FROM LINDLEY

Alumni Newsletter of the Department of Geography, University of Kansas



NUMBER 22

DECEMBER 2014

View from the Chair's Office

Goodbye and leaving a healthy department!



This is a hard letter to write. For the last 16 years I have made a home in 204 Lindley Hall, and at the end of the academic year I will be leaving KU to chair the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada. This was a very difficult decision in many ways because KU has been such a great place for me to develop my career and to grow as a teacher. At the

same time, I felt a need for change, and one that allows me to expand my horizons with respect to climate research opportunities.

There are also other major staff changes that will take effect by the end of this academic year. Dr. Terry Slocum is retiring from the Department and will be moving to Alaska. Terry has played a huge role in bringing the Department to its present stature both as chair and as a faculty member who could bring a balanced perspective to any situation. Dr. Donna Tucker has started on a 3 year phased retirement plan and we are already feeling the pinch from her reduced teaching responsibilities. Since coming to the Department in 2003, she and Dr. Braaten have been the stalwarts of the Atmospheric Sciences program, setting the stage for a number of younger faculty to develop the program into its current state - more on that later. Dr. Jerry Dobson will retire at the end of the year. Jerry has brought much visibility to the Department in his role as the President of the American Geographical Society and his interests in developing and promoting Geospatial technologies and Geography as a discipline nationally. Finally, Bev Morey will also be retiring at the beginning of the calendar year. Her departure (hopefully to Hawaii

sooner than later) will mean a significant change in our front office and to our internet presence (Facebook especially) and she will be greatly missed – as will her office Jayhawk collection! We owe a debt of gratitude to all these individuals for their hard work and dedication to the Department! The collective effects of these retirements is that the department is going through a significant transition period. However, in many ways this is also a great opportunity for the Department to look forward and to identify new opportunities.

While the retirements are sad news, there is also some very good news. Dr. Pam Sullivan joined the Department last fall and is settling in well working in the field of Ecohydrology. Pam graduated from Florida State University and spent several years at a Post-doc position at the University of Pennsylvania. She is already working with several KU people within and outside the Department developing research ideas and opportunities. I think her research and teaching will be a great asset to the Physical Geography program. Other great news is that Dr. Dan Hirmas and Dr. Margaret Pearce both received promotions to Associate Professor with tenure, setting the stage for the future of soils science and cartography in the program. It is very clear that the groups of young new hires are helping the department move forward in unprecedented ways. In addition, we are presently in the midst of searches for an Africanist and for a GIS specialist.

We are also in the final stages of developing the Ph.D. degree in Atmospheric Science, with a review panel visiting the Department this semester. All indications are that the review was a big success and that this program will receive strong support from the administration in the future. The panel was clearly very impressed by the work performed within the program. The Ph.D. program will be a great help to support the research conducted within the

View (continued)

Department and to attract students with an interest in climate and meteorology. In combination with the new MS degree in Geography (we already have 12 students in this major – most switching from the MA degree) these degrees are opening new avenues of research for the department, in areas that are becoming of increasing importance to society.

One metric to show how the Department has fared in the last few years is a comparison of departmental performance on a few select research metrics from 2010 to 2012 (table 1). Table 1: change in faculty productivity based on Academic Analytics data

Variable	% change 2010 to 2012
Research Journal articles per faculty member	+ 35 %
Book publications per faculty member	+ 36 %
Citations per faculty member	+ 82 %
Grant \$ per faculty member	+ 11 %

Like all such metrics these need to be taken with a grain of salt, but they are based on the methodologies used by the National Research Council (NRC) to develop departmental and university rankings. These metrics are a clear indication that the Department is heading in the right direction with respect to research development. The younger core faculty are a big part of this transition. In addition, we are finding that our graduate students have become much more engaged and are publishing significantly more compared to the past. I believe this trend is likely to continue into the near future and is something we should be collectively proud of.

While all indications are that our research programs are improving, we have struggled with respect to retaining student majors at the

undergraduate level. Like many programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and CLAS as a whole, our major counts are down. We believe there are multiple causes for this decline, including development of new programs and majors, such as Global International Studies, and part is related to economic conditions as well as the University's emphasis on building the business and engineering programs. In response the Department is actively seeking solutions to draw students back to Lindley Hall, this includes developing new core courses, developing courses with new teaching strategies as reported last year and developing new co-majors and hopefully new certificate programs for GIS and other topics. We taught our first Geography capstone course, where students worked on two major projects, one on campus water quality and the other on identifying potential bike path and multiuse pathways in Lawrence. The course was a great success, with one group winning an Outstanding Presentation Award at the KU Undergraduate Research Symposium. We are also making efforts to engage students earlier in their careers to help them graduate on time and to plan course programs tailored to their specific needs. Most of these proposals take time to develop (there is lots of red tape between Lindley and Strong) but these efforts should begin to pay off in the near future.

On a final, note Lindley Hall is going to look a little different in a few years. A new annex to Lindley called Earth Energy and Environment Center (EEEC) should rise to the west of Lindley Hall over the next year or so. This building is a first project of significant expansion of science programs at the University. Most of the building will be for Geology and Petroleum Engineering,

but it will also house a Nano-Technolog Lab and new high tech classrooms and a visualization center. That's most of the news from Lindley. Please don't be shy to let us know how you are doing!

Happy Holidays and hope you all have a wonderful 2015!

Johan

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Emeriti Corner



Bob McColl

I now divide my time between Naples, Florida, Costa Rica and Alcaidesa, Spain, although airports and immigration lines are becoming more and more of a pain. Still, life is

good, I remain in good health and I follow a number of research interests (mostly Phoenician settlements and culture). I do want to return to see the changes in China, but I need to mentally (and physically?) prepare for such a long trip.

Meanwhile, especially when sitting on my terrace overlooking Gibraltar and Morocco – and the frequent pile up of super tankers, I follow and share my thoughts on all the geo-political changes occurring – from ISIL to LNG and geo-strategic events in the Pacific. Life hardly is boring and the Mediterranean offers an abundance of historic and current stimuli.

More exotic (for me) trips this year included a month in Chile, with an emphasis on the south, and another cruise in the Eastern Mediterranean – including Macedonian/Christian Philippi – most informative and geographically interesting.

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David Braaten

Dave Braaten is still actively involved in the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets (CReSIS), now in its final year

as a NSF Science and Technology Center. The Center had a very successful Antarctica field season this past year, flying a newly instrumented Basler BT-67 aircraft (a DC-3 airframe) with several CReSIS radars, a new antenna array under the fuselage, and a high resolution camera provided by Google. This field experiment investigated the grounding zone where West Antarctic glaciers become part of the Ross Ice Shelf. CReSIS data continue to be used by several graduate students in the department. Kyle Purdon developed the "Open Polar Server" as part of his MS research, incorporating a geospatial database, a map server, and a web server and client to allow researchers to browse, search, and download CReSIS radar data. Boyu Feng used CReSIS Snow Radar data in her MS thesis which is entitled "West Antarctica snow accumulation trend study (1979-2011) from Snow Radar and ice core profiles."

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Chris Brown

Chris Brown continues as Director of Environmental Studies, and the Environmental

Studies administrative offices are now co-located with Geography in Lindley Hall. Chris is looking forward to a sabbatical next academic year, and he plans to go with his family to Campinas, Brazil to conduct research at Campinas State University (UNICAMP) where he will focus on

his work related to the human and environmental dynamics of the expansion of sugar cane and soybean production in Brazil. Chris's two boys, Jason (11) and Connor (8) are both heavily involved in youth basketball in the area, and Chris spends many evenings and weekends coaching. If Chris is not in his office at night or the weekend, just head out to the new rec center located at Rock Chalk Park west of town, and you'll find him on the sidelines of one of the 8 full-size courts!

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Nate Brunsell

Nate Brunsell has had a good year. His eddy covariance stations have become a national

core site for the DOE Ameriflux network, and he has used this data to continue his efforts of working on climate change and land-atmosphere interactions in the central U.S. He had his first PhD student graduate (Leigiu Hu) who is now a ASP postdoc at NCAR. A family vacation back to New Mexico over the summer was a refreshing break, prior to returning and becoming the Associate Chair for Geography. As in previous years, papers were written, grants were received and several graduate and undergraduate students were subjected to research projects.

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So-Min Cheong

This year So-Min Cheong put a lot of effort into student education. Into her second year of

the NSF CAREER award, she took

five undergraduate students to the field and conducted interviews with people affected by the spill. She analyzed student experiential learning with a graduate student in a forthcoming paper in the Council of Undergraduate Research Quarterly. She also managed to publish some of the results from the fieldwork in GeoJournal with one of the participating undergraduate students. She also enjoys developing her new course titled Adaptation Workshop that offers student research experience and service learning. When she has time left, she focuses on her other research projects on recovery after Superstorm Sandy and climate change adaptation. Research results are being translated into an NSF proposal, a paper in Nature Climate Change, and a symposium at the annual American Association for the Advancement of Science. So as always she is happy to get a winter break!

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Alex Diener

Alexander Diener is in his third year on the KU Geography faculty. In 2013-2014, he co-authored two

articles for a special issue of the journal Nationalities Papers dealing with nationalism and urban landscape in Eurasia. He also published a chapter entitled "Russian Repositioning- Mobilities and the Eurasian Regional Concept" in the volume Corridor of Interconnections: Eurasia from the South China to the Caspian Sea. His paper "Performing Post-Socialism in the Urban-scape of Bishkek" was published through the American University of Central Asia's Working

Papers Series. With his colleague Joshua Hagen (Marshall University), Alex co-edited the book From Socialist to Post-Socialist Cities: Cultural Politics of Architecture, Urban Planning, and Identity in Eurasia (Routledge 2014). Alex also produced several encyclopedia entries and book reviews. His classes have ranged from introductory courses such as World Regional Geography, to area studies courses on Central Asia, to a seminar on Borders, Territory, and Sovereignty. Alex was awarded KU New Faculty General Research Funds 2014-2015 to support of his work in the Kyrgyz Republic. He has presented papers at a number of professional conferences and was invited to speak at George Washington University, the University of Uppsala, and Oklahoma State University. During the 2014 academic year, Alex served as a peer reviewer on the South and Central Asia Fulbright Committee, as well as on the CREES Executive Committee.

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Jerry Dobson

The American Geographical Society's Fall Symposium was held at Columbia University on November 19,

2014. "Geography 2050: Mounting an Expedition to the Future" (www.geography2050.org) was geography's finest public outing in many decades. The atmosphere was electric as 240 participants gathered in the august rotunda of the Low Memorial Library to discuss the future of geography as discipline, technology, and real world.

KU professor and AGS president Jerry Dobson welcomed the assembled geographers and friends of geography, declaring, "Yes, geography

is booming as enterprise, technology, and popular movement. If ever there was any question that geography is foremost among professions, the last shred of doubt was dispelled by economic reports over the past decade. The U.S. Department of Labor, The Guardian newspaper, Money Magazine, and other pundits stated our case: Low unemployment. High salaries. Rapid industry growth. Simultaneously, however, the goose that lays those golden eggs is being kicked out of school. This meeting of minds is essential because geography's future is uncertain as it not been since the mid-1400s."

Robert Cardillo, Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, gave the keynote address. Session leaders and speakers included eminent geographers such as Lee Schwartz, The Geographer of the United States, the U. S. Department of State;

Alec Murphy, Professor, University of Oregon; Michael Bradshaw,



Professor, University of Warwick; and Lawson Brigham, Professor of Geography and Arctic Policy, University of Alaska. Leaders of industry included Niel Golightly, Vice President for External Affairs, Shell Oil Company; James Schrivener, CEO, National Solar; Robbie Schingler, Co-Founder, Planet Labs (satellite design and production); Brian McClendon, Vice President, Google; Mr. Francis Ghesquiere, Head of Global Disaster Reduction & Recovery, World Bank; and James Baker, Director, Global Carbon Measurement Program, William J. Clinton Foundation.

Many participants commented that the meeting itself met a pent-up demand for serious forethought and

discussion on where geography is headed and what its prospects may be.

Dobson thanked the two people most instrumental in conceiving and organizing the symposium: AGS Executive Director John Konarski and AGS Councilor Chris Tucker, Chairman, The MapStory Foundation.

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Steve Egbert

It's always interesting to look back at a year gone by and see everything that happened (and a

few things that didn't)!

Steve has continued as Director of KARS, and their talented researchers have managed to successfully secure funding from a wide range of resources. He also continues to serve as state director of KansasView - they are now in their 12th year of partnership funding with AmericView, a USGS-funded organization to promote remote sensing education, research, and outreach. They also have funding from the Kansas GIS Policy Board to create a database of Kansas Reservoirs, to map potential areas of flooding, and to continue construction of a statewide database to identify and characterize potential wetlands. Perhaps most promising, they have a number of potential partners in the private sector as well as the national and international arenas for their work with flood mapping and crop yield prediction.

Steve has continued to teach remote sensing at KU and at Haskell Indian Nations University as a guest instructor. He also had the opportunity this past summer to present several modules on remote sensing to the talented students of the Haskell Environmental Research

Peter and all his students send you readers their holiday greetings with wishes for the best new year.

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Dan Hirmas

This was a big year for the Hirmas family. They made it through the tenure process and started a sabbatical at Rutgers University in

New Brunswick, New Jersey. This year Ella turned 8, Kuyper 6, and Lauren 2.5. They are all doing well and adjusting to life on the east coast. Dan is working with a colleague in Environmental Sciences at Rutgers to better understand how climate affects the physical organization of soil particles and how that, in turn, affects hydraulic properties. Two masters students in his laboratory group - Dennis Eck and Scott Klopfenstein (co-advised with Prof. Bill Johnson) - defended their theses and graduated last spring. Dennis submitted his second paper to Vadose Zone Journal (his first published last year in the Soil Science Society of America Journal), which demonstrates how quantified metrics of in situ soil structure can be used to predict hydraulic conductivity. Scott submitted his first paper to Catena, which examines how soil properties (particularly soil organic carbon) vary along a climosequence across northern Kansas. In this paper, he studied pioneer cemeteries to minimize the impact of land use. Masters students Kim Drager, Tim Bents, and Eric Zautner continue to make progress on their theses and prepare manuscripts for publication on their work. Aowesta Mohammed (Ph.D. student) joined our laboratory group this year and is working with a large dataset from the NRCS to examine relationships between soil structure, climate and geomorphology across the continent. Her poster at the Soil Science Society of America in November 2014 won first place in the Pedology Student Competition.

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Bill Johnson

Research-wise, Bill has been continuing his research in Alaska, central Great Plains, and Florida. The project

in Alaska involves the mapping and dating of sand dunes, including fieldwork again this summer. The photo is of Bill and Claire Forgacs, his

MS student completing her thesis on the dunes.

Another continuing project is set here in the



central Great Plains—the investigation of playa wetlands of the High Plains. After several years of mapping the 25,000 playas and deciphering their geology, Bill is now starting an EPAfunded project to investigate the role of playas in recharging the High Plains Aquifer. A third continuing research project is that of reconstructing the coastal dune history in the context of the archaeological record on Eglin Air Force Base on the Gulf coast in panhandle Florida. This project was begun while on sabbatical leave fall of 2013, and fieldwork will continue this January when Bill and Claudia return to Florida for the month. He is winding down his research project focusing related to the landscape of Afghanistan, modeling flood hazards and landscape evolution. Lastly, Bill continues his close association with the Kansas Geological Survey as a US Geological Survey-funded geology mapper, focusing on western Kansas.

On the home front, Bill and Claudia recently put on the wedding for daughter Staci and will attend daughter Ellen's wedding in Ireland fall 2015. Prior to the wedding, Claudia and Bill plan to go to Greece, where Bill

plans to join his PhD student Jen Glaubius in her field research area, and, while in that part of the world, B & C plan to cruise the Mediterranean Other than travel and weddings, Claudia is continuing to immerse

herself in the real estate business (as a realtor) and Bill continues to make improvements



to their fixer upper home, located near campus. For those into pets, Bill and Claudia obtained a second dog, a Bedlington terrier pup, which joins their Sealyham terrier.

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Jay T. Johnson

Greetings from sabbatical! While Jay is not in some exotic location, in fact he's writing this in a coffee

shop in downtown Lawrence, he has received funding for a full year sabbatical and will be traveling to New Zealand early next year. Jay and Soren Larsen (KU PhD 2002) were awarded a Collaborative Research Fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies to research and write their second book, Being-together-in-place: Coexistence in a more-than-human world. The book explores the motivations for defending particularly places by Native and non-Native coalitions. They are using three landscapes as examples; the Cheslatta territory in northern British Columbia, the Waitangi Treaty Grounds in New Zealand, and the Wakarusa Wetlands in Lawrence. Currently, they are negotiating publication with a university press.

This past year saw the end of the first six years of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Institute. Joe Brewer and Jay, serving as co-directors, were able to recruit an

Studies (HERS) Institute. As time permits, he has also offered his special interest courses in geopolitics and genocide. His graduate student research group in that area (several of whom are now in faculty positions across the country) and he submitted a major paper on territorial cleansing that they hope will receive favorable reviews. This year Steve also returned to his historical geography roots to research issues relating to Native land allotment in the U.S., and they now have a working group of four graduate students who plan to write dissertations on related topics. They will be presenting three papers at the 2015 AAG meeting in Chicago.

Although Steve occasionally threatens to retire or to seriously consider retirement, it really isn't on the near horizon. He has too many great students (16 at last count) and colleagues and so much left to do!

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Johan Feddema

As stated in the letter from the Chair Johan will be leaving for the University of Victoria, part of the motivation being

that UVic houses the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis (He's going to have to revert back to all that English spelling) the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, and the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. He is hoping to develop some new research direction in the future and has become interested in modeling the processes by which societies transform landscapes over time. Much of his work has focused on creating datasets to model human impacts in Climate Models, but developing models that simulate these processes over time would be a much better match for the climate models. He believes that

Geography as a discipline has a great role to play in developing this type of research on global scales. He also hopes to continue his collaborations with both KU and NCAR into the future and to be involved in a number of global and national efforts to develop the data and modeling techniques for this process. One outcome of some of his involvement in this work is an invitation to speak at the Physical Geography Symposium at the next AAG meeting. If you have any ideas related to this topic please let him know!

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Peter Herlihy

Since August 2013, Peter has been leading the KU-American Geographical Society (AGS) Bowman

Expedition Central America Indigena Project to understand the territorial stability of municipalities with indigenous populations in Central America. He and his team of students are using participatory research mapping and GIS (PRM-GIS) with funding (\$5 million) from a prestigious U.S. Department of Defense Minerva Initiative for University-Led Research Grant that he and his colleague AGS President Jerry Dobson won.

The CA Indigena researchers collaborate with Honduran colleagues at the Universidad Pedagógica Francisco Morazán (UPNFM) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Peter with his graduate students Matt Farhenbruch and Taylor Tappan, and with KU-AGS Post-Doctoral Fellow John Kelly, established the Mesa Geografica Indigena in the UPNFM, bringing together Honduran and American students and researchers (all geographers) to train local indigenous students and community representatives in geography. The project works closely with local and

national government officials, the PATH II-World Bank land tenure program, with the United Nations Development Program Project Moskitia, and with indigenous federations (MASTA, FITH, CONPAH) to develop the future governance of Honduras' first concejo territorial, called KATAINASTA, which is a new indigenous territorial jurisdiction and inter-communal land title awarded to the indigenous Miskitu people of Honduras.

Peter and Jerry's CA Indigena team has just been invited to work in other indigenous areas of Central America over the next 3-5 years. The KU-AGS team has created a project website if you're interested in following their progress, http://prmapping.res.ku.edu/CA_Indigena.html

Peter's active group of graduate students and recent graduates are doing funded research, publishing articles, and presenting results, teaching, and contributing significantly to the discipline of geography. His only MA student, Taylor Tappan, is living in Honduras helping direct the field work with him on the CA project this semester, now finishing his Master's thesis on La Moskitia. Aida Ramos is completing her doctoral dissertation in addition to welcoming a wonderful new baby girl. Matt Fahrenbruch began Ph.D. work with Peter in January after completing his M.S. at the University of Southern Mississippi with David Cochran (KU Geog. Ph.D., 2005). Peter also had two of his doctoral students complete their degrees recently: John Kelly (Ph.D., 2013), who is currently working as the KU-American Geographical Society Post-Doctorate Research Fellow on the CA Indigena project and teaching at Park University in Missouri, and Andy Hilburn (Ph.D., 2014), who is in his second year as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Kansas State University.

excellent cohort of Native students from across the US who joined them this year at KU for five weeks of intensive research, writing and GIS training. They then took the interns to Hawai'i where they had the opportunity to present their research posters to the Hawai'i Conservation Conference, and to a diverse group of community-members, researchers and faculty members at the US Forest Service Pacific Islands Institute in Hilo. Joe and Jay are participating in the next KS Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) application for an additional five years of funding and hope to hear early next year from the National Science Foundation.

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Xingong Li

Xingong Li's research in snow cover changes in western China has won him a Google Faculty Research grant to extend the

research to a global scale using Google Earth Engine (GEE) and to support a new graduate student (Jim Coll). The experience with GEE so far is very impressive and Xingong is planning to include GEE in GEOG 560 (GIS Application Programming) which he will teach in the spring of 2015. Terry Slocum and Xingong were both named as CyberGIS Fellows (a multiyear CyberGIS NSF grant at UIUC) which supports them to develop and co-teach a new course, "Mapping and Analysis in the Cloud", in the fall of 2014. The course materials will be made available to the public through the CyberGIS grant and they are planning to give a workshop at the AAG meeting next year. Collaboration with the Nanjing University, the Central China Normal University, and the Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese

Academy and Sciences has led to the submission of five manuscripts to various GIS and remote sensing journals this year.

As for services, Xingong took the lead in the spring to establish the PSM-GIS program at the Edwards campus. However, the effort was unsuccessful because of the budget requirement for the program. In the fall, Xingong and a group of students and staff organized the 13th KU GIS Day event on campus, with special thanks to our alumni advisory board chair David Stearns for his help and for bringing in the street mapping car.

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David Mechem

After his sabbatical ("staybattical") last fall, David hit the ground running spring semester, teaching Advanced

Dynamic Meteorology and the graduate-level numerical modeling course. The KU cloud group graduated two M.S. students over the summer: Carly Fish explored the joint variability of synoptic and cloud properties over the northeast Atlantic, and Lei Cai conducted longterm regional climate simulations using WRF to explore extreme events. During their tenure here at KU, both students have had the opportunity to attend national conferences or meetings (e.g., the AMS Annual Meeting, the fall meeting of the AGU, or the Science Team Meeting of the DOE Atmospheric System Research Program). Their collaboration with researchers at Brookhaven National Laboratory and McGill University continues, and has resulted in a manuscript currently in review that explores the sensitivity of simulated cloud properties to differences in

forcing for a highly transient cloud system, and how the simulated cloud and precipitation properties compare to advanced observational metrics. They have made substantial progress in their evaluation of warm-rain microphysical parameterizations in the U.S. Navy's mesoscale model. The group also is leading a multiinstitutional model intercomparison effort with researchers from the Naval Research Laboratory, the Naval Postgraduate School, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. This study is based on a rapidly dissipating cloud system observed by the aircraft, an understudied topic that models typically struggle greatly with. Although David has lost a number of family, friends, and pets this past year, home life has been a comfort. All three of his daughters are in different schools, which makes scheduling a bit of a headache. Their interests have shifted somewhat, too, with greater focus on viola, cooking, and a budding interest in Olympic-style archery.

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Shannon O'Lear

Shannon O'Lear is wrapping up the fall semester working on a book on critical scholarship on climate change

issues: "Reframing Climate Change: Toward an Ecological Geopolitics". She is co-editing the book with Simon Dalby, and chapter topics include climate engineering, post-modern climate change, climate governance, biofuels, climate change and conflict, rhetoric and literary studies, and communication and interpretations of risk and security. The book will be published by Routledge in the spring of 2015. In June, Shannon was a keynote speaker at the International Geographical Union Commission on Political Geography meeting which

was held in Eugene, OR and was focused on political geography of the environment. Shannon presented her work on environmental geopolitics and themes of security and slow violence. She is second author to one of her doctoral candidates, John Biersack, on a paper titled, "The Geopolitics of Russia's Annexation of Crimea: Narratives, Identity, Silences and Energy". That paper considers why Russia's annexation of territory to the West is actually a move to the East in support of Russia's growing energy ties with China. That paper has been accepted for publication by Eurasian Geography and Economics. She is also second author on a paper with Nicole Reiz, also a doctoral candidate, which takes a critical legal geography perspective on U.N. peacekeeper Standard of Forces Agreements and the rape of civilians in Haiti. That paper is currently under review. Shannon continues to administer a Master's degree program for Special Operations Forces (SOF) officers, and she teaches a graduate level course on Environmental Geopolitics for that program. In the spring of 2014, she invited her graduate students to join part of that class which resulted in lively discussions about current events and international fieldwork practices. Shannon is drawing from her work with the SOF to write about geography, militarism, and critical thought. She has spent the fall semester overhauling GEOG 102: Principles of Human Geography, to include discussion sections taught by graduate teaching assistants (Dave Trimbach and Nate Pickett). The restructuring of this course is part of a larger effort underway in the department to update the undergraduate curriculum.

On the homefront, Shannon and her family enjoyed a vacation in Hawaii this summer. While there, her children walked her down the beach to marry her fiancée. The wedding party, in bare feet, celebrated by jumping into the ocean after the ceremony followed by days of snorkeling, picnics on the beach, and a boat trip to a local sand bar.



data for boundary layer studies is being presented by his graduate student Chris Mitchell at the American Meteorological Society's Annual Meeting in January. Dave is also looking forward to teaching a couple of new classes over the next two semesters.

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Margaret Pearce

Margaret wishes everyone peace in the new year, and all the best for a joyful holiday.

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David Rahn

Dave's research continues on a variety of fronts including a new grant for lidar and modeling

applications linked to the observational datasets that he obtained with a research aircraft that collected measurements off the coast of southern California. There is even a little biology included in his latest work. The seasonal variation of the low-level wind along the Chilean coast changes the circulation in the ocean below and leads to changes in water temperature and availability of nutrients, which impact the phytoplankton type and concentration. It turns out that even subtle variations in the wind speed and its persistence can have a noticeable impact on the phytoplankton that are at the bottom of the food chain in the ocean. Other work that uses commercial aircraft



Pete Shortridge

After many months of digging through old memories and dusty files, Pete finally completed his draft of a department history

this fall. Johan is in the process of deciding how best to make it available. For him, perhaps the most interesting finding was the long tenure of Professor Chesley J. Posey before the arrival of Walter Kollmorgen. Posey came to KU in 1920 and taught through 1945. He did not publish much, but built a solid program beneath the umbrella of the geology department. He also engineered the rise of geography as a stand-alone unit in the early 1940s. Another interesting tidbit is that a young Will Küchler somehow talked his way into the doctoral program at the University of Munich without having earned either a bachelor's or a master's degree previously.

Barbara's and Pete's biggest trip this year was to Blue Hill, Maine, to spend time with family and friends. This town used to be famous for its granite, which was employed for the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge and for nearly everything in rock-poor Charleston and New Orleans. Quarrying died out when railroads replaced sailing ships as cargo vessels and the people of Blue Hill turned to the hosting of "summer people."

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Terry Slocum

The big news for Terry is that he plans to retire on August 1, 2015. After spending 34 years at KU, he has decided to spend

his retirement years in Fairbanks, Alaska. Some folks go south during their retirement years, but Terry and Arlene have decided to go north. They've already purchased a cabin in Fairbanks and are looking forward to spending about nine months a year in Alaska. Some folks escape Fairbanks during the winter, but they hope to enjoy the northern lights and hot chocolate at -40 degrees Fahrenheit (or Celsius).

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Pamela Sullivan

This semester we welcome a new hire, Dr. Pamela L. Sullivan, to the Geography Department. As an ecohydrologist her

expertise is focused on the interaction between water, vegetation and soil. Working with two nationally recognized groups, the Critical Zone Observatories (CZO's) and Long Term Ecological Research Program (LTER), Pam's work has focused on the processes that govern of coastal wetlands, grasslands, and agricultural and forested landscapes and their impact on both water quantity and quality. This fall semester, Pam introduced a new transdisciplinary course, Ecohydrology, to the program. Here, students participated in fieldwork and utilized methodological approaches and analytical techniques to investigate ecohydrologic questions in at KONZA Prairie Biological Station. In the spring Pam will introduce a Water Resources course, the goal of which is to expose

undergraduates to local, state, national and international water issues. As a new faculty member, Pam is enthusiastically encouraging alumni to support these new initiatives, "We are looking for alumni who may be interested in offering internships, participating in guest lectures or looking to support the vital undergraduate research in water resources."

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Donna Tucker

Donna has begun phased retirement. She wishes everyone a happy holiday season.

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Kees van der Veen

A few times per year I and a few dogs make the trip from Kansas City, MO, to

Indian Lake, OH, and back. It is a long and boring 11-hour trip along I-70 mostly, with a short stretch along I-75 in Ohio. Driving along the Interstate, you get the impression that the landscape is extremely flat and monotonous, mostly devoid from human settlements – especially the 315 mile stretch through Illinois and Indiana. How this impression changes when you take the "back



roads" as I did this summer, driving the 1971 VW Camper Bus to Ohio and back. The Bus ("Casper") doesn't like the Interstate with all the semi trucks zooming past us, so on the way East, we took US 50

from Kansas City to Cincinnati. Winding through many small towns and villages and, who knew, through a majestic forest in western Indiana. And every town has its own claim to fame, be it the world's largest wind chime, or the longest covered bridge in the US. On the way back, we followed the National Road, or US 40 from Springfield, OH, to Collinsville, IL, home of the world's largest catsup

bottle. In a way, it is sad to see how many of the small towns along



what used to be the nation's first highway (Cumberland Road), are now struggling to stay alive, or how, indeed, many appear to have lost the struggle. All that remains of a onceprosperous Main Street are a few blocks of stone buildings in severe state of disrepair. Whatever stores are still open have for the most part been turned into antique stores but even many of these are short-lived as I found out from talking to many locals; except in Centerville, IN, which is doing a great job maintaining a vibrant Main St (US 40) lined with antique shops and restaurants.

Take a town like St. Elmo, IL, for example. Founded in 1834 as one of the stops along the National Road. With the transformation of the National Road from a dirt road into



the modern US 40 and the rapid rise in

automobile travel, St. Elmo continued to grow in the early 20th century. Then, in 1938, oil was found in the region and soon some 1500 wells were producing this liquid black gold. From the many mansion-like homes still standing, it becomes clear that the town became very wealthy. But,

this did not last long. First, the oil wells became unproductive after the region experienced its local Peak Oil, and St. Elmo suffered the same fate as many towns like Petrolia, Oil City, and Titusville, had before. Then, St. Elmo was by-passed as Interstate 70 was constructed to accommodate increased traffic, filled with travelers trying to get from start to finish as quickly as they can, stopping only for gas and maybe something to eat at one of the familiar fast-food establishments. Who has time to check out a small diner in towns like St. Elmo? Chances are, by now they will be open only a few hours during lunch time anyway - if at all. Anyone remember the 2006 movie Cars?

One of the great joys of "life in the slow lane" and taking time to stop in small towns is that you get an opportunity to talk to the locals that still remain. Of course, driving a vintage VW Bus helps because everyone wants to share his or her story from decades ago, when they



camping in a VW Bus, or similar stories. What struck me most was how much

pride the older people still have in their community. For example, a woman in Jewett, IL, (with the old Cumberland Road running through town, then by-passed by US 40, and subsequently completely ignored by I 70) saw me taking pictures of the abandoned ATT phone switch station, with broken windows and a gutted interior, not to mention the leaking roof. As she pointed to a really nice and well-maintained old brick house across the street, she told me to make sure I get some pictures of that house as well (which I did). It is these chance encounters with people, and odd landmarks along the way, that make the journey itself fun and interesting, as well a learning

experience. And this is exactly what



most of us are missing when we rush from one point to the next,

oblivious to what lies in between. Of course, this is not a new observation. As historical geographer Archer Butler Hulbert wrote as far back as 1904 in his book *The Cumberland Road:*

"As Macaulay has said, we do not travel today, we merely "arrive." You are hardly a traveler now unless you cross a continent. Travel was once an education. This is growing less and less true with the passing years. Fancy a journey from St. Louis to New York in the old coaching days, over the Cumberland and the old York Roads. How many persons the traveler met! How many interesting and instructive conversations were held with fellow travelers through the long hours; what customs, characters, foibles, amusing incidents would be noticed and remembered, ever afterward furnishing the information necessary to help one talk well and the sympathy necessary to render one capable of listening to others."

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Barney Warf

Barney continues to serve as editor of The Professional Geographer, coeditor of Growth and Change,

editor-in-chief for geography for the Oxford Bibliographies On-line, the Rowman and Littlefield book series Human Geography in the New Millennium, and co-book review editor of Dialogues in Human Geography. He is working on a forthcoming introductory human

geography textbook for Cognella. He published one paper on cannabis, two on e-government, and had accepted papers on the North Korean internet and teaching cosmopolitanism, as well as seven book chapters. In June he gave the keynote address at the Turkish Association of Geographers. He presented papers at the CLAG meeting in Panama and the AAG in Tampa. Barney teaches courses in introductory human geography, undergraduate classes in urban and economic geography, and graduate seminars on globalization, urban geography, and the development of geographic thought. In 2014 three of his doctoral students defended their dissertations (congrats to Stephanie, Emily, and Jessey!). In his spare time, which isn't much, he indulges in his passions for jazz, wine, politics, travel, and historical fiction.

bwarf@ku.ed



Bev Morey

This will be my last newsletter with Bev K., as I'm retiring from KU on Dec. 31st. What a long, strange trip its been—9 years of learning, joy, frustration, craziness, hard work, good friends, a few not so good supervisors, wonderful faculty and staff, and the bittersweet graduation ceremonies in May, knowing I'll miss those students. Goodbyes are

always hard, and it will be especially hard to say goodbye to Geography on 12/18, when my better half and I head for Hawaii as we do every Christmas. With all of the changes in the way the office functions due to the SSC, I believe it's my time to start to travel the world as I've seen the geographers do for the last 9 years. Next on the agenda will be cleaning out my house and getting it ready to sell, in anticipation of moving to Oahu permanently as soon as possible. So, this is it, folks. It's been grand and I'll miss everyone, but you'll always be able to find me on Facebook!!

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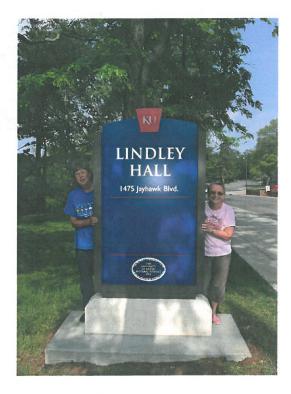


Bev Koerner

A year has gone by since our financial person (Ramia Whitecotton) was moved to the Shared Service Center in Strong Hall. It has been a very difficult transition mainly because Bev Morey and I get phone calls and emails asking financial questions that we weren't supposed to have to deal with. One incident involved the discovery that our department credit card was

cancelled! Bev M. will be leaving on December 18 and the powers that be have not yet advertised her position nor have they made decisions on what her position will be! Not much makes sense here at KU anymore. So come January, I guess it will only be me in the office. Thank goodness I only work here 20 hours a week. But after 44 years at KU, I still love my graduate students and I still love the Geography Department. Nothing will change that fact.

koerner@ku.edu



Department of Geography College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

13th Annual GIS Day @ KU a Huge Success1

Thursday, December 4, 2014

240 people registered and attended the 13th annual GIS Day @ KU on November 19th. Here are the results d the

student paper competition:

1st Place - \$300 - Lindsey Yasarer

2nd Place - \$200 - Emily Fekete

3rd Place - \$100 - Jennifer Glabius

Judging Guidelines² (PDF)



Name(s)	Title	
Will Chatfield-Taylor Graduate Student, Geography, The University of Kansas	Comparing the Effects of Temporal vs Spatial- Auto correlation on MODIS/AQUA Satellite Chlorophyll-a Data Using Python and ArcGIS-based Interpolation Routines	
lim Coll Graduate Student, Environmental Science, The University of Kansas	Global Analysis of Snow Cover Changes Using Google Earth Engine	
Emilly Fekete Graduate Student, Geography, The University of Kansas	No Business Left Behind' Using GIS and Social Media to Address Issues of Consumption	2nd Place
Jennifer Glaubius Graduate Student, Geography, The University of Kansas	Modeling the Impact of Agricultural Terrace Walls on Spatial Patterns of Erosion and Landscape Evolution	3rd Place
Emmanuel Hernandez, Danielle Kuhn, and Kenzie Stephens Undergraduate Students, School of Business, The University of Kansas	Campus Village Transportation	
Steven Obenhaus Graduate Student, School of Education, The University of Kansas	[WITHDREW] Rising Cogregation and Concentrated Povert and Diverse Suburban School Districts	y in Growing
Cesalea N. Osborne Undergraduate Student, Environmental Science, Haskell Indian Nations University	Climate Change Impacts on the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer in South-Central Oklahoma due to Projected Precipitation Variations	
Lindsey Yasarer Graduate Student, Environmental Science The University of Kansas	Using ArcGIS to extrapolate greenhouse gas emissions on the Pengol River, a tributary of the Three Gorges Reservoir in China	1st Place







Degrees Awarded

Dissertations and theses completed during the 2013-14 period are as follows (advisor in parenthesis):

Maggie Book, PhD, "Hispanics in the Suburbs – Community Adaptation in Olathe, Kansas" (Pete Shortridge)

Ryan Callihan, MA, "Distribution, Proliferation and Significance of Small Impoundments in Kansas" (Steve Egbert/Mark Jakubauskas)

Geoffrey Demarest, PhD, "Risk Distance: The Loss of Strength Gradient and Colombia's Geography of Impunity" (Steve Egbert)

Michael Dunaway, MA, "A New Harvest: Using Solar Power to Refine Biodiesel on Native American Reservations" (Jay Johnson)

Dennis Eck, MS Geography, "Quantitative Metrics of Soil Structure and Relationships to Hydraulic Properties in a Vertic Argiudoll" (Dan Hirmas)

Carly Fish, MS Atmospheric Science, "Characterizing Synoptic and Cloud Variability in the Northern Atlantic Using Self-Organizing Maps" (Dave Mechem)

Erin Garity, MA, "An Ephemeral Experience of Place: Growing up in the Army" (Pete Shortridge)

Andrew Hilburn, PhD, "Garbage, Society, and Environment in a Mexican Municipo: The Case of Coxcatlán, Pubela, Mexico" (Peter Herlihy)

Leiqiu Hu, PhD, "An Investigation of Remotely Sensed Urban Heat Island Climatology" (Nate Brunsell)

Deborah Kirk, MA, "Visualizing the Cherokee Homeland through Indigenous Historical GIS: An Interactive Map of James Mooney's Ethnographic Fieldwork and Cherokee Collective Memory" (Margaret Pearce)

Scott Klopfenstein, MA, "Pedogenesis Along a Climosequence in Loess-Derived Soils of the Central Plains" (Bill Johnson/Dan Hirmas)

Stephanie Kozak, PhD, "From Section 8 to Starbucks: The Effects of Gentrification on Affordable Housing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania" (Barney Warf)

Eunmok Lee, PhD, "Analysis of MODIS 250 m NDVI Using Different Time-Series Data for Crop Type Separability" (Steve Egbert)

Pei-ling Lin, MA, "Assessing Regional Climate and Local Landcover Impacts on Vegetation with Remote Sensing" (Nate Brunsell)

Joshua Meisel, MA, "Historical Demographics, Student Origins, and Recruitment at Off-Reservation Indian Boarding Schools 1900" (Jay Johnson)

Lara O'Brien, MA, ""Migrating with Dignity": A Study of the Kiribati-Australia Nursing Initiative (KANSI)" (Jay Johnson)

William Price, PhD, "Extinct No More: Discourses on Tasmanian Aborigine Heritage" (Jay Johnson)

Kyle Purdon, MS Geography, "OpenPolarServer (OPS) – An Open Source Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Cryosphere Community" (Xingong Li)

Donations to the Endowment Association

Our SPECIAL THANKS to the following recent contributors:

Kollmorgen Geography Fund

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

Jim Hughes, MA 1968; PhD 1971



We made several trips this year to visit our grandson, daughter, and son-in-law in Playa Vista, California. Alex will soon be one

year old, and has become a very special addition to our lives. In retirement I have continued to take courses for credit at Slippery Rock. This year I had Renaissance Art, and at the present time am enrolled in an economics class. In March I traveled to Costa Rica on a Collette tour that stressed tropical ecology. Judy is extremely involved with Rotary International. She will be Rotary District Governor in a few years, and recently spent two weeks in Lukaya, Uganda, where Rotary has a development project. I recently joined the Slippery Rock Rotary, too. That's a quick report for another year. Our best wishes to all our friends from KU for a healthy and happy new year.

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Tom Luellen, MA 1978

I was at a Topeka Audubon Society meeting a couple of weeks ago. One of the presenter's slides was an A.W. Kuchler natural vegetation map of Kansas. After the talk I told the presenter I was a teaching assistant for Professor Kuchler in graduate school at KU.

He didn't know Kuchler was at KU. Time marches on.

tluellen@stormontvail.org

R. D. Mower, PhD 1971

To KU's Geography faculty, staff, and students: Merry Christmas to all and may God bless you this coming year. If you have a problem with God or Christmas, just celebrate my birthday on December 25, 2014. I'll be 86 years old on that date.

Best Wishes,
Roland D. & Nona Mower,
Mount Pleasant, Utah

rdm@cut.net

Mark Virden, MA 1976

I am continuing my geographic and planning consulting work at a half-time level. At the same time, I plan to pursue other interests including travel (to Portugal in 2015, visiting my mother and sister in Florida, and re-connecting with old friends), assisting a non-profit organization with its research and planning, and continuing to enjoy live music in Kansas City. Last year Mary and I visited Jim and Jana Henry in "the lovely friendly State of Tennessee" and Prentice and Linda Knight in Kentucky Bluegrass country. I still write a country song now and then while "talking to Johnny Walker" and sitting out on the Bob Wiseman are you still back patio. in South Miami Beach?

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Larry Chow, PhD 1982

I retired from Hong Kong Baptist University after working there for 40 years. I am now the president of the Hong Kong Association for

Energy Economics, which I founded in 2006. The Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of contemporary energy issues, especially Hong Kong and China energy. I maintain an office and keep a full-time assistant.

I am still active in the Hong Kong energy scene and intend to be so for a few more years. The 'Four Lights' of the Dept , i.e. Kollmorgen, Jenks, Smith and Kuchler , who built it up in the 1950s to 1970s were all active till a ripe old age. That leaves a good heritage for the students to emulate. I especially admire good old John Augelli who was still cruising around and lecturing in his 80s, and didn't he say that he wants to outlive Kollmorgen?

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Robert McMaster, MA 1982; PhD 1983

I am now completing my seventh year as Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education at the University of Minnesota so I have not spent much time in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Society over the past few years, although I do maintain an office there and show up at faculty meetings from time to time. In my administrative role, some of my responsibilities include undergraduate admissions, financial aid, the undergraduate curriculum, the University Honors Program, and First-year Programs. After twenty-five years at Minnesota, all but two (including Fraser Hart, who is still teaching at 90) of my colleagues have retired or left, reflecting the generational change that many of us have seen in the academy. My last writing project was a co-edited book (with Timothy Nyerges and Helen Couclelis), "A Handbook of

GIS and Society," published by SAGE several years ago. At some point in time, we are still hoping to publish a fourth edition of Thematic Cartography and Geovisualization, a pure Kansas effort with Terry Slocum, Fritz Kessler, and Hugh Howard. I am also teaching a class for the first time in eight years, "Geodesign", with a colleague in the College of Design, Thomas Fisher.

On the personal front, my wife, Susanna, continues to serve as Director of our Masters of GIS program, which has now graduated over 200 students since its founding in 1997. A strong demand for advanced education in the GI science area continues. My oldest daughter started at the U of M this fall with the assurance that Mom and Dad would leave her alone. Her second choice was KU. My youngest daughter, a freshman in high school, continues with her ice skating competitions. We have learned that in Minnesota, hockey players and figure skaters don't mix terribly well togethercompetition for ice time.

It has now been over 30 years since I migrated west to Los Angeles from Kansas, but my memories of Lawrence and KU remain strong. My best wishes to all of the KU geography family.

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Craig Campbell, PhD 1993

Hello KU geographers,

The Campbell family is well. I am still at Youngstown State University, teaching a variety of mapping and regional courses. The joining of colleges is a likely event happening soon (not necessarily looking forward to it, though, as we don't know how mergings will affect the Department of Geography yet). The economy in Youngstown, Ohio, seems to have just a bit of spark for the first time in three decades, a good sign, though communications and union negotiations at the university seem in steady decline. This summer, for the first time, I did exam grading with AP College Board in Cincinnati. Also attended NCGE in Memphis - a new place for me. I was fascinated investigating Mississippi River areas in Arkansas and Mississippi. With many newer casinos around Tunica, Mississippi, the Arkansas side is definitely the 'slower' economy. Kudzu landscapes! Summers usually take us to Utah where Marta and Justin and their families live. This year we explored the Jordan Narrows and Traverse Mountain boundary between the Utah and Salt Lake Valleys and did more exploring around Payson. I have been Bishop for two years of the local LDS (Mormon) ward based in New Castle, Pennsylvania, which keeps me off the streets. If the averages hold, I have three more years to go in that call. There's no pay involved, but it is rewarding. My best to everyone.

Best Wishes to All!

DrTastee@kc.rr.net

Keith Cunningham, PhD 1997

I am really enjoying the research faculty role at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Recently awarded a string of research projects related to unmanned aircraft systems, ranging from counting large charismatics mammals, to studying Arctic permafrost, and monitoring critical infrastructure. My main academic group is the Scenarios Network for Alaska & Arctic Planning, with a joint appointment at the Alaska Center for

Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration. Also playing a role in the spinoff of UAF businesses, one of which is building a universal ground control station for drones.

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Kelly Gregg, PhD 1994

I am still working at Jacksonville State University, down in the Southern Appalachians where it is warm, wet, green and mountainous - kind of the "Anti-Kansas". My latest research has been using genetic fingerprinting to help understand the current distributions of native North American bamboos and their relationships with similar species in Asia. As a bonus, our new lab equipment also allows us to do paternity testing, which, on a University Campus, might be a good fund-raiser for the department! For fun, I'm still in a Caribbean Steel Drum band playing numerous gigs every year. I'm thinking about taking early retirement, moving to Miami, and playing in Cuban dance halls for tips and drinks. Everyone is invited to put on their dancing shoes and come visit!

kegregg@jsu.edu

Mike Ingram, PhD 1996

At the end of last year, I determined that no matter how good one's diet might be, feeling good and staying in better health while getting older actually does require a certain level and type of activity. So, I started walking regularly for exercise in January, although it was a bit challenging at that time with the very cold weather that we had. I soon started carrying hand weights to gain strength. Now after almost a year of this activity regimen, as well as continuing to eat a fairly healthy diet, I am feeling pretty good and rather light on my feet.

In March, Bonnie and I went to see the Sand Hill Cranes roosting at Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River in Nebraska. It was really cold and dark waiting in a viewing blind for sunrise, but it was well worth the wait to hear and see all those birds taking off for the day as it got lighter and lighter. I definitely recommend this for regional sightseeing.

In May we stayed a couple nights in Topeka, revolving around a visit to the newly restored State Capitol building. While this project took a long time and a boatload of Kansans' money to complete, the building is really beautiful and looks great throughout. We did the dome tour, going up in the dome (all 296 rather steep steps) and out the top for a really spectacular view. I think that Kansas now easily has the best of all the State Capitol buildings!

We had good overall success in our little kitchen garden this year. We had abundant carrot and onion crops, many peppers, a bit of asparagus, some lettuce and cherry tomatoes, and a few beets. We also harvested and stored a lot of herbs as it turned cold. Now tilled and covered with composted soil for next year, the empty garden rests for the winter. I am already looking forward to next spring!

Best Wishes to All!

DrTastee@kc.rr.com

Mark Jakubauskas, PhD 1994

I am now Director of Professional Science Masters programs at the KU Edwards campus in Overland Park, and continues to teach in the KU Environmental Studies Program. My wife Sara Taliaferro, a scientific illustrator, also teaches a Scientific Illustration course at KU.

mjakub@ku.edu



John Dunham(BA 1984,
PhD 1996)

I'm now into my tenth 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 geologic mapping projects - our top priorities are finishing new geologic maps of Dickinson and Pawnee counties. I am also a member of a working group, along with several of my counterparts from other states and several people from the USGS, working on revision of the USGS standard for digital geologic map publication (maps and data). I am also continuing work on attribution of all our geology GIS data to conform to the USGS standard, which requires gathering and assembling information to be added to our geology GIS data.

At home, wife Cindy (KU Geography, '84) and I keep busy running and lifting weights, and entertaining our Labrador retriever Ridley. Sadly, we lost our other Lab, Kate, shortly before Thanksgiving, after a wonderful life of 13 ½ years. We also enjoy periodic vacation trips to the Florida panhandle.

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Joe Kerski, MA 1993

I still serve as education manager at Esri and as adjunct instructor in GIS at the University of Denver and in online courses including MOOCs at several universities. I look forward to seeing many of you at future events such as the AAG annual meeting or the Esri User Conference. I am blogging about data on http://spatialreserves.wordpress.com and has nearly 2,500 videos online on http://www.youtube.com/geography.uberalles about education, geography, earth science, GIS, and geo-geekiness.

jkerski@esri.com

Vicki Bozarth Long, MA 1993 AD Long (KUCS 1979-89)

Vickie's father died on May Day, 2014. At age 88, he was suffering from lymphoma and had a bad fall last December which cracked his pelvis. He was a World War II naval veteran and was interred with full military honors in the state veteran's cemetery in Union Grove, Wisconsin. Vickie's mother has moved to a very nice assisted-living facility only 15 minutes from our home.

Vickie plans to continue working at the Wisconsin state reference library (a.k.a. Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning) until 2017 so we can continue state coverage of our health insurance until we become Medicare eligible. The biggest mistake I made was to transfer from the Federal health insurance system (FEHB) to the state system. We did not realize at the time how astronomically high the state premiums were compared to FEHB in retirement.

In retirement, I stumbled upon digital music production which is a totally new field for me. I have played guitar for over 45 years and have been a devoted listener of classical music for even longer. However, 21st-century digital audio technology has opened up a vast universe of opportunities for musical creativity which I have only begun to exploit. After completing online courses in music theory and composition through the University of Wisconsin continuing education program, I have embarked on numerous projects. These may be auditioned on my website at http:// dietrichsmusikverein.weebly.com. My most recent accomplishment is a symphonic tone poem of the geologic ages, the Phanerozoica, which I am currently mixing and mastering for distribution.

Having retired relatively early, I have been a pathfinder for friends and peers who are either approaching or have just entered this next stage of life. Tamping down my expenditures from preretirement levels to one that is sustainable has been a challenge, but after some unexpected tax shocks, I am adapting quite well. This financial independence has allowed me to pursue my music enterprise without any concern regarding the need for remuneration. Hence, I can follow my muse rather than the brutal marketplace for the creative arts. Writing and the graphic arts are there for me as backups when Terpsichore leaves me staring at a page full of blank staves.

Solidarity Forever!

adtrlong@gmail.com

Lois McMillan, MA 1993

I will be retiring from the USDA Milk Market Admin in Lenexa, KS at the end of December 2014. My responsibilities were mapping, programming, hardware/software, and SQL DataBase Administrator. My husband and I will be building our strength backup after both of us having various surgeries over the pass couple of years, and then doing some traveling. Later we have not figured out what we will do next.

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Scott Roper, PhD 1997

In August I started my tenth year as the lone geographer in the Department of History, Geography, Economics, and Politics at Castleton State College in Vermont. I also began my fifth year as coordinator of the Vermont Geographic Alliance, which has been fun in that it has allowed me to work with and promote geography to preK-12 teachers. It has also forced me to update my GIS skills, which was my excuse for traveling to the Esri campus in Redlands, California, to attend the week-long T₃G ("Teachers Teaching Teachers GIS") institute in June. At the same time, working in the Alliance Network has also introduced me to a new vocabulary—words and phrases that no geographer should be forced to utter, like "strategic planning," "SWOT analysis," and "stakeholder," just to name a few.

Since 2012, most of my formal research has taken a back seat to teaching, service, and a bit of social media. I was re-elected to my town's Budget Committee in March, and I still pop up occasionally to "guide" town officials when they propose anything that might affect the community's National Register properties. (Sometimes I feel like I'm tilting at windmills, though.) Last year I also created a Facebook page called "Church of Geography," which attempts to promote geography and geography education to the wider public. Geographer Jennifer Kopf and I frequently post links and status updates (and yes, the Kansas-related posts usually come from me). The page has more than

3,600 "likes" now, which is far more than I anticipated when I created the page.

The biggest surprise I received this year (and Chris Post was there, so he may be able to attest to the surprise factor) came in Oklahoma City in October, where the group formerly known as the Pioneer America Society (now the International Society for Landscape, Place, and Material Culture) presented me with the Henry H. Douglas Distinguished Service Award. I don't think they were telling me it's time to retire from the Society...or at least I hope not.

Beyond that, Stephanie and I have been trying to find time to enjoy life a bit. Once a year we're able to get to the Vero Beach-Fort Pierce area of Florida, where we enjoy searching for remnants (however difficult to find) of the region's historical geography. And we still live in New Hampshire with our dog, a beagle-border collie mix named Gypsy (named by my mother-in-law for Gypsy Rose Lee, for some reason. I still haven't gotten the full story behind that naming choice).

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Amy Rork, MA 1997

As has become the norm, the year has passed quickly. My family continues to prosper and grow, with grandchildren becoming teens and tweens and advanced pre-schoolers, and my children moving to new homes and farmettes. I'm still working part-time at KU, but I am on the six-month countdown to retirement in May 2015, when I turn an appropriate age for Social Security and the grant I work on runs out after 15 years of funding. What then, you ask? I don't know yet. This year brought two trips, one to Colorado, and the other to Spain. Colorado was at its busiest the first week of Aug., but we were able to participate in some typical tourist activities. Rode carousels in Burlington and Nederland, CO, visited with college friends, took the train through Royal Gorge, antiqued in Florence (near Canon City - yes we drove out to field camp) and Leadville, where we ate at an interesting pizza place - hole-inthe-wall joint with outside dining and mountain vistas. Rambled down through Big Thompson Canyon and then back

onto the plains. My brother and I just returned from a 15-day cruise from Barcelona with a TransAtlantic crossing to Ft. Lauderdale. In Barcelona, we saw all sorts of spectacular architecture, including the Sagrada Familia and the Torre Agbar (a bullet-shaped multicolor tower), the 1992 Olympic stadium and the Barcelona soccer stadium. In Valencia, we visited a wonderful, expansive green market with a wide variety of known and unknown fruits, vegetables, meats and cheeses, stopped at the Basilica de la Virgin and took a boat ride on the lakes at Albufera National Park, where the special rice for paella is grown. Cartagena provided a Roman amphitheater and lunch at a funny little alley way restaurant, and Malaga had some interesting fortifications from the Roman, Moorish and Punic wars days (along with some heat - it was hot there!). Gibraltar was slightly outrageous - enjoyed the 'rock' tour from the Pillars of Hercules, through the Barbary Apes to the Siege tunnels and airport overlook. I had fun people-watching the wide variety of folks there - quite a crossroads. And we saw Africa going through the Straights of Gibraltar! After that whirlwind, we sailed two days to reach the Azores and had two delightful days there. Saw volcanic calderas, steaming vents, crashing waves at the base of high cliffs, and had a wonderful Portuguese dinner, all while enjoying the green lushness of the islands. We sailed six days nonstop to get back to FL - there is a LOT of water out there. If you haven't been to Spain, I would recommend it (it's where they let the architects loose to do whatever they wanted), and we loved the Azores. Bucket list: all seven continents. It's slow going, but I'll make it. Antarctica or Asia may be next. Hope you have had some highlights in your life this year -Happy Holidays to all.

arork@sunflower.com

Steve Schnell, MA 1994; PhD 1998

I am now in my 13th year at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, and I am excited that we were able to ditch our lousy governor (whose first budget proposed cutting higher education funding by 50%) in November's election. Joe Reese and I just published an updated version of our article on place imagery and

identity in microbrewery beer names in an edited book called "The Geography of Beer" from Springer. Our launch session at the AAG in Tampa this year was the only I've ever been involved in a scholarly presentation that was busted by the convention center for contraband (the contraband being good beer that people brought in for a tasting after the session—the convention center wanted to keep their overpriced monopoly on beer on site). So that was fun. Lisa and the girls are doing well, and say "hi" to those of you they know and "huh?" to those of you they don't!

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Christy Knight Spielman, MA 1997

We've passed the 4 year mark in Boulder and life is good.

I'm settling in as a GIS Analyst of the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department where the hot topics include finding more space for recreational fields for this active community while also doing the right thing for the local prairie dog population. This is a tricky problem to solve for a department who cares about keeping everyone happy. It's a great job and I'm lucky to have it. The rest of the family is settling in well too - Seth is getting it done at CU, mostly, and the kids are in 1st and 4th grade and have started wondering at what point they can say they are 'from' Colorado. I guess this Wyoming girl is resisting such a notion. Best wishes to all in 2015!

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Sam Wallace MA 1994

I'm living in a 1900 polychrome brick townhouse in Center City, Philadelphia, across from the Mutter Museum (history of

medicine in the US). It's wonderful living in a vibrant, residential, central business district with more than 200 restaurants within walking distance, including three Iron Chef restaurants within two blocks. The region is just doing the final touches on a bike path network running two blocks from my place that stretches from Bartram's Garden in SW Philly, out through Fairmont Park, all the way to Valley Forge. I volunteer in public health by doing site selection for HIV vaccine and drug trial recruitment, and in preparing complete nutritional deliveries (21 medically appropriate meals a week) for nearly 700 people in the Philly metropolitan area too ill to shop and cook for themselves and their children.

I'm working as an Assistant Professor of Geography at Montgomery County Community College in the northwest suburbs, a reverse commute that's quicker than even some that are within that county. We have a small GIS certificate program and have students surveying our suburban forest and its effects, building out our digital map, and designing campus navigation apps, as well as simpler natural and social mapping. We contribute to the College's efforts in supporting ethnic minority, homeless, and hungry students, as well, with community research and economic publication. I'm also working on assessment reporting for the College's upcoming accreditation visit in March and in the re-design of our Environmental Studies, Public Health, Business Management (including Marketing), Culinary Arts, and Honors programs. We're finishing up a building in cooperation with the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area for environmental and historical education.

We've just gone through a boom/bust enrollment cycle, and a bust/bust election cycle, so that some no longer consider us to be a true community college. The state and county/school district funding cuts and our increases in tuition now mean that well over half of the College's revenue is from tuition; in effect, we are an open access, affordable, private (but with some public support), two-year college and technical school. We're experiencing high administrative turnover, a very highly paid president, and low faculty morale with a very rough contract negotiation. Which means we're better off than a lot of the colleges in Pennsylvania.

I still get back to visit family in Topeka and Eudora, but professionally it's more to Chicago than Lawrence. I've recently attended Collegiate Honors training in Denver and presented on the Effects of Route 66 on Mid-Century American Popular Ceramics at a conference in Oklahoma City (the Saturday bus tour included Fort Reno, the Round Barn, and the plutonium processing plant where 'Silkwood' took place). Can't say I miss your winters. Looking forward to an early retirement someplace more temperate than Kansas.

swallace@mc3.edu

Naeema Alhosani, MA 2005; PhD 2009

I am an assistant professor of cartography in the Geography and Urban Planning Department of the United Arab Emirates University and also Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. 2014 was a very busy year for me. I served on several university committees and organized graduation ceremonies. I also organized various workshops including "ArcGIS Online", "APA Referencing and "Lidar Technology & Its Application." I attended a training course in Fundamentals of ERDAS IMAGINE and attended the 2014 ESRI Users' GIS Workshops & Exhibitions. I published 3 refereed articles and was appointed as a reviewer of research papers submitted to the Cartographic Perspectives.

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Chris Post, MA 2003; PhD 2006

Greetings KU friends! Amy and I hope you have had a wonderful year, actually two since we last submitted an



update. Immediately after the newsletter from 2012 was distributed, our family went to Mexico for a

Christmastime

treat. Most special to me was a visit to Tulum on my birthday. The site is an amazing example of political and urban geographies. On another personal note it was an absolute joy for us to welcome our son Dylan into the world on March 24 of this year. Our daughter Kiera continues to grow and shine and I see a bit of a geographer in her with her interest in maps and love of stealing our camera. She's got a good eye for a first grader! Professionally, things have also gone very well. Over the past several months, I've had the great privilege of

publishing in Journal of Cultural Geography, Area (written with Derek Alderman), and Journal of Geography (written with fellow Jayhawk and Kent State colleague Sarah Smiley). Next spring I will have a chapter published in a book co-edited by another fellow Jayhawk, Amy Potter, about heritage tourism resources and methods. Perhaps most importantly (professionally), I am now tenured and promoted here at Kent State. It is an honor to hold this title in our chosen field of the academy and it would not have been possible without the help and support of so many of you. Have a great holiday!

cpost2@kent.edu

Sarah Smiley, MA 2003; PhD 2007

I'm still at Kent State University and was tenured and promoted to



Associate
Professor this
year! It's also
been a busy
year of
international
travel. I
conducted
fieldwork on
water access in
Tanzania and
on water and

cholera in Haiti. I also traveled to South Africa to participiate in a workshop on Urban Political Ecology.

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Angela (Gray) Subulwa, MA 2003; PhD 2009

It was a year of big events in the



Subulwa house. Mooka (almost 4, going on 14) spent his first summer in Zambia last year,

playing with

his cousins in the sand, learning some Lozi, and chasing makishi while I did some fieldwork. When we got back from Zambia, Mushe started a new job as an Embedded Technician for J.M. Smucker's (anyone with a sweet tooth, just let Mushe know and he'll hook you

up). After 6 years at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, I received tenure and promotion starting the year as an Associate Professor. The biggest news of 2014 arrived on June 12th



as we welcomed boy #2 - Mwakamui Gray Subulwa - to the family. He is a healthy, happy baby and a great little brother. Looking forward to linking up with fellow Jayhawks in Chicago.

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Tingting Xu, MA 2009 GIS Engineer, Chongqing Institute of Surveying and Planning for Land Resource and Housing.

tintingis@gmail.com

Alumni News - 2010s

Trish Jackson MA 2007; PhD 2011

Highlights from my year include continued collaboration with fellow KU alumna Lilian Rebellato on terra preta as well as winning a grant to study biochar on a small organic farm here in Brookings, SD. I live on a small farm and so I've also enjoyed applying some of this research to our vegetable garden and in raising chickens. Bobby, Maiya, and Eli continue to thrive and now act as my personal body guards due to their extensive training and advancement in Tae Kwon Do (kids and Bobby) and Hapkido (Bobby only).

Warm Wishes.

robandtrish@gmail.com

John Kelly PhD 2013

During the 2014-2015 academic year, I have been teaching part time at Park University in Parkville, Missouri (Geopolitics and Terrorism; Global Sustainability; Geography of Latin America), and doing part-time post-doctoral research work as an AGS Fellow with the Centroamerica Indigena team (headed by KU professors Peter Herlihy and Jerome Dobson). The team assists Central American indigenous groups in securing and governing their territories, and investigates why some indigenous groups are more successful at this than others. My primary role has been to develop transparent digital maps as a tool to support both tasks.

jkellyma@ku.edu

Alumni News - 2010s

Stephanie Kozak, PhD 2014

I moved to Kansas City in July and I started working as a Research Analyst at Service Management Group in September. The company is a mid-size marketing research firm that collects over 100 million surveys annually and serves 300 different brands. I am putting my statistics background to use and work with my client services team to offer insights to our customers that will help them improve the customer experience in their stores.

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Happy Holidays!

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