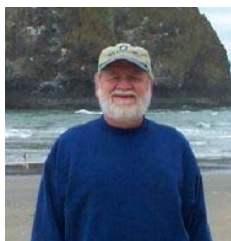


2004 Alumni Newsletter

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY



FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD



Greetings from Seaton Hall, K-State, and Manhattan! It is now 3-H weather (hot, humid, and hazy) and I'm wishing I were at that other Harrington house in coastal, southwest Washington, where the dew point temperature rarely climbs above 60 F. As you will read in the following pages, it has been another year of exceptional productivity and success by the members of the K-State geography community. I feel very fortunate to have had the honor of leading the group these past five years.

Remember to follow the purple geography action on a weekly basis (at least during the academic year) at our web site: <http://www.k-state.edu/geography/>. The Seaton Globe, our weekly newsletter, is available by clicking on the 'News' link. Shawn Hutchinson (our web guru) also provides links to geo-relevant K-State media releases. The biggest news items of the past year are the selections of geographers to key administrative positions. In February, M. Duane Nellis accepted the job as Provost and he officially begins his new duties in Manhattan on July 1st. Dr. Nellis returns to his adopted home in the Flint Hills after a seven-year exile as Dean of Arts & Sciences at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia.



Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences is the other important administrative job that was filled on a permanent basis by a geographer. Steve White was selected from a national search and lost the "Interim" part of the job title that he had carried for a year and one-half. Yes, others across campus have expressed a concern that geographers are "taking over" this place. Many of you might agree that having these 'spatial' administrators is a good thing!

The department is also very proud that one of our MA graduates, Dr. Patricia (Bennett) Solis, was selected in October 2003, as Deputy Executive Director of the AAG.

By all accounts, the department's hosting of the October 2003 meeting of the Great Plains / Rocky Mountain region of the AAG was a huge success. The whole affair was a collaborative team effort and we were rewarded with a full program and record attendance. AAG President Alec Murphy represented the AAG at the meetings. I think Alec went away impressed with the quality of all that is K-State geography and he provided an excellent keynote address during the meetings. One small measure of the overall success of the meeting was that our GTU chapter sold out all the special design meeting t-shirts that they had gotten for sale and had to special order more to meet the demand.

During the Fall Semester, the faculty decided to offer Toni Alexander (our visiting faculty member during 2003-2004) the job for a second year. Toni accepted our offer and, as we anticipated, she successfully defended her dissertation in the spring. If you see Dr. Alexander in the future, be sure to ask her what it was like having President Bush as a Commencement speaker.

Inside this Issue	Pages
Faculty News	3-9
Selected Accomplishments	9-11
Emeritus Notes	11-13
Gamma Theta Upsilon	13
A Word from Grad Student	13
The Office	14
Department Graduates	14
Defenses 2003/2004	15
2004 Scholarship Winners	15
Visiting Lecture Scholars	15-16
Brown Bag Lectures	16
List of Contributors	16
Alumni Notes	16-17
Photo Gallery	18
Alumni Update Form	19

In early November, a large contingent of K-State geographers made the trek to Colorado Springs for the 26th Annual Applied Geography Conference. The department helped co-sponsor the Conference and twelve papers and one poster were presented by purple-clad geographers.

In December, I spoke with Dean White about my desire to have more time for family and to also have more time for research and teaching. Having completed my five-year term as Head, I was hoping to shift back to a more traditional faculty role. I left Steve's office with a twisted arm; having agreed to a sixth year of service as Head for 2004-2005. Plans are in place to search for new leadership during this coming year.

The department did get permission to hire a second visiting faculty member and in May we hired Heather Conley. Heather is ABD from Iowa and should finish her PhD later this summer. Her dissertation research looks at relationships between climate and medical geography (drought and Hantavirus in the western US). She will be teaching EG 1 and Human Impacts on the Environment while she is here. This past year she taught at Illinois State in Normal, Illinois. I let her know that there were differences between KSU wildcats and ISU redbirds and Manhattan was not Normal. I'll let you decide if there was a double meaning in my communication about 'Normal.'

On Saturday January 24th, many of the faculty and emeritus faculty gathered together at Harry's Uptown to help celebrate Huber Self's 90th birthday. Huber really enjoyed the festivities and a grand time was had by all. Yes, it is possible to fit ninety candles on one birthday cake.

In February, K-State and the Department of Geography helped host a visit by Frank and Deborah Popper (of Buffalo Commons fame) to K-State. The Poppers lead discussions in several classes, heard presentations dealing with on-going K-State research on the High Plains, and were a huge attraction for an afternoon public 'conversation' on the Buffalo Commons concept in Forum Hall. Steve White moderated the session; but former Kansas Governor Mike Hayden stole the show by announcing a 180-degree shift in mind set and admitting that "the Poppers were right."

The week before Spring Break in March, a good number of K-State geographers attended the Centennial Annual Meeting of the AAG. Eight faculty and six students presented their scholarship, in Philadelphia, at the largest ever gathering of North American geographers.

In early April, Dr. Jeff Smith and the department learned that he had been selected to receive a Presidential Teaching Award. This is a wonderful honor for Jeff who tends to "sweat the details" and puts a tremendous effort into all aspects of his job here at K-State. In addition to the honor, Jeff gets a few extra dollars to spend this next year. If you bump into Jeff while he is doing fieldwork in Mexico, he may be able to spring for a round of Dos Equis.

By all measures, such as number of students taught, numbers of majors, numbers of grants, etc., the department continues its long tradition of success. Our high level of achievement has helped buffer the department during hard financial times for the University as a whole. While "not losing ground" doesn't always go over well with a group of hard working people, geography at K-State continues to do much better than other departments within the College and the University.



Telefund: Grad Students, Tracy Brown, Ryan Reker, and Lori Emerson at the phones.

For those of you who have helped us out with contributions to one of our Foundation accounts, either in response to Telefund or through other donations, we greatly appreciate your generosity!

Enjoy reading about K-State geography and geographers in the following pages and be sure to provide an entry for the June 2005 edition. The K-State geography community wants to hear from you!

FACULTY NEWS

Toni Alexander: I suppose it goes without saying that the last year has flown by at lightening speed, but I think it was especially true for me. I arrived in Manhattan last August and within a week found myself in front of 500 students each day, teaching a combination of Geographic Information Systems I, U.S.

Geography, and World Regional Geography. While the first two courses were exciting in that they gave me a chance to develop entirely new courses, even World Regional Geography inspired me in new directions as I incorporated the use of a keypad response system into daily lectures.

With regard to my own research, I also participated in both the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain regional conference hosted by Kansas State and the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Perhaps most significant in this direction, however, was the completion, defense, and submission of my doctoral dissertation and graduation from Louisiana State University in May. And while I continue to work on drafting articles and a book proposal from my dissertation, I must admit it feels like I've left behind a very important part of my life.

Despite those somewhat sad feelings, I've been quite happy with my life here in Manhattan and look forward to spending another year on the K-State campus in the Department of Geography. To celebrate the end of a successful first year, I rewarded myself with a trip to China. Led by Max Lu, our group tour of northern China was a wonderful experience, and I can't wait to incorporate all my new photos into my World Regional Geography lectures. Hopefully, my next year here will be just as exciting.

Kevin Blake: Greetings to all of our alumni! This past academic year I've taught World Regional Geography, a graduate seminar on Western Landscapes, the Human Impact on the Environment seminar, and a new undergraduate course, Geography of the American West. Teaching a new class like this was quite



interesting; there was plenty of preparation time required, but it also helped me understand how I see the West. I've been interested in the West for so long there is more than enough material to fill a semester, so two of the greatest challenges are deciding what readings to use and what material to cover (and leave out). I had the class read two novels, one about Navajo culture (*A Thief of Time*) and one about oil and gas drilling vs. wilderness (*Caribou Crossing*), plus we read a work of creative nonfiction (*Desert Solitaire*), an anthology of short essays about western issues (*Living in the Runaway West*), and several geography articles. We also had a visit from Frank and Deborah Popper (of Buffalo Commons fame) that stimulated a good class discussion on the future of the Great Plains. This coming fall, I hope to again teach World Regional Geography, and also another new undergraduate/graduate class, Mountain Geography. I look forward to the experience.

Karen De Bres: I was fortunate, in the fall, to offer a Cultural Geography seminar, with about an equal number of grads and undergrads. Sometimes classes just "click" and this one did, with lots of great ideas, discussions, and mini-field trips, which we called "Friday field walks." Many thanks to all the participants for making that one of the best classes



I've ever been lucky enough to direct. I won't say teach, since we all taught it together! All the alums who remember me as a "technophob" will be amused to hear that my lower level classes are now on power point, and I have been busy putting in more pictures and maps and taking out all the text possible. I call this "teaching by picture book."

I've also been busy continuing my research concerning historical geography of the Plains, getting some things accepted and published and stuffing more flowers into my English style cottage garden. My dream is to build an English conservatory out back, and grow flowers all year long! My house was on the Riley County Historical Society Christmas tour this year (the cats were sent down to the basement.) Also, I am working on some projects for the historical society. Hello to all the alums! Do stop by if you are in town.

Doug Goodin: It's newsletter time again, which



must mean that another year has come and gone. As expected, the 2003-2004 academic year was busy and eventful. The past year saw the publication of *Climate*

Variability and Ecosystem Response at Long Term Ecological Research Sites for which I was both editor and contributing author. A quick check of Amazon.com indicates that the book has zoomed to number 1,034,940th on the sales list, with only three volumes left in stock! Better get yours before they're all gone. Besides completing the book, I've also been busy wrapping up the final year of a three-year NASA project and starting a new four-year project on Hantavirus ecology in Paraguay. I'm very excited about this new project, which is a large, multi-institutional collaboration aimed at examining how land cover change might initiate a cascade of events leading to viral infection of humans. I'll be headed to Paraguay in June to begin work on the project.

John Harrington, Jr.: This past year, I have



continued my hectic pace at work by combining the duties of leading the department with teaching, research, and professional service. This past fall Semester, I taught History and Philosophy on Monday evenings.

The 19 students were split into two sections that met back-to-back (two sections was my reward for not teaching the class while on sabbatical the prior year). In the spring, I again taught climatology. I was fortunate to have several significant weather "events," like a major ice storm, an 8" snow storm, and some spring severe weather, to help me determine the daily class topic. I really like teaching GEOG 535 and the students seem to appreciate the effort I put into relating the day-to-day mood swings of the atmospheric circulation system with relevant class content.

I have enjoyed the work that Erik Bowles (who just finished his MA thesis) and I are doing on heat stress climatology. The work has been funded by the Great Plains Regional Center of the National Institute for Global Environmental Change. As a part of his thesis research, Erik applied a livestock-based heat wave classification system to weather stations in the central US. Expanding on that work,

I decided to present a paper at the centennial AAG meeting asking the question: What is a Category 5 Heat Wave? I had a great deal of fun putting my ideas together and delivering them to a relatively large audience in Philadelphia. A very nice reward was given to me later in the meetings when my MA advisor, Dick Skaggs from Minnesota, complemented me on the presentation.

In addition to the AAG, I attended seven other professional meetings last year and zigzagged here and there in doing so. But, the a very rewarding and challenging professional presentation was here on campus to a packed audience in Forum Hall in the Student Union. The Kansas Center for Rural Initiatives invited Frank and Deborah Popper to present their ideas and also got former governor, Mike Hayden, to be a speaker. Len Bloomquist (Sociology), Bonnie Lynn Sherow (History) and I got to make short presentations to get the afternoon session started. A number of people I highly respect commented favorably on my pictorial, map, and scholarly overview of the High Plains.

Approximately 200 geographers were in Manhattan in early October 2003, for the annual Great Plains / Rocky Mountain regional AAG meeting. By all accounts that I've heard, the meeting attendance set a record. Everyone in the department really pulled together to host a highly successful event. I've been fortunate to hear numerous compliments from outsiders who either came to Manhattan or heard really good things about the meetings.

This has been my fifth year as department head and time to reassess how long I should continue to serve. Perhaps in part because my brother lost his battle with brain cancer, I was strongly considering not being department head for another term. In discussions with Dean White, he was able to convince me to agree to serve for one more year. I'd really like to spend more time hiking or playing golf with my sons.

Lisa Harrington: This past year has seen me travel to the Arlington, Virginia/Washington, DC, area twice; Washington and Oregon, Philadelphia, Montreal, Boulder, Kearney & Grand Island,



Nebraska, and various points in Kansas. August means a trip to Scotland, with the International Geographical Union's meeting there. I'm looking forward to that, but John & I still have to discuss who's going to be doing the driving on the "wrong" side of the road. The whole (human part of the) family is going. I have a feeling we won't have enough time.

Ian is now (gasp!) a teenager; Colin is 11. Ian is taking piano lessons, and hates everything about it. After going through trumpet & clarinet (both at his request), we're making him stick with piano for now. (He actually has some talent, but doesn't want it. Maybe this is related to being 13.) Ian also was on a league soccer team for the first time this spring, playing midfield. Colin is taking guitar. He likes guitar, but the practicing part is not so well accepted. Both of them like video games, skateboards, bicycling, and shooting baskets. They'll occasionally help out with things around the house, if the bribe (oops, pay) is big enough.

Seamus, the Shetland sheepdog, likes agility. I've just entered him into our first event. I'm getting psyched up to deal with major embarrassment. He won't notice any foolishness on either of our parts. We lost two of our three cats within one month last summer. Zoë died of old age—had too many organs failing. Tornado Alley Cat was much younger, but had rampantly spreading cancer. At the end of summer we went to the animal shelter and adopted two kittens with colds. They recovered quite well, and are on the huge side. Zeus and Cosmo are littermates, but evidently had different dads: Cosmo is a longhaired orange-and-white, and Zeus is an Oriental shorthair type (looks like a great big Siamese, but with some striping). Seamus thinks that Cosmo is a chew-toy, and tries to pull the 'squeaky' out of his fluffy tummy. At least he doesn't try too hard, and Cosmo puts up with it quite well. It's possible to look up and see an orange streak chasing Seamus up and down stairs, after being invited for tag by the dog.

J.M. Shawn Hutchinson:

Geospatial technology courses continue showing strong enrollment numbers, with GEOG 508 GIS I and GEOG 708 GIS II closing nearly every semester, or



about 120 students annually. While I continue to teach GEOG 508, 555 (Cartography and Thematic Mapping), 702, and 708, I was also fortunate enough to inherit GEOG 725 Geography of Water Resources from Dr. Kromm this spring – certainly a difficult task! I am also in the process of developing a new undergraduate “Ecoregions” course, to complement Dr. Goodin’s new Earth System Science class, to enhance our upper-level physical geography course offerings. This spring also marks the end of the second year for the increasingly popular Graduate Certificate in GIScience program. Four students completed the rigorous requirements, including geographers Ryan Kroemer and Nate Kettle. The department has also successfully proposed the creation of a new 18 credit Undergraduate GIS Certificate that may begin as early as Fall 2004.

GISSAL continues to broaden its influence at the state and national levels. We were fortunate enough to steal Dr. Nancy Leathers from Georgia Southern University to serve as a post-doctoral research associate in the lab. With her significant assistance, work began or continued, this past year, on several projects funded by federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Park Service, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. At the state and local level, GISSAL continued extensive collaboration with the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Hazardous Substance Center and City of Topeka Wastewater Division. Along with Dr. Leathers, we have also finished our first year of offering ESRI Authorized GIS workshops through the KSU Division of Continuing Education, introducing over 20 people from the public and private sector to the benefits of using GIS in their places of work. Several new students joined the lab in the past year including: Will Breitreutz, Sam Hielt, Brooke Stansberry, and Kortney Steinhurst. We will also be losing several outstanding staff members who have been tremendous assets and whose contributions will be sorely missed. Tracy Brown begins a new job with the Kansas City District of the Corps of Engineers this summer and Brad Hammerschmidt departs this fall (after his Department of Homeland Security summer fellowship) to begin graduate work at Colorado State University. Jason Herynk was lost

due to graduation and undergraduate Will Breikreutz will be “promoted” to graduate student and assume GTA responsibilities for geospatial techniques classes in the fall.

Efforts on the research front have been hectic, but fruitful. In addition to eight funded projects in 2003-2004, six manuscripts were published and 12 papers or posters presented at professional conferences. Work is wrapping up on a joint geography/entomology project funded by USDA APHIS and the KSU National Agricultural Biosecurity Center that is investigating the rate of spread and range expansion of an exotic insect species. News reports concerning this research have recently appeared in several newspapers and on the ScienceDaily.com and abcnews.com websites. This will also be the final year of the NASA EPSCoR-funded hyper-spectral remote sensing project led by Dr. Goodin. This summer also marks the completion of the first of a five-year project with colleagues in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and Department of Geology – sponsored by the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) – that is assessing the impact of military training activities on surface water quality at Fort Riley.

Late this spring, Dr. Goodin and I received news that the National Institutes of Health accepted our proposal (with researchers from the Southern Research Institute, New Mexico State University, and the National University of Asuncion) to examine the impact of anthropogenic landcover change on hantavirus ecology in Paraguay. Frequent flyer miles galore! Also, KSU Provost James Coffman announced the first awards granted under K-States new Targeted Excellence program, an initiative designed to promote the standing and reputation of KSU as a land-grant institution. From a pool of 54 pre-proposal, 14 were selected to be submitted as full proposals, with 9 being selected for funding. One of the funded proposals included “Geospatial Technology Infrastructure Enhancement Program” submitted by the Department of Geography.

This past year was also a busy one for professional travel and included conference presentations at the Central States Entomological Society Meeting

(Lincoln, NE), Applied Geography Conference (Colorado Springs, CO), Kansas Water Conference (Lawrence, KS), and the centennial meeting of the AAG (Philadelphia, PA). While at the AAG in Philadelphia, several geography faculty and students, in what is starting to become a ritual, attended a NHL hockey game that pitted the Flyers versus Dr. Goodin’s beloved Maple Leafs. Beer and cheese steaks were consumed and, fortunately for Dr. Goodin, the Leafs triumphed that night. Other conferences in which I had paper or poster presentations include: Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Partners in Environmental Technology Symposium and Workshop, and the Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting. Additional travel has taken me to Washington, D.C. for both a SERPD project annual review briefing and meeting with National Science Foundation representatives and to Raleigh, North Carolina to speak with USDA APHIS administrators about current and future research projects.

Other significant service-type activities this past year include serving as a member of the State of Kansas GIS Policy Board and the Kansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program Advisory Committee, and newsletter editor for the AAG Water



Resources Specialty Group. I was also able to present invited seminars to the Department of Entomology, Department of Geology, and Kansas Water Environment Association.

On the home front, Stacy and I are relieved to announce that no new children were welcomed into our family during the past year. Marleigh (now 16 months) and Mitch (now 3) have kept us on our toes, and I now know more about Thomas the Tank Engine than I ever thought possible.

Lu Max : Once again, I did quite a bit of traveling this past year, both domestic and international. The highlight is my two trips to China. During my sabbatical leave in the fall of 2003, I spent a little over two months in China, mostly in Beijing, thanks to a fellowship



from the K.C. Wang Foundation through the Chinese Academy of Sciences. I worked with colleagues at the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research of the CAS on rural-urban migration and urbanization issues, which are arguably among the most pressing issues in China today. The Chinese government for a long time attempted to control the exodus of rural residents, perhaps for fear of overwhelming the cities and getting massive squalid settlements that are so common on the outskirts of big cities in many developing countries. But rural reform has released a considerable amount of labor from land, and by some estimate about 100 million migrants from rural areas have been moving around the country in search of employment opportunities in cities, giving rise to the so-called "floating population." In recent years, the Chinese government has come around to advocate urbanization as an economic development strategy. Only after the proportion of rural population is significantly reduced, the argument goes, can China become a developed country. The whole country has been undergoing rapid urbanization along with industrialization. Our concerns are on the mechanisms of urbanization, land use change in the process of urbanization, and the social and environmental consequences of rapid urbanization. I very much enjoyed the fieldwork I did with my Chinese collaborators. We visited a number of small towns, villages and factories in East China's Zhejiang province and interviewed many government officials, private entrepreneurs, farmers, and migrants. Now only if I can sort things out and start writing. Only half a year later, I was back in China, this time leading a traveling seminar. Dr. Toni Alexander and our doctoral student Anne Donovan are among the 11 K-Staters that joined me. We visited Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu, Jiuchaigou (two national parks), Suzhou and Shanghai in two weeks and had a great time. It was my first visit to Chengdu and Jiuchaigou. Geographers most likely know China is divided into three physiographic tiers, from the mountainous west to its densely

populated east coast. I can now claim that I have been to all three tiers, albeit just being on the eastern margins of the western tier. This is the second time I led a tour to China. With our new Associate Provost, Dr. Ken Holland, actively promoting study abroad, this is likely to happen again. You may be wondering what tidbits I received from the tours? Let me tell you, the last thing one would expect once in a different culture must be unfamiliar foods and different eating habits. Steamed whole fish and an occasional chicken foot in dishes just proved difficult for some members of my group to handle (time to hit the KFCs and McDonald's!). And, squat toilet comes as a close second.

Charles Martin: The past year was a good one for the Martin family. After our annual summer trip to Germany last year, where I continue to do work on heavy metals in floodplain sediments of the Lahn River, we returned to the blazing August heat of



Manhattan. Christine, our youngest, began Kindergarten in August and Nicholas entered 4th grade. Both kept Sabine and me busy with soccer, swimming, ice hockey, and dance classes.

In the fall semester, I taught Environmental Geography I and II and served as faculty coordinator for Graduate Colloquium I. I was also involved with teaching the NRES Capstone class. During the fall semester, I received word that my contribution *Physical Homogeneity of the Midwest* was accepted for publication in the upcoming volume *Encyclopedia of the Midwest*, a massive work that will bring together notes and essays about the heartland of America. In October, John Harrington and I led a daylong field trip northward along Tuttle Creek Reservoir as part of the regional Association of American Geographers meeting held in Manhattan. The year ended with a quiet Christmas and New Years at home.

The spring semester saw me teaching Geography of Kansas to 100 undergraduates and Advanced Environmental Geography (GEOG 840) and Colloquium II to far smaller numbers of graduate students. In January, my manuscript on heavy metals along the Lahn River, Germany, was

accepted to *Geomorphology*. February was unlike any winter month I had experienced in Manhattan: it actually snowed, then snowed again! As an avid x-country skier, I was in heaven for about three weeks, taking full advantage of the foot of snow that remained on the ground for nearly the entire month. The warming temperatures of March saw me off to Philadelphia for the annual AAG national meeting, where I attended presentations by a couple



of former graduate students. The semester closed with a field trip to southeastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma with my GEOG 840 students to look at the lingering

environmental effects of heavy metal mining from the 1870s to 1970. In June, we will be off to Germany for about eight weeks and some additional fieldwork along the Lahn River and its tributaries.

Aside from teaching and research, I continue to serve as director of the NRES Secondary Major at K-State and took over the position as lead undergraduate advisor for the Geography Department. Both bring me in contact with undergraduate students on a regular basis, an interaction that I still enjoy and find professionally rewarding.

Bimal K. Paul: Like other years, the past year has been a busy one for me. Although I did not go to Bangladesh last year, I will go this year in July to study the April 15, 2004 tornadoes that swept over northern Bangladesh. On the way back to the United States, I will attend the IGU Commission on Health and the Environment Pre-Conference Meeting to be held in Irsee, Germany, August 11-15, 2004. I have also a plan to visit Bangladesh again in December 2004.



Since the last newsletter, I have published three papers, six book chapters, one quick response report, and one CD-ROM review. In addition, I reviewed eight journal manuscripts and one NSF grant proposal. Three manuscripts are under review process, and two accepted papers and one book review may come out any day.

A lot of things are happening on the family front. Our eldest daughter, Anjana, is planning to stay with us. We wanted to sell our house and buy a bigger one. Unfortunately, the houses we like, we cannot afford them. For this valid reason, we stopped looking for houses this year. Following her elder sister's path, my second daughter, Archana, is now working in Chinese Chef. Rahul, our son, will go to Middle School for Fall 2004. Through the DV (Diversity Visa) program of the US government, recently my niece's husband came to the United States as an immigrant. He will work in Kansas City, Kansas.

Jeff Smith: Stress is an amazing thing. Some stress can be "good" because it gets the adrenaline pumping and helps people perform at a higher level. Too much stress, however, can become a problem and can even contribute to health issues.



This year was incredibly stressful for me. This was the year I submitted my portfolio for promotion and tenure consideration. Although I was informed I had little to "worry" about, my stress level was very high. Not only was I having nightmares, but stress was contributing to some physical ailments. Then, just before Christmas we had to say good-bye to oldest dog (Babette). She was 15 1/2 years old and had a good life, but that didn't help with my stress level much. Thankfully, in January I received word from the Dean's office that my application for promotion and tenure was being forwarded to the President and the Kansas Board of Regents with a favorable recommendation. Holy cow, I can't tell you how much better I felt. Since then I have felt much better physically, and I'm no longer waking up nights in a cold sweat. Now I'm looking forward to continuing my research in the American Southwest and Mexico under a more manageable level of stress. My immediate plans for the next year are to finish a couple unpublished manuscripts and then begin working on a full-length monograph. I wish for each and every one of you a manageable amount of stress. If, however, you find yourself under the gun and buried up to your eyeballs, I hope you will find a chance to get out into the field and remember why you chose to become a geographer. Until next year... Jeff.

Dean White: In October 2003, I was appointed as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The



geography part of my career evaporated substantially in February 2002 when I was appointed interim dean.

However, once a geographer always a geographer! I

frequently suffer from classroom withdrawal syndrome, but I continue to go to the AAG meetings and referee some journal manuscripts and grant proposals. I also serve as the AAG delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies. With great enthusiasm, I look forward to working with Duane Nellis again when he returns to K-State in July as the Provost.

Susan continues to work in Bob Dole Hall as a distance education coordinator. Our son, Ben, completed his master's degree in geography, at K-State this past spring, under the guidance of Jeff

Smith. Our older son, Eric, completed his MA in geography at K-State in 1995. Dave Kromm was his major professor. It is difficult for me to think about Dave as an emeritus professor. Truth is, he still goes to the department most mornings and keeps us updated on his continuing research on the Great Plains. He just doesn't get paid for it.

Last Christmas, Susan and I visited Eric and wife Shirley in San Mateo followed by a trip to the Fiesta Bowl. We continue to visit the folks in Kentucky and they continue to ask us when we are moving back. They don't understand why anyone would ever want to leave Bluegrass State. This summer, Susan and I are taking a cruise to Alaska. After our visit to Alaska, Rhode Island becomes the only state I have never visited. Surely there is a good reason to go there. However, as a geographer I know that I don't need a good reason to go – any reason will do.

SELECTED FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Toni Alexander:

- Presentation of: "California's Cornucopia? Rural Place Identity in California's San Joaquin Valley" at the 2004 Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.
- Completion of Doctoral Dissertation: "From Oklahomans to 'Okies': Identity Formation in Rural California."
- Beginning new research on the perceptions and conflict arising from urban to rural migration in California's Central Valley.

Kevin Blake:

- Presented "Lighthouse Symbolism in the American Cultural Landscape" at the annual meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers.
- Published a book review in the *Journal of Cultural Geography of Western Places, American Myths: How We Think About the West*.

Karen DeBres:

- This is the first "almost normal" year in terms of health since 1999--still have a limp, but can now give a whole lecture standing up and walk back to the office. So, I am getting back to my research schedule again.
- I have found a way to help fund grad students in the summer--at least this year--by splitting up my overly large Geog of Tourism class and having the College fund another section. Next year perhaps we can encourage the College to fund two more summer TAs!!

Doug Goodin:

- Publication of *Climate Variability and Ecosystem Response at Long Term Ecological Research Sites* by Oxford Press.
- Publication of "The Effect of Solar Illumination Angle and Sensor View Angle on Observed Patterns of Spectral Reflectance in Tallgrass Prairie" in *IEEE Transaction on Geoscience and Remote Sensing*.

- Funding of "The Effect of Rapid Anthropogenic Land Cover Change on Hantavirus Dynamics in Paraguay" by the National Institutes of Health".

John Harrington, Jr.:

- The K-State chapter for the GCLP book was finally published and I served as lead-author: "Southwest Kansas: Local Emissions and Non-Local Determinants" J. Harrington, Jr., D. Goodin, L. Harrington, D. Kromm, and S. White, pp. 57-78 in *Global Change in Local Places: Estimating, Understanding, and Reducing Greenhouse Gases* R. Abler ed., Cambridge University Press.
- I served as a member of a Steering Committee for a National Academy of Sciences workshop on Direct and Indirect Anthropogenic Contributions to Terrestrial Greenhouse Gas Fluxes.
- As Chair of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the AAG, I coordinated the department's hosting of the October 2003 meetings of GP/RM in Manhattan.

Lisa Harrington:

- Committee on Endangered and Threatened Species in the Platte River Basin, National Research Council. 2004. *Endangered and Threatened Species of the Platte River*. The National Academies Press. Washington, DC. 336 pages (approx.). (Prepublication copy at <http://books.nap.edu/books/0309092302/html/R1.html>.)
- Appointment to the Board of Directors, Applied Geography Conferences.

JM Shawn Hutchinson:

- Hutchinson, J.M.S., J.A. Harrington, Jr., and L.J. Marzen. 2004. Geospatial Contributions to Watershed-Scale Surface Water Quality Modeling. In D.G. Janelle, B. Warf, and K. Hanson, eds. *World Minds: Geographical Perspectives on 100 Problems*, 556-570. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Major projects funded by National Institutes of Health, National Park Service, Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, and KSU Targeted Excellence Program.
- Twelve papers or posters presented at professional conferences!
- Caught four species of trout in Montana (a "grand slam") during summer of 2003 - rainbow, brown, cutthroat, and bull.
- Attended two NHL hockey games during past year: Dallas vs. Colorado and Toronto vs. Philadelphia.

Max Lu:

- Visited China twice in one year, and spent more than two and a half months there.
- Saw a real desert (Sonora) for the first time during a HERO-project meeting in Arizona.

Chuck Martin:

- Manuscript accepted for publication in *Geomorphology*.
- Served as director of the NRES Secondary Major.

Bimal Paul:

- Bimal Kanti Paul 2003, Dwellings in Bangladesh. In *Asia's Old Dwellings: Tradition, Resilience, and Change*, R.G. Knapp, pp. 91-111 Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.
- Appointed as a member of Dean's Advisory Committee, College of arts and Science.

Jeff Smith:

- Promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure.
- Awarded the 2004 Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.
- I had a manuscript accepted by *La Herencia*. The title of the work is "Crossing the Line."
- Two of my current M.A. students successfully defended their thesis: Danielle Petersen and Benjamin White.



Jeff Smith receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Left: President Jon Wefald and Right: Chris Curtin

EMERITUS FACULTY

Dave Kromm

We welcomed Alec Hughes Kromm, our first grandson, May 2, 2004. Much of our travel since last writing has been seeing our granddaughters in Massachusetts and North Carolina, as well as enjoying their visits to Kansas. Bobbie and I also spent time with family in Florida and took part in our first Elderhostel. It was a hiking-based adventure in Isle Royale National Park, where moose and wolves outnumber people. This spring we have been retracing parts of the route taken by Lewis and Clark two hundred years ago. My genealogy hobby yielded few major discoveries this past year, though I was able to trace the movement of some ancestors both in Mecklenburg and in Michigan (note the geographic orientation of my recent family history work).

Professionally, I continue as a member of the K-State HERO team. In March, I presented a paper entitled "Change in the Ogallala High Plains" at the Greening of the Heartland Conference in Columbia, Missouri. Bobbie and I will be participating in the International Geographical Congress in Scotland this summer, where I will give a paper on dairy farm expansion in western Kansas.

Huber Self

At Kansas State University, Geography first became a department when they joined with geology to become the Department of Geology and Geography in 1951. Only four geography courses were being taught by that time. New geography courses and geography faculty members were added so the bachelor's degree was granted in 1955, and students obtained the first bachelor's degree in geography in 1959. By 1959, enough advanced courses in geography were added so that a masters degree in geography was granted to the department and two students obtained a masters degree in geography in 1961. Geography left the department of geology and became a separate department of geography in 1970.

In the late 1990's the geography department was granted permission to grant the Ph.D. in geography and some students obtained the Ph.D. in geography in the early 2000 years.

By the year 2004 eight geography faculty members at Kansas State University retired from the department and became professor emeritus members. These professor emeritus members are Karl Stacey, Sara Larson, Huber Self, William R. Siddall, Stephen L. Stover, Charles E. Bussing, Harry L. Seyler, and David E. Kromm.

It is quite a surprise to find that of the eight professor emeritus members, seven are yet living in 2004, only Professor Sara Larson is no longer living. Of these

IN

CELEBRATION



OF

HUBER SELF'S 90TH

BIRTHDAY

JANUARY 24, 2004

HARRY'S UPTOWN

seven professors emeritus, six continue to live in Kansas and five of these members continue to live in Manhattan, Kansas. Dr. William R. Siddall has moved to a new home in one of the New England States. Dr. Karl Stacey, at the age of 95 years, lives in Topeka, Kansas.

Professor Emeritus Huber Self was greatly thrilled and honored when the KSU Geography Department celebrated his 90th birthday with a birthday party on January 24, 2004.



The Big 90 !!!



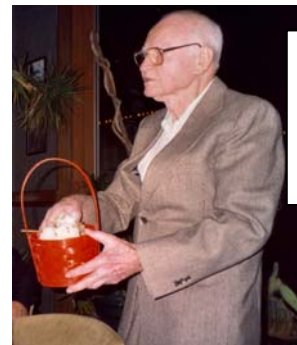
Party Organizer and Hostess Karen DeBres with Huber Self



Doug Goodin lighting 90 candles



Guests, Graduate and Undergraduate Students



Reminded of his "cotton-pickin' days!"



Toni Alexander, Visiting Professor, and Graduate Student John Harty



Left to Right: Emeritus, David E Kromm, H. L. Seyler, Huber Self, Stephen L. Stover, and Dean Stephen White



John Harrington and Huber

Steve Stover

This has been another short year, most of it spent at home. However, Enid and I did visit two daughters and their families near Seattle and Oroville (CA), respectively. Oroville is still new to me, and it's been fun getting acquainted with its gold rush history as well as verifying its BSk climate and its situation on the margin between the Great Valley and the Sierra Nevada. Besides the Northwest trip, there were shorter ones to points in central and western Kansas.

At home, I've continued busy with the usual activities such as "sifting and winnowing" accumulated treasure, taking care of

our limited lawn and garden programs, writing and reading. One of the books was *The Map that Changed the World* (by Simon Winchester.) It is more geology than geography, but still of interest to me. Another was Hampton Sides' *Ghost Soldiers*, an account of a P.O.W. rescue operation during WWII. The book attracted me because I was familiar with the area in central Luzon where the action took place.

With increasing responsibilities at home, I've spent little time on campus, but I've followed with interest life and accomplishments in the Department, and I've enjoyed special

events like Professor Self's 90th birthday party and several GTU-sponsored events.

A highlight of the year was a visit with former student and KSU grad, Bill Weigand, now high in the ranks of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. He's considering retirement.

Already?? I'm always interested in alumni news, but retirement talk makes me feel even more ancient. Speaking of "ancient," our kids are planning a reunion this summer to mark the 60th wedding anniversary of their parents. Remind me to be there!

GEOGRAPHY CLUB AND GAMMA THETA UPSILON

The Geography Club and the Beta Psi chapter of Gamma



President: Paul Mannion
Vice President: Ryan Reker

Theta Upsilon (GTU) here at K-State have a long storied history together as one group. Each academic year, the officers, members, and advisors have strived to continue to improve our group, not only in our membership numbers, but also in our activities. This past year has been no exception. Speaking for all of our 2003-2004 officers including Ryan Reker,

Dani Petersen, and Misty Gruener, I would like to thank everyone who has helped out our organization. It is so encouraging to see everyone's enthusiasm in bringing GTU to an even "Higher Level."

On this note, I would like to summarize some of our activities over the past 12 months. With all the assistance we received this year, our organization has been able to bring in some great guest speakers. One of our most exciting lectures this spring was Dale Caldwell, Assistant Vice President of Corporate Research at the Kroger Company. Dr. Caldwell informed us how geography can be applied in corporate decision-making. We also had several students do "Brown Bag" lectures, which were both entertaining and informative.

One of our more exciting activities this past year was getting involved in Geography Awareness Week in November. With lots of help, the Geography Club and GTU made a very attractive display in the K-State Union with the week's theme "Habitats." Our hope was to better popularize the field of geography and maybe bring in new students into the department. Our group also helped out with the annual

(Anthony Paul Mannion, GTU President 2003-2004)

A WORD FROM A GRADUATE STUDENT

Shane Csiki: It doesn't seem possible that my second year at K-State has come and gone. It seems that only yesterday, I was writing up one of these! This second year has been very productive for me. During the fall semester, I handled the EG II labs once again, and finished the balance of my course work. I presented at two conferences, in Manhattan at the AAG Regional meeting in October, and the Applied Geography conference in November. For the spring semester, attention turned to finishing up my Master's Thesis. This daunting task (at times!) was interspersed with my responsibilities for a section of World Regional Geography, and my search for Geography PhD programs. This fall, I will begin study at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, continuing with my fluvial geomorphology interests. I will be back for a short time in the fall to defend my thesis here. So, though I'm moving eastward, I guess you can say I'm not quite ready to say goodbye just yet!

meeting of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountains Division of the AAG that was held here in Manhattan in October.

The Geography Club and GTU also have promoted "geographic fellowship" and with the help of our social event coordinator, Shane Csiki, we sponsored geography movie nights, bowling, pizza feeds, and we organized the geography department picnic. We also have a 2-mile section of US 77, which we have "adopted" and are responsible for cleaning up at least 3 times a year. Of course, all our activities require money and our fundraisers have included t-shirt and pop sales, and group work at Bramlage Coliseum. We also have financial assistance from the Student Government Association, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Geography, and some anonymous donors.

In April, we had our annual spring banquet at the K-State Union. John Allen, from the University of Wyoming, was our keynote speaker. Dr. Allen presented "The Lewis and Clark Expedition: An Alternate History." The newest members of GTU were also initiated at the banquet. Undergraduates initiates included geography majors Travis Carson, Rorik Peterson, Frank Holmes, and Jeffrey Ryan, and history education major Christin Parsons. Current graduate students in geography, Sam Hiett, Barry Payne, and Lori Emerson, and a graduate student in landscape architecture, Bryce Lawrence were also initiated. We were very excited to have all of these new initiates, especially those "outside" of geography, but we have also realized that we need to better promote our organization, both within and outside of the field, to allow even more students the benefits of being involved in Gamma Theta Upsilon. At the banquet, we also announced the new Geography Club/GTU officers for the 2004-2005 academic year: John Harty (President), Vicki Tinnon Brock (Vice-President), Bee Martin (Treasurer), and Scott Leis (Secretary). These individuals already have great plans for the upcoming year. So, if you are at K-State this next year, get involved!

THE OFFICE

Lisa Percival, Administrative Specialist: I want to begin by saying that I was very honored to have been nominated as Classified Employee of the Year last May. My update for the 2003 newsletter had already been submitted when I learned of my nomination, so I had to wait until this year to make mention of it here in the newsletter. I want everyone involved to know that the nomination meant a lot to me and was definitely one of the highlights of my 13 years here at K-State. Thank you!!

It was a stressful and expensive year on the home front. I am finally a homeowner. I've been living in my house (renting) since 1999, so there was no move involved. However, there were some major improvements that had to be made as part of the deal. Installing central air, a new furnace, and all new windows were the most costly of those improvements, but they were badly needed. They were also the last of the major improvements. The rest are minor and can be done a little at a time.

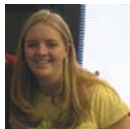
The buying process is something I don't care to do again anytime soon. There was nothing simple about it. Just thinking back on all of the paperwork, appraisers, house inspections, etc...gives me a headache. We started the paperwork in September and closed in December. I've never jumped through so many hoops. But I suppose it was worth it. I sure enjoy my home and all of the progress that has been made with it over the past five years.

Ashley finished her last year in elementary school in May and will move on to middle school this fall. She's only a few inches away from passing me up in height. I haven't quite come to terms with any of this, yet. I try to just enjoy the here and now and not think about the inevitable. As always, I would love to hear from you. Email me at lisarp@ksu.edu.

Bernadette Schmidt, Administrative Assistant: It is very quiet in the office and on campus this Monday morning. The weather is cool and the wind is calm (the calm after rather severe Kansas storms). My window is open, and I can hear the K-State Union courtyard fountain. The day seems very pleasant. Theses have been successfully defended, finals have been given, degrees have been granted, parties are over, "catch you later" and good-byes have been said, and parking is once again easy. All the concerns, frustrations, and joys of the semester are past. And, once again it all happened so quickly!!

Hope you all are having a good year that you have been able to spend time and do the things that matter most, when it's all said and done. Best Wishes to you!

Angela Boos, Student Office Assistant: Hello all! I'm just finishing my first year working in the Geography Department, and it has been great. Everyone has been so welcoming, helpful, and understanding and I can't ask for more than that! I'm also finishing my second year here at K-State, majoring in Elementary Education. I'm looking forward to the summer, even though it won't be very relaxing because I am taking three summer courses and working, it will be nice to be home for a couple months! I will find time for fun though—I plan to spend most weekends on the Missouri River or at Perry Lake boating and jet skiing, going to Country Stampede and possibly taking a weekend trip with friends to the Mall of America! Before I know it, it will be August and time to head back to Manhappiness for another year! Have a great summer!



DEPARTMENTAL GRADUATES

Congratulations and Best Wishes!!!

Summer 2003

Bachelor of Science

Andrew E. Henry

Fall 2003

Bachelor of Science

Sarah Kathleen Finney

Bernie Lynn Kohman

Joshua Michael Quint

Joel David Scott

Mark Alan Thomas

Emily Jessica Van Eman

Kelli A Winzenried

Fall 2003

Master of Arts

Mary Evelyn Dobbs

Spring 2004

Bachelor of Science

Douglas Henry Armknecht

Jason Albert Balluch

Wilhelm Lee Breitreutz

Steven E. Brockhoff

Melinda L. Coleman

Stacey Lanae Davis

Derek Jonathan George

James M. Goudy

Bradley B. Hammerschmidt



Jeremy D. Hauser

Frank R. Holmes

Brandan Lee Lowden

Marc A. Matyak

Haley Jatón McMullen

Jeremie Minge

Darci Ann Paull

Allen Jay Shafer

Master of Arts

Erik H. Bowles

Misty Ann Gruener

Danielle Petersen

Benjamin Nathan White

DEFENSES 2003/2004

Master Thesis Defenses:

Mary Dobbs, August 29, 2003, "Attitudes and Behavior: Exploring the Relationship Between Stated Water Quality Attitudes and Management Practices, Big Creek and Middle Smoky Hill River Watersheds, Kansas"

Misty Gruener, May 5, 2004, "An Analysis of the Relationship Between Custer State Park and Other Tourist Destinations in the Black Hills"

Danielle Peterson, May 6, 2004, "Attachment to Place: Detachment from the Latter-Day Saints Cultural Core"

Ben White, May 12, 2004, "The Mormon Culture Region: Persistence and Change of a Distinct North American Cultural Landscape"

Eric Bowles, May 13, 2004, "An Applied Climatology of Heat Stress Events in the Central United States: A Spatial and Temporal Assessment Using the Temperature-Humidity Index"

.

Congratulations!! 2004 Departmental Scholarship and Award Winners

Undergraduate Students

HUBER SELF SCHOLARSHIP

Matthen John



WILLIAM D GRIMM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Rorik Peterson
Kortney Steinhurst

LEBLANCE OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR AWARD

Bradley Hammerschmidt
Will Breitzkreutz

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Kimberly Cope

Graduate Students

WHITE GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT EXCELLENCE AWARD

Tracy Brown
Misty Gruener

Bradley Hammerschmidt, senior in Geography, received the:

- **Richason Award presented by Gamma Theta Upsilon**
- **Gene Lortz Memorial Scholarship** and the
- **Homeland Security Scholars and Fellows Program Award.**

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Ryan Reker

VISITING LECTURE SCHOLARS

Jerry Holden, Manager of GIS and Remote Sensing Programs, Ducks Unlimited Southern Regional Office, (September 16, 2003) "GIS and Remote Sensing at Scales that Matter: DU's Conservation Planning in the 21st Century."

Toni Alexander, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Kansas State University, (October 24, 2003) "From Oklahomans to 'Okies': The Formation of Identity in Rural California."

Dr. Johannes Feddema, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Kansas, (November 21, 2003) "Simulating the Impacts of Anthropogenic Land Cover Change on Climate."

Dr. Garth Myers, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Kansas, (December 1, 2003) "Planning Sustainable Cities in Eastern and Southern Africa."

Dr. Cornelia "Neal" Butler Flora, the Charles F. Curtis Distinguished Professor of Agriculture and Sociology, Iowa State University, (March 1, 2004) "Corn and Capital: The Global Connection."

Dale M. Caldwell, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Development Research, The Kroger Company, (March 9, 2004) "Geography in the Supermarket Industry."

Dr. John L. Allen, Department of Geography and Recreation, University of Wyoming, (April 22, 2004) "The Lewis and Clark Expedition: An Alternative History."

GTU BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

Brooke Stansberry, Graduate Research Assistant, (November 18, 2003) "Settlement Patterns of Forest Birds in a Prairie Landscape."

John Harty, Graduate Teaching Assistant, (December 3, 2003) "Antarctica: Experiences from the Frozen Depths."



List of Contributors (June 2003 – May 2004)

Thank you very much for lending a helping-hand by contributing to the
Geography Department.



Dean Andrew
Holly Barcus
Robin Blackman
Cheryl Blake
Victoria Boyd-Kennedy
BP of America
Robert and Nancy Case
Dennis Courville
Duke Energy Field Services
Brock Emmert
Jack Frost
Geico Philanthropic Foundation
Dennis and Sarah Gill
Scott and Donna Goltry
Kelly and Karen Gregg
Richard and Mary Hammel
John and Lisa Harrington
Mark and Pamela Hatesohl
Eric Hilding
Kurt and Shannon Horsch
John Horton
David and Ann Howland
Lloyd Johnson
Steven Kale
Ryan Kroemer

David and Bobbie Kromm
Kara Kuntz
Robert and Melinda Lehman
Blasé and Jeanenne Leven
Levi Strauss Foundation
Richard Lissitchenko
Joyce Martin
Raymond McDonald Jr. & Kay Weller
Karl Melton
John Merryfield
Doug and Denise Mersmann
John Mettelle Jr.
Tod Meyn
David and Mary Ann Miller
Lee Mueller
Diponker Mukherjee
John Munson
Marilyn Myers
Mark Nance
Thomas Nesmith and Pamela Scanlon
Brent Nordhus
Michael and Sharon O'Shea
Adrienne Oliver
Erik and Karna Peterson
Malcom and Christine Ponte

Cora Powell
Milton Rafferty
Charles Robertson
James and Myrna Rose
Bradley and Kristen Rundquist
Becky Schuerman-Cho
Huber Self
Gary Senseman
Sy and Carolyn Seyler
Larry and Patricia Smith
Scott Smith
Richard Spangler III
Sprint Foundation
Starbucks
Craig Swisher
Deborah Thomas
Joan Van Der Hoeven
David Wall
Marla Webster
Stephen and Susan White
Virgil Wiebe
Stanley Wilds
Robert Williams
Perry Wood
Marcia Zink

ALUMNI NOTES

Suliman Al-Hanaki (MA 1989) now has three boys: Saleh, Abdullah, and Bandar. The Ministry of Petroleum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia employs Suliman. He still watches the K-State football team games (live) and is proud of their achievements throughout the years.

"C.H." Cook II (BS 1972) worked for the Defense Mapping Agency (1974-1996) and for the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA 1996-2000) for 27 years as an Imagery and Geospatial Scientist. (NIMA recently changed its name to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, or

NGA.) He now informs DoD space elements in Colorado Springs on matters pertaining to the Global Positioning System (GPS), specifically in the Navigation Warfare area.

Charles has a daughter who has been accepted to KSU Fall 2004, and he still tries to come back to Manhattan once a year for a Cats football game. Go Cats!

Luke (Lewis) Dustin (BS 2000) stopped by the KSU Geography Department in November of 2003 to say "hello!"

He works as a GIS program manager and lives in Ridgecrest, California.

Jason Herynk (BS 2003) is working for the National Park Service at Pinnacles National Monument. It's located about 80 miles south of San Jose and 45 miles from the coast. He is the Geographer GIS specialist for the park. Soon, he will be working with a network of parks in this area on several different projects ranging from invasive species to condor reintroductions.

Risto Marttinen (MA 1965) re-married February 14, 2004 after 27 years of single life. His spouse is a nurse, widow, runner, and friend. They qualified and ran at the National Senior Games, Norfolk, Virginia.

Terri Roberts Munsell (BA 1991 Geography and Political Science) graduated from the University of Tulsa Law School in 1994, worked for a few years in private practice in Tulsa, and then moved to Kansas City to complete a Masters in Tax Law (1998) at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. She is now working at one of Kansas City's largest firms as a tax attorney in the area of business and estate planning. She married Lu Munsell in 1998, and they have a daughter, Amanda, who was born in October 2001.

Brian Parr (MA 1998) and Brandy have a son, Maxwell Joseph Parr, who was born September 28, 2003. He weighed 9 lbs, 1 oz
What a beautiful child!
Left: Max one day old



Christine Ponte (MA 1993) is an Associate Circulation Manager with the Fairfax County Public Library. She is pursuing a Master of Library Science at the Catholic University of America. She expects to receive her degree Spring 2004.

Malcolm Ponte (BA 1991, MA 1994) is a GIS Manager, Installations Division of the Army National Guard for Colorado State University.

Raymond McDonald, Jr. (MA 1994) is IT Coordinator for Buchanan County Iowa. He says, "It is nice to read about faculty and retired faculty. It is hard to believe that the Martin and Paul children are as old as they are. We seldom get to Kansas because our families have all moved to other locales."

Corina Sanders (BA 1990 Geography and Political Science) is now stationed in Seoul, South Korea as a Vice Consul Second Secretary/Foreign Service Officer and plans to be there until 2005. She adjudicates visas for South Koreans who want to visit our fair country. Corina celebrated eight years of marriage to Christopher Marshall in December 2003. She and her husband enjoy life very much and have by now made the trips they had planned to Japan, Cambodia, and Thailand. She

feels she is living the geographer's dream as she is blessed to be able to visit the place she learned about in her classes.

Steven Shott (MA 1982) earned a German diploma in geography in 1984 and a Ph.D. in planning from the Technical University of Munich in 1988. His first professional work was in a huge study financed by the Volkswagen foundation dealing with the development of the rural South of Portugal (Alentejo). Since 1990, he has worked for the City of Munich as a regional planner. In 1986, he married a Portuguese lady who is also a geographer, but has a Ph.D. in economics. They have three children: Clara (14), Marina (11), and Miguel (7).

Mark Tinkler (BS 1991) continued his education and received a MRP degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Albany (1993) and a BS in Information Technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology (1997.) Also, Mark earned a direct commission as an officer in the US Naval Reserve in February 2003, serving in a Joint Forces unit in Norfolk, Virginia. He is a senior transportation planner employed by the city of Wilmington in North Carolina.

His second child, a son, was born November 2003. His son joins a six year-old daughter. Congratulations!!

Tom Utermoehlen (BS 1988) is Parks and Recreation Coordinator for the City of Manhattan. He still has interest in some local and other city bar and restaurants. Also, he still disc jockeys one weekend night in Aggieville. Tom says he stays very busy throughout the year, but the busiest part of the year is during K-State football season!

Curt Weitkunat (BS 1991) worked for seven years in the construction materials industry. He then went back to school and finished a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning at the University of New Mexico. Curt and his wife Susan are parents of twins, Alexander and Kendra. He is an Associate Planner with the city of Farmington, New Mexico.

Kay E. Weller (MA 1990 in Geography and 1993 Ph.D. College of Education) was awarded a \$58,000 Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad to India summer 2003. Project: Developing a Sense of Place Through India's Diversity. This was a curriculum development project for a team of twelve K-12 teachers and three-university faculty. Itinerary included, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi, Dumka, and Shimla.

Virgil Wiebe (BS 1986) recently began teaching law at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. He directs the legal services clinic of the law school, serving immigrants, the elderly, and victims of domestic violence. He is drawing on the UST Geography Department for assistance in mapping human rights, abuses in political asylum cases. His wife, Susan Schmidt, does consulting work on unaccompanied refugee youth issue. A child, Lucas Henry was born January 13, 2003. Lucas' big sister Maggie is three.

PHOTO GALLERY



Dr. Blake with "worst ever rendition" of *Rag Time Cowboy Joe* as Dr. John Allen, University of Wyoming listens.



Grad Students Tracy Brown and Misty Gruener receiving White Geography Grad Teaching Assistant Excellence Award



Wedding Bells will soon ring for Lori Emerson and J.C. Coomansingh. We wish you much happiness!!!
Lori with shower hostess Karen DeBres



Will Breitkreutz & Brad Hammerschmidt receive LeBlanc Outstanding Undergraduate Award.



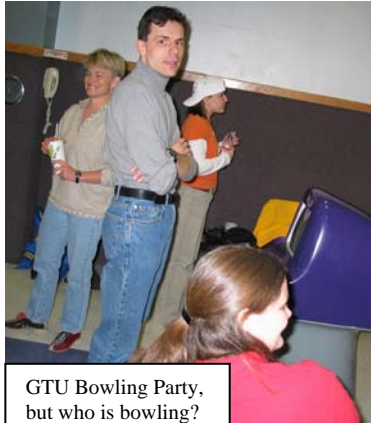
Home Away from Home! 118 Seaton



This is a fun bridal shower!



Karen DeBres swinging through the doors of an English McDonald's.



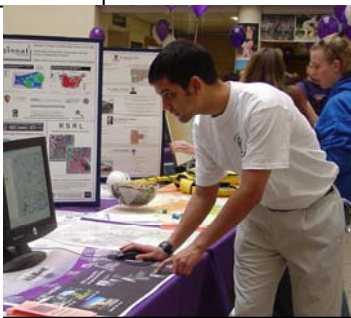
GTU Bowling Party, but who is bowling?



Don't Worry! Be Happy!!



Jacob, you have me convinced.



Sam Hiatt & Ben White have everything under control at Geog Open house

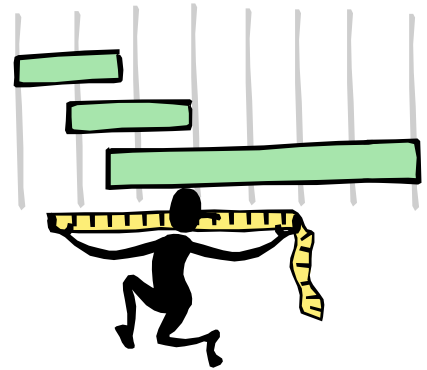


K-State geographers ascend Mt. Sunflower (highest point in Kansas) on their way to the Applied Geography Conference in Colorado Springs. Photograph by Ryan Reker (from L-R: Erik Bowles, Shawn Hutchinson, Brooke Stansberry, Tracy Brown, and John Harrington). A description of this epic event follows: "We left the main trail in the town of Weskan and relying on our compass we headed due north. After about 3 miles, we needed to ford the Smoky Hill River at a low water crossing. The final part of our journey seemed long and arduous as we made our way through the low clouds and fog with freezing drizzle. We were undaunted as we pushed on to the north and then west toward our goal, the summit of Mt. Sunflower. Visibility was very poor as we neared our destination. The wind, combined with the freezing drizzle, made conditions at the summit very uncomfortable, but we stay a few minutes so we could each absorb an impression of our accomplishment."

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY GEOGRAPHY ALUMNI UPDATE FORM

The 2004 Geography "Alumni Notes" more than doubled when compared to last year's newsletter. Let's continue the growth!! Please complete the update form so that we all can read about you in the *2005 Alumni Newsletter*.

Thank you very much!



Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Title: _____

Employer: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Other: _____

Year Graduated: _____

Degree: _____

Year Graduated: _____

Degree: _____

Year Graduated: _____

Degree: _____

Other information or comments of interest for the *2005 Alumni Newsletter*:

Please return this form to:

Bernadette Schmidt
Kansas State University
Department of Geography
118 Seaton Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506
E-mail: bxs@ksu.edu and Fax: 785-532-7310

**Kansas State University
Department of Geography
118 Seaton Hall
Manhattan, Kansas 66506-2904**

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #525

See the Alumni Newsletter on the Web at:
www.ksu.edu/geography/alumni2004