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# FROM LINDLEY

Alumni Newsletter of the Department of Geography, University of Kansas

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NUMBER 19  
DECEMBER 2011

## A Letter from the Chair



Terry Slocum

For my final letter as Chair (YES, this is my last year as Chair!), I would like to say a bit about our Alumni Advisory Board, and hopefully convince one or more of you to consider joining the board. As expressed in the Charter & Bylaws, the focus of our board is "...on the needs of students. This includes connecting students to professionals, driving private sector involvement, and growing the Geography endowment to directly benefit students." Rob Shapiro, a KU alum and an

Executive Director with Verizon, was our first board chair from 2005-2010. KU alumni who served on the board throughout much of this period included Randy Baker, Kevin Blake, Lisa Chismire, Floyd Henderson, Kevin Howald, Chuck Martin, Pat Murphy, Polly Stallings, David Stearns, and Anke Wells. During Rob's tenure, the board held a number of events to try to establish better linkages with alumni (e.g., football tailgates and a reunion in Lindley Hall where current faculty and students presented some of their research). The board also established an online Alumni Directory to encourage alumni to provide current contact info and an online Professional Network, where alumni and local business professionals can volunteer to provide career advice and insights to students in both Geography and Atmospheric Science. In the spring of 2008, the board held a Matching Donation Challenge that raised approximately \$14,000 to fund scholarships for undergraduates, support student research, and attract new graduate students.

In late 2010, David Stearns took over as board chair and the composition of the board gradually changed. Current board members include Alan Arbogast, Randy Baker, Mark Bogner, Mark Burger, Keith Cunningham, Brian Hiller, Kevin Howald, Michelle Joest, Pat Murphy, George Pangburn, Dick Skaggs, Anke Wells, and Jared Williams. In the last couple of years, the board has emphasized establishing better connections with students. Thus, board members who live near Lawrence are attempting to attend student meetings, to offer their advice and assistance, and to provide guest lectures on their area of expertise. Particularly helpful for students entering the job market are mock interviews, detailed feedback on resumes or CVs, and professional network forums. In the latter case, alumni provide advice on the skills

employers are looking for and students are able to ask a broad range of related questions. Some of these activities were attempted during Rob Shapiro's tenure as board Chair, but we often had difficulty fully engaging students. Presently, students are much more engaged as we have three very active student clubs: the American Meteorological Society (AMS), Geo Club (for geography undergrads), and the Graduate Student Organization.

In the past, the board met in Lawrence once a year, but reflecting the recent greater engagement of many board members, we now are meeting twice a year in Lawrence. Usually, about one-half of board members are able to make any particular meeting. If you feel a strong connection to KU and would like to consider joining our board, please contact either me or David Stearns (we can be reached at [t-slocum@ku.edu](mailto:t-slocum@ku.edu) and [david.stearns@navteq.com](mailto:david.stearns@navteq.com), respectively). Presently, all of our board members are alumni, but this is not essential; if you feel that you know someone who could make a valuable contribution to our board, please let us know. If you would like to provide updated contact info, please go to our home page ([www.geog.ku.edu](http://www.geog.ku.edu)) and select People, Alumni, Alumni Directory, and information form. If you would like to become part of the Professional Network, select Career Opportunities, Professional Network, and instructions. Like most places, we currently are in the midst of a major overhaul of our web site, but these directions should work for at least the next few months. Finally, if you have a Facebook account, I encourage you to take a look at our Facebook page which can be found by searching for Department of Geography, University of Kansas. Posts are encouraged!

Terry Slocum  
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### AAG Reception

For those of you who will be attending this year's national AAG meeting in New York City, there will be a Great Plains Geography Departments Joint Reception in the conference hotel (the Hilton) on Sunday, February 26, 2012 from 8:00 pm. to Midnight.

## Degrees Awarded

Dissertations and theses completed during the 2010-11 period are as follows (advisor in parenthesis):

**Andrew G. Allen, MA**, "Post Offices as a Measure of Nebraska's Settlement Frontier" (Pete Shortridge)

**Mark W. Bowen, PhD**, "Spatial Distribution and Geomorphic Evolution of Playa-Lunette Systems on the Central High Plains of Kansas" (Bill Johnson)

**G. Scott Campbell, PhD**, "Perfection, Wretched, Normal, and Nowhere: A Regional Geography of American Television Settings" (Pete Shortridge)

**Brett R. Chloupek, PhD**, "Territory, Place, and Identity in Slovak Church-state Conflict: 1948-1989" (Shannon O'Lear)

**Geoffrey P. Folker, MA**, "Assessing the Use of Remotely Sensed Measurements for Characterizing Rangeland Condition" (Kevin Price)

**David B. Huber, MS**, "The Influence of Irrigation on Great Plains and Midwest Precipitation Processes and the Radiation Budget" (Dave Mechem)

**Trisha L. Jackson, PhD**, "Healthy Soils for Food System Resiliency" (Bill Woods)

**Stephanie Rae Meador, MA**, "Ouray, Colorado: Sense of Place in the Modern Wild West" (Pete Shortridge)

**Makame A. Muhajir, PhD**, "How Planning Works in an Age of Reform: Land, Sustainability, and Housing Development Traditions in Zanzibar" (Garth Myers)

**Nicole P. Reiz, MA**, "War in the North? A Critical Study of News Coverage of the Lord's Resistance Army 2004-2008" (Steve Egbert/Shannon O'Lear)

**Shimantini Shome, PhD**, "Assimilation of Somali Refugees and Immigrants in the Kansas City Area" (Garth Myers)

## Emeriti Corner



**John Augelli**

If the community flag here is not flying at half mast on January 30<sup>th</sup>, I shall be 91. No, I have no intention of cashing in my chips soon.

(There is a little fight

left in the old man yet.) But living in a retirement establishment where the average age is 80 plus, does not prompt great expectations about the future. This place is aptly described as "God's waiting room".

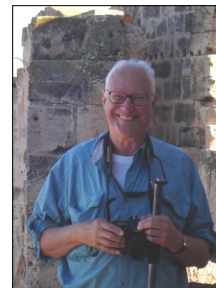
Last year (2010) I suggested that the American dream "aint what she used to be". As 2011 draws to a close, that dream seems even more elusive. There is an air of pessimism abroad in the land. And for good reason! Jobs are as scarce as the proverbial hen's teeth; foreclosures haunt the housing market and real estate values have tumbled to a discouraging low wiping out much of the equity on which the middle class pinned its retirement hopes; banks are becoming reluctant Nellies when it comes to lending; students borrow heavily to complete their education but with few employment opportunities they often have to go back to live with their parents. Nor are these the sole discouraging aspects of American society at this time.

Also factored into the current reality, the gap between the haves and the have nots is broadening raising the potential of class friction. There is still a tiny handful of people that "make it big", but the rags to riches leap is not commonplace. In fact social mobility has become an urban legend especially among minority groups and the growing underclass of people whose income falls below the poverty line. Less obvious but equally disturbing, is the emergence of what the Census calls the "near poor". Citing the New York Times (11/19/11) "The Census finds a startling rise in the category of near poor". These are people that fall above the poverty line but only barely.

Whatever happened to the good old days? This depends on how one defines the good old days. If they allude to the lush years of a few decades ago, such days are gone forever or at least for years and dreams to come. But if one views them by the experiences of a 90 year old like me, things

are tough but nowhere as bad as they were during the 1930's.

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**Bob McColl**

A relatively calm year. My health is excellent and I have some very clever and intelligent people to talk and share ideas with.

Once the article updating changes in China's Geographies (The Rise of Eastern China: From Hoe Culture to Factory Culture) for Education About Asia was published there were interesting discussions with some Brokerage Houses and others. It seems I have a very different view of China's future than the *au courant* views of Stratfor, Goldman Sachs and others. Nice to still be relevant.

A planned trip to Libya was canceled, for obvious reasons. Hopefully it will occur in the near future.

I continue to spend most of my time in Florida traveling to Spain and Costa Rica. China is just too far away at this point. But, I DO need to return to see and document the massive changes wrought by High Speed Rail and National Super Highways.

Researching and writing the China article and the impact modern technologies made clear a need to re-visit maritime geopolitical strategies and global challenges. So, I am plodding away at something on that – VERY interesting, but also very complicated.

Also, I am exploring the relevance of computer models related to nano technology and biology to geographies of modern/global guerrilla warfare. Think "swarming."

Life never is dull, and that is good.

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## Faculty News



### Dave Braaten

During the past year Dave Braaten has been involved in 3 ongoing research projects: the NSF Science and Technology Center known as CReSIS; NSF IGERT traineeship program known as C-CHANGE; and the NSF International Polar Year (IPY) project known as GAMBIT. A lot of acronyms! During late June and early July, Dave traveled to Melbourne, Australia to attend the XXV International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) General Assembly Meeting, which is held once every four years. He presented three papers on *Validation of FM-CW Accumulation Radar Derived Snow Accumulation Rate With Firn Core Data*; *Isolating Nadir Radar Returns Over the Gamburtsev Subglacial Mountains, East Antarctica*; and *Global Inundation Maps for Sea-Level Rise Increases Between One and Six Meters*. Dave also attended the AMS Polar Meteorology Conference in Boston, MA in May and presented [Comparison of radar derived to model derived annual snow accumulation in North-Central Greenland](#).

The Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets (CReSIS) is now in year seven of its ten year existence as an NSF Science and Technology Center. This year, CReSIS is taking on the challenge of measuring ice thickness (using the CReSIS airborne radar suite) of the massive Byrd Glacier that passes through the Transantarctic Mountains. If successful, this will provide the data needed to determine the ice mass that flows through this glacier from the interior of East Antarctica and joins the floating Ross Ice Shelf along the margin of Antarctica.

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### Chris Brown

Chris Brown moved into his fourth year as Director of the Environmental Studies Program. Chris, Johan Feddema, and Greg Cushman (History) developed a new course for history, environmental studies, and geography called "The Global Environment I and II". It combines a number of concepts and material from physical geography,

environmental science, environmental history, and social science/humanistic approaches to the study of the environment and environmental problems into one year-long, team-taught course. Chris continues to be involved with research in Brazil. This past year he had three post-doctoral researchers from Brazil working in his office on issues from the effect of tropical deforestation on orchid and stingless bees to studies on the geographic context of diseases like HIV/AIDS and dengue. Chris's research team involving Jude Kastens at KARS welcomed a collaborator from Brazil's EMBRAPA (equivalent of our USDA) as part of ongoing efforts between EMBRAPA and KARS to monitor the spread of mechanized agriculture in the Amazon. Chris is also a part of a large NSF-EPSCoR grant to study biofuels and climate change in Kansas, which also involves Johan Feddema, Nate Brunsell, and Dave Mechem. At home, Chris and Denise are busy with their two boys, Jason (8) and Connor (5), who both love playing the piano among other activities that keep the family zipping across town.

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### Nate Brunsell

Nate Brunsell and his family spent the first half of the year on sabbatical at the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry in Jena, Germany. This was a wonderful opportunity both professionally and personally. The family returned to the US in May, and welcomed the birth of their son Warren Ryder on June 24. In addition, grants were received, papers were written, and graduate students finished.

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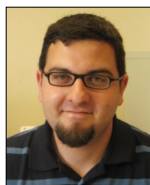


### Johan Feddema

Johan Feddema is currently on sabbatical at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) until Summer 2012. He has had a productive year, working on a number of water balance related topics, including: evaluating glacier runoff in the Himalayas with Drs. van der Veen and Stearns (Geology), and Dr. Jeelani, a visiting scholar from the University of Kashmir, Srinagar, India; studying irrigation demand and practices in Kansas; evaluating climate impacts on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) crop productivity and assessing effectiveness of

traditional agricultural techniques for improving local agriculture; and assessing how Ponderosa Pine reproduction is affected by fires and climate change in the southwestern US. At NCAR he is continuing his work on human land cover change simulations in the NCAR Community Earth System Model (CESM), which includes incorporating better global soil parameterizations. He is thankful for all the soils education he has received from graduate students in the department, especially Trish Jackson and Ashley Zung! He also is continuing his work on simulating urban systems in the CESM, looking towards simulating new technologies in future scenarios; the array of potential future building technologies is quite amazing! He is also working with a group at NCAR to determine health impacts from heat waves in urban Houston and Toronto Canada under different climate scenarios in the CESM and the NCAR Weather and Research Forecasting (WRF) model.

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### Dan Hirmas

This year has been productive for Dan. On the research front, he published two articles this year in Soil Science Society of America Journal and one in Catena as well as a review chapter in the second edition of the Handbook of Soil Sciences entitled, "Geomorphology of Soil Landscapes." He had five papers at conferences from work with KU students and colleagues. Dan and his wife, Kim, attended the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in Vienna, Austria last spring and enjoyed it immensely. Dan took on two more graduate students this year—Eric Zautner and Kim Drager—who are studying plant-soil-landscape dynamics in the Mojave Desert and bioturbation by ants in soils of eastern Kansas. In addition, Dan was funded through the EPA to sample and evaluate the current health of hydric soils in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Missouri. On the teaching front, Dan has been involved with a project implementing a classroom-based 3D projection system in a large section of introductory physical geography. He was also invited to be one of three facilitators for the Best Practices



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Institute offered through the KU Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) last summer. Dan's involvement with CTE includes participating in a faculty seminar this year discussing learning assessment and serving as the Department's CTE ambassador.

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### Jay Johnson

Like all good geographers should do, Jay travelled quite a bit this year. He represented KU at two conferences; an NSF-IGERT funded conference in

Juneau, AK over spring break with the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Juneau campus as well as Dartmouth and to the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science annual conference in San Jose, CA in late October. Along with many other faculty and graduate students he attended the AAG meeting in Seattle, WA where he was elected to serve as the Secretary of the Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group. Jay was invited to attend an NSF funded workshop on developing new techniques for representing Indigenous peoples knowledge in order to sustain resilient landscapes in Kilauea, HI and he is returning to Hawai'i for a wrap-up meeting this month. In July, Jay traveled to New Zealand to begin a three year writing project with Brad Coombes at the University of Auckland and Richard Howitt at Macquarie University for *Progress in Human Geography* articulating recent developments in Indigenous geographies. In the New Year, Jay is looking forward to more travel including trips to Kiribati, Greenland and South Africa.

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### Xingong Li

Xingong Li was on sabbatical in the spring of 2011 working on a project supported by the U.S. Geological Survey's Center

of Excellence for Geospatial Information Science at Rolla, Missouri. The research is to develop a Web-based network neighborhood analysis service for the National Hydrography Dataset maintained by the USGS. Results from the research will be presented at the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) 2012 Spring Specialty Conference-GIS & Water Resources VII at New Orleans. A

manuscript is under preparation to be submitted to the Journal of AWRA. The two-year research project, "Impacts of sea level rise on the wetland ecosystems in the Middle Atlantic Ocean" (supported by the U.S. Department of Energy), was officially finished at the end of October this fall. Dr. Li and Dr. Peterson (Co-PI) at the EEB department are finishing up two manuscripts from the research. Dr. Li's continuing research on spatial-temporal data analysis led to a proposal submitted to NSF in August this past summer. If funded, the grant can provide GRAs and support new Ph.D. students to develop spatiotemporal analysis methods in GIS. Collaboration with the Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy and Sciences, led to two field trips to the Kunlun Mountains in western China. A research mountain watershed was selected in the area and extensive instrumentation and data collection efforts are underway inside the watershed. In teaching, Dr. Li offered a new course (under course number GEOG319/658), "Computer Programming for Geographers and Environmental Sciences", this fall. Eleven students enrolled in the class and this course is designed to better prepare future students for advanced courses in GIS and environmental analysis and modeling. As for service, Dr. Li revised the degree requirements for the B.S. in GISciences in the spring while the department was revising its B.S. degrees. Dr. Li also took the lead of applying for a M.S. degree in Geography. A pre-proposal has been submitted and we are waiting for the responses from the college and provost's office. On the family side, Dr. Li and his wife are having fun and kept busy with their five-year old son Kevin and seventh-grade daughter Lucy with various activities.

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### David Mechem

The past year marked a big accomplishment for David, with the graduation of his first student with an M.S. in Atmospheric Science

(David Huber). The results of this numerical modeling study, which investigated effects of irrigation on regional climate, will be submitted for publication by the end of the year. Graduate and undergraduate students working in David's group are studying intermittency of precipitation in idealized regional climate models, the role of cloud-

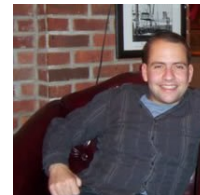
top cooling in driving marine boundary layer clouds, the behavior of cloud and aerosol properties over the Azores, the



influence of the continental low-level jet on storm precipitation efficiency, and extreme climate statistics from long-term regional climate simulations. Our plates are full! When the graduate students

are not laboring with their research, they are put to work helping install computer hardware such as the 53 TB (53,000 gigabytes) disk array we purchased back in April.

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### Shawn Milrad

Since arriving in the Fall of 2010, Shawn Milrad (visiting assistant professor) has been keeping busy trying to get KU students as

excited about the weather on a daily basis as he is. Last spring, KU Atmospheric Science students started producing daily weather forecasts for the University Daily Kansan newspaper, as well as recording those forecasts for the KU WxLine phone service. Thanks to Bev Morey, the students' forecasts are also now posted daily on the KU geography and atmospheric science websites. Shawn has also managed to get an even larger 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. Shawn has continued to teach Introductory Meteorology (ATMO 105) and Weather Forecasting (ATMO 505) during the fall semester, and Advanced Dynamic Meteorology (ATMO 660) and Operational Forecasting (ATMO 605). He fully admits he shows way too many tornado chase videos in ATMO 105.

This year, five senior ATMO majors are completing their undergraduate research projects under Shawn's direction, researching the synoptic-scale weather conditions associated with everything from famous tornado outbreaks and Missouri River floods to landfalling hurricanes. He

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hopes many of his undergraduate researchers will present their work at local meteorology workshops during the Spring 2012 semester. Shawn's personal research interests continue to be focused on extreme precipitation events and weather forecasting issues, and he will be presenting at both the International Workshop on Extratropical Transition and the American Meteorological Society Weather and Forecasting conference in May 2012 in Montreal, Canada.

Shawn is still very much a Syracuse basketball fan but not-so-grudgingly admits he has developed a liking for many things Jayhawk and nothing Mizzou.

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**Shannon O'Lear**

Shannon O'Lear kicked off the fall semester at the International Geographical Union's Political Geography Commission meeting in Portorož, Slovenia. She presented her work on borders in the South Caucasus, the topic of her paper which has just been published in *Defense and Security Analysis*. She was also invited to give a talk at the University of Amsterdam's Department of Geography, Planning, and International Development Studies. Prof. O'Lear is the Chair of the planning committee for a conference, "Environmental Security: Academic and Military Perspectives", which will be held at KU in April 2012. In that project, she is working closely with KU's Office of Professional Military Graduate Education, the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, and with faculty colleagues at KU. Prof. O'Lear continues to collaborate with the Foreign Military Studies Office at Ft. Leavenworth on a project focused on border security, and she has written an invited chapter on critical geopolitics of the environment for *Companion to Critical Geopolitics*, forthcoming from Sage Publications.

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**Pete Shortridge**

Four students completed graduate theses under Pete's direction this year: Andrew Allen on the Nebraska post-office frontier, Emily Pabst on Missouri's Mississippi River Hills Geographic Indication, Scott Campbell on American place imagery in

television series, and Brett Anderson on the changing image of Oklahoma. Beyond reading lots of words (Scott's study ballooned to 600+ pages) and waiting for his Kansas City book to inch its way through the publication process, he and Barbara ventured south on two nice exploratory trips. For fellow travelers, they recommend stops at Sulphur, Oklahoma, to see the magnificent new Chickasaw Cultural Center; at the Cane River historical area in central Louisiana; at the Lowndes County civil rights interpretive center along U. S. 80 between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama; and at the Lane peach orchard store just west of Interstate 75 (exit 142) near Fort Valley, Georgia.

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**Terry Slocum**

Terry is now in the last year of a nine and one-half year term as Chair (Johan Feddema served one of those years as Acting Chair) and is now looking forward to some time away from the duties of the Chair. He has applied for a year-long sabbatical at the University of Alaska – Fairbanks where he will undertake three activities: 1) analyze data and write papers associated with his current NSF grant, which involves testing the effectiveness of stereoscopic displays in the classroom; 2) analyze data and write a paper that compares the design of maps appearing in *The Geographical Journal* and *The Geographical Review* over the course of the twentieth century; and 3) work on the fourth edition of his co-authored textbook *Thematic Cartography and Geovisualization*. He will also teach a couple of courses related to his textbook. Arlene and Terry are looking forward to living in a dry cabin and enjoying the brisk climate of Alaska. Yes, they know that temperatures in Fairbanks can reach -50°F, but that's half the fun! To prepare for the trip, Arlene just had a total hip replacement. At 56, Arlene seemed a bit young for a hip replacement, but Terry and Arlene hypothesize that the need for a new hip was a function of 17 years of kicking bags in Tae-Kwon-Do. In any case, Arlene is standing straighter than before her surgery.

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**Barney Warf**

Barney had an interesting and productive year. He spent the summer teaching geography (in Spanish!) at the University of Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia, Spain with funding from a Fulbright grant. His co-edited book (with Jon Leib), *Revitalizing Electoral Geography*, was published by Ashgate, and a second volume, *Encounters and Engagements between Economic and Cultural Geography* is due to appear shortly with Springer. Meanwhile, he is working on a co-authored textbook (with Bill Norton) entitled *Human Geography* (Oxford). In 2011 he also authored four book chapters and two articles. He taught Introduction to Human Geography and a graduate seminar in poststructuralism.

But editing seems to have taken over Barney's life. In January he became editor of *The Professional Geographer*, which he finds fulfilling but a black hole in terms of time. He also co-edits *Growth and Change*, serves as co-book review editor for *Dialogues in Human Geography*, is general editor for geography for Oxford Bibliographies Online, and edits the book series Human Geography in the New Millennium for Rowman and Littlefield. All this, plus doing program reviews, tenure and promotion evaluations, conference presentations (Seattle, Athens, Costa Rica, and Lawrence), working with graduate students, and committees keep him a busy boy!

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**Bill Woods**

During 2011 William I. Woods (Professor) served as a Member of the Scientific Board of the *Bulletin of the Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi*, Belém, Brasil and the International Editorial Board, *Journal of Latin American Geography*. He is a Topic Editor (Soils) for the *Encyclopedia of Earth* and an Official Collaborator, *Projeto As Terras Pretas de Índio da Amazônia*, Embrapa Amazônia, Manaus, Brasil. He was a proposal reviewer for the Archaeology Program, National Science Foundation; and the *Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo* (FAPESP) and a promotion reviewer for Louisiana State



University and Louisiana Tech University. He also served as a prepublication article reviewer for the journals: *Human Ecology*, *Science of the Total Environment*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, *African Journal of Agricultural Research*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Latin American Antiquity*, *American Antiquity*, *Journal of Field Archaeology*, *Journal of Applied Geography*, and *The Professional Geographer*. He also chaired the committees of two PhD students and they completed their degrees and have accepted professorships in South Dakota and Brazil, respectively. In addition, one of the MA students whose committee Woods chaired received his degree and is teaching at two junior colleges in Missouri. He was a Guest Professor at the *Departement d'Archéologie et d'Histoire de l'Art, Université catholique de Louvain*, Belgium. He conducted fieldwork on *El Camino de Santiago* in northwestern Spain. His publications included chapters in *Causes and Consequences of Human Migration*, Cambridge University Press and *Living on the Land: The Complex Relationship Between Population and Agriculture in the Americas*, University of Colorado Press; Young, Bailey K., Herbert Lasky, and William I. Woods. 2011, *The unfinished Career In De Gallia: Raymond Brulet historien, archeologue gestionnaire et pedagogue*, edited by Laurent Verslype and Fabienne Vilvorder, pp. 115-124. Presses Universitaires de Louvain. Louvain-la-Neuve; and, articles in *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*, *The International Journal of Remote Sensing*, and the Royal Geographical Society, *Area*.

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A few of the office decorations for the Homecoming decorating contest.

### Byron Augustin, MA 1968

On August 31, 2010, I retired from university teaching after 42 years. I taught at Northeastern State College in Tahlequah, OK, for one year, Northwest Missouri State University for nine years, and Texas State University for 32 years. My wife Rebecca and I sold our home in New Braunfels, Texas and moved permanently to Valladolid, Yucatan in southeastern Mexico. Valladolid is an old colonial city founded in the mid-1500s and is a very quiet and safe place to live. There is a small gringo community of about 35 and there are lots of interesting geographic opportunities in the area. Valladolid is about half way between Cancun and Merida and less than two hours drive from both the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico. The deep sea fishing is excellent and we try to go as often as we can. We are enjoying retirement and recommend the opportunities that it brings to all of you closing in on that choice. CLAG is meeting in Merida in January and I hope to attend a few meetings. Best wishes to all of you Jayhawks for a wonderful New year.

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**Don Johnson, PhD 1972**

My wife Diana and I have been enjoying retirement, traveling widely, spending 2-3 months each winter at Monterey CA, maintaining a home in Champaign IL, and generally keeping busy with family and writing books and papers. We have, together with Jennifer Horwath Burnham (Augustana College), recently finished co-editing a Special Book for the Geological Society of America titled: "Mima Mounds: The Case for Polygenesis and Bioturbation." We are co-authors of a paper in it titled: "The polygenetic origin of prairie mounds in northeastern California," and Jennifer and I contributed a paper for it titled: "The biodynamic significance of double stone layers in mima mounds." The book will be published sometime in 2012. The three of us also just presented a paper on mounds at the recent November GSA Meetings in Minneapolis.

Diana and I have also recently contributed several entries to encyclopedias on Geoarchaeology, Soils, and Geography. Diana and I are also in the initial stages of proposing a text on the Biomantle for Cambridge U. press. So, we are staying off the streets and out of the bars, so to speak.

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**Greg Hembree, MA 1978**

Marla and I continue to reside in Centreville, Virginia, along with two cats and the outdoor fish pond. I just passed 24 years with the Town of Vienna, VA, as its Planning & Zoning Director and have begun my 9th "3-year plan." Because the Town is within a mile of Tysons Corner, we have begun to explore our own mixed-use redevelopment concept for our major commercially-zoned areas along Maple Avenue East and West. Because of our location near the seat of U.S. Government, we experienced a record number of building permits for replacement of older dwellings with much larger new homes.

Since Marla has discovered some years ago that most of her paternal relatives began their American experience in Pennsylvania, many of our short vacation trips have been to genealogical societies, the State Archives in Harrisburg, or local courthouses in the Commonwealth to obtain further information.

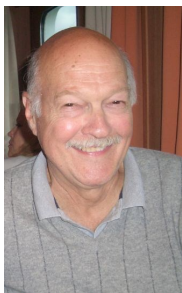
Adding to the draw of returning to the Kansas City area about twice a year is my granddaughter--Natalie Marie Hembree--who was born on July 1, 2010 and lives with her parents in Overland Park. Another family mile-

stone was the 90th birthday celebrations of both my parents this past summer.

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

In 2011, I continued to take college courses for credit. I had classes on Political Film, Politics of Developing Areas, and China & Japan. It was my 22nd year as President of



the Board for our public library. An exciting year, we completed a sizable addition to the library building. I was elected President of the association of retired faculty members at Slippery Rock University. During the year I also continued to serve on the Mercer

County Planning Commission. Travels during the year took us to Brownsville, New Orleans, Prague, and Paris, as well as a boat trip on the Main, Rhine and Moselle rivers. Best wishes to all my Jayhawk friends for a happy and healthy 2012.

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**R. D. Mower, PhD 1971**

The years come and go very quickly don't they? This is just a note, especially to those really old grads that I enjoyed so very much during our years of study at KU during (1967-1971). I know that they have all made their mark, and are now enjoying the leisure of retirement. That's what my wife and I are doing here in the mountains of Utah. Merry Christmas, and may God bless you all in the years to come.

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



Well, I still live in this idyllic spot on Topaz Lake, Nevada with my two live in companions. Bandit is 6 now and Milly is 3. She is a pure-bred miniature Australian Shepherd that needed to be rescued from a life of being a brood mare in a kennel. She has had one litter that made her owner a lot of money but luck went my way. She is very happy to be free with Bandit and is very protective of me.

Best regards to all who knew me and have a very Merry Christmas, Jim

swampyjim@me.com

**George Pangburn, MA 1974**

It's been a good third year of retirement for my wife Pam and me. We continue to be very involved with the Osher Institute at the University of Richmond, both in terms of taking classes as well as supporting various committees that provide direction to the program. We traveled to London for vacation at the end of September and had a great time. Londoners were surprisingly outgoing and friendly; maybe it was a reflection of the incredible string of warm and dry days while we were there. I visited Australia twice on business with the Australian Government this year and continued to serve as a senior advisor to the NRC on nuclear materials issues. We had a surprising event in the Richmond area this summer with a strong (for the East Coast, anyhow) earthquake centered about 35 miles north of the city which had significant repercussions for the nearby North Anna nuclear power plant. And Hurricane Irene came through here with a punch doing extensive damage and leaving tens of thousands without power for a week and longer. Hopefully, no repeats of those two events next year.

We also made our annual trip to Mini-College at KU this summer where I gave the alumni address on how my degree in Geography prepared me for a career with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. David Stearns was kind enough to ask me to join the Advisory Committee for the Department this year. Our April Board meeting gave me a chance to catch up with what's happening and to meet several of the very bright and very committed students now in the program. I look forward to continuing to work with David and the other Board members to help make a great Geography program even better. Wishing all of you a happy and safe holiday season.

gcpangburn@hotmail.com

**David R. Butler, Ph.D. 1982**

I am in my 15th year on faculty at Texas State University-San Marcos, where I am the Texas State University System Regents' Professor of Geography. I was invited to China in August, 2011, where I presented a paper in a special symposium on environmental changes in mountain environments at the 8th World Congress of the International Association of Landscape Ecology in Beijing. While in China, my host and friends and I visited the Great Wall at Badaling, and the mountains northwest of Beijing. During the fall 2011 semester, I was invited as a GTU/AAG Visiting Geographical Scientist to give presentations in November at Grand Valley State University and Western Michigan University. My wife Jan continues in her position as Associate Professor of Accounting at Texas State, and our son Will is in his second year as a master's student at Kansas State University, studying mountain geomorphology with Dick Marston. Jan and I, and Will when he's home, live in San Marcos.



*Dave Butler with host Zehao Shen of Peking University, and George Malanson of the University of*

*Iowa, visit the Great Wall of China at Badaling, August, 2011.*

db25@txstate.edu

**Larry Chow, PhD 1982**

I will be retiring from full-time teaching in Hong Kong Baptist University next summer. I have taught there since 1974, but I will continue to serve as the Director of the Hong Kong Energy Studies Centre of the University.

I have come back to visit the Dept on quite a number of occasions in the past 30 years. I have fond memories of my professors, in particular Leslie Dienes(Ph.D. advisor) , Robert McColl and Augelli, in addition to the "Four Lights", Kollmorgen, Jenks, Smith and Kuchler, who founded the Dept in the 1940s. I also like the Mt Oread campus.

My e-mail address is Larryc@hkbu.edu.hk . In case you come to Hong Kong, visit me.

Have a merry X'mas and happy new year !  
Larryc@hkbu.edu.hk

**Jim Merchant, PhD 1984**



For the past three years I have been serving as chair of Geography and GIScience at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). In addition to my administrative duties, I teach a required Proseminar in Research Methods and Professional Development as well as the introductory graduate course in GIS each spring, and I chair the Geography General Seminar series. My students and I are continuing work on research focused on landscape structure and satellite remote sensing, modeling soil erosion and sediment transport in small agricultural watersheds, exploring consequences of invasive plants on Platte River habitat, and forecasting impacts of future land use change on groundwater quality. My wife Loyola and I are "quasi" empty nesters now. In June, our son Karl moved to Kyoto, Japan where he is teaching English to adults. Our daughter Anne, a sophomore at UNL majoring in pre-nursing, is a piccolo player in the Cornhusker Marching Band.

jmerchant1@unl.edu

**Joe Poracsky, PhD 1984**

Well, Portland State University is still here and so am I – 29 years and counting. After dodging the bullet for a number of years, I was elected Chair starting September 1. Another change occurs in January when we get a new Dean from UC-Boulder. Sue Beatty will be the first geographer and first female to be Dean of the College, and the department is pretty excited.

My principal academic interest remains map design, though other responsibilities mean that I only get to teach one cartography course a year. I continue to be active in the urban forestry arena, chairing the Urban Forestry Commission for the City of Portland and working with neighborhood groups on tree issues and local tree mapping projects. There has been a steadily-increasing interest in trees on the part of the public and local government since I first got involved in the early 1990's. It is nice to have been a bit ahead of the curve as a new area of study emerged.

A new house in NE Portland means that I no longer bus to school but get to ride MAX, the local light rail system, every day. I guess that makes me a true commuter. The new house does not have the same locational advantage as the old one, i.e., no more than a 12 minute walk to several restaurants, a great bakery, two grocery stores, a movie theater and several pubs with good selections of micro-brews. The new neighbors are very friendly, especially one who, after introducing himself, noted that he had a class from me in 1984.

My son Rome and his wife and grandson #3 still live in Hillsboro, just west of Portland, so we get to see them regularly. Kristina and grandsons #1 and #2 live in Lawrence, so we get to see them not so much. I continue to get back to Lawrence each summer for a week or two during the balmy days of August, when I get to jog on the levee and am reminded of how the body can sweat much faster than it can drink water.

poracskyj@pdx.edu



**Stu Shea, MA 1983**

I recently visited KU for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since 1982. Dean Danny Anderson has added me to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Advisory Board and I attended the fall meeting. I got to visit with Terry Slocum and Jerry Dobson in Lindley Hall before the Board activities, and attend a tailgate party and the football game against Oklahoma before my return to Virginia. I am looking forward to bi-annual visits to Lawrence! Beyond that, I continue to focus my efforts on making our nation stronger through the development of advanced intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) systems for the intelligence and defense communities.

K.STUART.SHEA@saic.com

**Shigeo Takahashi, MA 1982, PhD 1988**

This year, I again organized a fieldwork trip to a rural community in western Japan. The purpose of the fieldwork was two-fold. First, participating students in their early twenties learn that the circumstances in medium- to small-size communities are quite different from those in large urban areas such as To-



## Alumni News 80s

kyo. Second, people who are not young but try to vitalize the community we visited learn what urban young students think and feel about their effort. Last year's trial has been successful, I would say, because the suggestions students made have been partially incorporated to the community revitalization project. This year's participants have made several advices for the community we visited this summer, which is in the same region as the one we visited last year but a different community. We look forward to seeing the response of the local people.

shigeo@econ.aoyama.ac.jp

### Glen Williamson, MA 1980

It's been a long time since I've responded to one of your letters, but that's mostly because things have been busily going along swimmingly here with Cindy and my two sons Bryce and Landon, who are now 15 and 13. We also have a dog and 6 bantam hens, and, of course, a large vegetable garden. My biggest news is the new job I started in January at TTG, a small firm specializing in territory alignment software and ZIP Codes. So I am now firmly back into mapping and spatial analysis software, about which I am very happy. On another line, I don't consider myself much of a golfer, but Landon is way into golf, so of course I want to play with him. Well, I recently shot a 205-yard hole-in-one with a new club Landon encouraged me to buy. It was only the fourth shot I had made with the club!

glen.williamson@comcast.net



## In Memory



### Stephen J. Lavin

Stephen J. Lavin, Professor of Geography at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), died May 3, 2011 following a year-long battle with cancer. He was born February 1, 1943 in Buffalo, New York. Following service in the U.S. Navy, he earned a BS in Geography at the University of Buffalo in 1969, an MS at Montana State University in 1971 and a PhD from the University of Kansas in 1979. Steve taught four years at Dartmouth College before joining the Department of Geography at UNL in 1981. During his three decades at UNL he mentored 43 graduate students, served as Department Chair for 5 years and was Chair of the Geography Graduate Committee for nearly 20 years.

A specialist in cartography, Steve was well known for his research on map design, cartographic communication and computer cartography. His published work received a number of awards including, in 1988, the British Cartographic Society's *Best Article Award* for his research with Randall Cerveny on unit-vector density mapping published in **The Cartographic Journal**. During the last decade, Steve devoted much of his time to working with his close colleague Clark Archer on production of atlases. These included **The Atlas of American Politics: 1960-2000** and **The Historical Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections 1788-2004**. The latter was a *Best Reference List* selection by the **Library Journal** and was chosen as the *Best Single Volume Reference in Humanities and Social Sciences for 2006* by the Association of American Publishers, Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division. In total, Steve designed and prepared well over 1000 maps for these books.

Steve's two final projects, published last summer, are a fitting culmination to his career. In May the University of Nebraska Press published his **Atlas of the Great Plains**, coauthored with Clark Archer and Fred Shelley. The volume contains over 300 maps within its 336 pages. Shortly thereafter, Rowman and Littlefield issued the **Atlas of the 2008 Elections** on which Steve served as chief cartographer and co-editor with Archer and others. This fall, Steve's lifetime achievements in cartography were honored by his students and colleagues at a special session held during the 2011 annual meeting of the North American Cartographic Information Society.

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

So 2011 is in the ledger of life and career. That makes 16 years since I left KU and began working at Michigan State University - hard to believe. It was a satisfying year on several fronts. I began serving as the Graduate Advisor for our program at MSU and really



enjoy that role. I also published the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of my textbook, *Discovering Physical*

*Geography*, which is now widely used around the country. I taught several classes, including my favorite, *Regional Geomorphology of North America*, in spring, 2011. The payoff for this class was the field trip to Kansas, which I led with 13 students in May. I run this trip every two years and always look forward to sharing the wide open spaces with my students. Most kids in Michigan have never really seen the Plains, let alone Kansas, so it's always an eye opener for them. On the way home this year, we spent our last day and night in Lawrence and had a blast. I also recently reconnected with KU Geography by joining the Advisory Board, where I hope to help however I can. On the personal front, my kids are a year older, as am I. My wife, Jennifer (former KU Geo office assistant), happily teaches 2 classes at the local community college. Life is good.

dunes@msu.edu

**Craig Campbell, Ph.D. 1993**

The Campbells are doing reasonably well. Over the summer, I stepped down as Chair of the Department of Geography at Youngstown State University after nine years, wanting to do more geography and less administration. I forgot how tiring teaching four classes was! The faculty here also went through a bitter and hurtful labor negotiations process, but we are surviving. Travel this year consisted of visiting my mother in Bradenton, Florida, earlier in the year, and then driving to Utah over the summer to visit two of our kids and our grandson who now is a bit over 2 years old. While out there we saw some neat new sights like the Bonneville Salt Flats (too wet to drive on), Wendover, Nevada (mini Vegas

built right up to the Utah border), Snowbird ski resort (took huge aerial tram to Hidden Peak), and Manti, Utah where we saw the local Mormon Pageant on the temple hillside. On the way out, also passed through Lawrence and walked through campus one evening - not many people were around Lindley, of course. Left a note for you Pete, but don't know if you got it. I was surprised by how little I recognized on south Iowa. Best to everyone,

cstevencampbell@sbcglobal.net



**Mary Dillworth Clinthorne, PhD 1990**

As of August, I am the GIS Lab Director at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI. That's really just a fancy way of saying that I teach cartography and GIS (along with World Regional Geography). ITS maintains the computers, so really all I have to do, in addition to teaching, is request software and hardware. Aquinas is a pleasant small liberal arts college, with 2.5 geography faculty and 25 geography majors, along with a bunch of minors. We produce lots of students who go on to excellent graduate programs!

mdc002@aquinas.edu



**Keith Cunningham, Ph.D. 1997**

I am now a research assistant professor at the University of Alaska's long-range planning group working with SAR & LiDAR remote sensing data to model biomass. I also provide remote sensing expertise with the unmanned aerial systems group operated from the University's rocket range. Courses I teach include LiDAR, remote sensing, geovisualization, and terrain modeling.

kwcunningham@alaska.edu

**John Dunham, BA 1984, PhD 1996**

It's hard for me to believe, but I'm now into my seventh 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 geologic mapping projects, including creation of new maps and archival scanning of old geologic maps with our new large-format scanner. Our most notable new maps released in 2011 were new surficial geology maps of Saline and Kearny counties. The Saline County map was a fun project in that it's the county where I grew up, and because I assisted KGS geologist Bob Sawin in field-checking the geology data. The Kearny map is an update of the 2003 map.

At home, wife Cindy (KU Geography, '84) and I both ran the Oz Marathon ("Oz" in this case is actually Olathe, Kansas) in April and the St. Louis Rock & Roll Marathon in October. We're also enjoying spending time, especially trips to the zoo, with our 2-year-old granddaughter, Samantha.

dunham@kgs.ku.edu.

**Mike Ingram, Ph.D. 1996.**

Bonnie and I continue to enjoy our retired life in Leavenworth, Kansas. We seemed to shovel a lot of snow last winter, and we sure got hot this summer. We spent much of the summer watching the Missouri River flood, coming over its banks quite a bit into the two parks here that are on the river. Although we enlarged our garden a little we had a disappointing season, but will try again next year.

We took a few road trips during the year. On our longest one in early spring we explored some of Mammoth Cave and stopped in at the original Colonel Sanders' restaurant in Corbin, Kentucky. We stayed in an old mill literally across the street from my childhood home in the little town of Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. We discovered the Lodge cast iron factory and store near Chattanooga, and visited the Jack Daniel's and George Dickel distilleries near there. While in Little Rock we toured the Clinton Presidential Library which made a quite favorable impression on us.

On our final trip of the year this fall we drove to southeast Kansas to get fruitcakes and pecans. We spent an overnight in Baxter Springs, staying at the Little Brick Inn and eating dinner downstairs at The Café on the Route, made famous by an appearance on the Food Network. We drove by the old lead/

zinc mines and enormous chat piles around Treece, Kansas and Picher, Oklahoma. That entire area is now so undermined that it is not real safe to drive through aimlessly. We also drove through Joplin, Missouri on the path where the tornado struck. We have never seen such a complete, vast swath of destruction, but most of it is cleaned up and rebuilding is well underway.

As always, Best Wishes to all for a happy and successful year!

DrTastee@kc.rr.com

### Joseph Kerski, MA 1993

I co-authored a book entitled "International Perspectives on Teaching and Learning with GIS in Secondary Schools", published by Springer.

[jkerski@esri.com](mailto:jkerski@esri.com)



### Vicki Long, MA 1993

2011 has proved far more eventful than we could have ever imagined. Vickie spent most of February through April protesting Governor

Walker's abolition of collective bargaining rights for state workers. Her take-home pay was also significantly reduced by new deductions for health insurance and retirement.

In April, A.D.'s 2001 Ford Ranger was donated to charity in exchange for a shiny, new 2011 Toyota Tacoma, which he promptly painted over in primer-grey camouflage paint. In July, A.D. accepted a Federal buyout and early retirement option and pulled the plug on a 22-year career as a cartographer with the U.S. Geological Survey. He is now figuring out how to live on 60% of his former take-home pay and has joined the middle rungs of the 99%. The free time was very welcome, and we spent two weeks in August camping in the Hiawatha National Forest and the Lake Superior National Lakeshore in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and the Mondeaux Flowage in the Chequamegon National Forest in north-central Wisconsin. In September, the State



Reference and Loan Library where Vickie works was ordered to dump nearly all of its book collection into roll-off boxes for transfer to the Wisconsin state-property surplus organization (SWAP). What a wonderful, modern world we live in; a library without books!

Vickie took up home wine making on New Year's Day and has produced a very nice Merlot (Red Queen), and our sister Rielsing (White Queen) has been flying off the shelves. A.D.'s home brewery, now in its second year, is cranking out over 50 gallons a year of flavorful, heavily-hopped India pale ales, American ales, and English bitters which have been very well received. Since August, a lot of deferred maintenance on our property has been dealt with, and Vickie no longer has to do much of the laundry, dishes, vacuuming, or window cleaning. A.D. is planning to prepare a set of 1:1,000,000 quadrangles of Middle Earth to the specifications of the International Map of the World (the Lugburz, Mordor, quadrangle is in compilation).

We are currently circulating recall petitions of Governor Scott Walker and his handmaiden, Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch. We stand in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street movement and the 99%, and hope for the best in 2012. Where is Robin Hood when you need him?

Solidarity forever!

Vickie B. Long

A.D. Long [adtrlong@gmail.com](mailto:adtrlong@gmail.com)

### Chuck Martin, M.A. 1985, Ph.D. 1990

Another busy year professionally is coming to a close. In addition to my normal teaching, research, and service responsibilities in the Geography Department at Kansas State University, I assumed the position of interim department head on 1 August of this year, filling in for Dick Marston who is serving in Washington, D.C. as a Jefferson Science Fellow at the Department of State. My appointment lasts until 31 July 2012. The position of department head has become more complex since I last served in the role between 1997 and 1999, but I have enjoyed working with my colleagues and other department heads across the College of Arts and Sciences. I continue as director

of the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Secondary Major on campus and remain the lead undergraduate advisor in the Geography Department. Last May I was honored with a College of Arts and Sciences Stamey Undergraduate Teaching Award, the third time I have been so recognized (but the first since 1994!). I continue my work on recent floodplain sedimentation and heavy metal storage in the Lahn River basin of central Germany, although this was the first year in quite some time that I did not go to Germany. A manuscript from previous field work there was recently accepted for publication in *Geomorphology*.

Our children Christine and Nicholas continue to grow and prosper. Nicholas is in his senior year of high school and hopes to attend college in New England starting next fall. He plans to major in mechanical or electrical engineering, and would like to eventually go into the field of aeronautical engineering. A week-long trip at the end of July gave us the chance to visit several colleges as well as the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. Christine is in her last year of middle school, and can't wait to start 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall and play on the Manhattan High School soccer team. After watching her brother play high school soccer for four years, she has learned a few tricks, she claims. In addition to soccer, which is practically a year-round activity for her, she spent the fall running middle school cross-country and the spring running middle school track (200m, 400m, 4x400 m relay).

Sabine continues her work at the university as the Technical Assistance to Brownfields Coordinator at the Center for Hazardous Substances Research, a position that has her traveling at least one week per month. She is increasingly in demand to provide workshops and technical assistance to communities in ten states throughout the Midwest.

[cwmgeog@k-state.edu](mailto:cwmgeog@k-state.edu)

### Dave Ridgway, BA, 1985; MA 1992

Greetings from New England, fellow Jayhawks. I am still teaching social studies to a captive audience of eighth graders in the New Haven, CT area. My wife and I live one mile from Long Island Sound where our boat takes us on the occasional weekend getaway in the summer months - to Block Island, up



the Connecticut River, over to eastern Long Island wine country, and a few other places. The past year has brought us two ridiculous winter snowstorms, a hurricane, an earthquake, and an October snow that yanked down thousands of tree limbs and plunged most of the state into darkness for a week or so. I haven't been anywhere spectacular in the last year with the exception of a Caribbean cruise last winter. It is easy to follow the 'Hawks here, thanks to their frequent telecasts, and I think I hate Kentucky more than ever now. I get back to Lawrence a couple of times a year to visit family and friends. I hope my old field camp class responds to this newsletter. We should have a 20-year reunion!

dave\_ridgway@yahoo.com

**Severin Roberts, MA 1999**

I'm still working at Grinnell College as the Director of the Pioneer Fund (annual giving). The college had a little more foresight than many schools and so has dealt better than most with the economic challenges of last few years. Fundraising is great population geography work, and the human geography side comes in the one on one interactions with alumni and donors. I'm the mom of a now almost three year old daughter – a study in her own right. I spent the summer camping in Iowa and a trip to Eagle River Wisconsin. I'm currently dealing with the early stages of being a "sandwich generation," with my mom having just retired and moved to Grinnell. I don't have the long stretches of time to paint like I'd like, but I still have time for other types of creative work like knitting and a variety of domestic arts. I miss the seminar conversations and hope you are doing interesting things!

robertss@Grinnell.edu

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

I was promoted to Full Professor this past summer. I also had a one-semester sabbatical leave last spring, and continued my work on the local food movement and community-supported agriculture. I also continue in my editorship of the *Geographical Bulletin*. If anybody has

students working on original research projects, have them submit to our journal for potential peer-reviewed publication! Meanwhile, the state government of Pennsylvania continues its assault on public education at all levels, so I also spent some of my sabbatical time marching on the state capitol building in Harrisburg to attempt to stave off Governor Corbett's draconian budget cuts. Corbett hasn't made the news as much as Scott Walker in Wisconsin, but he's just as bad. Marina's now in third grade, and just acquired a terrarium full of carnivorous plants for her birthday. Fiora is in first grade and starting to read chapter books on her own, and Lisa's working on a number of children's book writing projects. Lisa and I also headed up efforts to raise money for and install a school garden at the girls' elementary school, and so they now have a lovely vegetable garden as well as a variety of native plant beds in their courtyard, and it's been a hit so far.

schnell@kutztown.edu

**Janice Sterling, MA 1996**

I am still at US Army Environmental Command at Fort Sam Houston, TX. I ran the 10K at the bolder Boulder in May, and for July 4 vacation, I visited Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Mostly I had been traveling to Europe, but Montreal is the 2nd largest French speaking city, outside of Paris, France, so my high school French and a French phrase book were useful. Just finished more courses at ESRI regional training center, right here in San Antonio, TX.

msmapper@gmail.com

**Karen Trifonoff, PhD 1994**

I am in my 20<sup>th</sup> year at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and am going to retire at the end of spring semester of 2012; hurrah!

When I started at Bloomsburg I taught one section of a "Map Reading" course to about 15 students each



year. Twenty years later there are 2 of us teaching several sections of the course to about 80-100 students a year; it has been great to be part of a growing cartography

program. Retirement plans are evolving, and in the short term will involve time with my family in Ohio. My son Bart is a naval aviator, and is now stationed at Point Mugu Naval Air Station near Los Angeles, California, and I am looking forward to spending time with him in sunny Santa Monica over semester break.

There has been some sadness for me this year. My husband, Bill Belcher, fainted and fell in our garage in September. He started out in an ambulance, but was eventually put on a life-flight to Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA. He had surgery to relieve the pressure on his brain, but still received massive brain damage, and he passed away on September 14. We had a wonderful service for him here in Bloomsburg, and a month later had one in Lexington, Massachusetts as well. It was great to talk to Bill's high school soccer coach, who gave me all the intricate details of a goal the Billy scored over 40 years ago. While I am still sort of in shock from all of this, I am very grateful for the wonderful 20 years that Bill and I shared here in Bloomsburg. Holiday greeting to all.

ktrifono@bloomu.edu



**Christopher Atkinson, PhD 2010**

I continue to enjoy life as Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of North Dakota (UND) in Grand Forks. This year I teach entirely online. My job responsibilities include helping facilitate the online GIS Certificate Program (both Introductory and Advanced GIS), teaching regional geography courses (both North America and Europe in Fall 2011), and introductory geography classes (both Global Physical Environment and World Regional in Spring 2012).

I enjoy mentoring and giving opportunity to both graduate and undergraduate students. In October, I took a 15-passenger van of graduate and undergraduate students along with colleague Dr. Johnny Coomansingh of Minot State University to the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain AAG meeting in Denver, Colorado. The group enjoyed the Sand Hills and Valentine, Nebraska, in addition to the talks and social activities in Denver. The field trip on Saturday, October 8, was cancelled due to snow in the Rockies! Last Spring, I also took a group of students to the Midwest Undergraduate Geography Symposium, held at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. Between the two meetings, eight students presented their work (5 talks and 3 posters). Currently, I am working with two undergraduate Atmospheric Science students on a project.

Our family is doing well, with our son Miles 15 months now and walking. Our best to everyone in the KU Geography Family for a great holiday season!

christopher.atkinson@email.und.edu



**Mark Bowen, PhD 2011**

I graduated from KU in May, 2011 with a PhD. My family and I moved to Oshkosh, WI in July because I secured a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Urban Planning at the University

of Wisconsin Oshkosh. I've attached a picture of my wife Jennifer, son Oliver, and I hanging out in my office. We are all very happy with the move, and I am really enjoying my

new position.

markbowen.geography@gmail.com

**John Bauer, MA 2001; PhD 2006**

Life and work in Kearney, Nebraska (and at UNK) continues to be good for me and my family. Over the summer I was promoted to Associate Professor and I just recently applied for tenure. (Promotion and tenure at UNK are decided over consecutive years. After going through the promotion process last year, I have to go through the same process this year for

tenure.) Teaching and research keep me busy, and I like it that way. Probably the most exciting news I have is from home. Our family is still growing, and sometimes it seems like it is growing faster and faster. Nathan is now 4 and a half, Audrey is 2, and we are expecting a third child in late January. Nathan started preschool in September and absolutely loves it. I just hope he can keep up his enthusiasm for school for another 18 or more years.

Audrey spends most of her days looking at board books, building with Legos, and singing the alphabet song. Anne continues to volunteer a lot in the community. Kearney recently joined the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Program, and she has been busy with committees and report writing. The Lincoln Highway Association will hold its Lincoln Highway Centennial Celebration in Kearney in 2013, and she is on a planning committee for that, too. I'll probably lend a hand also. A couple years ago we bought a used camper and Nathan and Audrey now think it's more fun to sleep in it than their bedrooms. We've camped all throughout Nebraska, Minnesota, and last summer we went to the Black Hills. The picture I included was taken at Mount Rushmore. This summer I think we'll go back to Minnesota, It's nice up there. The college sports buzz in Nebraska has changed a bit now that the Huskers are competing in the Big Ten. It still seems weird to turn on the TV and watch them play Michigan. Conference hopping is all the rage now and has even affected Division II teams. Next year, UNK



Lopers athletics will move from the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference to the MIAA, where they will play numerous Kansas and Missouri schools. I want to wish everyone only the best for 2012!

bauerjt@unk.edu

**Ben Coles, MA 2005**

I hope all is well at Lindley Hall. I'm writing to contribute my seemingly bi-decadal bit for the newsletter. It's been a busy few years for me. After completing my MA in Geography at KU (2005), I went on to complete a PhD at Royal Holloway, University of London, followed by a research fellowship at the University of Sheffield. Most recently, I've been hired into a tenured lectureship in Economic and Political Geography at the University of Leicester where my main research areas are theories of place and space in relation to the production and consumption of agricultural commodities and food on the one hand, and more broadly questions of Urban Cultural Geography, in relation to commodity consumption on the other.

My teaching load, however, draws on much broader theoretical and methodological questions within Human Geography, particularly from many of the subject areas that I was exposed to during my time at KU.

Now that I'm in a rather diverse Geography Department, I can reflect upon how I've arrived here:

I've found that because of my experiences at KU, I can work across several disciplinary boundaries, and speak across the divide (so to speak). Likewise, I can and do contribute to a wide variety of course modules, and importantly relate different aspects of the discipline to students in (hopefully!) meaningful ways. I can say without reservation that the programmes at KU, both as part of a liberal arts degree in general but through Geography more specifically and importantly, have helped lay the foundations for a successful (thus far!!) academic career -- experiences that I count as invaluable. I look forward towards the future where these things will no doubt become more significant.

That's more or less it for me. Again, I hope all is well with you.

bfc2@leicester.ac.uk

**Craig Davis, MA 2001**

Hi all – after sending in years of updates that essentially say the same thing – same job, same city, same family, same me – I thought I would simply wish everyone a happy holiday season. I hope I will do something worthy of report over the next year.

davisca@scc.losrios.edu

just translation, but also some updates. It was a BIG effort. The book will be published by the China Higher Education Press next year.

Second, I will be teaching a Web GIS course at KU Geography in the 2012 spring semester. Yes, remotely. I will be streaming audio and video directly to the computer lab in Lindley Hall. Students will be able to share their computer display with me if they need help. I consider this is a good way to contribute what I have learned from my work back to KU.

A great 2012 to everyone!

pfu@esri.com



**Victoria Downey, MA 2007**

I am currently in my second year of teaching (my first year as an Unlimited Full Time faculty member) at Anoka-Ramsey Community College in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis. As

the only full time Geographer at ARCC, I get the happy task of teaching courses across the discipline. I feel fortunate to have found such a rewarding position with a welcoming atmosphere that mimics the one I always loved in the KU Geography Department. Although the winters are cold, I've found that Minnesota is a wonderful place to call home. In addition to my new position at ARCC, I've also recently started teaching yoga in the Twin Cities and am in my third year as the Head Coach of the University of Minnesota Synchronized Swimming Team. A few of the other geographers from the University of Minnesota and I have also started a band, Honeysuckle Jubilee, which performs "eclectic jazz" in addition to songs with ridiculously rewritten geography lyrics. I'm also happy to report that I've managed to convert many of my friends up here in the "frozen tundra," as my parents like to call it, to KU fans. The KU Alumni bar in St. Paul has become a staple of ours during basketball season (football season has obviously been a little rough!).

Warmest wishes to everyone for 2012!

vdowney@gmail.com

**Ang Gray Subulwa ,MA 2003; PhD 2009**

Mushe & I welcomed our first - a boy - Mooka Gray Subulwa on March 31st 2011.

subulwaa@uwosh.edu

**Pinde Fu, PhD 2000**

Greetings from Redlands, California! I am still at Esri, working on Cloud GIS, mobile GIS and other interesting projects. I have two highlights to report:

First, I just completed the Chinese edition of my "Web GIS: Principles and Applications" book, not



The Geography Office entered the Homecoming Office Decorating contest. We took 3rd place!



## Updating Your Information

The KU Geography website has an 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).**

## Donations to the Endowment Association

Our SPECIAL THANKS to the following recent contributors:

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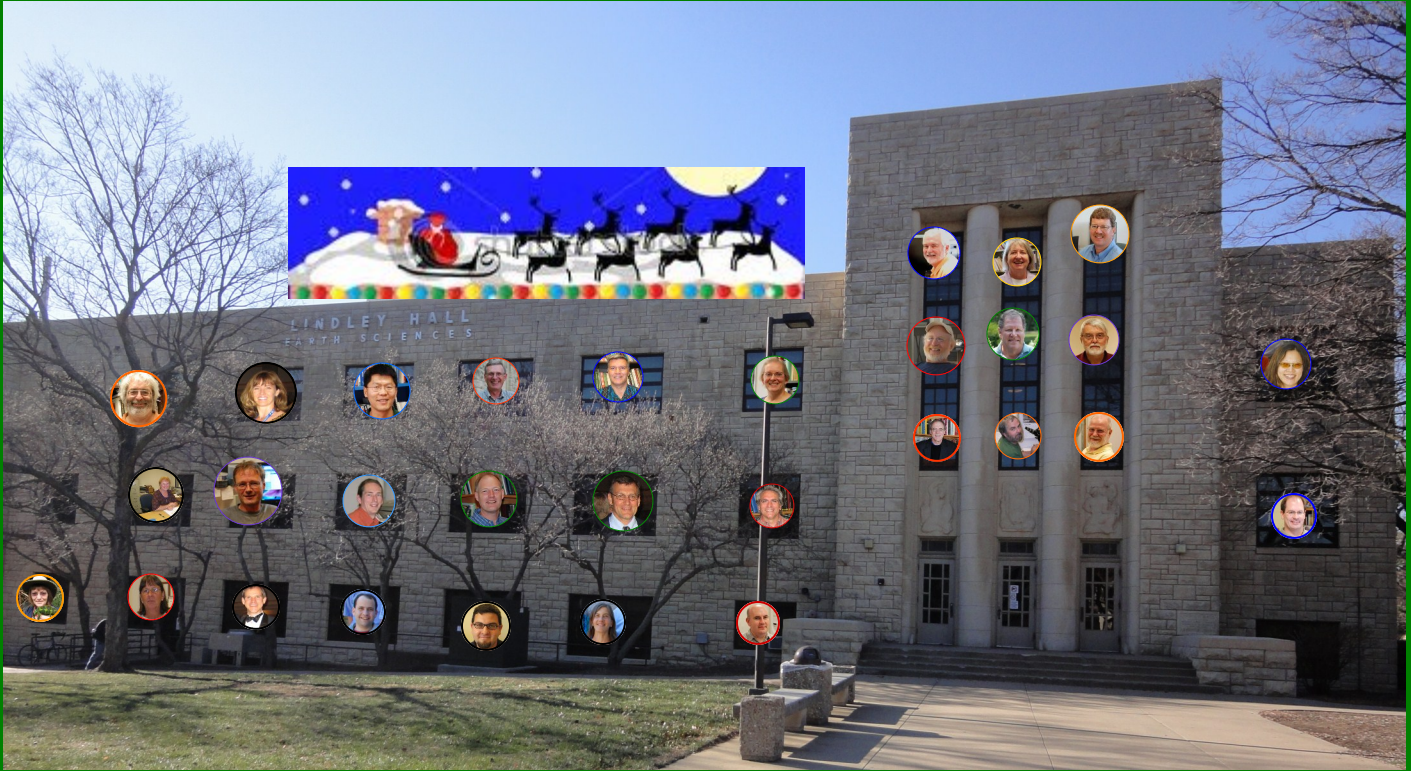
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If you wish to make a contribution to the Kollmorgen Geography Fund or the George F. Jenks Scholarship Fund, you can send that contribution to the Kansas University Endowment Association, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044-0928 or to the Geography Department.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





The Geography Elves peeking from Lindley's new windows!

# Happy Holidays!

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