduate class on political geography which is the first time this course has been offered in the department. Last year, she introduced two of her students to each other: Nicole Reiz, then writing her doctoral dissertation, and Dory Tuininga, then completing a Geography major with a focus on cartography. Zoom to present...Prof. O'Lear is delighted to be third author on a paper co-authored with Nicole and Dory. The paper is titled "Exploring a Critical Legal Cartography: Law, Practice, and Complexities" and it blends the interests and expertise of all three co-authors. It has been accepted for publication in *Geography Compass*. Shannon has also just completed the manuscript for a book *Environmental Geopolitics*. The book will be published by Rowman & Littlefield in

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February 2018, just in time for the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in New Orleans in the spring.

## David Rahn



Another year has gone by so fast! Dave's research over the last year has included topics such as the orographic precipitation gradient over the Andes Mountains in central Chile and an atmospheric hydraulic jump in the Santa Barbara Channel.

His graduate student, Andrew Fisher, received his M.S. last spring after successfully defending his work that examined numerical simulations and observations of the coastal jet in southern California.

Dave's looking forward to an upcoming trip to Iceland this winter. Why settle for 9.5 hours of daylight in Lawrence, when you can have just 4 in Reykjavik!

## Justin Stachnik



Justin Stachnik continues to establish his teaching and research program at KU. Now in his second year, he has had the experience of teaching several courses including Introductory Meteorology (ATMO 105) while also mentoring all of the graduate student meteorology lab instructors. Justin has also enjoyed expanding the Senior Seminar (ATMO 697) course and having his upper-level students write proposals, complete peer-editing assignments, and learn about effective methods for communicating science. He is currently teaching his first graduate special topics (ATMO 731) course on Clouds, Climate, and Precipitation, which focuses on large-scale dynamics and the properties of cloud and precipitating systems across the entire world. Justin had two graduate students join his research group this fall (Brett Chrisler and Trenton Spencer) who will both be completing projects related to climate dynamics and the tropical Madden-Julian oscillation. Justin will be travelling to the American Meteorological Society (AMS)

Annual Meeting in January 2018 where he will present some of his recent work on the state of clouds in reanalysis data. For the second year, he will also run a Departmental booth at the AMS Career Fair with the hope to recruit more talented students into the graduate program at KU.

## Cornelius van der Veen



Over the last couple of years Kees has continued his side-project of exploring the stretch of the Old National Road and U.S. 40 running from Wheeling, West Virginia, to Vandalia, Illinois, mainly as he traveled back and forth to and from Ohio several times per year. The initial motivation was – apart from finding a more interesting route than I-70 – to explore what segments of the old road still exist, and how technological progress has continued to accommodate the ever-present automobile. In the process, the nature of small towns, now bypassed by the Interstate, has changed dramatically as these once thriving communities became obsolete to the modern traveler. So, he started looking for abandoned or repurposed motels,

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gas stations, and other roadside vernacular. After a while he could not help but notice, however, how the landscape revealed more than just a simple history of travel across the United States. As noted by political geographer Don Mitchell, the landscape is also the spatial form that social justice or injustice takes, as a concretization of social relations, and as a foundation for the further development of those relations. Indeed, travelling U.S. 40 through Columbus, Ohio, clearly shows the affluent neighborhoods like Bexley, the rejuvenated downtown and Arena district, and German Village, clearly separated from less-wealthy neighborhoods by a network of Interstates and major highways that have created distinct and plainly visible boundaries.

And the same can be said for Indianapolis, with its Hispanic population concentrated on the west side, and the African American population on the east side. While many (historic) preservation efforts are underway in many neighborhoods, city planners hardly ever seem to consider the effect of such efforts, especially if these are successful. In Columbus, German Village is heralded as one of the earlier success stories, ever since the German Village Society and German Village Commission were created in 1960 by the City of Columbus, to protect the architecture and control commercial and private development. While many homes have been renovated, the average cost of living has skyrocketed, especially those homes surround-

ing Schiller Park. As a result, the neighborhood has become mostly a place for young urban professionals with no children and large disposable incomes. The original German population, who settled the neighborhood in the early to mid 19th century, and who worked mainly in the industries located on Columbus' South End, would not be able to afford living in the neighborhood these days. And this encroachment on traditional neighborhoods continues, driving out the original, less affluent, population to ever-distant peripheral neighborhoods. The history of building the Eisenhower system of Interstates in the 1960s, and the (unintended) role played by the Housing Act of 1949, illustrates vividly the social injustice visible in the landscape. Descended from New Deal legislation to replace slums with housing through private enterprise and create "a decent home and a suitable living environment," the Act set the wheels in motion to clear the land in the name of what came to be known as "urban renewal." With money to level working-class housing – termed "slums" – but not put up public housing, with funds to builders and business districts – but not to owners – the act worked in the opposite direction: it shuffled the poor and flattened downtowns. This, and other federal legislation sacrificed working-class communities on the altar of development, aggravating racial and class differences, and obliterated neighborhoods. For him, simply traveling the road and frequently stopping to take

pictures, is not enough anymore to satisfy his curiosity and desire to know what actually happened and, perhaps more importantly, why.

## Barney Warf



Barney Warf serves as editor of *The Professional Geographer* and *Geojournal* and co-editor of *Growth and Change*, editor-in-chief for geography for the Oxford Bibliographies On-line, and editor for the Rowman and Littlefield book series Human Geography in the New Millennium. In 2016, he published papers in *Geojournal*, *Asian Geographer*, and *Journal of Latin American Geography*. His research volume on e-government in Asia as well as the edited volume *Handbook on Geographies of Technology* appeared in early 2017. Barney has ten book chapters either appear in print or forthcoming. He also has a forthcoming edited *Encyclopedia of the Internet* and *Handbook on Geographies of Corruption*, and a monograph on *Global Geographies of Corruption*. In November, he traveled to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to initiate a cooperative agreement between KU and Prince Sultan University. In his spare time, he indulges in his passions for jazz, wine, sleazy action movies, politics, and historical fiction.



# EMERITI FACULTY NEWS

## ROBERT MCCOLL

This was a rough year in terms of losing so many family, friends and colleagues. But, that comes with age - naturally. I remain generally healthy, for my age - now 79- but I notice a lack of energy. Happily I traveled widely earlier so I have many memories and photos, and the internet provides virtually endless resources, information and data. And living among so many elderly, I can note normal or natural aging ailments, especially in restaurants. This helps psychologically.

Especially welcome has been data provided by ResearchGate on who is using and following my articles. This had led to some welcome interactions - mostly in Europe.

I still try to travel to and explore Spain every year. Much still to learn. Another unique geography(ies) is Morocco. Too often we ignore what a barrier the Atlantic was, yet what a rich resource it also provided, especially in terms of fisheries.

My main lesson/insight this year has been just how parochial is American education. This clearly affects our international behavior on all fronts and at all levels. It also reinforces the value of the US Military's education and emphasis on FAST (Foreign Area Specialist) programs and officers - especially with their emphasis on culture and language.

## CURTIS SORENSON

Things are winding down for the season in Cripple Creek. We just returned from a two-week, four-state tour of parks and fall colors by motorcycle. Arches and Zion national parks were especially nice at this time of year. I poured my last drink at the Boiler Room Tavern before our trip, and I probably won't tend bar next year.

I'm still the Senior Vice Commander of the American Legion here, and on Father's Day this year, we turned over keys to a house belonging to a disabled veteran that we had completely renovated over the previous 9 months. I was the project lead for this effort which garnered national publicity and brought in nearly \$50,000 and 2500 hours of volunteer labor leading to completion.

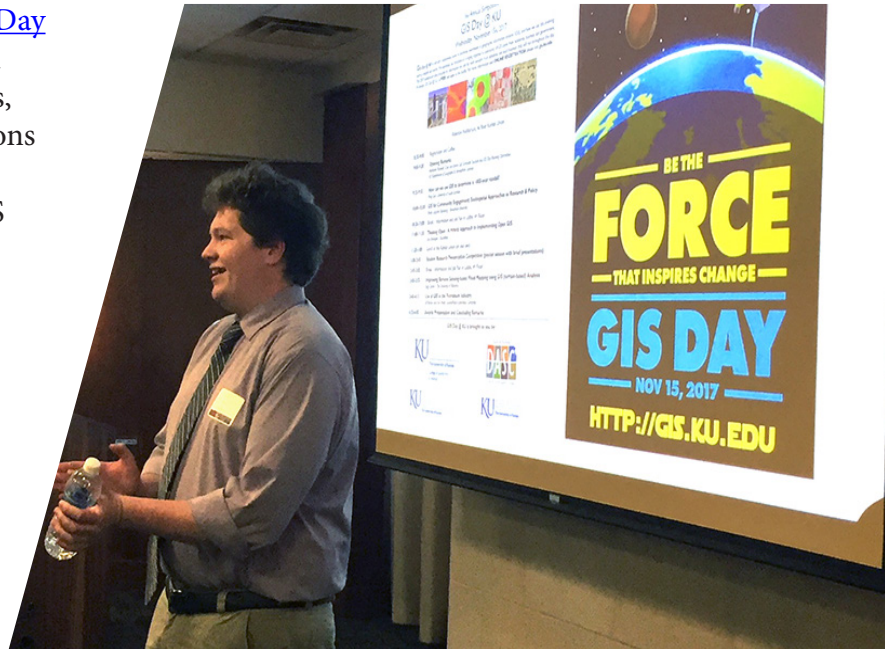
Peggy finished her season at the Old Homestead House (brothel) Museum and continues as Treasurer for the 2 Mile High Club, which is the oldest nonprofit organization in the state of Colorado, and is charged with care of the local feral donkey herd. We provide feed, shelter and veterinary care for 17 animals that are descendants of the donkeys that historically worked the underground gold mines of Cripple Creek.

We are also very active in the Gold Camp Victorian Society where we play dress-up and shoot our guns in parades, while generally having a good time promoting the history of the World's Greatest Gold Camp.

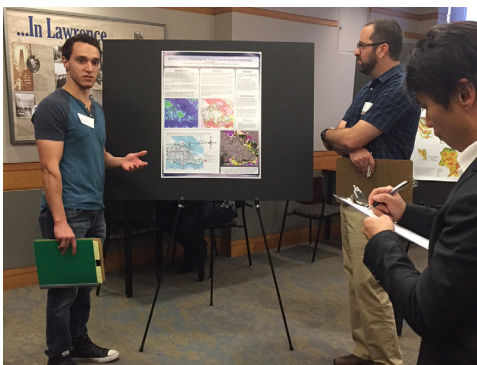
Also this year we raised funds to install rebuilt windows and a new door in the Historic Garden Park School, located just south of the KU field facility. As always we like to see old friends, and keep plenty of cold beer in the refrigerator. So if you are in the vicinity, stop in and say hello.

# GIS DAY 2017

The 16th Annual [University of Kansas GIS Day](#) was a great success, with students, staff, and faculty from KU, plus visitors from business, non-profits, and other educational institutions visiting campus to celebrate and learn more about Geographic Information Science. GIS Day is a national event and KU's GIS Day had one of the best turnouts in its 16-year history. The event was planned by a dedicated committee, led by Geography & Atmospheric Science graduate student James Coll. Professor Ting Lei served as the faculty advisor. Department chair Nate Brunsell and James Coll delivered the opening remarks.



Six guest speakers from around the country spoke on a variety of GIS topics throughout the day at the Kansas Union's Alderson Auditorium. Outside of the auditorium was the GIS Jobs and Info Fair, including a well-attended informational table from our department.



A poster competition in the afternoon drew undergraduate and graduate participants from a variety of fields. Several of the GIS Day guest speakers served as judges.

## FEATURED 2017 GIS DAY SPEAKERS

**Peng Gao**  
Research Associate, Dept. of Geography,  
University of Southern Carolina:  
*How can we use GIS to determine a 1000-year rainfall?*

**Sheila Lakshmi Steinberg**  
Professor, Social and Environmental Sciences, Brandman University  
*GIS for Community Engagement: Sociospatial Approaches to Research & Policy*

**John Branigan**  
Solutions Engineer, Boundless  
*Thinking Open - A Hybrid Approach to Implementing Open GIS*

**Sagy Cohen**  
Associate Professor, Department of Geography, The University of Alabama  
*Improving Remote Sensing-based Flood Mapping using GIS (terrain-based) Analysis*

**Ulf Becker and Ken Hood**  
ExxonMobil Exploration Company  
*Use of GIS in the Petroleum Industry*



# CARTOGRAPHY & GEOSPATIAL SERVICES



**Dr. Di Shi** heads up our Cartography & Geospatial Services, which provides data services, cartographic services, and statistical services, all in an effort to foster excellence in research and scholarship. Services include but are not limited to GIS, Remote Sensing, Cartography, and Spatial Statistical Analysis. A variety of fields can benefit from these services, from the humanities and social sciences to business and industry. We collaborate on academic proposals and publications and do contract services as well.

For more information on our services, contact:

Dr. Di Shi, Lindley all room 212, [dishi@ku.edu](mailto:dishi@ku.edu), 785-864-5535 or visit [spatial.ku.edu](http://spatial.ku.edu)

## NEW NEIGHBORS - THE EEEEC

We're excited to have new neighbors, the **Earth, Energy & Environment Center**. The "EEEC" consists of two new buildings (Ritchie and Slawson Halls) both with state-of-the-art labs and classrooms. We're actually attached (see photo at right). Our colleagues in Geology are moving to the new center, which will free up more room for us in Lindley Hall, but we're also excited to have a few classes held in the EEEEC as well! Welcome neighbor!



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# JOE EAGLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Joe Eagleman established and grew the Atmospheric Science program (formerly Meteorology) at the University of Kansas during his 39 years at KU, until his retirement in 2001. He developed technology that was adopted nationally and wrote four textbooks used widely in the field. His legacy is being honored through a generous endowment from a former student of Eagleman's, Donald J. Perkey, Ph.D. , and his wife, M. Nadine Perkey. They have established the Joe Eagleman Scholarship for Atmospheric Science students.

The Joe Eagleman Scholarship supports undergraduate students with financial need majoring in Atmospheric Science at KU. Additionally, the endowment was established to assist the University in one of its most important stated missions, increasing diversity. We are very grateful for the vision and generosity of the Perkeys and are proud to announce the first recipients of this scholarship. A selection committee of Atmospheric Science faculty determines the amount of the awards, and may select recipients based on criteria that will contribute to diversity within the student body, including race and gender, but these will not be dispositive of a decision. The selection committee this year announced not one, but three recipients, all outstanding seniors. The Joe Eagleman Scholarship will help them in their final, critical year of study.

The three recipients for the 2017-2018 academic year are:  
**Carissa Allen - Caitlyn Sutherlin - Carson Vickroy**



*“I am very grateful to receive the Joe Eagleman Scholarship, and am very excited to start my senior year.”*  
*Caitlyn Sutherlin*

Caitlyn Sutherlin is an Atmospheric Science and Biology major. She has done work with Professor Nate Brunsell toward a better understanding of perennial agriculture in the face of climate change.

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# ALUMNI BOARD

*From Mark Burger, Chair of the Alumni Board*

The Department of Geography & Atmospheric Science Alumni Board held its first teleconference meeting in mid-September to discuss priorities for the upcoming academic year.

Among those include a new fundraising campaign being led by board member Heather Putnam in consultation with KU Endowment to raise money for essential computer lab equipment.

Board Vice Chairman Dan Rose, B.G.S Geography (2013), is spearheading the creation of an interactive and easily updatable alumni map that will allow users the ability to better connect with old friends and build informative subsets off these data.

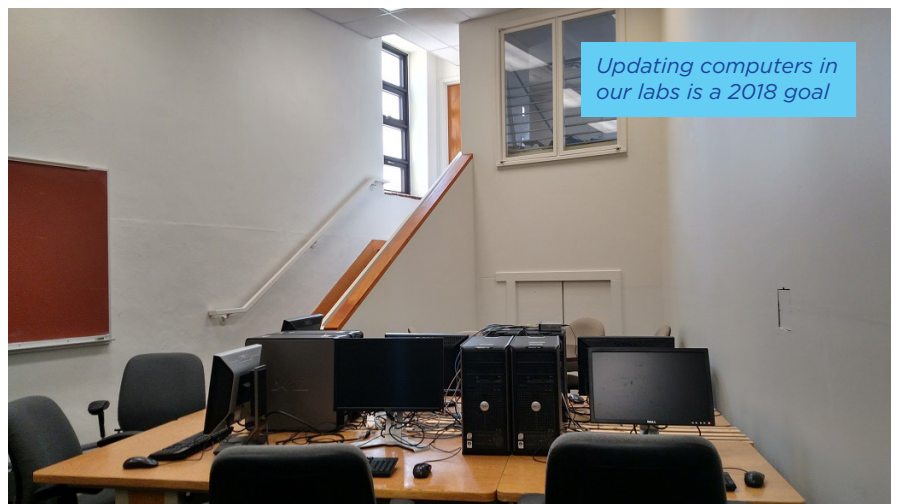


Additional efforts are being directed to provide students career guidance directly from professionals in the field at the November evening career expo, as well as mock interviewing and a resume review session planned for the spring. Additionally, the Board seeks to better integrate with the student chapter organizations in the Department on an ongoing basis to offer professional mentoring and advice. Board Chairman Mark Burger, B.S. Atmospheric Science (1998), M.B.A. (2010), is assisted in these efforts by the Vice Chair and five other board members, as well as two honorary members, who provide subject matter expertise and professional guidance to the students and the Department.

BOARD MEMBERS: Mark Burger, Dan Rose, Heather Putnam, Brian Thomas, Nathan Wendt, Tom Schmiedler, and Kimberly Penner

## 2018 FUNDRAISING

In 2018, our sights are set on upgrading the computers & software for the labs that were renovated a few years ago. These are needed to continue providing excellence in essential data and skills. Follow us on social media to learn more about a special fundraising campaign this spring! Our accounts are listed on the last page of this issue. #RockChalk!







# THANK YOU FOR GIVING

Your gift makes all the difference in the lives of our students, our faculty, and our classrooms - both inside Lindley Hall and in the field. Contributions have helped students with tuition, research funds, travel funds, special events including our Graduation Recognition Ceremony, guest speakers, and more. We are so grateful for alumni contributions of any amount and we thank you for your generosity. Don't see your name below? Let us know! Email us at [kugeog@ku.edu](mailto:kugeog@ku.edu). These alumni and friends helped make the 2016-2017 academic year shine for our department:

*Very special thanks to the following recent contributors:*

### **WALTER KOLLMORGEN GEOGRAPHY FUND**

- Christopher Atkinson
- John Beets
- Gabriella & Jason Blair
- David Allen Fong
- Jakob Goldman
- Randall Howard
- Raymond Mueller
- Kimberly & Dan Penner
- Christopher Post
- John & Rebecca Preston
- Heather Putnam
- Steven & Lisa Schnell
- Ronald Shaklee
- Richard & Mary Jo Skaggs
- Brian & Lori Wardlow
- Jerry Whistler
- Lynden Williams

### **GEORGE F. JENKS FUND**

- Dwight & Helen Brown
- Paul & Suzanne Crawford
- Michael & Margaret Hogben
- Daniel Holdgreve
- Randall Howard
- Carl Leonard

### **Walter Kollmorgen Fund**

The Walter Kollmorgen Fund honors the university distinguished professor who grew the department and served as chair from 1947-1967. The fund supports a myriad of uses, projects both large and small. It can be used for student or faculty travel to professional conferences and new equipment.

### **George F. Jenks Fund**

The George F. Jenks Fund is used for Cartography and GIS-related equipment, mapping, and training. Technologies in Cartography are rapidly changing and now more than ever, students and faculty need to keep abreast of the most recent information and technologies in this area by attending trainings, conferences, and utilizing the new equipment.

### **Walter Bohnstengel Fund**

The Walter Bohnstengel Fund is used for a variety of expenses and equipment in the Atmospheric Science program. It can also be used for student and faculty travel for field work and conferences.

[Contributions](#) can be made to the Walter Kollmorgen Geography Fund, the George F. Jenks Fund, the Atmospheric Science Fund, the Bohnstengel Fund, or the new "Launch KU" computer campaign. General donations to the Dept. of Geography & Atmospheric Science are also welcome. *Please indicate the Dept. of Geography & Atmospheric Science and which fund, if any, on your donation. Send your gift to:*

**The Kansas University Endowment Association**

**P.O. Box 928**

**Lawrence, KS 66044-0928**

or [donate online](https://kuendowment.org) through [kuendowment.org](https://kuendowment.org)  
or contact the department at [kugeog@ku.edu](mailto:kugeog@ku.edu)

**Yasuyuki (Yas) Motoyama** received his Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from University of California, Berkeley, and joins from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. In the last few years, he conducted case studies of local entrepreneurship systems, such as Kansas City, St. Louis, Indianapolis, and Chattanooga. Most recently, he researched Montana and presented his findings in April as one of the keynote speakers at Missoula, Montana, along with Governor Steve Bullock and Clayton Christian, the Commissioner of the Montana University System. Learn more about this project at [mthightech.org](http://mthightech.org). This fall, he will be teaching GEOG 352 (Economic geography) and GEOG 552 (Special topics: Data use and limitations in geography).

### **You hold a joint appointment with the Department of Geography and Atmospheric Science and with the School of Business. Can you talk about what that means?**

I consider that geography is a study of space and location, and I research economic activities over space, i.e. what kind of businesses are located at where. So, to me, there is a natural intersection between the two departments, and I am thrilled with this opportunity to bridge them. I find that scholars in the two fields speak two slightly different languages about almost the same phenomenon, and can learn from the other side.

In addition to teaching at the Geography Department, in Spring 2018, I will organize a group of students at the School of Business to make a series of site visits to local entrepreneurship organizations and events. It's a new experiment, and I am quite excited! You can learn how to write business plans in classes, but it's a different thing to observe what real entrepreneurs do and what kind of resources support organizations really provide. I hope to make better connections between students and local entrepreneurial community.

### **What was your path to geography?**

It's rather random. I liked geography from my elementary and junior school times. However, my undergraduate major was history and political science, my master's degree was in public administration, and my doctoral degree was in city and regional planning. So I never studied geography as a geographer! However, I have been researching economic development over space; for instance, why the Silicon Valley became successful in the semiconductor and Internet industries, and why the proximity is important for generating innovation. That spatial thinking is the core of geography, and I retrained myself as an economic geographer in the last 10 years. And I am grateful that my colleagues at the department are broad-minded and accept me as a geographer.

### **What is your favorite thing about teaching?**

At the classroom level, it has been my joy when I see some sparkles in students' eyes. When things click in their heads, I see it and feel that I have done something good that day. It does not always happen, and it's a learning process for me. For instance, when I taught globalization and commodity chains, I first covered from where and how coffee beans come to you. Everyone drinks coffee, right? It turned out that none of my students in the class liked coffee, and I saw zero enthusiasm from them. So the following week, I talked about





T-shirts and cars, and they were definitely more engaged in the class. Over time, it is great to see the learning and growth of my students, who are wonderful and mystical creatures. It can happen even within a semester. It's been fantastic to observe students using skills, theories, and techniques later in the semester that I introduced earlier in the class.

**Can you tell us about some of your recent research?**

Every household needs a job, and no job means no life. Turning this into geography, we need to understand what kind of regions grow (or offer more jobs) and what we can do about it, i.e. how the government can help. That is my broad research interest. More specifically, I study local systems of innovation and entrepreneurship. Often, when people mention entrepreneurship, they usually talk about genius entrepreneurs, like Steve Jobs or Bill Gates, but the truth is that so many other people helped them on the way. This 'other' dimension is spatial and rooted with local connections between businesses, non-profits, governments, as well as complicated layers of people, networks, and institutions.

Additionally, when people talk about innovation and entrepreneurship, the Silicon Valley the most celebrated example and the basis of mainstream theories. However, as I have researched Kansas City, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Chattanooga, and Montana, I argue that each place has a distinct local system for innovation and entrepreneurship. So imitating the Silicon Valley is not the answer for most places, and you need to understand and strengthen different assets in your area. I try to help that with my collaborators in different regions and by bridging my academic writings into non-academic writings.

**Can you tell us a bit about the two new classes you are teaching, GEOG 352: Economic Geography and GEOG 552: Special Topics - Data Use and Limitations in Geography?**

GEOG 352 is an introductory course to cover various concepts about economic geography, such as agglomeration and globalization. We start with Thomas Friedman's book, the World is Flat, which implies that you can do anything anywhere now in this digitized world. However, geographers are highly critical of such idea, and we will uncover why the world is actually not flat over the semester.

For GEOG 552, I always thought that, when I was a student, I could learn economic theories (like in GEOG 352), as well as techniques to analyze in statistical courses. But professors give you cleaned data in those stats courses. That makes a gap for students who want to conduct economic research: Where exactly does data come from? In addition, geography adds more complicated layers because there is more data available at the national level, but less data is available as we go down the geographic scale, like states and cities. Living in the digital era means that there are a number of bad data, too, so it's important to learn what the data means and what the data does not mean.

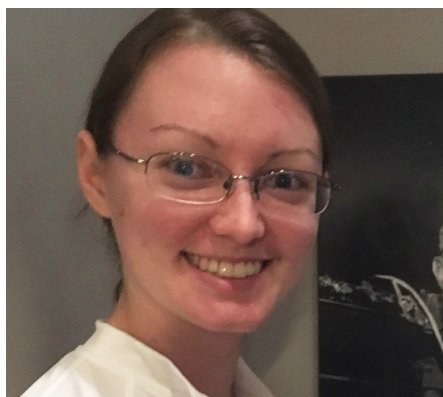
**What are some of your favorite things so far about being at the University of Kansas?**

It's a great university in a great town. The faculty here are very collegial and supportive of each other. There are bright scholars in so many fields of the university, and the doors are wide open for professors and graduate students to attend presentations, seminars, outside speaker events, etc. Even in my first semester, it was great to talk with professors in economics, sociology, engineering, architecture, urban planning, and public administration about my and their research. This is a great place to have a family and raise kids with its affordability, safety, and excellent public schools, which was not true when I lived in various parts of California. My life in the U.S. started in Wisconsin and continued to New York and California, and I'm very happy to be back in Midwest!



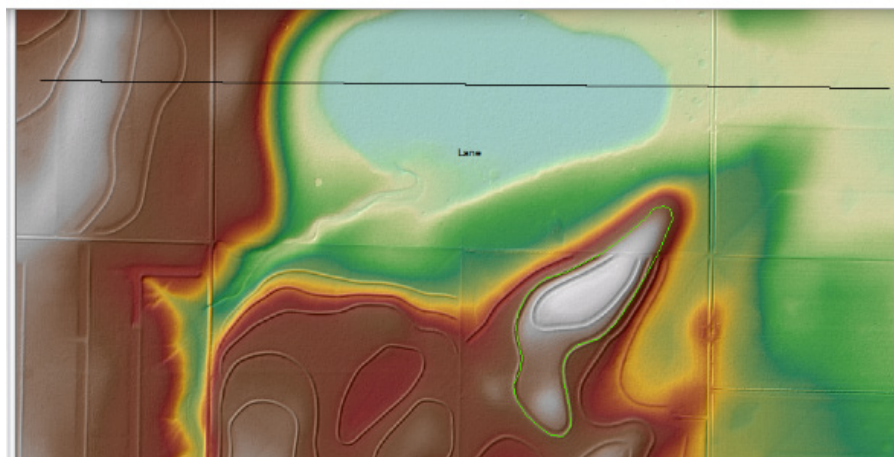
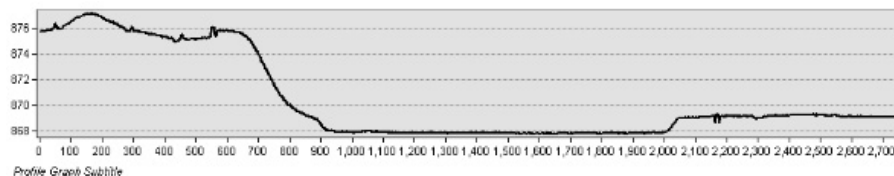
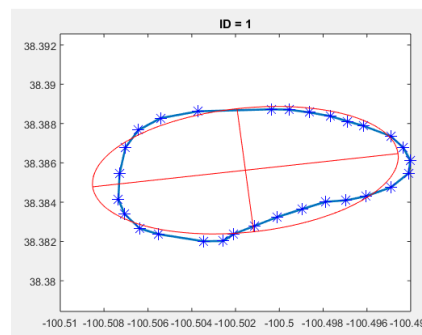
# IN THE FIELD

MELISSA GOLDADE



I am a physical geography master’s student working with Bill Johnson (Geography & Atmospheric Science) and Jude Kastens (Kansas Biological Survey). For my research, I am mapping and characterizing playa-lunette systems in western Kansas. Playa-lunette systems are fascinating geologic and geomorphic features on the stereotypically ‘flat’ High Plains landscape, a region that can be viewed through various lenses: ecological, geographical, climatological, and geological, to name a few.

My objective is to map these features from a geomorphic perspective, i.e., focusing on both the lunettes (dunes) and their respective playas (basins). The lunettes formed during the Last Glacial Maximum (~25,000-14,000 years ago), a time characterized by strong, dry northwesterly winds, resulting in the shifting and deposition of sediment. Playas and lunettes are commonly paired together, and it is amazing to see them scattered across the landscape, especially when rendered with the LiDAR (elevation) data.



Throughout my time here at KU, I have enjoyed exploring Kansas via field work with my advisor, Bill, and research group, as well as visually with the LiDAR data. I have traveled throughout most of Kansas and to other fascinating places such as Death Valley, California.

Research-wise, I worked for six months at the Kansas Biological Survey mapping potential playa areas under the direction of Jude Kastens and Dana Peterson, and for

one year mapping potential flood inundation areas for much of Afghanistan using IFSAR (elevation) data. Last fall, my love for geography led me to begin a full-time position as a cartography technician at Garmin.



# IN THE FIELD

## DAKOTA BURT

Dakota Burt is a physical geography MS student working under the tutelage of Bill Johnson. He has been involved in several field-based studies throughout Kansas. He has worked on a diverse array of projects covering numerous topics requiring him to develop various skills – all of which have been imperative to his education.



Burt both maintains and operates the several drones owned by the department. In the field, drones can be used to obtain aerial imagery quickly, efficiently, and in places that are otherwise inaccessible. In recent years, Burt has used the department’s drones to help monitor plant community development for the Kansas Biological Survey and Environmental Studies program and to help catalogue geologic features in the field for the Kansas Geological Survey.

Burt has also served as a graduate research assistant for pioneering research on playa wetlands throughout the High Plains of western Kansas. He has assisted in sampling playas, usually with a hydraulic coring rig, and has also helped to establish and manage a climate monitoring installation and groundwater measurement sensors at a study site in Lane County. These studies hope to provide important information regarding groundwater recharge to the Ogallala Aquifer and to aid in better understanding the dynamics of playa wetlands.

For his thesis research, Burt is working in Russell Kansas, located in the central part of the state. His research involves working with a prominent buried soil, occurring ubiquitously throughout the Central Great Plains. This ancient soil developed between about 50,000 and 25,000 years ago. Burt is in the process of reconstructing environmental conditions that prevailed while that soil was at the surface. Doing so will allow us to better understand past climates and where climates may go in the future. Reconstructing past environments is possible because soils are archives of information pertaining to their time of development.

*Burt is also the official “drone-wrangler” for the department, making sure our equipment is well maintained and ready to go.*





# IN THE FIELD

# DIANA RESTREPO-OSORIO

Diana L. Restrepo-Osorio is in her fourth year as a PhD student in the Geography and Atmospheric Sciences department. She is also working at the United States Geological Survey's Kansas Water Science Center as a Geography student trainee in the geographic information systems (GIS) unit focusing on surface water and water use projects. Diana is furthering her understanding on the ArcGIS platform and its applicability in the analysis of water resource data sets. She will utilize these skills in the analysis and dissemination of hydrologic data associated with her research project in the Southern cone of South America.



I attended the XI Encuentro de Ganaderos de Pastizales Naturales del Cono Sur de Sudamérica in the department of Itapúa, Paraguay from October 24 to October 28.

During this cattle ranching meeting I also carried out interviews regarding the perceptions of Paraguayan, Uruguayan, Argentinian and Brazilian stakeholders regarding the hydrological ecosystem services provided by native pastures used in cattle ranching operations.





*“I also carried out interviews regarding the perceptions of Paraguayan, Uruguayan, Argentinian and Brazilian stakeholders regarding the hydrological ecosystem services provided by native pastures used in cattle ranching operations.”*

This annual meeting is put together by the Grassland Alliance (Alianza del Pastizal) of the Southern Cone of South America.

**THE PROJECT:**

The objective of this study is to determine the influence that federal policies have had on water conservation practices based on local knowledge within cattle ranching communities. We will specifically look at how subsidies and financial incentives, or lack thereof, may have shaped the type of practices implemented for the improvement of water quality and quantity. We will utilize the Q methodology as a tool to understand the rancher’s perceptions of their positions within their country’s rural extension frameworks. This investigation will provide an assessment of how well these rural extension programs, or rural extension-like programs, are meeting the individual



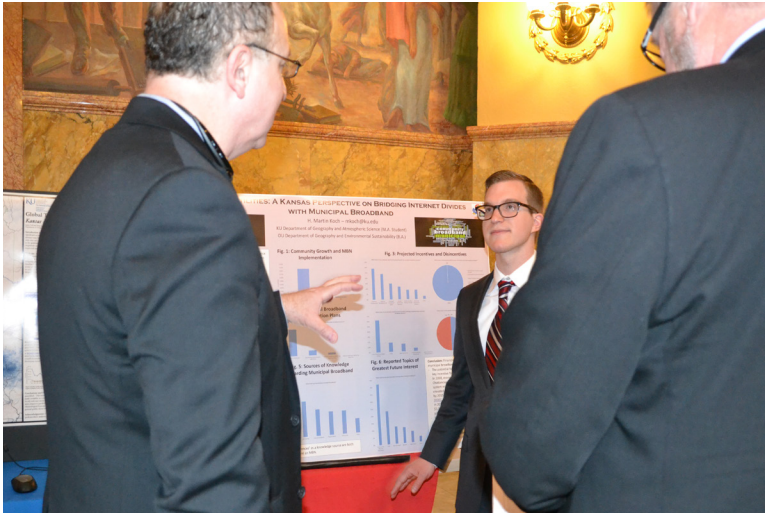
*Diana interviews two Grassland Alliance-associated Argentinian cattle ranchers, using the Q method .*

needs of cattle ranchers and their families. These programs are needed in order to restore and strengthen the natural resources needed for long-term food security at a local, regional, and national scale. Food security is in all nations’ best interest and it should align with a long-term goal to pursue decentralization. A comprehensive decentralization movement should promote progressive RE programs and should therefore prioritize the validation of the opinions and viewpoints emerging from ranching communities. However, it is often the case that foreign viewpoints, especially those based on the diffusionist ideals, overpower the community’s values and local knowledge. Therefore, we are hoping to evaluate these dynamics and provide an assessment that truly represents the on the ground perceptions of cattle ranchers regarding water conservation practices. We hope that these assessments will be taken into consideration and if necessary, we hope that rural extension programs are promoted and/or modified using our results in a grassroots fashion.

**PROJECT STATUS:**

Diana was awarded the Pierre A Stouse Award and the Robert Oppenheimer Memorial Scholarship from the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. These funding opportunities have allowed Diana to work with Paraguayan and Uruguayan ranching communities in understanding their perceptions on the sustainable management of water resources and ecosystem services associated with cattle ranching operations located on natural grassland ecosystems. These data has helped make progress in the project as it will serve in the analysis of spatial dimensions of barriers and possible solutions according to stakeholders’ views and cultural dimensions. In addition to how variations between stakeholder groups can be reconciled to increase the embracing, ownership, and implementation of the solutions.

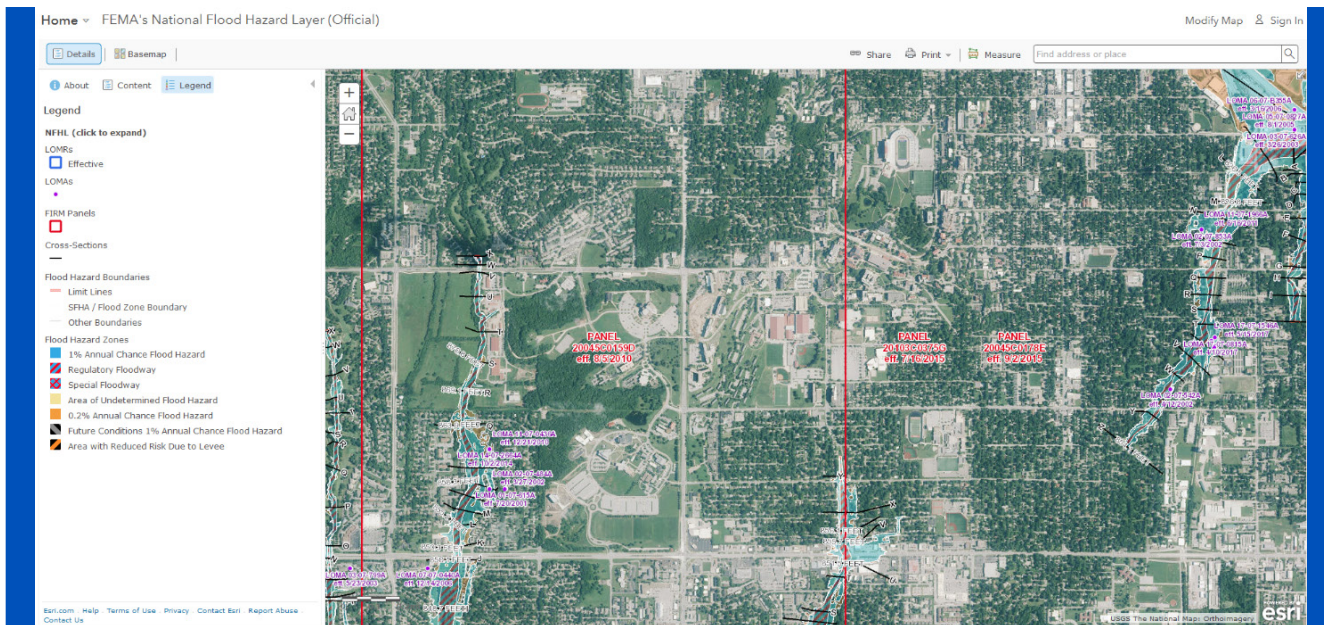
# AFTER GRADUATION MARTIN KOCH



In the classroom and on the job, I have been fortunate to use lessons learned through research and scholarship to help build more sustainable Kansas communities. In March, I presented my municipal broadband research project (“Digital Utilities”) at the 2017 Capitol Graduate Research Summit.

My project identifies both the benefits of municipal broadband networks, such as improved economic development, and barriers to their implementation, such as cost. I gained a firsthand perspective by conducting a survey of dozens of Kansas municipal leaders.

While working as a graduate teaching assistant at KU, I communicated flood risk information to Physical Geography students. Now, I use skills that I gained as a GTA to communicate with community leaders and public stakeholders across the state.

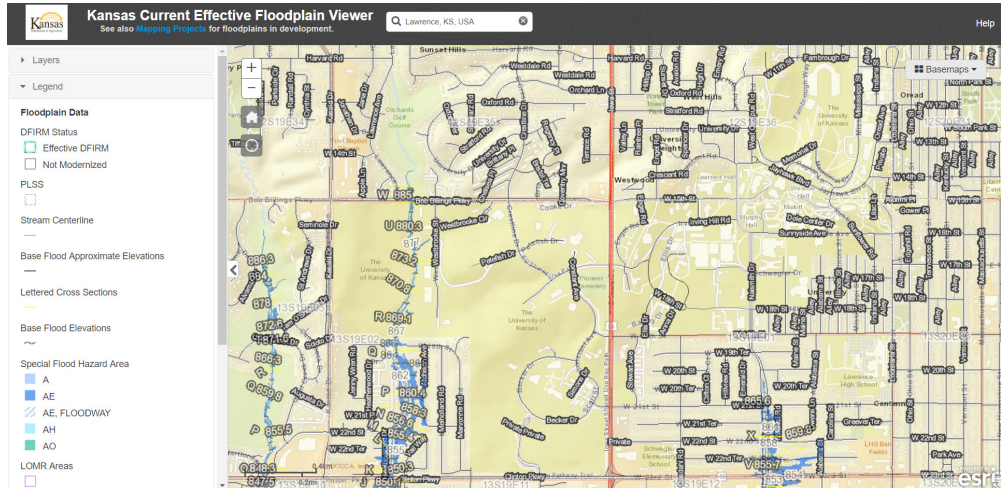




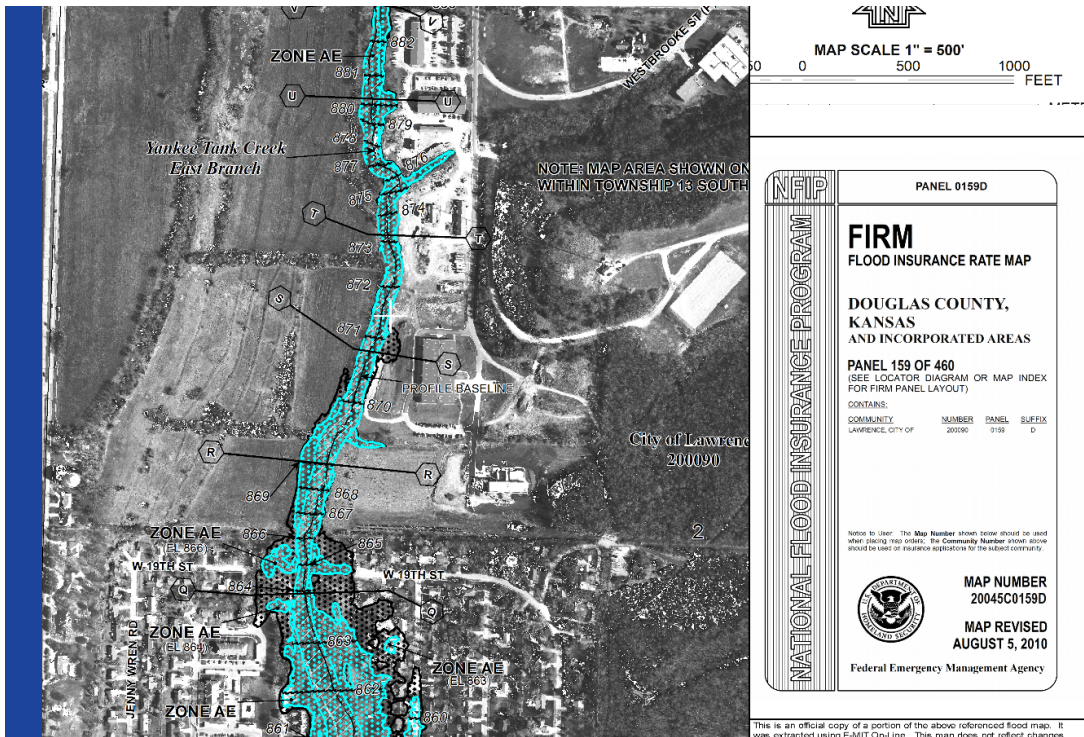
*“After graduating in May, I began a career as a Floodplain Mapping Specialist with the Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources.”*

I interpret LiDAR topographic data and provide information regarding FEMA floodplain management policies; these efforts help Kansans use the latest technological tools to reduce exposure to flood risk in their communities.

While preparing my research project, I contacted Kansas municipal leaders to identify challenges they faced in developing and sustaining their communities.



Now, by providing information regarding flood risk mitigation strategies, I have the capacity to help local communities and private property owners address those challenges and promote a more resilient future for Kansas.





# CHANGES



## PROMOTION

Congratulations to **Xingong Li**, recently promoted from Associate to Full Professor. Li works with Geographic information science and spatial analysis, with research on computational methods of analysis of spatial data.

## TRANSITION

Geography and Atmospheric Science professor and Environmental Studies Program director **Chris Brown** began a new path on July 1, 2017, as the University of Kansas Vice Provost of Faculty Development. In his new role, Brown will provide guidance and oversight for faculty recruitment and foster professional growth of faculty.

## RETIREMENT

Professor **Donna Tucker** retired from KU after 24 years of dedicated work that has enhanced the Atmospheric Science Program, enriched numerous students, and contributed to the prominence of the program. Donna joined the Atmospheric Science Program when it was housed in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and taught synoptic meteorology and introductory meteorology classes. After the Atmospheric Science program was relocated to the Department of Geography in 2003, she was instrumental in establishing the Master of Science degree, and later, the Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science. While at KU, Professor Tucker conducted research on mesoscale precipitation processes and mountain meteorology.

## RETIREMENT

Professor **Pete Shortridge** retired in July. He started his teaching career in 1971 in the Department of Geography and has taught everything from Fundamentals of Geography to graduate seminars on myriad subjects from Environmentalism to Historical Geography to Foodways. His recent book, "The House that Kollmorgen Built," a history of the KU Department of Geography, is a remarkable addition to his legacy and is available at the Welcome Center in Lindley Hall.

## NEW FACES

**Yasuyuki (Yas) Motoyama** joined the department this year and holds a joint appointment with the Department of Geography and Atmospheric Science and with the KU School of business. He received his Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from University of California, Berkeley, and joins from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Learn more about Yas and the new classes he'll be teaching this spring in our Faculty Focus section of this newsletter.



### *Faculty in the field:*

#### AIRCRAFT FIELD OBSERVATIONS - AZORES

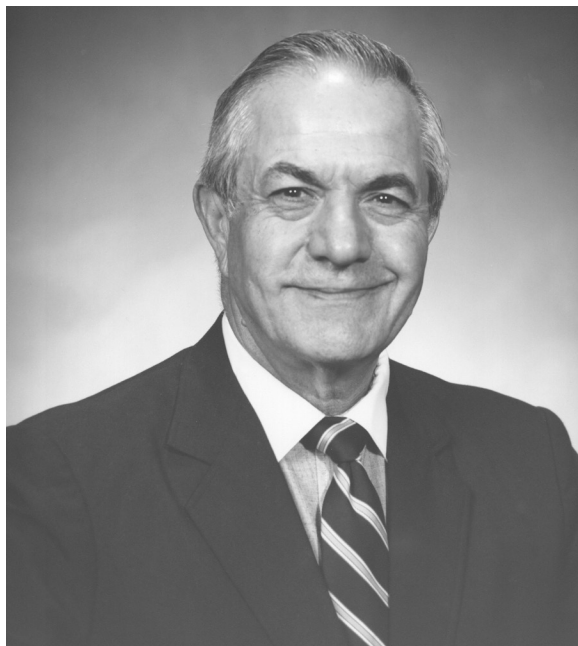
Faculty member **David Mechem** recently supported an aircraft field campaign over the eastern North Atlantic where the Department of Energy maintains a fixed instrument site.

The purpose of the field campaign was to sample the vertical structure of cloud, precipitation, and aerosol properties. The aircraft operations were coordinated with radar observations in order to improve ground-based radar retrieval algorithms.

Photo: Scott Giangrande



# IN MEMORIUM



## JOHN AUGELLI

We were saddened to learn University of Kansas professor emeritus of geography and founder of the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies John Augelli, 96, died March 20, 2017 in Lawrence. During his time as a professor at the university, Augelli served as chair of the Department of Geography, dean of International Studies and founded the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies in 1961. Augelli published many academic articles and seven books, including two seminal texts on Central American and Caribbean geography.

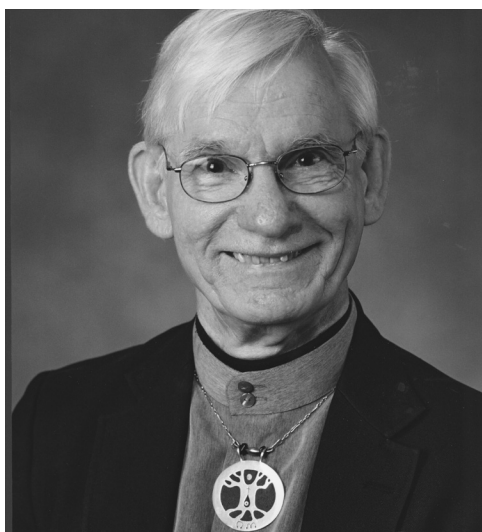
James “Pete” Shortridge, professor of geography and atmospheric science, said Augelli built KU’s Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies into one of the best in the nation and led the geography department through a difficult period of transition in the 1980s.

“He was an ebullient, dapper man who, with seeming ease, maintained an admirable blend of scholarship, teaching, university administration and public service,” Shortridge said. A memorial mass was held in early April in Lawrence. - KU TODAY

## DUANE KNOS

Duane Sidney Knos, a professor at KU from 1956 to 1970, died June 30, 2017, in Rupert, Idaho. Duane was a native of Oelwein, Iowa. He led an interesting, varied life, including piloting P47 Thunderbolts for the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and teaching high school history in La Porte City for five years before beginning graduate work at the University of Iowa. His geographical interests focused initially on urban studies and mathematical measurement and Duane developed the first quant course at Kansas. He had a warm, engaging personality and directed eleven MA theses and two dissertations in the department. Between 1965 and 1969 he pioneered the field of geographic education, leading a series of NDEA-sponsored summer institutes for high school teachers.

Duane left KU for Clark University, where officials promised free college tuition for his two daughters. Then, upon retirement in 1986, he joined these daughters in Rupert. Barbara and I visited there about 1990 when he was happily working as a shoe salesman in the family-owned store. Duane’s other interests included singing in various church choirs and with the Snake River Flats barbershop quartet. He is survived by Lucille, his wife of seventy-one years, and daughters Nanette and Barbara. - PETE SHORTRIDGE



## ROBERT NUNLEY

Robert Nunley, professor emeritus of geography, died Dec. 24, 2016. He was 85. Nunley was part of the Department of Geography from 1962 to 2002. His professional affiliations included Phi Beta Kappa, the Association of American Geographers, National Council for Geographic Education, Latin American Studies Association, American Association of University Professors and more.

“Bob was always engaged in keeping up to date with the latest advances in applying computers and other digital technology to geography,” said Stephen Egbert, professor of geography. “He was well-known as an early adopter and innovator in the field, and he kept abreast of the latest developments up through the time of his retirement.”

A musical celebration of life for Nunley was held in April 2016 in McLouth. - KU TODAY



# CAREER EVENTS



*At left:* **Spring Career Day**, this past March, offered students the chance to interview with and learn more about potential employers and internships. It was held at the Oread Hotel, near campus.

The University Career Center helped students prepare with a resume workshop the week prior to Spring Career Day.

*At right:* The fall semester's **Career Night** is a more casual gathering than spring's formal event. A panel of alumni and other professionals shared information and answered great questions from the students. We had a stellar panel this year and a packed house.



Organizations participating in career events this year included alumni and other professionals from NOAA, Burns-McDonnell, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EnerTech, Weather Metrics, Stantec, City of Lawrence, and more!



*Above and at right:* A special Atmospheric Science Career Day was also held, with faculty on hand to answer questions and offer guidance.



# COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Our **Spring 2018 Colloquium Series** features a variety of speakers and topics, from regional and national organizations to our own faculty. All of our colloquiums are open to the public. Colloquiums are generally held at 4:00 p.m. with a meet and greet and refreshments a half-hour prior to the colloquium. If you are in the area, please join us!

January 19 - Judith Turk  
School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska

January 26 - Steve Egbert  
Department of Geography & Atmospheric Science, University of Kansas

February 2 - Deborah McGregor  
Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

February 9 - Faculty Panel on Career Paths and Skills

February 16 - Nicole Reiz  
College Office of Graduate Affairs University of Kansas

February 23 - Corey Johnson  
Department of Geography, University of North Carolina - Greensboro

March 9 - Jacob Fowles  
School of Public Affairs and Administration, University of Kansas

March 30 - Ted Holland  
Department of Geography, University of Arkansas

April 6 - Erik Scott  
Department of History, University of Kansas

April 13 - No Colloquium (AAG Week!)

April 20 - Mike Daniels  
Department of Geography, University of Denver

More colloquiums will be announced. Visit the department's website at [geog.ku.edu](http://geog.ku.edu) to view the full schedule.



# GRADUATION



The Geography & Atmospheric Science Recognition Ceremony was held on Saturday, May 13, 2017 on the lawn of Lindley Hall to honor all graduates.

This ceremony was in addition to the traditional walk down the hill, and gave our faculty, students, and families a chance to share time together.

After the ceremony, a barbeque luncheon was served. The graduation ceremony was in part, made possible by contributions to the Bohnstengel Fund.

Many families took photos of new graduates in front of Lindley Hall.

Many graduates, following tradition, decorated their mortar board caps.

Megan Metz, Atmospheric Science Undergraduate Representative, addresses the audience.



Professor and Chair Nate Brunsell led the Recognition Ceremony off with a rousing speech.

Faculty look on as Masters Graduate Representative Martin Koch addresses the audience.

Ph.D. Graduate Representative Jean Eichhorst (left) with Geography M.A. graduate Ruth Remmers.



# GRADUATE DEGREES AWARDED

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all of our graduates including the following, who completed their dissertations and theses during the 2016-2017 period (advisor's name in parenthesis):

Prescott R. Bishop, MS, Atmospheric Science, "Impact of Varying the Magnitude of Cloud-top Radiative Cooling on Stratocumulus Cloud Behavior" (Dave Mechem)

Hannah E. Chandler, MS, Atmospheric Science, "Microphysical Precursor Conditions Leading to Precipitation Initiation in Marine Stratocumulus" (Dave Mechem)

Andrew C.D. Cleary, MS, Geography, "Geoprocessing Approaches to Delineate Impoundments and Characterize Subcatchments within Kansas Reservoir Drainages" (Steve Egbert/Xingong Li)

Kevin E. Dobbs, PhD, "Toward Rapid Flood Mapping Using Modeled Inundation Libraries" (Steve Egbert)

Andrew M. Fisher, MS, Atmospheric Science, "Inconsistencies in the Weather Research and Forecasting Model of the Marine Boundary Layer Along the Coast of California" (Dave Rahn)

Charles J. Grady, MS, Geography, "Delineating Sea-Level Rise Inundation: An Exploration of Data Structures and Performance Optimization" (Xingong Li)

Megan L. Holroyd, PhD, "Landscapes of Mount Kilimanjara Tourism: Residual, Dominant, Emerging and Excluded Cultures" (Steve Egbert/Garth Myers)

Matthew F. Hubbard, MA, "A Cartographic Depiction and Exploration of the Boy Scouts of America's Historical Membership Patterns" (Steve Egbert)

Hugo Martin Koch, MA, "Digital Utilities: A Kansas Perspective on Bridging Internet Divides with Municipal Broadband" (Barney Warf)

Weibo Liu, PhD, "Identification, Representation, and Analysis of Convective Storms" (Xingong Li)

Ruth H. Remmers, MA, "Perceptions of the Environment and of Tourism in the Altai Republic, The Russian Federation" (Alexander Diener)

Nicole P. Reiz, PhD, "An Exploration in International Comparative Legal Geography: Military Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs), Sexual Violence, and Jurisdiction" (Shannon O'Lear)

Adam R. Shanko, MA, "Characterizing Woody Encroachment in the Konza Prairie Using Object-Based Analysis of Aerial Photographs" (Steve Egbert)

Austen J. Thelen, PhD, "Regional Identity and Constructive Regionalization in the North Caucasus: Group Perceptions and Nuances from Inside the Region" (Shannon O'Lear)

Shaylee Vandever, MA, "Woody Biomass as an Alternative Energy Source for Ft. Yukon, Alaska" (Jay Johnson)

# ALUMNI NEWS

**We love hearing from all of our alumni!** Send us news at: kugeog@ku.edu. Check out our social media links on the last page of this issue.

## John Beets, MA 1980



I still live in Roeland Park, KS. In January of 2016 the company I work for (Willbros Engineering) was acquired by TRC Solutions. I still work with the same people, in the same office location (Kansas City, MO), doing the same type of work. My specialty is utilizing GIS and other data technologies to perform risk analysis of transmission pipeline systems. As with many other application areas, pipeline risk analysis benefits greatly from the ability to perform spatial analysis. Information on pipe characteristics (outside diameter, wall thickness, pressures, coating, etc.), the results of various types of inspections (particularly In-Line Inspections), incident related data (occurrences of leaks/ruptures, abnormal operation incidents, unauthorized encroachments on the pipeline, etc.) and information on the environment surrounding the pipeline (land cover, soils, flood data, earthquake data, etc.) are brought together in a spatial process called "Dynamic Segmentation". The result of this process is the

pipeline system fully segmented at each change in an attribute item.

On a 15,000 mile pipeline system there can be up to 250 attribute items and over 1 million dynamic segments. Each segment has the information needed to execute the risk algorithm and obtain the necessary results. This includes Total Risk, Total Probability of Failure, and Total Consequence of Failure. Interesting and fun stuff! I'll probably keep this up for another year or two and then start thinking about retiring - or at least slowing down. I'm still into motorcycles. In August of this year we completed a 3,300 mile trip through Colorado, up into the Tetons and Yellowstone Park, and around to Sturgis, SD (for the big bike rally). The photo is me with my Harley outside of the north entrance to Yellowstone Park. I'll probably ride until I'm no longer able to hold a bike upright!

## Byron Augustin, MA 1964

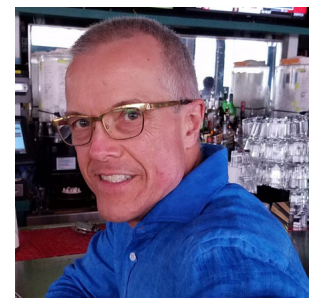
It has been an eventful year for my wife Rebecca and me. After living in Valladolid, Yucatan for the past nine years, we sold our house and purchased a house in San Antonio, Texas. The gravitational draw of our children and grandchild were important in the decision-making process. Also as the years sped by, we felt the need to return to the states for cultural reasons, increasing concern regarding the growing problems with crime in Cancun and Playa del Carmen, and many amenities that we missed while living in the states.

I have remained active in my professional life, conducting research and photography, especially in the Yucatan and Cuba. I still write for Yucatan Living, a popular gringo travel magazine and serve as a consultant/lecturer for Study Abroad Programs from Middle Tennessee State University and Professor James Chaney. I remember KU Geography fondly and Professors like Dr. Jenks, Duane Knos, John Augelli, and Dr. Kuchler. I was especially saddened to hear of the passing of Professor Augelli, who was one of the most dynamic teachers I ever experienced in the classroom. Besides, he was a really fun and energetic human being.

## Craig Davis, MA 2001

Greetings All! In the interest of not repeating myself every year I will keep this years missive concise. Things are great here in Sacramento, at Sacramento City College and with my 10 year-old son Luka. Wishing all a happy and peaceful holiday season.

## John Dunham, BA 1984, PhD 1996



I'm now into my 13th year as Cartographic Services Manager for the Kansas Geological Survey, producing geologic maps and geologic GIS data for the KGS.



# ALUMNI NEWS

I have one graduate student employee working for me, using her extensive programming skills to automate and update various tasks for me. I spent a great deal of the first half of the year completing our map deliverables for the USGS StateMap program, but was still able to attend the Esri User Conference in San Diego, and the USGS-AASG Digital Mapping Techniques Conference, held this year at the University of Minnesota. At home, wife Cindy (KU Geography, '84) and I keep busy running and lifting weights, and entertaining our two Labrador retrievers Ridley (yellow) and Ella, (black). We were able to travel this year to our favorite spots in Florida as well as to New York City. I also traveled to East Lansing, Michigan to visit KU Geography alums Al Arbogast and Randy Schaeztl..  
dunham@kgs.ku.edu.

## Emily Fekete, PhD 2015



Lots of changes for 2017! I started the year in my position as a Professor of Practice in Geography at Oklahoma State University in the department of geography and also as the undergraduate advisor for Geography, Geospatial Information Science, and Global Studies. At the end of the academic year, I was offered and accepted a position as the Communications,

Education, and Media Specialist at the American Association of Geographers, a new position in the organization. In June, Kevin, Mulligan and I moved to Washington, D.C. and I started work at the AAG in July. We are still settling in to our historic row house in the heart of D.C., but are loving being back on the east coast and closer to family for the first time in a while. Working for the AAG is going great! Right now I run all of the social media accounts and news curation for the association, but will be moving into new projects soon. Look for me at the AAG Annual Meeting in New Orleans this spring!

## Erin Garity, MA 2014



I work as a Digital Client Success Manager for The Stelter Company and reside in Des Moines, Iowa.

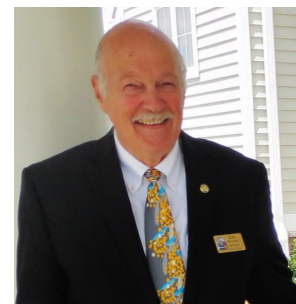
## James Huckabay, PhD 1975

I am a professor emeritus of geography, retired from Central Washington University. I remain active in community (mostly outdoor-related) affairs. I serve, fairly regularly, as a facilitator for stakeholder groups involved in issues from community forest sustainable grazing plans to cattle ranchers managing wolves, forage and water quality. I con-

tinue to write my weekly outdoor column for the Ellensburg Daily Record, and my web page ([www.insidetheoutdoors.com](http://www.insidetheoutdoors.com)), and my wife and I are working on publishing two books in our small publishing company, Reecer Creek Publishing.

I enjoy hearing about fellow KU grads – with some of whom I remain in contact – and often wonder about my fellow grad student, Wen Lee. All the best...

## James Hughes, MA 1968, PhD 1971



It has been another happy and healthy year. I have been traveling with Judy, who is serving as Governor of Rotary International's District 7280. We have made official visits to forty-two Rotary clubs and attended countless events so far in her year in office. I also taught courses on Mexico and Argentina for Slippery Rock University's Institute for Learning in Retirement and continued to serve on the Mercer County (Pa.) Regional Planning Commission. Our wonderful grandson, who lives in Los Angeles, will be four this December.

## Mike Ingram, PhD 1996

This year sure went fast! Bonnie and I took several short Midwestern trips this year, all while

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following the University of Saint Mary basketball team. We stayed in Lindsborg, Kansas twice for several nights each time. It is always fun in the land of Swedes and it is quite vibrant there now. We recently stayed several nights each in Sioux City and Lamoni, Iowa. There is surprisingly much to see and do in Sioux City. While we were there we learned even more about loess and the Missouri River floodplain, and the Lewis and Clark expedition. We are learning a lot about the many small, religiously-affiliated colleges and universities that are in our region. We spent the day of the total eclipse at Benedictine University in Atchison, and even with a representative present from the Vatican, it became a very cloudy and wet day. But, for the two plus minutes of totality, the clouds parted and we all saw the total eclipse. Bonnie and I also saw it quite well for a while after lunch as it was receding, proving that those eclipse glasses actually worked.

My gardening efforts this year produced a bit of asparagus early and a steady supply of lettuces into the summer. I changed how I planted and mulched, and produced our best onion crop ever. This year I went to containers for all our peppers and tomatoes. We also grew some Swiss chard early and a small crop of okra late. So, for late fall and winter soups we have stored onions, tomatoes, okra, and peppers. The last act in the herb garden before the first hard freeze was picking a variety of fresh herbs to store including

rosemary, thyme, sage, celery leaf, and mint. I therefore declare gardening to have been a success this year!

We endured the tremendous levels of pollen this year as best we could. This made staying active through the summer a bit challenging. The many, various bugs also hurt our efforts to be outside. And then, the oak mites started biting again. Hopefully this entire winter will be a very cold one and we will return to more normal relations with the insects and other pests. As always, best wishes to all!

## **Lori Koepsell, MA 1992**

My husband and I still live in Colorado Springs and still love it. In the summers, we take every opportunity to camp as much as we can. We love to hike as much as we can while camping. Had a couple close-encounters on those trips -- one with a bear on a hike and another with a moose trying to walk into our campsite, but those just make the trips more memorable if not adding more gray to the hair!! We have our small company that is still moving along. We mainly do GIS for NOAA and wind turbine projects affecting their NEXRAD radars.

We have also expanded into providing GIS support for water districts in Colorado. Water is a big deal here and we have developed a software system that helps small districts utilize their data in databases and webmaps. Many smaller districts use paper maps and excel spreadsheet almost exclusively so being able to share

maps and data online is a huge step.

And last, we just won a grant from the State of Colorado to work on ways to provide home buyers information about water and water districts for their particular home. We hope to keep growing this side of the business as it affects all of us in Colorado. My personal life has gotten much noisier – I am now a grandma to 6 grandkids!! The two newest are twin boys that were born at 27 weeks and weighed only 2 lbs. It was a very hard summer and fall, but I am happy to say that they are thriving and each weigh in at over 12 lbs. They all live in Fort Collins CO and I have a feeling in the not so distant future that we will be moving up there as well.

## **Joseph Kerski, MA 1993**



I continue to work as education manager at Esri in Colorado and teach at the University of Denver. I taught at 6 universities in Australia (photo of the south coast here) in August and wrote a new book called *Interpreting Our World: 100 Discoveries that Revolutionized Geography*.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Martin Koch, MA 2017



I graduated this spring and am a Flood Plain Mapping Specialist with the Kansas Department of Agriculture - Water Resources Division. *Martin is profiled in "After Graduation" in this issue.*

## Stephanie Kozak, PhD 2014



I received a promotion this year to Sr. Research Analyst at Service Management Group.

The company is a mid-size, market research firm in Kansas City focused on providing customer experience measurement for major brands through research insights and tech solutions.

## Jeff Krecic, MA 2017



Hello Jayhawks! It has been another wonderful year. I just returned from the Commercial UAV Expo in Las Vegas. There are so many exciting things happening in the industry. March 2<sup>nd</sup> will mark my third year with Tukup Technologies as Manager of Flight Operations. We have been keeping busy with mapping, modeling and inspection work. Our biggest customer has been KCPL who we have a great relationship with. I travel just enough to keep things interesting but it isn't as onerous as when I was a conventional aerial photography camera man.

I continue to work with Dr. Steven Egbert and Josh Meisel giving demonstrations of the mapping capabilities of drones. Last spring, we had a GIS intern from Haskel work with us and I plan to continue that again in 2018. I do a fair amount of presentations and love talking to people about drones and their capabilities. It is certainly an exciting time for this emerging technology.

Leeanne and I live in Olathe, Kansas with our pets; fur babies as Leeanne puts it. She quit her job as a web developer and is a self-employed, full time digital artist now. Leeanne just signed a contract with Web Toons to get her comic featured. I am very proud of her. We took a vacation to Hawaii in February. Renting a beautiful home on the north shore of Oahu with three other couples was an opportunity we couldn't pass up. I turned 50 this summer and rather than suffer

through a "surprise" party I elected to go camping in the mountains of Colorado with no one but Leeanne to tease me about my age. It was a wonderful, relaxing time. I hope all are doing well and have a fantastic year.

## Dave Linthicum, MA 1984

It's been quite a few years since I've written, but I often think about the fine people at KU. I'm still one of the two international boundary and sovereignty analysts at the US State Dept., spending inordinate amounts of time on oft-obscure spots like the Bhutan-Sikkim-Tibet tri-point. Otherwise, I'm updating my "LSIB" (Large Scale International Boundaries) on Data.gov (used by Google Maps/Earth for most non-W. Europe boundary depiction.) A fun day last year was taking part in the 75th anniversary celebration of the CIA Cartography Center... where I first met McCleary and Jenks in '78. Our Office of the Geographer at State began in the 1920s and I often use century-old treaty maps ....interesting stuff.

My biggest free-time cartography work of late is for Anne Arundel Co., MD water trail access. Our county was last in public access despite being top five for shoreline length (533 miles) among all US counties. We live there on 8,500 public acres; come visit us: on tidewater a mile from the nearest house, less than 20 from the White House. Trekking on the glaciers took us to the foot of K2 last year, the 9th time in the past 10 years that my better

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half Peggy and I have trekked somewhere between Everest & the Tian Shan. In the McCleary tradition, I'm still mapping for and running a 1000-person annual orienteering event.

But the two weeks planning and leading hikes and orienteering at Family Nature Summits (Tahoe and the White Mountains in 2017) are the hardest that I work all year. (I am a federal worker, after all!) So overall, no complaints here from DC, c. 2017.....well, of course except for that one all-pervasive "thing" here: On an Iceland kayaking trip this summer Peggy and I stepped off the plane and the first young store clerk said, "So, where are you from?" "Washington, DC." Long pause, then, "Oh...my condolences." She was right on-target, of course; things are a bit surreal here right now.... at best.

## **Vickie Bozarth Long MA 1993; A.D. Long, KUCS 1979-89**



Vickie retired from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in April after 26 years of service. She is now beginning her new journey into post-employment which includes attending lecture

series at the University of Wisconsin and yoga. She has also begun exploring her family's genealogy.

My mother died from Alzheimer's in August. She was 89. I will be named executor of her estate, such as it is. Unfortunately, my mother went one refi too far in 2009 which basically put the estate underwater with regard to assets versus liabilities. Fortunately for my sisters, they were named beneficiaries for several pots of money beyond the reach of creditors.

I took a detour from music composition to research my journals and correspondence dating back to 1967 preparatory to writing my autobiography. I enrolled in a course on writing memoir through the University Continuing Education program in August, but discovered that this particular genre has morphed into a style that draws largely from fiction writing versus a more journalistic approach. I did pick up some useful writing techniques which I may employ if I ever decide to get into writing speculative fiction.

In the aftermath of the 2016 election, I have begun doing some geographic research into the distribution of demographic and cultural characteristics at the county level in search of correlations with the presidential vote. Some of these were examined in the 2009 book, *Patchwork Nation*; other data are from the Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and recent research in sociology,

economics, and political science. The interaction of these variables and notable regional differences are complex, and many are the result of trends which began in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The recent rise in the pervasiveness of social media consumption on the Internet muddies the waters even further.

We both have our escapist outlets. Vickie enjoys Sudoku, crosswords, and reading books online. I have been developing solitaire simulation games for my own enjoyment and exercise my cartographic abilities developing the maps to be used for game boards. In solidarity, A.D. & V.

## **Laura Gurley Lunsford, MA 1984**

After 32 years working for the U.S. Census Bureau I retired in September 2016. My first adventure was a month-long mission trip to Zimbabwe, where I have been involved with the Denver Presbytery's partnership to fund a medical clinic and install fresh water wells. This was the trip of a lifetime and I am forever changed by the people I met there. Following that my husband Larry and I moved to Pagosa Springs, CO, a small town in southwest Colorado. We are having a great time exploring the area and remodeling the home that we purchased in our town.

## **Roger McCoy, PhD 1967**

After reading Pete Shortridge's interesting book I remembered many things about my time at KU Geography. Often I recall a

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required seminar with Dr. Kollmorgen way back in the autumn of 1964. He had each of us write a paper on the sources of information about California that lured Midwestern farmers to come. At the time, I had little interest in that subject and was very relieved when the paper was finished. In retrospect, however, that paper is one of the two or three that I still remember after these many years, probably because it bent my mind a bit. I know that Kollmorgen was important in getting my mind straight for graduate work. These days I am still writing and scrounging for sources.

Sue and I have ended the CA to AZ snowbird routine and settled a few miles south of Tucson. She is doing creative work in ceramics and I am writing stuff. Recently I finished a first effort at historical fiction. Warmest greetings to all my cohort from that sixties era.

## **Kent McGregor, MA 1976; PhD 1982**

I am in my 36<sup>th</sup> year at the University of North Texas (UNT) and will be moving to modified service (half-time) beginning fall 2018. I have started going to the sites in Pete Shortridge's *Kaw Valley Landscapes* when I am back in Kansas visiting family. Don't ask why it took me so long to get started.

## **Cort Miller, PhD 2012**

My wife and I received a Fulbright-Hays to Rwanda through Avila University in Kansas City, MO. I was selected the lead

scholar for this project. The scholarship allowed us to bring 13 K-12 educators along with us, for a total of 15 individuals. It was a three-phase project that included a pre-departure orientation, a four-week study tour (July 3 – 28, 2017) of Rwanda featuring first-person engagement and cultural immersion opportunities, and post-trip follow-up and dissemination activities. We will soon hold a day-long Rwandan Genocide and Social Justice Issues Seminar for K-12 educators in the greater Kansas City area.

Through the project, participating educators were able to:

- 1) Gain first-hand experience exploring the 1994 genocide, reconciliation efforts within Rwandan society, and social justice challenges relevant in the Rwandan context.
- 2) Collect relevant artifacts, materials, and resources in order to build an electronic resource repository including documents, links, audio sources, video files, reading, primary documents, bibliographies, and relevant resources to be shared with K-12 teachers.
- 3) Create new curriculum units and lesson plans around the Rwandan genocide, social justice issues, and Rwandan area and cultural studies, for incorporation into the K-12 curricula throughout Kansas, Missouri, and beyond.
- 4) Acquire the necessary information, training, and experience to disseminate what they have learned to their peers throughout the K-12 education system.
- 5) Develop and deepen their

cross-cultural understanding and competency.

### Group Study in Rwanda Activities:

- Visited genocide sites and memorials with educators and historians who gave lectures, perspectives and insights about the significance of the sites and the happenings of the genocide.
- Dialogued with genocide survivors who gave first-hand accounts of their experiences and those of family members and friends. We also spoke with refugees who fled Rwanda to surrounding countries during the genocide and their accounts of life as displaced people. These survivors shared information about the social justice issues they encountered in returning to Rwanda following the genocide.
- Dialogued with former child soldiers conscripted into militias and forced to join the efforts of military and rebel activities. These survivors shared first-hand accounts of their lives as child soldiers and shared information about the social justice issues they encountered trying to seek reintegration into civil society and educational systems.
- Visited Rwandan schools and dialogued with Rwandan teachers serving in formal educational settings. These teachers spoke with our teachers about education as a tool for reconciliation in the society, comparative education, issues of educational access in Rwanda, teacher training, languages of schooling, classroom and professional development resources, scope and sequence of curriculum, parent/family/community connections, and other

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topics of interest in the cross-cultural teacher exchanges.

- Dialogued with Rwandan students being educated in formal educational settings. Students shared from their perspectives the strengths and challenges of the Rwandan educational system, information about their educational goals and aspirations, first-hand experiences as learners in schools and other topics of interest in the student exchanges.
- Visited informal/non-formal educational settings and dialogued with teachers and educators serving in informal/non-formal and vocational education settings. Informal/non-formal educators spoke to the educational needs of those who missed formal education as children/teenagers and the types of social justice efforts to help these individuals to obtain the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors needed to be productive citizens with sustainable income earning potential in society.
- Dialogued with students participating in informal/non-formal and vocational educational settings. These participants shared first-hand the strengths and challenges of their programs. They shared their stories and invited the U.S. teachers to explore the products, skills, and opportunities informal/non-formal education has made possible for them.
- Visited service sites and dialogued with social workers working with vulnerable and marginalized children, youth, and adults from a whole person perspective. These service providers shared their experiences and allowed

the group study participants to meet clients with whom they are working.

- Dialogued with government officials who contributed additional perspective on issues of genocide, societal reconciliation, human rights, and social justice.

## **Joe Poracsky, PhD 1984**

Bits and Pieces: Professionally I am doing nothing other than skimming the occasional AAG Newsletter, an activity that befits the exalted title of "Professor Emeritus."

My daughter and son continue to live in Lawrence, so I get back there from Portland (OR) 3 or 4 times a year to visit them and my 4 grandkids. It is always nice to visit Lawrence. We just closed on the sale of our beach house in Rockaway Beach, OR, so we are back to dealing with only one house in Portland.

We had 15 wonderful years of visiting the beach, but now the maintenance is a bit much for a couple of old retired persons, so we turned over that chore to new owners and we will just rent a place when we want to visit the wind and sand and gulls. I continue to abide by the admonition of my doctor to "keep on running" and usually put in 20+ miles in a week. Not so fast but sufficient to work up a little sweat and trigger a day-dream about a pint of Free State. Rock Chalk.

## **Amy Rork, MA 1997**

Hello Fellow Geographers! Now

that I'm a retired person, I try to keep up my geography skills by traveling. My brother and I had planned a trans-Pacific cruise from Vancouver to Tokyo, but cancelled after those two guys had their fingers a little too close to the red button. Instead we trekked to ID, UT and CO, partly to visit my sister in ID, and partly to see a number of national parks that we had not yet visited. After vacationing immediately west of the Tetons for a few days, where we visited Mesa Falls and the sand dunes near St. Anthony, ID, golfed and rode the ski lift to Grand Targhee, we struck out for Promontory Point in northern UT. It's quite an interesting spot if you ever get out that way (out of the way, that is).

On to Temple Square and the Capitol building in Salt Lake City, and then, Zion NP, both the northern unit and the southern, more popular area. Zion is spectacular – we managed to walk to the end of the canyon, where the trail ends and adventurous souls continue walking up the creek in the canyon. On to Bryce Canyon which is equally fascinating with its hoodoos and pleasant temps (54 degrees in July at the top of the drive).

We also visited Capitol Reef NP, Arches NP, Canyonlands NP, Natural Bridges NM, Hovenweep NM, Canyons of the Ancients NP, Mesa Verde NP, Aztec Ruins NM, and Sand Dunes NP before heading back to the plains of KS. My national park stamp book is filling nicely and my senior parks

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pass is smokin'. All of the parks and monuments are so interesting in their own right – you owe it to yourself to visit them. I scraped out a small garden again this year, but the only winners were the zinnias and a few pumpkins and tomatoes. I keep two booths filled at a little antique mall in Baldwin City, which requires a lot of antique sleuthing (and mapping of garage sales). My family continues to be happy, well, employed and busy – about all you can ask for. Hope this note finds everyone well and happy too.

## **Bill Ryan, MA 1969, PhD 1972**

Greetings to all the Jayhawkers. I finished my grad studies at KU in 1972. I took a teaching position at a state college in West Virginia. I retired from Concord College (now University) nineteen years ago.

Over the years, I was fortunate enough to see several parts of the world, inspired by my time and my instructors at KU. I made a couple of trips to Russia, one trip to France and Switzerland, and several to the West Indies (those in particular inspired by John Augelli). Most recently, I returned from a trip to Panama. Transited the canal with Helen (my wife), her sister and her husband. Very interesting to stick my foot in the Pacific at 8:00 A.M. and in the Atlantic about 8 hours later. Good trip all around. My wife and I also spent a week in Ireland a few years ago, with intermediate stopovers in London and Iceland. Best regards to Bev and to all others who are, or were, at KU.

## **Steve Schnell, BA 1992, MA 1994, PhD 1998**



It's been an eventful year here in Kutztown. Last fall, the faculty in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education went on strike for the first time in our history after nearly a year and a half without a contract. After three days on the picket lines (and, fortunately, beautiful weather!), we resolved the strike favorably, and completed the semester. In November, I was named editor of the *Journal of Cultural Geography* (and stepped down as editor of GTU's *Geographical Bulletin*, which I'd edited for twelve years). Finally, this coming spring, I have a much-looked-forward-to sabbatical. In a notable shift from my recent work on the local food movement, I'll be writing about the depictions and uses of place in graphic novels and comics, with an eye towards developing a course on the topic. Lisa and the girls are doing well; it's difficult to believe that I have a high-school aged kid. They all continue to dance and create (writing, pottery, linocutting, painting, playing music), and our household (including a rabbit, a 19-year-old cat, a fish, and a small flock of hens) can best be

described as Never Boring.

## **Stu Shea, MA 1983**

After spending a little over three years enjoying life consulting and playing golf after working feverishly to separate an \$11B public company into two public companies, I decided to go back to work and took on a role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Peraton, a \$1.1B next generation national security company. It's a 125-year old start-up, formed through a divestiture from Harris Corporation, acquired by Veritas Capital. In addition to that full-time role, I also serve on a number of corporate and advisory Boards, including being the Chairman of the Senior Advisory Group for the Director of National Intelligence, the Honorable Dan Coats. This all keeps me pretty busy, but not too busy to enjoy life with my bride Kristine, dog Rocket, and 3 grown adult kids, Lisa, Kyle and Lauren. Wine, golf, cigars, and watching serial shows on Netflix and Amazon consume most days.

## **D. John Shultz, MA 1983**

...and another year flashes by so quickly. We're still in Lawrence, just moved into a new townhouse near Rock Chalk Park. Health issues are slowing me down some and I sorely miss the days of so much travel that we used to enjoy. Our daughter Amber Shultz Reynolds is still very active in her GIS work - who could have known that would become her life's interest?! Wishing everyone a great year ahead. Kindest regards to all.

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## **Dick Skaggs, MA 1963, PhD 1967**

I stopped by Lawrence in late October and visited with Bev for a short time. I bought a copy of Pete's history of the department, which I am sure will bring back many memories and more than a few "I didn't know that" moments.

Also looked at the latest basketball memorial. Mary Jo and I are spending time with classical music and theatre in the Twin Cities and trying to stay a little fit at the YMCA. We also enjoy trips to London once or twice a year for the museums, theatre, and classical music. We have lunch every couple of weeks with fellow Jayhawks Dwight and Helen Brown.

## **Henry Way, PhD 2008**

I'm still doing my term as Associate Dean here in my college at James Madison University, and finding the chance to teach human and urban geography when I can.

We are enjoying life in Harrisonburg – I'm still chair of the City's Planning Commission, where it has been fun to put some geography theory into practice, and Julie is getting more involved in the local political scene. On the family front, our eldest has just started kindergarten, and the younger remains at pre-school, and both doing well.

## **Anke Wells, MA 1965; PhD 1979**

I received my 10-year service pin from Johnson Community Col-

lege this past summer. After my retirement from public school teaching in Topeka in 2005, 3 years at Topeka West High School and 17 years at Seaman High School, I started to teach German at JCCC in 2007, first as an adjunct faculty member in the Foreign Language Department and later as an instructor in Continuing Education.

This fall is my last semester at the college. I will miss teaching, but after 30 years of teaching, I decided it was time to make room for younger colleagues. I am still working for EF as an international exchange coordinator. This is my third year working for this organization.

My son Axel and his family are still living in the Pacific Northwest near Seattle. My three grandkids are rapidly growing up, Katelyn turning 16, Alexander 13, and William 4 next year. I wish they would live closer so that I could see them more often!

## **Laura Whayne, MA 1990**



I will be retiring at the end of June 2018 from the University of Kentucky, where I have been the Transportation Librarian since 1989.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

The KU Alumni Association is our partner in making sure we have your correct information. If you would like to update your address, or other contact information, please visit the KU Alumni Association online at:

[kualumni.org](http://kualumni.org)

You can always email us at the department with updates if you prefer:

[kugeog@ku.edu](mailto:kugeog@ku.edu)

## STAY IN TOUCH!

We love hearing from you! Send us your news & photos that you'd like to share in our newsletters or on social media.

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ROCK CHALK!



# STAFF NOTES

## Greetings from the Lindley Hall staff!

We're looking forward to a great year ahead in 2018! This year saw several changes including the departure of the wonderful Ally Smith, who accepted a position as Office Manager for KU's Department of Sociology and the hiring of a new Communications Specialist, Anne Tangeman. We watched our 'neighborhood' grow with the construction of the new Earth, Energy & Environment Center

and are excited to be a part of the center - literally! We're connected to Ritchie Hall on our northwest side. We celebrated the eclipse on the roof of Lindley Hall and of course kept the students in sugar with cupcakes and cookies throughout the year (including Star Wars Day, see below). Every day we are inspired by the continuing accomplishments of students, faculty, and fellow staff at the University of Kansas. - *The Lindley Hall Staff*



Nate at the Ecosphere Studies Conference



Eclipse Day!



Jay Johnson's new book!



Star Wars Day!



Rooftop Weather Station!



Drones at the Majors Fair!

## STAY CONNECTED

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