



Terry Slocum

## A Letter from the Chair

Although the current economic situation has created challenges for the University of Kansas, the Geography Department continues to thrive! This year we hired two additional faculty members: Margaret Pearce (Assistant Professor) and Shawn Milrad (Visiting Assistant Professor). Margaret is a cartographer whose research interests include map design and geovisualization, map history, Indigenous cartographies, and historical geography. Margaret is also affiliated with the Indigenous Nations Studies program. She received her PhD in Geography from Clark University and has previously taught at both Humboldt State University and Ohio University. Shawn is an atmospheric scientist whose general research interests include synoptic meteorology, tropical meteorology and weather forecasting; on a more detailed level, he is interested in extreme precipitation events, extratropical transition of tropical cyclones, and convective snow squalls. Shawn received his PhD in Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences from McGill University in 2010 and was recently a Staff Scientist at Atmospheric and Environmental Research in Lexington MA. We hope to convert Shawn's Visiting Assistant Professor position into a more permanent slot in a couple of years. In concert with Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREES), we presently are searching for another faculty member whose skills will focus on Central Asia Cultural Geography. With this new hire, we will have twenty-five faculty on board!

A major event for us this past year was an external review of our department. External reviews typically involve the creation of a "self-

study" document and then a review of the department by several faculty from outside the university. The external review was a lot of work for our department, but we hope that it will pay major dividends. Reviewers noted the strength of both our undergraduate and graduate programs, and that the number of students has been increasing at both levels. They also were impressed by the high rate of faculty publication in refereed journals and the dramatic increase in grant-funding in recent years. Reviewers suggested several ways in which we might make improvements by: 1) harnessing our current program strengths (e.g., develop research clusters based on the present faculty composition); 2) further strengthening our undergraduate and graduate programs (e.g., offering a capstone course for undergraduates); and 3) continuing to expand our overall program (e.g., by hiring in key areas that complement our research clusters such as biogeography and remote sensing). Since we have only begun to discuss the results of the review, I hope to report on some concrete changes resulting from the review in next year's newsletter.

Given that reviewers were impressed by our grant activity, I thought that it would be interesting to summarize some of this activity. Looking at just the 2010 calendar year, 17 of our 24 faculty were involved in some sort of grant activity. In total, these 17 faculty were associated with 35 grants and more than \$2 million of funding directly associated with the department. Funding agencies included Korea Emergency Management Agency, Korea Foundation, KU Transportation Research

See Letter page 2

## The Lawrence and Campus Scene

Lawrence has experienced a reasonably warm and dry Fall, after a rather wet and hot Spring and the typical monstrous Summer recipe. The city was generally something of a bystander to the hot politics around it this season, though – Larryville voted the usual way, for the Democrats, while everybody else in Kansas voted for the other guys. This led to the interesting pontification of the town's pontificator-in-chief, in the *Lawrence Journal-World's* editorial just after the election, that "clearly Lawrence and its voters are off on another planet — not in the same constellation

as the rest of the state or nation." And amen to that.

In electoral news directly related to the city of Lawrence, perhaps the most fascinating results for geographers were those from the successful bond issue put on the ballot to aid in the expansion of the Lawrence Public Library downtown. Nearly all of the precincts within what has become the new core rectangle of Wakarusa-to-Harper/6<sup>th</sup>-to-23<sup>rd</sup> (for you older alums, I suppose the core rectangle would be Iowa -to-Haskell /6<sup>th</sup>-to-23<sup>rd</sup>, and for slightly

See Scene page 2



Institute, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Science Foundation (NSF), U.S. Department of Education, and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Although space does not permit me to discuss all of the grants, I would like to mention a few of the larger ones that involved multiple faculty from our department.

*The Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets (CREGIS)* is an NSF Science and Technology Center (<http://www.cregis.ku.edu>) that is developing advanced remote sensing technology and is conducting field observations to measure and predict the response of ice sheets to climate change and the related rise in sea level. CREGIS was just renewed for its second and final 5-year term as a NSF Science and Technology Center. Faculty involved in the second phase are Dave Braaten and Kees van der Veen. *Climate Change, Humans, and Nature in the Global Environment (C-CHANGE)* is an NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) program in interdisciplinary climate change studies (<http://web.ku.edu/~crgc/IGERT/index.html>). The C-CHANGE program is for PhD

students in the social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering who are interested in understanding the human causes and consequences of climate change and in developing strategies for responding to these changes. Faculty involvement includes Dave Braaten who is a Co-PI and a member of the steering committee, and Johan Feddema, Kees van der Veen, Nate Brunsell, and Jay Johnson who are participating faculty.

*Climate Change and Renewable Energy* is an NSF EPSCoR grant (<http://www.nsfepscor.ku.edu/ph6.html>) that involves multiple institutions (K-State, KU, Wichita State, and Haskell) over a five-year period. Faculty involved include Chris Brown and Steve Egbert (Biofuels and Climate Change); Johan Feddema, Dave Mechem, and Nate Brunsell (Climate Change and Mitigation); and Jay Johnson (a Haskell Summer Internship Program). Garth Myers is the PI for the Kansas African Studies Center's (KASC) successful Title VI National Resource Center grant proposal, entitled *Building on Excellence, Serving the Heartland*. The grant provides KASC with \$440,000 per year for programming and fellowships for language training. Year three of the

grant will be crucial for geographers thematically, with its focus on programming about environments and resources. Several other geography faculty are involved in the grant in some way, including Chris Brown, Steve Egbert, and Johan Feddema. The grant currently provides GTA, GRA or fellowship funding for four geography PhD students.

### National AAG meeting Announcement

For those of you who will be attending this year's national AAG meeting in Seattle, please note that there will be a joint KU/K-State alumni party on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 PM at Ivar's Salmon House (<http://ivars.com>) on beautiful North Lake Union. Although Ivar's Salmon House is not downtown, busses leave every 10-15 minutes from various locations near the convention center to within 10 minutes' walk from Ivar's. (Google Maps directions via public transit: <http://bit.ly/aB3RzZ>; note that you can change time and direction of travel). Taxis are also available for less than \$15, one-way fare. Thanks to Matt Dunbar and Monika Moskal for helping arrange this event!

t-slocum@ku.edu



## Scene

Continued from page 1

less old alums, let's expand that westward to Kasold) voted in favor of the library expansion, and all of the precincts outside of that voted against it. The most opposed precinct? Haskell Indian Nations University. This means that the results ran counter to the more common pattern in recent years of a general drift toward a wealthier and more conservative western side of town squaring off against a somewhat less well-off and more liberal eastern side. I'll leave the serious interpretations to other, more economically-oriented geographers, but the geographical implications are intriguing: it seems like the farther you live away from the library the less you want it to expand on that site. Or maybe the more you download your books to your Kindle.

Lawrence's socio-spatial struggles mostly stay the same: there is still the endless conundrum over what to do with the deteriorating wreck of an industrial location at the old Farmland nitrogen fertilizer facility in East Lawrence, and the dispute over the relocation and expansion of the Lawrence Community Shelter to a site at the southeast fringe of Lawrence, to say nothing of the ongoing South Lawrence Trafficway controversy (some new artificial wetlands are slowly coming into shape west of the Haskell-Baker Wetlands as a "mitigation" project, but as yet the SLT's proponents are still tens (hundreds?) of millions of dollars short of it ever being a development reality – and shortfalls like that are pretty substantive in the Great

Recession). A recent retail survey suggests Lawrence is becoming even less of a draw for consumers from outside the city as it bleeds commuters and shoppers to Topeka and especially Johnson County. The downtown hangs on, with a vacancy rate of 8% - it seems to me like every other storefront is empty, but apparently our vacancy rate is much better than the national average. The city still struggles to attract major new employers. Growth continues to be in evidence in the northwest in particular. The proposed pedestrian-friendly new-urbanism development between Free State High School and 6<sup>th</sup> street had a proposed new home improvement store project rejected, but other development pours into that zone. The controversies over imbalances

between athletics facilities development at the two high schools, and over the nuisances of the LHS facilities for neighbors, are both dying down, replaced by a hue and cry over the realignment of education so that both FSHS and LHS will be 4-year high schools, and the junior high schools (presently housing 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades) will become middle schools (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade).

KU has unfortunately made the news far more in 2010 for things most people associated with KU would wish were not news, or not their news, anyway: the basketball team lost in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the NCAA tournament, to Northern Iowa, no less, when it was the #1 overall seed and had had only 2 losses all season long; the football team went 3-9 in its first year under new coach Turner Gill, showing a little oomph only twice in the season, really (a season that began with the utter indignity of a 6-3 loss to perennial superpower North Dakota State); the entire athletics department got a big black eye nationally from a nasty ticket scam scandal; and the University came out generally poorly in the standard academic rankings. Our friend the Grand Pontificator at the LJW wasted no time, week after week, decrying the malaise and the lack of direction of unnamed administrators in a

faceless administration that apparently was also off on "another planet." Actually, though, new Provost Jeff Vitter has shown vigor and energy for addressing the supposed slippages academically, and new (well, 2<sup>nd</sup> year) Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little has taken great care with the huge task of choosing a new, scandal-free Athletic Director to replace the departed Lew Perkins. And the new Dean of the College, Danny Anderson, has enthusiastically embraced a variety of new initiatives from the higher-ups aimed at "research engagement." However cynical I get about the latest waive of new initiatives from new administrative heights (how many new "Associate Vice-Provosts of Whatever" will it take before we have enough Associate Vice-Provosts, when clearly what we lack are enough teaching assistants, secretaries, office managers, computer technicians, and data processors, who would, once all were making better salaries, actually make the University a far better place to work and study? Or how many new fancy research buildings do we need on West Campus while our own classrooms continue to have embarrassing ceilings

and such?), I do still enjoy the fact that so many of us are truly engaged in our research, teaching, and service.

And as the Chair's message notes, once again there are more of us engaged in this department, faculty-wise, in 2010-11, with the new additions of Margaret Pearce and Shawn Milrad. The graduate students have re-energized the department with a new Department of Fun, which seems to actually lead to fun. And the very positive external review – no, not really fun – has led to some of the most engaged faculty meetings and sub-meetings in years as we discuss changes to our undergraduate and graduate programs. And most importantly, the addition of some new stars has led to a resurgence of the GeoTigers in the Lawrence Adult Soccer League, all the way up to 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Club Level. Who knows, by the time Sporting Kansas City (what used to be the Kansas City Wizards of Major League Soccer) hosts a World Cup game in 2022, the KU Geography contingent might be engaged in merriment in some vast corner of the new stadium.

—Garth Myers  
gmyers@ku.edu

## Degrees Awarded

Dissertations and theses completed during the 2009-10 period are as follows (advisor in parenthesis):

**Mohammad Al-Sahli, PhD**, "Characterizing Surface Temperature and Clarity of Kuwait's Seawaters Using Remotely Sensed Measurements and GIS Analyses" (Kevin Price)

**Christopher J. Atkinson, PhD**, "Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Extreme Midwestern Blizzard Storm Tracks and Subsequent Federal Disaster Declarations (Johan Feddema)

**Thomas W. Baffa, MA**, "Effects of Climate Change on Water Resources in Garden Park, Colorado" (Johan Feddema)

**Dane G. Bailey, MA**, Non-thesis option (Bill Johnson)

**Christopher R. Bishop, MA**, "Cross-year Crop Classification using MODIS NDVI Data" (Steve Egbert)

**Tyler L. Buck, MS**, "The Impact of Landcover Change on Water and Carbon Cycling in the U.S. Central Plains Grasslands" (Nate Brunzell)

**Woojin Chang, MA**, "Cultural Geography of Early Chinese Americans in Idaho and Montana, 1865-1900" (Pete Shortridge)

**Stephanie L. Day, MA**, "Home Away from

Home: The Evolution and Meaning of American Truck Stops" (Pete Shortridge)

**Kevin E. Dobbs, MA**, "Evaluation of the USGS National Elevation Dataset and the Kansas Biological Survey's FLDPLN ("Floodplain") Model for Inundation Extent Estimation" (Steve Egbert)

**Matthew D. Dunbar, PhD**, "Mobile Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Humanitarian Demining" (Jerry Dobson and Steve Egbert)

**Angela M. Gray, PhD**, "Emplacing Displacement: Cultural Landscapes of Refugee-hosting in Ukwimi, Zambia" (Garth Myers)

**David T. McDermott, PhD**, "The Naming, Identification, and Protection of Place in the Loess Hills of the Middle Missouri Valley" (Pete Shortridge)

**Lisa G. Messinger, MA**, Non-thesis option, (Bill Johnson)

**Yoshinori Nakazawa-Ueiji, PhD**, "Environmental Granularity, Rivers, and Climate History as Shaping Factors for Species' Distribution and Diversity Patterns" (Steve Egbert)

**Thomas B. Overly, MA**, "Assessing and Analyzing Near-Surface Radar Snow Accumulation Layers at Summit, Greenland" (Xingong Li)

**Justin P. Penka, MA**, Non-thesis option (Xingong Li)

**Matthew D. Petrie, MA**, "Climate Forcings and the Nonlinear Dynamics of Grassland Ecosystems" (Nate Brunzell)

**Brent J. Piepergerdes, PhD**, "A Cinematic Nation: Representation, Regionalism, and the National Question in Postwar Italy" (Pete Shortridge)

**Jamie E. Shinn, MA**, "Political Ecology and Coastal Conservation: A Case Study of Menai Bay Conservation Area, Tanzania" (Garth Myers)

**Austen J. Thelen, MA**, "Place and Identity in the North Caucasus" (Shannon O'Lear)

**Eric M. Weber, MA**, "DasyTools: A User-Friendly Dasymetric Mapping Toolkit with Automated Accuracy Assessments" (Terry Slocum)

**Tingting Xu, MA**, "Vector Zonal Operations for Spatiotemporal Analysis" (Xingong Li)



**John Augelli**

I approach my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (Jan. 30) grateful for the gene pool into which I dipped. Yes, I limp, but he who limps still walks, and after a few drinks may even dance.

Tom Brokaw described mine as "the greatest generation". I don't think that we were so great, but our era was distinctive. My generation struggled through and survived the Great Depression; it survived World War II; and then, it went on to propel America to the acme of her international moral leadership and its domestic economic and political potential. Arguably and in retrospect, my contemporaries may have helped America achieve her finest hour.

And then as my generation faded into history, somehow America's greatness began to ebb. The "bottom" line and winning at any cost began to tarnish our social and political values. Free enterprise became a mask for unfettered greed. It sent American industries and jobs abroad; it allowed corporations to retreat to tax havens overseas; it authored a convoluted tax code full of loopholes for special interests; and it flooded the country with millions of illegal aliens. Perhaps above all, the bottom line corrupted the American political process so that only candidates with deep pockets or those who could attract money from special interests had any chance of succeeding. All of which reduced the once-proud and powerful American middle class to a shadow of its former self.

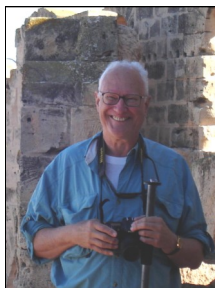
Similarly, at first the threat of communism and after 9/11 the threat of terrorism were used as a license to bypass the constitutional right of Congress to declare war, thereby allowing the President to initiate every conflict from Korea to Afghanistan. And to what ends? Korea was a draw, but it still requires an American military presence at substantial costs. The invasions of Granada and Panama were petty personal whims of Presidents Reagan and Bush. We lost in Vietnam at a horrendous cost in lives and money. The invasion of Iraq by G.W. Bush was justified by the threat of

weapons of mass destruction. No such weapons were found, but American lives and money were expended at a destructive rate. (Equally disturbing was the tarnishing of America's moral status among nations as the Geneva Convention was circumvented at Abu Gharaib Prison, Guantanamo, and the interrogation prisons secretly established outside our borders.) The jury is still out on Iraq, and in Afghanistan, we may end up with a hung jury and a continued loss of lives and money.

Given the twin legacies of greed spawned by the bottom line and the cost of wars of dubious justification and results, is it any wonder that the present and future generations are in hock to the frightening tune of trillions of dollars? As a nation we seem to be in a state of denial about the frightful costs of wars, of maintaining a vast military establishment, and of maintaining ballooning entitlement programs; and as individuals many have tried to sustain an artificially high standard of living by going into debt. In the past each generation lived at a higher standard than their parents, but (perish the thought) in the future American society as a whole may have to absorb a drop in its living standards. Like the old gray mare, the American dream just aint what it used to be.

Perhaps as it continues to fade away, the parting words of my generation should paraphrase Louis 15th, "Apres moi, le deluge" (After us, the deluge).

jaugelli@comcast.net



**Bob McColl**

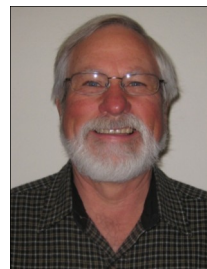
I continue to spend most of my time in Naples, Florida, from where I make frequent visits to Costa Rica, southern Europe and North Africa.

This year I was asked to reprise and update my 1999 article on the Geographies of China for Education About Asia. It is clear that China has moved from a "hoe culture" of intensive farming to a "factory culture" of manufacturing. Soon, most of its 1.38 billion will be urban (perhaps

70% by 2030). In the process I determined there also was a piece on how China's new geographies affect its global geo-politics. So, it seems there soon will be 2 new articles on China. Kind of fun and enlightening as well.

Suzanne and I continue to support the American Geographical Society with fellowships as well as the AGS Library in Milwaukee. I urge my colleagues to both visit this amazing research collection as well as donate photos from their geographic travels and research. Geographers DO see the world differently and we need to preserve and share these "views" with future generations. Many are snapshots in time of places and people changing rapidly.

mccoll@ku.edu



**Curt Sorenson**

We've been busy out here in Garden Park in 2010. We had another successful field course during which students were involved in monitoring a major five year thinning project on Bureau of Land

Management forests. The object is to improve forest quality at the same time that fire potential is reduced. Understory vegetation also gains in quality and diversity as a result of increased sunlight to the forest floor following thinning. Students are responsible for determining forest stand characteristics such as density, tree height and diameter, crown condition, and age of trees. They also determine understory characteristics using a Daubenmire transect technique as well as ground fuel conditions. In addition, measurements are taken to determine soil properties and wildlife utilization of areas that are to be thinned, and all these data are recollected at each site for years after thinning has taken place. Cultural geographers working with Soren Larsen and Emily Pabst worked on issues pertaining to land and water usage which Soren can share in his paragraph in the newsletter.

Peggy and I have embarked on several other projects during the past year, too. Borrowing from the KU/BLM project, we partnered with BLM, the Colorado Division of Forestry, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Colorado Department of Wildlife, along with three adjacent landowners, to gather enough

grant funding to thin an additional 455 acres of private ground here in the Four Mile Creek drainage basin. We also met in early December to expand on the number of treated acres in the valley next year. Peggy has joined the Fremont County Heritage Commission and is president of the Friends of the Garden Park School. She has been successful in gaining state historic structure designation for the 1895 adobe school and has received \$75,000 in grant money plus \$13,000 in matching funds for its restoration. We still have another \$12,000 to go before reconstruction begins next spring. Anyone interested in helping can do so by making a check out to the Gold Belt Tour with Garden Park School in the memo line and sending it to us at 5054 Garden Park Road, Canon City, CO 81212.

We still find time for our hiking club and have seen a lot of Colorado in the past year. We've gotten in a lot of skiing now that I'm old enough to ski for free and our camper has had a pretty good workout, too. I love working on old vehicles and have finished two pickups and am working on two jeeps now. As always, there's a cold beer in the refrigerator and visitors are welcome. So please let us know when you're going to be out this way and stop by.

csorenson@ku.edu



Looks like Pete and Chris "got the memo!"



### Dave Braaten

Dave Braaten traveled to Greenland this past June with 11 graduate students and 3 other faculty members who are

part of the NSF IGERT Climate Change: Humans and Nature in the Global Environment (C-CHANGE) program at KU. The group of 15 flew to and from Greenland on a U.S. Air Force National Guard C-130 Hercules along with several other research teams from Stratton Air National Guard base in upstate New York. They spent 8 days just below the Arctic Circle in the Greenland town of Kangerlussuaq examining ice sheet changes and glacial retreat. This trip was the culmination and field component of a spring semester (2010) course called "Climate Change in Greenland and the Arctic".

This past summer, the National Science Foundation renewed the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets (CReSIS) for a second five-year term. This award will take CReSIS through its second and final phase as a NSF Science and Technology Center. The second phase of the Center will include fieldwork in Greenland and Antarctica with ice penetrating radar instruments flown on a UAV aircraft.

braaten@ku.edu



### Chris Brown

Chris Brown is now into his third year of directing the Environmental Studies Program. He developed

a new course with Johan Feddema and Greg Cushman (History) entitled, "The Global Environment I and II". It is a year-long team-taught course that in a way combines the three professors' freshman courses into one (Feddema's Scientific Principles of Environmental Studies, Cushman's Environment and History, and Brown's Environment, Culture, and Society). A few Brazilian scholars have been spending their sabbaticals at KU working with Chris over the last several months. Ricardo Cordeiro and Maria Rita Donalizio are public health professors from the State University of Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, and they are working

with Chris and Town Peterson on expanding the geographic and ecological elements of the study of infectious disease diffusion in Brazil. (They actually drove to Lawrence from São Paulo last January in their Mitsubishi 4X4!) Another professor is Marcio Oliveira, the head of entomology at the National Institute of Amazonian Research. He is working with Chris to develop a geo-referenced database of Amazonian orchid bees, which will aid in biodiversity conservation planning for areas that are undergoing development in the rain forest. Chris's research in Brazil and Kansas on agricultural monitoring is also moving forward with funding from Brazil's equivalent of our USDA (EMBRAPA) and NSF, respectively.

jcbrown2@ku.edu



### Nate Brunsell

Nate received tenure this year! He was also the chair of the 29th Conference for Agricultural and Forest Meteorology which was held

in Keystone, Colorado. After receiving tenure Nate was awarded a prestigious fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung/Foundation to support a year long research stay at the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry in Jena, Germany. The family left for Germany in July and have been enjoying their time in Europe. The field stations are continuing data collection, with the usual trials and tribulations of keeping instruments operating in the field 24-7 for 365 days a year, now with the added benefit of being half way around the world. In addition, grants were awarded, papers were written, classes were taught, conferences were attended.

brunsell@ku.edu



### So-Min Cheong

So-Min Cheong spent her summer doing field work in Korea on the social consequences of a large oil spill. She has published two

papers and three are under way on this topic this year. She plans to apply her knowledge and findings to the study of the Deepsea Horizon oil spill. Her research on coastal adaptation to climate change has taken off, and she has three papers in

## Faculty News

press or published including a special issue in Climatic Change. She is currently pursuing collaboration with Stanford faculty and students on this research theme during her fall leave as a visiting professor at Stanford. She continues to work as an IPCC lead author on a special report on climate extremes, and the two author meetings abroad this year provided great learning experience. She was also fortunate to get several research grants from the Korea Foundation, Yonsei University and the Korea Emergency Management Agency, Stanford, and KU in 2010, and they greatly helped facilitate her ongoing research.

somin@ku.edu



### Jerry Dobson

Jerry spent all last year on a National Academies fellowship in Washington, DC. Each year ten

Jefferson Science Fellows are selected from all science disciplines, and he was the first geographer ever. All of them serve in the U. S. Department of State. His title was senior scientist in the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues, and his portfolio included four major topics of interest to the government. The first was a focus on human geography, including the understanding of culture, language, lifestyles and livelihoods, through the Bowman Expeditions program already underway at KU in partnership with the American Geographical Society. This program leads participatory mapping in a number of countries throughout the world, and Jerry worked with Dr. Lee Schwartz, The Geographer of the United States, to expand the program in an effort to converge efforts across government agencies and organizations around the world. His second focus was to lead the development of DemoBase, a new population database, which focused this year on Haiti and Pakistan. Also, he worked to improve the use of geographic information systems in the State Department and the U. S. Agency for International Development in order to improve their internal infrastructure and capacity to coordinate worldwide programs. Finally, Jerry authored an opinion editorial on the BP Oil Spill from a geographer's perspective that was considered by a number of officials in the

U.S. government. He continues to participate in the Office of the Geographer's efforts on human geography, participatory mapping and the Bowman Expeditions.

dobson@ku.edu



### Steve Egbert

As Steve is now well past the Social Security age for early retirement he guesses he is now in his "golden years" (or, as

some of his students would no doubt say, his declining years). Life is good and life is busy and there's probably a relationship between the two. This year Steve has been asked to take on additional management responsibilities at the Kansas Applied Remote Sensing Program as a result of the continued growth of their parent organization, the Kansas Biological Survey, and growth in grant activity. They continue to map land cover for the state, as well as detailed studies for smaller areas such as Fort Riley, and they have expanded their research and modeling activities in inundation mapping, dam breach analysis, and reservoir siting. More recently, they have teamed with Bill Johnson and others to use lidar and digital photography to perform terrain studies in Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. In the Geography Department Steve continues to serve as the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee, which he has found to be immensely rewarding. Geography is fortunate to have such an active and committed body of graduate students. Outside remote sensing, Steve's research interests currently focus on geopolitics and genocide and geospatial genealogy. His wife, Kathy, is now in her third year of teaching high school biology and botany at Ottawa High School and is enjoying it most of the time (Steve has long held that we owe an undying debt of gratitude to all secondary teachers and now he's sure of it!). As usual they didn't take much time off this year, but they did get to spend a delightful week on the Oregon coast this summer with one of their nieces – this had the added benefit of getting them out of Kansas during the hottest week of the year. Best wishes to all.

segbert@ku.edu

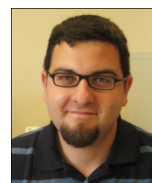


### Johan Feddema

After serving the first part of this year as Acting chair, Johan was happy to get some time back to devote to

research and teaching. Most exciting is his involvement in what we hope to be a prototype course for a revised General Education curriculum for KU. Together with Chris Brown and Greg Cushman, he is teaching a two semester course sequence (Global Environment I & II) that attempts to integrate physical science (Earth history, climate and ecology) together with components on the history of Science, and more specifically the history of Evolution and Climate Change Science and the social aspects of environmental change. The goal is to provide students not only with a basic background on environmental science, but to provide a perspective on how that science has involved, and how that science is relevant to decision making about environmental issues. On the research front, Johan has continued his work with researchers at the National Center for Atmospheric Research on simulating urban systems in Global Climate Models and he is also working on an NSF EPSCoR project mentioned in the Chair's letter.

feddema@ku.edu



### Dan Hirmas

Dan and his family have continued in their third year at KU. Dan's eldest daughter, Ella, started pre-school this past fall and

Dan's youngest, Kuyper, wants to be more like her big sister everyday. On the research front, Dan continues to work on quantifying soil and surface morphology. He has presented this work at conferences and invited talks this past year and has several publications forthcoming. Highlights this year include taking on his first graduate student, Dennis Eck, involving several undergraduates in research projects, and being a part of the reading group started by Nate last year on land-atmosphere dynamics.

hirmas@ku.edu

## Faculty News



### Jay Johnson

Jay enjoyed two months in the field at the beginning of 2010. First a full month in New Zealand conducting research with PhD student, Will Price, at the Waitangi

Treaty Grounds on the Bay of Islands. Along with interviews and archival research at several libraries and national archive facilities across the country, Will and Jay also did extensive field mapping of the boundaries of the Waitangi National Reserve. The month in New Zealand was followed by a month in residence as a visiting scholar at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Much of the summer was spent teaching tribal college students in the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center Summer Internship Program,

funded by the NSF EPSCoR program. Jay is currently co-chairing KU's participation in an IGERT conference on bridging traditional knowledge and interdisciplinary science in environmental change research to be held in Juneau in March, 2011. Jay is co-editing a volume with KU alum, Soren Larsen entitled, *A Deeper Sense of Place: Stories and Journeys of Indigenous-Academic Collaboration* for Oregon State University Press as part of the Mellon Foundation's First Peoples publishing initiative. Aside from his academic pursuits, Jay attended the Topeka Harley Davidson motorcycle safety course in August and is the owner of a Buell Blast.



jaytjohnson@ku.edu



### Bill Johnson

It has been a good year for our graduate student group. Mark Bowen is finishing up his dissertation on

playas wetlands here on the High Plains, research which has produced several major journal articles (*Wetlands*, *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, *Physical Geography*, plus one in preparation); he currently is pursuing job announcements (while being a daytime caregiver for his son Oliver). Terri

Woodburn passed her comprehensive exams and is well into her dissertation research on the biosilicate record of climate change during the waning of the last glaciations—this will be good stuff. Alan Halfen has not been sitting on his butt either—he has published his MS research (*The Holocene*) and a paper in *Palaios* about ant nest architecture (Steve Hasiotis, co-author); he and I also have several dune-related projects nearing the manuscript stage. Scott Klopfenstein is on a roll as well—in addition to being a father, having a spouse taking classes, and being a half-time GRA at the Kansas Geological Survey, he is collecting cores from pioneer cemeteries (Missouri to Colorado) for his MS research, a study that will give us a better perspective on pre-settlement soil conditions. Aaron Koop is in the early stages of his program and is also working with me on our USGS STATEMAP project (Jefferson and Haskell counties, KS). Of note, he has recently completed a high-resolution, GIS-based map/database of sand-deposit distribution in Kansas. Since there is no “his student” “my student” in our vocabulary, I should mention Dennis Eck, who is working on soil architecture—he has been a great addition to our physical program and is exploring ways to render soil form and relate it to process, with Dan Hirmas.

I have also been incredibly fortunate in have first-rate undergraduate students working with me. After many semesters and summers of outstanding dedication and effort, Karen Ohmes has finally left—she graduated and is now in the graduate program here in Geology. Scott Wooten, whom I mentioned in last year's newsletter, is still plugging away for me—ask it and Scott will do it! He is, however, graduating this December (2010) and going onto a position in environmental geology. Tanner Popp is also finishing up his time in the laboratory—he has become a real soils expert, but also one well educated in earth-systems processes at the global scale. Unfortunately for me, he, too, is graduating and going off to serve his military obligation as an officer. Richard Rockel, another December 2010 graduate, has worked since spring 2010 on a USGS EDMAP project with others of us. He has done an outstanding job of taking the mapping project to completion

and of compiling and rendering large amounts of data. A new undergraduate in the lab is Alex Gareis—a dedicated individual who has worked all fall semester on soil cores from wetlands (at Tanner's side), for undergraduate research credit and experience. The newest member of the laboratory crew is Marco Vallotto, who is shouldered with the responsibility of quickly learning how to run several instruments before the others graduate.

As usual, I am here to learn from my students, so I follow their interests somewhat, but my focus still remains paleoenvironmental reconstruction. In recent years, I have been leaving the Plains for a bit each summer to work on dunes and archaeological sites in central Alaska, plus I am involved in a couple of projects starting up in the Middle East and Africa. At home, Claudia and I are doing well. We have moved from Tonganoxie and have a temporary home until we find or build a new place in Lawrence sometime spring 2011.

wcj@ku.edu



### Rolfe Mandel

Rolfe D. Mandel, Courtesy Professor in the KU

Geography Department and Senior Scientist at the Kansas Geological Survey, was the 2010 recipient of the Geological Society of America's (GSA) prestigious Kirk Bryan Award for Excellence in recognition of his 2008 paper, “Buried Paleoindian-age Landscapes in Stream Valleys of the Central Plains, USA,” published in the journal *Geomorphology*. The Kirk Bryan Award is the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division's only named GSA award, and is bestowed upon the author of a published paper of distinction advancing the science of geomorphology or some related field. The award was presented to Rolfe in a ceremony held November 2, 2010, at the annual meeting of GSA in Denver. Rolfe is an alumnus of the KU Geography Department (M.A., 1980).

mandel@ku.edu

## Faculty News



### George McCleary

George's perspective on 2010 began in November 2009, at the International Cartographic Conference meetings in Chile. When

one sees cartography in an international (global) context, the reality of our parochial program generates energy and ideas and more. Equally exciting, in a different context, was an introduction to the geography of wine in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay! And even more exciting than that was a week at Scout camp with his grandson.

For the year, there was, as there has been for a long time, the challenges of advising students with diverse interests and needs, all trying to the best of their abilities and vastly different levels of motivation (appropriate and inappropriate) to leap the hurdles associated with life in the heart of the Jayhawk Nation.

George's research has taken two courses. First was the completion, with Karen Cook, of a long contribution to Barney Warf's encyclopedia, on the history of cartography. Second, more focused work is being given to a complexity that has been sidelined for too long—an effort to advance the understanding of the map design process. The question is, how much can be applied from the elements and principles of graphic design to the creation and organization of maps.

mcclery@ku.edu



### David Mechem

The past year has been a busy one, balancing teaching duties, research, and the supervising of graduate and

undergraduate students. David has settled into teaching the two-semester Dynamic Meteorology sequence and last fall taught a graduate-level class on numerical modeling. He is very excited about the group's regional climate research, done in collaboration with Profs. Brunsell and Feddema and funded by NSF EPSCoR. A research project on evaluating the sensitivity of Great Plains regional climate to irrigation is being undertaken by David Huber, an M.S. student in the group. Fundamental research on clouds and precipitation processes continues. A project recently funded by NOAA aims to

explore the mechanisms driving variability in marine boundary layer clouds off the western coast of South America, a poorly sampled area where climate models are acutely sensitive. The year included one amusing research accomplishment: October marked the publication of his first paper that was predominantly observational in nature, a study of post-cold-frontal clouds over the Department of Energy Atmospheric Radiation Measurement program (DOE ARM) site in northern Oklahoma. Of course, true to type, it was followed up with a modeling sensitivity study that will be published in December.

In April, David was able to witness the annual burning of the tall-grass prairie in the Flint Hills. The sight of the fires at dusk was absolutely spectacular! Next time, he plans to drag Elizabeth and his daughters out to watch the fires.

dmechem@ku.edu



### Shawn Milrad

Shawn Milrad arrived as a new faculty member (visiting assistant professor) in August 2010. He completed his Ph.D in Atmospheric Science at

McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in February 2010 under Professor John Gyakum and served as a postdoctoral fellow at McGill through the late spring of 2010. His expertise is in synoptic meteorology and weather forecasting, with the occasional splash of tropical meteorology. Although he grew up in the New York City area and did his undergraduate studies at Cornell University in scenic Ithaca, NY, Shawn is no stranger to the Great Plains, having visited on many tornado chasing occasions. In his first semester at KU, he taught the introductory meteorology class ATMO 105 and the ATMO 505 weather forecasting class. He has also managed to get a group of ATMO students to become as addicted (or at least almost as addicted) as he is to the University of Oklahoma WxChallenge, the national weather forecasting contest. Next semester, Shawn will be pinch-hitting for Dave Mechem in ATMO 660

(Advanced Dynamics) as well as teaching ATMO 605 (Forecasting Tools and Techniques). He is also planning to apply for NSF funding to continue his work on extreme precipitation events and snow squalls, and will attend and present his most recent work on extreme precipitation at the Cyclone Workshop in Monterey, California, this coming March. While this semester has been extremely hectic at times, Shawn is thrilled to be part of the team in Lindley Hall and is looking forward to an enjoyable and productive next few semesters, while grudgingly admitting that he may have to hide his support of Syracuse basketball.

s1732m108@ku.edu



### Garth Myers

Garth has just submitted the final draft of his book, *African Cities: Alternative Visions of Urban Theory*

and Practice (Zed Books, 2011). At the beginning of the Fall, Byron Caminero-Santangelo and he submitted the final version of their edited volume, *Environment at the Margins: Literary and Environmental Studies in Africa* (Ohio University Press, 2011). Garth had an article published in *African Affairs* this Fall. He experienced sheer joy in July 2010 on learning that the African Studies Center had received funding as a comprehensive National Resource Center with Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships – this is the first time in the Center's history that it has been funded under Title VI in two consecutive competitions. He got the good news sitting in an internet café in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where he traveled with his older daughter, Phebe (17). That trip with her, to Dar, Zanzibar, and Igoda, a small village in the southwestern highlands of Tanzania, was the main highlight of the year. Phebe is taking 2<sup>nd</sup>-year Kiswahili at KU while finishing her senior year at LHS and applying to college. Atlee (11) is in a play at the Lawrence Community Theatre (she is an orphan in "Annie") for the third straight year. Melanie (Hepburn) has become a Bikram Yoga aficionado as she continues to work as Assistant Dean in the School of Social Welfare.

gmyers@ku.edu





## Shannon O'Lear

Shannon O'Lear's book, "Environmental Politics: Scale and Power" was published by Cambridge University Press in the fall...just in time for her fall sabbatical! She spent

the summer working on a project with the Foreign Military Studies Office at Ft. Leavenworth, and was also invited to write a chapter on Critical Geopolitics of the Environment for a forthcoming volume on critical geopolitics edited by Jo Sharp, Klaus Dodds, and Gearoid O'Tuathail.

olear@ku.edu



## Margaret Pearce

Bozho, greetings from a new member of the faculty. Margaret's work is in cartographic design and geovisualization, map history, Indigenous cartographies, and

historical geography, and she's affiliated with the Indigenous Nations Studies program. Of late her interests have been focused on developing cartographic language for the expression of place. This will take her to two research projects in 2011, working from Lawrence during spring and in the field in Tanzania and Maine during the summer. In addition to teaching GEOG 210 (Maps, Computers, and Geographic Analysis) and GEOG / INS 801 (Indigenous Peoples of the World), this fall also found her completing her term as President of the North American Cartographic Information Society, finishing eight years of Board service to this Society.

Margaret is an explorer of the landscape, in the U.S. and elsewhere, and when not at home can be found on the road, trail, or river, with tent and notebook. She moved to Lawrence in the summer but departed soon after with two friends for a 2-week expedition paddling the Quetico backcountry by canoe, a place she'd never explored before. Margaret is looking forward to unpacking as soon as the fall semester wraps, and getting to know her new colleagues and community.

margaret.pearce@ku.edu



## Pete Shortridge

Pete Shortridge finally completed his Kansas City book this summer for the University Press of Kansas. Maps and

photographs are still needed, but the final product should be on the market in the fall. Two people also finished up theses under his direction: Woojin Chang on Chinese settlers in nineteenth-century Idaho and Montana, and Stephanie Meador on sense of place in Ouray, Colorado.

The Shortridge household added a pickup truck this year courtesy of Pete's father. So far it has hauled compost, old furniture, fenceposts, and grandchildren. Their recent travels focused on the Cherokee country in and near Tahlequah, Oklahoma. They found scraped-earth cemeteries, plush casinos, and a great western-wear store. They also enjoyed a tour of oilman Frank Phillips's plush rural retreat, Wo-la-roc, and time in the company town of Bartlesville. Their base there was Frank Lloyd Wright's Price Tower, now converted into a unique hotel. Stay there—you'll like it.

shortrid@ku.edu



## Terry Slocum

The big news for Terry is that he has received a grant from the NSF Geoscience Education program to evaluate the effectiveness of

stereoscopic displays in introductory physical geography classes, both at KU and Haskell Indian Nations University. Steve Egbert is a Co-PI on the grant and Dave McDermott (a KU alum) is leading the efforts at Haskell. Terry continues to work on the history of thematic map design – Fritz Kessler (another KU alum) and Terry have a related article that will appear in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* in early 2011.

Arlene continues to remind Terry that she would like to return to Alaska, although Terry wonders how desirable that would be when he looks at the daily weather report and notes the predicted low and high temperatures for Fairbanks, Alaska.

t-slocum@ku.edu



## Kees van der Veen

Kees' 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. In particular, the question that remains unresolved is whether the large glacier changes that are observed in Greenland are representative of long-term mass loss (the onset of ice-sheet collapse), or whether key outlet glaciers will quickly stabilize with a new geometry. The conventional view is that the speed up of outlet glaciers in Greenland resulted from ocean warming eliminating the floating ice tongue in the fjord, thereby reducing buttressing and allowing the grounded ice to move more freely and faster towards the ocean. Using a time series of ice speeds measured on Jakobshavn Isbræ possible causes were investigated for the doubling in speed on this glacier – the world's fastest glacier, now moving at more than 13 km per year. This study was part of Joel Plummer's Ph.D. research and concluded that the most likely cause was a loss of flow resistance on the grounded part, and not the loss of buttressing. A manuscript challenging the conventional view was submitted to the *Journal of Glaciology* earlier this year and, as expected, reviewers were not immediately convinced by their arguments. As one reviewer put it: "this paper presents a magnificent heresy." Nevertheless, their interpretation seems to be gaining traction and acceptance in the glaciological community and several collaborative proposals were funded this year to investigate other outlet glaciers. These collaborations involve various Departments at KU as well as other universities to ensure a multi-disciplinary approach.

cjvdv@ku.edu



## Barney Warf

Barney is having the best year of his professional life. The six-volume *Encyclopedia of Geography* appeared in

September. He has two edited volumes and 10 articles and book chapters

coming out. In May he became co-editor of *Growth and Change* and co-book review editor of a new journal, *Dialogues in Human Geography*. In January he will start a four year term as editor of the *Professional Geographer*. And in the summer of 2011, he'll be in Spain for 4 months on a Fulbright teaching award. All this has left him exhausted but happy!

bwarf@ku.edu



### Bill Woods

During 2010 Bill was the local co-organizer of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Migration; the Chair of the Review Committee for 2010 U.S. Biochar Initiative Conference, Iowa City, IA; a member of the Organizing Committee, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of the International Biochar Initiative Progressing from the *Terra Preta de Índios* to the Whole World, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil; a member of the Scientific Board of the *Bulletin of the Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi*, Belém, Brasil; a member of the International Editorial Board, *Journal of Latin American Geography*; a Topic Editor (Soils) for the *Encyclopedia of Earth*; an Official Collaborator, *Projeto As Terras Pretas de Índio da Amazônia*, Embrapa Amazônia, Manaus, Brasil; was a symposium organizer at the Amazonian Archaeology Conference in Manaus, Brasil; and served as a panelist on the USDA Global Change Programs, Sustainable Bioenergy Research: Carbon Sequestration and GHG Consequences. He was a Guest Professor at the *Centro de Energia Nuclear na Agricultura (CENA), Universidade de São Paulo* (Graduate Seminar: *Biodiversidade e Conservação nos Trópicos: Técnicas Moleculares e Bioinformática*) and a Guest Professor at the Institute of Archaeology (*Collegium Minus*), Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland (Seminar on Geoarchaeology). He conducted geoarchaeological investigation of pre-Colonial geometric

earthen structures (*geoglifos*) in Acre State, Brasil. He provided plenary addresses at the U.S. Biochar Initiative Conference and the International Biochar Initiative Conference and was the Keynote speaker at the Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory. He was a proposal reviewer for the Archeology Program and the Geography and Regional Science Program for the National Science Foundation, as well as the Research Council of Norway. He provided prepublication reviews for *Human Ecology*, *Catena*, the *Journal of Latin American Geography*, *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Diversity*, *Economic Botany*, the *Geographical Review*, the *Journal of Field Archaeology*. He presented 19 papers and his publications include the following:

Verslype, Laurent, Inès Leroy, William I. Woods, Bailey K. Young, and Paul F. Hudson. 2010. Approche interdisciplinaire de l'environnement du château de Walhain-saint-Paul (Brabant wallon). *Actes du Colloque PREBa*, edited by Isabelle Parmentier, pp. 1-10. Des Presses universitaires namuroises, Namur.

Dull, Robert A., Richard J. Nevle, William I. Woods, Dennis K. Bird, Shiri Avnery, and William M. Denevan. 2010. The Columbian Encounter and the Little Ice Age: Abrupt Land Use Change, Fire, and Greenhouse Forcing. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 100(4):1-16.

Herrmann, Bernd, and William I. Woods. 2010. Neither Biblical Plague Nor Pristine Myth. A Lesson from Central European Sparrows. *The Geographical Review* 100(2):176-186.

wwoods@ku.edu



### Margaret North, MA 1961

I don't know how many of the graduate group from my time (1958-61) at KU are still around. After one newsletter I had a brief email contact with Carol Gibbs. I am in annual contact with Mrs Sita, a visiting student from India who returned to Bombay where she had an illustrious career as a geography professor. And I have had intermittent contact with and exchange annual cards with Virginia Hull who came from an undergrad degree at KU to the University of Alberta to do a master's degree in 1962 whilst I was there for one year.

I retired in 2000 after 37 years on faculty in the geography department at UBC, and have been busy travelling every year since. My husband, also a geography prof, accompanies me and we are adding all the countries that we never got to on conferences. Our "excuse" for never being at home in Vancouver is that we are geographers! However now we have 4 small grandchildren we may have some problems explaining why we are never there. As both our daughters are also geographers I expect that their children will rapidly learn that travelling is our default setting.

robertnort@gmail.com

### Byron Augustin, MA 1968

After 42 years of university teaching I have retired. I taught one year at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK, nine years at Northwest Missouri State University and 32 years at Texas State University. During the 42 years of teaching, I estimate that I taught between 25,000 and 30,000 students. I retired as the first Distinguished Regents' Professor Emeritus in the 111-year history of Texas State University.

My wife, Rebecca, and I have purchased and remodeled a home in Valladolid and will retire in the Yucatan where we conducted Study Abroad Programs for more than 30 years. I have many fond memories of my time at the University of Kansas Department of Geography (1964-1968), and some of my favorite professors were Duane Knos, John Augelli, George Jenks, and Will Kuchler.

ba04@txstate.edu

**Vern Harnapp, PhD 1972**

Ruth and I are becoming "snowbirds" this year maintaining a summer home at Lake Viking near Gallatin in northwest Missouri (about 70 miles northeast of Kansas City) and a winter residence in Longwood, Florida (suburban Orlando). This past summer of 2010 in Missouri was about as hot and humid as in Florida, so, we didn't gain much coolness by being here in the north.

Ruth was selling a home in St. Joseph, Missouri, consequently, all our time was spent cleaning out and preparing the house for sale. At the end of four months that was, thankfully, accomplished. Maybe summer of 2011 will allow time for boating, fishing, and relaxing at the lake.

Here at Lake Viking we are about 90 miles from Lawrence so we are in the orb of television and newspaper news about the Jayhawks. We attended the Nebraska/KU football game in Lincoln which the Jayhawks lost, unfortunately.

vrharnapp@yahoo.com

**Greg Hembree, MA 1978**

Marla and I continue to live in the same house with the same two cats and an outdoor koi pond in Centreville, VA. Most of our particulars remain the same as in past years; I am still with the Town of Vienna (23 years now) and Marla is a busy genealogist working on her family tree web site. Travel associated with the web site has taken us to Massachusetts and Pennsylvania during the summer months.

I became a grandfather on July 1st when Natalie Marie Hembree was born at KU Medical Center in Kansas City, KS (a picture of me with Natalie in the hospital that day has been attached). That was also the exact day that Marla and I arrived in Kansas City for a summer trip to see the family. Since we haven't been back to the area since mid-July, we are looking forward to seeing how she has grown when we again visit K.C. over the Christmas holidays.

gregor-the-great1@earthlink.net



**Jim Huckabay, PhD 1975**

I am still chair of the Department of Geography at Central Washington University and looking forward to departmental activities surrounding the AAG meeting in Seattle in a few months..

huckabay@cwu.edu

**James C. Hughes, MA 1968, PhD 1971**

It's been another good year for Judy and me. I took classes in Victorian literature and early modern art, and have now taken 58 semester hours of "stuff" since retiring from Slippery Rock. This past summer was one of the best we have had for swimming. Judy will soon be President of the Slippery Rock Rotary Club, and we attended the international Rotary convention in Montreal in June. Then we spent some time in New York City in August. I've been President of the Board of the Grove City Community Library for twenty years, and am busy watching the construction of an addition to that building. Finally, we are going to see our daughter—who now lives in Long Beach, California—for Thanksgiving. With fond memories of KU, we wish you all the best.



james.hughes@sru.edu

**Jim Marshall, MA 1969; PhD 1972**

Bandit and I still live in our house on the shore of Topaz Lake on the Nevada side. You can check the area out at <http://topazlake.com/>. The picture at the



top could have been taken from the top of my lot. We do go to Colorado several times a year to be with son Don and his family. They in turn come here quite often especially during the Summer.

This a picture of my 15 year old grand daughter, Kendall. She was 10 when I took this picture, and Bandit was a puppy pushing 11 weeks.

swampyjim@me.com

**Robert Simpson, MA 1975**

I am doing very well. Married 25 years and retired from the garment cen-

ter. Here is my email address so we can save some trees.

RSBats@aol.com

**Stan Morain, PhD 1970**

The short story, as you know, is that I graduated Ph.D. in 1970, then became a faculty member at KU until 1974. Marilyn and I moved thence to the University of New Mexico, where I eventually served as Chair of the department for 12 years, and concurrently as Director of the Earth Data Analysis Center for 30 years. She migrated from being a scientific illustrator to being a co-owner in the FLAIR modeling and talent business. I retired in June 2008, but continue as a senior research scientist at EDAC and Emeritus Professor of Geography. Most of my career has focused on applying air- and spaceborne Earth observations to natural resources monitoring and assessment. A large part of this work was in Developing Countries. As time went on, I served four years as an elected officer of ASPRS, and later did an 8-year stint with the international equivalent (ISPRS) serving as a Commission President and Treasurer. I was awarded the 2007 Pecora Award from NASA and USGS and this year was elected Fellow in ISPRS. At present, I'm involved mainly with International organizations (ICSU, GEO, ISPRS, UNOOSA, UNSPIDER) on the general theme of environmental triggers having human health outcomes. For the past 10 years I've focused my funded research on environment and health using Earth observation data and models, and am currently editing a book provisionally titled *Environmental Tracking for Public Health Surveillance*.

Marilyn and I are in excellent health... She is heavily engaged in volunteer work at the Wildlife Rescue Center in Albuquerque (mainly bird re-habbing), and serving meals to the homeless. I'm inching toward full retirement—hopefully by mid 2011. We have lots of ideas about what we want to do after that, knowing that "life is what happens to us while we're planning." Please convey our best wishes to any at KU who may remember us. We wish all faculty and students the happiest of Holiday Seasons and great success in all their efforts.

smorain@edac.unm.edu

**Roland Mower, PhD 1971**

We still have a soft spot in our hearts for west Kansas, wheat, and Lawrence

As always, I seem to say that retirement here in Utah is still wonderful for us, but I've begun to notice that the landscape seems to look older with each passing year. Still, we really love it here. Nona and I seem to be holding up well enough to continue enjoying our beautiful mountains with their delightful forests and abundant wildlife. Travel is still something we continue to enjoy, but we now try to avoid trips that would take us east of the Dakotas or Texas, or to any part of the West Coast. Best wishes to all those great folks back there in the flat east.

rdm@cut.net

**George Pangburn, MA 1974**

Hope that this finds all is well with my former geography colleagues from KU. My wife, Pam, and I have now been retired in the Richmond, VA area for just over a year. I am consulting part time for my former agency, the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, on special projects related to nuclear materials issues and doing some other work for private sector clients. We are both involved in Osher Institute classes at the University of Richmond as well as volunteer activities aimed at improving Osher programs at UR. One of the classes this year was on "Geopolitics and Grand National Strategies," reminiscent of political geography offerings at KU under Bob McColl. We traveled to KU in May of this year for the second Mini-College and thoroughly enjoyed it....we plan to be back again this year and encourage other alumni to consider attending. It's a great program and a chance to return and spend time in Lawrence, something that we always love to do. We also traveled to the Outer Banks for a week and to Savannah, GA for a week and I got to do a fair amount of motorcycle riding in Virginia this year. Happy holidays to all of you.

gcpangburn@hotmail.com

**John Beets, MA 1980**

I continue to work for Willbros Engineering as Principal GIS Technologist. Willbros is a 100 year old company that specializes in engineering and construction within the energy sector - upstream, mid-stream, and downstream. Out of the Kansas City office we specialize in GIS and integrity management of transmission pipeline systems. My current line of expertise is integration of pipeline integrity management requirements with GIS - particularly development of risk ranking systems. With the recent Enbridge (massive oil spill in Michigan) and PG&E (San Bruno, CA) incidents pipeline companies are reviewing and strengthening their programs aimed at avoiding line failures. It's interesting and fun work. Happy holidays to all in the Department at KU.

The photo is of me on the Great Wall of China from a business trip a few years back. Note the Harley Davidson cap -



I'm a true enthusiast having owned 3 Harleys in the last 6 years. I currently have a candy apple red Road King.

jbeets@kc.rr.com]

**David (Dave) Butler, PhD 1982**

I am in my 14th year as a faculty member at Texas State University-San Marcos. I am spending the Fall 2010 semester on Developmental Leave (aka "sabbatical" in states other than Texas). My wife Janet, an Associate Professor in the Department of Accounting at Texas State and also on leave, and I spent 7 weeks in Europe (France, Scotland, and Switzerland) during September and October as part of the leave. I spent 2 weeks collaborating at the Laboratory of



Dendrogeomorphology at the University of Bern, Switzerland; most of a week in Perth, Scotland at the "Global Change and the World's Mountains" Conference; and a

total of 4 weeks in France, in Brest (Brittany) and Paris.

At Texas State's fall faculty convocation in August (see photo), I was named one of five inaugural University Distinguished Professors at the university. This honor also carried with it a nomination to the Texas State University System (TSUS) for the position of Regents' Professor, and in mid-November I was recently notified that I have been chosen as a TSUS Regents' Professor, one of only five at Texas State and one of only 14 in the TSUS system. I will be recognized on the graduation platform during the December graduation ceremonies in the College of Liberal Arts at Texas State.

Our son Will graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. in Geography from Texas State in May, and is currently in his first year as a graduate teaching assistant and grad student in the Department of Geography at Kansas State University, where his advisor is Dr. Dick Marston. Jan and I continue to reside in San Marcos, TX, where winters are lovely and summers are hellish.

db25@txstate.edu

**Ron Shaklee, MA 1979; PhD 1983**

I continue to split my time between the Geography Department and the Honors Office. This is the beginning of my eleventh year of double duty. I still enjoy doing both and am excited about the possibilities the two positions create that support one another. This also marks the 23<sup>rd</sup> year that I have taken students to the Bahamas. I keep thinking I will one day grow tired of this little between term adventure, yet it never seems to grow old. I'm getting a bit slower (or the students are getting faster), but somehow I still manage to set a pretty good pace. San Salvador has created a lot of memories for me and for the students that have accompanied me through the years.

While I'm at it, I want to mention that we have two facebook groups. If you have a facebook account, just type in YSU Geography in the search line and we should come up as one of the options. You can also look up the YSU Bahamas group the same way. Join us on facebook and we'll send out periodic announcements about what is going on!

## Alumni News 80s

2011 is the year of the meeting. I'll be co-chairing the Bahamas Natural History Conference in June at the Gerace Research Centre on San Salvador Island. In October Youngstown State will host the annual fall meeting of the East Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers.

Greetings to all!

rshaklee@ysu.edu

### Shigeo Takahashi, MA 1982, PhD 1988

Basically, I had another regular year as a professor in a private university in Tokyo, Japan. One thing I might note is that, for the first time in my twenty-year career as a university teacher in the Department of Economics, I organized a fieldwork and lead ten students to a rural community in western Japan. The theme of the fieldwork was "Vitalizing rural communities." An increasing number of non-urban communities are facing the issue of aging since young people leave their hometowns for cities. In many such communities, however, elderly people are active and healthy, hoping to do something for their communities. They have organized and executed various events to attract tourists, but the result is not as effective as they expected. So they want to incorporate young people's ideas to their effort. It takes time to have effective results, but I think that we had a reasonable start toward the collaboration between rural elderly people and urban young students.

shigeo@econ.aoyama.ac.jp



An art project spills over to Lindley from Art & Design next door.

**Alan Arbogast, MA 1991, PhD 1995**

I haven't contributed to the annual newsletter in several years and have felt kind of lame about that. As a result, I was very glad to see this year's call for personal bios. The positive thing about waiting so long is that a lot can happen in 5 or 6 years. Here's my update in a nutshell.

From a professional standpoint, it's been a pretty good run. I continue to work at Michigan State University where I was promoted to Full Professor 2 years ago. Most of my research focuses on the geomorphology of coastal sand dunes along Lake Michigan, which are genuinely awesome indeed. I wrote an introductory textbook in physical geography that was published by Wiley. The book is doing well and the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition was just completed as of this writing. I teach a wide range of classes in the predictable kinds of things, including a geomorph class every 2 years that ends with a week-long field trip to the central Plains in May. My students love it and think they are really doing something exotic by coming to Kansas. Parents are often nervous, however, because they assume their kid will be blown away by a tornado. Another major highlight for me has been involvement in MSU's very good study abroad program. I helped establish a course in Australia that is geared toward MSU student-athletes so they can participate in an international studies experience while they continue to train (with Aussies) in their respective sports. It's based out of Sydney where we work at the Olympic site of the 2000 games for about 5 weeks in our summer. I teach a geography class that includes field trips to the Blue Mountains and the Great Barrier Reef.....not bad.

On the personal front many things have changed, while yet remaining the same. Jennifer (my wife and former KU Geography undergraduate office assistant.....thought I'd throw that in) teaches at the local community college as a reading instructor. Our girls, Hannah



and Rosie, are now 15 and 11, respectively. That means, of course, that I am significantly older than I was when I roamed the halls of Lindley as a grad student many moons ago. Although Jenn and I have lived in Michigan for some 15 years now, and like it here, we remain staunch KU hoops fans. To commemorate the glorious title game of 08, I purchased the letters spelling "Kansas" that were on the sign at the bar where Jayhawk Jenn and I watched the game (with some grad students who were sucking up to me) that night. Since the manager sold them to me for the rather unsightly sum of \$10 per (she knew I was a sucker), Jenn thought I was nuts, but they sure look good in my office. I keep up with the goings on in the Heartland, in large part due to John Dunham's (KU Geography, 1995) annual visit up here to watch what he calls "real college football". I also see my old advisor Bill (Johnson) sort of regularly at meetings, which is always great.

So that about wraps it up. The rest is background noise as far as the newsletter is concerned. It's always fun to think about KU Geography and the great vibes I still have for that time in my life. I always enjoy reading the newsletter and am glad to contribute this year.

**Craig Campbell, PhD 1993**

This year has been pretty busy with lots of travel. In April, Marta finished her year and a half mission for the LDS Church in Romania. Betty and I went there to pick her up and we all spent 2 weeks traveling around the country. It was an eye opening experience. After several days in Bucharest and to Giugiu/Ruse crossing the bridge over the Danube into Bulgaria briefly, we then went to Sinaia in the Carpathian Mountains, and then to Brasov, Sigisoara, Cluj-Napoca, Aiud, Alba Iulia, and Sibiu in the Hungarian basin. I tried to learn enough Romanian for basic communication - it was an intense experience. Knowing Spanish helped a lot, but it's not like just picking up Portuguese.

and Rosie, are now 15 and 11, respectively. That means, of course, that I am significantly older than I was when I roamed the halls of Lindley as a grad student many moons ago. Although Jenn and I have lived in Michigan for some 15 years now, and like it here, we remain staunch KU hoops fans. To commemorate the glorious title game of 08, I purchased the letters spelling "Kansas" that were on the sign at the bar where Jayhawk Jenn and I watched the game (with some grad students who were sucking up to me) that night. Since the manager sold them to me for the rather unsightly sum of \$10 per (she knew I was a sucker), Jenn thought I was nuts, but they sure look good in my office. I keep up with the goings on in the Heartland, in large part due to John Dunham's (KU Geography, 1995) annual visit up here to watch what he calls "real college football". I also see my old advisor Bill (Johnson) sort of regularly at meetings, which is always great.

So that about wraps it up. The rest is background noise as far as the newsletter is concerned. It's always fun to think about KU Geography and the great vibes I still have for that time in my life. I always enjoy reading the newsletter and am glad to contribute this year.

**Craig Campbell, PhD 1993**

This year has been pretty busy with lots of travel. In April, Marta finished her year and a half mission for the LDS Church in Romania. Betty and I went there to pick her up and we all spent 2 weeks traveling around the country. It was an eye opening experience. After several days in Bucharest and to Giugiu/Ruse crossing the bridge over the Danube into Bulgaria briefly, we then went to Sinaia in the Carpathian Mountains, and then to Brasov, Sigisoara, Cluj-Napoca, Aiud, Alba Iulia, and Sibiu in the Hungarian basin. I tried to learn enough Romanian for basic communication - it was an intense experience. Knowing Spanish helped a lot, but it's not like just picking up Portuguese.

In June we moved all our kids to Utah. It was a weird trip as I had to have a kidney stone removed in Orem two days after arriving. I didn't have fun until Betty and I drove home visiting the Mormon Pioneer Center in Florence, Nebraska, and the Amana Colonies in Iowa. Justin is working as a grip for a Provo production company that makes commercials and infomercials. Our grandson Keaton is now walking and learning new words every day - but I miss him and haven't seen him since June (guess where we're going for Christmas this year?). Marta has started school at Utah Valley University (UVU), which has nearly 30,000 students now, and Mickey is working at a "Sticker Shop" kiosk in the University Mall in Orem. When we finally got back home, the house was empty and Betty cried for almost an entire week!

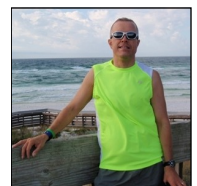
Went to a productive ELDAAG Meeting in Grand Rapids - Alan Arbogast was there but I never crossed paths with him. Hope everyone is well out Jayhawk way.

cstevencampbell@sbcglobal.net

**John Dunham, PhD 1996**

I'm now into my sixth year as Cartographic Services Manager for the Kansas Geological Survey, producing geologic maps and geologic GIS data for the KGS. I have two student employees working for me on several mapping projects, some of which are nearing completion. Our most notable new maps released in 2010 were new surficial geology maps of Finney and Geary counties. The Finney map is an update of the 1993 map.

At home, wife Cindy (KU Geography, '84) and I both ran the Houston Marathon in January and the Chicago Marathon in October (10-10-10!). I again ventured to East Lansing, Michigan for a September visit with MSU Jayhawk Al Arbogast and family. The Amtrak ride from Lawrence to East Lansing and back is quite enjoyable, and getting to be another reason to look forward to the trip. While there, I also was able to spend



some time with another KU Geography alum, Randy Schaeztl. Thanks to Randy, I also got to go to a terrific MSU-Notre Dame football game.

dunham@kgs.ku.edu.

## Kelly Gregg, PhD 1994

Karen and I are both still (19 years) working at Jacksonville State University, in northeastern Alabama. This last year, I've spent a lot of time developing programs at our "Little River Canyon Field School" Center. We had previously obtained about \$7 million in outside funding to build a visitor center / National Park Service Headquarters on 40 acres adjacent to Little River Canyon National Preserve (yes - pure Federal Government pork). This Fall we finished up work on about a mile and a half of signed interpretative trails. At one of the "learning stations", we re-assembled a circa 1832 Cherokee log cabin that we had earlier saved from destruction and moved to the site.



In more serious applied biogeography research, I've been doing work on re-introducing an extremely rare and endangered carnivorous Green Pitcher Plant (*Saracenia oreophila*) back into part of its natural habitat. At the moment, it can only be found in about a dozen locations anywhere due to habitat destruction. I identified some likely spots - in terms of soils and hydrology - and, working with the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, set about about 50 "babies" grown in greenhouses from seed. They seem to be doing well, but we won't know for sure until next Spring. I've enclosed a photo of Karen and I after we finished the "Space Coast Half Marathon" down in Cocoa Beach, Florida. We participated (note the avoidance of the word "ran") in the event and came in third (in the costume contest) out of a field of about a thousand. We are dressed as Kang and Kodos from the Simpson's - complete with tentacles. If this geography thing

doesn't work out, I may just become a seamstress!

kegregg@jsu.edu

## Mike Ingram, PhD 1996

I had been working toward this year for a long time. As I had always planned, once I met the minimum age requirement I retired at the end of May with over 30 years in federal service. As it turned out I spent most of it working for the U.S. Army as a civilian at Ft. Leavenworth. Once we were in Kansas, we never wanted to leave!

After retiring, Bonnie and I started taking short trips around the state. We visited Pittsburg and ate the famous Crawford County fried chicken at both Chicken Annie's and Chicken Mary's, as seen shortly before our trip on the TV show, Food Wars. We stayed a couple nights for the first time in Ft. Scott. We spent a long time touring the Fort Scott National Historic Site, which features a great renovation of the frontier fort. On that trip we also visited Mine Creek Battlefield, a Kansas Historic Site where it is relatively easy to visualize the flow of the Civil War battle fought there.

We spent an overnight at the Eldridge Hotel in Lawrence and several nights at the Westmoreland Inn, which is adjacent to the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City. In early fall we spent three nights in Council Grove as a base to visit the Konza Prairie, the Tallgrass National Preserve, and Abilene. During these trips we ate at five of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Cuisine including both the Free State Brewing Company and Wheatfield's in Lawrence, Bobo's Diner in Topeka, the Hays House in Council Grove, and the Brookville Hotel in Abilene.

We look forward to seeing even more of Kansas and beyond in the next year. As always, Best Wishes to all!

DrTastee@kc.rr.com

## Joseph Kerski, MA 1993

I serve on the Esri Education Team in Denver Colorado. I am writing a tribal GIS book, a book about public domain spatial data, write GIS-based curriculum, and support teaching and learning with GIS around the world.

This year I taught in Kenya and in about 10 US states. In 2011 I will serve as President of the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE). Is anyone reading this an NCGE member? Consider joining! <http://www.ncge.org>

jkerski@esri.com

## Vickie Long, MA 1993

Greetings from Madison, Wisconsin!

We now live on a small blue island in a vast Red Sea. The November mid-terms drowned our crusader for campaign-finance reform, Senator Russ Feingold, along with a complete flip of the state legislature and governor and two House seats in an unprecedented flood of largely anonymous money, unleashed by the Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens' United*. This fundamentally changes the meaning of the expression from the 1950's, "Better dead than red"!

We won't be drinking too much tea just yet since Allan took up home beer brewing last March. Over 33 gallons went from brew kettle to bottle so far, mostly



English-style bitters and India pale ales. These were good, but I still prefer wine. Allan also planted some hop vines in our front yard; I stuck with more conventional crops like cucumbers and sweet potatoes.

I am still working as a librarian at the state Resources for Libraries & Lifelong Learning (formerly the Reference and Loan Library). I am doing training and technical support for WISCAT, the statewide interlibrary loan system. With people retiring and no replacements, it seems that there's a lot more work with a lot fewer people.

Allan has been developing an interactive instructional website for the National Atlas using topographic maps, air-photo imagery, and digital-elevation models to illustrate physiographic features. This is a successor to the discontinued USGS Set of *100 Topographic Maps* instructional print-edition set. The first dozen maps may be viewed at <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/100tops/>

[index.html](#). The introduction to the series is currently posted on the National Atlas home page. He hopes to have about 60 posted by the end of FY 2011.

We both plan to retire in 2012. Allan is eligible in January, and I am ready to get out of the saddle as soon as possible. In our monthly dinners I have with department retirees, I have not met one who has any regrets. We are safely invested in US treasuries, have paid off the mortgage, and have no debts. We only hope the State or the new Congress do not mess with the retirement benefits we have been promised for over 20 years.

My chemo treatments for breast cancer are now over (thank goodness!) and the prognosis is very good. My new hair has come in really curly!

In solidarity,  
Vickie and Allan Long  
adtrlong@gmail.com

**Taylor Mack**, MA 89, PhD 92

I forgot to turn in anything for last year, but I am still at Louisiana Tech University, located in North Central Louisiana in the city of Ruston. Having served as Vice-Chair for two years, I was recently elected as the new Chair of the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG), and started my two-year term on July 1, 2010. I am still plugging away at the Historical Geography of Honduras, and recently began research on agricultural change in North Central Louisiana since 1945. At LA Tech, I was recently elected as Parliamentarian of the University Senate and began my fourth year on the Tech Honor Council. I was also asked to be a member of one of the university's Tech 2020 Working Groups to help with long-term planning at the LA Tech. I also bought my first house in Sept 2009, and thank you for paying your taxes and giving me a new-home owner tax credit this past spring (\$8k!). I have also been working on bonsai trees for the last couple of years as a hobby. During the summer I stopped by Lawrence to see Bill Woods, and stopped by the Department offices in Lindley Hall to say hello. Not being in Lawrence since 1998, I found it

amazing how much taller the trees are on campus!

tmack@latech.edu

**Chuck Martin**, MA 1985, PhD 1990

Greetings from the Little Apple, a now basketball-crazy town! Another calendar year is rapidly coming to an end. Professionally, I spent three months this summer in central Germany on a research fellowship sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation examining recent floodplain sedimentation and heavy metal storage along the Dill River. The study sites were close to areas where I have worked in the past, but involved different upstream conditions, including a history of iron mining which released substantial quantities of trace elements to the river over the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. I look forward to publishing results from the research in 2011. Germany was at a fever-pitch from mid-June to mid-July with the national soccer team reaching the semi-finals of the World Cup in South Africa. Sabine, Nicholas, and Christine joined me for a month in July following a trip to Leipzig and Berlin.

I remain Director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) Secondary Major at Kansas State. Budget cuts across the university this fiscal year took some of the program's funding from one college on campus, but fortunately the central administration was able to support us at the same level as previous years. The Geography Department has suffered under the financial difficulties by not being able to replace two faculty members who left over the past two years. We hope to be able to search for at least one of those positions a year from now.

As was the case last year, the personal news for the year is dominated by growing children and lots of school and sports activities. Christine (now 12) is in the middle of her first year of middle school (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and loves being able to change classrooms and teachers. She continues to be a soccer nut, both on and off the playing field, and could easily have been Germany's #1 soccer fan during the World Cup draped in her

German national flag and other fan articles. She also has the distinction of being the only member of the family who can get the right sound out of a Vuvuzela. Nicholas, now 16 and nearly 6' 3" tall, is a junior in high school, which means thoughts are turning to researching colleges for visits this summer. He hopes to go somewhere on the east coast, and still talks of becoming an engineer, preferably in the field of aerospace. He had a disappointing autumn season on the varsity high school soccer team with a leg injury at the start of the year and severely sprained ankle two-thirds of the way through that ended his junior season early. Sabine travels a good deal in her position as Coordinator of the Technical Assistance to Brownfields program at the Hazardous Substances Research Center on campus. I enjoyed a short visit to the KU campus this fall to attend the regional meetings of the Association of American Geographers. It was fun seeing some old friends and meeting several of the current graduate students in the department.

cwmgeog@k-state.edu

**Severin Roberts**, MA 1999

My geography news first: I had a fantastic dinner with Barry Lopez. A small group of people with a bent toward geography came, including those of us actually claiming the label of geographer. It was a fascinating conversation, including a conversation brought up by Barry about the nature of philanthropy – is it to truly help others with a gift, or is there a personal stake in the giving. I got from the conversation, that the latter is often in play with many of the situations he's encountered in the last several years. The talk he gave in Grinnell College's Faulconer Gallery was amazing and very well attended. What a captivating speaker. I was so pleased to meet him after spending years coming back to *Arctic Dreams*. On a personal side I'm still in Grinnell, Iowa, directing the annual giving program for Grinnell College. This fall I took up spinning. Wool spinning, not bike spinning, though that's also a great activity. Who knows what creative bug will bite me next. My daughter and I are doing well and it's been a big year! I'm loving having a toddler – it's the most fun thing I've ever done, and definitely not for the weak of heart.

iowageographer@yahoo.com



**Steven Schnell, MA 1994; PhD 1998**

I am still at Kutztown University (given the continuing state starving of the higher ed. budget, I no longer tack on "of Pennsylvania" to the school's name, since it hardly warrants mention anymore). I'm also about to embark on a sabbatical semester to work on my research on local food movements, and can't wait. I've also been asked on as one of the co-editors of a special issue of the *Journal of Cultural Geography* that is a tribute to the work of none other than Pete Shortridge. I'm also on the local library board and coach of one of the Odyssey of the Mind teams at Kutztown Elementary (the project for our group is to build a Rube Goldberg-type machine – the more complicated the better!) The rest of the Schnell women are doing fine, and all three are continuing their dancing careers. Marina is in second grade, and has a newfound interest in carnivorous plants (and is on the Rube Goldberg team), Fiora is in kindergarten and continues her fascination with dolphins, bunnies, and now, outer space. Lisa, meanwhile, has been pursuing her writing, with the newfound angle of art books (books where text and art intermingle). Our tenth wedding anniversary (!) is coming up in December 2010. Meanwhile, the cat, Saanawa, continues to shred the furniture, but is generally reasonably agreeable.

Schnell@kutztown.edu

**Christy Knight Spielman, MA 1999**

2010 was a year I don't wish to repeat but family and friends made it special nonetheless. I survived and recovered from a 9 hour surgery to remove 1/3 of my pancreas in Jan., spent much of Feb. and Mar. letting others help keep things together and in April I was well enough to fly to Colorado to look for a house in Boulder where Seth started as an asst. prof. of Geography this fall. We spent May and June saying goodbye to Rhode Island (great place to spend future vacations) and headed west in July via Lebanon, Columbus, Effingham, Lawrence and Hayes. We slowed down in Kansas and I enjoyed showing the family Free State Brewery, Konza Prairie, and a few other

special places. Coming from the donut capital of the world, RI, I was sorry I couldn't introduce them to Joe's Donuts (closed). We are now in a donut desert in Boulder. The drive west across KS has a very profound physical effect on me. I can feel the claustrophobic tightening I've learned to live with loosen after Salina. Aug. was spent unpacking and in Sept. my focus was on how to be a mom of a kindergartner in a new town. Oct. and Nov. have been much more 'normal' for us and I'm happy to say we're slowly getting settled and feeling pretty good! Whew. I'm ready to celebrate turning 40 in December! I'm still doing some consulting work mapping the green infrastructure of NYC, Seth is living the asst. prof. life, and the kids are fantastic and adjusted and healthy.

cspielman@gmail.com

**Janice Sterling, MA 1996**

After working about 6 years at USDA-NRCS at Fort Worth, TX, I started a new position as a Geographer at US Army Environmental Command at IMCOM-HQ at Fort Sam Houston by San Antonio, TX, March 2010. San Antonio is in Hill Country, approximately 1 hour south of Austin, TX. Work email is [Janice.sterling@conus.army.mil](mailto:Janice.sterling@conus.army.mil)

Lots of state parks, Mexican fiestas, German wurstfests, and other activities down here.

I enjoy the newsletter!

msmapper@gmail.com

**Hedley Swan, PhD 1995**

First, please note my new e-mail address.

Second, I have no news, last year I got married and this year we have been living happily ever after. Our latest venture is to open a bed and breakfast guest house since we live in Cornwall, Britain's number 1 tourist region. Also I might add it is an interesting area for geographers both physical and human. So if anyone wants to take a trip and pass it off as research you have my e-mail address.

hedleyswan@hotmail.co.uk

**Samuel Wallace, MA 1994**

I've been flying from Philadelphia to Kansas fairly often this year as my mother's health declines and her housing has been rearranged. I've also managed to attend the ESRI International Users Conference, two weeks of NASA workshops on climate change education and will still teach upper-level Geography of Latin America at the local state university. I've been teaching an Honors Colloquium on the American Dream, working to develop a new Schuylkill River Heritage and Education Center in an old industrial building and shepherding Geography courses through our Core Curriculum selection process. World Regions, Intro Cultural, Intro Physical, Intro GIS and Map Design, as well the new Climate Change and Sustainable Communities courses will be accepted into the Core and the Climate Change/Sustainable Communities course will fulfill 6 of the 13 Core goals, more than any other at the College. We will get LEED silver and maybe gold on our building design, which will house Environmental Science, Geography, Historic Preservation, Urban Studies and public access facilities.

SWallace@mc3.edu  
Montgomery County Community College



**Chris Atkinson, PhD 2010**

I continue to work as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Geography Department at the University of North Dakota.

Our son, Miles Thomas, was born August 27, 2010.

Christopher.Atkinson@und.edu

**Craig Davis, MA 2001**

Greetings and Happy Holidays to all. Things are moving right along out this way. I passed the decade mark this year at Sacramento City College and everything is moving along nicely. We finally purchased a home last year and are very happy with the property and the neighborhood. In typical California fashion it has a pool - if you are in the neighborhood stop by for a dip. My commute has been extended from three



blocks to two miles, which has taken a bit of adjustment. In the end, losing my ten minute walk has turned into a nice little bike ride which I am enjoying as a start and end to my day. The rest of our year consisted of running around after Luka and our annual trek to Belgrade, Serbia to see my wife's family. I still keep in touch with some other alums. Sadly, their ranks in Northern California have dwindled with Jason Shields relocation to Pittsburgh, PA. Now I will have to stir up someone else to trek to KU basketball games on the west coast. I am looking forward to attending the upcoming KU/Cal game in Berkeley. I hope everyone in the department is doing well and look forward to reading this years updates.

DavisCA@scc.losrios.edu

**Pinde Fu, PhD 2000**

I am still working at Esri and still living in southern California with my family. For me, this year's highlights were publishing a book and visiting KU.

First, I co-authored and published a book entitled "Web GIS: Principles and Applications"! I have been working on Web GIS related projects for many years and have been teaching a Web GIS course

(remotely to Henan University in China) recently. Based on my working experience and teaching materials, I co-authored this book. This book offers a



balance of principles, concepts, and techniques to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of Web GIS. It has ten chapters, covering the roots of Web GIS, technical basics, geospatial Web services, mash-ups, mobile GIS, geoportals, NSDI 2.0, Web GIS applications in e-Gov and e-Business, and Web GIS frontiers. For those who are interested, this book is available at many book stores and online retailers such as Amazon.

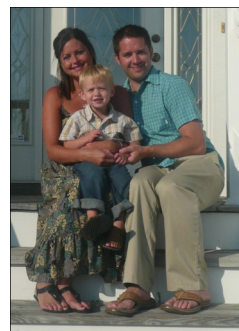
Second, I got a chance to visit KU! In November, I went to attend the GIS day event at KU. This was my first return to Lawrence after 10 years. I strolled the campus for several hours. The same beautiful campus evoked many of my fond memories, and it also made me feel that no virtual reality could replace the feeling of actually being there.

A great 2011 to everyone!

pfu@esri.com

**Matt Harman, MA 2005**

Upon graduating in the Spring of 2005, I joined Esri in their Washington, D.C. regional office located in Vienna, VA. While in northern Virginia, I married my wife, Elizabeth, who I met in Lawrence. I worked in the DC office for almost two years on Esri's sales team as a technical marketing resource. Realizing that we missed the Midwest, we transferred to Esri's St. Charles regional office. I joined this group as a developer on Esri's core cartographic production suite of tools, transitioning to the Professional Services division of Esri, providing custom implementation and

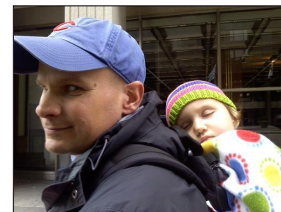


development support for our users. I now act as the Midwest Rent-a-tech Coordinator (similar to a GIS Geek Squad), providing business development and project management for all of the services projects throughout the region, with a team of GIS developers. Outside of work, my life is directed by our 3 year old, Bennett. We are welcoming our second son, Campbell, later this year.

mharman@esri.com

**Chris Post, MA 2003; PhD 2006**

Things continue to roll forward in northeast Ohio. Kent State is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest university in Ohio behind OSU (Watch your back, Gordon Gee!). I continue to teach a range of "core" classes on our Stark campus plus my Historical Geography and Geographies of Memory and Heritage courses (both upper division/graduate offerings). My book on the



memorialization of the Kansas-Missouri Border War moves forward and is due out in 2012. In the meantime, check out *Company Towns in the Americas* from University of Georgia Press. I contributed chapter five and greatly appreciate the opportunity that the editors and Andy Herod at UGA provided me. My next project focuses on the issues of scale and othering used by public officials to change several German-derived Ohio toponyms to Americanized ones during World War I (e.g., New Berlin became North Canton). One of my most exciting roles is assisting with the design of our May 4 Visitors Center and application to the NEH to help fund it. The center memorializes and educates about the day in 1970 when 4 KSU students were killed by national guardsmen while protesting the US invasion of Cambodia (CSNY's "Ohio").

Kiera continues to grow in all ways. She's goofy, quick, and is rapidly learning her numbers and letters. Amy continues to care for Kiera daily and outsource her graphic design expertise. We completely rehabbed our bathroom last summer and just finished creating a new bedroom in our basement. We visited Chicago last May, where Kiera experienced the L,

House of Blues, and Wrigley Field. It was a lot for Kiera, so she napped in her backpack as we walked Michigan Ave.

Be good to each other.

cpost2@kent.edu

**Matt Sampson, MA 2000**

I'm in my third and final year as Professor of Military Science at West Virginia University where I'm in-charge of the Army ROTC program. It's been a great experience training the cadets and living in Morgantown. The future is uncertain as I'll soon be eligible for retirement from the Army.

My wife, Elaine, has begun a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling at WVU with which she hopes to ultimately help veterans and military families. Both our children are doing well in elementary school and some extra-curricular activities. One of our recreational activities is to attend tailgates and WVU home football games. It's fun as long as the home team wins.

sampsonmr@yahoo.com

**Sarah Smiley, MA 2003; PhD 2007**

I began a new tenure-track job in August at Kent State University's Salem Campus. I teach undergraduate courses at Salem - everything from Africa to US and Canada—and am beginning to work with graduate students at the Kent Campus. A fun part of the job is working with a friend and fellow KU alum: Chris Post. I hope to do some research on housing in Tanzania this summer and to meet up with nursing students from my campus as they visit health clinics near Mt. Kilimanjaro.

ssmiley8@kent.edu



Our SPECIAL THANKS to the following recent contributors:

**Kollmorgen Geography Fund**

- Gregory Hembree
- Steve and Lisa Schnell
- Noel Kaplan
- Richard Skaggs
- Douglas Greenfield
- John and Rebecca Preston
- Marvin and Lauri Crocker
- Jeffrey Siebert
- Alan and Jennifer Arbogast
- Brian and Lori Wardlow
- Vern and Ruth Harnapp
- Kevin and Diana Blake
- Robert Shapiro
- James and Judith Hughes
- David Ridgway
- Anke Wells
- David Fong
- John Beets
- Kathleen and William Wiseman
- Steven Miller
- Ronald Shaklee

Laura Wayne  
Raymond Mueller

**George F. Jenks Scholarship Fund**

- Paul and Suzanne Crawford
- Daniel Holdgreve
- K. Stuart Shea
- Joseph Poracsky
- Michael and Margaret Hogben
- Jeffrey Siebert
- Karen Trifonoff

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.

Updating Your Information

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

We are 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](mailto: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](mailto: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)
- Stephen R. Blake (MA 1979)
- Vicki Prince Dennison (MA 1977)
- Eugene N. Franckowiak (MA 1960)
- Chien-ti Huang (MA 1965)
- Sung-Bo Jung (PhD 1985)
- James E. Kellogg (MA 1971)
- Christian A. Klaiss (MA 1997)
- Renee Lautzenhiser (MA 1975)
- Wen C. Lin (PhD 1976)
- Jose del R.S. Loazia (MA 1969)
- Jean-Claude Muller (PhD 1974)
- David J. Owens (PhD 1977)
- Sun Park (PhD 2003)
- Mary C. Prante (PhD 1997)
- Jawdat Saadeh (MA 1979)
- M.I. Siddiqi (MA 1960)
- Samut Siributi (MA 1977)
- Robert S. Sluter, Jr. (MA 1998)



# Happy Holidays!

[www.geog.ku.edu](http://www.geog.ku.edu), [www.atmo.ku.edu](http://www.atmo.ku.edu)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lawrence-KS/Department-of-Geography-University-of-Kansas/55350454669>