



The Seaton Globe

Kansas State University

Department of Geography

27 March 2006

The newsletter is viewable on the department's website (www.ksu.edu/geography). Note that links found in the newsletter will work if you go to the online version.

On-Campus Speakers

30 Mar (Th): John Carlin (former Kansas Governor), "Ground Up, Not Top Down: What Our Future Depends On," 3 pm, Alumni Center Ballroom (ICDD Lecture Series in Civic Discourse).

30 Mar (Th): Michael Boland (KSU Coffman Chair for University Distinguished Teaching Scholars), "K-State Excellence in University Teaching Certificate Program," at 3:30 pm, Fiedler Auditorium (Provost's Lecture Series)

Thesis Defenses

27 Mar (M): **Mitchel Stimers** will defend his masters thesis, *A Relative Severity Index for Tornado Events: An Index to Describe the Effects of Tornadoes on Individual Communities*, at 3 pm in Seaton 305.

29 Mar (W): **Thomas Vought** will defend his masters thesis, *Assessing the Threat of Biological Terrorism to U.S. Agriculture*, at 3 pm in Seaton 305.

GTU/Geography Club Brownbag

28 Mar (T): Stephanie Springer (K-State alumna), "Two Years in the Mountain Kingdom," 11:30 am Seaton 164H. She will be discussing her Peace Corps experiences in Africa, focusing on sustainable development, hunger & poverty, HIV/AIDS, & benefits of Peace Corps Service.

Student Opportunities

Departmental Scholarships

William Grimm Scholarship. A \$300 scholarship for the 2006-7 school year will be awarded by the department of geography to a worthy geography major, in honor of William Grimm, a former student who was killed in the Persian Gulf War. To be considered, please submit the following: 1) a completed application form (available in 118 Seaton), 2) a one-page essay describing the importance of geography for attaining your professional goals, and 3) two letters of recommendation. Materials should be submitted to Dr. Richard Marston by 14 April. Selection will be based on the application, essay, GPA, and letters of recommendation.

Self Scholarship. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded by the department of geography for the 2006-7 academic year. Current and incoming undergraduate students who will be enrolled and majoring in geography at KSU next year are eligible. To be considered, submit: 1) a completed application form (available in 118 Seaton), 2) a one-page essay describing the importance of geography for attaining your professional goals, and 3) two letters of recommendation. Applications should be turned in to 118 Seaton Hall by 14 April.

The Seyler Undergraduate GIScience Scholarship. Candidates wishing to apply for the Seyler Undergraduate GIScience Scholarship, named for emeritus faculty member HL (Sy) Seyler, must have at least junior standing at the time the scholarship will be awarded and prepare a one-page narrative discussing both their accomplishments and future plans for using geospatial technologies in their geographical research or employment. Applicants will be evaluated based upon the quality of their one-page narrative, overall GPA, instructor assessments from geospatial technology courses, two letters of reference, and qualitative evaluation of student potential. Undergraduate geographers with interests in all subfields of geography are encouraged to apply. Applications materials must be turned in to the Geography office by 14 April. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the GTU Banquet.

R.B. Marston Scholarship. This scholarship, named for Rumsey Bissell Marston, is available to graduate students in Geography at KSU who are pursuing a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation that utilizes concepts and techniques in physical geography. The project must involve a significant level of well-conceived fieldwork. Preferably, the project should explore one of the following themes: 1) separate human effects on the environment from changes that would have occurred without human interference; and/or 2) explain the integration between geomorphology, hydrology and other biophysical processes. The lack of other sources of direct financial support for the student's thesis/dissertation should also be considered. A research proposal approved by the student's committee shall be the basis for judging applications, along with a letter of application from the student. "Guidelines for Preparing a Thesis/Dissertation Proposal" are available from the department office. Recipients receive a cash award (the amount varies from year-to-year) and framed certificate, and will have their names engraved on a plaque displayed in the department. The deadline is 1 April; submit application to the Geography Graduate Program Director, 118 Seaton Hall. Contact Dr. Richard A. Marston (rmarston@ksu.edu) for more information.

Internships

Farm And Foreign Agricultural Services Risk Management Agency. The goal of this position is to provide the student with "hands on" experience. Locations include Topeka, KS [and others]. Positions are Program Assistant, GS-303-4/5 & Program Specialist, GS-301-7. The student should fit the following criteria: 1) be a sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student; 2) have knowledge & skill in the application of ESRI ArcGIS 8.3 products; 3) have analytical skills and computer knowledge, be eager to learn, take initiative, and work well independently; and 4) be able to work a minimum of 15 hours/week. Students considered for the internship will be required to submit an official transcript. Fax cover letter, resume, and a copy of transcript by April 10, 2006 to: ATTN: James Hipple, GIS Coordinator, USDA/Risk Management Agency (Fax 202-690-2392; Tel: 202-690-5873). Reference Announcement No. RMA-RO-SUM-06-01.

The New York Union Semester Program is now accepting applications for Fall 2006. The program is offered through the Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies and provides students with the opportunity to intern at a labor union or community organization in New York City while taking Labor Studies courses at the City University of New York for a semester. The program is open to all-undergraduate majors. In addition to a \$1700 scholarship and a weekly \$210 stipend, all participants receive 16 undergraduate credits for their work and a Labor Studies Certificate. Internships include a wide range of activities--from organizing to research, to media and communication. A diverse group of unions and community organizations have hosted interns. For more information and an application go to www.unionsemester.org, or e-mail the Program Coordinator, Amanda Plumb, at unionsemester@qc.edu. The application deadline is April 15, 2006.

Ambassadors for the College of Arts & Sciences for 2006-7. Ambassadors represent the College at all university recruiting events, on and off campus, as well as at various events such as the majors fair, career fair, and Telefund. The current president, Alyson Adams, or Assistant Dean Alison Wheatley (aliwheat@ksu.edu) will be happy to answer any questions students may have about being a College Ambassador. Applications are available.

Outside Jobs

Erik Peterson of GeoCore, an environmental consulting firm in Salina, is looking to hire a project manager for groundwater remediation projects. Applicants should be completing a bachelor's degree in May or August 2006. For more information, contact Erik at 1-800-826-1602, or see Chuck Martin.

The Census Bureau is beginning preliminary recruiting for future geography positions. Beginning this October, its geography staff will begin to increase to support the 2010 decennial census activities. The projected schedule and staffing authorizations for the next 2 government fiscal years (10/1/2006-9/30/2008) are below. Exact numbers and starting time frames will vary. It's likely only 5-10 of these positions will last through 2010-11. Interested students can email Craig Best (see below) their email

and USPS addresses and resumes, and can contact him with any questions. He will contact students directly to provide application information, when the positions are posted. There will be a formal application process at that time. Projected time frames and staffing authorizations are: October 2006 (1 Geographer, Grade 7-12, 1 GIS Specialist, Grade 5-12, 1 Geographic Specialist, Grade 5-12), July 2006 (1 Geographic Specialist, Grade 5-12), FY 2008 (10/1/2007-9/30/2008, start dates unknown; 21 geographic specialists, Grade 5-12). The geographic specialist will be assigned specific state and local entity programs and be responsible for all facets of those programs. The specific assignments will change periodically. Geographer & geographic specialist positions require occasional travel in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, & Oklahoma. There could also be infrequent travel beyond the 6 states. Positions are NOT expected to become permanent, but they provide an excellent opportunity for work experience while receiving competitive pay. Contact Craig Best, Supervisory Geographer, US Census Bureau, Kansas City Regional Office craig.duane.best@census.gov; see www.census.gov/kansascity.

Activities

John Harrington gave a presentation, "Rapidly Changing Demographics and Water Uses in the Arkansas River Basin," at the 23rd Annual Water & the Future of Kansas Conference. The meeting was held on March 16th in Topeka. Co-authors were **Shawn Hutchinson & Nathan Kettle**.

Richard Marston gave a presentation at the 23rd Annual Water & the Future of Kansas Conference on March 16th in Topeka.

Max Lu and **Jessica Burnum** gave an invited presentation, "Spatial Analysis of Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs" at the symposium on "Geography and Drug Addiction" was co-sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Association of American Geographers (AAG), and took place March 8th, in Chicago.

Richard Marston & Doug Goodin have been approved to receive funding to attend the Karakoram Workshop in Pakistan in late May-early June 2006. The workshop is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, and Lounsbery Foundation, and co-sponsored by the Pakistan Higher Education Commission (HEC), the University of Peshawar, and Calicut University in India. The meeting will include 30-40 scientists from the United States, India, Pakistan, China and elsewhere to discuss questions concerning the Himalaya in the geosciences, climate sciences & environmental sciences.

Websites

Kansas Wind Energy Website: www.kcc.state.ks.us/energy/wind.htm

Site provides interesting GIS surface of economic activity: <http://gecon.yale.edu/>

National Center for Atmospheric Research & UCAR Office of Programs site featuring sunspot cycle forecasts: www.ucar.edu/news/releases/2006/sunspot.shtml

Snowball Earth: www.snowballearth.org/

Quote of the week

"As you move toward the southeast, the failure to cooperate becomes more chronic."

-unnamed participant at the Kansas Water Conference

Please contact Jessica Burnum (jburnum@ksu.edu) or Lisa Harrington (lbutlerh@ksu.edu) with Globe items.