FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

New Year’s greetings from your K-State geography community in Seaton Hall!

No, it has not been a year since you last got a K-State geography Alumni Newsletter. The faculty decided to create a newsletter that would correspond with our annual reporting of calendar year accomplishments and be (hopefully) mailed out (and posted on the department web page) in January. It remains to be seen if we’ll have a second alumni newsletter this year in June.

It has been a busy summer and fall semester. We continue to teach a lot of students about geography. We again had over 2,000 K-State students enrolled in a geography class this autumn, with over 1,000 of those in World Regional Geography (GEOG 100). Spring 2005 semester continues this trend. Tuition-based revenue is increasingly important at your alma mater.

The faculty and students have been active in research and a number of K-State geographers have been in the news. Please check out the departmental web page (www.ksu.edu/geography) and click on “News” for links to these multiple media releases, our weekly (during the semester) Seaton Globe, and past Alumni Newsletters. I guess the biggest news is that Kevin Blake was elected to serve our Great Plains / Rocky Mountain region of the AAG as Regional Councilor. Dr. Blake’s term officially starts this coming summer, but rumor has it that the work has already started. It is a big help to the K-State geography community to have another insider (both a voice and an ear) with the AAG.

The University is expanding its international program offerings and department faculty are heavily involved. In order to increase the number of KSU students that study overseas, K-State has established a program where Manhattan based faculty spend a semester in either Florence or London and teach study abroad students. Karen De Bres was selected to be one of the initial team of faculty to teach in London. Dr. De Bres will be teaching her Geography of Tourism and Geography of Europe classes in London this fall semester. Rumor has it that she will not miss being here for football season. Also, a new Asian (or East Asian) Studies minor is in development and Max Lu is one of several faculty working on the curricular proposal. Dr. Lu has also created a new class on the Geography of East Asia (GEOG 660).

Additional new happenings of a geographic nature include the awarding (by now Past-Provost Coffman) of $330,000 over 5 years in Targeted Excellence funds to support Geospatial Technology Infrastructure Enhancement; Dr. Shawn Hutchinson is the principal investigator. With new Provost Duane Nellis onboard in July, the University took quick steps to become a member of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science. Provost Nellis also established a campus-wide GIS Steering Committee and I was selected to chair the committee during it’s formative first year. Plans are now in the works
for a November 2005 celebration to mark the 15th Anniversary of the establishment of the Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis Laboratory (GISSAL) at K-State. GISSAL was established during the fall semester in 1990 and the first grant for soils digitizing officially started in November 1990. Whether you worked in GISSAL or not, we hope you’ll consider making the trip back to Manhattan to help us celebrate 15 wonderful years of applied geospatial technology contributions.

I am happy to have served the Department and College for 5.5 years as head. I want to get back in the classroom, have more time for research and writing, and also have more time to spend with my sons, Ian and Colin. So, a search is currently underway for new department leadership. When you read Alumni Newsletter No. 26, sometime in the near future, don’t be surprised if a new department head is introducing herself/himself.

John Harrington Jr.

**GISSAL CELEBRATING 15TH YEAR**

This year, the Geographic Information Systems Spatial Analysis Laboratory (GISSAL) is celebrating its 15th year of operation at Kansas State University. The Department of Geography is planning to recognize this important milestone with several functions scheduled for November 17 and 18. This week coincides with National Geography Awareness Week and International GIS Day (Nov. 16). We will be hosting a series of events where current KSU GIS students and past GISSAL alumni can share their current work, network, learn about K-State’s current GIS initiatives, and reflect on the significant strides that KSU in general, and GISSAL in particular, have made in the field of geospatial technology since 1990.

While a detailed schedule of events is still being planned, I have included below a general (and tentative) timeline of activities in hopes that you can find the time to join us.

**Thursday, November 17**
- Morning: GIS Commons Dedication
- Afternoon: GIS Student Research Project Presentations
- Evening: GISSAL Alumni Social and Poster Session

**Friday, November 18**
- Morning: Inaugural Geospatial Tech Alumni Advisory Council Meeting
- Afternoon: Visiting Speaker, alumnus Jason Sheeley (US Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City)
- Evening: GISSAL 15th Anniversary Banquet

If you are interested in attending the GISSAL 15th Anniversary, want to help out with planning, would like to receive further Anniversary information, or simply be kept up-to-date on current GISSAL research and service, please call or forward a note phone/email me so that I can compile a database of appropriate contact information. I look forward to seeing the entire GISSAL family in November! Don’t forget about the home football game versus Missouri on Saturday the 19th.

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**FACULTY NEWS**

**Toni Alexander:** Before I knew it, summer had flown by and final exams for the Fall 2004 semester had begun. Where did the past six months go? After returning from China with the other K-State adventurers, I immediately headed off to Boulder, Colorado where I took part in the Geography Faculty Development Alliance Workshop. Not only does the workshop help new faculty develop ideas for teaching and research, but also develops networks between geographers across the country. The week in Boulder was incredibly productive; I returned to Manhattan ready to incorporate the teaching ideas of the workshop into my summer section of World Regional Geography.

Having spent so much of my first year at K-State sequestered in my office finishing my dissertation, I didn’t see much of the world beyond Manhattan. With my Ph.D. in hand, I now had the opportunity to see a bit more of the Great Plains. The fall term brought a continuation of course revisions for World Regional Geography and GIS I, but importantly it also allowed me to opportunity to travel a bit by attending the National Council of Geographic Education meeting in Kansas City as well as present my most recent research on urban to rural migrants in California, at the annual meeting of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the AAG, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. And while the combination of a Kansas January and my poor winter weather driving skills may keep me close to home early this semester, I’m sure to be out and about when the spring thaw arrives.

**Kevin Blake:** This past year I enjoyed creating two new classes: Geography of the American West (GEOG 510) and Mountain Geography (GEOG 600). It's nice to have course offerings related to my interests that fall between my introductory course (World Regional Geography) and my 700- and 800-level seminars. During this past year, I've also enjoyed learning how several former advisees have landed geography-related jobs or have moved on to graduate school, and I wish them all much success. Fall 2004 also brought the successful completion of a thesis by my first M.A. advisee at K-State, Matt Gerike. Travel is always a valuable part of my job, whether it is for fieldwork or a professional meeting. In 2004, I went to the Zane Grey's West Society meeting in Ogden, Utah. The field trip to Golden Spike National Historic Site was interesting as I learned that the Central Pacific and Union Pacific actually both laid parallel tracks for hundreds of miles past Promontory Summit, Utah before they were forced by the government to choose a meeting place for a ceremonial joining of the rails. I also traveled to the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers meeting in San Luis Obispo, California, and this trip offered a chance for me to continue my fieldwork on lighthouse symbolism by visiting two unusual Pacific Coast lighthouses at Point Reyes and Point Arena. The third conference I traveled to was in Sioux Falls, South Dakota where the Great Plains / Rocky Mountain geographers met. There I experienced a fascinating field trip that included a Hutterite Colony, ethanol plant, Pipestone National Monument (in southwestern Minnesota), and the EROS Data Center. It took great willpower to refrain from trying to strip from the walls some of the wonderful satellite images at EROS; fortunately, the kind folks there provided some attractive poster freebies that now adorn on our department bulletin boards.

**Karen De Bres:** Hello to all of our friends and alums from 123 Seaton Hall. This year for me can best be described as “finally getting on with it.” Although, I still have a limp and a sore right leg, my therapy and operations days are finally over. And, although I haven’t exactly mastered power point, I am using it in all of my introductory classes and in two of my undergrad/grad seminars.

The most interesting thing that happened to me in 2004, from an academic point of view, was probably being selected as one of two faculty members to establish a College of Arts and Sciences program in London. So next fall I am off with a colleague, from the art department, to offer my Tourism and Europe classes to about 25 Kansas...
State undergrads. He has never been to the UK and I have, as many of you know, been there often. I am redoing my power point presentations for Urban and World Regional to give all of them some basic background information. Certain other information, such as how to order drinks in pubs and where to go for a good breakfast, will not be on the power point slides, but will of course be included.

June 2005 has been selected as Manhattan’s official 150th birthday, and I am busy with a cookbook full of recollections and old recipes, a heritage trail guide of interesting women in Manhattan (the first woman to become a mayor in the country went to college here, and her father built her a little house which is still standing) and possibly a walking/driving guide with my Urban class. In terms of research, I had an article published based on the Lewis and Clark journals (yes, taking advantage of another anniversary) and co-authored an entry in Geography in America, among other things. I am still busy working on projects that deal with Kansas image and immigration in the late nineteenth century, and gave the Murphy lecture at KU in December on part of that research. At the moment, I have three graduate students working toward the doctorate, and I am working on papers with two of them (JC and Anne Donovan).

Heather K. Conley: It’s hard to believe that I’ve been in Manhattan for nearly 6 months now. A few days after my belongings arrived, I left for Colorado to participate in a Climate and Health Workshop at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Upon my return, I was able to incorporate several new ideas into my research on climate variability and Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome in the western United States. While working on my dissertation takes up much of my time outside of the classroom, I’ve also kept busy drafting articles from previous research projects and have started to work on a grant proposal due later this spring.

Within two weeks of my return from Colorado last summer, the fall semester began with a bang. After learning the subtle intricacies of K-State Online, I taught two sections of Environmental Geography I and Human Impacts on the Environment. Several students from EGI enrolled in the Geographic Information Systems I and Climatology courses I am teaching this spring, as well as other classes in the department. The Human Impacts seminar was an interesting mix of undergraduate and graduate students from a range of disciplines, leading to discussions that sometimes wandered to the edge of bizarre, but was nonetheless a rewarding experience.

Doug Goodin: 2004 was a year of interesting new directions for me. Early in the year, Shawn Hutchinson and I learned that our proposal for an intensive study of land use change and hantavirus dynamics in Paraguay had been funded by the National Institutes of Health’s Fogarty International Center. This project is an inter disciplinary, multi-institutional investigation including mammalogists, virologists, mathematical modelers, computer scientists, and geographers. I have always enjoyed cross-disciplinary collaboration, and working with this diverse and excellent group of scientists has been a kick, to say the least. We all traveled to Paraguay last June, where we spent two weeks rattling around the country in pickup trucks looking at study sites, risking our lives in too-exciting cab trips across Asuncion, and eating more beef than you can imagine. Later in the summer, (in August) I got the chance to travel to Toolik Lake and Deadhorse, Alaska, so my 2004 travels ranged from south of the tropic of Capricorn to north of the Arctic Circle, a personal record for latitude crossed in a single year. I enjoyed the trip north very much; it’s quite unique to take a sauna in the bright sun at 2:30 a.m. at 74 degrees north latitude. My year also saw several smaller trips to California, Utah, Texas, Alabama, and Washington D.C. I’m looking forward to a trip to Senegal in February, and am also anticipating my next trip to South America in June or July.

John Harrington, Jr.: One highlight of the past seven months was a trip to Scotland to attend the 30th Congress of the International Geographical Union and present my thoughts on why there is a need for a heat wave classification system. That experience included an hour-long ‘interview’ session with the British press on all aspects of heat
waves and the benefits of classifying them. When the press grills you, they tend not to ask the same questions as a bunch of academics. There is less concern on the choice of appropriate research methods and a lot more emphasis on relevance (e.g., How many lives will be saved? How will people know what to do when a Category 4 Heat Wave occurs?).

The entire family went to Scotland and we were able to do a number of day trips from our base in Glasgow. Destinations included Loch Ness, Edinburgh, the Trossocks National Park, and Blair, Dean, and DunDonald castles. The rugged, hilly, predominantly treeless landscape of the Scottish Highlands was fascinating and beautiful.

During the summer, I supervised (with help from new MA student, Darci Paull) three undergraduates involved in the NSF-funded HERO Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. The students did an excellent job looking at the adaptive capacity component of vulnerability for our southwest Kansas study area.

Another highlight from the summer was meeting my sister and her husband in Randle, WA, and then providing them with a ‘guided tour’ of Mount St. Helens. We had a great (and long) day showing off the ‘blast zone,’ taking a 4.5 mile hike to get great views of Spirit Lake and the mountain, going to our repeat photography spots, and finishing the day exploring some of an over a mile long lava tube.

Fall semester was busy with teaching, research presentations at professional meetings (the one I enjoyed most was the 8th High Plains Conference in Goodland, Kansas), and administrative tasks. In addition the History and Philosophy of Geography seminar, I contributed seven guest lectures in colleagues’ classes. The one that was the most enjoyable by far was my lecture and discussion on peak bagging in Dr. Blake’s Mountain Geography class. I think a few of the students could understand “because they are there” as a reason for scaling the summits of hills and mountains.

As I finish writing this segment, I am looking forward to a February trip to Senegal with Drs. Hutchinson, Goodin, and Hubbard (geology) to see about developing a geoscience digital atlas for the country.

Lisa Harrington: Since the last newsletter, we’ve spent time in the Pacific Northwest (as usual for summer), and the whole family traveled to Scotland for the International Geography Congress in Glasgow. (Well, parents traveled for that; the whole two-legged family traveled to be tourists). It was a good meeting, and seeing the sights was great, too. We also attended the regional AAG meeting in South Dakota as a family. Seamus (the Shetland sheepdog) and I have been doing a little bit of agility competition. We’re on our way to standard and ‘jumpers with weaves’ novice agility titles. I enjoyed my fall classes, Natural Resources (GEOG 440) and Rural Resources (GEOG 830). Now it’s time to get busy again to prepare for spring classes. Have a good 2005!

J.M. Shawn Hutchinson: My passport definitely got a workout over the past several months! Doug Goodin and I returned to Paraguay in June as part of our continued National Institutes of Health research project dealing with landscape change and hantavirus ecology. In August, I presented ongoing remote sensing research at the Annual Meeting of the American and Canadian Society for Agricultural Engineering in Ottawa, Canada – my first time in that beautiful
Finally, I traveled to China with a group of faculty from the KSU Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. While there, I participated in research symposia at three universities (Jilin, Henan, and South China Agricultural) and attended an international agricultural engineering conference in Beijing. Other professional travel took me to Philadelphia (AAG), Lincoln (Central State Entomological Society Meeting), and Lawrence (Kansas Water Conference).

Several research and service projects, under the supervision of Dr. Nancy Leathers, and myself are also underway in GISSAL. In addition to the NIH project, new graduate student Tom Vought (B.S., James Madison University.) has joined the SERDP team examining the impacts of military training on water quality. Jason Sweet (B.S., Kansas State University), who began our MA program in January, continues work on an expanded vegetation-mapping project for the National Park Service. New funding this year includes GISSAL support for the Department of Defense Urban Operations Environmental Laboratory. As part of this effort, Mitch Stimers (new graduate student from Wisconsin-Eau Claire) has been responsible for building GIS models for surface and groundwater vulnerability to various chemicals contained in proposed non-lethal weapons systems. Lori Emerson also joined GISSAL this fall as a research assistant developing geodatabases in support of agricultural biosecurity in Kansas. Undergraduates Kortney Steinhurst and John Covey (Agronomy) were also key figures in the lab, working on several different environmental projects.

I’m pleased to report that GIS, and geospatial technologies in general, have been undergoing a bit of a renaissance at K-State the past year or two, as we increase our capabilities and national visibility. K-State is now a full member of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) and our GIScience Infrastructure Enhancement Program (funded last year through K-State’s Targeted Excellence Program) is about halfway through its first year. Partly a result of that successful proposal, KSU recently hired Rick Chubb as a full-time GIS Programmer/Application Developer. Geographers also are prominent on the new campus GIS Steering Committee (John Harrington is chair, I’m a member…) formed by Provost Nellis during the fall. Also, with the support of Vice Provost Elizabeth Unger, we invited David Maidment (of ArcHydro fame) to campus this past September to speak at the inaugural VPAST Geospatial Technology Lecture Series. We anticipate further support with a GIScience Phase II proposal that John Harrington and I were asked to prepare for the 2005 Targeted Excellence competition.

On the teaching front, I instructed four classes this past year: GEOG 302 (Cartography & Thematic Mapping), GEOG 508 (GIS I), GEOG 708 (GIS II), and GEOG 725 (Water Resources). The department has also added a new course, GEOG 795 (Topics in GIScience) to accommodate graduate student demand for independent study of geospatial techniques and analysis. We are also in the process of crafting a proposal to have GEOG 302 and GEOG 508 included in as University General Education courses. Next year, the department will administer a new Undergraduate Certificate in GIS to complement the successful Graduate Certificate in GIScience. The grad certificate remains a popular option and 2004 saw three more students (all non-geographers!) successfully complete the rigorous program requirements.

On a personal note, I am coping well despite the disappointing Wildcat football season and on-going NHL labor dispute. Mitch (almost 4 yrs old) and Marleigh (almost 2…) are doing well and keeping Mom and Dad on their toes!

Max Lu: In the last couple of years, I have been moving into new territories in both my teaching and research. In May 2004, I led a group of K-Staters to China on a two-week tour, and everyone had a great time. In the fall, I taught a new course, Geography of East Asia/China, in which we examined the geographic characteristics and recent changes in that populous part of the world. I have also been involved in the new initiative at K-State to establish an East Asian Studies minor. This project is...
supported by a grant from the Department of Education. I have been working with Dr. Kenneth Holland, Associate Provost of International Programs, as the project’s assistant director. As you can see, East Asia figures quite prominently in my teaching and service activities. Since Dr. Holland came to K-State, he has been pushing hard for international programs. More and more students are signing up for study abroad or short, faculty-guided, overseas trips. As a result, my China study tour is likely to be an annual event. Planning for this May’s tour has been well under way.

In terms of my research, my involvement in the NSF-funded HERO project in the last five years has afforded me a great opportunity to learn about Southwest Kansas and rural Great Plains in general. We are trying to develop ways (protocols) to study vulnerability and adaptability of places and people to environmental change. An offshoot, from the HERO work, is my recent interest in the life chances of residents in the Great Plains. Much of the Great Plains is rural and sparsely settled. Many residents live in isolated small towns and probably also in poverty. If rural America faces a health care crisis, as many have argued in recent years, the situation in the Great Plains must be particularly serious. I am interested in examining if all these conditions have adversely affected the life chances of the Plains people. I presented some preliminary work at the 2nd International Conference of Population Geographies in St. Andrews, Scotland. I have organized two sessions on health outcomes for the AAG meeting in Denver this year. Hopefully this line of my work will come to fruition in the near future.

Chuck Martin: The second half of 2004 began with our annual summer trip to Gießen, Germany, and a month stay in the university guesthouse. I continued my work examining heavy metal storage in the Lahn River, and extended field sampling to the Dill River, a major tributary with a long history of mining. I was also invited to give a talk to the Geographisches Institut at the University of Gießen on my work in the Lahn River basin. In addition to my research, we found time for trips to Munich and Ulm in Germany, and nearby Strasbourg in France to visit friends and family.

Fall Semester 2004 was a mix of old and new. In addition to teaching EG II, an old favorite, and helping organize the last session (ever!) of Graduate Colloquium I, Professor Jeff Smith and I offered for the first time the new Capstone Course in Geography. The class, which is required of all senior geography majors who fall under the department’s revised major requirements, attempts to ease the transition from undergraduate student to bachelor’s degree holder, and make students cognizant of the professional opportunities available in geography. I also continued to serve as Director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) Secondary Major and helped teach the NRES capstone class in the fall.

The year ended with a post-Christmas family trip to the familiar terrain of Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, for about a week of cross-country and downhill skiing. Although the weather was less than cooperative (some rain, lots of ice, and not much powder), we did have one day where the Presidential Range was framed against a clear blue wintry sky. Christine, now 6, was introduced to downhill skiing, and like her brother Nicholas (now 10) took to it quickly. I was proud to once again safely skid down the slopes without tearing or breaking anything. Indeed, I fell only once during my 2+ days on skis: on the next-to-last run as I waited in the lift line of the “Beginner’s Slope” with our daughter.

Bimal K. Paul: I went to Bangladesh in July 2004 to study the April 14, 2004, tornadoes that swept through north-central Bangladesh. On my way back to the United States, I attended the IGU Commission on Health and the Environment Pre-Conference Meeting held in Irsee, Germany, August 11-15, 2004. Irsee is located about 30 miles west of Munich. From Frankfurt, I took the train to Munich via Stuttgart. I really enjoyed my stay in Germany.
Jeff Smith: I hope 2004 was a fruitful and happy year for each of you. I was blessed with many unique and interesting opportunities last year. In May, I flew to Antigua, Guatemala for the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers meeting. What a terrific trip. I presented the results of some of my research. Plus, I learned so much and took a bundle of photos that I will incorporate into my Geography of Latin America class. Things didn’t slow down much after my return. In July, I took five students to Telluride, Colorado for a week’s worth of “real” research. We examined the town’s structure and morphology as well as its cultural and ethnic changes. We had a blast, learned a lot, and even found time to take a pleasant day-trip over to Arches National Park in Utah. The rest of my summer was spent finishing some odd and ends on research projects and getting ready for the next academic year. I wish each of you a healthy, prosperous, and enjoyable 2005. As usual, if you find yourself on the K-State campus, please stop by and say hello!

I also attended a Bangladeshi dinner hosted by an engineer who is originally from my own village and has been living Frankfurt since 1973.

Believe it or not, last November I went deer hunting with some friends in the Council Grove area. We didn’t have any luck.

Last fall, I taught a new course on Medical Geography. Although the course was initially designed for undergraduate students, I had three graduate students in the class. I applied for a sabbatical leave and if I get it, I will not be teaching any courses in the spring of 2006. I plan to write a reference book on the arsenic contamination problem in rural Bangladesh.

We are no longer thinking of buying a house. Our eldest daughter Anjana bought a town house - not very far from where we live. Our second daughter Archana is in High School and our son Rahul is in Middle School.

FROM THE DEAN

Hard to believe, but I am currently in my fourth year as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and in my thirtieth year at K-State. I now hold the humble distinction of being the oldest employed geographer at K-State. How did that happen! However, please keep in mind that I am still 35 years younger than my good friend Huber Self. I should add that Susan has barely aged at all during this period. Susan and I had a terrific trip (cruise) to Alaska last summer with a group of K-State alumni and many of the football coaches. We took a float trip through a bald eagle preserve, saw a bunch of humpback whales up close and personal, and heard a great deal of “glacial thunder” in Glacier Bay.

I serve on several doctoral committees, continue as the AAG delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies, read some of the geography journals, and go to the AAG meetings, but most of my time is devoted to College. Our new Provost really has things happening here and he keeps me very busy. Needless to say we are extremely happy that Duane Nellis returned to serve as our Provost at K-State.

On a personal note, our family is doing well. Son, Ben, is engaged to Kortney Steinhurst. Both are geographers (K-Staters of course) and plan to live in Salt Lake City where Ben is employed with Azteca, a geospatial software firm. Our older geographer son, Eric, continues to work with Trimble Corporation in California. He and his wife Shirly (and our granddog Calvin) live in San Mateo. Of special note, my mother Doris recently became the owner and manager of a seafood restaurant in Frankfort, Kentucky. Although she “retired” when she was 62, she has discovered ways to stay continuously employed for many years past her official retirement. One of these day we hope she finally decides what she really wants to do when she grows up. Steve White
FROM THE PROVOST

It is great to be back at K-State after seven years away as Dean of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University, and I am excited about my new responsibilities as Provost. As Provost, the Chief Academic Officer of the University, I have used the fall semester to get re-oriented to the university—establishing my initial priorities, meeting with numerous faculty, staff, student, alumni, and community groups, speaking at many events, and touring K-State facilities in Manhattan as well as K-State operations in various parts of our State. I have also enjoyed hearing from some of you who have been so kind (as K-State geography alums) in welcoming me back to Wildcatland. Despite my new administrative duties, I have tried to stay involved professionally in geography. Susan Cutter, the University of South Carolina, Jan Monk, University of Arizona, and I have recently co-edited a book entitled "Presidential Musings: Reflections on the Nature of Geography," that is due out soon. I also completed my past presidents manuscript (as past President of the Association of American Geographers) that is forthcoming in the ANNALS of the Association of American Geographers. I have enjoyed renewing my interactions with the K-State geography faculty (including my particular joy of having the opportunity to work with Steve White in his role as Dean of Arts and Sciences). They have even allowed me to be on a graduate students doctoral committee! I hope to see some of you in this new year either in Manhattan or in my travels.

Duane Nellis

SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Toni Alexander:
- Participated in Geography Faculty Development Alliance Workshop June 2004.
- Presented: “Rurality Amid Urbanization: The Identity Crisis of Modesto, California” at the 2004 Great Plains/Rocky Mountain AAG Meeting.

Kevin Blake:
- Published "Great Plains Native American Representations along the Lewis and Clark Trail" in the fall 2004 issue of Great Plains Quarterly.
- Published a review in the November 2004 issue of The Professional Geographer on the book by Richard Francaviglia titled Believing in Place: A Spiritual Geography of the Great Basin.
- Honored as a spring 2004 faculty initiate into Phi Kappa Phi.

Karen De Bres:
- Selected as part of the first College of Arts and Sciences faculty team to teach in London next fall.
- Compiled a cookbook (Heirloom Recipes and Recollections of our Common Past) and wrote a tourist pamphlet (A Heritage Trail Guide) for Manhattan’s 150th birthday.

Doug Goodin:

John Harrington, Jr.:
- Selected by Provost Nellis to Chair the campus-wide GIS Steering Committee.
- Co-PI (with Dr. Hutchinson) on the Targeted Excellence grant for Geospatial Technology Infrastructure Enhancement.
Co-author (with Dr. Robel, Biology, and several others) on the peer-reviewed paper, “Effect of Energy Development and Human Activity on the Use of Sand Sagebrush by Lesser Prairie-chicken in southwest Kansas,” which will appear in Transactions, 69th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

Lisa Harrington:
- Agricultural adjustments to resource availability, Western Kansas. Presented at the 27th annual Applied Geography Conference, St. Louis. October.
- Attended the AAG “Healthy Departments” workshop in June, and the University of Washington ADVANCE leadership workshop in July, both in Seattle.

J.M. Shawn Hutchinson:
- Major projects funded by National Institutes of Health, National Park Service, Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, and KSU Targeted Excellence Program.
- Attended yet another K-State football victory over Nebraska.

Max Lu:
- Presented “Deprivation, Geography and Health Outcomes” at the 2nd International Conference of Population Geographies in August in St. Andrews, Scotland.
- Serve as the Assistant Director of the East Asia project at K-State. The project is developing an East Asian Studies minor with funding from the Department of Education.

Chuck Martin:
- Offered with Jeff Smith the first session ever of GEOG 495, Capstone in Geography.
- Received a faculty research award from the Office of Research to defray the costs of radiocarbon dating charcoal recovered from the Lahn River valley.
- Saw my article on near-channel metal storage along the Lahn River appear in the journal Geomorphology.

Bimal Paul:
- Appointed as Chair, AAG Research Grants Committee.

Jeff Smith:
- An article in the regional journal called La Herencia entitled: “The Colorado Connection.”
- A co-authored Journal of Cultural Geography article with Benjamin White entitled: “Detached from Their Homeland: The Latter-day Saints of Chihuahua, Mexico.”
**EMERITUS NOTES**

**Chuck Bussing:** On the road again, summarizes our year. New Years in New Mexico; February, a week in California with Heather; and March, a week with Greg’s family in Destin, Florida, with a homeward bound stop in Nashville to enjoy the Grand Ole Opry and President Jackson’s home and museum.

In May, we spent three weeks traveling by car and guide with the Deelys (met on our first India trip) in western Turkey. We felt perfectly safe and often were thanked for coming to Turkey. Our favorite ancient sites were Pergamon and Aphrodisias, the latter having a well designed and lighted museum housing larger than life marble sculptures of gods and heroes. The highlight, my 47th anniversary present to Sandy, was a balloon ride over the volcanic towers of Cappadocia.

I again co-taught the KU field camp geography course in Colorado and found that I could still keep up with the students on high-altitude hikes. This is a great learning experience for students, and a fun time was had my all.

Working around K-State football games, I arranged an October birding/cultural tour for six of us to the Copper Canyon area of Mexico. Although, birding should have been prime, we did not have much luck; however, the train trip was spectacular as were our overnight stops. Much of the road down 7,000 feet to Batopilas is gravel, one car wide, and sharply curved. Sandy counted 41 curves in a 3.3 Km distance. En route we observed the life of the Tarahumar Indians who maintain their traditional dress and culture. The women are noted for weaving elaborate baskets out of yucca leaves and the very long needles of the Apache pine.

Now home, I have continued to work as a docent with the Konza tall grass prairie and have shared my knowledge with numerous American and international visitors. This past year, I finished a three-year term as president of the AAG Retired Geographer’s organization. I enjoyed the experience, but I was happy to pass the baton to Dick Morrell.

**Dave Kromm:** Since the last newsletter, the highlight for Bobbie and me was spending two weeks in Scotland where we participated in the International Geographical Congress. We took part in the pre-congress Rural Sustainability and Land Use symposium that began in Aberdeen, where I gave a paper explaining the growth of the dairy industry in western Kansas, and continued on a three-day excursion led by Scottish geographers. We overnighted in Inverness and at a Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye and ended in Glasgow in time for the main congress. Afterwards, Bobbie and I spent several days exploring the Inner Hebrides, including the ancient cultural treasures of Iona and Fingals Cave on Iona. In the summer and fall, we made several trips exploring the route of Lewis and Clark from near St. Louis to Fort Mandan in North Dakota. And, I traveled twice to southwest Kansas for research, something I much enjoy. As I write this, we are packing for a journey to New York City to see some plays and other performances.

**Steve Stover:** An “upper” and a “downer” dominated my personal scene during the second half of 2004. June brought a family reunion to mark the 60th anniversary of our wedding. The gathering was held at Oroville, California, where our second daughter now lives. Present were all five of our children and their families plus other relatives—about 30 in all. Some of them, including the New Zealanders, sampled a Csa climate in summer for the first time and learned about sclerophyllous vegetation and evaporative coolers. There were field trips to an olive farm (?) and to Oroville dam in the edge of the Sierra Nevada, and there was exposure to
extensive rice culture. There was also time to kayak on the placid Feather River. Food, talk, and a talent show made the occasion memorable. However, even as we were enjoying this pleasant “upper,” an insidious “downer” was taking shape.

My wife, Enid, stood then near the top of dementia’s slippery slope, and I was playing a growing role as caregiver. In September, inter-related heart and lung problems added to her difficulties, and they led to lengthy hospitalization and ultimately to her November 9 death.

During this difficult period—a real “downer”—the geography department and individuals in it have been especially supportive and encouraging. I have not thanked them adequately. Nor have I thanked the former students, far and near, who have sent their condolences. The result has been renewed contacts and a reminder that Shakespeare said it well: “Sweet are the uses of adversity…”

At present I am living at home, busy with new responsibilities and with tasks neglected during October and November. I hope soon to resume my weekly contact with the Department. Meanwhile, I can now respond (with glacial speed) to e-mail addressed to: smoky_s@webtv.net.

**GAMMA THETA UPSILON**

This academic year has been an exciting one for the GTU/Geography Club! GTU members participated in a number of traditional activities that we have become known for, such as highway and Bramlage clean-ups, movie and bowling nights, designing t-shirts, and several Brown Bag Talks. GTU/Geography Club also sponsored several students attending professional geography meetings.

Brown Bag Talks included Anne Donovan’s presentation on her recent trip to China. This past summer she enrolled in Dr. Lu’s seminar on China and had many pictures and stories to share. Scotland was the topic for the second Brown Bag Talk. Dave Kromm shared stories and slides from his trip this past summer for the International Geographic Conference, which was held in Glasgow in August.

In addition to the Brown Bag Talks, this past fall GTU/Geography Club was honored to host several guest speakers. Heather Conley presented her findings of the hanta virus in the United States. In October, Will Graf presented on rivers and riparian ecosystems. Dr. Graf, in addition to speaking, took some time to meet with students and discuss academic careers. John Fraser Hart presented on trends in American agriculture in November. Dr. Hart also took some time to speak to students in Karen DeBres’ Rural Cultural Geography Class. Mark Cowell was our last speaker of the semester. He presented on the biogeography of the Mississippi basin. In addition, Dr. Cowell presented his ideas on teaching landscape ecological issues using GIS in Shawn Hutchinson’s GIS II class.

This semester looks to be no different in terms of activities and speakers. We will have a second Adopt-a-Highway clean up, several social activities, and a score of speakers. Jeff Smith will be presenting a Brown Bag Talk on Guatemala early in the semester. John Harty will be giving a second Brown Bag when he presents on his recent trip to Africa. GTU/Geography Club guest speakers will include Dydia Delyser, who will present in February, and Kathy Parker, who will be our guest speaker at the annual Geography Banquet and will be sharing stories and experiences from her bicycle tour with the Lance Armstrong Tour of Hope.

We would like to congratulate Anthony Paul Mannion, former GTU/Geography Club President, who won the national GTU graduate Buzzard Scholarship. It has been an exciting year for the GTU/Geography Club and we wish everyone a great spring semester!
My name is Nancy Brown, and I hail from the currently frozen reaches of Bemidji, MN in pursuit of a master’s degree in Geography, with a focus on biogeography. I am involved with an ongoing study investigating the effects of prescribed burning on the understory in the pine forests of Itasca State Park in Minnesota. My major responsibility here at KSU, besides attending classes (!), is my graduate teaching assistantship teaching three sections of the Environmental Geography lab. Never having previously done any teaching, except for swimming lessons way back when, this has been an enjoyable challenge.

Matt Gerike: I finished my MA tour in December of ’04 with Kevin Blake and decided to stay for a Ph.D. tour as well, with intentions of examining aspects of the history, structure, and practice of American geography. Office life in the basement of Seaton Hall continues to be warm, with hot water pipes surrounding three of the six sides. I am also enjoying living in a Upland South style abode on a block full of modified bungalows in the east campus area, well, except for the opossums.

Ghosh Debarchana: I am an international student from India. This is my first year in the Department of Geography, Kansas State University, as a Ph.D. student. The focus of my research is medical geography. I am interested in the spatial analysis of disease and its dynamic interaction with population settlements, surrounding social and health services and the natural environment. More specifically, I am interested in examining spatial distribution of diseases and modeling by applying spatial statistics and exploratory spatial analysis, clustering and modeling tools of geographic information systems (GIS). Though the GIS tools are mainly used for land cover analysis and hazard management, the application of spatial statistics and GIS techniques in medical geography is developing rapidly in this department. With my research and contribution, I would like to be a part of such development.

Vicki Tinnon Brock: I arrived at KSU in the fall of 2002 to begin the doctoral program. I spent the first two years taking courses – at some point, I decided to work on the GIScience Certificate as well. Though I “officially” complete coursework this semester, I plan on being at KSU for one more year to complete my dissertation and finish up some potentially publishable articles. This is fine with me, as I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at KSU. On November 17, 2004, I passed my preliminary exams and advanced to doctoral candidacy – that was a GREAT day! I am planning to defend my dissertation proposal in March.

Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to attend a few conferences and present some papers. The Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the Association of American Geographers held their regional meeting at KSU in 2003, and I presented a paper entitled “Cancer in Mobile County, Alabama: Does the Study of Sociodemographic Factors Reveal Environmental Inequity and the Need for Justice?” I shifted gears for the Applied Geography Conference in Colorado Springs and presented some work on the tornado research that I did with my major professor, Dr. Bimal Kanti Paul. The research dealt with Hoisington, Kansas and looked at how the community had recovered after being hit by a major tornado in 2001. In the spring of 2003, Dr. Paul, Shane Csiki, Lori Emerson, and I hit the road for two weeks to interview tornado victims in Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee. Our goal was to determine if individuals were given warnings and if they had ample time to seek shelter. The results of this research were published in a Quick Response Report through the Natural Hazards Center in Boulder, Colorado. This past fall, I attended the regional meeting in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and presented the work that I have thus far completed on drought in Kansas.
Outside academics, I have been fortunate to be at KSU for some major milestones in sports. I attended the win over Nebraska in Lincoln and the absolutely wonderful Big 12 Championship game against Oklahoma in 2003. It was definitely nice to drive down the road and see the big billboards displaying the three KSU teams that won Big 12 Championships last year – football, women’s basketball, and women’s volleyball. I also enjoy working out and playing sports. I played flag football the first two years with the geography department, but decided to retire this year – it felt good on the field, but the next morning... I now enjoy cycling and hope to ride in the Bike Across Kansas this year. For relaxation, I have taken a few trips to the Long Beach Peninsula in Washington and spent a week in Aspen this past August. My former boss at the University of South Alabama, Dr. Glenn Sebastian, asked me to assist him with his yearly field trip to Arizona and southern California in May 2004. I assisted with these trips in the past and it was wonderful to get the opportunity to once again work with students and teach in the field.

John Harty: Last summer, I traveled to Kenya where I taught an introductory course in computers at a university located just outside of Nairobi. I was able to take several short-weekend trips within the country to places such as Lake Victoria and Mombasa and was very thankful for my time spent there. This past fall, I presented at the Regional AAG meeting in South Dakota. My talk focused on life in the logging camps of northern Minnesota during the region’s golden age. I also am currently serving as the GTU/Geography Club president and was pleased at how the semester’s activities and talks went.

In addition to upcoming GTU/Geography Club activities, I look forward to continuing research on logging and the legendary Paul Bunyan. However, this semester I will have my hands full as I take my preliminary exams. Next fall, I will finish my coursework and begin searching for my first position in academia. I am planning to have everything completed no later than calendar year 2007...hopefully sooner!

Darci Paull: I grew up in central Kansas and did my undergraduate degree in Geography at K-State. I have spent the past two summers working under the HERO-REU grant in Southwest Kansas. I am a first year graduate student. My research interest (as of right now) is Kansas population trends. I chose K-State because I like the geography program here and I enjoy K-State.

Jacob Sowers: Greetings, I'm currently in my second year as a Ph.D. student at K-State Geography. Although my dissertation work takes me to the dangerous remotes of the Mojave Desert (to study place making in extreme landscapes), I made the right choice to base my studies in the cozy confines of KSU. I chose K-State Geography because of the department's excellence in rural human geography, the many professors who are knowledgeable in qualitative methods, and the close and personal student/faculty association.

Mitchel Stimers: Second semester masters student, 
- Undergraduate, B.S., Geography and Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, 2000. 
- Research interests, natural hazards, tornadoes, urban geography and GIS.

I decided to come to KSU after reviewing the faculty track record in natural hazards, specifically Dr. Bimal Paul, and climatology, specifically Dr. John Harrington. Having come from a relatively small undergraduate geography department at UWEC, I wanted to attend a school with a similar sized department. It has been my experience that this type of department fosters more direct contact with faculty members and results in better relationships with them as well as a more productive learning environment. My experience here to this point has been outstanding, and I look forward to completing my M.A. and Ph.D. from K-State.
DEPARTMENT GRADUATES

Congratulations and Best Wishes for a Wonderful Future!

Summer 2004
Bachelor of Science
Kimberly A. Cope
John Weldon Eddy
Marc Aaron Matyak

Fall 2004
Bachelor of Science
Natalie M. Frakes
Lucas S. Fulton
James V. Rider
Andrew S. Rittscher
Jeffrey C. Ryan
Megan R. Stutheit
Scott J. Wilburn

Summer 2004
Master of Arts
Tracy L. Brown
Biqing Huang

DEFENSES

Congratulations on the Successful Defense of Your Thesis!

Tracy L. Brown, July 27, 2004, "Classification of Potential Surface Water Pollution Sources in Kansas."


VISITING LECTURE SCHOLARS

Heather Conley, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Kansas State University, (September 10, 2004) “Climate as a Limiting Factor in the Emergence of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome.”

David Maidment, Vice Provost for Academic Services and Technology, University of Texas at Austin, (September 22, 2004) “GIS in Water Resources.”

William L. Graf, Foundation University Professor of Geography and Professor of the School of the Environment, University of South Carolina, (October 18, 2004) “Where the Wild Things are: River Restoration and Wildlife Preservation.”


C. Mark Cowell, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Missouri, (November 19, 2004) “Midwestern Forest Change: Integration Geography and Biology to Understand Past and Present Landscapes.”
**BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES**

Dave Kromm, October 27, 2004, “Scotland: Islands, Highlands, and Cities Too”  
Anne Donovan, September 20, 2004, “Chopsticks and Chicken Feet – My Impressions of Travel in China”

**LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS (June 2003 – December 2004)**

The Department of Geography extends our sincere thanks for your continued support.

- Allstate Foundation
- Dean Andrew
- Bank One Foundation
- Levi Strauss Foundation
- Douglas and Doreen Huntington
- Lloyd Johnson
- Richard Lisichenko
- John Mettille
- Barton Mullins
- Bradley and Kristen Rundquist
- Sprint Foundation
- Starbucks
- Steve and Sue White
- Marcia Zink

**ALUMNI NOTES**

**Candance Bogart** (BS 1975, MA 1977) is employed by the US Forest Service. She is working for the Southwestern Regional office (USFS) as the Southwestern Regional GIS coordinator and photogrammetry unit leader. She is married to Richard Miller, a civil engineer also with the Forest Service. They have two children Caitlin (13), Anders (11), and a new dog, Rusty! They are at home in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Jay Bruff** (BS 1971, MA 1974) lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is a book sales representative, which includes dealing in old books.

**Paul Meier** (BS 1959) “So good to hear Huber Self is well and kicking! Such a great guy. He was my inspiration. 2004 newsletter was great. Lots of enthusiasm in the Department. Great! Keep up the good work.”

**Risto Marttinen** (BA 1965) continues to reach new levels of insignificance. He publishes acronym-jests in local papers – mocking pomposity. He also has run 100 races in five years at which point he decided to rest on his laurels. His runner-wife, Shirley, however, announced she had registered both of them for a 5K. Hence 101 races. Both previously qualified from Virginia for the National Senior Games, in 2005, in Pittsburgh. Marttinen, a Finn, got gold in 200m and 400m sprints. Risto’s shamrock marathon training was hindered March 12 by news of cancer of the prostate. Eight days later he ran (and walked) the Virginia Beach marathon anyway. Radiation over a five-week period has been completed. He then received radioactive “seeds” in August. He says, “Thank you, Senator Robert Dole.”


**Dustin William Ross** (BS 2002) finished an internship with the USDA RMA (Risk Management Agency). He was a program assistant from May 2004 – August 2004, for a major government project. He began attending Emporia State University, Fall 2004, to pursue a master’s degree in Earth Science, and a graduate certificate in

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**A Ristogram**

Work is a four-letter word. That is because it is related to DRAG (Daily Regimen of Anxiety and Grief). Sometimes work is labeled GRIND (Going Round-n-round in Needless Detail).

On the other hand, happy work and an overly-relaxing worksite may lead to DOZE (Drift-Off Zone of Enjoyment).

Some work is better than no work. And slow work is better than “show work.” Non-frivolous effort is tagged Fulfillment of Needs (FUN).

Finally, the four-letter word may be eliminated by adding an “S.”

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Risto Marttinen
Geospatial Analysis. He planned to work as a graduate teaching assistant for the Physical Sciences department and instruct two sections of the department’s Intro to Earth Science labs. He is married to Amber (Robinson) Ross (BS in Psychology 2002, KSU). They are currently residing in Emporia.

**Patricia Swann** (MA 1973, MA 1977, Ph.D. Syracuse University, 1989) is manager, Corporate Special Projects, at Midwest Research Institute, of Kansas City, Missouri. Her husband is Michael Swann, Professor/Associate Dean, Architecture and Urban Design, University of Kansas. They have two children: Helen Yi Min and Jack Yi An, and are awaiting news on their third adoption from the PRC (China).

**Kay E. Weller** (MA 1990, Ph.D. College of Education 1993) is an associate professor at the University of Northern Iowa. Other comments of interest: received the Distinguished Teaching Award National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) 2004, elected to the executive board of NCGE, and selected to participate in the Transatlantic Outreach Program, in Germany July 2004.

**PHOTO GALLERY**

- **Mitch and Marleigh Hutchinson at Halloween**
- **Students at top of Cottonwood Pass, Colorado – Anne Donovan, Darci Paull, Kabita Ghimire, Kimberly Cope, and Jacob Sowers.**
- **John and Sons on a Castle Wall in Scotland**
- **Jeff Smith’s Class Along the Colorado River**
- **Destruction witnessed by Vickie and Dr. Paul during a tornado research trip through Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee, May 2003.**
- **Telluride, Colorado**
Kansas State University Geography Alumni Update Form

We enjoy hearing from you, the Geography Alumni, so please take a few minutes to complete the following form, now, before you forget! Your information and comments will be included in the next Alumni Newsletter.

Thank you very much!

Name: ___________________________________  Occupation: _____________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________

________________________________________

E-mail Address: ___________________________

Occupation: ______________________________

Title: ____________________________________

Employer: ________________________________

Other: ___________________________________

Year Graduated: ___________________________

Degree: __________________________________

Year Graduated: ___________________________

Degree: __________________________________

Year Graduated: ___________________________

Degree: __________________________________

Other information or comments of interest for the next Alumni Newsletter:
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__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Please return this form to:

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See the Alumni Newsletter on the Web at:
www.ksu.edu/geography/alumni2005