

A photograph of a stone building with a large column and trees with autumn foliage. The building is made of light-colored stone blocks and has several windows. A large, fluted column stands to the right of the building. The trees in the foreground and background have leaves in shades of green, yellow, and orange, indicating autumn. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

KU DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY &
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE

The University of Kansas

College of Liberal Arts
& Sciences

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Message from the Chair:

Nathaniel Brunsell



Chair, Nathaniel

Greetings from Lindley Hall! This has been a great and productive year for us in the department.

We welcomed two new members to the department this Fall. Dr. Justin Stachnik has joined the faculty this year as an assistant professor within the Atmospheric Sciences. He joins us from a post-doc at JPL after obtaining his PhD in Atmospheric Science from Texas A&M University. His research focuses on Tropical Meteorology using modeling and observations to examine the dynamics of circulations such as the Madden-Julian Oscillation.

In addition, we welcomed Dr. Dee Shi as a lecturer of cartography and Director of Cartographic Services in the department. She joins us from Florida State University where she recently finished her PhD in Geography. Her research has focused on remote sensing of land cover and vegetation in urban environments.

This year also saw a number of departmental faculty moving into leadership positions around campus. Chris Brown returned from sabbatical in Brazil and took up the directorship of the Environmental Studies Program. In addition, Shannon O'Lear became director of the Center for Global and International Studies; So-Min Cheong became director of the Center for East Asian Studies; and Alex Diener is serving as the interim director for the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. So the department is very well represented in the leadership of the College and KU.

One of the highlights of the year came last spring when we held our first Alumni Reunion. This was a day of activities that provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with some of you. We kicked things off with a few short talks by faculty to highlight some of the diverse research being conducted around the department. Then we highlighted the work of a few graduate students to really show the diversity of topics being investigated. Dr. Pete Shortridge delivered the keynote presentation giving us all a detailed history of the department that coincided with the publication of his book documenting the department. Following that, we reconvened at the Oread hotel for an evening of drinks and refreshments to give us an opportunity to catch up on a more personal level. Thanks again for the work of the Alumni Board and others who helped ensure that the day was a success!

We've seen some changes to the academic environment in the department. The Atmospheric Science PHD became officially active in the Fall and we already have 2 students currently enrolled in the program. The ATMO program continues to grow and thrive. In fact, through the generous contribution of Donald and Nadine Perkey; we have been able to establish the Joe Eagleman Scholarship in support of the Atmospheric Sciences students.

The department had our first graduate certificate approved this year with the new GIS graduate certificate. A certificate for the undergrads is following up the approval chain quickly, and we hope to have it available next fall for students. Certificates are a relatively new option for students at KU, and we're already considering a suite of new options including Climate and Climate Change, as well as joint certificates to encourage students to investigate the linkages with other units around campus.

There have been a few changes around the department as well. We have a new computer lab for graduate research and we have also upgraded the MACH computer lab through generous funding from the Bohnstengl Endowment fund. The changes around the building are just getting started though, as the building of the Earth, Energy and Environment Center gets completed next door to Lindley. While this will be primarily for Geology, there will be quite a few changes as people are moved around and buildings are connected. Just ask David Mechem about the connection process, as his office will soon be a walkway between the two buildings!

There are a number of new initiatives on the horizon as we move into the new year. We're focusing on giving students more of an opportunity to conduct community relevant and engaged scholarship at all levels of their academic career. This requires continuing our efforts with new courses, more interaction between current faculty, 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 in time.

Rock Chalk!

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Emereti Corner

Robert W. McColl



It was an active year, but no international travel. Next year !!I did write a requested "retrospective" article for the Arab World Geographer that was compiled with many others for a special issue and a CD that was distributed at the 33rd International Geography Conference in Beijing (<http://arabworldgeographer.org/toc/arwg/current>) Even nicer, 2 of my photos from Gibraltar were used on the cover and obverse. There are an increasing number of Geography-focused tours and travel agencies with some real stunners (sadly also very expensive). I decided to pass on the Arctic Ocean - NW Passage Cruise, Ethiopia is not especially stable right now, but Central Asia and/or Persia/Iran by private train are appealing, if expensive. The REAL value of a tour in such areas is the "protection" it provides. Solo travel is simply too dangerous now.

Invitations to visit friends in Cuba, Dubai and Holland also are in the pot. Life in Florida

remains good - especially since it has been almost a decade since any hurricane has posed a threat. Watching the moods of the Gulf (of Mexico) is relaxing. But, travel/exploration is addictive. Email links and web searches allow continued intellectual involvement and joy. I find some of my past articles still are used and have led to new contacts, especially among Political Scientists and Europeans. It seems Europeans are more interested and concerned about "guerrilla wars" and "insurgent states." There are some fascinating applications that ignore modern State boundaries - a topic unto itself. And, the web is a marvelous aid in safe "exploration"

I feel blessed to have been able to visit and prowl about so many places and countries now too dangerous to even visit, e.g. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Djibouti, Yemen.....

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Curtis Sorenson

Well we've had another busy year in CO. Just last week we were on a motorcycle tour of

National Parks in Utah and Arizona. Now that weather is changing we'll be spending a lot more of our time at lower elevation. In the meantime we've been enjoying the mild summer/fall in Cripple Creek where we continue to work and volunteer with several organizations. I'm now the senior Vice Commander of the local American Legion Post 171, and our current project is the renovation of a disabled veteran's home. We continue to take part in activities of the Gold Camp Victorian Society. Peggy and I both portrayed characters in our annual Mt Pisgah Speaks cemetery tour. We are also guides and portray characters on trolley tours and Aspen tours as well as the brothel museum. We are heavily involved with the Two Mile High Club, which takes care of the feral donkeys of Cripple Creek. Now it's time to get firewood in and ready for winter. My job at the Boiler Room tavern is over until spring. As always we enjoy visitors-hoping to see Jeremy Dillon this weekend. So stay in touch and remember there's always a cold beer in the refrigerator.

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Faculty In Focus: Chris Brown



Chris Brown

*Fulbright Scholar
Woodyard Award Winner
Director of Environmental Studies Program*

Chris Brown and family (wife, Denise, and two boys, Jason (13) and Connor (10)) returned from their year in Brazil just in time for fall classes. He had a sabbatical year, supported by grants from Fulbright and the São Paulo Research Foundation. He completed research and taught a graduate seminar on Political Ecology and Land Change Science at the School of Agricultural Engineering at the State University of Campinas, in Campinas, São Paulo (UNICAMP). This is a university he has been visiting for a long time, given their strong remote sensing of agriculture program and proximity to colleagues at Embrapa (Brazil's equivalent of our USDA). It was a fabulous year, both professionally and personally for him and his

family. He got several pending projects finished and submitted for publication, and started new projects with Brazilian students and faculty. A number of students he met in Brazil during the year will be joining his lab this year to make progress on aspects of their PhD research. The student exchange program with UNICAMP is now in force, but with the crash in Brazil's economy, fellowships for undergraduate students to do international work are limited.



Chris Brown in a retro photo from the Lindley Hall bookcase

They will be promoting the exchange this year in hopes of some students from KU heading to this amazing country to take courses at one of Brazil's top universities.

The year was demanding for his boys, and they are extremely proud of all they accomplished. They were placed in a Portuguese speaking school, so it was total immersion for them. It was not long before they

were making friends, and their Portuguese improved dramatically very quickly. Today, they are fluent. Denise had learned Portuguese during Chris' PhD fieldwork back in the 1990s, so she was able to help out a lot with the boys and their work. Jason played basketball for a season at a club in town (they won the league championship!), and Connor played baseball. The baseball was an amazing experience, because it taught them a lot about the Japanese experience in Brazil. It was the Japanese that brought baseball to Brazil, and it is an essential element in maintaining Japanese culture. Chris helped out a lot coaching the team, and was eventually promoted to sensei, or "teacher", as coaches are called. Connor played in tournaments all year long and learned to become a pitcher. Both boys also played in a soccer club and came back with some great footwork!

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Chris with mentor Anita Herzfeld



Dave Braaten

Dave Braaten is still teaching atmospheric science courses and working in Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets (CReSIS), a KU research center on West Campus. Since 2005, the CReSIS core funding has come from the National Science Foundation as a designated Science and Technology Center (STC). This core funding will end June 2017, but CReSIS has other projects with substantial funding that will continue beyond next June. A new atmospheric science graduate student (Clay Matheny) has begun working at CReSIS as a research assistant using radar data to map accumulation rate in Antarctica. CReSIS continues to be productive in snow and ice remote sensing, and continues to work with research teams to collect data in Greenland and Antarctica. During the fall semester, Dave and Prasad Gogineni (CReSIS Director) met with Japanese, German and Norwegian colleagues in Tokyo to plan for CReSIS participation in a major over-ice traverse to Dome Fuji in East Antarctica two years from now.

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Nate Brunsell

Nate Brunsell had a successful year as Chair of the department. He oversaw the external review of the department. Along with Chris Brown, he was named as a Senior Administrative Fellow here at KU. On the research side, he was also able to continue his work with the flux towers across Kansas, strengthened the ties with the Land Institute with a new post-doctoral researcher. The ongoing work at the Konza Prairie has grown to include work with the KU Math department to implement non-linear dynamics into both modeling and analysis techniques to look at woody encroachment, fire and climate in the region. The urban heat island work is continuing to investigate the patterns of urban structures in addition to the distribution of vegetation in the urban environment. Along with Dave Rahn, we now have a ceilometer installed at the Kansas Field Station tower north of Lawrence to look at the nature of land-atmosphere coupling and boundary layer growth. On a more personal note, Tara and Warren continue to get taller. Tara is in second grade now and Warren has started kindergarten at the Lawrence Art Center.



So-Min Cheong

So-Min Cheong started the year undertaking the role of a director of the Center for East Asian Studies at KU. Despite administrative duties and sleep deprivation, she was able to continue and expand her research projects. She is finalizing her investigation of community adaptation to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; going forward with her research on community rebuilding after Superstorm Sandy with colleagues at NYU and Princeton; and embarking on the study of Korea's response to infectious disease, MERS (Middle East Respiratory Disease). She is very excited to find two excellent undergraduate students to work on these topics. They utilize what they learned to apply for an undergraduate research award and graduate school. She continues to work on climate change adaptation, and participates in the scoping meeting of the IPCC Special Report on oceans and cryosphere in Monaco this December. Part of her work is incorporated into a class project on urban resilience at Yale that she is invited to participate in as well as the River Street community project in New Haven. She is also very much looking forward to an incoming

PhD student who can couple her knowledge of GIS and climate change adaptation. Her latest grant activity is from the National Academies to expand her study on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill with collaborations from Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions and Business School.

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Abel Chikanda

Abel Chikanda spent his summer at KU conducting research on food insecurity in Harare. He worked with a group of 10 local research assistants to administer 723 questionnaire surveys in the city. The research is expected to shed light on the extent of food insecurity in the city and document some of the strategies that have been adopted by the local population to meet their food requirements. The research was jointly supported by a Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society and the University of Kansas (International Travel Award, Start-Up Grant, KU Endowment). He is also currently working on a project to investigate the integration of the African diaspora in the United States jointly with Julie Morris, a PhD student in the department. The project is

being funded by the University of Kansas' Center for Migration Research.

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Abel Chikanda's research team on food insecurity in Harare, Zimbabwe



Alexander Diener

Having returned from a year at Harvard as Senior Fellow at the Davis Center, Alexander Diener has taken up the post of Interim Director of KU's Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. In the last year, he published two articles with the *Journal of Eurasian Geography and Economics* and one with the *SAIS Review*, as well as, several edited volume chapters and encyclopedia entries. Shoten Publishers of Tokyo Japan published a Japanese language version of Alex's co-authored book *Borders: A Very Short Introduction*. Over

the summer, Alex delivered a series of lectures at the Border Studies Summer School at Hokkaido University in Japan and conducted fieldwork on his Eurasian Mobilities project in Mongolia. He is currently in the final stages of co-editing a book titled *Urban Space, Place, and National Identity* and has several articles and edited volume chapters in the pipeline. Alex plans on conducting fieldwork this summer in Kazakhstan where he is leading a research team on a project relating to Territorialization, Citizenship, and Civic National Identity. In November Alex will speak at the CESS conference at Princeton University and is enjoying being back in Pearl of Plains.

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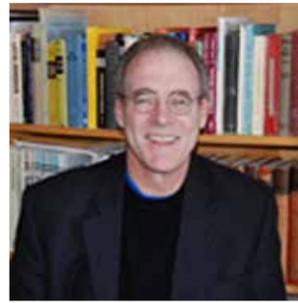


Steve Egbert

Steve Egbert continues to teach courses at KU in remote sensing and the Geopolitical aspects of genocide and he also offers a course in remote sensing each spring at Haskell Indian Nations University. His current research focuses on patterns and impacts of Native land allotments continues to expand is helped significantly

by the students in his regular readings seminar on Native Lands. Their current project, funded by the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, with Joe Brewer of Environmental Studies as PI and Jay Johnson's PhD student Josh Meisel as a key researcher and GIS analyst, centers on patterns of land allotment on the Standing Rock Reservation in North and South Dakota. A paper he presented at the 11th Native American Symposium in Oklahoma last fall on "Renaming the Indians" has become a journal article just accepted by the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* – co-authors are Joe Brewer, Paula Smith, and Dory Tuininga. He continues to make regular visits to the National Archives in Washington, DC and Kansas City to photograph original documents of land allotment and related social and economic surveys. These have been eye opening and have been relatively rarely reported on. Finally, he is also happy to report that a number of his grad students are finishing up their theses and dissertations and plan to defend by May 2017.

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Peter Herlihy

Professors Jerry Dobson and Peter Herlihy are in year four of the "Central America Indígena Project," funded by a prestigious U.S. DoD Minerva Initiative grant for University-led research. The CA Indígena team, including graduate researchers Matt Fahrenbruch and Taylor Tappan, and post-doc Aida Ramos, is now finishing participatory research mapping (PRM) collaborations begun three years ago in Central America. Specifically, the team works closely with indigenous communities and their leaders in order to understand and build geographic knowledge related to the multiple forms of indigenous land tenure regimes throughout the region. They have community-based mapping projects in Sacatepéquez Department (Antigua), Guatemala; La Muskitia, eastern Honduras; and Alto Chirripó Indigenous Reserve, Costa Rica; these anchor the team's

advances in constructing a comprehensive, county-level GIS of variables indicating cultural and political stability in all seven Central American countries. Since the project's inception in June 2013, the team has made approximately 25 field trips to Central America to build geographic research collaborations with indigenous, university, government, and NGO partners. Among the field work sites in Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica, the CA Indígena team has mapped nearly 10,000km² of territory at 1:50,000 scale, vastly improving the geographic information and cartography available in some of the region's most remote and little-known lands. Indigenous communities, government, and international NGOs are already using these results for the governance and resource management of the indigenous territories.



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Faculty in Focus: *Dan Hirmas*

This year saw two of Dan Hirmas' Masters students in his laboratory – Eric Zautner and Aaron Koop (co-advised with Prof. Bill Johnson) – defend their thesis and graduate. Eric submitted one paper this year from his thesis to the *Journal of Arid Environments* on his work examining desert varnish formation processes and its application to understanding land surface stability. Aaron is currently preparing a manuscript from his thesis work on the role of pedostratigraphy on the development and morphology of first-order canyon walls in the Arikaree Breaks of northwestern Kansas. His PhD student, Awesta Mohammed, is expected to finish her dissertation this Spring. The first chapter of her dissertation where she developed a method to use soil profile photographs to quantify soil structure was recently accepted for publication in the *Soil Science Society of America Journal*. In addition to other journal publications; he co-authored a review chapter in the new *The Soils of the USA Springer World Soils Book Series* with Prof. Rolfe Mandel on Soils of the Great Plains.



Dan Hirmas with class in Iraq

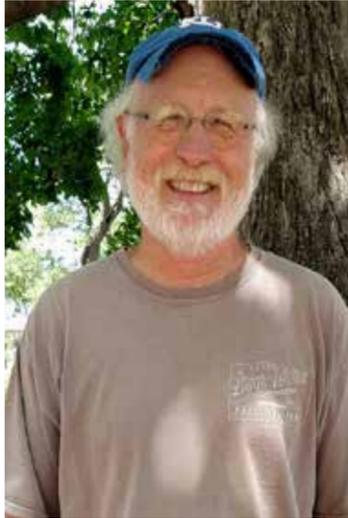


Dan in graduation regalia in May

In January, he traveled to Sulaimani, KRG, Iraq where he spent a month with his Kurdish colleagues teaching a course on environmental data analysis using R to faculty and graduate students. During his time in Sulaimani, he started a collaboration with colleagues in the Soil and Water Science Department examining the effects of long-term use of waste water for irrigation on soil morphological, chemical, and physical properties south of the city. He was awarded a grant from the KU Office of International Programs to go back to Sulaimani last May to continue this work. The cultural experience represented by these trips was extremely rewarding to him personally as he met with so many wonderful and welcoming colleagues and made many new friends. He expects that the collaborations begun this year will continue for years to come.

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Faculty In Focus: *Bill Johnson*



Bill Johnson

This has been another fun year for Bill Johnson! As with most recent summers, he worked a bit in Alaska this year, but this year it was later than usual (September) and special because Claudia came along this time, so they did some tourist stuff, e.g., the Alaska Railroad, Glacier Bay, Tanana River Lowlands, glacier hikes, and lots more. Shortly after that and the Geological Society of America meeting, Mike Taylor and Bill again took their fall-semester geomorphology class to Death Valley, flying into Las Vegas and driving from there. As for the holiday break, Claudia and Bill will be in southern California—he has a research project with a UC colleague and plans to make time for writing and relaxation. Turning to Kansas, his major research project

here for the past several years has been that of characterizing High Plains depressions called “playas,” which are basins that are filled with water following significant rain events. The current thrust is that of trying to document the extent to which these basins, when water-filled, serve as point sources for recharge of the declining High Plains Aquifer.

The first of the four images shows graduate students Dakota Burt (ladder) and Nate Schlagel setting up components of the instrument station:



The second image shows them measuring the water levels in a recently-installed groundwater monitoring well adjacent to the playa:



The third image shows Dakota, Melissa Goldade, and Randy Stotler (KU Geology) installing subsurface water sensors:



The fourth image shows the “cultural impact” on one of the several dust collectors deployed around the playa.



Like his colleagues, he has other active research projects, but the best ones are always when students are actively involved. His best to everyone for the holiday season.

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Jay T. Johnson

Just recently, Jay T. Johnson received his 10-year pin for his service to KU. Like many of his colleagues, this left him scratching his head and trying to figure out how they came up with 10 years when he started in the Geography & Atmospheric Science Department in 2008. It appears that KU remembers the years he taught as an adjunct for the School of Social Welfare in the mid-90’s. It’s nice to know that someone in the administration is keeping count. Over the past year, Jay continued working on two NSF-funded projects aimed at better understanding how American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian tribes and organizations are engaging and permitting research. Along with Renee Louis and Joe Brewer here at KU, he is collaborating with the First Alaskans Institute, along with researchers across the US, to develop a network aimed at assisting tribes and Native organizations in identifying and controlling their own research agenda. In April, the network held a workshop in collaboration with the First Alaskans Institute in Chugiak, Alaska. This workshop brought together individuals from across Alaska, Hawai’i, and the rest of the US, to discuss what

shape an Indigenous research protocol might take. They are planning their next workshop for later in 2017 where they will explore mentoring Native students in the sciences. Jay coauthored a book with Professor Soren Larsen of the University of Missouri is now in final production with the University of Minnesota Press and should be available by mid-2017. Professors Jay Johnson and Soren Larsen have continued their collaborations with publications in the new *Geohumanities* journal and a chapter for Duke University Press’s *Geographies of hope* volume. jaytjohnson@ku.edu

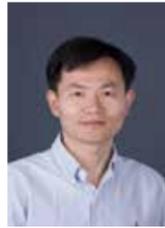


Xingong Li

Xingong Li teaches a new course, *Geospatial Technologies in Water Resources*, in the fall. The course teaches how to use cloud-based computational tools and platforms to perform spatiotemporal data analysis, mapping surface water resources, and develop web applications. Xingong started using the Google Earth Engine (GEE) cloud-based geospatial analysis platform since 2014 and has included GEE in both GEOG 360 (Computer Programming for Mapping and Analysis) and GEOG 560 (GIS Application Programming) which he taught in the fall of 2015 and the spring

of 2016. Xingong and his graduate student, Jim Coll, also gave a half-day workshop on GEE to students and faculty at the 2016 UCGIS Symposium at Phoenix, Arizona. On the research side, collaboration with the Nanjing University, the Central China Normal University, and the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy and Sciences has led to the publication of 9 articles so far in 2016 on various GIS, remote sensing, and hydrology journals, including *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*, *Transactions in GIS*, *Cartography and Geographic Information Science*, *Remote Sensing*, and *Hydrological Science Journal*. As for services, Dr. Li led the effort of establishing the GIS certificate program for grads and undergrads. The graduate program has been approved and will officially be available in the 2017-18 catalog. The undergraduate program is still in progress and should be approved by the spring of 2017. As always, Dr. Li, and a group of faculty, students, and staff organized the 15th Annual GIS Day at KU which was held on November 16 at the Memorial Student Union here on campus.

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Ting Lei

During the past year, Ting has developed new GIS courses on Location Modeling and Spatial Databases, respectively. Both courses are part of a curriculum revision effort for the new GIS certificate program in the department. He is the faculty adviser for the annual GIS day 2016 event, which is the 12th of the event along the line. 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 also acted as the CTE (Center for Teaching Excellence) ambassador for G.A.S. starting in June. 2016, Ting was leading a project for the Johnson County 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.

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Dave Mechem

According to Dave Mechem, it has been another hectic but productive year for the KU cloud group. Hannah Chandler, an M.S. student in the group, has been wrapping up her research using a high-resolution large-eddy simulation model to investigate precursor conditions for precipitation initiation in 'warm' (liquid-only) low clouds. This work is a collaboration with scientists from NASA/GISS and has required overcoming a number of unforeseen research challenges. Preliminary versions of Hannah's research were presented by Dave in July at the International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation in Manchester UK, and Hannah will present the research herself at the Fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union in December. Luke McMichael, another M.S. student, has been busy identifying the mechanisms governing the dissipation of a cloud

system observed by aircraft. His study is also collaborative and includes researchers from the Naval Research Laboratory and the Naval Postgraduate School. Other research highlights were the funding of a Department of Energy grant centered on shallow cumulus clouds (particularly how cloudy air and air from outside the cloud are mixed) and improving the representation of these low clouds in models. They also participated in the Summer Graduate Program Mathematics and Climate held at KU, an effort aimed at bringing applied mathematics and climate researchers closer together. Finally, he chaired the search committee for a new Atmospheric Science faculty member who started in the fall. Family highlights were a 2-week vacation to the southwest U.S. in late May, which included 5 days at the beach in San Diego, and a visit to Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona.

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Shannon O'Lear

At long last, Shannon O'Lear is finally writing the book on Environmental Geopolitics! She has been teaching a class on environmental geopolitics, cross-listed with Environmental Studies, for several years, and it is high time she wrote a book that develops the concept beyond the classroom. This semester, she is supported by a Keeler Intra-University Professorship which grants her a semester of research leave and relieves her of all service and teaching duties. She misses being in the classroom and working with undergrad students. However, she continues to work with her graduate student that she is advising. She is delighted to have been a second author on papers with two of her doctoral students this year. Nicole Reiz and Shannon wrote a paper titled, "Spaces of Violence and (In)justice in Haiti: A Critical Legal Geography Perspective on Rape, UN Peace-

keeping, and the United Nations Status of Forces Agreement", which was published in *Territory, Politics and Governance*. Dave Trimbach and Shannon wrote a paper, "Russians in Estonia: Is Narva the Next Crimea?", which was published in *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. This past spring, Shannon was part of what they like to call the KU Takedown of the Political Geography Preconference prior to the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers in San Francisco. There were nine of them out of a total of about 50 participants, and their contingent was the largest (and most intellectually fun!) by far. She was particularly pleased that so many students participated and found the event to be interesting and useful for their own research and professional networking. Mentoring and encouraging students in Geography is important! In September, she was invited to be a keynote speaker at a small workshop on "Human Geography Futures" at Johns Hopkins University. Out of the five, invited speakers, she was the only actual Geographer. This experience reinforced for her (and, she believes, for the audience who attended the workshop) the importance of avoiding deterministic labels and the value of connecting multiple dimensions of human and physical systems to understand complex processes

and patterns.

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Dave Rahn

Dave Rahn is finishing up some work using observations from a research aircraft along the coast of California. One of the more interesting observations that was published this year was the development of coherent, organized overturning called Kelvin-Helmholtz instability in the lower atmosphere that is driven in part by a strong decrease of wind speed with height. The airborne lidar was able to capture wonderful details of this phenomenon. The turbulence generated with the overturning greatly modifies the structure of the lower atmosphere. He also wants to mention that the recently remodeled MACH lab is looking good!

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Di Shi

Di Shi is the new Director of Cartographic Services at Department of Geography and Atmospheric Science. She worked with the graduate students and published a new website of Cartographic Services, <http://spatial.ku.edu/>. The content will be modified and improved gradually. The Cartographic Lab is actively seeking opportunities to promote its services and the applications of geospatial technology. Meanwhile, Di is working with faculty to organize the cartographic courses in the department.

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Pete Shortridge

The Shortridges have little news to report this year. Although he continues to teach courses on Kansas and the United States/Canada, most of his time is spent

with Barbara. Her dementia has advanced so that she now has difficulty finding words and has become afraid to leave the house. They, therefore, lead a quiet life. He fools around with family history, yard maintenance, and basic cooking. Reading also remains a pleasure, and he can recommend a new biography by Andrea Wulf: *The Invention of Nature--Alexander von Humboldt's New World* (Knopf, 2015)

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Justin Stachnik

Justin joined the Department this fall after completing a joint postdoc with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California. His research interests are broad and include clouds, climate, and precipitation with recent projects focusing on tropical meteorology and climate dynamics. Justin has already started to expand his research horizons at KU into themes involving weather, climate, and

society. He is sponsoring an undergraduate researcher investigating the potential for "siren fatigue" and better understanding how the public reacts to severe weather and tornado warnings. He is currently teaching Introductory Meteorology and loves being in front of students with a variety of backgrounds and exciting them about weather, climate, and the world. Justin is also mentoring upper-level atmospheric science students enrolled in the Senior Seminar course and plans to teach his first graduate elective in 2017. Justin will be travelling to the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Annual Meeting in January where he will present some of his recent work and looks forward to recruiting his first graduate students for Fall 2017.

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Barney Warf

It's been quite a year for Barney Warf! He was on sabbatical in the spring semester, spending part of it in southern California. He also spent two weeks

teaching a mini-course in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He continues to edit the *Professional Geographer* and co-edit *Growth and Change*, and in January will begin editing a third journal, *GeoJournal*. He also edits an online bibliography series for Oxford University Press and a book series for Rowman and Littlefield. His research over the last year includes a forthcoming monograph on electronic government in Asia (with Elsevier), an edited *Handbook on Geographies of Technologies* (Edward Elgar), and a forthcoming *Encyclopedia of the Internet* (Sage). He also published three papers on the geography of corruption and have a fourth under review. He also wrote 10 book chapters and guest co-edited a special issue of *Space and Polity* on drugs and geography, which will also appear as an edited volume. With a friend at the University of Florida, he was awarded an NSF grant for \$375,000 to study the globalization of the Mexican beef and corn industry and its land use impacts. He continues to teach a large freshman class, graduate courses, and advise 3 Ph.D. students and one M.A. student. Keeps him on his toes! His spare time is spent with novels, movies, jazz, and his various circles of friends in Lawrence.

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Faculty Tidbits:



Faculty Retreat - August



Orientation - Field Camp



New faculty Reception



Nate Brunsell at graduation



Xingong Li - 2016 GIS Day

Alumni Board Advisory Update



The New 2016 Alumni Advisory Board

The Alumni Advisory Board had a face to face meeting in person in Lawrence in April and decided to focus on 3 priorities for the rest of 2016. The Board is looking forward to continuing its support of students and connecting with alumni for new ideas, professional networking and new ways and ideas to help fund the GAS department.

This fall we sponsored our annual career panel discussion on Nov 3rd that included Alumni Advisory Board members (Mark Burger, Tom Schmiedeler), 6 alumni and 3 industry experts for both Geography and Atmospheric Science. This year we tried a different format and that seemed to work well according to feedback received. About 30 students showed up for pizza and soft drinks to discuss career opportunities in both disciplines. We also welcome any feedback for future sessions and or volunteers who might be able to attend next year.

The goals of the Alumni Advisory Board are to inform and involve alumni and other key constituencies to increase awareness of KU Geography and Atmospheric Science academic and research initiatives, to foster and engage, active alumni community and to establish a network of professionals that are available who work in the industries that are available to advise and mentor students. We are a free resource that can be used for internships, mentoring, job placement and or career advice for GEOG and ATMO students.

We continue to support student travel to professional conferences such as AAG and AMS, training and field camp. Care to join the Alumni Advisory Board? Please contact Department Chair Nathaniel Brunsell at brunsell@ku.edu or Alumni Advisory Board Chair David Stearns at david.stearns@here.com to ask any questions you might have or submit a possible candidate who would be a good addition to the Alumni Advisory Board. (continued on next page)v



2016 Career Day



We need additional members to aid in our outreach in 2017 and beyond. Please contact one of us above if you interested in serving the Alumni Advisory Board. We need to expand our membership and expertise. Board members have made a commitment to engage and invest time in the life and activities of KU Geography and Atmospheric Science and be ambassadors for the department. Please do your part for the KU Geography and Atmospheric Science Department by supporting the Department with your time, talent and or donations.

Please check out our online website for more information <http://geography.ku.edu/advisory-board-0>. Please update your information on the KU Geography and Atmospheric Science Alumni Directory page and encourage your friends from the department to do the same thing. We need to update as much information about our alumni as possible. This helps us to create an updated alumni database and reach out to alumni for professional connections and introductions. <http://geography.ku.edu/alumni-directory>.

We welcome comments and suggestions and any ideas to help assist the department. We are also on Facebook and Twitter so please follow the department on social media as well.

David Stearns, Alumni Advisory Board Chair david.stearns@here.com

News of our Alumni

1960s



Byron D. Augustin MA 1968

Rebecca and I have just completed six years of retirement residence in Valladolid, Yucatan, Mexico. We have an easy drive to Cancun and spend a lot of time along the Maya Riviera, especially Isla Mujeres. We have enjoyed great barracuda fishing and hook an occasional sailfish. We have developed a strong interest in Cuba and made five wonderful trips to the island. We were in Cuba in March for President Obama's visit as well as the Tampa Bay Rays exhibition baseball game. However, the best part of that trip was attending a Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones concert in Havana with 500,000 enthusiastic fans. I appreciate Bev Koerner's efforts to keep the alums con-

nected and always enjoy reading what everyone is doing.

ba04@txstate.com

Dixie Ann Pemberton PhD 1970

My husband and I, Arnold C. Reed, spent the months of July and August at The Chateau La Jolla Inn, a senior residence just a block from the ocean. We had a great time in the cooler temperatures. No high exceeded 78 degrees! The activity director offered bingo twice a week, and we celebrated each person's birthday! Most Wednesdays were outdoors luncheons. Our health is not too good, but it is better than alternatives.

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James Hughes MA 1968, PhD 1971

Even though I retired from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania in 2005, I continue my involvement there. I graduated this spring from Slippery Rock with a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Minor in Art History. Basically, I took what I found interesting. This fall I taught a course on Brazil: Geography, Art and Architecture for the Institute for Learning in Retirement. In future semesters I plan to offer similar courses on Mexico, then Argentina and Uruguay, then Cuba, and so

forth. As I write this, faculty across the 14 universities of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education are on strike for the first time ever. My piece of advice to my friends at and from KU: if possible work at a public university where the faculty is unionized. It avoids so many problems of arbitrariness and unfairness. The downside is that-- in the case of SRU for the first time in 44 years--one might have to resort to a work action. Best wishes to all for a good year ahead.

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1970s

Tom Graff PhD 1973

Tom retired after 42 1/2 years at the University of Arkansas.

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Vern Harnapp PhD 1972

May 13-23 I was in Cuba on a church building project. Flying from Tampa to Havana took 52 minutes on a Jet Blue charter flight. Arriving at the terminal we immediately saw the cars from the 1950's parked by the building. Since the airport has no services for airliners, arriving planes must have enough fuel on board for them to reach their next destination.

That is primitive. I was part of an eight member construction team from 1st Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida which has a mission congregation in Candelaria, Cuba about 40 miles southwest of Havana. We brought building supplies, food, and clothing for the congregation. I wanted to see Cuba before it changes dramatically, which it will in the next few decades--slowly, ever so slowly, but surely.

A few basic facts of life and economics soon became apparent. The average wage for workers is \$14 per month away from Havana to \$24-\$40 per month in Havana. People receive twice monthly food rations of basic staples, free education and medical services, meanwhile paying \$1 per month for housing and \$2 per month for electricity and water and sewage service. Keeping that in mind, there is precious little purchasing power there. They introduced me to a high school geography teacher who proudly stated that his wage was \$24 a month. He asked me what was my wage as a university geography professor and I said, "\$24 an hour." On both sides of the conversation, neither of us could quite believe the other. A week was spent working on the local church--laying tile and cement blocks and painting inside and outside the edifice. The local people were assigned labor positions by the government but no one ever seemed to be working at anything. So they just "hang out" walking the streets, playing dominos, or sit-

ting around making small talk. Young folk don't have much hope for their future. With no money available to them they walk, ride an old bike, ride in horse drawn wagons, and on occasion a bus, or a rare automobile which is 50 years old or older. They are masters at keeping ancient cars operating by cannibalizing other autos and using wire and duct tape everywhere. The trip was definitely worthwhile and eye opening.

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Marley Amstutz MA 1978

In circa 1982 I began working in private cartography. Like mitochondrial DNA, the group I was part of remained relatively intact while the larger corporate "cell" underwent repeated meiosis-like morphing...into such guises as MapQuest and AOL. Final transformation into AOL-Time Warner was when, to continue the biological simile, the malignancy began. After a few years of life support, the group -- as cartography as a whole was becoming -- drifted into something less organic.... and I, for one, chose no resuscitation. Circa 2008. Since then I have been somewhat occupied by part-time work in retail [footnote: see "Nickel and Dimed" by Barbara Ehrenreich] but mostly committed to partnering with my wife in a pet sitting/pet care/dog walking business. Very fulfilling...and if being with dogs lowers blood pressure, mine should be near zero! Little connection to my for-

mer career except in 2 ways -- I find myself mulling over the mental maps of canines and pondering this under-researched topic: the geography of scents. Residing in Hershey, PA. Three sons and one granddaughter.

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Tony Lewis PhD 1971

Greetings from beautiful Northern Idaho! If some of y'all do not know, after retiring from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge we moved to the Inland Northwest, closer to Barbara's roots and where most of our children reside. We live about 12 miles outside of Sandpoint, ID and 60 miles from the Canada and have a view of Lake Pend Oreille, the Green Monarch Mts. and the Cabinet Mts. Lake Pend Oreille is over 1,000 feet deep and it is the lake in North Idaho that looks like a question mark on most maps of the US.

All is well with the Lewis family, including our four children, their spouses and our four grandchildren. Our oldest grandson, Isaac is enrolled at Gonzaga University in Spokane. This is great news for us because all the rest of his life he was living far away from us in either Alaska or Japan. Now we finally get to interfere in his life.

My projects in China and Louisiana have ended. I am 100% retired and enjoy it. I am active with an educational group called the Ice Age Floods Institute and keep busy organizing field trips and lectures. The Ice Age Floods and their effects on the landscape are very, very interesting and I am always learning more about them. It is especially interesting to me since from our home we can see the mouth of the Clark Fork River, where an over 2,000-foot ice plug blocked the Clark Fork River forming Glacial Lake Missoula. The multiple times this ice plug formed and collapsed resulted in humongous floods that resulted in the scablands, giant coulees, giant ice rafted erratics in Oregon and a plethora of other erosional and depositional features in Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Enough said. Barbara continues to volunteer at the Bonner County Museum and Historical Society. She has been involved in developing and constructing at least four displays at the Museum and has just finished a paper on some research she initiated on a Paleoarchaic Shouldered Lanceolate Bifacial Point found along the Pend Oreille River, a topic on which I know nothing about. I have remained in contact with several KU friends: Joe Alford and Floyd Henderson. In fact, Joe and Dee Alford stopped by for a short 3 day visit and we are hoping the they will come

back next summer. I have only been in telephone contact with Floyd and Gayle Henderson but hope they will also visit us. After Floyd and Gayle retired they packed up and moved to Germany for eight years. They are back in the US and are living in Texas. I look forward to hearing from old KU friends and would love to have you visit us.

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Tom Luellen, MA 1978

This January I will retire after working 31 years for Stormont Vail Health in Topeka. Just like there are fewer and fewer updates in this newsletter from 1970s alumni, colleagues my age have become rare. Reflecting on the end of this career and reading Pete's history of the Geography Department, I realize what a lasting impact my geography professors had, especially George Jenks. Retirement will bring the opportunity to return to school and really enjoy learning.

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1980s



John Beets MA 1980

It's hard to believe that 36 years have passed since receiving my MA in Geography from KU. I continue to provide GIS and risk management services for major transmission pipeline clients. We design and implement large scale GIS databases (ArcGIS) to support efficient operations and Integrity Management of these systems that often run for thousands of miles. Operative words now in our business are "Big Data", the Cloud, and Python programming. This stuff is still fun, but I do look forward to slowing down in a couple of years. I continue to live in Roeland Park, KS with my lovely wife Erendira (Linda). She is also a Geographer and is retired from local government work. We love to travel - as I write this we are sitting in the Newark airport returning from a two week tour of Ireland and Wales.

During my career I have been able to travel to China, Malaysia, Australia, South Africa, and Colombia. I also ride a Harley Davidson motorcycle and have been to the ultimate motorcycle rally - Sturgis - 13 years in a row.

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Shigeo Takahashi PhD 1989

This is my 26th year in Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan. A notable academic event is that I have obtained a 5-year grant of about \$230,000 with four colleagues in geography, economics, and engineering. We are conducting an interdisciplinary research in which we try to incorporate the visual perception and mental image of our environment into objective map data. Specifically, we use an expensive device to measure how long and what we see while we walk. Analyzing such data, we want link our behavior and the formation of mental images at the initial stage of our research. Then, we will think about ways to incorporate subjective infor-

mation into objective map data so that we can make a more effective map and signs to show, for example, evacuation routes in case of Tsunami disasters. Personally, I enjoy hiking occasionally to refresh myself.

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David Butler PhD 1982

I am a Texas State University Regents' Professor of Geography. I received the College of Liberal Arts 2016 Achievement Award for Excellence in Service. I'm in my 35th year as a professor, and my 20th year at Texas State in San Marcos. Folks who come to San Marcos are always welcome to stop by and say hello.

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1990s



Mark Jakubauskas PhD 1994

I am now Director of Science Programs for the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park. In 2013, I played a key role in launching a new degree program at Edwards, the Professional Science Masters in Environmental Assessment for the KU Environmental Studies Program, and the degree is now one of the largest masters programs in the College. In June 2016, I was promoted to oversee all current and proposed science programs at Edwards, including development of collaborative programs with KU Medical Center and undergraduate pipelines into graduate science programs there. I served as inaugural program director for the PSM program, a role I continue in at present in addition to my other responsibilities. I still live in Lawrence; coincidentally, only two blocks away from the house I rented as a graduate student at KU in the 1990's. My wife Sara is a scientific illustrator and community organizer, and my twin daughters now attend Liberty Memorial Central Middle School.

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Amy Rork MA 1997

2016 has been a busy year. I've been retired for over a year, but apparently I still needed a 'job'. Crazy me, I volunteered to organize my 50th year high school reunion for the Class of '66, which took place in May. It was a ¾ time job, 125 miles away and planning lasted almost 18 months (many trips to Independence, KS and thousands of emails), but everything turned out quite nicely. I produced a reunion book for the annual get-together for the classes 51 years and older, and a separate remembrance book for our class alone – about 150 pages all together. Post-reunion (and after some needed rest), I got busy planning a driving trip to the west coast to check off my last two states, WA and OR (been to all 50; working on continents). My brother Peter, who travels with me, and I

departed in late August and toured 17 National Parks and Monuments en route to the west coast and back (Scotts Bluff, Agate Fossil Beds, Little Bighorn, Yellowstone, Glacier, Grand Coulee Dam, Mt. Ranier, Mt. St. Helens, Lewis & Clark Nat'l. Mon., Crater Lake, Newberry Nat'l. Volcanic Mon. [near Bend, OR], Craters of the Moon, Fossil Butte, Flaming Gorge, Dinosaur, Colorado Nat'l. Mon., and Black Canyon of the Gunnison – whew!! Senior National Parks pass = priceless). This little trip put 5,500 miles on my car in two weeks, but it was worth every mile. We especially enjoyed seeing the apple harvest getting underway in central Washington, the Lewis & Clark site, Crater Lake and Colorado Nat'l. Mon. where we saw six bighorn sheep right next to the road. We also drove the 'Going to the Sun' road in Glacier (spectacular) and the Beartooth highway from Billings to the northeast entrance of Yellowstone (just as spectacular). There were so many wonderful sights – craggy mountains, lush forests, expansive plains, huge rivers, farms of all kinds, roaring ocean, and birds and beasts. After having an extra bone removed from my ankle in Oct. 2015, I'm happy to be mobile again. The pesky thing had bothered me most of my adult life but it took changing doctors (and some complaining

when my foot had gotten a lot worse) to get an x-ray, which detected it. It has taken, as the to heal (lots of tendons involved). I had a cast for three months, and then took it very easy for another six months. It has taken, as the surgeon said it would, a LONG time to heal (lots of tendons involved). Things are fine now and I even did a bit of hiking on the above trip, a first since field camp. I am bowling on a league again, something I gave up when I went back to school way back in 1991. The body is not quite as receptive to repetitive exercise, and my average is miserable, but it's fun and better than sitting at home. To keep busy in my spare time, I have a booth at an antique mall in Baldwin City, which requires lots of sleuthing at garage sales for 'inventory'. If you saw someone you thought you knew on an Antiques Roadshow episode, it might have been me. I appeared on the April 18, 2016 episode (Omaha #1, about 40 minutes into the show), showing my majolica oyster plates (purchased at a local garage sale); it was quite a thrill to be selected and interviewed. Nothing like one minute of fame! Happy Holidays and a great New Year to all!

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Taylor Mack MA 1992

I am still teaching at Louisiana Tech University in North Louisiana, where I am now in my 11th year in Ruston. I was the 2016 recipient of the Outstanding Service to CLAG Award, from the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG). I started as a Board member in 2003, became the Newsletter Editor in 2005 when he completely revamped the newsletter for digital distribution. In 2009, I was the Co-Organizer of the CLAG meeting in Granada, Nicaragua, and served as the Chair of CLAG's Honors Committee for 2013-2015. I was also elected as CLAG's Vice-Chair (2008-2010) and Chair (2010-2012). I served on numerous Student Paper Competition and Field Study Award committees for most of the years I was on the CLAG Board (2003-2015). My current research is examining the first railroad contract in Honduras, in 1853, and comparing it to later railroad contracts, as well as comparing it to the current contract for a canal across Nicaragua. I am also trying to organize a study abroad trip to Cuba for Louisiana Tech.

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Craig S. Campbell, PhD 1993

I am still in Youngstown at Youngstown State Universi-

ty. Over the last year one of the main events for us was that our son, Justin and his wife and our two grand kids moved in with us while Justin is attending Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh (go Scotty Dogs!). He is enrolled in their MA program in Emerging Media Technology. By the way, if you're ever in the Pittsburgh area, don't miss the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh right next to CMU. Anyway, it's great to have the grand kids nearby (Keaton - 6 and James - 3). A trip last spring to Pottsville, Pennsylvania (HQ of Yeungling Beer), Lebanon, Hershey, and Harrisburg to see the state capital was a learning experience. I was impressed by the width and presence of the Susquehanna River and the overall grounds of the capitol area. Geography-wise, over the summer, we were able to make a trip out west with friends to take in the Cascades and Seattle. Some sites visited were Klamath Falls, Crater Lake, the Amtrak train trip from Klamath Falls to Tacoma, Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, Mt. Rainier, the Boeing Everett plant and the Space Needle. It was an eye opening trip. Rainier is a massive monster of a volcano.

I still have about seven or so years to retirement. I continue to enjoy teaching and thinking

geography.
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Joseph Kerski MA 1993

I still serve as instructor of GIS at the University of Denver and as Education Manager at Esri. I have over 3,100 videos about geography on <http://www.youtube.com/geographyberalles> and my latest book called *Interpreting Our World – The 100 Most Revolutionary Moments in Geography* – is now available on <https://www.amazon.com/Interpreting-Our-World-Discoveries-Revolutionized/dp/161069919X>
As always, best wishes to all!

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(90s continued on next page)

Mike Ingram Ph.D. 1996

Incredibly, it has now been over 20 years since Bonnie and I moved into Leavenworth from out in the country. Fortunately, this city has changed tremendously for the better in that time. Bonnie and I again tried this year to make the most of relatively short trips to see what is close to home. Late last winter we ventured out to the NW corner of Kansas to see the “badlands” of the Arikaree Breaks. The views were stunning, but the incessant high winds required us to literally hold onto our hats! We looped back from there stopping along the way to see both Lake Scott and Monument Rocks, as well as Mushroom Rocks in central Kansas once again. On this trip I picked up some post rock to take home in our Honda Element and use for landscaping. By “picked up” I mean dead lifted most of a broken fence post into the Element from an old fence line — it looks nice along our front walk, but it was a pretty challenging lift for me! In early spring, we visited the famous Kansas water features of Alcove Springs and Pillsbury Crossing, which were both beautiful during a period of high water. On this trip we stayed in the unique renovated railroad hotels found in both Waterville and Wilson. In late summer, Bonnie and I spent a couple nights at a beautifully restored mansion in St. Joseph, Missouri to celebrate the 35th anniversary of our meeting.

St. Joseph has much of historical interest to see and is in a period of obvious revitalization, especially downtown. In the fall, we stayed a couple nights in Topeka, and toured the Mulvane Art Museum at Washburn for the first time. On this trip, we took a tour based out of the renovated Volland Store to see examples of arched cellars in the Flint Hills. Our gardening efforts produced asparagus and a steady supply of lettuces early, and then plenty of onions to store in the basement. We got only a small amount of sweet peppers this year, but many large cherry tomatoes, mostly grown in three washtubs. We also grew some beets, carrots, Swiss chard, and cucumbers. The wet conditions this year were again conducive to all kinds of little biting pests that finally made us both noticeably sick in the summer. We are really hoping for a very cold winter to kill them off. An abundance of walnuts on trees along the back of our lot seems to suggest that it will be a harsh winter. We picked up a bushel or so of them to harvest, but have since learned just how hard it is and how long that it takes to process raw walnuts to eat. As for me, to stay in shape I still walk carrying hand weights several times a week and try to eat healthier overall. I am also always reading, albeit slowly, several nonfiction books at a time, the more relevant to me the better. Thus, this summer I picked up a copy of Pete’s History of the Geography De-

partment, but I proceeded to read this one straight through on a weekend! I thought the book was very well written, and presented keen and objective insights into the academic world. I highly recommend it for all KU Geographers.

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John Dunham BA 1994, PhD 1996

I’m now into my twelfth year as Cartographic Services Manager for the Kansas Geological Survey, producing geologic maps and geologic GIS data for the KGS. I have one student employee working for me on several mapping projects, including new maps and data and metadata creating and editing. The highlight of my professional year occurred in conjunction with the 2016 Esri International User Conference. I exhibited our new Morris County map, for which I provided the computer compilation and cartographic work, at the Conference’s

Map Gallery exhibit. It was one of two maps, out of hundreds exhibited, to receive the Excellence in Cartography award by a panel of judges from two mapping organizations—the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the International Map Industry Association (IMIA). 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 are also fortunate enough to make occasional trips to our favorite spots in the Florida Panhandle.

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Mary Dillworth Clinthorne PhD 1990

After teaching part-time for many years, I’ll be back to a full-time position at Aquinas College (Grand Rapids, MI) beginning in January. I’ve been teaching Cartography, GIS, and World Regional on a rotation for quite awhile, but will add Remote Sensing

and a new Geospatial Analysis course in the next year. It all adds up to Aquinas’ new “Geospatial Technologies” concentration within Geography. Why would an intelligent person go from working part-time to full-time so late in a career? I guess I just like teaching (most days), plus trying to keep up with all this technology is bound to either keep me young, or age me rapidly. So, Karen Trifonoff, Kelly Gregg, and others, enjoy your retirements! And, as if that wasn’t enough change, husband Jim and I decided to sell the house we’ve lived in for 20 years, and buy a smaller house (still in Rockford) to last us the next 20 years. Selling, buying, developing courses -- yep, I’m busy! Stop by and visit if you’re in the Mitten state. (Photo taken on Mackinac Island -- Michigan’s Hwy 185 is often crowded with bikes and horses, but no cars are allowed.)

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2000s



John Bauer MA 2001, PhD 2006

Hello KU friends. This fall marked 10 years here at the University of Nebraska Kearney and it seemed like time flew by. I looked back through past newsletters and noticed that the last time I included news, Anne was pregnant with our third child. And now he (Matthew) is almost 5 years old! Nathan is 9 and Audrey is 7, and together the five of us keep busy with work, school, and church activities. Our summer camping trips have grown more elaborate in recent years. Last year (2015) we spent two weeks in Grand Canyon and Zion National Parks. This year we spent three weeks exploring the north Pacific Coast and North Cascades, Olympic, and Crater Lake National Parks. Anne’s parents will be moving next year to the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, so in future summers our camper will probably head east and south. Campus life has been busy, too. I was promoted to Professor in the spring (now I’m starting to feel old) and last fall UNK Geography hosted the GPRM AAG meeting, which was a ton of work. I now have a new appreciation for the people who volunteer to take on that task. Speaking of meetings, I plan on being in Boston in April, so perhaps I’ll see some of you there. Best wishes.

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Jeff Krecic MA 2007

I am still living in Olathe, KS with my wife Leeanne, our two dogs and two cats. Leeanne quit her web development job and is now a full time, self-employed, digital artist and so much happier. The dogs have been entertained recently by a couple of foxes living in the neighborhood. I've been traveling extensively for work. Leeanne joined me in San Diego for the ESRI Users Conference which was way more interesting than I expected. The party on Thursday was quite the event. I have been working for Tukup Technologies for almost two years now. Our offices are in the old Livestock Exchange Building in the West Bottoms of KC. It's a cool building with a lot of history. Tukup is a small company owned by the Nomlaki Indian tribe from northern California. The company has several business lines but I am the head of the drone/GIS department. I do small scale

but highly detailed ortho-photography and mapping projects using small UAVs. The Sensefly eBee RTK is our drone of choice. A pound and a half of foam, it is lightweight and very safe. We have a wide variety of clients but most of our work is for land development, quarries, landfills and remediation of old strip mines. Its interesting work and rarely a dull moment. I am the drone pilot (having a private pilot's license), the GIS department and do some business development. Dr. Steven Egbert and I are working to set up a GIS internship at Haskell Indian University. We did a demonstration flight this spring and are scheduling a full flight of the campus to generate 1.5" pixel orthophotography, 3D point cloud, DSM and contours for the GIS department to use. Tukup is also working with KU to build a mutually beneficial relationship. I have done UAV presentations for KU marketing, athletic departments and I'm scheduled to present to the KU chapter of Society of Women in Engineering. It is exciting to talk with people from varied disciplines about the potential uses of UAVs.

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Craig Davis MA 2001

Greetings to all. It is always hard to believe that another year has passed when Bev sends out her call for the annual newsletter updates. I am still in Sacramento and enjoying my work at Sacramento City College along with raising my 9 year-old son Luka. On the professional front 2016 has been a solid year with some interesting developments. I applied for and was granted funding from various sources to purchase a UAV and create an augmented reality sandbox. Both projects will be utilized in our courses with the goal of increasing interest in the spatial sciences. I finally got around to attending the ESRI conference this summer. Needless to say it was overwhelming but also a worthwhile activity. Of more importance to me was the

chance to participate in the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference which provided great insight into making our campuses more sustainable places. Lastly, I got the chance to make it to the AAG for a day and enjoyed seeing Garth Myers give one of his talks and then have the chance to socialize with him and some past alums and faculty (Fritz Kessler, Terry Slocum, John Bauer) at the KU/KSU social. On the personal side Luka and I continue to settle into a new home that we purchased at the beginning of the year. We were also able to have plenty of fun this summer with trips up the West Coast and to the Midwest to see family. I hope this note finds all well.

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Henry Way PhD 2008

Hello everyone! I'm still professoing in the Geography program at James Madison University in Virginia, enjoying working with many excellent students, especially now in the world of more urban-focused geography. I've recently shifted slightly to take on the role of Associate Dean in my college, which has brought a bunch of new responsibilities (and insights into how a university works...). On the home/family front our two children Wylan and Felix are rapidly attacking kindergarten age, when they're

not waging war against each other! Keep in touch!
wayha@jmu.edu.

2010s



Brett Chloupek PhD 2011

I am an Assistant Professor of Geography at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO. I serve as the director of Geotechnical Services at NWMSU and also was recently elected to the Missouri Board on Geographic Names (MOBGN). My research is focused on the politics of place naming and I have recently authored papers on historical place names in Nebraska as well as in Slovakia. When not teaching, I give lectures to incoming international students on American culture and advise the Nepalese Student Association on campus. This year I was pleased to be invited back to KU to speak at the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasia Studies (CREES) as part of its brownbag lecture series. The Chloupek family (Sylvia, Vilhelmina (4), Antonia

(1 ½)) spend summers in Slovakia to give Sylvia's folks grandchildren time while I drag Sylvia on "educational" trips to places like Romania (2015) and Israel and the Palestinian Territories (2016), while Sylvia reciprocates by forcing me to attempt relaxing on the various beaches of the Mediterranean and Adriatic.

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Emily Fekete PhD 2015

This year has been a busy one settling in to life in Stillwater and at Oklahoma State University. I continue to work with the undergraduates at OSU as the geography and geospatial information sciences advisor and on increasing the visibility of geography at OSU and through other geography organizations nationwide. In terms of my research, I have been busy writing two chapters for Warf's *Encyclopedia of the Internet*, one on Twitter and one on E-tailing. At the 2016

AAG meeting in San Francisco, I co-presented research on cyberwar and cyberterrorism with Barney Warf and was elected to serve a three year term as the Chair of the Media and Communication Geography Specialty Group. This fall, I have been busy as a guest editor for an issue of the Journal of Cultural Geography that focuses on Deaf Geographies, the first publication in this subfield! I am also working on publishing a paper I presented at the latest Race, Ethnicity and Place conference held in my old stomping grounds of Kent, OH in September 2016. 2016 also included much international travel for me! In December, Kevin and I traveled to Japan for a ski vacation.

Over the summer I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Morocco for two weeks with an OSU geography department study abroad course. Both trips were incredibly profound experiences that inspired my REP research.

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Steve Foga MA 2016

I just finished my M.S. in Geography this past May. For the past 2.5 years, I have been working as a scientist for a government contractor, SGT Inc., at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Earth Resources Observation and

Science (EROS) Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I originally visited EROS as a student in Steve Egbert and Kevin Dobbs' Remote Sensing II class, where Kevin brought a great group of students to visit again last year. I'm currently on a research and development team for the Landsat mission, where I work with engineers and communications specialists to help improve our data products. I'm specifically working on validating cloud masking algorithms for remote sensing imagery and developing/executing quality assurance protocols for our evolving data products. When not at work, you can find me cycling, working on a programming project, or out-and-about with my fellow foodie and significant other, Danielle.

steviefungi@gmail.com

Lost Alumni:

Chien-ti Huang - 1965
 Sung-Bo Jung - 1985
 James E. Kellogg - 1971
 Christian Klaiss - 1997
 Fred Lampe - 1972
 Jose del R.S. Loazia - 1969
 Enrique Martinez - 2002
 Jean Claude Meyer - 1974
 Miguel Ortega-Huerta - 2002
 Thomas Overly - 2010
 David J. Owens - 1977
 Mary C. Prante - 1997
 Thomas Pratt - 1997
 Bradley Reed - 1990

(Lost Alumni Continued)

Joerg Roth - 1960
 Jawdat Saadeh - 1979
 M.I. Siddiqi - 1960
 Samut Siriburi - 1977
 Kasibatla Sita - 1959
 Robert Sluter, Jr. - 1998
 Shyamanand Suman - 1970
 Alan Ziegler - 1991

Updating Info:

The KU Geography website has an Alumni Directory page for alumni information. Simply go to www.geog.ku.edu and click on alumni news. Then click on Alumni Directory and then Information form. After you have entered your information click Submit at the bottom of the form.

We are updating and adding to our current alumni database for future news and events so your updated information is very important to us.

If you don't want to submit an Alumni Directory Information form, but would like to receive e-mails directed to our alumni, please send your email address to the University of Kansas Alumni Association at kualumni@kualumni.org. Their phone number is 1-800-584-2957.

Staff Notes: A Great First Year!



From l to r: Ally Smith, Tori Dreyer, Ramia Whitecotton, Bev Koerner

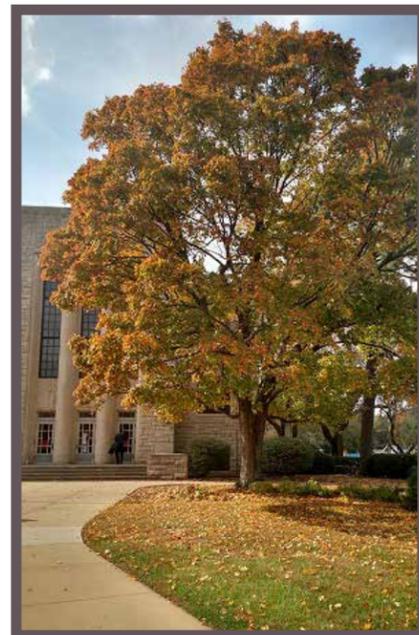
2016, the first full year of having the Lindley Hall Welcome Center. I have to say, I don't think it would have been successful without the help of our spectacular staff. First there's Bev. What can I say about Bev that hasn't already been said a thousand times? She is the steady rock of the Geography and Atmospheric Department. She provides so much knowledge, experience, memories, and advice to the people of this department and we would be lost without her. My only complaint is that her office is so far away from the other staff that she isn't always around to share in the day-to-day conversations. To have her close by to laugh with would be a great addition to morale. Next, there's Ally. She's a rock star. She serves all the faculty and undergrads in Lindley Hall and does it with a smile on her face. She never says she can't do something, and is always willing to go above and beyond to provide the best customer service to our faculty, staff and students. Last but not least, there's Tori. Our part-time Communications Specialist who helps keep everyone updated on the latest happenings in the department. All those social media posts, newsletters (including this one), and website updates wouldn't be possible without her. She is a spunky, bubbly, ray of sunshine in our extremely busy department. If it was an option, I would give all three of these ladies 'Employee of the Year.' Sadly, that's not possible, but from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU Bev, Ally, and Tori for everything you have done for me, this department, and Lindley Hall this year!

Ramia Whitecotton

rmwcotton@ku.edu

Lindley Hall:

Through the Seasons and the Years



What is it about Lindley Hall that still gets to us over the years? It is not a beautiful building in the conventional sense of the word but has a way of pulling at your heartstrings. A glimpse of a past memory or a new beginning? The seasons and years may change but Lindley never does....it is a marker, a touchstone, a permanent place to give us a sense of where we were formed and what we have become. Lindley Hall has been standing since 1942 and no matter how the Kansas storms may crush against it here on top of Mount Oread it still stands proud and firm. It is beloved.



University of Kansas:

Magnificent and Haunting



The days and the seasons pass by so quickly up here at the University of Kansas. The play of color and light during the various seasons wash over its beautiful geography and elevated position making the University of Kansas one of the most beautiful campuses in the country.



Natural History Museum at height of summer



View in spring looking towards the campanile



A fog descends over Fraser Hall in early fall

Degrees Awarded

Dissertations and theses completed during the 2015-16 period are as follows (advisor in parenthesis):

Kolbe Andrzejewski, MS, Geography, "Historical Metamorphosis of the Arkansas River on the Kansas High Plains" (Bill Johnson)

Vincent Artman, PhD, "The State and the Sacred: Memory, Theology, and Identity in Kyrgystan" (Alex Diener)

Timothy Bents, MS, Geography, "Understanding the Physical Constraints of Soil Structure and Its Influence on Soil Hydraulic Properties" (Dan Hirmas)

Nouri Elfarnouk, PhD, "Squatter Settlements in Tripoli, Libya: Assessing, Monitoring, and Analyzing the Incidence and Prevalence of Urban Squatter Areas in the Peri-Urban Fringe" (Steve Egbert/Garth Myers)

Steven Foga, MS, Geography, "Characterization of Ice Mélange and its Implications to Terminus Stability at Helheim Glacier, Southeast Greenland" (Kees van der Veen)

Meghan Kelly, MA, "Mapping Syrian Refugee Border Crossings: A Critical, Feminist Perspective" (Margaret Pearce)

Aaron Koop, MS, Geography, "Pedostratigraphic Influence of Late-Quaternary Sediments and Paleosols on Headwall and Sidewall Canyon Morphology in the Arikaree Breaks, Central Great Plains" (Dan Hirmas/Bill Johnson)

Samuel Lobby, MA, "Fired Up: Scales of Safety and Federal Wildland Fire Management in the U.S." (Shannon O'Lear)

Kelly Overstreet, MA, "Changing Climate, Static Society? A Survey of Equity, Justice and Vulnerability in U.S. Municipal Climate Plans" (Shannon O'Lear)

Taylor Tappan, MA, "A Cultural Historical Geography of Schools in the Honduran Muskitia" (Peter Herlihy)

Zachary Thorp, MS, Geography, "Agritourism in Kansas: Effects of Distance and Economic Outcomes" (Barney Warf)

David Trimbach, PhD, "Citizenship Capital & Political Power in Estonia" (Shannon O'Lear)

Katie Weichelt, PhD, "A Historical Geography of the Paper Industry in the Wisconsin River Valley" (Pete Shortridge)

Eric Zautner, MS, Geography, "Surface Rock Controls on the Development of Desert Varnish in the Mojave Desert" (Dan Hirmas)

Donations to the Endowment Association

Our SPECIAL THANKS to the following recent contributors:

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GIS Day 2016



The 15th Annual GIS Day at KU was held this year on November 18. Speakers included Witold Krajewski, Wei Ji, Mariya Omelicheva, Richard Church, and Michael Laird. The event featured vendor booths and a student poster competition.



PhD Student David Weekly manning department table



Xingong Li talking to vendors



Registration desk



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The University of Kansas

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