



A Letter from the Chair

Status of our Department

In previous newsletters, I've focused on the growth of our department relative to the preceding year. This year I thought it would be interesting to contrast our current situation with what it was like ten years ago. Today, we have 22 faculty, 6 staff, 80 graduate students (52 PhD and 28 MA), and 213 undergraduate majors (134 Geography and 79 Atmospheric Science). Ten years ago we had 13 faculty, 4 staff, 69 graduate students (33 PhD and 36 MA), and 75 undergraduate majors (all Geography). Part of our growth can be explained by the addition of atmospheric science in 2003 (currently we have five faculty dedicated largely to atmospheric science and climate-related issues), but obviously we've grown in other areas. Our additions this past year include Jay Johnson (indigenous nations studies), Barney Warf (economic geography), and Dan Hirmas (soils geomorphology). We're having to do a bit of remodeling to fit everyone in; for instance, we are remodeling Valery Terwilliger's isotope lab to create a soils lab for Dan Hirmas, which will include his own office space and space for graduate students.

A larger faculty and a greater number of students are signs of a healthy department, but we still have deficiencies. Our two most

obvious needs are a remote sener and a biogeographer (to replace Kevin Price and Valery Terwilliger). Unfortunately, it is unclear when we will be able to meet these needs, as the College has suspended hiring for this fiscal year; like other areas around the country, the Kansas economy is in rough shape and eliminating approximately 20 searches can save the College several million dollars.

On a cheerier note, I am excited to report that the Board of Regents has approved a new M.S. degree in Atmospheric Science. This new degree program will provide opportunities for students who want to do graduate work in atmospheric science here in Kansas. The atmospheric science faculty members are eager to have graduate students work on research projects with them, and we will start course work for the program in Spring 2009 with ATMO 710 Atmospheric Dynamics. We also are in the process of developing a new M.S. in Geography that will focus on Physical Geography and Geographic Information Science. Hopefully, this new degree will be approved by next year's newsletter.

Awards and Honors

I continue to be impressed by the numerous awards and honors that our faculty and students receive; the following are some

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The Lawrence and Campus Scene

If I had to pick three themes for the year, I'd have to go with Hope, Change, and Budget Cuts. Let me go through these backwards. Lawrence and KU are facing the grim realities of the global fiscal crisis, as are we all. This mess is only beginning to strike at the heart of our lives. Lawrence has had slowed overall growth in recent years, but it is now combined with a downturn in the real estate market and various other sectors. KU is in the early stages of what will probably be several years of gruesome rescissions thanks to bad revenues for the state. But since we don't have any idea how bad this is all going to

be, I'm not going to waste any more space on boring you with the nasty impacts. Besides, maybe we'll get some of that \$700 billion bailout money, since they seem to keep changing their minds in DC about how to spend it!

That brings me to change. In the Department, we have several major changes, mainly in the form of three new faculty members for Fall 2008 as I am sure you will be reading elsewhere. On campus, Allen Fieldhouse has changed: as of this evening, there is a new banner hanging from its rafters that reads 2008 NCAA Men's

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of the highlights:

Shannon O'Lear received the department's sixth Kemper award for teaching excellence (<http://www.features.ku.edu/kemper/>).

Bill Johnson and Chris Brown received the 2008 John C. Wright and Byron A. Alexander Graduate Mentor Awards, respectively, from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at KU.

Jerry Dobson was the recipient of the first ever Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS) Distinguished Career Award (http://www.accessmylibrary.com/coms2/summary_0286-35255464_ITM).

Two of our undergraduate students, Ava Dinges and Andrew Oberthaler, won American Meteorological Society Undergraduate Scholarships. Ava was also awarded a NOAA scholarship.

ATMO undergraduate student Jesse Lundquist was selected for the prestigious National Weather Service Student Career Education Program (SCEP). This is a paid internship with the National Weather Service, and interns are typically offered a full-

time NWS position upon graduation.

Josh Long received the 2008 Carlin Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, one of only two awarded in a university-wide competition (<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/18/gradawards.shtml>)

Hilary Hungerford received the 2008 Outstanding Thesis Award and the 2008 Howard Baumgartel Peace and Justice Award (both from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at KU).

Several of our graduate students received Foreign Language Area Study awards: Brett Chloupek for Polish, Hilary Hungerford for Hausa, Heather Putnam for Kiswahili, and Luke Struckman for Arabic.

Ryan Good and Megan Holroyd received scholarships from the KU African Studies Center for Applied Research on African Health and Development.

Dave McDermott was the 2008 recipient of the Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS) Scholarship.

Jon Thayn received the 2008 Robert N. Colwell Memorial

Fellowship from the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

Andrew Allen was a member of the University of Wyoming World Geography Team, which won the AAG regional geography bowl competition for the second consecutive year.

Annual AAG Party

For our annual AAG Party this year, we are planning a joint party with K-State. I will let you know more as soon as I have the detailed information, but for now please make a mental note to attend our party in Vegas!

—Terry Slocum
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Chair Terry Slocum and Kemper Award winners Garth Myers, Steve Egbert, Chris Brown and Shannon O'Lear.

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Basketball Champions. After the glories of the Fall 2007 campaign, however, our football team's changes for Fall 2008 might more aptly be described as reversions to form – from 12-1 Orange Bowl champions at the beginning of the calendar year to 6-5 contenders for a decidedly down-market bowl game at its end. *Ad Motor City Bowl Per Aspera*. Physically, campus continues to change as well, most notably in the seemingly endless diversions of traffic required for a torturously long and involved rebuilding of the steam tunnels under Mt. Oread. Whatever they have done, it has yet to bring



sufficient heat or consistent temperature to either of my campus offices in a manner one assumes a thermostat in the 21st century would do. The budget cuts may be bad, but the news did not go sour in time to prevent several huge new additions to the football facilities. Just south of Memorial Stadium, we now have an indoor conditioning complex, and two outdoor artificial turf practice fields. I have yet to see the team use the latter, apparently because the coaching staff has been concerned that their opponents would spy on them and expose their trick plays given how conspicuous the very green new fields are (this precaution didn't seem to prevent some teams from figuring out what our offense was up to on Kivisto Field next door, clearly; see under *Longhorns, Texas*

or *Red Raiders, Texas Tech*). But maybe in a few decades the trees that were planted to help conceal the fields will make up for the trees that were cut down for the football complex and the steam tunnel work. Anything to lower the carbon footprint.

Lawrence continues to change, as ever. Perhaps the most astounding change in the early part of the year was not that we actually got to caucus in the presidential primary season (Kansas having cancelled its caucus for several decades in a row), but that for one of the two parties this caucus actually mattered. Republicans certainly had their caucus, and it was lively, but the race for the nomination was as decided as the redness of the state in the

general election by the time the caucus came about. By contrast, the Democratic caucus sites in the city were absolutely inundated; several had to move locations, and at least one had to open a satellite site, to accommodate the huge turnout, despite a furious snowstorm. (Many people that day remembered the immortal words of Will Rogers: "I don't belong to any organized political party. I'm a Democrat.") But the overwhelming support for Barack Obama in Lawrence helped him to a lopsided victory in Kansas that pushed him that much further along toward the presidency. Political energy and change kept on churning in Lawrence, though, long after the caucuses. Voters in November sent an astounding message of support for public transport by backing, by 70% and 75% margins, slight sales tax increases to help pay for the "T", our city's small, under-funded and under-utilized public bus service. Voters showed even more support for investment in much needed infrastructure projects around the city. Controversies abound – a lawsuit has stalled, for now, the Lawrence Public Schools' efforts to develop several athletic fields around Lawrence High School (including on the grounds of the

former Centennial Elementary School); sites proposed for a new business park run into opposition or cost barriers all around; and the South Lawrence Trafficway project continues to astound me with its capacity to bring to life grandiosity and small-mindedness in equal measure while continuing to not be built. BUT: the change I've felt this year in town is a change toward civic-mindedness, and despite policy arguments and disgruntled people on almost any issue, I find it refreshing to see Lawrencians becoming more involved with each other and looking out for each other, in ways big and small.

So that is my hope. Things are ugly and likely to get even more so, on campus and in town, in financial terms. But we have a department, a university, and a city that have been putting themselves in decent positions to weather the storm. Even if that sometimes means we don't hear the sirens at all when the tornado approaches, or hear them absurdly in a mild drizzle when there is only the angry reactions to the earlier silence that could possibly have caused them to be set off (both

of these things actually happened this year). Hey, we HAVE sirens. At this point, that looks good.

—Garth Myers
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Degrees Awarded

Dissertations and theses completed during the 2007-08 period are as follows (advisor in parenthesis):

Zac Cooper, MA, "Changing Demographics in Latvia by Changing Ethnic Law" (Shannon O'Lear)

Sergio Manuel Carneiro Freire, MA, "Modeling Daytime and Nighttime Population Distributions in Portugal Using Geographic Information Systems" (Johannes Feddema)

Levi Gahman, MA, "Identity, Body-Image and the Global Epidemiology of Eating Disorders" (Garth Myers)

Mauricio Herrera Rodriguez, PhD, "Sustainable Development in Costa Rica: A Moral Geography" (J. Christopher Brown)

Aubrey R. Jones, MA, "Impacts of Soil Moisture Variability on Convective Precipitation in the Central Plains Through Land-Atmosphere Feedbacks" (Nathaniel Brunsell)

Jeffrey R. Krecic, MA, "Soils as a Factor in Pinyon Pine Mortality Due to IPS Beetle Infestation in Garden Park, Colorado: A Case Study" (Curtis Sorenson)

Joshua Long, PhD, "Weird City: Sense of Place and Creative Resistance in Austin, Texas" (Garth Myers)

Iwake Masialeli, PhD, "Assessment of Time-Series MODIS Data for Cropland Mapping in the U.S. Central Great Plains" (Stephen Egbert)

Terri Woodburn, MA, "Historical Response of the Wakarusa River

Channel to Anthropogenic Influences" (William Johnson)

Ashley Zung, MA, "Landslide Soils and Geomorphology in Camp Davis Quadrangle, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Wyoming" (Curtis Sorenson)



Globe-O-Mania 2008—Another Huge Success!

The Geography Department's 4th Annual Globe-O-Mania event was held on November 20th and marks another celebration of Geography Awareness Week. This year, 37 teams played through three rounds of geography trivia, and four teams made it to the Sudden Death Tie Breaker round. How Swede It Is, a team including grad student Andy Allen, and Got Togo, tied for first place, Oman! swept into second place, and Cyprus Hill cleaned up in third place this year. Prizes included movie passes generously donated by Liberty Hall, KU Geography Department frisbees and T-shirts.



This year, Globe-O-Mania had two Masters of Ceremony: Austen Thelen and Andy Hilburn tag-teamed through the questions, roamed through the participants,



and kept spirits lively. Dan Hirmas and Barney Warf, new members of the Geography faculty, along with several grad students and countless undergrads were there for their first (and hopefully not last!) Globe-O-Mania event. Stephanie Meador and Stephanie Day organized the food drive, and all donations went to Women's Transitional Care Services in Lawrence. Other grads who made key contributions to this year's event include Ryan Good, Nicole Reiz, Megan Holroyd, Hilary Hungerford, Keith French, and Lisa Rausch. Once again, Globe-O-Mania was enjoyed by all!

—Team Globe-O-Mania



For the first time, Globe-O-Mania went public, as part of the CLAS ACTS series sponsored by the College.



The Deans of the College think over their answer to a question in the final round, while graduate student Keith French waits to record their decision. The Deans lost the final round of the public competition.

Advisory Board Update

The Alumni Advisory Board had a productive year. Last November the Board met in Lawrence for its annual in-person meeting. We helped keep team scores at Globe-o-mania, sponsored a Geography/Atmospheric Sciences tailgate, provided career counseling to students, and members Randy Baker (ATMO) and David Stearns (GEOG) gave class presentations. Follow-ups with students resulted in one being hired at NavTeq and research work being applied at NOAA. Earlier this year the Board held a donation match challenge that raised \$14,000 for ATMO/GEOG undergraduate scholarships, graduate scholarships and research support.

This October the Board held its 4th annual meeting at Lindley Hall. We welcomed new board members Michelle Joest (ATMO '87), Mike Hudson (ATMO '93), Ken Nelson (GEOG '93) and Michelle Russell (ATMO '91). The meeting included a visit from Joseph Steinmetz (Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences), 2 student presentations, a visit to CRESIS (NSF funded lab for studying ice sheets), and an advisory board best practices session with representatives from Western Kentucky U., Penn State U., and UCLA. The all day meeting was insightful and energizing and the Board is looking forward to continuing its

support of students and connecting with alumni.

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



Board members Randy Baker, Rob Shapiro & Prof. Jerry Dobson at the Oct. Football Tailgate.

Walter Kollmorgen Remembered

Walter Martin Johannes Kollmorgen
(1907-2008)

Walter Kollmorgen, the department's founder, died last July 22 in Gretna, Nebraska. An intelligent, blunt, and hard-working man, he was born and raised in a rural German neighborhood near Bancroft, Nebraska. He was the third oldest of Karl Kollmorgen and Dorothea Bendin's eleven children. His father worked as a teacher at the Zion Lutheran School.

After earning BA and MA degrees in geography at the University of Nebraska in 1931 and 1933, respectively, he enrolled in the doctoral program at Columbia University to work under Professor J. Russell Smith. Jobs were scarce during these years, but by the time he graduated in 1940, he had found employment with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. There he remained throughout the war doing significant applied research on ethnic settlements, the government's subsistence homestead program, and land reclamation in the lower Mississippi Valley. One such report, on the Amish in Pennsylvania, became a USDA best seller. He has described these years in an autobiographical paper in the *Annals* for March 1979.

Walter came to Kansas in January 1946, shortly before his thirty-ninth birthday. He foresaw an uncertain future at the USDA because of hiring preferences given to returning GIs, but opportunity in university teaching having these same GIs as students. Capitalizing on wartime curiosity for the study of regions, maps, and aerial photographs, Kansas was one of many universities to create a new geography department at this time. Walter has credited geology professor Lowell R. Laudon with pushing geography's case to the administration and welcoming him to share space in Lindley Hall. With a mandate from the dean to establish a graduate as well as an undergraduate program, Walter hired economic geographer Thomas R. Smith (a classmate at Columbia) in 1947 and cartographer George F. Jenks in 1949. During his two-decade chairmanship (1947-1967) the department flourished, and by the time he was ready to retire in

1977, it was regarded as one of the best in the nation.

Walter's career was molded partly by the pragmatics of farm life in the horse-and-buggy years of the 1910s and partly by the applied nature of research with the USDA. When he came to Kansas he naturally focused on the state's rural economy and its adjustment (or lack thereof) to changing conditions. First, with a young George Jenks in tow, he explored the implications of farm expansion in the High Plains of Sherman County. Next, following the disastrous flood of 1951 in the Kansas River basin, he championed the concept of building many small, upstream dams instead of



the large, downstream structures favored by the Corps of Engineers. His arguments, delivered in the voice of an Old Testament prophet, resonate well with modern ecological thinking, but went against the political power brokers of the time. Reading "And Deliver Us from Big Dams" now (*Land Economics* 30 [1954]: 333-46), it is hard to believe that it generated serious attempts to get him fired and an IRS audit of his income taxes every year until the big Mississippi floods of 1993. After which (as he told Severin Roberts), his records "were miraculously deemed to be in order."

Following the excitement of dams, Walter (and George) returned to the High Plains to explore in more depth two important ways to lessen the risk of

wheat farming that they had seen in Sherman County. He dubbed these adaptations "suitcase" (spreading landholdings over several states) and "sidewalk" farming (a smaller-scale spreading of land plus a job in town) and the reports became classic (*Annals* 48 [1958]: 27-40 and 209-31). These efforts were followed by still another major field study—an ecological examination of grazing operations in the Flint Hills of Chase County (*Annals* 55 [1965]: 260-90). Starting in the mid-1960s, Walter's curiosity turned toward historical topics, especially environmental perceptions of the Great Plains and their role in the settlement process. He proudly taught a class where all the readings were published prior to 1900 and wrote two more highly praised articles for the *Annals*. One, "The Woodsman's Assaults on the Domain of the Cattleman," was his presidential address to the Association of American Geographers (59 [1969]: 215-39); the other, "Landscape Meteorology in the Plains Area" (63 [1973]: 424-41) revisited the topic of his MA thesis from forty years before. He also began work on an unpublished, book-length manuscript on how Europeans and early Americans evaluated the economic and other potentials of the North American continent. This eventually ran to over six hundred pages.

Walter's work brought him many honors. The AAG cited him twice for meritorious contribution, KU named him to a distinguished professorship in 1963, and he served the AAG as both editor of the *Annals* (1955-1961) and president (1967-1968). He certainly deserved such kudos, but always acknowledged that he had the advantage of a silent partner: his sister Johanna. Walter and Johanna had been paired since 1910 when polio had crippled them both as young children. She was with him at the University of Nebraska and provided his entree to government work in the 1930s. At Kansas she headed the Douglas County Planning Commission while he ran the department, and she handled many of the *Annals* editorial duties.

Polio was a fact of Walter's life, but he refused to let it be a limitation. He won a Model T Ford for the family in 1921 by selling more subscriptions to an Omaha newspaper than anyone else. To meet

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expenses at the University of Nebraska he daily pulled himself up and down the stairs of a third-floor apartment because that floor offered the cheapest rent. At Kansas he eschewed urban life in favor of the Lone Bull Ranch south on Highway 59 where he kept a small herd of Angus cattle. There he sloughed off academic headaches with good physical work. Students helped him reseed brome pastures with native grasses and saw hay bales fly from his strong arms. He also drove tractors and pickup trucks with seeming ease, but any student invited along a trip quickly learned that the thrills of keen landscape commentary came with a measure of terror. Walter, you see, could slow down only by using a hand to physically move his leg from the accelerator to the brake.

People tell me that sternness runs in the Kollmorgen family, and Walter certainly epitomized this trait. His sharp tongue could deflate students and family members alike. When one of his nephews, Earl Reppert, proudly announced that he had been accepted to medical school, Walter's reply was: "I'm not surprised. All the really good students are going into rocket science these days." For my part, I recall his way of getting a student to babble everything he or she thought about a subject without revealing his own opinion. He would then light an omnipresent pipe, look over his glasses with a certain smile, and somehow make you feel like a complete idiot.

As a person who demanded much of himself, Walter expected the same of students and colleagues. Life was not easy with the Lone Bull, but his energy, doggedness, and example underlie all that the department is today. He taught me and his other fifteen MA and fifteen PhD students the joy of fieldwork, the value of area studies, and the power of precise, animated prose. We will miss his one-of-a-kind integrity and presence.

—Pete Shortridge

It was after I arrived at KU in 1966 that I discovered that Walter, his sister Johanna and I had a link, G. Donald Hudson.

Hudson had been Chair of the Geography Department at the Univ. of Washington and he and I were close friends. He actually introduced me to Geography as a profession. Earlier he had been an official at the TVA where he had been Walter and Johanna's boss.

Hudson initially had not wanted to hire Walter to do field reports because of his polio infirmity. He did not feel he could do the walking necessary. Johanna was hired as an editor. It was this work, the first job for Walter as I recall, that set the stage for Walter's now famous writings of the geographies of rural and agricultural America.

As a long-time editor of the *Annals*, and one strongly committed to language and clear writing he once told me that he had chafed at (resented) Hudson's editing of his reports. Walter also told me, and others, how he often was disappointed to see manuscripts he had rejected appear elsewhere.

Writing and thinking were his great passions. Nonsense and Government programs were his bane.

—Bob McColl

As an undergraduate, I was always a little bit intimidated by Walter's intellect. He officed in this sacred area adjacent to Dr. Kuchler. Just walking past the dark entrance made my breath quicken and knees shake a little.

When I went to the University of Minnesota to start my MA work and met the stable of notables there (including John Fraser Hart, John Adams, Yi Fu Tuan, John Borchert, and many others), Dr. Kollmorgen was like a "god". They would ask all these questions about him and were amazed I knew so little. They considered Kansas to be the third best geography program in the country, somewhere behind them and possibly Chicago. There was also much debate on this issue as well.

We would have Friday "coffee" on those terribly cold Minneapolis afternoons and Dr. Kollmorgen's name would invariably come up and the debates would rage about the Army Corps of Engineers, changes in Amish culture, or Iowa landscapes. Then, they would turn to me and ask, "What is 'He' currently working on?" I realized that

when I got back to Kansas I had better walk up the hallowed steps to the dark office and introduce myself.

—Mark Virden (BA, 1972 MA, 1976)
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I had the pleasure of interviewing Walter Kollmorgen while I was studying at KU. We spent some time talking about his article about trying to control flooding with levies and dams. The work at the time flew in the face of convention and was very controversial; he was advised at the time to consider whether to publish the work at all. He laughed and shared he'd been audited by the IRS every year until the mid to late 90s. After the floods of '93, his tax records were miraculously deemed to be in order.

—Severin Roberts (MA, 1999)
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Walter had a stubborn determination and a sharp sense of humor. Sometime during the late 1960s we had a College Faculty meeting in Bailey Hall because the normal meeting place in the Union was not available. But the auditorium was on the third floor and, at that time, there were no working elevators in Bailey. George Jenks and I walked over to Bailey together and found Walter half way up the stairs and totally exhausted. We got on either side of him, lifted him up while he protested loudly, and carried him and his cane to the third floor. He looked at us with scorn and asked in a loud voice, "What do you think I am? A G.. D.. cripple?" Then he flashed that smile that even Obama would envy. That brought a roar of laughter from all the bystanders and, once again, Walter found the distinctive set of words and actions to move through complications into joy. Like Red Skelton, Walter made himself the butt of his own jokes!

—Bob Nunley

Despite his severe physical handicaps, Walter used to raise cattle on his farm. He would occasionally ask me to lend a hand. One day he called me to help put a cow into a squeeze chute to examine it for some reason or other. The chute looked out onto

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the yard but it could be entered only by way of a small enclosure in the barn. While Walter sat on a small bale of hay in the enclosure, I tried to guide the cow into the chute. Suddenly the animal went berserk. It broke through the restraints and charged into the area where Walter and I were.

I hightailed it out of there by climbing over the gate into the yard. Then I looked back and there lay poor Walter yelling as the frenzied animal was charging and stomping around. With knees trembling, I climbed back into the enclosure and somehow managed to get that rogue cow out of there. I was literally trembling, but the only sign that Walter gave of being scared was a bit of perspiration on his forehead. I remember thinking, "This guy may be handicapped, but has more guts than a bull elephant."

—John Augelli

When I was hired by T.R. Smith back in February of 1970, Walter Kollmorgen was still very active in the Geography Department. He had only retired from the chairmanship three years earlier. One of my duties was to take dictation from Walter. Oh my, that man could go on and on! There was no such thing as a one-page letter for Walter. Not to be outdone by T.R. Smith, most of Walter's letters were three and four pages long (typed). Needless to say, after a session with him, my fingers were stiff!

When the main office moved from the fourth to the second floor of Lindley, my receptionist area was in the front of the office with Lois Clark's office and the student help's office behind me with partial walls. Walter would sometimes sit at the student's desk to look at his mail. One day, Lois opened her desk drawer and a mouse jumped out! Needless to say, Lois was startled and I jumped up to find out what was going on. So did Walter. Lois had an area rug under her desk and the mouse scampered under the rug. Walter started hitting the rug with his cane. It was not apparent until several days later (the odor was very evident) that Walter had been successful in eliminating the mouse!

—Bev Koerner

Prof. Kollmorgen was the Chairperson of the Dept. of Geography when I was doing my Masters degree during 1958-59. I did not opt for any of the courses he was teaching and hence my academic interaction with him was mainly at seminars. I well remember the concern he showed and the trouble he took to make me feel at home.

My most vivid memory was of the visit to his farmhouse, where I saw an example of a large American farmstead, something that was so different from the farms in India in that era. My husband, who was at Argonne at that time, came with me on this visit to Prof. Kollmorgen's house. We were impressed by the courage and fortitude with which he bore his disability as well as the affectionate support of his sister.

All of us who came in contact with Prof. Kollmorgen will sorely miss him.

—K.Sita (MA, 1959)
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I believe that I enrolled in two agricultural geography classes with Dr. Kollmorgen. Sometimes he would hold graduate seminars at his small ranch outside of town in the evenings. The students always looked forward to the seminars because his sister Johanna would always bake a huge batch of fresh cookies for us. In addition, seminar students were often requested to help work Dr. Kollmorgen's prize Angus herd on Saturday mornings. Since I was a farm boy from Nebraska I kind of enjoyed being outdoors, but some of my "city slicker" colleagues were seldom enamored with the ranch work. Dr. Kollmorgen was a tough professor and very demanding regarding writing exercises, but he helped shape a generation of future geographers. I last stopped to visit with Dr. Kollmorgen at his Gretna, Nebraska retirement home two years ago. His mind was still as sharp as a tack and he was eager to share with me a large volume of material he had been reading on the Middle East. He made a difference, what else could most of us ask for?

—Byron Augustin (MA, 1968)
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Walter Kollmorgen was one of those

unforgettable people that one encounters in life. I met him first in 1950, when I showed up as an undergrad at KU.

Through the years I got to know him well, as a student, lab assistant, and mentor at the Master's level. He was a fine man, full of courage, salt and vinegar, and wisdom.

In the summer of 1952, we corresponded a little when he was teaching in the summer session at the U. of Virginia and I was teaching a lab at KU. Here is a paragraph from his letter of July 7, 1952:

"Johanna [his sister] and I live in a big, monstrous old house cluttered with furniture salvaged from Noah's Ark. A few pieces are good but most of it is horrible stuff. Never again will I be tempted to waste any money on antiques. As usual, these ancient domiciles have a \$100,000 front and a dime-store kitchen. The oven doesn't work and when used, the door needs to be bolted with a chair. We eat on an old card table. The place is dark and gloomy. For all this we pay \$100 per month!"

In the same letter, I was admonished for a generality in my earlier letter to him:

"You say that out there 'things are drying up pretty fast' ... Are you having long dry spells? Are crops suffering? Is it getting serious? Remember that I am a farmer and, perhaps, I should start getting some aid program underway."

I learned a lot from Walter Kollmorgen, as I'm sure many others did too. I hope the AAG gives him his due as a very outstanding geographer of his time.

—Charles Heller (BA '52, MA '57)
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(I assume others had this same experience.) Sharon and I were twice invited by Walter and Johanna to dinner. That was special to me as a graduate student. Of course, the quid pro quo was that Sharon, our 3-year old son Bryan and I ended up pulling Canadian Thistle at the Lone Bull Ranch. You may be wondering how this happened a 2nd time. Well, as President Bush would say "There's an old saying Tennessee- I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee- that says, fool me once, shame on- shame on you. Fool me- you can't get fooled again."

—Joe Manzo (PhD, 1978)
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Walter Kollmorgen Remembered

When requests for submissions to newsletters come around, I always read with interest the various postings from parties both known and unknown, but I rarely feel compelled to contribute. But after hearing the news of Walter Kollmorgen's passing, this year is different.

Writing from the perspective of having been a student, adjunct or in some way affiliated with the K.U. Geography Department in four different decades and the distinct pleasure of having served as Dr. Kollmorgen's "best boy" for a year or so, I hope that I can contribute some small nugget to the collection.

Walter Kollmorgen was interested, first and foremost, in the great ideas of geography, rather than methods and process. His lectures poured out as an extemporaneous discourse, often using only a map as the cues to launch the discussion and move it along. This differed markedly from his writing process, which he described as "slow and painful" and one in which he "agonized over every word and detail." And yet, despite working from handwritten drafts that were almost cuneiform, his output was voluminous.

The high standards to which he held himself were also extended to his students. "Environment and Man" (an undergraduate lecture course) used a reading list heavy in primary sources from the 19th century to Ancient Greece. Grading 250 multipage essay exams (several times a semester) still figures prominently in my stress dreams. This description aptly paints Kollmorgen as something of an anachronism in today's environment; he certainly was not influenced by the "quantitative revolution" in geography. His emphasis on rigorous scholarship and quality writing, however, is something that stands the test of time.

As an individual, Walter was just as distinctive. He suffered no fools; at times he could be charitably described as "crusty." The thunderous whack of his cane—to make a point or quell classroom interruptions—was something to behold. I remember not only hauling mountains of library materials to his home, but also the occasional "chores"—stacking wood or helping check the cattle—that certainly

expanded the description of research assistant. Those apocryphal tales of the cane wedged against the accelerator in his truck have more than a grain of truth for anyone who ever rode with him.

Since we both shared some common roots back in northeast Nebraska, I especially appreciated the long journey that his life had taken. His origins in the conservative environment of German Lutheran farmers could not have predicted his great scholarly achievements, but they undoubtedly gave him his drive to persevere despite the disabling effects of childhood polio. He was truly one of a kind. So let's all pause and raise our toast of choice. Walter, this Bud's for you.

—George Ulbrick (MA 1996)
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I have general memories of people at KU in the early 80s (when I was there) talking about how the fed. government tried to get him fired after his series of 3 articles on the folly of dam-building in the Kansas and Missouri River watersheds in the 1950s; and what Pete and others there at the time used to say about Walter dressing up in Amish garb as he tried to shock students about the perils of living in a small, tight-knit, religiously-based community. I also still have the audio tapes of what I think may be his last public lecture given in 1982 -- "The Enigma of the American Climate" -- which was based on an epic book he was working on.

More personally, I used to visit Walter out at his house on the other side of the Wakarusa River ("The Wakie" as he affectionately termed it). During his retirement years there, he sometimes requested that a graduate student help him run down sources over at Watson Library and bring photocopies out to his place. I was lucky to be asked to do that on a few occasions. I remember the first time especially. He asked me where I'd gotten my undergraduate degree. When I told him it was UC-Berkeley, he leaned out of his chair toward me and bellowed, "So! Did you genuflect before that god out there?" Those exact words still stick in my mind after all these years. I was

startled by his aggressive sarcasm. But I'd been warned that Walter was pretty cantankerous. I'd graduated from Cal in 1975, the year Carl Sauer died, so I hardly knew the man. But I realized this was who Walter was referring to. I told Walter that I'd met Sauer only once, when he gave a guest lecture in my biogeography class, a meandering hour-long lecture about fire, 'primitive man', and a whole bunch of other stuff that frankly, I said, blew right by my ears and over my head. Walter waved his hand and said, "Let's not talk about that. Now...what is it that you're up to?" The rest of the conversation, as I recall, had me on the defensive about my dissertation research for about 30 minutes. It was like a cross-examination.

—Bob Rundstrom (PhD 1987)
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I have always felt that the time I spent with Professor Kollmorgen was among the very finest experiences of my academic career. He did that weekly evening "reading" seminar at his home. In my case there were six of us, I believe. Each week, he handed us readings from his immense collection, or sent us to find some esoteric/practical/fundamental/philosophical piece in the library. When we re-convened the following week, he would generally ask each of us a single question, encompassing all that we might have read--and occasionally sending us scampering back to the library the morning after our seminar. His way of asking such questions changed my teaching and changed my approach to the study of geography itself. His amazing understanding of geographic thought, traditions and systems inspires me to this day. Our discipline is better and brighter for his interest.

—James L. Huckabay (PhD 1975)
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I was fortunate to have been Walter's last research assistant, taking over that position from Willy Dobak. One of my earliest memories of Walter was the day he took me out to Clinton Lake in his pickup. This was early 1973. Although the dam was finished, the Wakarusa had not yet begun to flood what would soon be Clinton Lake.

Walter Kollmorgen Remembered

We went bouncing down a steep incline at speeds I was sure would send the truck rolling at any moment.

Once we reached the Wakarusa Bottoms, Walt raced around as though the flood waters could arrive at any minute. As I came to know Walter I realized how uncomfortable he must have been in that place. I've never known a man who hated dams more than he did. He pointed with his heavy cane to the enormous piles of trees anchored with cables. "Fish habitat", he muttered, turning up his nose as though he had just caught a whiff of dead fish in the cab. "Just another charade to get the cost/benefit figures for this boondoggle to look favorable". He predicted the lake would attract ridiculously oversized boats and soon this "cornfield lake" would silt up much faster than the Corps of Engineers was letting on.

—Michael Caron (MA 1978)
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Though Walter had retired one to two years before I arrived at KU, he was around the department frequently enough that I got to know him, at least a bit. The only real adventure that I had with Walter was on his farm south of town. Because I was a physical geographer, he said he wanted my opinion on removing tree stumps from his pasture. After he told me what my advice was going to be, we got in his pickup and took off—he drove like a wild man, using his cane to operate the accelerator and steering just enough to make certain that we were hitting all the cow paths/ruts in a perpendicular fashion. After getting the snot shaken out of me, we stopped to look at a couple of stumps. He then went off on how *we* should use dynamite to remove them. That was enough for me! I told him that I did not want on-the-job-training from him on the art of using dynamite. That aside, I found Walter to be a fascinating and extremely likable old fart.

—Bill Johnson
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I remember Walt with great respect

and affection. He and George Jenks were responsible for my having a career in the academic world that might not have come to pass but for them.

—Carol Barrett (MA 1962)
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I have many memories of Walt (Dr. Kollmorgen) from 1963 to 1966. Before I arrived at KU, I could write to him Sunday Night and mail the letter from the Macomb, IL, depot before 12:30 AM Monday and get a reply from him in the Tuesday morning mail. To enter his office was always to enter an oral exam. Once he was cleaning his correspondence files from when he was *Annals* editor. I cruised through all of the names and accomplishments of famous geographers until he came across Ralph Brown, the previous *Annals* editor. No matter how many or whose work I had described, I knew I had failed. I decided that I should enter his office on the attack, so the next time I asked why he didn't raise sheep instead of his herd of Angus. As a Nebraska cattleman, that thought stopped him cold, and I got no oral exam that day.

Walt was a fast driver in spite of his lack of full use of his legs and one arm. In 1964 Eric Johnson, Stan Morain and I drove with Dick Skaggs in his little Valliant to Columbus, Ohio, to the AAG meetings. Walt drove alone in the Department's 1956 Chevy station wagon and made it in two hours less time. Once while he attended a summer AAG meeting, he asked me to drop in on his 15 year-old nephew who was staying at his place tending his cattle. I caught him driving the pickup on the highway and told him not to do that again. He later ran it into a ditch before Walt got home. Walt just traded for a new International pickup. He took me for a ride through his pasture and asked me what I thought of it. I said that the old Ford was geared too high to drive slowly over the rough pasture and that you could easily drive slowly in the International and have a smoother ride. He said "Oh, I never thought of that."

—Dwight Brown (MA 1965; PhD 1969)
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Walter Kollmorgen was a great teacher and mentor. I was his research assistant while in graduate school and spent much time in the libraries and at his Lone Bull Ranch south of town. His passions had a way of rubbing off on those he taught and I feel my life much enriched by exposure to him. His joking reference to my hometown (Washington, DC) as "that sinful city in the East" echoed his disdain of pork barrel projects and boondoggles which he was always ready to lampoon. Interaction with him was never dull! I know I'm not alone in mourning his passing.

—Jay Farrell (BA 1971; MA 1974)
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Gray Tappan's Lifetime Commitment to Africa's Sahel

Gray Tappan is a graduate of the Class of '81 with B. A. and M. A. degrees in geography and a B. A. degree in French, all from KU. He has worked at the United States Geological Survey's EROS Center for more than 21 years, and every year he spends many weeks conducting fieldwork in Africa on the southern fringes of the Sahara. His dedication to monitoring and promoting forest management in the dry Sahel was highlighted on NPR's "All Things Considered" on July 2, 2007 (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=11608960>).

Travel with Gray through West Africa, and you will find yourself in the presence of a bonafide celebrity. Ride with him into a remote village in the Sahel, and you will see villagers flock around him. Walk through a government office in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, or Niger, and you will stand aside as officials welcome him with open arms. Dine with him at a restaurant in Niamey, Niger, and you will enjoy the restaurateur's slide show of photographs, set to music, which he, himself, shot among the Saharan Tuaregs more than 30 years ago. Then he'll explain that his priceless images had turned blue with age until Gray happened along and digitally restored

every one to its original brilliance.

Gray's specialty is remote sensing, and he's used it to help some of the most disadvantaged people on earth. In particular, he uses satellite images to monitor the gain or loss of forests, and agricultural soil and vegetation conservation practices in response to government, international, or donor sponsored programs. One of the most successful programs, for instance, builds rock bunds along contours that simply hold rainwater a little longer on those rare occasions when it does fall. Any observer can readily see that the area behind each line of rocks helps grow corn. Gray's remote sensing analyses go further to prove a more subtle point: these interventions also increase groundwater flow and support increased tree growth on farmland.

Gray is renowned in West Africa among geographers, environmental scientists, government officials, and many others for his efforts to apply remote sensing in practical ways to pressing problems of land management, particularly the need to strike a balance between natural resource conservation and growing demands to devote more land to food production.

Two recent projects exemplify Gray's recent work in West Africa's Sahel – a semi-arid transitional region between

the Sahara Desert and the more humid wooded grasslands and forested regions to the south. The Sahel has been in the news over the past several decades because of its vulnerability to drought and desertification, and the tremendous hardships faced by its population of more than 50 million people.

Gray has been using satellite remote sensing data to map and monitor land use and land management in Africa since he left KU in the early 1980s. He says that the opportunities are greater today than ever before for using remote sensing to deepen our understanding of the human impact on the African environment – an impact we can now see clearly through changes in land use practices. He finds it both curious and fortuitous that as the anthropogenic forces driving environmental change are accelerating worldwide, with the potential to inflict irreversible damage to our planet, the powerful tools that we now possess for Earth observation are contributing to deeper knowledge about our impacts, and are promoting increased awareness among the global community.

Now, Gray's son, Taylor, is following in his footsteps, and we are fortunate to have him as a geography major.

—Jerry Dobson
Professor of Geography



Gray Tappan guides a U. S. State Department delegation through a conservation project in Africa's Sahel



Bob McColl

Being retired and a Geographer is a joy with lots of time to travel and think and write. I am on the Board of our condo in Naples, Florida,

where I spend time between sitting on my terrace looking at the beach and pool and photo documenting Old Naples and other Florida settlements before they are gone.

I spend several months of the year in Costa Rica and have documented and written about its churches as navigation and cultural markers of community and place (FOCUS).

We also have a place in Spain overlooking Gibraltar and Morocco so I have just returned from time in Tunisia – doing lots of photo documentation. The Mediterranean is now a major interest, especially its history of commerce, cultures and arts. Libya is my next objective, but Americans still cannot get visas.

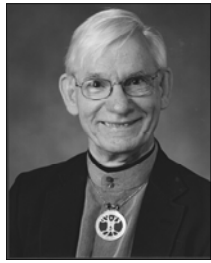
These new photos and the photos from forty years of field work are now being collected, scanned, annotated and put on-line at the American Geographical Society Library in Milwaukee. Something I hope everyone who has photos from the field will do as well. It is great visual geography of time and place, e.g. I have photos of the Bamiyan Buddhas destroyed by the Taliban, Persepolis under the Shah, China pre and post Tiananmen China and Mongolia from its opening and end of Communism, etc.

Hopefully I will return to China in the next year or two and document the massive and rapid changes there.

I still study modern geo-politics and terrorism and its unique geographies. I am not sure I want to write anything yet. Certainly no more models of how to do it. Something purely descriptive perhaps, but I am still pondering that.

I continue to support a number of theater and geographic causes – mostly the AGS and AGSL – but this will be harder given the current turn in the stock market. At least I have some nice places to sit it out.

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Bob Nunley

My years of retirement are fascinating. Although I managed to avoid full-time administration for 45 years of full time

professorships (five at Wayne State University in Detroit and 40 at KU), I spent the first five years of retirement as Dean of Faculty of Holos University Graduate Seminary (www.holosuniversity.org). Then I retired from the administrative work and continued teaching and conducting research. My replacement burned out and I am once again coming out of retirement to serve as Dean of Faculty. I have never been busier, but I have never been happier. For my 77th birthday earlier this year I split, carried, and stacked two chords of wood. Thankfully I remain in very good health. I still do an hour of yoga and meditation plus an hour of classical guitar each morning before 6:30. If any of you have any good stories to share that didn't get included in the newsletter send them to me in an e-mail and I, in turn, will send them to everyone else who sent me such a story. Do I smell the beginnings of an underground newsletter?

Be well.

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John Augelli

Another year has passed by, and amazingly enough, I'm still here—and feeling pretty feisty. I shall be 88 in three months. If Walter Kollmorgen is not careful, I shall catch up to him.

I did no lecture cruising during 2008, but the wanderlust is still there. I shall be cruising again beginning in February of 2009. It is off to Central America and such unlikely places as San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua; Quepos, Costa Rica, Fuerte Amador at the Pacific

entrance to the Panama Canal and on to the Caribbean coast to Roatan Island and Hunting Caye in Honduras, and Belize.

In other respects, I have settled down to being a typical Florida retiree. I bicycle around the park in the morning, go swimming in the afternoon, play bridge or pinochle at night, and celebrate the end of the hurricane season.

The community in which I live is only for senior citizens, many of whom are well into their 90's. At 87, I am one of the younger people in the pinochle group. We have developed a morbid sense of humor, referring to the community as "God's waiting room". When a resident passes away, they fly the clubhouse flag at half mast, and it seems to fly at half mast every two or three days. If Hemingway were still alive and living here, he might write a book entitled, "For Whom the Flag Flies".

I continue to harbor the hope of becoming a "snow bird" again, moving seasonally between Florida and Lawrence. Maybe when the Kansas snows melt and crocuses come up, I may come home again.

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Curt Sorenson

Retirement is suiting us just fine. We love the climate here in Canon City, although we could stand to see a little more moisture. Peggy

and I have joined a hiking club and we're seeing a lot of great country. We purchased a pickup and cabover camper and enjoy trips around the region.

I'm still enjoying the field camp experience, and look forward to it again next summer. Soren Larsen has been an exceptional field camp colleague, and has been instrumental in getting students involved in his NSF grant research in the area. We continue to work with Jim Whitworth (PhD student) and the Bureau of Land Management on a 5 year forest thinning project. KU students from field camp act as project monitors on soils, vegetation, and

Emeriti Corner

geomorphic measures at each thinning site. The project is like an internship with a federal agency and provides a small amount of funding that helps offset some field camp expenses.

Peggy and I are also very involved with preservation of the old Garden Park one-room school just south of field camp and adjacent to our house. We've held several fund raising efforts and recently appeared before the CO State Historical Board whereupon the school was unanimously approved as a State of CO Historic Structure. We have a long way to go but progress is definitely being made. We recently received a \$9k+ architectural assessment grant and hope to start further grant writing and fund raising, followed soon by the beginning of repairs on the west wall of the structure.

The valley is changing with old families leaving (the Canterburys moved to Penrose) and many new ones moving into recent subdivisions here. See our article in Nov., 2007 *Professional Geographer* on these and related issues of landuse changes out here.

Our kids are in CO too. Anna, her husband and our nearly 3 year old grandson live in Florence and Spencer is enrolled at CSU in Ft. Collins. I'm continuing my recovery from Q fever and feel stronger all the time, so altogether we are healthy and happy here in CO. We like to see old friends and former students. There is always a cold beer in the refrigerator. If you're in the neighborhood, stop in and say hello. I'll give you the latest Garden Park tour.

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Faculty News



Steve Bozarth

Steve Bozarth had another busy year studying ancient pollen and opal phytoliths from sites in Central America, the American Southwest, and the Great Plains. In May, he assisted with excavation of a post-Classical field house at Blue Creek, Belize. In the near future he will analyze microfossils from this site with funding from a National Geographic Society grant. Last year he found charred phytolith evidence that fire had been used to manage the fields on which the structure is located. Analysis of biosilicates in an ash layer at San Bartolo, Guatemala, demonstrated that Classic Period pilgrims made numerous burnt offerings of food and leaves. He found microfossil evidence that the Hohokam (prehistoric farmers in Arizona) were placing offerings of corn, beans and squash in post holes prior to building their homes. Much to Steve's surprise, he found well preserved pollen in a prehistoric agricultural site in Leavenworth County. This proved to be an important discovery in that pollen is rarely preserved in the Central Plains outside of anaerobic environments. Much of the pollen was produced by hazelnuts, showing that they were an important part of the prehistoric diet. Steve also recently discovered how to identify evidence of meteorite impacts while reconstructing paleoenvironments.

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Dave Braaten

Dave Braaten left for Antarctica at the end of November to participate in a field program to map the ice sheet covered Gamburtsev mountain range in East Antarctica using an airborne ice penetrating radar. The airborne mapping will also include gravity and magnetic fields. This is a major collaborative field expedition supported by the National Science Foundation as part of the International Polar Year (2008/09). He will be in a remote field camp for about a month and will return to KU by mid-January 2009. He is

maintaining a blog while in the field which can be found at <http://www.cresis.ku.edu/research/antarctica2008>. Little is currently known about this phantom mountain range (about the size of the Alps) since it is buried far under the Antarctic ice sheet and is located in a remote sector of East Antarctica near the "Pole of Inaccessibility." This expedition, to the top of the Antarctic ice sheet, is the first systematic study of our planet's last unexplored mountain range.

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Chris Brown

Chris Brown has moved into an administrative role at KU. He has taken over from Bill Woods as the Director of the Environmental Studies Program. He continues a 25% appointment in Geography and is developing a new 100-level course, "Environment, Culture, and Society" that is cross-listed with Environmental Studies. This fall the course had 90 students. Conference travel this year will take Chris to the meetings of the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers in Granada, Nicaragua and the Latin American Studies Association in Rio.

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Nate Brunsell

Nate Brunsell has been continuing his work on climate change in Kansas. He and Johan Feddema were awarded a grant from the Land Institute to examine climate model output for the 21st century. In addition, he has been busy working with the Ecoforecasting group around campus and at KSU; conducting remote sensing analysis, eddy covariance and scintillometer measurements and modeling analysis to examine ecological implications of climate change. He chaired a session at the American Meteorological Society's *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* conference in Orlando, FL, and was invited to serve on the editorial board

Faculty News

of the journal *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology*. He is also now the alternate representative to the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrological Sciences, Inc (CUAHSI). He participated in talks surrounding the selection of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) site in Kansas, including both the Konza Prairie and the KU's Nelson Environmental Study Area (NESA). He saw his first graduate student (Aubrey Jones) finish her Master's degree (with honors), and convinced two new students to seek their master's degree under his direction. He is continuing to teach his usual courses including microclimatology and remote sensing, although he did take a course reduction this fall to focus on his research. This year has culminated in six papers published in areas including remote sensing, eddy covariance and Ebola virus. Five more papers are currently in review (can you tell he is going up for tenure next year?). On a personal note, this was the first year he did not participate in any long distance triathlons and he and his wife are expecting their first child in late December.

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So-Min Cheong

So-Min Cheong returned this fall after a year of research leave at Stanford completing peer-reviewed articles on coastal change, working on adaptation to environmental change such as coastal and climate change and engaging in the investigation of energy efficiency. One empirical study is on the social consequences of Korea's oil spill that occurred in December 2007. Transferability of Japan's energy efficiency to the U.S. is another new area of research in development.

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Jerry Dobson

Jerry Dobson continues to lead Bowman Expeditions in a partnership between KU and the American Geographical Society (AGS) that involves numerous other universities. To date,

approximately \$ 2.5 million has been directed toward projects in Mexico (3 years, led by Peter Herlihy), the Antilles Region (2 years), Colombia (1 year), Jordan (1 year), and Kazakhstan (just starting, co-led by Steve Egbert). Each expedition is designed to collect geographic information (open source and unclassified) and conduct geographic research. Topics have ranged from land tenure (Mexico, Jordan) to tourism (Antilles) to violence (Colombia) to transportation (Kazakhstan). Principle investigators can choose their own topics based on the top issues affecting the future of the country or region—economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, political stability, and cultural identity.

Jerry and Steve Egbert continue their research on land mines, minefields, and mine actions funded by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Over the past year, Jerry has received two prestigious honors. He was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and he was recognized by the Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS) with it's first ever Award of Distinction for lifetime achievement.

The Association of American Geographers (AAG) Nominating Committee has picked Jerry to stand for election as one of two candidates for AAG vice president, which usually means automatic promotion to president the next year. This election offers an unprecedented opportunity for cooperation between AAG and AGS, where Jerry has been president since 2002 and there is no term limit. If you are an AAG member, the ballot will arrive in your January 2009 AAG Newsletter. Don't forget to vote!

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Steve Egbert

This fall Steve Egbert entered his second year as Graduate Studies Director in the department and he says that he is pleasantly surprised to find that he is finding it more and more enjoyable. There are lots of tough decisions that he would rather avoid (just ask Bev!) but he enjoys spending more time working with our graduate students. He also continues to

serve on a large number of graduate committees, mostly in EEB and Geology outside the department. One of his own students, Iwake Masialeli, completed his PhD this year and has returned to the University of Zambia to take up a faculty position.

Research continues to offer new interests and challenges. Along with Jude Kastens and Kevin Dobbs of the Kansas Biological Survey, Steve has undertaken a multi-year project to map potential inundation extents in eastern Kansas during flood events. The ultimate goal is to provide on-line decision support tools for emergency managers from the Division of Emergency Management down to the city and county level. He also continues to work with Jerry Dobson and others to provide geospatial education and support for the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, and this coming year he looks forward to joining Jerry on a new Bowman expedition to Kazakhstan.

This summer he attended a two-week seminar at the US Memorial Holocaust Museum on the Holocaust in Poland, Ukraine, and Lithuania – an intense educational experience. In this same vein, Shannon O'Lear and Steve put together an entry on Geography of Genocide for the Encyclopedia of Geography and are finishing work on an issue of *Space and Polity* devoted to geography and genocide. They will be offering a seminar this spring on geography's role in definitional discussions of genocide.

On the personal side of things, Kathy and Steve celebrated their 35th anniversary this year. Kathy also took up a new position teaching high school biology at Ottawa High School (not the Ottawa in Canada, contrary to what a couple of their elderly friends thought). Teaching six classes of high school biology to freshman and sophomores makes for lots of entertaining stories! Finally, making up for last year's freeze-out, they had abundant peaches and apples that are now mostly in jars and freezer bags in jams, sauces, juices, dried slices, and pie fillings.

They send their best wishes to everyone.

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Faculty News



Peter Herlihy

Peter Herlihy spent summer-fall 2008 on sabbatical in Mexico finishing the Bowman Expeditions Prototype

of the American Geographical Society (AGS), called *México Indígena* (MI), to revitalize geographical research in foreign areas scholarship and government. As expedition leader, working with colleague AGS President Jerry Dobson, Peter and his team developed a participatory research mapping-GIS methodology with professors, students, and community researchers from the US, Canada, and Mexico – including Jayhawkers Derek Smith, John Kelly, Aida Ramos Viera, Andy Hilburn, and Taylor Tappan – for studying Mexico's gargantuan PROCEDE neoliberal land reform and its impact on indigenous lands.

A July 2008 *Geographical Review* article details the AGS program and prototype, as does the *MI* Website (<http://web.ku.edu/~mexind/>). In recognition of this and his past field research in Latin America, the AGS named Peter the Society's first "Isaiah Bowman Scholar."

Peter also co-edited *Ethno- and Historical Geographic Studies in Latin America*, a book in which he and nearly 20 scholars present essays based on original field and archival research honoring Geographer William V. Davidson, including some of the most distinguished Latin Americanist geographers in the U.S., among them fellow Jayhawker Bill Woods. Peter continues his posts as Associate Director of the KU Center of Latin American Studies and as Contributing Editor for the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* at the U.S. Library of Congress.

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Dan Hirmas

Dan Hirmas and his family moved from Riverside, CA, this past summer to join the faculty in the Geography Department at

KU. His wife, Kim, and daughter, Ella, are enjoying the transition from year-long summers in southern California to four distinct seasons in Kansas. Dan

and his family are also enjoying getting to know their second daughter, Kuyper, who was born in Lawrence in September.

After finishing his B.A. degree at Texas A&M, Dan moved to Lubbock where he worked as a fertilizer chemist and nematologist at A-L Laboratories. While in Lubbock, he became fascinated with soils and attended graduate school at TTU. After getting his M.S. in Soil Science, Dan moved to California to attend UC Riverside where he completed his Ph.D. in June. His dissertation research focused on the link between land surface characteristics and soil-geomorphology, biogeochemical cycling of carbon and nitrogen, the role of desert mountains in trapping dust, paleohydrologic reconstruction using carbonate depth functions, and inorganic carbon response to elevated atmospheric CO₂.

In addition to working on questions opened up by his dissertation, Dan is currently working with other faculty in Geography to apply novel techniques and instrumentation to sample and study soil morphology, understand the interaction of climate on soil-mineral dissolution and precipitation, and construct numerical process-based models to understand soil genesis across the landscape. Ultimately, this work will allow soil-landscape properties and process to be linked through space and time.

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Bill Johnson

Professionally, Bill has certainly had worse years...five journal articles, some gray-literature reports, and so on. But the

best of it is that he has outstanding undergraduate and graduate students around him for inspiration and his continued education. Karen Ohmes, an undergraduate (B.S.-Geology) and class grader, has continued her unflinching commitment to preparing and loading samples for isotope analysis and anything else he asks of her. Another long-time undergraduate lab research assistant is Erin DeLee (B.S.-Environmental Studies), the go-to person on the laser particle-size instrumentation and a Herculean drill-rig roughneck. Most recently, Janelle Wehr (B.S.-Geography) has joined the lab group and has become their resident expert on soil-color determination using

the new spectrophotometer. Graduate students in the lab area are going full tilt: Terri Woodburn turned in her thesis and is developing her Ph.D. research; Mark Bowen is starting the writing stage of his dissertation-based articles; Trish Jackson received a prestigious NSF IGERT fellowship to support her in her Ph.D. program; Ashley Zung has completed her thesis and is formulating her dissertation research; Alan Halfen, who recently joined us from UW-Milwaukee, is starting his dissertation research; and Scott Klopfenstein, who has been working hard on the playa mapping project, is in the early stage of his master's research into soil carbon sequestration. Lastly, Bill has been re-energized by the recent hiring of Dan Hirmas; he is teaching Bill and others a great deal about soils and cutting edge instrumentation, making this an exciting time for the physical program. Bill has no doubt that Dan is going to make major contributions to the department and to the profession.

On the home front, Claudia and Bill have not been traveling much this year, but they are working on the house, with the intent of finally placing it on the market next spring if the housing market improves at all, and then moving back to Lawrence. They have three children involved in their undergraduate education right now, at KU, Kansas City Art Institute, and Humboldt State University (CA). Of the other two, one is working on a master's degree (her Brazilian-born husband is earning his Ph.D. at KU), and the other designs exhibits at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. None of the dogs (Circee, Violet, Max) has died yet, nor has Stinky the cat.

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Jay Johnson

It has been 12 years since Jay was last employed at KU as an instructor in the School of Social Welfare and he is glad to be back again

to familiar surroundings. He is transitioning from two years on the tenure-track at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where aside from teaching geography and anthropology courses he co-directed the university's

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Human Rights and Human Diversity Initiative. At KU, in addition to his full-time appointment in geography, Jay has a courtesy appointment with the Global Indigenous Nations Studies program. This fall semester, Jay has been teaching a jointly listed graduate course, Indigenous Peoples of the World, between the Global Indigenous Nations Studies program and geography department, in addition to Intermediate Human Geography at the undergraduate level. Jay chairs the Indigenous Peoples' Knowledges and Rights Commission of the International Geographical Union. The Commission is currently working on two special journal editions, one for *GeoJournal* and the other which Jay will co-edit with Renee Louis and Albertus Pramono for *Cartographica*. In addition they are planning a Commission meeting on urban Indigenous people's issues at the University of Saskatoon in 2009.

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Xingong Li

Xingong Li eventually got the article on global impacts from sea level rise accepted by *PE&RS* last May. The research

was supported by CReSIS and is a joint effort with several graduate students and faculty members from the geography department and the Haskell Indian Nations University. Working with Keith French since he was an undergraduate student (now a graduate student) in the geography department, Xingong and Keith extended the cartographic modeling framework into the vector data model, which provides a new approach of spatial analysis in the vector data model. This research was recently accepted by the *International Journal of Geographic Information Science*. With the support from a KU general research fund and the Big Twelve Faculty Fellowship program, Xingong and Dr. Williams at the University of Colorado Boulder co-authored an article on snowmelt runoff modeling in a mountain watershed in western China. The article was published this year in the *Journal of Hydrological Processes*. This line of research is currently supported by another KU general research fund, which will further test and validate the

snowmelt runoff model in two mountain watersheds in the western U.S. The collaboration with Dr. Tucker in the geography department is also very successful and they are revising an article on warm season precipitation storms in the Arkansas-Red River basin, which was submitted to the *Journal of Geophysical Research*. It is expected that there will be several more articles coming out from the research in this area. Working with faculty members and graduate students at KU and KSU, they are developing software tools for using NEXRAD precipitation data in non-point source pollution models in large agriculture watersheds in Kansas. A draft manuscript is underway and will be submitted soon to a journal. Collaboration with Dr. Peterson in the KU biology department is very fruitful on several fronts. One article was published and another is under review on biodiversity effects of sea level rise. They are now collaborating on GIS applications in phylogeography and are preparing a journal article with scientists from Canada. The most exciting news of their collaboration is that the Department of Energy will fund their research to study the impacts of sea level rise on U.S. coastal ecosystems. This project will start in April 2009 and Xingong is looking for a new graduate student who is interested in this research. On the family side, Xingong and his wife are having fun and kept busy with their 2-year old son Kevin and fourth-grade daughter Lucy.

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George McCleary

Change? We've got change ... and it has been a moving experience! For those of you who remember the student darkroom (in 219 Lindley) ... well, it is now George McCleary's office. The moving-out / renovation / moving-back activities from May through August were an even greater lack of fun than he could have imagined! In the process he managed to find things that had been missing for years ...while, at the same time, losing everything else (including course materials for the fall semester). The Mondays and Fridays at the University Advising Center are never dull, and classes and projects make the Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday part of the week exciting. The Geography of

Wine course is in its eighth version ... the class wine this year is a blend, Grenache and Mourvedre. 'Twixt and 'tween, there's map work ... maps about genocide and wine, Scout camps, as well as the Spencer Library's portolan charts (the foundation for "Mediterranean Travel and Trade, 1300-1800"). By the way, the color of the office is "Armagnac" (SW6354) ... that's R192 G142 B102 or CMYK 24-45-65-3 or Pantone 729 (PMS 472). The walls match well with the Thunder Gray book shelves and the Forest Green carpet.

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Richard McNulty

During the Spring of 2008, Rich completed the final edit of the third edition of the ATMO 105 lab manual, "A

Laboratory Guide to Meteorology," that is now published by CenGage Learning. During the Fall of 2008, he expanded his teaching load to help cover the gap left by Curt Hall's retirement to include ATMO 105, Introductory Meteorology. Teaching a large lecture class is considerably different than teaching a small class of 25 or less.

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David Mechem

In between teaching the dynamics core of the Atmospheric Science curriculum, David has been conducting

research on how clouds interact with atmospheric aerosol, which he presented over the summer at the International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation in Cancún, Mexico. His other "cloudy" work includes a soon-to-be-published study of cloud-radiation interactions and a simple scheme to represent how large sea salt particles affect precipitation growth in numerical models. He is beginning collaboration with departmental colleagues on land-atmosphere interactions and questions of regional climate.

David and his family spent the last year getting acquainted with Lawrence and the surrounding area. Standout family activities included sledding down the hill on campus on Christmas day,

Faculty News

exploring sunflower fields, and picking apples and pumpkins in the fall. At the end of September, David took a brisk motorcycle tour of the Flint Hills with some online acquaintances, and in late May the family visited Elizabeth's parents in Arizona by way of Rocky Mountain National Park and Pike's Peak. The academic year began anew in August, with daughters Sarah and Vivian starting fourth grade and kindergarten at Sunset Hill Elementary.

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Garth Myers

This has been a busy year as usual for Garth. He went to Tanzania for a month last Summer, finishing up his NSF

money and visiting various universities as African Studies Center Director. He presented papers at the IBG, MAAAS, and AAG meetings but just sat through meetings at the ASA. Texas A&M and K-State both invited him to give talks there. He published articles in *Urban Geography* and *Geography Compass*, and co-authored (with Francis Owusu) the Africa chapter in the 4th edition of the *Cities of the World* textbook. Garth and his family took a vacation to Alabama, after visiting Arkansas in 2007. Phebe is in 10th grade, and Atlee in 3rd grade. If they only could have voted they could have gotten Barack up to 42% in Kansas.

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Shannon O'Lear

Shannon O'Lear traveled to Yerevan, Armenia, in August with the Kansas National Guard and a group of educators from Kansas to explore potential collaborative

links with educational institutions in Armenia. She also gave two presentations on environmental effects of Soviet planning and background on the Caucasus to a Russia-Eurasia Orientation Course at Hurlburt Field Air Force Special Operations Command Center. Following up on the course on Geography of Genocide, Shannon, co-instructor Steve Egbert, and Geography MA student Elizabeth Montgomery-Anderson have had a paper, "Teaching

Geography of Genocide" accepted by *Geography Compass*. Shannon and Steve are also guest-editing a theme issue of *Space & Polity* focused on genocide which will feature a paper by Geography PhD student Dave McDermott. Shannon also has a chapter titled, "Oil Wealth, Environment and Equity in Azerbaijan" in the book, *Justice in Union*, published June semester, teaching Environmental Geopolitics and Eurasian Security and Geopolitics which she is co-teaching with Mariya Omelicheva in the Political Science Department. Shannon continues her writing on environmental politics, power and scale.



Environmental the Former Soviet which will be by MIT Press in 2009. This Shannon is Environmental

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Pete Shortridge

For better or worse, Pete is now the senior member of the department. Nobody bows down in his honor, but he does enjoy

being able to recall the joys of urban field trips with Duane Knos, the boyish face of Dave Simonett, and the strange geography annex building that was Mechanical Engineering North. A sabbatical leave last spring helped to get his Kansas City book project over the hump. He's up to the World War II period and hopes to finish by summer. Finding new perspectives on a supposedly familiar place keeps the project fun.

Pete continues to carry a sizable load of graduate advisees and saw three of them graduate in 2008: Chris Fertig (sense of place in Vail, Colorado) and Tom Hornbeck (historical geography of Catholicism in Kansas City) with MAs and Henry Way (place and politics in Kansas) with a PhD. On the travel front, he and Barbara explored Andrew Jackson country in Tennessee in June and the Minnesota-Dakota borderland in September. A highlight was Dell Rapids, SD, where outcroppings of Sioux Quartzite interrupt the flow of the Big Sioux River. This same reddish rock is common in the Lawrence area as a glacial erratic.

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Terry Slocum

Terry recently was asked to develop a chapter on the history of thematic cartography in the 20th century for Volume VI of

The History of Cartography. Terry has asked another alumnus, Fritz Kessler, to assist in developing the chapter, which will focus on design and construction issues related to thematic mapping. In developing the chapter, Terry and Fritz have found that they will need to write a second paper detailing how the design and construction of maps has changed in academic journals and newspapers. As such, Terry has found that he now has another research focus: history of cartography.

When not at work, Terry and his wife (Arlene) continue their sports activities. They are now in their 15th year of Tae-Kwon-Do and both continue to run 5K races. Arlene presently works at Ft. Leavenworth, which she finds very interesting. A downside, however, is that she has a one-hour commute each way, but she does get to read lots of audio books!

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Donna Tucker

Donna has been working on a project sponsored by Sprint with Profs. Frost and Sterbenz of the Electrical Engineering

Department. They are studying the effect of precipitation on wireless communication signals. The frequencies of 70-76, 81-86, and 92-94 GHz are highly attenuated by precipitation but the engineers aim to reroute the signals around the precipitation. This research has led to questions about the size of the average storm and how frequently storms of certain sizes occur. Donna and Xingong Li have investigated some of these questions using the 4.7 km multiple sensor gridded precipitation product put out by the National Weather Service.

Donna has proposed a new course in Aviation Meteorology to be taught entirely online. Look for it Spring of 2009.

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Faculty News



Kees van der Veen

The Fourth Assessment Report issued last year by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

openly acknowledged what many glaciologists, including Kees van der Veen, have known for years: ice sheets do matter! According to the IPCC, the greatest uncertainty in predicting future sea-level change comes from rapidly changing outlet glaciers and ice streams in Greenland and Antarctica. It is now well-documented that these large ice sheets are not the sluggish beasts they were believed to be, adjusting slowly to changes in climate. Instead, the contribution to sea-level rise from the Greenland Ice Sheet almost doubled over the past decade – clearly, if this trend continues, heavily-populated coastal areas will be affected. Kees' research – which now appears to be relevant with the IPCC endorsement – focuses on understanding the physics behind rapidly-changing glaciers. This involves reconstructing quantitative histories of glacier changes: changes in velocity patterns and ice thickness, and climate forcings. These observations allow him to identify likely causes for unusual glacier behavior. With this understanding, he can develop better numerical models that predict how the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets will respond to future climate change. Clearly, the IPCC challenge to develop better ice-sheet models is a task that goes beyond what any single investigator can accomplish and must be undertaken by the entire glaciological community. As chair of the Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level (ISMASS) Expert Group established by the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR), Kees has taken the lead in mobilizing the international community to develop a comprehensive research strategy for the next five years. In July, 2008, they organized a Workshop in St. Petersburg, Russia, bringing together some 50 scientists from around the world and representing the various science disciplines involved. Probably the most important lesson he learned there is that it is almost impossible to get such a diverse group of individualists to agree on anything –

but, if nothing else, it does give him an excuse to travel.

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Barney Warf

Having joined the KU faculty in the fall 2008 semester, Barney is getting adjusted and learning the ropes; his wife, Santa Arias, is a faculty member in Spanish. Barney teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in human and economic geography, including globalization. He's impressed with the high quality of KU students and looks forward to expanding the department's curriculum in human geography.

Barney maintains an active research agenda: in 2008 he published *Time-Space Compression: Historical Geographies* with Routledge, and co-edited, with Santa, *The Spatial Turn: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. He also published papers in the *Professional Geographer* and in the January 2009 *Annals*, and is working on the new edition of the textbook, *The Global Economy* as well as editing a 5-volume *Encyclopedia of Geography* for Sage. He recently obtained funding for a new project concerning health services exports from Costa Rica.

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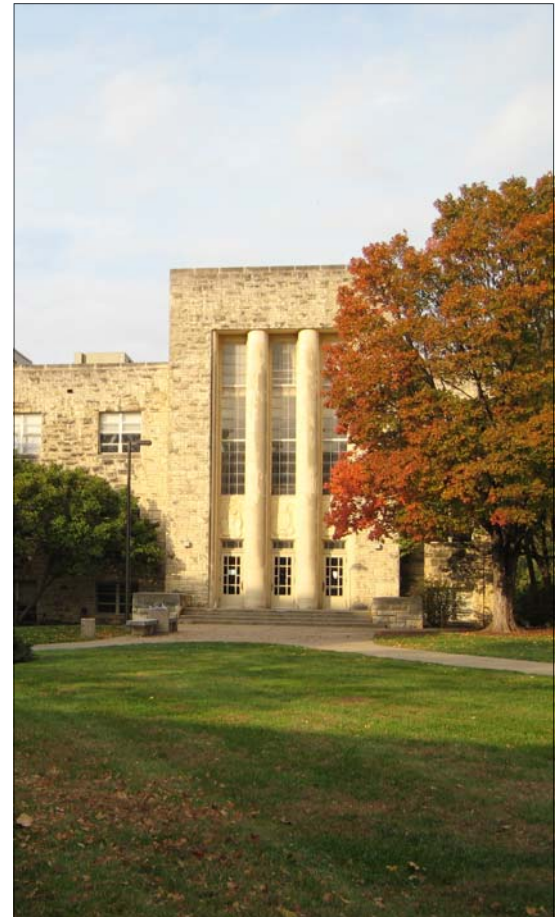


Bill Woods

During 2008, Professor Bill Woods' publications concerning his work with the Amazonian Dark Earth soils included one edited book and 12 book chapters. In addition, he presented 11 professional papers at various venues in Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Illinois, Ireland, Italy, Kansas, and The Netherlands. He was listed in *Who's Who in America*; served as a reviewer for the National Geographic Society, the National Science Foundation's Archaeology Program and Geography and Regional Science Program, International Mobility and Promotion of Female Scientists (Austrian Science Fund), *Quaternary Science Review*, *Leonardo*, *Journal of Latin American Geography*, *PEDOSPHERE*, *Geoarchaeology*, *Geomorphology*, and *Human Ecology*; was a member of the

Scientific Board of the *Bulletin of the Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi* and the International Editorial Board of the *Journal of Latin American Geography*; and served as a technical consultant for the National Geographic Channel and *National Geographic Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, *Plenty* magazine, the PBS documentary "Back to the Amazon" produced by Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society, the Canadian Broadcasting Company, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and *Gruppe 5*, a film production company in Cologne, Germany. He also was an official collaborator on the *Projeto Terra Preta*, Embrapa Amazônia, Manaus, Brazil, and a member of the Global Mapping Agricultural History Project, Stockholm University, Sweden; and conducted fieldwork in both Costa Rica and Belgium.

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Alumni News 50s

Kasibatla Sita (MA 1959)

I wrote for the Newsletter about three years ago. During the last 2 years, I was associated with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, in a project funded by the World Bank. It involved an assessment of the Resettlement and Rehabilitation of households displaced by infrastructural projects undertaken in Mumbai, India. This study was completed a few months ago. My elder son, Prasad, who is an Associate Professor at the Nicholas School of Environment at Duke University has been designated as

Associate Dean for International Programs of the School. This is part of Duke University's outreach program. Prasad's wife, Susan, teaches at the School of Divinity, Duke Univ. My younger son, Vijay, based in London, is now a Controller, Integrated Project Management with Schlumberger, a well known oil field services company. His wife, Uma, is currently Professor and Chairperson of the School of Development Studies, Univ. of Reading, UK. This summer it was a pleasure to have a family get-together in the UK when we were able to spend quality time with our grandchildren, Anna, Aparajita and Akhilesh.

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Alumni News 60s

Byron Augustin (MA 1968)

After 41 years of teaching at the university level, I plan to retire in 2009. My wife Rebecca and I have purchased a home in Valladolid, Mexico, and will slide south for some tropical weather, sand beaches, and salt-water fishing. We hope to criss-cross the Yucatan Peninsula and try to discover every little interesting nook and cranny as long as our health prevails.

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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.

Andy Anderson (PhD 1976)

During the past two months, I have been busy in New Mexico providing support to a Harris Corporation client in the classified arena. The effort brings me close to state-of-the-art technology. Las Cruces is a nice small city: good climate, good food, good prices, good scenery, etc. The less expensive cost of living here is very noticeable relative to the level of Colorado Front Range living expenses. All in all, not a bad deal.

deander656@qwest.net

Vern Harnapp (PhD 1972)

I continue to live in Longwood, Florida, a northern suburb of Orlando. After four years here, I am settled in as a Florida resident and have no desire to see snow and cold weather again.

A widower since 2007, I am remarrying December 30th in Lincoln, Nebraska, to high school classmate of 54 years ago, Ruth Kiekhaefer of St. Joseph, Missouri. Our plans are to be "snowbirds" spending summers in Missouri and winters in Florida.

Sorry that KU lost to South Florida in football in September. I avidly follow KU sports and was glad to see KU win the national championship in basketball.

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Greg Hembree (MA 1978)

All of our pertinent information remains exactly the same as last year--only we're a year older (21 years now at the Town of Vienna for me, Marla is retired; 2 cats, same house, etc.).

Marla has been working nonstop on her family heritage and has been adding to her genealogical web site (<http://www.miller-malcom-familytree.net>). The year 2008 saw trips to Iowa, Nebraska and Pennsylvania to visit cemeteries, libraries and other areas where family history might be housed. We also took a trip to Tennessee to visit Hembree Cemetery #1 near Knoxville and get

information on my side of the family. We still end up in K.C. about twice a year to visit the living relatives and see grandchildren.

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James Huckabay (PhD 1975)

I am chairing the department of geography here at Central Washington University--assuming the position in June of this last summer.

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Jim Hughes (PhD 1971)

I am halfway through my fourth year of retirement from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. I continue to take college courses for credit. Recently they included classes in Seventeenth Century Dutch Art, Sailing, and American Literature since 1865. Judy remains involved with the Miss America Pageant system. Our daughter lives in Manhattan and is Editorial Director of Elite Traveler, while her husband is Director of Sales and Advertising for W Magazine.

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Don Johnson (PhD 1972)

I and wife Diana, traveled widely in 2008, precariously balancing travels with family and professional involvements while collecting data on, and writing, several books, two titled "The Biomantle" and "How Soils Form". We began the year with data collecting on Catalina Island and Palos Verdes Hills, California during January 30-February 4. We followed this by giving several papers, three with biomantle themes, at the 7th Channel Islands Symposium (Feb. 5-7, 2008, Oxnard CA): "The Green Mountain pisolitic sandy biomantle, Northern Channel Islands: Mainland analogues, AMS dating, and conifer floralturbations;" "Why mima mounds dot the mainland but not Channel Islands;" "Unique biofabrics and differentially depauperate biomantles of the California Channel Islands: Prospects and consequences."

Afterwards we kicked back for a week in the Cambria-Big Sur-Carmel-Monterey area, and then proceeded to photograph biomantles and moundfields here and there across western North America. This quest included time in the many-mounded areas of south, central, and eastern Texas, including Padre Island (north and south) and the famed King and Kenedy Ranches -- where Dick Cheney, infamously, shot his hunting buddy.

Upon returning to Champaign, IL we began preparing, with Charles Frederick and Rolfe Mandel (KGS), a guidebook for a mima mound-sandy biomantle* field trip for the Geological Society of America and Soil Society of America Joint Meetings in Houston Texas (Oct. 4-9). The preparation involved three more, pre-meeting mound and biomantle trips to Texas. During one, we side-tripped on May 2 to Baton Rouge to help Tony Lewis (KU PhD '71), his wife Barbara, and their four kids (with their kids) celebrate Tony's retirement from LSU. We heard there'd be lots of free wine and food -- there was. Among other notable people, Joe Alford (KU PhD '68) and wife Dee also helped celebrate.

In late September, Diana and I headed back to Texas for the GSA-SSSA Joint meetings, in which Rolfe and I had also earlier organized a symposium -- on mima mounds (they call 'em "pimple" mounds down there). Diana, myself, and five coauthors gave a paper in the symposium titled: "Predictive biodynamic principles resolve TWO long-standing topographic-landform-soil issues: Mima mounds and stonelayers." The field trip, symposium, paper, and the meetings in general were all successful, Hurricane Ike notwithstanding.

Immediately after the Houston meetings, Diana and I headed our trusty, as yet non-rusty, high-mileage conversion van in the direction of Truro, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, for 2.5 months of halcyon house sitting, dog-caring, R & R, and serious book production, where we are as of this update (late November, 2008).

*Texans call them "sandy mantles," but they are really "sandy biomantles". The difference is great.

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Joe Manzo (PhD 1978)

Sharon and I are first time grandparents. Charlie Smith is almost five months old and Kara and Sean are doing "new parents" well. So, we spend as much time in Seattle as possible.

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John Beets (MA 1980)

About a year ago I made a job change. I am now with Willbros Engineering/EPC in Kansas City, Missouri. Willbros is an engineering and construction firm that primarily designs and constructs cross country pipeline systems and related facilities. At our offices in KC, we provide Engineering support, GIS services, and risk/integrity management consulting for major pipeline operators. I am the Principal GIS Technologist for Willbros, specializing in GIS consulting and integrity management. My wife, Linda, is a GIS Analyst for the City of Olathe, Kansas, and will retire this coming June.

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Liz Hines (MA 1985)

Here in the sunny South, we're shivering in Kansas-like weather, well it dropped to 29°F last night. Many students were caught unawares and showed up today in shorts and flip flops! I'm rejoicing in most of the election news, my great relief unshared by many of my neighbors here in Southeastern NC, although we're a BLUE STATE for the first time since Carter (and bye-bye Liddy Dole). We'll have an inauguration party with champagne and oysters in January after 8 years of watching fire fought with gasoline. I teach a lot of classes: regional, cartography, planning, food, and race, but I've been doing some different things as well. One is offering a field trip class each Spring. Every Friday afternoon we "go and see," as I learned to do at KU back in the day. We visit an organic farm, a winery, the beach, sites of racial history, sites of good planning and dumb planning mistakes, an art studio, the historic district, and, most astoundingly, the largest Buddhist Temple (Thai) between Atlanta and D.C., which is smack dab in the middle of Brunswick County's Green Swamp (the abbot caught a life force vibe there 20 years ago). I've been a team member of our regional *Ten Year Plan to Eliminate Chronic Homelessness*, which led to a seminar on the topic of homelessness. This has been excruciating because of the topic, but uplifting because of the

great hearts of the students and the professionals that we've encountered. I remain on the Board of the African American Heritage Foundation of Wilmington, which is working toward a Museum of African American Life here (we have a building), and I've just joined the Board of *No Boundaries International*, an artists' colony held every two years on Bald Head Island. Twenty artists from all over the world, Western and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Southwest Asia, East Asia, and one from Ghana, have come to Bald Head to paint, sculpt, and be generally creative for two weeks. When it's over they have a show with a big party and sell their work. There are a lot of art fans in Wilmington. It's been great to get to know so many talented people out on the eastern edge of the continent at Cape Fear by Frying Pan Shoals. I pretend to help arrange some of the logistics of the colony and we cook for them too: jambalaya, red beans and rice, and gumbo and otherwise introduce Louisiana culture through Mike's music (chank-a-chank!). This year each artist produced a painting or two based on the artwork of children from the *favelas* of southern Brazil. The proceeds of these sales support new homes for the children and their families. It's a great gig and a nice diversion from homelessness and racial strife, and of course, it's so geographic. I still live to garden, back ache notwithstanding. Last year, Mike built a greenhouse for me, which has been a great joy. Best to all. Come see us (really).

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James Merchant (MA 1973, PhD 1984)

In August I was appointed Director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT) where I have been a faculty member for almost 20 years. This year, CALMIT and the UNL Department of Geography were merged under the umbrella of the School of Natural Resources, a cross-campus multidisciplinary unit that spans the College of Arts & Sciences and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The combined geography

faculty now number sixteen, including fellow KU alumnus Steve Lavin. On the home front, Loyola continues to work as an administrative assistant in the Chemistry Department at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Our son Karl just completed his junior year abroad studying in Japan. Our daughter Anne is a junior at Lincoln East High School where she plays flute in the marching band. Anne is excited that her band will soon be flying to England to march in the 2009 London New Years Day parade.

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Joseph Poracsky (PhD 1984)

Well, Portland State University is still here and so am I – 26 years and counting. Given the recent downturn in the economy, I will probably be counting for at least a few more years.

My principal academic interest remains map design, and we have had a couple of interesting projects come out of our Center for Spatial Analysis & Research lately. One is a map/poster of “South Park Blocks – Portland’s Historical, Cultural and Educational Center” – a twelve-block long by one-block wide downtown greenspace surrounded by a variety of historical buildings, cultural facilities and apartment buildings. The area has what is probably one of the largest groves of American elms left in the U.S. and the southern four blocks also see duty as Portland State’s central quadrangle.

A second project is a map and guide to the “Trees of Laurelhurst Park.” An inventory of the nearly 1,000 trees was performed by a local taxonomist and we compiled a 2-sided, full-color brochure identifying all of the almost 1,000 trees in the park. The park was designed in 1913 by Emanuel T. Mische, Park Superintendent and a former staffer of the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm. The park’s curving pathways and arrangement of trees clearly reflects the Olmsted influence.

I was on sabbatical winter and spring

quarters of this year. After 3 months chained to my word-processor I was finally able to pick the lock and my wife, MJ, and I escaped to Italy for 6 weeks. The landscape is beautiful, the food tantalizing, and the people amazingly friendly. The high point was getting to spend 5 days in my grandparents’ hometown in the mountains of Sicily, southeast of Palermo.

In October, my son Rome and his wife Nikki had their first child, Ayden – grandson #3 to go with Kristina and Michael’s two boys in Lawrence. Fortunately, Ayden and his parents live just west of Portland, so we get to see them weekly. Next year I’ll write about how successful we have been at spoiling him.

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Mark Schwartz (PhD 1985)

I had a chance to visit with Shigeo Takahashi and his wife Tomoko one afternoon while I was in Tokyo attending the International Congress of

Biometeorology (the week of Sept. 22, 2008). He sent along this picture Tomoko took of the the two of us (I’m sure you know, but I am the one on the right) while we visited the top of City Hall.

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Rob Shapiro (MA 1989)

I must say that 2008 was a better than average year in my book. First, as a baseball fan, living in Tampa hasn’t been easy. But this year we went from worst to almost first and now a few more people can find us on the map. My son Nathan and I attended the 7th game against Boston and it was thrilling. For work, part of my job is to run the IT global delivery function for Verizon Business which includes growing an office in Buenos Aires. I’ve made a couple of trips there in 2008, as well as an annual visit to our IT operation in India. To round out my travels I also had a wonderful vacation in Rome. My kids were both world

travelers this year too - Abigail spent a couple of weeks in Spain with her high school classmates and Nathan (11) just returned from visits to Germany, Croatia and a day in Paris. I was lucky if I got out of my small town at those ages. I spent some time working on our KU Alumni Advisory Board. I really feel the board is making a difference and I encourage you to support us as you can.

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Stu Shea (MA 1983)

I am now the President of the Intelligence, Security and Technology Group at SAIC. With over 13,000 employees and nearly \$3.5B in annual revenues, it is one of the largest providers of support to the intelligence community. I recently celebrated my 5th anniversary as CEO and Chairman of the US Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (www.usgif.org) which attracted 3,700 people to the annual GEOINT symposium. I wish all my KU friends well and hope that the Jayhawks once again win the National Championship!

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Shigeo Takahashi (MA 1982, PhD 1989)

The new department, which I am in charge of, started this academic year. We have only freshmen now, but they keep me busy preparing

for new courses to offer. Another notable event in 2008 is that Mark Schwartz (PhD 1985) visited Tokyo in September to attend a conference, and we managed to get together. Despite of twenty-year-plus blank, we had little trouble of recognizing each other and spent an enjoyable time in Tokyo.

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Craig Campbell (PhD 1993)

I am still at Youngstown State University. I am in my 7th year as Department Chair. It's a great job - except for assessment stuff. We are currently trying to get renovated a portion of the building's basement for a 3D GeoWall lab which we've already purchased and operated. We've expanded into a couple of other rooms as well. My son, Justin got married in May in Salt Lake City to a girl from Lehi, Utah and we took our daughter to the LDS Mission Training Center in September. She will be serving in Romania for a year and a half. So we've had a couple of trips to Utah. Besides a trip to Louisville (NCPH) and a couple of trips to Detroit (NCGE), that's our travel for the year. My best to everyone.

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Keith Cunningham (PhD 1997)

Spatial Data Research, which I founded in 1993, is still in business with headquarters in Lawrence. SDR employs 20+ staff with offices in three other states. Two years ago, I started a firm called Lidar Logic with an associate in Miami FL. We have a LiDAR (light detection and ranging) patent underway and this past November licensed our LiDAR feature extraction software. This year I have done more consulting with mutual fund managers investing in geospatial firms that are publicly traded. And earlier this year, I provided prior-art research to successfully defend AT&T Mobility in a patent infringement suit. I would still love to teach GIS/Geomatics, so any leads would be appreciated.

kcunningham@sdrmaps.com



John Dunham (BA 1984, PhD 1996)

I'm now into my fourth year as Cartographic Services Manager for the Kansas Geological Survey, producing geologic maps and geologic GIS data for the KGS. I have three student employees

working for me on several mapping projects. We released several new geologic maps during 2008, most notably a new statewide geology map and a large-scale geologic map of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. Though management is a major part of my work, I still enjoy and spend a lot of my time designing and compiling maps, and doing many GIS tasks. I am also fortunate in learning more geology as I go, working on projects with many excellent geologists here at the Survey and others involved in geologic mapping, including KU Geography's Bill Johnson.

At home, wife Cindy (KU Geography, '84) and I both ran the Des Moines Marathon in October. I finished in 4:09, with Cindy a few minutes behind me. I don't know that I'd use the word "fun" to describe it, but it was a great experience. This fall also included yet another trip with fellow KU Geography alum Jerry Whistler to East Lansing, Michigan for a visit with MSU Jayhawk Al Arbogast and family. This year, we got to see the Spartans win a football game, for a change. We also made our annual vacation trip to the Florida panhandle after the marathon, spending time with KU Geography's Kelly Gregg and wife Karen in Jacksonville, AL on the way. The highlight of that visit was a trip to the Little River Canyon National Preserve near Ft. Payne, with some beautiful scenery, including waterfalls that I wouldn't have associated with Alabama.

dunham@kgs.ku.edu.

Michael Handley (MA 1994, PhD 1996)

I have been working for eight years in a program that integrates newly-arrived refugees into the American economy. For the last year and a half, I have worked specifically with refugees who have physical or psychological disabilities. These includes victims of various totalitarian regimes as well as Iraqis who have been tortured or wounded because of their ties to the American military. It is challenging but always interesting work. On a much

different note, I also provide some office support for my wife's architectural practice.

My wife Sue and I live in the "Inner Southeast" district of Portland, Oregon. When people ask that question about "where would you live if you could be anywhere in the world," we have to admit we are already there. We are both serious amateur artists and involved in our local arts communities. I am on the board of the Friends of the Multnomah County Public Library, a grassroots organization that supports and advocates for one of the finest public library systems in the world.

michael5001@gmail.com

Mike Ingram (PhD 1996)

Bonnie and I had another quiet year in Leavenworth, Kansas. Early in the year, I spent a week in Atlanta helping my parents after my father had back surgery. In the summer, I spent a week at the Coast Guard Academy. Being north of New York City was a new experience for me. Bonnie took an annual quilt retreat into Illinois. This year her younger sister who is living in California visited us for a week. Unfortunately, late in the year our last indoor cat of 15 years passed on and the house became eerily quiet. Bonnie finished a house remodeling project she has been working on quite a while and feels real good about that. Thus, we had holiday decorations out just after Veteran's Day this season. As always, Best Wishes to all!

DrTastee@kc.rr.com

Christoph Karck (MA 1993)

I still reside in Appleton WI. This summer, the whole family embarked on a road trip to Lawrence, first time back since graduating. It was a great time, still a beautiful place and I even had the privilege to meet a couple of my former professors. Will have to come back real soon!

Christophkarck@yahoo.com



Joseph Kerski (MA 1993)

I continue to serve on the Education Team at ESRI in Denver, promoting the use

of spatial thinking, geographic analysis, and GIS in teaching and learning. This year I have been fortunate to work in such fantastic places as Tunisia, Taiwan, Turkey, and Germany (in photograph). I wrote a book called "Essentials of the Environment" published by Oxford University Press. I also teach GIS part time at the University of Denver. Fantastic to see KU win the Orange Bowl and the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship all in the same year!

jkerski@esri.com

Taylor Mack (BA 1989, MA 1992)

I am still in North Louisiana at Louisiana Tech University, in the town of Ruston. My teaching responsibilities include a wide range of geography courses, including Latin America, North America, Cultural, World Regional, Urban, Political, Geography of Popular Culture, Physical, and several others. I am the lone geographer in a department of Social Sciences that also includes Sociology and Political Science. This last year I started work on some research on agricultural change in north-central Louisiana, as well as some urban geography in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Taking a lot of my time has been serving as the co-chair of the organizing committee planning CLAG NICA 2009, the meeting of the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) in Granada, Nicaragua, in January 2009. In May 2008, I was also elected as Vice-Chair of CLAG, and still serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Latin America Specialty Group (LASG) of the AAG, as well as Editor of the joint CLAG/LASG Newsletter.

tmack@LaTech.edu



Chuck Martin (MA 1985, PhD 1990)

Fresh from a sabbatical year, I returned to Kansas State University this fall for my 19th fall semester. It was a productive year working and living again in Giessen, Germany with my family, but I enjoyed getting back to the classroom in August. Upon my return I also resumed my position as Director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) Secondary Major at K-State, a program that had over 100 undergraduate students enrolled at the start of the academic year.

While in Germany, I continued work on the storage of heavy metals along the Lahn River in the central part of the country, returning to resample sites I had first visited in the mid-1990s. As was true during previous visits, I was a Research Fellow at Justus Liebig-Universität, but this time worked closely with faculty in the Department of Soil Science as well as Geography. I also began work in a neighboring watershed on recent valley bottom sedimentation as documented by close-interval changes in the concentrations of Pb and Zn. The sabbatical was funded by a follow-up research fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Bonn. In addition to the professional benefits, the stay gave our children, now 10 and 14, a chance to attend German schools again and improve their already strong German language skills. Because they have dual citizenship for life, both have the option when they are older of living and working anywhere in the European Union.

With the start of the new school year Nicholas began his Freshman year of high school and Christine entered 5th grade. Both played soccer this fall, Christine for her traveling team and Nicholas on the high school JV squad. Nicholas has passed his mother as the second tallest member of the family, and should overtake me in short order. Sabine remains busy in her position as Program Associate with the Center for Hazardous Substance Research at K-State. In her present capacity as coordinator of the Technical Assistance to Brownfields program, she's able to travel frequently (which she greatly

enjoys!) to destinations from New York City to Spokane, Washington.

cwmgeog@ksu.edu

Severin Roberts (MA 1999)

I'm still working at Grinnell College and we recently added a GIS professor and a human geographer both of whom complement the incredible liberal arts education offered here. I direct the annual fund, the Pioneer Fund, and have the great pleasure of meeting and getting to know an incredible group of people associated with the College.

robertss@grinnell.edu

Amy Rork (MA 1997)

I really don't have any smashing news to report this year (like I ever do...), but would be happy if you would put in my best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year!

Maybe next year I can report that I have traveled around the world on The Amazing Race, found a ten carat diamond in Arkansas, hiked the Appalachian Trail, lost weight, started a new business that is wildly successful, met with Obama at the White House and wrestled alligators for a lark.

arork@sunflower.com

Tom Schmiedeler (MA 1985 PhD 1991)

I was promoted to Professor at Washburn University in the spring of 2007. My wife, Barbara Solberg, and I are doing well.

tom.schmiedeler@washburn.edu



Steven Schnell (MA 1994, PhD 1998)

I am still in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, in the geography department at Kutztown

University. In summer 2007 (sorry, I forgot to send an update last year), I got tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor. My current research is focusing on community supported

agriculture and other local economy movements. Other fun stuff includes gardening, cello-playing, and letterboxing. Lisa is involved in several writing projects, including a children's book, essays, and a novel. Marina is now six and in kindergarten, completely obsessed with insects and fairies and mermaids, and reading chapter books entirely on her own. Fiora is three and a half, and in her first year of preschool. She's all about bunnies. Both girls also love dancing and making artwork of all kinds. In combination, the three of them make for a household that is never boring -- and that doesn't even take the crazy Ghanaian cat into account! We had fun as well working to keep Pennsylvania blue this November. In summer 2007, we were able to visit Lawrence for the first time after coming out east, which was a treat - we still miss Lawrence a lot. It was certainly disorienting last year having the Jayhawks contending for a while for a national championship in football?! What's up with that?

schnell@kutztown.edu

Bjorn Sletto (MA 1999)

I miss Lawrence and KU. I am at UT-Austin, assistant professor in the Graduate Program in Community and Regional Planning, School of Architecture. This is my second year as tenure-track professor. I also direct the dual-degree master's degree program in Latin American Studies and Planning and am affiliated faculty with the Department of Geography.
<http://soa.utexas.edu/people/profile/sletto/bj%C3%B8rn>
<http://soa.utexas.edu/crp/crpla/laprogram/>

bjornsletto@mail.utexas.edu

Christy Knight Spielman (MA 1997)

We've moved again, this time to Providence, RI. Seth is teaching at Brown Univ. and successfully completed his PhD in Geography from SUNY Buffalo this past spring. In addition to

all this we had our second baby, Toby (Eli will be 4 in Feb.). Needless to say, the past year has been quite busy but all is well and everyone is adjusting well to our new home. Rhode Island is an interesting place and I like being able to say I've lived in both the smallest and the least populated states. I'm still putting my GIS and cartographic skills to good use through consulting projects, including mapping and organizing environmental data for New York City and doing the maps for an atlas of literacy and disability of Canada.

cspielman@gmail.com

Janice Sterling (MA 1996)

I am still at USDA-NRCS-NCGC, <http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/>, in Fort Worth, TX, since December 2003. So nothing has changed, but I frequently return to KS to see family.

Janice.Sterling@ftw.usda.gov

Hedley Swan (PhD 1995)

Nothing on the professional or academic side of life, being retired I refrain from such activity. But the old instincts are still there. I have visited Kansas a couple of times in the last year including a visit to Greensburg where I used to live. There is plenty there for political and cultural geographers to look at.

The main event for me this year is that I am getting married again, to a lady from Ottawa, Canada, where I lived in the 1970s. This will happen next August. My children will all be grown up by then although none have left home yet.

hedleyswan@onetel.net

George Ulbrick (MA 1996)

George Ulbrick divides his time between rural Douglas County, KS, where he raises sheep, and Santa Fe, NM.

Geowu911@aol.com



Gabby Blair (BGS 2002, MA 2004)

Life is speeding by and going well!
Jason (MA'03

Geology) and I are still in Omaha, NE, where he continues to work for the US Army Corps of Engineers as a Geologist. I am fortunate enough to be able to stay at home with our boys Noah (3.5 yrs.) and Miles "Mo" (2 yrs)...Jason always tells people that I am the CEO of Blair Household Engineering as staying home with 2 little boys is a full time job (24/7). Once the munchkins get into school, I will finally put that degree on my wall to work...someday!

blair_jg@yahoo.com



Craig Davis (MA 2001)

Greetings from Sacramento. Not a great deal has

changed in our lives in the past year. I am quickly approaching my tenth year at Sacramento City College and we are having a blast raising our soon to be two-year old son Luka. Luka keeps racking up the vacation miles as we again traveled to Belgrade for the summer and also visited relatives in the Midwest and spent a few weeks at the beach in Oceanside, CA. I still keep in touch with some of the Lindley gang from my years at KU. Congratulations to Kirk White and his beloved Phils, condolences to John Banning for the Horns getting locked out of the Big 12 championship game (even though they may still get a shot at the title), a welcome to Josh Artman as he settles in northern California, and most importantly to Jason Shields and his wife on the arrival of their son Coen. I hope this note finds old friends well and I look forward to reading what everyone is up to.

DavisCA@scc.losrios.edu

Jerry Griffith (PhD 2000)

I was awarded tenure and promotion last year In the Department of

Geography & Geology at the University of Southern Mississippi. Maybe better is that all damage to my home and property incurred by Hurricane Katrina has finally been repaired.

griffith@usm.edu



Lucius Hallett IV
(PhD 2007)

In January of '08 we welcomed Lucianna Rose Hallett into our little world. She is another bundle of joy but I am being out estrogen'd in my own home. After spending the '07/'08 academic year at the University of Wyoming, we were happy to accept an Assistant Prof. job at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. We have purchased a wonderful old house (one of the benefits of the economic downturn here in MI) and the family is really settling in. Looking forward to seeing many KU folks in Las Vegas this spring.

lucius.hallett@wmich.edu

John Kostelnick (PhD 2006)

I am currently in my second year as an assistant professor in the Department of Geography-Geology at Illinois State University in Normal, IL. I and my wife Ayrrin have two girls, Isabelle (5) and Francesca (18 months). We have enjoyed our new surroundings in central Illinois, although we miss being out of Big 12 basketball and football country!

jckoste@ilstu.edu

Jeff Krecic (MA 2007)

Things are going very well for me. I am working for MJ Harden, which is a GeoEye company. I work in the flight department. We have three aircraft, a Piper Navajo with a Digital Mapping Camera, a Cessna 206 with an Airborne Laser Terrain Mapper (ALTM) Gemini LiDAR, and we are in the process of buying a Cessna Conquest and a new camera. I handle the flight planning for the photo missions. I'm also a backup sensor operator (essentially the camera man in the plane). I also help our field surveyor in the field on occasion. It is a great mix of office, airborne and field work.

MJ Harden is based in Mission, KS. Our parent company, GeoEye recently launched an earth imaging satellite, creatively named GeoEye-1. Check out the web site for more information.

<http://www.geoeye.com/CorpSite/>
<http://www.geoeye.com/CorpSite/products/products/mjharden/>

My wife, Leeanne and I live in Olathe, KS.

I hope everyone in the Geography department is doing well. It's a great group of people and I miss you all.

jeffkrecic@yahoo.com

Josh Long (PhD 2008)



UT Press has agreed to publish my book (based upon my dissertation). It is called "Weird City: Sense of Place and Creative Resistance in Austin, TX."

joshlong@mtholyoke.edu

Michael Noll (MA 1993, PhD 2000)

Wow! What a year for sports, study abroad, academics, and family ...and then there was something else.

First the Blazers in Valdosta won the NCAA Football Championship (Division II), and then the Jayhawks followed suit in basketball. The Germany Summer Study Abroad Program, which I have been running since 2003, had a record 54 students participate, and miraculously all of them made it back. My new course in "Geopolitics and Ethnic Conflicts" turned out to be more fun than expected, although it certainly proved to be a challenge. Yet, the most interesting experience this year may have been canvassing for Barack Obama's Campaign for Change. Karen and I got to know parts of our town we would probably never set foot in (certainly not after dark) and we even made phone calls for hours to get people to the polls. Now, never mind that after 18 years in this country I am still a permanent resident and, thus, cannot even vote, but the prospects of having iced tea from Arizona and Mooseburgers from Alaska

served in the White House made this "resident alien" panic!

As for the family, we are all happy and healthy, glad to have our jobs, and a roof over our heads.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you!

mgnoll@valdosta.edu

Chris Post (MA 2003, PhD 2006)

It has been another good year for Team Post. I accepted a tenure track position at Kent State University last spring. I teach on the Stark campus in Canton, Ohio, where I am Geography Program Coordinator. I'm also a fully-vested member of the KSU Geography Department, working with graduate students and excellent colleagues. Amy and I made the move here last July and one month later became proud parents to Kiera Rose Post. Time has moved quickly since then with diapers needing changed and papers needing graded. But, it has all been wonderful. I continue to work on my book, *Ambivalent Memories: Landscapes of Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War on the Western Border* for publication by the Center for American Places and the University of Chicago Press in 2010. In the meantime please check out the *Geographical Review* next spring for my paper on Lawrence's memorialized landscape for a taste. I still serve as Review Editor for *Material Culture* and Awards Director for the CGSG. If you would like any information on reviewing a book or for a student who wants to apply for the CGSG annual awards, please let me know. The Cubs tanked in the playoffs (again), but KU and OU are headed towards more bowl games. Hockey is obviously much bigger here than in Georgia, so I look forward to keeping up with it again this season. I feel compelled to say that it was a phenomenal election year and I hope that the goals of increased social, economic, and environmental justice are attained in the coming years. Towards that end, we wish everyone the best of Holidays and their promise of peace and joy there in Lawrence, and throughout our KU Geography community.

cpost2@kent.edu

Alumni News 00s

Brian Wardlow (PhD 2005)

I am in my third year as an Assistant Research Professor at the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). The majority of my research is focused on developing new remote sensing-based tools for drought monitoring and conducting workshops to educate decision makers on the application of these tools for drought planning and mitigation. In addition, I serve as the NDMC's GIScience and Analysis program area leader and oversee a variety of research projects and operational activities. I am also becoming more actively involved in Geography at UNL serving on the graduate faculty and graduate curriculum committee, as faculty advisor for the Geography Student Organization.

In 2008, I had to pleasure of returning to KU to participate in Iwake Masialeli's successful dissertation defense and see some familiar faces in the Department of Geography. I also continued work with Chris Brown on research in the Brazilian Amazon and look forward to continuing that project into 2009. Steve Egbert and I published another paper from my dissertation and are in the midst of submitting the last paper from that research. Another highlight was the opportunity to be invited to the National Science Foundation to present a talk on drought, monitoring gaps, and future Earth observation needs. In my spare time, my wife Lori and I are kept busy with our two daughters; Madeline (age 4) and Natalie (age 1).

bwardlow2@unlnotes.unl.edu

Jason Woods (MA 2006)

I hope everything is going well in Lawrence. I don't have much to report, but if you want, you can include me in the newsletter. Currently, I'm a coordinator for the Educational Talent Search program at Oklahoma State University. Educational Talent Search is a federal grant program designed to get low income and potential first generation college students through high school and into the post-secondary institution of their choice.

jasonmwoods@gmail.com

Lost Alumni

Help! If you know the whereabouts of any of these lost alumni, please send a note to Beverly Koerner or e-mail to koerner@ku.edu or fax at 785-864-5378. Thank you!

Abedfattah Abdallah (MA 1981)
Hamiduddin Ahmad (PhD 1963)
Carol L. Baxter (MA 1992)
David D. Daniels (MA 1966)
Othman A. El-Awshar (MA 1982)
Chien-ti Huang (MA 1965)
Sung-Bo Jung (PhD 1985)
James E. Kellogg (MA 1971)
Wen C. Lin (PhD 1976)
Jose del R.S. Loazia (MA 1969)
Jane MacGee (PhD 1974)
David K. Myers (MA 1998)
Margaret Savage North (MA 1961)
J. Jeffrey C. O'Connell (MA 1998)
Mary C. Prante (PhD 1997)
Blaine Ray (MA 2001)
Rachel Saifullah (MA 2003)
M. I. Siddiqi (MA 1960)
Samut Siriburi (MA 1977)
Keith Topps (PhD 1975)

Updating Your Information

The KU Geography website now has a new Alumni Directory page for alumni information. Simply go to www.geog.ku.edu and click on **Alumni News**. Then click on **Alumni Directory** and then **information form**. After you have entered your information, click **Submit** at the bottom of the form.

We will be developing an alumni database, so your updated information is important.

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





Happy Holidays!

www.geog.ku.edu

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