Geography as a discipline continues to grow in size and influence in business, industry, government, and society in general in America and worldwide. K-State Geography alumni, faculty and current students are taking our rightful place in this growth, and we are well-positioned for the future. Our department spent much of 2006 developing a priority-setting document that will evolve over time, but also help guide our growth. We will maintain focus on the land grant mission of KSU, which includes participation in university-wide initiatives in geospatial technology, food safety and security, and global research on water-based economies.

Our faculty and students are addressing other major challenges in tourism development, immigration issues, climate change, water resources, spread of diseases, drug abuse, response to natural hazards, and remote sensing technologies. Geography faculty continue to be very successful in research…obtaining funding support, we rank high in the College in external research grants employing students in research projects, presenting papers and posters at national and regional meetings, and publishing in high-quality forums. You will read about some of the highlights in the pages that follow. However, this is just a sample…please take a look at the department’s web site (www.ksu.edu/geography) and click on “K-State Geography in the News” for links to current and past releases.

Our department expanded to 12 full-time faculty in Fall 2006 as we welcomed Dr. Deborah Che, an expert in nature-based tourism and rural community development. We are currently conducting three searches for new faculty lines in Geography, so our faculty may grow to 15 full-time members by Fall 2007. These new faculty will allow us to better serve our undergraduate and graduate student programs and bring the size of our department in-line with what is considered adequate for a nationally competitive doctoral program in Geography. We continue to enjoy an excellent reputation on and off campus for our teaching and research productivity, service on campus and to the profession, and the number and quality of students.

Our department employs award-winning classroom instructors, world class researchers, as well as an efficient and friendly staff. Senior Administrative Assistant Bernie Schmidt retired in June and now we are benefitting from the hard work and good cheer of Kathy Zimmerman. She is likely to be the voice you hear first when you call the department. Our trusty Accounting Specialist, Lisa Percival, continues to balance an amazing array of budgets and reams of paperwork. Danielle Marriott also works in the office, helping Chuck Martin with NRES students and other office needs as they arise.

We continue to attract and retain talented and motivated students from around the country and beyond our nation’s borders. Geography is currently the academic home for 39 graduate students, 21 of whom are pursuing the Ph.D. degree. Eight of our 21 doctoral students have advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D., which means they have finished coursework and passed their
comprehensive exams. We have 75 undergraduate students majoring in Geography plus 25 students pursuing the minor. Over 4,000 KSU students enrolled in Geography courses in 2006. In 2006, 18 geography majors graduated with a B.A. or B.S. degree and 10 graduate students earned the M.A. degree. During 2006, six students completed the Undergraduate Certificate in GIS and three students have completed the Graduate Certificate in GIScience.

Thanks to a successful proposal prepared by Drs. John Harrington, Shawn Hutchinson and Doug Goodin, the department added over $34,000 of new computer lab equipment for teaching. President Wefald has also used given us a wonderful, custom-made wood conference table for our seminar room. See the photos elsewhere in this newsletter.

Emeriti faculty Drs. David Kromm, Steve Stover, Huber Self and Chuck Bussing are working together to update the document originally authored by Huber on the history of geography at K-State. It should be ready sometime in 2007. They have been unearthing some wonderful photos of faculty and students from past decades.

The K-State (Beta Psi) chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the International Honor Society in Geography, won the Chapter of the Year Award. They have sponsored several outstanding brown-bag seminars, participated in the state Adopt-a-Highway program, helped sponsor visiting scholars and our spring banquet, and raised funds for Hurricane Katrina victims. In another outreach activity, Dr. Hutchinson and GISSAL students conducted a total of five workshops for fifth and sixth grade girls exploring how to use GPS and GIS to solve real-world problems.

We are always looking for ways to strengthen the teaching and learning environment; I welcome your suggestions. I would like to do more to support student participation in regional and national professional meetings. We depend in large measure on donations to support student scholarships and professional development of students. Your past support has made a huge difference.

Based on the news from our alumni, we are confident that your K-State experience has placed you in a position to succeed. Our graduates are gainfully employed in business, industry, government, and academia. Please continue to send us reports of your achievements; we are proud of our alumni! Take satisfaction in what you and your fellow alumni have accomplished. Our biggest asset is our shared passion for geography. As I stated last year, we are standing on your shoulders!

Thanks for all you do for K-State Geography!

Faculty News

Kevin Blake: Greetings to all Wildcat geographers! I had the good fortune in fall 2006 to be on a research sabbatical, so I took that opportunity to write several articles and make progress on the research for my book on the Colorado Fourteeners. In spring 2007 I again look forward to teaching World Regional Geography and Geography of the American West. In spring 2006 the students in my Mountain Geography and Human Impact on the Environment classes completed some outstanding projects. I am enjoying the progress toward their degrees being made by my graduate advisees: Jacob Sowers and Scott Deamer have both advanced to PhD candidacy, and Patrick Abbott and Travis Smith are working hard on their thesis topics on the Oregon Trail and Western films, respectively. I sated my love for travel this year with trips to Chicago, St. Louis, Oregon, Colorado, Oklahoma, Las Vegas (Nevada), and Death Valley. The trip to Oregon filled in
several more places in the West that I hadn’t visited before, such as Crater Lake, the Siskiyou Mountains, and the Great Basin (“High Desert”) section of Oregon. Although I had been to Death Valley just two years ago, I was excited to go again to this surreal and grand landscape. A side trip from Death Valley garnered my first view ever of Mount Whitney; at 14,497 feet above sea level it towers nearly 11,000 feet above the Owens Valley. A real treat for a geographer is to be able to travel in the same day from Whitney, the highest point in the coterminous U.S., to the salt pan of the Badwater Basin in Death Valley, the lowest point in the western hemisphere (282 feet below sea level).

Karen DeBres: Hello again to all of our alums from Karen.

2006 will not go down as my favorite year, due to health issues, but you will hopefully be glad to hear that I have been given a clean bill of health by several doctors now and am just back to dealing with the non-life threatening problems that we all have, especially as we get older. I am still busy improving my classes and working on several research projects. This year I am starting a rather large project focusing on Plains land grant colleges and hope to visit all or at least most of them in the spring. Did you know that Kansas State was (probably, I am still working on this) the most equalitarian of all the plains land grants in the first fifty years of its existence, not only admitting women and African-Americans to classes but also sometimes encouraging them to major in a diversity of subjects? I am also busy working with one of our graduate students on main streets in the Central Plains project and am back working on fast food in London. Speaking of London I have also spent a good deal of time this year publicizing a proposed intersession summer school there, to be conducted by the departments of Geography and English. If we can get enough students, I will be spending the last two weeks of May in London again and hope to get to the oldest flower show in Britain, which is held in that city. This year I was also elected Vice President (President in 2008) of the Riley County Historical Society and we are busy working on a museum expansion project, which will increase our floor space by 50 percent. Finally, in November the department began a new policy, which will be part of our local “Geography Awareness Week” program. We have introduced a “Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Series” and Patricia Solis (who received a master’s degree here in 1996 as Patricia Bennett) was our first recipient.

Deborah Che: Hello! I am a new faculty member at K-State, having recently relocated from the WMU. I am originally from the Washington, DC area, where I earned my B.A. in Economics and B.S. in Marketing (1988) from the University of Maryland, College Park. After a few years as a policy analyst in DC, I decided to return to graduate school. I earned an M.P.A. with concentrations in Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management from Indiana University-Bloomington’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs (1994) and then an M.A. (1999) and Ph.D. (2000) in Geography from Clark University. My dissertation research examined how shifts from industrial to post-industrial development and economic policy affected the use of local land resources for production (i.e. manufacturing, resource extraction) and for consumption (i.e. nature-based recreation, permanent/seasonal residences) in Appalachia’s Forest County, Pennsylvania. More recently in my previous position at WMU, I worked to further the development and marketing of agritourism and value-added food production, which have been proposed as avenues for economic diversification and landscape preservation in agricultural regions undergoing restructuring. Given my community development and natural resource tourism and recreation research which involves the interconnection between economic restructuring and shifting rural land uses, I was very much interested in the K-State’s rural geography focus. However my experience in northwest Pennsylvania which is dependent on recreationists from Rust Belt cities,
with agritourism owner/operators in the rapidly growing exurbs 50 miles north of Detroit, and more recently with urban environmental artist Tyree Guyton of the Heidelberg Project whose art calls attention to blight and abandonment in Detroit’s neighborhoods has shown me that rural geography cannot be separated from the urban. The health of cities, farms, and forests are interconnected.

While I have only been at K-State a few months, I have already become involved with/submitted grants with a number of interdisciplinary projects on campus. I am working with faculty from sociology, horticulture, plant pathology, etc., on a New Foods Initiative. I also am involved with the Canadian Studies program and have submitted a grant on the role of Americans’ second home/seasonal home ownership in Canada in maintaining transnational identity. I am also the new faculty sponsor of the Beta Psi chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU). GTU plays a number of important roles in the department, such as helping to support departmental colloquia. I am working with GTU to obtain funds for cultural geographer Derek Alderman’s visit as part of the honorary renaming of Anderson Avenue as Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue (a renaming project spearheaded by GTU member John Harty after his reading one of Alderman’s articles).

In my courses, I have linked my research and teaching. Currently I am teaching World Regional Geography, into which I have incorporated my research on agritourism, value-added foods, and ecotourism. As I did at WMU, I plan to incorporate work on applied local research/service learning projects with local non-profits into selected undergraduate and graduate student seminar classes. I previously advised master-level students on topics such as wine tourism route development in southwest Michigan; changing power relations in a nonmetropolitan county following the development of a Native American casino; and coastal tourism resort development on Lake Michigan. At K-State, I look forward to working with undergraduate, master’s and Ph.D. students on shared research interests such as nature-based tourism and recreation, rural and community development, cultural/heritage tourism, nature-society relations, tourism development and marketing, environmental policy, race and ethnicity, and geography as art.

As a newcomer, I am getting acquainted with the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain (GPRM) Division of the Association of American Geographers, K-State, the “Little Apple” and other places in Kansas. At the GPRM (held jointly with the West Lakes Division) meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, I presented my agritourism research and went on a field trip of the agricultural landscapes of eastern Nebraska.

Along with Department Head Richard Marston, I was also invited to participate in a panel, “Breaking into Publishing.” Closer to home, not only am I interested in local foods as part of my research, I enjoy consuming the offerings here – specifically the produce at the Manhattan Farmers Market, Call Hall ice cream, and the wonderful beef and barbecue at restaurants in the region. Although time is limited during the semester for explorations to Kansas’ tourist attractions and events, I’ve been to OZtoberfest in Wamego. I had a great time there, talking with OZ fans from Wisconsin, Texas and Kansas, attending presentations by Wizard of OZ and Judy Garland authors and historians, and meeting some of the original Munchkins! I hope to meet you in the future.

Doug Goodin: Much of my current effort is focused on an ongoing project looking at the effects of land cover change on the dynamics of Hantavirus in Paraguay. This project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation through the Southern Research Institute, involves analyzing how landscape factors at multiple spatial scales influence the establishment and maintenance of Hantavirus with its host communities. Two KSU graduate students, David Koch and Kabita Ghimire
are working with me on this research. Each has traveled to Paraguay to conduct field research there. Working with KSU graduate student Rhett Mohler, I am also working on mapping seasonal prescribed burns in the Flint Hills (funded by the EPA). For a number of years, I have worked at the Konza Prairie Biological Station—this work continues with my involvement in the ecological genomics program. Working with Dave Koch, I am looking for hyper spectral reflectance indicators of changing gene expressions in prairie grasses.

**John Harrington:** I think the most common phrase I’ve heard this past year (from colleagues who work in distant places) has been: “I thought you had retired.” Far from it, I’ve had a busy and productive year. Included within the workload has been the preparation and delivery of three new (for me) classes (Environmental Geography I in the spring, Climate and Vulnerability in the summer, and Land Change Science this fall semester). As our political leaders continue to address short-term problems (like war and the need to be re-elected), our growing global population and declining environmental quality seem to get precious little attention. I find it both fulfilling and important to teach students about the big picture of global change, the significant human role in those changes, and the resultant increases in risk and vulnerability that we all face as citizens of planet Earth. As humans now force more changes within the Earth system than happen naturally, I find it fascinating that Dow Chemical has made “The Human Element” a major advertising campaign. I think that many citizens really do care and want more information. It was nice to get a request this fall and be able to present, “What is going on way up north: a summary of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment,” to the local Kiwanis International group. The questions they asked showed both an appreciation for my presentation and a keen interest in how things are changing.

As seems to be the case each year, my professional travels have gotten me to some interesting places. Serving as acting department head (while Dr. Marston was in Pakistan) and attending a few department heads meetings (while Dick was traveling as AAG President) helped reaffirm my thoughts on the value of letting someone else do the department leadership job. I have been very busy this year responding to requests for proposals. The big success was an NSF grant in ecological forecasting. This collaborative 3-year project involves a number of K-State academic units and will result in a new faculty line for the department. We are currently searching for someone in the area of land change science aspects of human dimensions of global change.

It was very nice to host Drs Katie Hirschboeck and Robert Maddox in late April. Katie gave the GTU Banquet talk and Bob spoke on the Tri-State Tornado in my climate class. Rather than having an all-day rain dampen their spirits, the Tucson natives seemed to enjoy the chance to again experience a good, gentle soaking spring rain.

July was spent at our Pacific Northwest retreat. In addition to some family golf and time at Sunset Beach, we circumnavigated Mt St Helens doing repeat photography. We also checked out the Grays River covered bridge, Harrington Point along the north side of the Columbia River, and a few of the nicer waterfalls of the area.

Latourell Falls plunges almost 250 feet and is accessible by a short walk from the old highway through the Columbia River Gorge.

The base of Youngs River Falls is just 30 feet above sea level. Close to Astoria, OR, the falls drop 65 feet.

**Lisa Harrington:** As usual, it has been a busy year. As usual, I attended the AAG meeting and
J.M Shawn Hutchinson: Yet another busy year in the department has come and gone. I continue to serve as instructor for a number of geospatial technology classes as well as director of the successful undergraduate GIS and graduate GIScience certification programs. With the addition of a new tenure-track GIScience faculty member expected in 2007, I look forward to expanding and strengthening the undergraduate and graduate GIScience curriculum in the department.

The pace of research has been borderline chaotic recently, as my students can certainly attest. In addition to several previously awarded grants continuing in 2006, I served as PI or co-PI for four additional proposals that were awarded extramural funding this past year. The amount, and variety, of project work that is currently underway by undergraduate and graduate geography students in the Geographic Information Systems Spatial Analysis Laboratory (GISSAL) is truly amazing. Through the various research and service activities in which I am involved, I have been able to share our K-State Geography story with people from across the nation and world. I am pleased to frequently hear evidence of how well regarded our department is and the growing reputation being earned by our applied GIScience research.

In addition to teaching and research, I’ve also invested heavily in several service activities, most of which revolve around GIS. On campus, I am a member of both the All-University GIS Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Group. I remain a gubernatorial appointee on the State of Kansas GIS Policy Board and work extensively with the Water Subcommittee of the State GIS Technical Advisory Committee. Nationally, I am a delegate to the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) and newsletter editor for the AAG Water Resources Specialty Group.

Max Lu: It is hard to believe another year has gone by. Nothing particularly worth reporting has happened in my personal life and I didn’t travel to exotic places either this past year so I will talk about a few other things. First, as many of you know, the department is expanding. I chaired two faculty search committees this year, one in the Spring and
another in the Fall. Dr. Deborah Che joined us as a result of the Spring search, and as I write this, an offer for the Fall search has been made. Second, after serving as the faculty advisor of our Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) chapter for nearly 10 years, I passed the baton to Dr. Che, the newest faculty member of the department. I want to take this opportunity to tell all the GTU officers and members over the last ten years or so how much I enjoyed working with you. Thank you for making our chapter such a successful one. Dr. Che has a lot of energy and many new ideas, and I am certain our chapter will continue its success. Third, it is always gratifying to see one’s students complete their degrees and move on to their own careers. This past year, two of my Master’s students, Darci Paull and Jessica Burnum, successfully defended their thesis. I enjoyed working with both of them. Darci and I have a co-authored paper coming out in the Great Plains Research, in which we examine the early experiences of the free land giveaway programs many Kansas small towns have adopted to attract migrants. A paper based on Jessica’s work on the spatial patterns of meth labs in Colorado Springs is going to be published in a book edited by the AAG and National Institute on Drug Abuse. Finally, I will also have an opportunity to work with two of our undergraduate majors next semester. In recent years, I have been interested in analyzing spatial patterns of health outcomes (particularly cancer and heart disease mortality) using spatial statistics and GIS. In the Fall semester, I worked with three of our majors to apply for the Undergraduate Student Cancer Research Award from the Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research at K-State. Lance Noll and Nicole Wayant successfully received the award, so we will be doing some geographic analysis of cancer mortality together soon.

Richard Marston: 2006 was full of interesting travel, exciting developments in the department, and some interesting research breakthroughs. In May, Doug Goodin, my son Bryce, and I traveled to Pakistan. Doug and I were invited participants in the Pakistan Northern Areas Science Meeting in Islamabad, sponsored by the National Science Foundation and U.S. Office of Naval Research. As part of this workshop, we met with the three remaining geographers from the University of Kabul who remain from the 11 who comprised the program before the Taliban years. We also presented invited seminars to faculty and students in the Institute of GIS at the Pakistan National University of Sciences and Technology. Out of those meetings other research ventures have developed. One research proposal to the Pakistan-U.S. Science and Technology Cooperative Program was ranked very high by reviewers but not funded because the area where we wanted to study water resources in Pakistan was judged to be “too dangerous” for Americans AND for our Pakistani colleagues! Before the meetings in Islamabad, the three of us were led by one of my former students on a trek into the Raikot Valley base camp (at about 14,000 feet elevation) of Nanga Parbat in Pakistan, the ninth highest peak in the world and an incredibly beautiful and dynamic landscape. The 24-hour long bus trip on the Karakoram Highway will be the source of stories for years to come. In September, after fracturing my leg, I stubbornly followed-through on plans to participate in the International Quaternary Association “Workshop and Field Excursion on Timing and Nature of Mountain Glaciation.” The workshop portion was centered in the city of Xining, China, followed by a five-day field excursion by bus across the Tibetan Plateau. We learned about research that is sorting out the geographic pattern of how glaciers respond to climate change and mountain building. Changes in the cultural landscapes of Tibet were equally fascinating. It is a little embarrassing to admit that the highest elevation I have ever attained was on a bus, passing over a mountain pass in Tibet at 17,163 feet! I attended 13 professional meetings in 2006, with KSU faculty and students along for many of them. I presented 14 guest lectures in classes and completed my seventh year as co-editor-in-chief of Geomorphology. My colleagues, students and I co-authored one monograph and four journal articles in 2006, one of which has been published; two are in- press for 2007 and three are being revised. My term as AAG president ended in June 2006, and now I am working on my past president’s address to be delivered at the AAG Meeting in San Francisco in April 2007. That address will include some data...
and research findings developed by KSU geography doctoral students in a seminar. I am co-principal investigator on three new research grants, which will fund several students and allow collaboration with a number of faculty inside and outside of our department. Being named a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and a University Distinguished Professor at KSU were certainly gratifying occasions, but I need not be reminded that whatever I have achieved is because of the support of others and collaboration with colleagues and students.

Chuck Martin: The year 2006 began on a sad note for the Geography Department with the death of John Johnson. For years John was an immeasurable help to my graduate level courses, assisting students with research projects, data sources, and the like. John knew the Documents Library like no one else. Since his passing, I have had to work much harder in gathering maps and other data for my classes and scholarly activities.

I continued my research on trace elements in the Lahn River Basin of central Germany this year, extending the field work up a major tributary that has a history of mining activity. My family and I spent 6 weeks in Germany this summer right in the middle of the amazing atmosphere surrounding soccer’s World Cup tournament. As luck would have it, my son Nicholas and I were able to secure two tickets to a Round-of-16 Game in Hannover between Spain and France. The color and pageantry were sensational, the fans from around the world festive and friendly. By the close of the four-week event, even the English had to admit that the host nation had put on quite a show!

On the way to Europe in June, we stopped for five days in Iceland to explore the southern coastline. The first few days were cloudy and cool, offering only occasional glimpses of the mountains and glacial landscape. But when the clouds finally lifted during our third day on the island, we were treated to a fantastic view of the Vatnajökull, Europe’s largest glacier. In the following photo I am shown holding a small iceberg plucked from an ice-marginal lake that has formed since 1950 as one lobe of the Vatnajökull retreats.

Back at Kansas State, I continue to serve as director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Secondary Major and teach the NRES capstone class in the fall. In the Geography Department, I meet with all new majors in my capacity as lead undergraduate advisor. In the current calendar year I taught Environmental Geography I, Geography of Kansas, Advanced Environmental Geography, Geographic Research and Methods, Human Impact on the Environment, and the Geography Undergraduate Capstone Seminar. A piece I contributed about the physical vastness of the Middle West appeared late this year in an edited volume titled The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia, and I am working with a couple of former graduate students on publishing parts of their theses. A potential sabbatical next year would give me the chance to complete a manuscript based on field work in the Lahn River basin over the past two summers.

Bimal Paul: The year 2006 was a good year for me both personally and professionally. We bought a new house and have been living there since last week of July. Both Anjali and I, our son Rahul, and daughters Anjana and Archana are enjoying living in this new and relatively spacious house. After graduating in last May, Archana is about to finish her first semester at K-State. She will probably major in Apparel and Fashion Marketing. Hopefully, Anjana will complete her undergraduate degree in Marketing in Spring 2007.

As a Senior Fellow of the Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS), I visited Bangladesh twice in 2006. First time Anjali went with me and second time I went alone to complete my research project on perceived seismic risk and preparedness in Dhaka. Because of my sabbatical leave in Spring 2006, I
was able to visit Bangladesh twice as well as complete the research project on time. Last year I published four papers in refereed journals; six other manuscripts have been accepted including one refereed journal manuscript and a book chapter on the Hurricane Katrina. A couple of other manuscripts are under review. Three of the four journal articles are single authored while one paper I published with my advisee Vicki Tinnon. It appeared in the *Health and Place* and dealt with arsenic poisoning in rural Bangladesh. Vicki also worked as a research assistant in my arsenic project funded by the NSF. My advisee Mitch Stimers successfully defended his thesis on tornadoes in last March.

Last year I also participated in the Bengali-language program of the Voice of America (VOC) to discuss about inter-religious conflicts in the world. I also presented more than eight papers in professional meetings, and reviewed two book manuscripts, four book chapters, two grant proposals, and 12 manuscripts for journals ranging from the *Annals* and *Environmental Geochemistry and Health*. I sincerely hope the year 2007 will also be a productive year for me and my students.

**Jeff Smith:** Happy New Year and I hope 2007 is enjoyable and fruitful for you and your family. 2006 was a very exciting year for me. I spent the better part of the summer in a small town in the northern part of Zacatecas, Mexico doing fieldwork on the impact that remittances are having on rural village culture. In June I took a side trip to Mexico City to conduct research at UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) and government offices. While there I saw the famous Zócalo and the two cathedrals and basilica dedicated to La Virgen de Guadalupe. Wow! Upon my return in August I began my first semester-long sabbatical. It has been a truly wonderful experience and reminds me of the good-old-days as a Ph.D. student when I could devote weeks at a time to doing research and writing. I even found some time to “charge my batteries.” I’m looking forward to getting back into the classroom during the Spring 2007 semester. As I’ve always said ... if you find yourself on the K-State campus please stop by and say hello!

**FROM THE DEAN**

**Steve White:** 2006 was a very busy and productive year for the White household. Susan and I had the opportunity to visit China with Provost Nellis, his wife Ruth, and several other KSU administrators. We signed agreements with Yangzhou University as well as the Capital Normal University of Business and Economics in Beijing. We also enjoyed visits with our children. Our son Ben and daughter-in-law Kortney had their first child (our first grandchild), Jaden William White, in October 2005. Ben and Kortney both graduated with degrees in geography at KSU. Jaden likes to travel, prefers to spend time outside, and thoroughly explores new terrain. My guess is that he will become a geographer as well. Ben is employed at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency in St. Louis. Our son Eric and daughter-in-law Shirly to Dallas moved on a temporary basis last year where Eric served as general manager for two companies that were purchased by Trimble Corporation. They are returning to their home in San Mateo, California this winter. Eric and Shirly are expecting. Our second grandchild should arrive in July (probably another geographer).

As Dean of Arts and Sciences, my geography contributions are very limited. I attended the GPRM Division meetings in Lincoln this fall as well as the AAG meetings in the spring. I also serve on a few graduate students’ committees in the Geography Department. Occasionally, I guest lecture in a class. Geography at K-State is making great strides. It has an exceptional faculty, strong students, great hires, excellent research productivity and undoubtedly it is among the very best teaching departments at K-State. Importantly, geography faculty members have the awards and accolades to prove my point. It is a program that should make us all very proud.
FROM THE PROVOST

Duane Nellis: I have enjoyed watching from the provost's office the continued important contributions my geography colleagues make to Kansas State University and beyond. Because of his role as Dean of Arts and Sciences, I have had the pleasure of regularly working with another of my geography colleagues, Steve White, as we see each other at numerous administrative functions. And I was proud to name Dick Marston as a new University Distinguished Professor at this fall's commencement ceremonies.

As University Provost, I have appreciated the opportunity of working with deans and faculty from across the university as we work together to build on K-State outstanding traditions as one of our nation's premier land grant universities. This year has seen an ever-expanding international role for K-State as well as new and exciting initiatives in the biosciences. Of course geography has an important role to play in each of these areas.

I continue my role as Co-editor of Geocarto International which will now be published by Taylor and Francis; I have also been involved in the AAG's EDGE project funded by the National Science Foundation which is developing materials that will support aspiring academics in geography. Ruthie and I had trips this past year to China and Alaska, as well as family time in Montana.

American Association for Advancement of Science

K-State Provost Duane Nellis has been selected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). This is a long process, beginning with nominations after the last AAAS Meeting in February 2006, and will culminate with his "installation" as a Fellow at the February 2007 AAAS Meeting in San Francisco.

The official AAAS citation for Provost Nellis will read: "For distinguished scholarly discovery that advances understanding of remote sensing and geographic information sciences for land cover change; for distinguished contributions to the advancement of science through leadership as a dean, provost and as coeditor of Geocarto International."

EMERITUS NEWS

Chuck Bussing: This past year Sandy and I have been heavily involved in the development of a new Friends of International Programs organization at KSU. The organization's purpose is to connect K-State alumni, faculty, staff, students, and community members in order to create a global community committed to excellence in all international endeavors that promote international understanding. The organization has supported lectures, cultural celebrations and performances, done fund raising for scholarships, and generally supported the International Programs Office. Max Lu and I have organized and hosted an International Luncheon Series. I continue my evolution at the Konza Prairie Biological Station where my work with children in the environmental education program has been a delight with my favorite tour being the bison loop.

Early this year we spent a month in Jordan and Egypt. The highlight in Jordan was the visit to Petra, but I also enjoyed Madaba to see the oldest
known map of the Holy Land, a mosaic on the floor of Saint George’s Church. Additional highlights were Jerash, one of the ten largest cities of the Eastern Roman Empire; a Saracen’s castle at Ajlun; and Wadi Rum, where Lawrence of Arabia was filmed. What can one say about Egypt and the eternal Nile? The pyramids, and the Sphinx, Luxor, the Valley of the Kings and Queens, and Abu Simbel were all spectacular. As a geographer, I enjoyed the great cities of Cairo and Alexandria as well as rural villages and local markets.

In August we drove to the West Coast visiting friends and family in Wyoming, exploring Vancouver and Victoria before arriving at our destination Seattle. The main reason for the trip was to attend the wedding of a second generation student John Guinnote. The ceremony took place on a three decked boat on Lake Washington. We also visited Sandy’s cousin and former mentor of mine from Colorado days, Al Smith and his wife Barbara.

We then headed south down the coast at a leisurely pace to Santa Rosa, California, where we spent time with our daughter Heather and her boys and then headed back home. Retirement is fun.

David Kromm: Family activities defined the year 2006 for me. Most of them were happy times visiting children and grandchildren in Boston and Durham and enjoying their visits to Manhattan. Bobbie and I also traveled to Michigan for the Kromm and Henning (my mother’s maiden name) family reunions and to Breckenridge, Colorado, for the wedding of Bobbie’s youngest niece, Sarah. But there was sadness too. In the spring, my cousin, Frank, and Bobbie’s cousin, Sonja, both died. In August, Maybelle, my sister and only sibling, died unexpectedly from complications following colon surgery. Bobbie and I were able to spend three days with Maybelle immediately before her passing, and we returned to suburban Atlanta for her memorial service in September.

I continue researching family history, making some welcome breakthroughs, and working with retired colleagues on an update of the history of geography at K-State. Our gardens at home thrived this year. One was graced by a volunteer 12 foot tall sunflower plant with about 150 flowers blooming at its peak. Located on the front corner where two streets cross, our sunflower plant became the neighborhood landmark.

Huber Self: I still visit the department as often as possible to attend department seminars, social events, and the annual spring banquet. I continue to work with the other emeritus geography faculty on updating the department history document that I first authored in 1983 and was last updated in 1987. I turned 93 years old on 24 January 2007, which did not stop me from enjoying two major trips in 2006. In May I traveled to Kellyville, Oklahoma (near Tulsa), where we have our annual family reunion. In December, I visited my daughter and her family in Tempe, Arizona.

Steve Stover: I’ve had more contact with the department this past year than last, in part the result of frequent hiking or biking trips up the hill to work with other emeritus members of the department history committee. That project is nearing completion, it’s unlikely that many tears will be shed when it is done, but we think the end product will constitute a valuable summary of the department’s impressive growth and accomplishments.

Another project, also on-going, that has lured me back to Seaton Hall results from the downsizing of emeritus faculty office space. Sifting and winnowing of papers and books continues, both there and at home. In that connection I was pleased to locate (through the AAG central office) a home for my half century long file of the Annals and of the Professional Geographer. Getting those professional periodicals organized and packed and shipped, eleven boxes has been a major time taker.

At home my life has been much the same as last year: Trying to handle the many business; bookkeeping; correspondence and housekeeping chores that may late wife Enid dealt with so well.
I’m still living at home, my health is not excellent, but in spite of my cooking it is stable.

Travel this past year has been limited, however in June I did fly to the west coast for a granddaughter’s high school graduation at Stanwood, north of Seattle. Then came a week or so with our second daughter and her husband at their Bed and Breakfast at Oroville, CA, north of Sacramento. That was a pleasant R&R (repair and replacement) for them; they always greet me with a list of projects waiting to be done. Closer to Manhattan, I’ve enjoyed holidays with family and friends, and I’ve continued to be active in the church, AFS, and in my antique car club. There’s been time, but not enough for reading; some serious, some not, and for doing some wiring. All things considered…a good year, but a short one.

---

**Sy Seyler Certificate In Giscience**

The first Seyler Undergraduate GIScience Scholarship, first introduced during the GISSAL 15th Anniversary celebration in November 2005, was awarded in 2006 to Clancy Jensen. This scholarship is supported by alumni, friends, and faculty of the Department of Geography and is bestowed in the name of emeritus faculty member H.L. “Sy” Seyler. Dr. Seyler retired in 2000 after having devoted nearly three decades of professional service to the advancement of both geography and geographic information science at Kansas State University.

In addition to publishing numerous articles in academic journals, his teaching touched the lives of a generation of geographers and geographic information system (GIS) professionals across the nation. Dr. Seyler was a GIS pioneer in the State of Kansas and was a driving force behind the creation of the successful Geographic Information Systems Spatial Analysis Laboratory (GISSAL) at Kansas State University.

Please contact Shawn Hutchinson (shutch@k-state.edu; 785-532-6727) from the Department of Geography or Mike Harders from the KSU Foundation (mikeh@found.ksu.edu; 785-532-7524) for more information on how to make a single or annual financial contribution to this new scholarship. Your efforts to help our department continue to recruit and retain world-class geographers and GIScienceists is greatly appreciated.

---

**REMEMBERING A FRIEND**

**Mary Evelyn Bird Dobbs (1962-2006)**

The department met the news of Mary Dobbs’ death with shock and great sorrow. Mary apparently died in her sleep on December 1st, 2006. She was buried in great Bend, Kansas, on December 6th; on December 8th, Kansas State University awarded her PhD in Geography posthumously. Mary earned her K-State MA in Geography in 2003. In 2001, she earned a BA in Geography, with a dual major in History and a secondary major in Natural Resources and Environmental Science at KSU. She also had attended Barton County Community College and the University of Maryland at College Park.

The Department of Geography had cause to recognize Mary during her academic career here. She received the Huber Self Geography Scholarship as an undergraduate, in 1999, and she was co-recipient of the White Geography Graduate Teaching Assistant Excellence Award in 2002. Mary received a doctoral dissertation research grant from the National Science Foundation in 2005—the first in the department. At the suggestion of current graduate students, the departmental ‘Outstanding Citizenship Award’ is being renamed in memory of Mary Dobbs. 

12
Mary, as the ‘Mary Dobbs Outstanding Citizenship Award.’

Mary was a single mother of four children, four of whom still lived with her at the time of her death. She was teaching at Emporia State University and Cloud County Community College, working on her dissertation, and taking a class at KSU in the fall of 2006. Mary had also taught classes at KSU and Highland Community College in the past, and taught at Emporia State in 2005-6, as well. As one past graduate student put it, “Mary was an amazing woman.” On top of it all, she was a wonderful person. She will be greatly missed.

UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

Career excellence in ecology, geography and physiology have resulted in three Kansas State University faculty members being designated as university distinguished professors (UDPs), a lifetime title that represents the highest honor K-State can bestow on its faculty. Newly named UDPs are John M. Blair, biology; Daniel C. Marcus, anatomy and physiology; and Richard A. Marston, geography. "All of these individuals are outstanding researchers with international reputations in their fields," said Provost M. Duane Nellis. "They also excel as teachers and mentors. All have made outstanding contributions to teaching, research and service and have made major contributions to their professions and to the community." University distinguished professors are appointed following a university-wide competition held by the provost.
KSU Geography on the Web

During the summer of 2006, the Department of Geography website underwent a major facelift. The change was made to allow for increased “automation” in updates through increased use of cascading style sheets (CSS) and server-side includes, offering advanced functionality such as Really Simple Syndication (RSS) web feeds, and to conform to the new Kansas State University web templates released during the spring 2006 semester. The change has proven popular, as the department home page receives an average of 105 unique page loads per day and has had visitors from every continent except Antarctica! Future enhancements are already in the works, so check back often to see what we’re up to!

If you would like to receive department media releases, consider subscribing to the RSS feed “K-State Geographers in the News: available from our homepage (http://www.k-state.edu/geography). Students, past and present, are also encouraged to visit the Facebook sites established by the Beta Psi Chanter of GTU (http://ksu.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2204848198) and GISSL (http://ksu.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2204578931).

The department has also created a Frappr site to help alumni reconnect – check out http://www.frappr.com/k-stategeographyalumni today!

Department of Geography Travel Mugs

Drink the warm beverage of your choice in this handsome, yet functional, 16 oz. insulated stainless steel travel mug featuring the internationally-recognized “Powercat Globe” logo. Be among the first to proudly proclaim, “I am a geographer who drinks coffee/tea!”

Testimonials confirming the quality of these priceless drinking aids are already in:

“This is clearly the finest beverage container for geographers available in today’s market. My coffee stayed warm for hours, and tasted better, than if consumed from standard ceramic or styrofoam.”

Student Activities Report:

Revising the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)
In collaboration with the USGS and State of Kansas GIS Policy Board, GISSL and the USDA NRCS are in the process of revising the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) for Kansas. The NHD is the primary source of data regarding surface hydrology location and stream network connectivity. Using 2002 digital orthophotography, the location of stream courses are being adjusted and waterbodies added or deleted as current conditions dictate. Undergraduate major Katie Franke is leading this effort for GISSL. Shawn Hutchinson serves principal investigator.
Vegetation Mapping for Petrified Forest National Monument

Former graduate student Jason Sweet and current undergraduate major Clancy Jensen have been working with the National Park Service Southern Plateau Network to develop a vegetation data layer for Petrified Forest National Monument. This project has involved aerial photography photo interpretation, development of high resolution color digital orthophotography for the monument, as well as a detailed vegetation map layer with FGDC-compliant metadata. Ecologist Anne Cully from the NPS has been co-located in GISSAL to provide photo interpretations’ and administrative assistance between NPS and GISSAL. Shawn Hutchinson serves as principle investigator.

Kansas Forest Stewardship Assessment Project

The Kansas Forest Stewardship Assessment Project represents a comprehensive state-wide analysis to identify privately-owned lands in the state that would benefit from forest stewardship activities and funds. Undergraduate majors Iris Wilson, Michael Dulin, and Joseph Grasela have been, or are currently, involved in this activity being conducted jointly with the Kansas Forest Service. An additional component of this project includes digitization of over 1,300 existing forest stewardship plans for input into an enterprise geodatabase that will eventually be used in a web applications developed by the USFS and ESRI. Shawn Hutchinson serves as principle investigator.

Impact of Military Manoeuvre Training on Surface Water Quality

GISSAL involvement in this $1.2 million project, funded by the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, entered it its fourth year in 2006. Using normalized difference vegetation index and land surface temperature data acquired by the Moderate Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) sensor onboard the Terra and Aqua satellites, graduate student Tom Vought continued development of a model to estimate near surface soil moisture content. Graduate student Amit Kesarwani joined our team this year. He will be using LIDAR data to enhance a gully erosion model developed last year by Drs. Stacy and Shawn Hutchinson. Shawn Hutchinson is co-PI for this interdisciplinary project.

Internet Mapping Services for National Agricultural Biosecurity Center

GISSAL continues to play a key role in the university priority area of Agricultural Biosecurity. Graduate student Amit Kesarwani completed a series of internet mapping services highlighting the spatial distribution of select diseases, disease vectors, and animal carcass disposal sites for the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center (NABC). These prototype ArcIMS sites will later be enhanced using ArcGIS Server technology to include a series of modeling and analytical analysis tools. Amit’s work can be seen at the NABC website (http://nabc.ksu.edu/ ) – click on “Map Viewers.” Shawn Hutchinson serves as principle investigator.

Girls Researching our World (GROW) and Engineers & Scientists to the Rescue

GISSAL and the Department of Geography continued to support the activities of the Women in Engineering and Science Program (WESP) at Kansas State University. Undergraduate majors Clancy Jensen, Iris Wilson, and Katie Franke along with graduate students Will Breitkreutz and Tom Vought designed and conducted several hands-on workshops featuring geospatial technologies including geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems (GPS). Both the GROW and “Engineers & Scientists to the Rescue” programs seek to strengthen the interest of middle-school girls in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Geography contributions to these programs are consistently among the top-rated sessions as determined by the participants.
The Geographic Information Systems Spatial Analysis Laboratory (GISSAL) remains the leader in GIS research and outreach at Kansas State University. A total of ten major funded projects exceeding a value of $4.3 million are currently underway in the laboratory with GISSAL research staff serving as principal or co-principal investigator. Brief descriptions of these efforts, and the geography students behind them, appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

GISSAL underwent a minor “renovation” in early 2006 with a reconfigured layout, all new office furniture, and new dual-core dual-monitor computer workstations. Due to the number of extramurally-funded projects underway, we are also at which I believe to be the highest student employment rate since 1998. As of December 2006, a total of 10 students are on staff (see box below). In addition, three scientists from federal agencies (U.S. EPA, USDA APHIS, and US NPS) and two full-time GIS staff members from the KSU Office of Mediated Education are co-located with GISSAL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduates</th>
<th>Graduate Students</th>
<th>2006 Graduates</th>
<th>Staff Scientists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Dulin</td>
<td>Amit Kesarwani (Ph.D.)</td>
<td>Will Breitkreutz (M.A.)</td>
<td>Rick Chubb (KSU OME)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Franke</td>
<td>Ramatoulaye Ndiaye (Ph.D.)</td>
<td>Jason Sweet (M.A.)</td>
<td>Anne Cully (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Grasela</td>
<td>Judd Patterson (M.A.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Peg Margosian (USDA APHIS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clancy Jensen</td>
<td>Tom Vought (Ph.D.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shiva Mohandass (KSU OME)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris Wilson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adam Skibbe (USEPA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about the lab (current projects, student and professional staff, resources, etc.), please see our website at http://www.k-state.edu/geography/research/gissal.html. GISSAL also has an active page on Facebook, the popular social networking site. This global site (http://ksu.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2204578931) is designed for GISSAL student staff, affiliated scientists, and alumni to keep abreast of current laboratory events, keep in touch with friends, and advertise employment opportunities. Please join our small, but growing, group of K-State GIScientists!

**GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILES**

**Patrick Abbott:** What a difference a year makes!

December will mark the completion of my first year of graduate school. I spent the previous fall semester interning with the National Geographic society in Washington D.C. I consider myself an old-school geographer. Studying regions and cultures gives me the highest satisfaction. My thesis study is examining interpretations of Plains Indians and the US Army along the Oregon Trail. This summer I took a trip along the trail from Independence, Missouri to Fort Laramie, Wyoming for field research and I had a blast. There’s no greater thrill for a geographer than to be out in the field.

This upcoming year will be a monumental one for me. I will (hopefully!) finish my graduate studies, present at the national Association of American Geographers convention, learn the latest neogeography tools, and begin utilizing my geographical knowledge in the “real world.” To paraphrase the great pioneers of the nineteenth-century “The World or Bust!”
Scott Deaner: Terri and I took a trip into the Rocky Mountains of Colorado at the end of June to celebrate our first wedding anniversary. It was my visit to Rocky Mountain National Park and I vividly remember our east-west drive on Trail Ridge Road. When we left our hotel in Estes Park the local weather was a clear and sunny 67 degrees. The views in the park were magnificent but our real-life experience with mountain geography came as we climbed higher in elevation. The temperature continued to drop and by the time we reached the Alpine Visitors Center at almost 12,000 ft. we were completely engulfed in the clouds and the wind chill was 40 degrees. As we descended on the windward side of the high point, vegetation and wildlife became much more prevalent; we saw both moose and elk lounging beside the road.

My dissertation research on St. Louis Cardinals baseball fans is progressing nicely. I conducted fieldwork at several games this summer at the new Busch Stadium in St. Louis. I also attended the Cardinals World Series victory parade on October 29 – Terri reluctantly agreed to accompany me (she is a Detroit Tiger fan). Downtown St. Louis was home to a street party consisting of 500,000 red-clad fans. The city’s fountains were even dyed Cardinal red! It was definitely fun to be there, but most importantly, a great experience to incorporate into my dissertation.

John Harty: This past summer I attended several Paul Bunyan festivals in northern Minnesota and toured the area in search of the famed lumberjack and his Blue Ox. This semester, I started a new position as a graduate assistant with the Office of International Programs. I spend most of my "free" time these days working on my dissertation which I hope to finish sometime spring of 2007.

Chris Laingen: I’m now in my 3rd full semester here at KSU. This will be my last semester “in residence”. Last spring I met my future wife, Mary Eaton. She was the trainer for the girl’s basketball team. Last spring she applied for, was offered, and took a job at The Ohio State University. When she moved to Columbus, I surprised her by asking her to marry me on the 50 yard line of the Horseshoe. She said” yes!” The wedding will be on June 1, 2007. So, in December I will be packing up and moving to Ohio. While there, I will continue with my dissertation research (after hopefully passing my preliminary exams), and will come back to KSU as needed to meet with my committee.

This past year I was the assistant editor of the Proceedings of the Applied Geography Conference, working with John and Lisa Harrington. It was a great learning experience to work with geographers from around the world in putting together this year’s proceedings.

I have enjoyed my time in Manhattan very much. It has been wonderful getting to know and working with everyone in the department, and although I’ll be wearing a lot of scarlet and gray in the years to come, I'll always have fond memories of the KSU Geography Department and will always consider myself lucky to be a Wildcat.

Judd Patterson: I returned to K-State in August after having spent the previous 9 months in Miami, FL, as an intern with the South Florida/Caribbean Network of the National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program. On the side I continue my passion for nature photography, which can be viewed on my website: www.juddpatterson.com.
Sumanth Reddy (Sumo): Hello, how are you? Welcome to my quickie mart. Now picture me saying that with a thick Indian accent. That’s what I end up doing in class quite often and it’s a whole lot of fun. Teaching for the first time in life has been extremely rewarding. GEOG 100- World Regional Geography is a fun class to teach and I’m pretty sure the students enjoy the class too. Besides classes and teaching, much of my attention has been focused on my research on Medical Tourism. I will be traveling to India this summer to collect data for my dissertation research. I am having a lot of fun here at K-State and I am glad to have come here for my education. So ‘Thank you and come again back to read my biodata.’ Please read this with my thick Apu accent.

Vicki Tinnon: At this time next year, I hope to be preparing to graduate from Kansas State. If all goes well, I will defend my dissertation next fall. This has been a busy year for me as I attempt to complete the requirements for the GIScience Certificate and continue to make progress on the dissertation. Dr. Bimal Kanti Paul and I had our article “Treatment Delay Period: The Case of Arsenicosis in Rural Bangladesh” published in *Health & Place* in 2006. I am currently in the process of preparing to submit a couple of manuscripts as well – one dealing with Jewish settlement patterns in the early development of the Southwest and one that looks at the progress of women in physical geography.

I took a little break from presenting at conferences this year, but I did attend two – the American Planning Association conference in San Antonio, Texas and the URISA Caribbean GIS Conference at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas. I am currently working as a graduate research assistant on the Antilles GIS Project and will continue to do so through the academic year.

Of course, traveling is one of my favorite things to do and I was able to take a few trips this year. In May, I made my annual trek to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in California. I met Dr. Glenn Sebastian and his group from the University of South Alabama at White Sands and traveled with them through Saguaro, Organ Pipe, Anza-Borrego, Amboy Crater, Joshua Tree and Death Valley. We departed ways in Las Vegas, Nevada and I spent another week on the road, camping at the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, and Mesa Verde.

My sister and niece were ready for a road trip in the middle of the summer. We decided to visit our mom in Washington during the Finn Fest (the annual festival was held in Naselle, Washington this year). However, we also wanted to see a few sites along the way – it was an exhausting trip, but really worthwhile as we visited the Badlands, Custer State Park, Wind Caves, Devil’s Tower, and Yellowstone. In August, I spent a week in Aspen, Colorado. Though I did not get to hike and bike as much as I normally do, I did have my first paragliding experience!

In the coming year, I hope to complete my fieldwork in Mobile, Alabama and to present some of my research at a few conferences. Though I will likely take a trip to Anza-Borrego this year, Dr. Sebastian and I will no longer do the annual trip. As I finish my degree at Kansas State, I will begin the job search process – this will definitely be a major part of my year!
DEPARTMENT GRADUATES
Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Spring 2006

Master of Arts
Jessica Suzanne Burnum
Charlene Renee Edwards
Darci Ann Paull
Jason Thomas Sweet
Thomas John Vought

Bachelor of Science
Matthew Kunkel
Arthur Norman
Dalton Maurice Popp
Scott Andrew Shackleford
Doran R. Strouse
Jared Michael Tremblay
Troy D.W. Walker
Eric J. Wighton
Eric Norris Wood
Stephanie Rhea Zimmerman

Fall 2006

Master of Arts
Wilhelm Lee Breitkreutz
Nancy Anne Brown
Kabita Ghimire
Charlene Renee Rice
Rhett L. Mohler

Bachelor of Arts
Sean Winkler

Bachelor of Science
Jeffrey Beau Burkitt
Casey S. Carrier
Rachel Lynne Collier
Justin Hawley
David Michael Ronsick
Nicholas Earl Thompson
Serge Ntumba Tubene
MASTER THESIS 2006


Mitch J. Stimers, March 27, 2006, “A Relative Severity Index for Tornado Events: An Index to Describe the Effects of tornadoes on Individual Communities.”


DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS 2006


2006 SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS

Huber Self Geography Scholarship
Iris Wilson

Sy Seyler
Claney Jensen

William Grimm Memorial Scholarship
Iris Wilson & Claney Jensen

National Council for Geographic Education Award
Lance Noll

Len LeBlanc Outstanding Undergraduate Award
Lance Noll

White Geography GTA Excellence Award
Scott Deane

Graduate Student Leadership Award
Mitch Stimers
LECTURE SERIES 2006
The Department of Geography at Kansas State University strives each year to invite a number of nationally, and internationally, recognized scholars to our campus.

Thursday, January 19, 2006
Wanhong Yang (University of Guelph), “Cost Effectiveness of Conservation Reserve Programs, 11 am, Union Little Theater (GISci speaker)

Tuesday, January 24, 2006
Jeff Onsted (ABD, University of California-Santa Barbara), “Examining the Effectiveness of California’s Land Conservation Act,” 11:00, Union Little Theater (GISci speaker)

Thursday, January 26, 2006
Deborah Thomas (University of Colorado-Denver), “Geographical Contributions to Examining Racially Biased Policing in Denver,” 11:00 am, Union Little Theater (GISci speaker)

Tuesday, January 31, 2006
Dr. Jill Coleman (Ohio State University), “Atmospheric Circulation Types Associated with Cause-Specific Daily Mortality in the Central United States,” 11:00 am, Union Big 12 Room, (Geography speaker)

Friday, February 3, 2006
Dr. Curtis Holder(University of Colorado-Colorado Springs), “Seeing Through the Fog: The Hydrological Significance of a Tropical Montane Cloud Forest in Guatemala,” 3:00 pm Seaton 132 (Geography speaker)

Tuesday, February 7, 2006
Dr. Deborah Che (Western Michigan University), “Opportunities and Challenges in Strengthening Michigan’s Agriculture and Tourism Industries through Agritourism,” 11:00 am, Union Big 12 Room (Geography Speaker)

Friday, February 10, 2006
William Wyckoff (Montana State University), “Rephotographing Montana: Exploring a Western American Landscape,” 4:00, Big 12 Room (Geography Colloquium speaker)

Friday, September 1, 2006
Matthew Gerike, 2:30 p.m., "Rethinking Historiographies of Geography: Notes on the Continuous Construction of Geographical Knowledge." Graduate Colloquium, Room 132, Seaton Hall.

Friday, September 15, 2006
Jacob Sowers, 3:30 p.m. "An Exploration of Jackrabbit Homesteading." Graduate Colloquium, Room 132, Seaton Hall.

Thursday, September 28, 2006
Robert W. Christopherson, 7:05 p.m., "The Power of Geographic Science in a Time of Global Change." Graduate Colloquium, Room 63, Seaton Hall.

Friday, October 27, 2006
Peg Margosian (USDA APHIS). 2:30 p.m., "Connectivity of the American Agricultural Landscape: A Graph Approach." 132, Seaton Hall.
Monday, November 6, 2006
Dr. Xuwei Chen (Texas State University).  4:00 p.m., “Agent-based Microsimulation of Evacuation Strategies." Room 212, K-State Student Union.

Friday, November 10, 2006
Rhett Mohler. 3:30 p.m., "Historical Channel Change of Vermillion Creek, Kansas, 1857-2002." Graduate Colloquium, Room 132, Seaton Hall.

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Friday, November 17, 2006
Patricia Solis (Director of Research and Outreach, Association of American Geographers). 3:30 p.m., "Heuristics, Serendipity, and Enlightened Opportunism: Making a Difference through Geography." Little Theater, K-State Student Union.

Thursday, November 30, 2006
Dr. Matthew Rice (University of California - Santa Barbara).  4:00 p.m., "Haptic and Auditory Design Guidelines for Multimodal Map Interfaces." Room 207, K-State Student Union.

ANNUAL GEOGRAPHY SPRING BANQUET
Sponsored By: Gamma Theta Upsilon
And The Department of Geography

Thursday, April 27, 2006
Dr. Katherine H. Hirschboeck (University of Arizona).  8:15 p.m., “Dr. Douglass and the Missing Rings--How Place, Time, and Serendipity Spawned Modern Dendrochronology”

BROWN BAGS
Sponsored By: Gamma Theta Upsilon
And The Department of Geography

- Judd Patterson, October 18, 2006, "Wildlife and Wild Places: Weekend Explorations of South Florida."
- Dr. Doug Goodin, October 26, 2006, "Hunting for Hantavirus in Paraguay."
- Scott Deaner, November 15, 2006, "Becoming Part of’Cardinal Nation'."
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

The Geography Department Fund, William D. Grimm Memorial Scholarship, Huber Self Geography Scholarship, Rumsey Bissell Marston Scholarship, and the White Geography GTA Excellence Award
(January 1-December 31, 2006)

KAW RIVER DONORS ($250 OR MORE)

Candace Bogart
Dale Grunewald
John and Lisa Harrington Jr.
Shawn and Stacy Hutchinson
David and Bobbie Kromm
Lee Creek Gardens
Richard and Linda Marston
Duane and Ruth Nellis
Stephen and Susan White
Robert Williams

Huber Self
Larry and Patricia Smith
Clyde and Christine Weaver
Kay Weller and Raymond McDonald Jr.
Virgil Wiebe

BIG BLUE RIVER GROUP ($100-$250)

Tracy Brown
Deborah Che
Johnny Cyr
Scott and Donna Goltry
Kelly and Karen Gregg
James Grimm
Mark and Pamela Hatesohl
John and Linda Hughes
Kara Kuntz
Gail Illeithauser
Joann Luehring
Risto Marttinen
John Merryfield
John Mettille Jr.
Malcolm and Christine Ponte
Milton Rafferty
Bradley and Kristen Rundquist
Dave and Ann Scott

Dean Andrew
Cheryl Blake
Marvin Bush
Michael and Amy Cline
Katrina Frank
Dustin and Leslie Heder
Daniel Hilboldt
Eric Hilding
David and Ann Howland
Steve and Karen Hunter
Lloyd Johnson
Richard Lissitschenko
Douglas and Joyce McKinney
Bob McManis
Tod Meyn
Linda Patterson
Bimal Paul
Dale and Gloria Peterson
Erik and Karna Peterson
Drake Shaw
Craig Swisher
The Boeing Company
Molly Theobald
Gregory Vandeberg
Kathy Vought
David Wall

WILDCAT CREEK DONORS (UP TO $99)

Molly Theobald
Gregory Vandeberg
Kathy Vought
David Wall
Johnny “JCee” Coomansingh: (MA 2002, Ph.D 2005) Driving at an average speed of 70 miles per hour the journey from Minot, North Dakota to Manhattan, Kansas takes approximately 18 hours. I drove the distance for this year’s Thanksgiving just as the last Thanksgiving holiday. There was one adjustment; Dr Steve M. Huenneke accompanied me on the journey. Dr. Huenneke is a K-State graduate and my official Minot State University (MSU) mentor. He is the economics professor in the Social Science Division at MSU where I function as a stand-alone geographer. This was his first trip to Manhattan after a fourteen-year spell.

The 1200-plus miles flew quickly by as we chatted about current events, the City of Manhattan and K-State. Driving through the scenic Highway 52 to Jamestown, North Dakota, we saw landforms indicative of the effects of the glaciers that were once present on the landscape. The temperature for this time of the year was quite pleasant, insomuch that we could have driven with an open moon-roof. Maybe the fine weather conditions announce the presence of global warming. Who knows? The journey to Manhattan this time was unlike my trip last year when two deer skated and slid past me on entering Sioux Falls as I sped along at 75 miles per hour. Fortunately, I did not collide with them but I felt the adrenaline rush.

We were both overjoyed as we turned into Exit 313 from the I-70. Driving through the Konza Prairie on the nine-mile strip into the valley was an exhilarating occasion. Seeing the buttresses of the old bridge as we crossed the Kansas River told us that historic Manhattan was still visible. Taking the ramp to Tuttle Creek Boulevard, we drove along to Bluemont Avenue towards Anderson Avenue. For the first time, Steve saw the new Alumni Center and the impressive K-State limestone entrance.

After enjoying a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner with my son Jessel and his wife Shiloh, Steve and I decided to take a stroll around K-State. As we walked through the old haunts of Seaton Hall, I could “hear” the echoes of chatter, the innuendoes, provocations, jokes, and laughter of the people with whom I shared my time here as a graduate student. I recaptured the stresses, the long nights and the determination to succeed. I gently touched the maps on the walls as if longing to be back in this hallowed place. In geography, we talk about sense of place and with all certainty, I felt the power, and sense of this place for these brief moments. The geography department at Seaton Hall is a captivating place and seemed at that moment, almost sacred.

After perusing the length and breadth of the Department of Geography, we started walking back to my Jeep parked in the lot west of the Ahearn Hall. As we walked, I recognized Jon Wefald, President of K-State dressed head-to-toe in K-State colors riding his bike. I shouted out, “Wefald,” he waved to us, and then Steve yelled, “We are from Minot, North Dakota!” He promptly dismounted from his bike and smilingly came to us. It is good to know that President Wefald grew up in Minot. Our encounter with the president was indeed rewarding. We told him who we were and about what Dr. David Fuller—President of Minot State was doing to make Minot State one of the best medium-sized universities in this part of the world. President Wefald offered to send us three autographed copies of his book, A University Renaissance: Jon Wefald’s Presidency at Kansas State, which we gleefully received the following week. The president was not averse to having us take pictures with him. This event on the trip was one of our most memorable.

Following our meeting with Jon Wefald, Steve was eager to stroll over to Waters Hall. Here he worked assiduously to earn his PhD in Economics under the erudite Professor M. Jarvin Emerson, former Chair of Economics at K-State. Steve and I walked up the stairs to the third floor and curiously surveyed the “Economics” area. I took his picture outside the door of the Economics Main Office, an office, I imagined, he has entered hundreds of times during his stay in Waters as a graduate student. Enwrapped in the moment, he walked down the flight of stairs as though he “owned” these treaders to the back entrance where
he “traced” his footsteps leading out from the parking lot to Waters. His happy countenance in the photograph he took standing behind the sundial with Waters Hall and an azure sky in the background told the story that he was glad to be back at K-State for just one more time.

Our journey did not stop at Manhattan. Without a second thought, we decided to drive further into the West. Steve wanted to visit his relatives in Denver. As we came nearer to Colorado, we noticed the changes in vegetation. The presence of cacti, and yucca proved that we were now in the rain shadow of the Rocky Mountains. Pikes Peak loomed before us in the distance, and soon enough, we were in Denver, 5,900 feet above sea level in Highland Ranch. In stark contrast to the High Plains of Kansas where aridity has probably stymied residential development, urban sprawl in the Highland development seemed unchecked. Houses and condominiums large and small spread out before our eyes like a noxious weed, greedily covering the Earth. An uncanny feeling came over me concerning the power of the place. I felt as though some alien force concerned primarily with extreme residential development was gaining ground over us earthlings. The development appeared to me like a huge slimy protoplasmic blob stealing territory.

On our way back to Minot, we traversed through Wyoming and South Dakota. Steve took the wheel and this allowed me a better opportunity to view the landscape. Along the way, I identified some of the tacky landscapes Charles F. Gritzner described in one of his AAG Conference presentations. The junk piles in many places proved that there were derelictscapes in abundance. Also present along the way were advertiscapes, schlockscapes, trashscapes, and dumbscapes. However, not all the landscapes were tacky.

It was extremely awe inspiring to climb upward into the Black Hills covered with their stately pine trees. The snow-lined creek running alongside the road and the pure white frost that covered the verdure reminded me of the postcards I saw as a child when I lived in Trinidad. I could have only imagined what it was like back then, and here I was, in the midst of it all; a dream come true. The history of “Gold in dem Hills” was evident as we passed by the several abandoned and dilapidated mining camps strewn all over the territory. After some tense driving through some thick fog over precarious slopes, we arrived safely in Deadwood. What a place for a study in cultural geography. I have decided to return for at least one week for sightseeing and pictures.

After eating dinner at KFC in Spearfish, we pulled out on the last leg of the long trek home. Picking up the I-94 East, we drove to Bismarck and took the I-83 North to Minot. Tired and almost drained of energy we crossed Lake Sacagawea, but we consoled ourselves that there were only a few miles left to Minot. Covering well over 2500 miles on this wonderful trip, we arrived in Minot around 2 o’clock Monday morning. To us it was well worth the effort to go back to familiar sites, experience the nostalgia, and above all, identify with place.

John Cyr: (MA, 1980) continues to live in Beloit, Kansas where he has worked for the North Central Regional Planning Commission the last 26 years. While demands of the job largely restrict him to the eastern Rockies and Great Plains, he and his wife, Connie, enjoy vacations aboard tall sailing ships. That has enabled them to visit many parts of the Caribbean not otherwise seen by the large cruise lines. Plans are currently in the works for a change of pace, that being a rail trip in Peru.

Tiffany Dean: (BS, 2002) I’ve been working at K-State’s Office of Greek Affairs since August 2004, which is great because I keep running into Karen Debres everywhere I go (close to home!). She handled it pretty well when I told her I decided to study ASTROPHYSICS when I finally get myself into graduate school in a couple of years. We’ll just consider it the “geography of the universe” and then some. I am currently taking courses in physics at K-State, not to get a second undergraduate degree, but just to prepare for the GRE subject exam in physics. I still haven’t married Peter, but at least we live together now – so no, your wedding invitation did not get lost in the mail, we just haven’t sent it out yet.

Jerry Heitschmidt: (MA, 1993) After focusing on some of the traditional uses of remote sensing while at KSU, today I find myself reflecting on how
the industry has changed and how it has affected my career expectations. Fresh out of college I was excited to begin using Landsat imagery to study wetlands for a NASA contractor. Computers were slow and resolutions coarse, but the potential for deriving information seemed unlimited. With time, computer speeds increased and hyperspectral imaging arrived on the scene. Our company's development of portable hyperspectral imaging systems in 1996 was the spark that launched a new NASA Commercial Space Center focused on application development. Collaborative research began in areas such as cosmetics, food safety, forensic science, dermatology, oncology, and ophthalmology - all using hyperspectral imagery. Today I am working at the USDA-ARS in Athens, GA, one of the former collaborators. Here, research focuses on the use of monochromatic, multispectral, and hyperspectral imagery to address a variety of food safety and security concerns. One of the more exciting areas of research that we are pursuing is in hyperspectral microscopy. Though there is no "geo" component to what we are doing in these areas of research, the spatial and spectral skills inherent to physical Geography are very much applicable. It should be pointed out that hyperspectral imaging is not a panacea, but it does hold a great deal of potential in many disciplines. Geographers who think outside the box and are ready to work in cross-disciplinary teams will be positioned to excel and make new discoveries.

From the home front, my wife Nancy and I enjoy Athens' proximity to the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains, especially during the autumn months. To this Kansas natie, the leaves seem spectacular and the mountainous topography is fascinating. Unfortunately, not many people in this area wear royal purple. Anyway, I continue to pursue seminary coursework while Nancy is preparing for a career change from physical therapy to sonography. We both enjoy spending time with our four "highly trained" dogs and staying active in our local church.

Larry Huber: (MA, 1997) I am currently serving as an Extension Assistant (Department of Agronomy) on a EPA-319 grant-funded program in conjunction with KDHE. The semi-official title of our program is the Kansas Grassland Quality Stewardship Program*.

My primary duties are as Literature Database Manager and GIS Analyst/Technician. In addition I am co-editor and circulation manager for the program newsletter The Grassland Watershed, which can be found on our site (which I also co-manage) at: [http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/glwq/](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/glwq/) (Look under the 'newsletters' link).

On Valentine's Day, 2006, I presented a poster at the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 59th annual meeting, then in Vancouver, British Columbia. Angela William's (SRM President) was interested in my poster and in the real-time literature database queries I was able to transmit Via a wireless notebook computer I checked out from ITAC so I could provide a more 'hands-on' presentation. I also got Angela to sign up for our newsletter (but no promotion).

I'm a life-time member of Phi-Kappa-Phi and appeared recently (in the September 2006 edition) of The National Dean's List.

*Note the actual official title is way too long, and doesn't express our program focus like this one. Cheers! Larry Huber

Jim Janke: (MA, 1976) In July I retired from my position as a Community Resource Development Agent for the University of Wisconsin-Extension. I was there for 30 years, coming straight out of graduate school at K-State. Recently I accepted a part-time position as an Assistant Manager at the Survey Research Center on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. My wife Rebecca is the Executive Director of a non-profit organization Growing Communities for Peace. She consults with schools and progressive organizations and runs a traveling and on-line bookstore specializing in books on human rights, peace education, environmental protection, and non-violence.
**Brenda Martin:** (MA, 1996) Beginning January 3rd I will be working on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH. I will be helping to promote and manage the GeoBase (GIS) Program for the Air Force Materiel Command. I will also be doing more travel as I visit the GeoBase sites all around the country that are under this Command. So I may be coming to visit some of my K-State friends! I’m bringing my purple pride to Ohio - if anyone knows of a good catbacker club in the area, let me know!

---

**John P. McKenzie:** (MA, 1997) This has been an exciting year for me, personally and professionally. I was promoted to Senior Program Manager of Education at the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS) in Rockville, MD, where I have been since August 2005. I was fortunate to be involved in training programs in San Diego, Denver and Lisbon and just returned from an exciting 2-week project in Moscow. I’ve also assisted with other projects in Russia and a meeting in Kazakhstan, also part of the State Department's BioIndustry Initiative project. I also live in Rockville, which makes my daily commute much easier and is still relatively close to Washington DC. I still try to visit Kansas a couple times a year when I'm not busy working or traveling.

---

**Bryant Ralston:** (MA, 1995) First I want to convey my congratulations to the Department for their continued excellence in the field. I ran into several K-State geographers a few years ago when the regional AAG meeting was here in Missoula including the conference keynoter Dr. Nellis. Nice to see familiar faces from Kansas clear out here in Montana. Additionally, I was lucky enough to partake of the K-State Alumni reception at the ESRI User Conference following the Special Achievement Award in 2005. Much deserved indeed. Unfortunately I was unable to make it back to Kansas for the GIS Commons dedication and tribute to Dr. Seyler but I am glad one of my co-workers and fellow K-Stater Gov. Jim Geringer was able to make it. He did convey the event’s happenings to me as Jim and I have been working closely together to support the Western Governor’s Association. Working with the WGA has provided me the opportunity to interact with most of the Governors in the West, including California’s “Governator” Arnie which was fun, of course, but also surprising how much he already know about GIS technology due to his visit to the ESRI run EOC (emergency operation center) for the southern California wildfires. Have yet to meet Governor Sibelius however….

I live near Missoula, Montana (Clinton, to be geographically exact) and have worked for ESRI since my graduation from K-State in 2 regional offices and now as a “satellite”. I am enjoying what one of my friends calls a “RBL” (recreation based lifestyle). Out here in Big Sky Country my outdoor activities usually follow the season – winter (downhill skiing), spring (fly fishing), summer (backcountry camping and hiking), and fall (upland and big game hunting). I presently work out of my log home and am the account manager for Montana and Idaho. I inherited the State of Idaho this summer and am still adjusting to the doubling of my territory and resulting responsibilities. If you’re looking for a job with ESRI in South Puget Sound (Olympia, WA) area please contact me as I am presently looking for assistance!

On the academic front I have been working part-time on my MBA at the University of Montana and have been doing some periodic guest lecturing on GIS topics in the Forestry, Geography, and Business schools. I also started a Missoula GIS “Coffee Talk” that has become quite popular with somewhere around 30-60 participants attending each installment. It provides the GIS community in Missoula a monthly “get your head up out of your computer screen” GIS networking, sharing, and socializing event.

My big news is that in April I was presented the Montana GIS Professional Excellence Award from the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP) during an awards ceremony during the Intermountain GIS User’s Conference held in Helena, Montana. I felt honored to receive this award alongside fellow geographer and University of Montana GIS professor emeritus Dr. Paul Wilson who has been teaching Montana geographers for 35 years! A humbling surprise and quite a touching honor.
NEW CONFERENCE TABLE FOR GEOGRAPHY SEMINAR ROOM

The Department of Geography was the recipient of a wonderful, custom-made conference table for our seminar room. K-State President Wefald allocated funds for the purchase of this handsome table from the Dane G. Hansen Fund that President Wefald established at the KSU Foundation. Noted local, woodworker Jan Olewnick constructed the beautiful table, and installed it in October 2006.

To view these pages in color visit the Geography Web site at:

www.k-state.edu/geography
LOOKING BACK... WITH THE GEOGRAPHY HISTORY PROJECT

Geography Society 1959

Geography Club 1971

Karl Stacey and Sara Larson
First Two Retirees from Geography

Geography Department 1989
FACULTY AND STAFF OF THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

2007

Back Row: Kathy Zimmerman, Chuck Bussing, Chuck Martin, Doug Goodin
Middle Row: Max Lu, Huber Self, Steve White, John Harrington, Shawn Hutchinson, Steve Stover
Back Row: Dave Kromm, Bimal Paul, Dick Marston, Lisa Harrington, Jeff Smith, Karen De Bres, Deborah Che
Absent: Kevin Blake, Laura Moley, Duane Nellis, Lisa Percival

1988 First Departmental Faculty Photo
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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: ____________________________</th>
<th>Occupation: ____________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address: __________________</td>
<td>Title: __________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employer: __________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail Address: __________________</td>
<td>Other: __________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Graduated: __________________</td>
<td>Degree: __________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Graduated: __________________</td>
<td>Degree: __________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Graduated: __________________</td>
<td>Degree: __________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Please return this form to:

Kathy Zimmerman  
Kansas State University  
Department of Geography  
118 Seaton Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506-2904  
E-mail: kzimmerm@ksu.edu and Fax: 785-532-7310
ALUMNI BUSINESS CARD DISPLAY PLANNED FOR SEATON HALL

Help our students to learn the value of a geography degree by submitting a business card from your current organization. What better way to show what’s possible with geography! Please send your cards to: Shawn Hutchinson, Department of Geography, Kansas State University, 118 Seaton Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506.