



Johannes Feddema



From Lindley



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS 2009-2010



A Letter from the Chair

Despite all the economic conditions and revolving doors of the KU administration, the Geography Department is managing very well and is continuing to set a course to improve our research and education missions. In large part this is based on Terry Slocum's excellent leadership over the last half decade. This year Terry is taking a well deserved break from the chairmanship, and so I have been given the wonderful opportunity to try my hand as acting chair for a year. Of course the first thing you find out as "acting" chair is that in the administrations views "acting" is indeed the lowest of the administrative subspecies, meaning that unlike an "interim" chair, administrators know they will be rid of you come year's end. An interim person has a distinct possibility of taking over permanently, and thus might have to be lived with down the road. However, as acting chair I feel both a liberating feeling associated with the fact that you can improve some things, while at the same time having the sense of urgency that you had better get it done while you can!

Our budget situation has remained flat for several years now, and under these circumstances it becomes apparent that inflation is real and that with a flat budget you cannot do as much as you could a few years earlier. In order to deal with current and potential future cuts, we have had to implement a number of cost cutting measures, including charging students for printing in our labs, and Mel and Brett (our computer techs) have been juggling and cannibalizing computer parts to try and keep our aging computer labs operational. It is amazing how well designed

planned obsolescence is in modern computer systems. We have also tried to cut costs on a number of other services and are continuing to analyze everything from phone services to such things as the department van. I suspect that next year you will be reading about more drastic measures, although I hope that the administration will recognize the fact that we are significantly leaner than other units within the college. On a more positive note, students should not have been impacted by many of these changes, and our staff and instructors have done an excellent job of providing students with the opportunity to learn on, and use, the latest tools in the classroom and their research.

As a unit the Department has made much progress, and we are excited to say that we have our first students entering our new MS degree program in Atmospheric Sciences. Overall both faculty and students have had an excellent year as is demonstrated with a few samples of individual and group accomplishments:

Kees Van der Veen was promoted to full professor.

Pete Shorridge received the 2009 Chancellor's Club Teaching award. This award is based on Pete's lifetime commitment to teaching and grad student mentoring – more than 87 students have finished MA or PhD programs under Pete's direction.

David Mechem received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Natural Science Division 2008-2009 J. Michael Young Academic Advisor Award. The award honors exemplary

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The Lawrence and Campus Scene

As I write, we are coming to the close of a reasonably warm and wet Fall season in Lawrence. We did have one annoying snowfall of sorts, but it is hard to complain about the weather this term – much as it was hard to complain about the Summer, which had to have been the mildest one in ages (ok, ok, yes, I spent a month of that in the cold winter hills of the Eastern Cape in South Africa... but everybody I left behind *said* it was a mild summer). Spring was not half bad, either.

I start with the weather because it has

provided a comparatively pleasant backdrop to what seems like never-ending grimness around here. KU and Lawrence, like the rest of the state of Kansas, have just heard about the 5th round of cuts to the state budget since July; I lost count last budget year. I must admit I only minored in Economics as an undergraduate because I couldn't stand the statistics, but I do find myself wondering, each time the state's budget forecaster comes up short again, "where did this guy learn to forecast???" (Surely not from our Atmospheric Sciences colleagues!) Or

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advising by a faculty member in each of the three divisions of the college.

Jerry Dobson was awarded the 2009 AAG GIS Specialty Group Robert T. Aangeenbrug Distinguished Career Award. Jerry is also currently spending his sabbatical as a Jefferson Science Fellow in the US State Department.

Garth Myers for being named a Hall Center Fellow for one semester during the 2009-2010 academic year.

For the THIRD year in a row the Department has been awarded the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Thesis Award. This year Aubrey Jones' thesis on "Impact of Soil Moisture Variability on Convective Precipitation in the Central Plains through Land-Atmosphere Feedbacks" was selected for the award. This work was supervised by Nate Brunsell.

Other graduate student honors include:

Eric Weber was awarded a Lortz scholarship for graduate research by the ASPRS Central Region.

Mark Bowen won a 2009 Summer Research Fellowship from the University of Kansas.

Josh Campbell received a Vespucci Fellowship.

Brett Chloupek received a summer FLAS Fellowship to Poland and a Boren Fellowship for dissertation research next year in Slovakia.

Andy Hilburn won the 2009 Conference of Latin Americanist Field Research Award.

Megan Holroyd received a summer FLAS Fellowship.

Hilary Hungerford received a Fulbright to conduct her dissertation research in Niger. Hilary also received a summer FLAS Fellowship.

John Kelly was runner-up in the 2009 KU Latin Americanist Graduate Research Competition.

Heather Putnam received the 2009-2010 Pruitt Fellowship for Dissertation Research from the Society of Women Geographers. Heather also received the 2009 Howard Baumgartel Peace and Justice Award.

Jamie Shinn received a year-long FLAS.

2009 Tinker Foundation Field Research Grants were awarded to **Andy Hilburn, John Kelly, Andrew Norris, Heather Putnam, Aida Ramos Viera, and Lisa Rausch.**

Trish Jackson was invited to make a presentation at the 2009 IGERT Principal Investigators Meeting in Washington, DC.

Scholarships and awards include:

Bohnstengel Scholarship: Ava Dinges, Megan Maksimowicz, Andrew Oberthaler, Kristen Skolaut

Nelson Scholarship: Jennifer Kongs

Starlin Award: John-Mark Zini

Jenks Scholarship: Stephanie Day

Kollmorgen Scholarship: Stephanie Day, Erin Garity, Ryan Good, Stephanie Meador, Travis White

In addition to these individual awards, there have also been a number

of research awards, including several NSF grants to CReSIS led by David Braaten and Kees van der Veen; a multimillion dollar NSF EPSCoR award that included Brown, Brunsell, Egbert, Feddema and Mechem; and DOD grants to Dobson and Herlihy, and Bill Johnson. It is our hope that we can continue to improve the strengths of our research and teaching programs through such extra-mural funding activities.

As chair I have also been asked to participate in our outreach activities, including our Alumni Advisory Board. I have greatly enjoyed meeting our distinguished alums that make up the board and have been impressed with their dedication to the department and the university. To all of you who have donated and provided us with support over the years, we are very grateful. Over the last two years the Kollmorgen and scholarship funds have proven critical to adding the touches that make the difference between having to cut various activities and continuing some of our traditions and scholarship awards. It makes a big difference to our students. Even small donations can go a long way toward helping students and faculty in their work. THANK YOU. In discussions with the board we are exploring a number of options for future donations, including creating a fund to support graduate students in their first semester of study to bridge the funding gaps for those students who are not eligible to receive a GTA until their language and teaching credentials are validated on campus.



Scene

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perhaps the idea is to get our hopes up, so that we'll go out and spend money we don't have hoping we'll get some later, and thereby stimulate the revenues so that our dreams do come true? Whatever. It isn't working.

What is working in Lawrence? Well, the athletics programs at Free State and Lawrence High School have been working, with great successes at both schools in various programs at the state level (most recently for boys soccer at FSHS –state runners-up - and boys cross-country at LHS – state champions). Even though 82% of LHS students in a recent survey thought there was great imbalance in facilities between their school and FSHS (and,

indeed, controversy arose recently over a set of million-dollar donations to FSHS for enhancements to sports facilities that LHS will now have to get the school district to pay for – and good luck with that) the fact is that both have received significant new facelifts to their sports fields, and both now have football stadiums on campus. A lot of disgruntled neighbors were none too pleased with all of the disruptions from construction, not to mention the heavy-duty lighting, but – speaking as one of these – the net result may just be that rare case of IIIMBY (It Is In My Back Yard) beating NIMBY without much nastiness.

That does not seem to be the case

for the cause of Lawrence's community homeless shelter. Its facility downtown has become too overcrowded for the city's needs, particularly with the recent closure of another shelter, and for a while, the old Don's Steakhouse building far to the east on Highway 10 seemed to be a solution, but the opposition of neighbors – I must admit, I didn't think the building actually had them until they showed up to raise their concerns – seems to have tabled the notion. The city has had some economic development successes, such as a newly announced expansion to the Berry Plastics factory and a near-miss in a locational contest for a wind-turbine manufacturing plant - despite the

incessant drumbeat of its leading media baron every week in his Saturday Column in his own *Lawrence Journal-World* that suggests his disappointment in us all. Slowly but surely the much-discussed "second downtown" seems to be getting plowed into existence on Baur Farm – the large plot between 6th Street and FSHS, and between Wakarusa Drive and Folks Road – where the Lawrence Community Theatre plans a tremendous facility (alas, one which can't possibly have the charms of the ramshackle home of LCT at 15th and New Hampshire) but which presently boasts only a fast-food joint and its glaring proximity to the newly opened second WalMart on the northwest side of Wakarusa. Yet there is no escaping the fact that growth has slowed in Lawrence, both in terms of population and the economy. Even property values declined for most homeowners, and thus so did property taxes.

The budget woes of the state and the economic downturn for Lawrence, of course, take their toll on Mount Oread. Some of this is tangible: nearly all searches for new faculty last year were suspended, and no one got a raise; we are still holding out hope for a few ongoing searches to survive the budget ax this year, but let's not kid ourselves about raises. The less tangible toll comes in terms of morale. Staff and faculty keep on keepin' on, but it is not hard to detect a

sense of weariness about the campus. It doesn't help when your football team loses six straight games, after having a multi-part mini-brawl with the basketball team - which is ranked first as of this writing but has handed itself its own share of black eyes, too, what with multiple DUIs and a few injuries from the brawls. "Our Football Team Can Beat Up Our Basketball Team" is not the sort of winning t-shirt mantra we need to get us out of the doldrums.

This is also another year of transition at KU. Our new Chancellor, Bernadette Gray-Little, has broken new ground as the first female and first African-American to lead the university, and at least to me she seems to have gotten off to a strong start (although I have to think of *The Onion* headline after last Fall's election: "Black Man Given Worst Job in America"... our version might be "Black Woman Given Worst Job in Kansas" with this budget situation). We are currently searching for a new Provost, with Danny Anderson acting as Interim Provost, and a new Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, with Greg Simpson presently serving as Interim Dean. Anderson and Simpson have impressed me at least, too, with their forthright and thoughtful leadership. Even our Geography Department has an Interim

Chair for this academic year, with Johan Feddema stepping in for Terry Slocum (and I have come out of my sabbatical lair to write this while Glenn Adams serves as Interim Director of the African Studies Center).

Because I've had a fellowship this Fall and am looking forward to a regular sabbatical in the Spring, it is not my place to report on news of the Department. Since I have attended more meetings than I should have this Fall, and wasn't away in the Spring, though, I can say a bit. My principle engagement in departmental affairs (or, I wish it was), our GeoTigers soccer team in the Lawrence Adult Soccer League, has felt a lot like the budget scenario and maybe epitomizes the department as a whole. We forecast great success, play well with others, defend our backsides, then mostly lose, but win a few at the end of every season and have a nice social get-together afterwards. We dearly miss our alumni, particularly those from places like Germany and Mexico who know how to play this game, but with a few new heads every year, the prospects are ever brighter.

—Garth Myers
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Degrees Awarded

Dissertations and theses completed during the 2008-09 period are as follows (advisor in parenthesis):

Naeema M. Al-Hosani, PhD, "Comparison of Pictorial and Geometric Point Symbols for Tourist Map Using Visual Search Processes in Map Reading" (George McCleary)

Nan An, MA, "Estimating Annual Net Primary Productivity of the Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem of the Central Great Plains Using Avhrr Ndvi" (Kevin Price)

Jennifer L. Brackhan, MA, "Restaurant Growth in Lawrence, Kansas, 1950 to 2007" (Pete Shortridge)

Chris J. Fertig, MA, "Vail, Colorado, as a Voluntary Culture Region" (Pete Shortridge)

Audrey C. Fusco, MA, "Local Food, Sustainability, and Cuba's National Food Program" (Chris Brown)

Thomas Hornbeck MA, "Historical Geography of the Catholic Church in Kansas City, Missouri: 1822-1930" (Pete Shortridge)

Elizabeth Montgomery-Anderson, MA, Non-thesis option (Stephen Egbert)

Luke Struckman, MA, "The Idealized Nation-State, Globalization, Critical Geopolitics and the Case of Morocco" (Garth Myers)

Rex J. Rowley, PhD, "Bright Light City: Sense of Place Beyond the Las Vegas Strip" (Pete Shortridge)

Jonathan B. Thayn, PhD, "Locating Amazonian Dark Earths (ADE) in the

Brazilian Amazon using Satellite Imagery" (Bill Woods/Kevin Price)

Henry Way, PhD, "The Chimera of Kansas: An Exploration of Place, Politics and Culture" (Pete Shortridge)

Karen L. Willey, PhD, "Environmental and Pedogenic Change in the Central Great Plains from the Middle Wisconsinan to the Present" (Bill Johnson)



Emeriti Corner

John Augelli

The Newsletter request from Bev always seems to arrive two months before my next birthday. This time it will be my 89th.



Yes, I have a few aches and pains; my vision and hearing are somewhat impaired; and I have lost much of my mobility. But this is all very small peanuts given that the great majority of my generation are already deceased.

(That means dead).

Since wars are often used as guide posts for reminiscing, when I was a boy in Connecticut, Civil War veterans were still riding in open cars for the 4th of July parade. I personally met a Spanish American War veteran who had fought in Cuba, and I clearly remember the thousands of World War I veterans who participated in the Bonus March on Washington during the Great Depression. They were dispersed by Army troops commanded by General McArthur. And then there were the millions of us who participated in World War II. After that came Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and on and on. When will they ever learn.

My past year has been typically that of a Florida retiree. I swim and ride my tricycle daily; I play pinochle with women of the Bengay Brigade (most of them are over 85); and I keep wondering for whom the community flag will fly at half mast next.

Other than a lecture cruise last February, the year's highlight was returning to Lawrence for a few weeks in May and June. The visit triggered the warm memories of bygone days, but it also emphasized that most of my contemporaries are gone. I am still here, and I intend to hang around for a while longer. Join me.

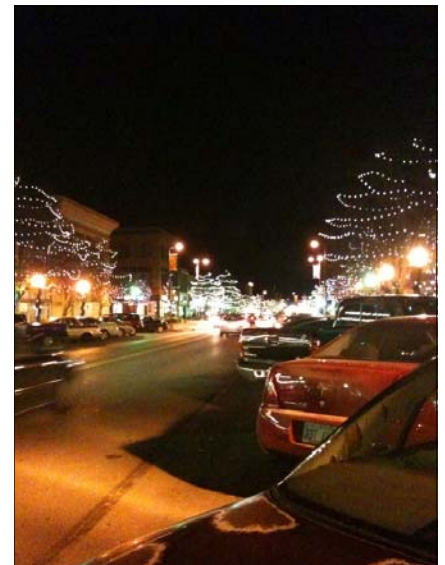
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Advisory Board Update

The volunteer Alumni Advisory Board is comprised of KU Geography and Atmospheric Science graduates representing a variety of geographical locations and careers. The goals of the Board are to inform and involve alumni and other key constituencies to increase awareness of KU Geography's academic and research initiatives, to foster an engaged, active alumni community and to establish a network of professionals that are available to advise and mentor students. Efforts of the Board have supported student travel to professional conferences, training, and field camp.

Care to join the board? Please contact Department Chair Johannes Feddema at feddema@ku.edu, and Board Chair Mike Hudson at Michael.Hudson@noaa.gov. Board members have made a commitment to engage and invest in the life and activities of KU Geography. Please do your part by supporting the KU Endowment with a specific earmark to the Department of Geography. Donations can be made online at <http://www2.ku.edu/~geography/donate.shtml>



Faculty News



Dave Braaten

Dave Braaten returned from Antarctica in January 2009 with an enormous ice penetrating radar data set from an airborne survey of the ice-sheet covered Gamburtsev mountain range in East Antarctica. Ice thickness over the mountain range is generally between 1000 m to 3500 m. The field expedition and related research is supported by the National Science Foundation, and is one of the projects that was included in the large coordinated research effort of the International Polar Year (2008/09). Since returning, he and his students have processed and analyzed the data, generating the first map of the buried mountains. The mountain range is about the size of the Alps, with high jagged peaks and deep valleys, and is our first real "look" at what is likely the last unexplored mountain range on earth.

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Chris Brown

Chris Brown continued into his second year of being the Director of the Environmental Studies Program. He also became the Chair of the Executive Committee of KU's new Center for Global and International Studies. His teaching in Geography and Environmental Studies is focused on a new 100-level class on Environment, Culture, and Society, in addition to his graduate seminar on Moral Geographies of Environment and Development, which he will team-teach in spring 2010 with Byron Caminero-Santagelo (English). This fall he took part in team-teaching the course "Climates and Borders" with Town Peterson, Jorge Soberon, and Nate Brunsell as part of the NSF-funded IGERT C-Change Program (interdisciplinary graduate traineeship program on climate change). Chris's research on the expansion of mechanized agriculture in the Brazilian got a shot in the arm this year with a project funded by Brazil's EMBRAPA (equivalent of the USDA);

both Jude Kastens (Kansas Applied Remote Sensing) and Chris traveled to Brazil to work with collaborators there to map deforestation and cropping practices in the state of Mato Grosso. Chris is also a co-investigator on a new 5-year NSF ESPCoR project involving social scientists in the study of land use and land cover change in Kansas agriculture. Finally, David Fowle (Geology), John Kennedy (Political Science) and Chris won a Nature and Culture seed grant from the Commons at KU to pursue the establishment of a foundation-funded socio-cultural-environmental research center in Mongolia. The initial project they hope to pursue would involve industry, NGOs, government, and university researchers in participatory research to mitigate the effects of mining in Mongolia. The group is planning a trip to Mongolia this summer.

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Nate Brunsell

It has been a busy year for Nate and his family. His daughter Tara is now a year old and is busy deriving the laws of physics. After a detailed set of experiments on the nature of gravity, she is currently working on the second law of thermodynamics and using our home to assess the non-decreasing properties of entropy. On another front, she continues her experiments with the impacts of sleep deprivation on her parental units. She will (hopefully) be wrapping up this set of experiments in the near future. Look for the peer-reviewed publication as soon as she learns to write. In other news, research was done, results presented at conferences, papers written and published. Personal highlights include seeing the graduation of my first graduate student and tenure files being submitted to the college.

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So-Min Cheong

The biggest news this year is that So-Min Cheong was selected as a lead author in Chapter 5 of the IPCC

Special Report on extreme events and disasters. This takes her to distant locations in the next couple of years for lead author meetings in addition to intensive research and writing. Much of her focus has been on coastal adaptation recently as she organized an AAAS symposium and a special issue in Climatic Change journal on the topic. She is also involved in several collaborative coastal adaptation projects that engage in basic and applied research ranging from coastal adaptation strategies and decision support in California, climate change policies to land use change and coastal inundation globally. She also continues to conduct her research on a large oil spill recovery in Korea.

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Johan Feddema

Despite his acting chair duties, Johan Feddema has been busy with his research. Together with Trish Jackson and

researchers from the National Center for Atmospheric Research they have developed a global dataset and model to simulate climate conditions in urban environments within a global climate model. He has also been working with Nate Brunsell and several students on climate change in Kansas, and will be continuing this theme with Nate and Dave Mecham as part of a collaborative NSF EPSCoR project jointly with researchers from K-State and Wichita State Universities. Johan has also put a lot of effort into outreach, speaking at a wide variety of events within the state on the topic of climate change.

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Dan Hirmas

Dan has been busy starting new projects centered on the application of three-dimensional scanning to soil morphology. Dan,

Steve Hasiotis and Steve's graduate student Brian Platt in Geology have submitted a paper to the Journal of Sedimentary Research examining new metrics derived from 3D digital scans of faunal traces in soil. One of his highlights this summer was sampling at

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the KU Field Station and Ecological Reserves (KSR) where he conducted the first excavation, description, and 3D scan of KSR's native prairie soil. Initial data is very exciting and he fully expects to submit two papers on his findings early in the spring. In addition, he gave three invited talks regarding his research this year to the Kansas Biological Survey, the Geography Department at K-State, and the Environmental Sciences Department at Rutgers.

Dan spent much of last spring setting up his new research lab. His facility adds a number of exciting new capabilities to the department. A sampling of the new instruments include: a TC/TIC/TOC coulometer able to analyze soil organic and inorganic carbon, an inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer (ICP-OES) used to assess concentrations of cations from soil/sediment extractions, UV-VIS spectrophotometer used to quantify soil water anions, and a multiple porous plate extractor to characterize water retention curves and pore-size distributions.

Dan continues to teach his usual courses including principles of physical geography, introduction to soil geography, and soil geomorphology. He is looking forward to teaching a new class in the spring: environmental soil physics and chemistry. He and his family are adjusting well to Lawrence. Every time they drive by the bookstore, his 3-year-old daughter, Ella, exclaims, "Rock Chalk Jayhawk!"

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Jay Johnson

Jay has enjoyed being back at KU over the past year and continues to teach and advise students both in the Geography Department and the Global Indigenous Nations Studies program. Last spring semester, in addition to teaching a large section of Introduction to Human Geography, Jay taught a graduate seminar entitled Postcolonial Geographies. During the spring semester of 2010, Jay will be on research leave conducting fieldwork on the Waitangi Treaty Grounds in New Zealand, the site of the negotiation and initial signing of the treaty between the British Crown and Māori chiefs in 1840 which ceded governance over the islands

to the Crown. This research work is being conducted with the assistance of PhD student, Will Price. Two research papers are planned from this research and perhaps a book in the near future.

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Bill Johnson

One highlight this year: degree completion by three graduate students that had left the program prior to completing the degree research requirements. Karen Willey had put the writing of her Ph.D. dissertation on hold while building a new home, starting a family and a dizzying array of other pursuits. With her daughter reaching the toddler age, Karen made an impressive push to write and defend the dissertation. Three chapters are published and a fourth is in draft stage. One of two finishing the master's degree after a two year hiatus was Dane Bailey. Though travel demands associated with his position at Terracon International gave him little time to spare, Dane completed the two research papers required for the non-thesis master's degree. One of his research projects reconstructed the river history at a locality in northwestern Kansas, and the other focused on a search for traces of the Santa Fe Trail in the soils of the Kansas City region. Lisa Messinger, employed by Kleinfelder (environmental consulting firm) in Kansas City, completed her master's degree requirements as well by producing the two research papers required for the non-thesis master's degree. For one research project, Lisa documented the chronology of post-Dust Bowl re-stabilization of sand dune terrain in the Cimarron National Grasslands of southwestern Kansas, and for the other she worked with Terri Woodburn (PhD student) and me to map the surficial geology of Morton County, Kansas.

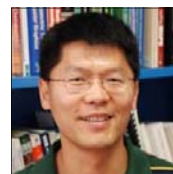
A few highlights of in-house graduate student research activities include Mark Bowen writing journal manuscripts to comprise chapters of his dissertation and starting the job search, Terri Woodburn developing her dissertation research ideas and generating pilot data for the proposal, and Alan Halfen getting his eolian research well underway on several study areas and publishing thesis and

post-thesis research. Aaron Koop has just started his master's coursework and is developing research ideas. As in the past, these students and others in the physical geography program interact with the students and faculty in geology to create a rich and stimulating environment.

Since research is always set in the context of "we" rather than "I," the dedication of the undergraduates working in the soils and geomorphology laboratory is a large part of what we do here. Karen Ohmes has helped on many fronts, but mainly preparing samples for stable carbon isotope and elemental analyses. Janelle Wehr has been invaluable in getting some of our new instrumentation (e.g., spectrophotometer) brought on line and data productive. The newest person in the laboratory is Scott Wooten, one who has almost become one with the laser defractometer. Tanner Popp will be joining the undergraduate laboratory group this spring semester.

As for myself, I am still doing the same old thing--paleoenvironmental reconstruction here in the central Great Plains, with an emphasis on archives of information contained within the wind deposits (sand and loess). Both Claudia and I are fine, and we are planning our next cruise (February).

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Xingong Li

Xingong offered a new course, "GEOG 560 GIS Application Programming", this fall. Although a similar course with a focus on Visual Basic and ESRI's ArcGIS has been offered twice under different names in the past 4 or 5 years, this new course is taught with significant updates with the additions of Python programming language and open source GIS. To better prepare the future students for the course, Dr. Li is planning to offer an undergraduate programming course, "GEOG 319 Spatial Programming", in the fall of 2010.

On the research side, Xingong has been busy with three research projects. Research on the impacts of sea level rise on U.S. coastal ecosystems, which is supported by the U.S. Department of

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Energy, focuses on inundation model improvement and data preparation. Graduate student Keith French will join in the project to further improve sea level rise inundation models by considering local sea level rise and tide effects. Research on spatial-temporal characteristics of precipitation focus on analyzing the diurnal storm pattern derived from the NEXRAD data. With the support of a KU Big 12 Fellowship, Xingong visited the Center for Research in Water Resources, University of Texas at Austin in November. Initial collaboration will serve precipitation storms to the hydrologic information community through the HydroDesktop platform. Research on snowmelt runoff modeling focuses on two mountain watersheds in the western U.S.

On the family side, Xingong and his wife are having fun and kept busy with their three and half year old son Kevin and fifth-grade daughter Lucy.

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Richard McNulty

Teaching a large introductory lecture class (ATMO 105) has made for a busy and somewhat uneventful year

academically for Richard McNulty. The only real excitement in 2009 was a trip to Ireland in August. This trip included the standard bus tour plus a side trip to Crossmolina, the town from which his great-grandfather immigrated to the U.S. Driving on the left side of the road is an experience in itself. Retirement is planned for May 2010. That will open up time for more travel!

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David Mechem

Over the past Year, David has kept busy with classes and cloud-related research. In July, he spent a week in Boulder attending a training session for the WRF model, which will form the basis of regional climate modeling research over the central U.S. He attended the AMS Mesoscale Processes conference in August and presented results from a study of tropical congestus clouds completed with one of his honors research undergraduates.

David and the other Atmospheric Science faculty are particularly excited about the M.S. in Atmospheric Science that came online at the beginning of the school year. The M.S. will greatly enhance our ability to attract qualified graduate students for our program. In late July, he supervised the delivery of a new Linux computer cluster (see photo) for departmental use. The cluster is being housed at the Structural Biology Center on west campus and will be employed for numerical simulations of regional-scale climate circulations, and boundary layer turbulence and cloud processes.



Elizabeth and David's three daughters continue to enjoy the area. Sarah and Vivian have dived head-first into Girl Scouts, which along with school, music lessons, and the occasional softball/T-ball/basketball game, has been keeping them occupied. Local northeast Kansas highlights for David have been attending his first Royals game (which they lost), eating a heroic portion of smoked meats at Gates BBQ in East KC, and touring an ATLAS missile base southwest of Topeka that the owner has turned into a residence.

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Garth Myers

Garth took 5 KU students to South Africa for the Rhodes University International School's June-July 2009 course,

Keys to Contemporary South Africa. That was his 3rd trip to South Africa in 2009, having visited Rhodes and Cape Town in January and attending a workshop at the African Center for Cities at the University of Cape Town in April. He hopes to be back in June-July 2010 for some research and of course for the World Cup. He is on leave for 2009-10, with a Hall Center for the Humanities Resident Fellowship this Fall and ordinary sabbatical in Spring, in order to write a book tentatively entitled, African Cities: Alternative Visions for Urban Theory and Practice, for Zed Books. Phebe is a junior at LHS, intending to come to the World Cup game for which Garth has tickets, in Durben in June; Atlee is in 4th grade at

Cordley and playing the role of the Cat in Cinderella this Fall at Lawrence Community Theatre - having played the Ermine in the Lawrence Arts Center production, The Ice Wolf, earlier in the year. Garth and family had a great vacation to Florida at the end of last July, where they got to swim with the manatees.

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Shannon O'Lear

Shannon O'Lear is finishing a book titled, "Environmental Politics: Scale and Power". The objective of the book is to consider how our

understanding of different environmental issues tends to be limited in spatial scope. She makes the case for expanding our appreciation of spatial dimensions of these issues by considering ways in which political, economic, ideological and military power shape the way we perceive these issues. She includes chapters on climate change, oil and energy, food security, garbage, toxins and resource conflict. The book will be published by Cambridge University Press in early 2010.



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Pete Shortridge

Teaching was in the spotlight for Pete this year. First, a record five students completed graduate degrees under

his direction: Jenny Brackhan (evolution of Lawrence restaurants) and Stephanie Day (truck-stop landscapes) with theses and Dave McDermott (regionality and identity in the Loess Hills), Brent Piepergerdes (placemaking via film in postwar Italy), and R. J. Rowley (sense of place in Las Vegas) with dissertations. Then, at the Iowa state football game, he received the Chancellor's Cup Career Teaching Award. The ceremony was forgettable, but the chance to remember past students and to join George Jenks and

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John Augelli as geography recipients of this honor makes him proud indeed.

The major Shortridge travel this year was to the Southwest. Barbara and Pete finally got to see a spring training baseball game in Phoenix and to observe the golf-cart culture of retirees in Sun City. The small towns were even more fun. In Arizona they enjoyed both Ajo (an old copper company town) and Sells (capital of the Tohono O'odham Nation). New Mexico was better still: diner conversation in isolated Rodeo, chili culture at Hatch, college-town sophistication at Socorro, and plain kookiness in the down-at-the-heels spas at Truth or Consequences. Happy travels to you all.

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Terry Slocum

The Dean has given Terry a year off from his Chair duties and he is taking advantage of it! This summer Arlene and Terry

made a three-month long trip to Alaska. They spent about a month getting to Alaska, a month in Alaska (primarily in Fairbanks), and a month returning to Lawrence. Some highlights for him were the Wenatchee Valley of Washington (which bills itself as the apple capital of the world), the Alaska Marine Highway System and Petersburg (in the Inside Passage), the Cassiar Highway in British Columbia, and Wrangell St. Elias National Park in Alaska. They actually lived for three months in a 17-foot Casita trailer and didn't kill one another. While in Fairbanks, they visited a KU Geography alumni, Cary de Wit. Cary is living about 15 miles outside of Fairbanks and doing quite well – Cary tells Terry that when it is -50°F in Fairbanks, it is only about -30°F where he is (due to a temperature inversion). He says that the only way to truly appreciate Alaska is to live there



through the winter. Sometime in the near future Arlene and Terry hope to follow up on Cary's idea. If you would like to see some photos of their trip, you can take a look at Terry's Facebook site.

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Kees van der Veen

My research focuses on understanding the physics behind rapidly-changing glaciers and to be able to make

predictions about future behavior and contribution to global sea level. This involves reconstructing quantitative histories of glacier changes: changes in velocity patterns and ice thickness, and climate forcings. These observations allow us to identify likely causes for unusual glacier behavior. With this understanding, we can develop better numerical models that predict how the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets will respond to future climate change. Clearly, the challenge from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 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. To develop stronger communications and interactions among ice-sheet modelers – especially the younger ones – myself and two colleagues organized a two-week Summer School on Ice Sheet Modeling, held in August at Portland State University. In addition to my main research, I continue to explore the relation between climate change and energy resources. These topics were central in two classes I taught, State of the Planet (Spring 2009) and Geography of the Energy Crisis (Fall 2009).

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Barney Warf

Now in his second year in Kansas, Barney is settling into life at KU and on the Great Plains. He teaches undergraduate courses in

Human and Economic Geography, and graduate courses in Globalization, the Development of Geographic Thought, and Contemporary Issues. In the 2009-10 academic year he's serving as



Associate Chair. His research projects include the forthcoming 6-volume *Encyclopedia of Geography*, the new edition of the textbook *The World Economy* (with Fred Stutz), and 2009 papers in the *Annals*, the *Journal of Latin Americanist Geography*, and *Environment and Planning A*. In addition to the AAG, he presented a paper at the Latin American Studies Association in Rio de Janeiro, traveled to Argentina, and did fieldwork for a forthcoming paper on medical tourism in Costa Rica.

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Bill Woods

During 2009, Bill was a Guest Professor and taught seminars at the *Departement d'Archéologie et*

d'Histoire de l'Art, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium and La Escuela de Antropología, Universidad de Costa Rica and provided a lecture at Lund University, Sweden. His publications included two edited books and 13 other book chapters and articles. His service included membership of the Scientific Board of the *Bulletin of the Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi*, Belém, Brazil; Official Collaborator, *Projeto Terra Preta*, Embrapa Amazônia, Manaus, Brasil; Assessor for the United Kingdom Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC); Reviewer, United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and technical consultant for the British Broadcasting Company.

wwoods@ku.edu

In Memory

4-5-2009—Robert Burrill, PhD 1970.

8-15-2009—Lloyd Hudman, PhD 1970.

11-23-2009—Richard Dawson,
Geography Post-Doc student 1993-1995

Alumni News 60s

Margaret North, MA 1961

I have very remote connections to KU now, through Virginia Hull (now Lynch) who graduated from geography in 1961 and whom I met as a grad student at the University of Alberta in 1962; we have stayed in Christmas letter touch over the years and meet occasionally as she lives in Washington State, across the border from our home in Vancouver.

We also know Leslie Dienes well; he was a grad student at the University of British Columbia, contemporary with my husband and sharing a supervisor (David Hooson).

I do have some old slides of the Geography building which we shared with Geology in the 1960s. (Knew James Munger, a geology grad, and his wife Jackie, both Brits, who later also came to Vancouver where Jim worked for the Geological Survey of Canada.) The slides are not accessible to me at present as I am in the UK. I will try to get them sent when I return home to Vancouver, but that will be after your deadline for this year.

robertnort@gmail.com

Alumni News

Mike Caron, MA 1978

Anne and I have been on the road a lot this year. Oregon, Minnesota, northern Idaho to visit an old Vietnam buddy, and multiple drives to Memphis to see grandsons. Josh is a clinical psychologist with the VA there, specializing in the treatment of head wound injuries among those returning from our latest wars. Lydia is a junior at KU and Nat will be a freshman there in the fall. Anne is now the grant writer for KU continuing education, so we remain closely tied to the Jayhawk nest. I was up in front of Strong Hall recently leading a save the wetlands demonstration with KU and Haskell students. We delivered 1,300+ signatures to Chancellor Gray-Little



asking that the 20 acres KU received from Haskell half a century ago not be given to KDOT for the South Lawrence Trafficway. I am preparing my grandsons to continue the fight in anticipation of a long battle. In the attached photo I'm the smiling bald guy holding the end of the banner.

The Douglas County Jail, my place of employment for the past decade, was selected by the National Institute of Corrections and the Urban Institute to develop a model for mid-sized jail

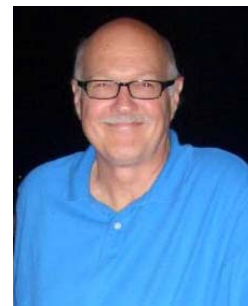
70s

"Transition from Jail to Community" reentry. Although this may seem far afield from "geography" to some of you, I consider my years at KU and LSU to have been among the most important skills and intellectual insights I acquired for the corrections work I have been doing since 1987. I never finished my Ph.D. dissertation on the "Carceral Heart of America", but I suspect I have stayed as closely connected to the specific subject of my passion back then as most of you who did remain in academic careers.

mcaron@sunflower.com

James C. Hughes, MA 1968, PhD 1971

I continue to take courses at



Slippery Rock; currently I have Creative Writing. This year I traveled overseas to Peru, France and Italy. Judy has retired from her teaching

position at Grove City College, and continues to teach voice at home. Our daughter relocated from Manhattan to Los Angeles, and is now Director of Communications for Westtime Watches in Los Angeles.

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Donations to the Endowment Association

Our SPECIAL THANKS to the following recent contributors:

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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.

Jerry Coiner, MA 1972, PhD 1975

Eloise and I just returned from China. It was our second trip this year to the land of the Golden Dragon. This spring we were in Central China for the 2009 international philatelic exposition at Loyang and then did some touring with 9 other members of the China Stamp Society. This fall, we were largely in Yunnan province visiting sites that had to do with the American Volunteer Group, aka Flying Tigers, and the 14th US Air Force, and visiting a number of ethnic minority villages in Dali, Lijiang and Zhongdian. We also had the opportunity to see the movie "Founding of the Nation," which was made to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of



the founding of the People's Republic of China. It doesn't have the same heroes and villains that played out their roles in the Chinese history and political science classes at old KU in the '60s and '70s.

We are still in Kona, Hawaii enjoying the best climate on earth and planning to visit the UK (London 2010 Stamp Expo) in May and Upper Burma (Irrawaddy and Chindwin Rivers) by riverboat in fall 2010. Best wishes to all for the Holiday Season. The attached image is a photo summary of the old and new China. It is actually in Shanghai. The site of the infamous race track where in the late 1940s the KMT was putting down speculators by the dozen a day. Now it is the Shanghai People's Park, The Shanghai Municipal Museum (building with clock tower), and the J. W. Marriott Hotel (50 stories more or less).

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Norm Hardy, MA 1972; PhD 1976

2009 has been a busy year for our family. Bonnie and I spent considerable time travelling over these past few months. We spent five weeks in Queensland, Australia during February and March, getting to know parts of the East Coast, including Brisbane,

Caloundra, and Cairns areas, as well as some time in the west and central parts of the State.

Our eldest daughter, Elizabeth invited us to join her and her husband, Harold on a late July-August Mediterranean cruise, aboard the MS Noordam. Normally, we wouldn't consider travelling to Europe during the summer, but as Harold is rowing coach at Brentwood College, he is restricted to the K-12 summer vacation. Bonnie and I had an opportunity to walk around Rome for a few days prior to the cruise, an experience I always enjoy, as Rome is probably my favorite city in the world.

In September, we spent a week in the Medford-Ashland area, watching live theater at the Shakespearean Festival, and just generally enjoying southern Oregon. We try to get in a trip to the Festival every year as it's an easy 500 mile drive, and the company puts on some great plays.

On May 30, our youngest daughter, Jennifer, gave birth to her first child, and our second grandson. She'll return to work full time on December 1. She and her husband, Seth, live in Beaverton, Oregon.

I continue to enjoy part-time teaching at Royal Roads University, locally, although this year I took on more work than I had planned. The University asked me to supervise a Master's candidate in the Disaster Management Program, in addition to facilitating two on-line courses in the Environmental Management and Sustainability Program. These are in addition to my regular classroom course in Environmental Management Tools, which I offer annually from September to December. I'm looking forward to January and the next several commitment free months.

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Tom Hord, PhD 1978

I was in residence at KU from the fall of 1971 until the fall of 1974. The thirty five years between then and now have, simply put, flown by. In the fall of 1974 I was at the ABD level at KU and in need of a good job. At that time, Southern Railway in Washington, D.C. needed a "regional economist." I said "I can do that" and took the position. I had no clue as to what a "regional economist" was or what one might do

for the railroad so I thought it best to finish the Ph.D., should the need arise, as a "fire escape." The Ph.D. was accomplished in 1978 but fortune smiled, the railroad career prospered and I never joined my peers at KU in the academic career for which we had prepared. Nonetheless, the railroad career prospered in no small part because of the education received in economic and transportation geography at KU.

Along with the railroad career came four children, the railroad merger creating Norfolk Southern Corp. and a move to Roanoke, VA. My career moved from preparing commodity and revenue forecasts to management of regulatory issues, commodity marketing and service design management. I finished my career as Manager, Short Line Marketing. Career highlight: the winter of 1992-93 spent working for Norfolk Southern in Moscow on special assignment to the Russian Railway Ministry. My job: provide instruction to the Russians on how to capitalize their railroad. After thirty three years with Norfolk Southern Corp. I noticed that most of my fellow employees were younger than our children. They were opening doors for me and calling me "sir." The time to retire had clearly arrived. I did so in May of 2007 and, in November 2007, Nancy and I moved from Roanoke, VA to Colorado Springs, CO.

WestwardHo@comcast.net

Don Johnson, PhD 1972

Main Professional Geomorphic-Soil (and Social) Activities of Don and Diana Johnson, 2009

Pacific Grove, California was our home during February and March of 2009 while we were engaged in Mima mound-biomantle research there and elsewhere in California. This kept us out of the bars and off the streets, but not off the beach! Among other cultural-environmental hot spots, we explored Lover's Point, Carmel, Pt. Lobos, Big Sur, Monterey Aquarium, and other notable Central Coast amenities.

Our return to Chambana was by way of moundfields in N. California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming, along the way spending time in Portland (family), Squim (family), Ellensburg (colleagues, friends), and Denver (family, friends). Unfortunately,

our usually trusty, now a tad rusty, 87 Chevy conversion van hiccupped badly near Ft. Morgan, CO and suffered severe cardiac arrest, but on the positive side the local economy was aided. She (the van) is now healthy and excited about our impending return January 2010 trip to Pacific Grove.

Other big events in biomantle research and social agendas? 1. Jan. 23 climbed Davis Hill salt Dome, Liberty Co., Tx with local friends to measure & sample one huge Atta mound (30m dia.). 2. Jan. 23-24 examined more Atta mounds in Bastrop and Travis counties, Tx. with local friends. 3. June 3-5, joined LSU-USFS ant people in Nacogdoches, La. to backhoe another huge leaf-cutter ant mound (also 30m dia.). 4. In July committed to contributing to and editing a GSA Book on the biological case for Mima-pimple mound formation. 5. In August we remodeled our kitchen, bathroom, added a new driveway, and a new back fence. 6. Got my 50 Chevy 1/2 ton PU running finally, and put it and my long unused hydraulic Giddings Coring Rig up for sale. 7. We embarked on a very pleasant September multi-tasking trip to KU Geography in Lawrence (talks, friends, colleagues, cake-eating, memories), thence to CO (family, friends, R&R) followed by mound studies at Rocky Flats, Gunnison, Uncomphagre, and San Luis Valley, wrapping up at Santa Fe & weird hi-altitude Elk Mtn. moundfield, NM. 8. Spent ten halcyon Thanksgiving days in Madison, WI visiting our newest granddaughter, Polly, and her doting mom and dad – also checked on our sorely missed former Lynn Street neighbor Dorothy Smith (94 years young). 9. Made a quick mid-December flight to Seattle-Portland to re-connect with extended family (siblings, nieces, etc.), especially to visit my seriously ill brother, Dick, and while there check out the stunning (via Google Earth) moundfields at Shaniko (OR), and Manastash Ridge and Badger Mountain (WA).

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Alan MacEachren, MA 1976, PhD 1979

I am still enjoying Penn State where I am a Professor of Geography, Director of the GeoVISTA Center, and an Affiliate Faculty member in the College

of Information Sciences and Technology. I've been busy with a range of research projects focused on geovisualization and geovisual analytics -- anyone who is interested can find out lots of details from: <http://www.geovista.psu.edu/>. Some of these projects have focused on applications in public health and in crisis management. I've recently also gone back to some of my cartographic roots with a project focused on map symbol standards.

My wife Fran and I continue to live in Boalsburg, PA with our two dogs; we have about 3.25 acres next to a small environmental preserve about 6 miles from the office (Fran's horse is boarded at stable not too far away). We both enjoyed catching up with George and Marilyn McCleary in Santiago, Chile while at the ICA Conference, which Fran and I followed by 5 days of birding in Chile (during Penn State's fall break).

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George Pangburn, MA 1974

This year I retired from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission after 29 years of federal service, having worked in Washington, Denver and Philadelphia in different staff and management positions. My wife, Pam, and I have moved to Richmond, VA near my brother's home. We plan to travel, engage in volunteer work, ride my motorcycles and catch up on a lot of overdue reading, mainly history and fiction. Of course, at the top of our list is to visit KU and Lawrence again, as we have done so many times. This past year I attended KU's first mini-college and found it to be a great experience. Pam and I plan to attend it together this year. Our daughter, Carrie, runs the GT program for an elementary school in Howard County, Maryland and her husband, Jason, works for a small internet investment publication in Baltimore.

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Mark Virden, MA 1976

I continue to do applied geography in planning and market research. Most of my work is in the health care and housing fields. I use tools from GIS to "old-fashioned" regional geography techniques to quantitative methods. In my Masters oral exams, Bob Nunley said

I was a "good synthesizer" so perhaps consulting is where I belong. At least he did not paraphrase Woody Allen, "Those who can't manage consult". I am not one of those who plan and want to retire. I plan to work as long as my now mostly younger clients can relate to me and I to them. As my 85 year-old aunt says, "When you stop working, you start dying."

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Anke Wells, MA 1965; PhD 1979

It is hard to believe that more than 40 years have passed since I first came to KU on a Fulbright scholarship in Geography. I learned so many new things about America and the World! Most of my old professors are no longer with us in person but I will remember them forever. Being a current member of the Geography Advisory Board helps to keep me in touch with the Geography Department. After raising a family, my path led me in another direction. I turned to public school teaching for twenty years, establishing a German program at Seaman High School in Topeka, KS, and teaching there for 17 years. In 2007, a new opportunity came along at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS, where I have been an Adjunct Assistant Professor of German since then. In 2008, I was elected to the Executive Council of the Kansas Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (KATG) for a three-year term, serving first as Vice-President last year, as President this year, and Past-President next year. This fall, I served as Program Chair of the Annual KATG German Immersion Weekend at Bethel College in North Newton, KS, presented a paper in the KATG session at the Annual KSWLA Conference in Wichita, KS, and attended the ACTFL Annual Convention and World Expo in San Diego, CA. Life has been good, full of new challenges and excitement. What's next?

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Mark Bowman, MA 1986

We recently returned to the US after spending 11 years in Europe equally split between Norway and Scotland. It was a great experience living overseas and we tried to make the most of it. We currently reside in Houston, Texas where I work for ConocoPhillips as a geologist. I am currently working exploration in the Rocky Mountain region. Our kids are now 14 and 16 and going to school in the US for the first time this fall.

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Larry Chow, PhD 1982

I came back to visit the Dept at Lindley in June 2009, visiting with Leslie Dienes and Bernie Angino (of Geology). I was delighted to see the McColl Room (obviously set up with donation from Bob) and the pictures of the retired professors in it. It brought back a lot of fond memories. I spent three years in the Dept, from 1972-1974 and then 1977-1978. I was bemused to see the picture of Bob in his cowboy hat. He looked more like Clint Eastwood to me than a retired professor.

I am still teaching in Hong Kong Baptist University, but will retire in the next two or three years. Running the

Hong Kong Energy Studies Centre has been fun. I wonder how our old chums like Jim Kelly and Jerry Coiner are doing. Wish all our retired professors would live to the ripe old age of Walter Kollmorgen, under whom I took the course Political Geography of the U.S. Merry X'mas and happy new year to you all !

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Jim Merchant, MA 1973; PhD 1984

July 2009 marked my twentieth year as a faculty member at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). I'm currently serving as both Head of the Faculty of Geography and GIScience and Director of the Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT). In addition, I just completed an 18-month assignment as Coordinator for the School of Natural Resources Five-Year Comprehensive Review (held in September 2009). Although my administrative duties this year have been time-consuming, I still managed to teach two courses in GIScience, chair the Geography General Seminar series and develop a new course for our incoming graduate students - *Proseminar in Research Methods and Professional Development*. On the research front, my students and I have continued to pur-

sue investigations of land use and land cover characterization via satellite remote sensing, and have recently employed GIS to model soil erosion and sediment transport in small agricultural watersheds, explore economic consequences of invasive plants on Platte River Sandhill Crane habitat, and forecast impacts of future land use change on groundwater quality. A new project focuses on development of a Geospatial Data Portal for Nebraska - <http://www.nebraskamap.gov>. At home, my wife Loyola continues to work for Nebraska Wesleyan University (NWU). Our son, Karl, is a senior at NWU majoring in Global Studies and hoping to return to Japan next fall to teach English. Our daughter Anne is a senior at Lincoln East High School, expecting to enter UNL in the fall. Best wishes to all for a great 2010.

jmerchan@unlnotes.unl.edu

Joe Poracsky, PhD 1984

This January will be 27 years since I arrived at Portland State University. And no, I am not anticipating retirement very soon, thank you, even though I have joined Pete Shortridge in that "Senior Faculty in the Department" club that he wrote about last year. I haven't yet learned the secret hand-

shake but expect that I will at the formal induction ceremony. I just hope we are not expected to wear funny hats.

I made my annual trip to Lawrence last summer to visit my daughter and her family. As always, I made the trek from Old West Lawrence up Mt Oread to see who was around. Unfortunately I chose the wrong day to visit, as it turned out that no faculty that I knew from my days in Lindley Hall were in – however, Barney Warf was in. Ironically, I first met Barney at an APCG meeting around 1984 when I was a boot faculty member at PSU, newly-departed from KU, and he was a graduate student at UW, soon to be leaving the Pacific Northwest. Now he is at KU and I am in the Pacific Northwest. We had a brief chat and I was thus able to make a reconnect with the department in a very unexpected way.

I continue to chair the Graduate Admissions Committee in our department. It traditionally has been an assignment requiring only a moderate amount of effort, but this year it seems like everyone in the world is interested in returning to graduate school in geography, and most of them are from disciplines other than geography. I am bombarded with inquires at least 2-3 times more often than in past years. It is encouraging to see this strong interest in the discipline. Let's hope there are a commensurate number of jobs for all these potentially newly-minted geographers.

With KU Men's Basketball starting the year ranked #1, it reminds us all that it was just two year's ago that KU won the NCAA Championship. Although I consider myself a Jayhawk, I am also at Portland State, and I would be remiss if I failed to point out that *two years ago, when KU won it all, they had to get past Portland State first.*

poracskj@pdx.edu

Stu Shea, MA 1983.

Still doing the same thing professionally, chasing bad guys around the world in what this administration calls overseas contingency operations. It sounded sexier when it was just called

the global war on terror. I think I am making a difference, at least that is what my kids tell me. It seems like a long way from the days at KU Cartographic Services drafting that first –ever 3D map of the Lawrence campus! (I wonder what it looks like today since it has been 27 years since I was there!) I am starting to think about that "retirement" thing, though my lifestyle and the economy seemed to have bifurcated. I have 8 years left until I hang up the briefcase, but you can't start planning too early! On the personal side, I went to Ireland this year to visit my daughter who was studying abroad. She suggested I went just to play a little golf. Let's see, 14 days total, 3 with her and 11 golfing....I will leave it

up to you! I played all the classics—Tralee, Lahinch, Portmarnock, Ballybunion, Killarney, Old Head, Waterville, etc. —and didn't embarrass myself too badly. Still chasing that elusive hole-in-one, but getting closer every day. I think it may have been the Guinness. Recently shot my best score in 28 years, quickly followed by a humbling score just 5 days later that bracketed one of my worst scores ever. That is why my name is on a tag and not stitched on the side of the bag. My best to all my Lindley Hall buddies.

K.Stuart.Shea@said.com



Craig Campbell, Ph.D. 1993

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Greetings from the Campbell Family. All is well in Youngstown. We've had record enrollments at YSU during the economic downturn - I expect it is much the same everywhere. Our family is well. Betty and I became grandparents for the first time on August 24th. Keaton Teancum Campbell was born to Justin and Courtney about 8:45 in the morning. Labor lasted about 36 hours! Of course, now he's about 3 months old. They live with us so it is wonderful to see our grandson every day. Marta is on her LDS mission in Romania, which also covers the country of Moldova. We are planning on going to Bucharest to pick her up in April. Mickey lives with us as well. I am doing some research on global automobile assembly plants and also on the lost horse racing region in the Mahoning Valley. Remember, we lived in the Bluegrass for 3 years before KU so some of that culture remains in my blood, I guess. Hello to all.

cstevenccampbell@sbcglobal.net

Eunmi Park Chang, PhD 1997

I started a small consulting firm on GIS and Environment/Disaster Problems (ZIIN consulting) in July 2009 with two doctors, but I am still teaching Remote Sensing and Biogeography in Sangmyung University as an adjunct professor in Seoul.

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Mary Dillworth Clinthorne, PhD 1990

I am enjoying teaching as an Adjunct Associate Professor at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI. Aquinas is a tiny Catholic college (about 2400 students), with 2.5 geographers. I am teaching Cartography and World Regional Geography; in the spring semester GIS and World Regional. It's great to teach the techniques again after several years of just World Regional! Most of the students are lots of fun, though it's a revelation to find out that even though they're paying private school tuition, some students still have a very "casual" approach to classes. Ah well -- they're a source of entertaining stories! All the best to my Jayhawk friends in the coming year!

Keith Cunningham, PhD 1997

I am now at the University of Alaska Fairbanks working at the Alaska Satellite Facility, which is part of their Geophysical Institute. At the Alaska Satellite Facility (ASF), I am responsible for data-mining and commercializing their satellite data archive. The archive includes both optical data products as well as several radar sensors, so I have



become an expert in synthetic aperture radar (SAR) and its application for interferometry. The applications I am involved with include polar ice mapping and tropical forest biomass calculations to support the Kyoto carbon initiative. Our group is also becoming entrepreneurial, so I am always looking for commercial partners interested in using our data and services

kwcunningham@alaska.edu

John Dunham, PhD 1996

I'm now into my fifth 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, though I'll be losing one at the semester. We released several new maps during 2009, most notably an updated set of maps showing the oil and gas fields of Kansas on 1° x 2° quadrangles and a smaller-scale statewide map. All are based on current field data from the KGS oil and gas database. The prior versions of these maps were released in 1993, so there



has been a great demand for the new versions

At home, wife Cindy (KU Geography, '84) and I both ran the Oklahoma City Marathon in April. The weekend was fun, the race not so much so, with 70° heat at the start and 30-40 mph winds. We finished, though not with the times we wanted. This fall also included the traditional trip to East Lansing, Michigan for a visit with MSU Jayhawk Al Arbogast and family. Going solo this year, I took Amtrak (Lawrence to Chicago, Chicago to East Lansing), and it was a great experience -- a very relaxing way to make the trip. While there, I also was able to spend some time with another KU Geography alum, Randy Schaeztl, and his family.

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Mike Ingram, PhD 1996

This was a rather hectic year for me and Bonnie, as we had to deal directly and indirectly through the year with our aging parents and younger sisters helping them. Very early in the year, my sister had to put my father, who has Alzheimer's, into an assisted living facility. I went to Atlanta to help her out a bit with this and Bonnie and I went down in the summer to visit and help further. By the time we were there together this amounted to helping clear out my parents' house. Since then my mother has moved in to her own "quarters" at my sister's and now my parents' house sits for sale outside of Atlanta in one of the slower real estate markets in the country. Fortunately, we all can wait out the turnaround there.

Remarkably, although Bonnie and her older sister tried for years, this year their younger sister successfully moved their parents out of their house in a less desirable section of West Palm Beach, Florida. Now Bonnie's parents are together with her younger sister and her family in Manteca, California. They own two really nice houses there, one bought as a foreclosure and one as a short sale. The shift in the real estate market enabled this good fortune, but the West Palm Beach homestead languishes in the really awful real estate market of southern Florida. They

may need to take drastic action on this one sooner than later.

Bonnie and I went to Minnesota for our 25th anniversary, orienting our trip on a day at IKEA in Minneapolis. If we had not been very familiar with IKEA and had not warmed up at the store in Atlanta earlier in the summer, it would have been overwhelming. IKEA, like the Mall of America opposite it, is really not quick stop shopping. We stayed for several nights at a bed and breakfast in a small town fifty miles short of there and had an overall good time.

I will retire in about six months, and am really looking forward to it. As always, Best Wishes to all!

DrTastee@kc.rr.com

Joseph Kerski, MA 1993

I send everyone greetings from the Education Team at ESRI in Colorado. I still teach GIS as an adjunct at the University of Denver and am trying to spread the good news about GIS in



education around the world. Check out the 300 geography-related videos on my channel <http://www.youtube.com/geographyuberalles> and my weekly blogs at <http://edcommunity.esri.com>.

Here is my GPS and I at Joshua Tree National Park!

jkerski@esri.com

Chuck Martin, MA 1985, PhD 1990

A busy and successful year is coming to a close for me, my 20th (!!) at Kansas State University. Professionally, my research continues to focus on the storage and movement of heavy metals in the Lahn River of central Germany. I learned a few weeks ago that I have been awarded a 3-month research fellowship from the Humboldt Foundation to return to Germany in Summer 2010 to examine recent river activity and heavy metal storage in a mined tributary to the Lahn River. That work will commence as soon as the spring semester at K-State concludes. I continue to serve as Director of the

Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Secondary Major. We have weathered the terrible budget situation in the state thus far, but I fear the program may suffer some substantial budget cuts in the next fiscal year. A shame given that K-State has just begun to implement many sustainable practices on campus. This past May I was thrilled to receive the Presidential Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Advising at K-State, an honor accorded one faculty member each year in recognition of her/his work with undergraduate students.

The personal news for the year is dominated by growing children and travel. Christine (now 11) is in the middle of her last year of elementary school. She and I made a leisurely drive to Portland, Maine, this past summer, visiting St. Louis, Chicago, Niagara Falls, and Boston along the way. While we were viewing the eastern half of America by car, Nicholas (now 15 and 6' 2" tall) and Sabine spent three weeks in Germany, highlighted by a visit to Berlin. Fall brought soccer for both kids, Christine on her traveling club team and Nicholas as a JV/Varsity member of the high school team. Nicholas talks of becoming an engineer ("no way will I become a geographer or a geologist", he has announced) while Christine relishes her final year in elementary school and looks forward to the "different subjects and different teachers" offered next year in middle school. To say that they keep Sabine and me on our toes is an understatement.

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Severin Roberts, MA 1999

My big news is the birth of my daughter Davian in February 2009. I'm enjoying the journey and realize every day how curiosity and wonder change her perceptions. As she's becoming more mobile, it's funny how my relationship with my house and my stuff changes... We didn't travel much this summer so are looking forward to next spring and summer when we can camp and explore. I'm still at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, working in annual

giving. Right now I'm working on some great human geography type work profiling prominent Grinnellians and tracing their paths from this place in Iowa to the impacts they had with their lives' actions. After weathering a rough year, I'm curious about what's going to happen this year and next. I miss arguing with fellow Geographers. Hope you are all well and enjoying a great year yourselves.

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Amy Rork, MA 1997

This has been a year of two speeds - a very slow spring with not much to do, and an extremely busy fall with way too much to do. I don't know which is better or worse. After twiddling my thumbs to a nub last spring, this fall I've worked on the submission of a renewal for the NIH grant I work on here at KU, hosted a three day external advisory board meeting, helped with three other major meetings, married off my son, had a root canal, suffered through car repairs, worked on the annual report for the grant, due in Dec, and generally been up to my ears in stuff to do. I dragged my brother to Colorado in August (OK, he went willingly, having never seen the mountains) and we enjoyed our time there. Traipsed past Geography Field camp, but everyone was out on patrol that morning (I still found camp, 16 years later! The road is paved all the way out there now - not so rural any more.). After spending the night in Canon City, we took the Cog Railroad up Pikes Peak (breathtaking, literally) and toured through Rocky Mountain Nat'l. Park (spectacular scenery and we saw several elk herds). We even went through Amy, KS on the way, and of course, took my picture beside the lonely Co-op grain elevator (scenery not so spectacular). A grand time was had by all. Also went to Las Vegas for a business meeting in July - very interesting indeed, LV that is. Outside meeting hours, we took in a Cirque du Soleil show (Ka), toured "downtown" and saw the light show, cruised the strip, and ventured out to Hoover Dam. I'm itching to go on a cruise 'round the tip of South America in January, but work is already getting in the way. I'm trying to keep up with the

kids (all fine) with a Facebook account, but haven't mastered texting. Hope everyone is well and happy!

—arork@sunflower.com

Steven Schnell, BA 1992, MA 1994, PhD 1998

I'm still at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania, teaching courses in Cultural Geography, Globalization, Africa, and the US and Canada, and carrying out research into local economies and alternative agriculture. I also still edit the *Geographical Bulletin*, the peer-reviewed journal of student research in Geography (now available through EBSCO's databases). So if you have some students who have done quality original research, send them to <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/geographical-bulletin.html> for a style sheet, and encourage them to submit an article. I also just had an article rooted in a term paper I wrote for Pete's Cultural Geography of the U.S. class accepted in the *Journal of Cultural Geography*. So, my pack rat tendencies have paid off after all. Sometimes, when you think "that might be useful someday," it actually is! There really WAS a reason to lug that box full of nearly fifty pounds of tourism brochures from the fifty states and Canada around from state to state for a decade and a half!

On the home front, Marina's now in first grade, and hopping on the school bus every morning. She continues her fascination with insects, and is every bit as much of a bookworm as her father (and particularly likes the Magic Tree House books). Fiora's in her second year of preschool, and loves to draw and run, and thinks that bunnies and dolphins are the coolest things ever. She even introduces herself as "Bunny." Lisa's still dancing and writing, and organized a community nature/sense of place camp this past summer that was a resounding success. Marina, Lisa and I are gearing up for a town-gown production of the Nutcracker (they on stage, me playing cello in the pit orchestra with the University symphony).

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Janice Sterling, MA 1996

Still at USDA-NRCS in Fort Worth, TX. Our agency had about 4 ESRI classes at the center, so I keep up technical skills, and I continue with classes at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Janice.Sterling@ftw.usda.gov

Alan Stern, MA 1995

I continue to work as a remote sensing specialist for the U.S. Government, doing research on crop conditions/carbon sequestration, etc... I continue to publish periodically and occasionally present at various conferences. In the years since I've graduated, I've managed to visit all 7 continents either via work or on vacation, in some cases both. My wife, Diana, also works for the U.S. Government as a microbiologist.

In addition to work and our travels, we continue to enjoy the outdoors: (hiking, biking, x-country skiing), cultural events and playing our musical instruments. I'm currently learning my 3rd instrument, the piano (I learned the violin and French horn as a child), while Diana is improving her flute playing by taking lessons as well.

sternngo@aol.com

Hedley Swan, PhD 1995

I don't have any professional news but I have some personal news. I got married last August in Ottawa, Canada. I met my wife Amanda through a mutual friend from my days working in Canada. We are now living in England.

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Sam Wallace, MA 1994

In the last five years I've earned a post-graduate certificate in GIS from Penn State. I am developing a GIS program for Montgomery County Community College, ranked for the second year as the most technologically advanced community college in the nation by the Center for Digital Education. I also teach Geography at West Chester University, Pennsylvania's equivalent to Emporia State. Though none of the Ivy League schools offer Geography, Penn State and Temple University are good local resources,

along with regional offices of ESRI, the Census Bureau and EPA.

Enrollments here have been increasing more than 10% a year, though graduation rates and other success measures have not. At the same time, we've seen decreasing funding from county and state governments. Our students, and our schools, are the most stressed we've been since we opened more than 45 years ago. As we've converted some face-to-face courses to partially or fully on-line to accommodate increased enrollment and reconstruction of our primary class-room building, we've seen attrition rates climb, as well.

The Community College also administers the County Police Academy and the Emergency Services / Fire Management Training Center, so I'm learning more about Crime Analysis and Emergency Management models. We have a chef apprentice program, so I'm developing exercises on restaurant site selection. We are also developing a Riverfront Heritage Education Center, utilizing our West Campus location on the Schuylkill River for courses in Geography, Environmental Science and Historical Preservation. The College is serious about reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, even redesigning mass transit routes to cut suburban student commutes, and I served on the Building Committee for our new passive solar Advanced Technology Building. As I help re-write our Core Curriculum, the value of Geography in a wide range of fields is coming to the forefront.

I enjoy living in Center City, Philadelphia (even though that gives me one of the longest staff commutes- hey, I've got a hybrid). My apartment building was constructed in 1900 and my bedroom reading nook looks into the 18th century medicinal herb garden of the Mutter Museum in one of the most "European" areas of all U.S. cities. I was in the crowds after the Phillies won the World Series (LAST year) and after Obama won the presidency. The crowd after the World Series was much like the crowd on campus when KU won the NCAA championship in the late 80s. The crowd after the election was nearly as large, but with no vandalism and several thousand doing the electric slide in the four blocks surrounding Penn Square / City Hall.

SWallace@mc3.edu

John Bauer, MA 2001, PhD 2006

My wife Anne and I welcomed our second child, Audrey Anne Bauer, on September 15. Our son Nathan is now 2, so both of them keep us busy every day. Even though Anne is a stay-at-home mom, she keeps busy volunteering in the community. She is active in the local historical preservation group and at the county history museum. Last spring, she adjuncted a class in Local History for the UNK history department. Teaching, research, and my other duties at UNK keep my days full, too. This fall has been especially stressful because UNK is overhauling its General Studies program, and trying to do so in a small amount of time. And, of course, there is all the politics involved with the process. Perhaps I'll see some old friends at the spring AAG conference in Washington, DC.

bauerjt@unk.edu

**Shawna Wright Brinson, MA 2005
Nate Brinson, MA 2006**

Nate teaches citizenship exam preparation, literacy, and ESOL tutorials at the International Institute of Saint Louis, a refugee and immigrant services agency. Shawna works in development at the Saint Louis Science Center, where she recently launched a community volunteer group called "Women for Science." This December, Shawna and Nate will celebrate one year in their little house in Dogtown, plus will anticipate the arrival of a new nephew on Shawna's birthday.

skwin104@hotmail.com

Craig Davis, MA 2001

Greetings from Northern California. Not much new to report from the Davis clan this year. In the midst of the economic meltdown and California budget crisis, we have seen severe cuts in our work areas (education), but thankfully are in no danger of losing our positions. The latest endeavor is to purchase a home



now that the prices are reasonable, but still way out of line with my Midwestern sensibilities, again. Luka is approaching 3 and we are having more fun than ever. We were the team around town this summer as Gorica had a modified summer schedule and we spent most of our time swimming and hanging out at the river. We were also glad to see that the football world has been righted and the Huskers have regained their status above the Jayhawks. Hope all is well back on the hill and wish a happy holiday to everyone.

DavisCA@scc.losrios.edu

Victoria Downey, MA 2007

I am currently in my second year of the Ph.D. program in Geography at the University of Minnesota. Although getting used to the winters has been a bit trying (biking in snow and subzero temperatures is not my idea of fun), overall I really enjoy both Minneapolis and my new department. My work has taken a turn from tourism, postcolonialism, and representations to feminist geography, embodiment, sport, and particularly the experience of collective movement within synchronized swimming. I've been fortunate to become involved with the University's Synchronized Swimming Team and am now acting as the Head Coach, but I'm also happy to be involved with other faculty and graduate students working on various sports topics. In addition to coaching, I'm the Head TA for our introductory undergraduate biogeography course--I just can't seem to pull myself away from teaching about physical processes! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again at the AAG. Best wishes for a happy holiday season--see you in D.C.!

vdowney@gmail.com

Sergio Freire, MA 2007

After leaving KU in 2000 I settled in Lisbon, where I have been working mostly on applications of Remote Sensing and GIS, first at the National Center for Geographic Information (Portugal), then at the Portuguese Geographic Institute. I also do some part-time teaching and consulting. Currently

I am a full-time research assistant at e-GEO, Centre of Geographical and Regional Planning Studies, New University of Lisbon, Portugal. (If you want to know more about what I do, you can log on to <http://www.earthzine.org/2009/11/26/cultivating-the-city-mapping-and-characterizing-urban-agriculture-with-satellite-imagery/>)

In the meantime I made a new thesis and managed to get my masters degree. But even bigger news is the arrival of little Sara last July, to the great joy of me and



Ana. Sara will most probably be the first Portuguese female astronaut and the first woman on Mars... she is training already (see photo). Being a student at KU Geography was a great and valuable experience, and I remember fondly all the colleagues, faculty and staff, and wish you all Happy Holydays and a good 2010.

scfreire@hotmail.com

Pinde Fu, PhD 2000

I still work at the Application Development Services of ESRI, leading a number of e-Government related projects. Over the years, I have accumulated quite some experiences in Web GIS, e-Gov, geospatial information sharing, emergency



management and some other fields. Jinwu Ma, Justin Fan, and I, three Jayhawks, went to China to support several ESRI activities there in October. We met Alan Moore, a fourth Jayhawk in Beijing! Here is a photo of me standing next to the Birds Nest, a famous stadium for Olympics 2008. I may not look too old, but I am a father of three now. I've got a newborn last year. Indeed, it's fun to have these many kids.

pfu@esri.com

Jeff Krecic, MA 2007

I am still living in Olathe, Kansas with my wife Leeanne and our three dogs.

I work as a sensor operator (Camera man) for MJ Harden in Mission, KS. I do the flight planning and operate the Digital Mapping Camera, DMC. The DMC is actually 8 cameras in one: 4 panchromatic, and one each of red, blue, Green and IR. We have two DMC's. One mounted in a Piper Navajo and the other in a Cessna Conquest. We also have a LiDAR in a Cessna 206. I travel quite a bit for work and have gone from Texas to Canada in the last year.



MJ Harden is part of Geoeye which launched the Geoeye1 satellite last year and is working on Geoeye2.

I hope all is well with everyone in the Geography department. Rock, Chalk, Jayhawk!

jeffkrecic@yahoo.com

Michael Noll, MA 1993; PhD 2000

I notice with bewilderment that yet another year has gone by as I am trying to come up with something new for this newsletter. Since I am running late, I imagine frowns on Bev's face when she receives this email. So, before I get into any more trouble, here is my report:

The Noll family is continuing to enjoy life in southern Georgia. Not much seems to change over the years, even if Valdosta received the honor of becoming "Titledown USA" in 2009. The kids are doing great in school, love the outdoors and sports, and still seem to enjoy hanging out with their parents. Jonathan (10) is now in fifth grade at SL Mason, the elementary school he has known since kindergarten. Life is about to change, though, as he will enter middle school next year. Sophia

(8) still has three years to go at SL Mason before she, too, will move on. Both played soccer on the same team this year, as Sophia was allowed to "play up". It was loads of fun to watch them play, simplified logistical matters a bit, and we could celebrate their championship together! Mom and Dad are doing fine as well. Karen continues to enjoy her clinical supervisor position at VSU's Speech Clinic, and I seem to be in my ninth year in the "environmental geosciences" program now, still having fun. Looking at our current economic situation we both feel fortunate to have a job. Yes, there are some furlough days, but I rather have them than no job at all.

In that spirit, greetings to you all and a Merry Christmas!

mgnull@valdosta.edu

Chris Post, MA 2003; PhD 2006

Things continue to go well in northeastern Ohio. Our daughter Kiera is 16 months now and running all over the place. My, how little pink building blocks bring a smile to one's face.....that and chugging orange juice. Amy is increasingly involved in activities around Canton, still outsourcing her

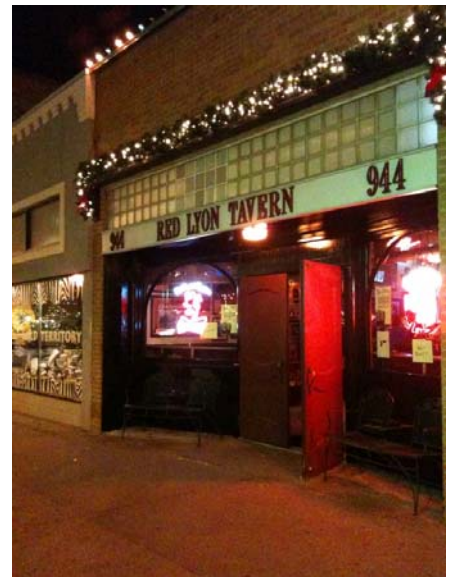


graphic design expertise and plays "Supermom" during the day. We bought a home in Canton this past summer. That meant everything I made teaching Intersession found its way into drywall, paint, and fence

posts (and we haven't even gotten to the bathroom or kitchen renovations yet). I taught Historical Geography of the United States and Canada this fall and it was everything I hoped: wonderful material and data with advanced students. Of course, with a 4-4 load there are other courses to attend to and here that means lots of sections of World and Introduction to Geography. Human Geography and US and Canada, however, provide more personal outlets and I will be teaching my graduate course in Place,

Landscape, and Memory next spring on the Kent Campus. I was very fortunate to get some work into *Geographical Review* and (soon, if not already, as you read this) *Historical Geography* this year. In a bit of luck, my former UGA colleague Andy Herod asked me to donate a chapter to a book that he is a part of; *Company Towns in the Americas: Industrial Capitalism, Spatial Engineering, and Working-Class Communities in the Twentieth Century* is due out next year with a chapter about good 'ol Sunflower Village in it. I also continue work on my book manuscript for Center for American Places and associated papers (the *GR* and *HG* pieces plus one more under review) about the memorialization of the Kansas-Missouri Border War (sorry Chancellor, that's what it was). I'm also looking for new endeavors here in Ohio. One tie between the two is John Brown. Our favorite fanatical Kansan has quite a following up here that has caught my attention. And I hope to finish some work soon on the Garden Park and Beaver Creek cemeteries around our field camp in Colorado. All the while, I continue to work too hard for the Cultural Geography Specialty Group (right, Soren?!) and *Material Culture*, but it's all out of love. Be good to each other!

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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.



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)
Othman A. El-Awshar (MA 1982)
Christopher D. Bader (MA 1994)
Stephen R. Blake (MA 1979)
John L. Brewer (MA 1993)
Vicki Prince Dennison (MA 1977)
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)
David K. Myers (MA 1998)
Mary C. Prante (PhD 1997)
Rachel Saifullah (MA 2003)
M.I. Siddiqi (MA 1960)
Samut Siributi (MA 1977)
Robert S. Sluter, Jr. (MA 1998)





Happy Holidays!

www.geog.ku.edu, www.atmo.ku.edu

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