

The Seaton Globe



Kansas State University

Department of Geography

16 February 2009

This newsletter is viewable on the department's website (www.k-state.edu/geography). Past issues are also posted.

Upcoming Presentations

- Feb 20 Dr. Subash Das: "Climate Change: Vulnerability and Adaptation in Bangladesh," 3:30 pm, 132 Seaton Hall.
- Feb 27 **Dr. Jeffrey S. Smith:** "Three Men One Road Out of Zacatecas, Mexico," 3:30 pm, Big 12 Room, KSU Student Union.

Events and Things of Note

Ben Champion is a part of what has become a successful bid for an NSF REU grant. The focus is sustainable energy technologies, and Ben will have an opportunity to offer a project to solicit an undergraduate researcher in the area of campus projects for sustainable energy. He will also be helping to put on the weekly seminar on sustainability. The grant total is \$269,445 for the three years. Congratulations Ben!

Bimal Paul has been appointed a member of the editorial board of *the Professional Geographer*.

Websites of Interest

HappyMedian allows you to enter two to four towns representing each person wishing to meet, via zip code or a city and state combination, then it finds the most equidistant towns between those entered. Next, it provides you with a list of various types of places to meet, like restaurants and coffee shops. Link: <http://www.happymedian.com/index.jsf>

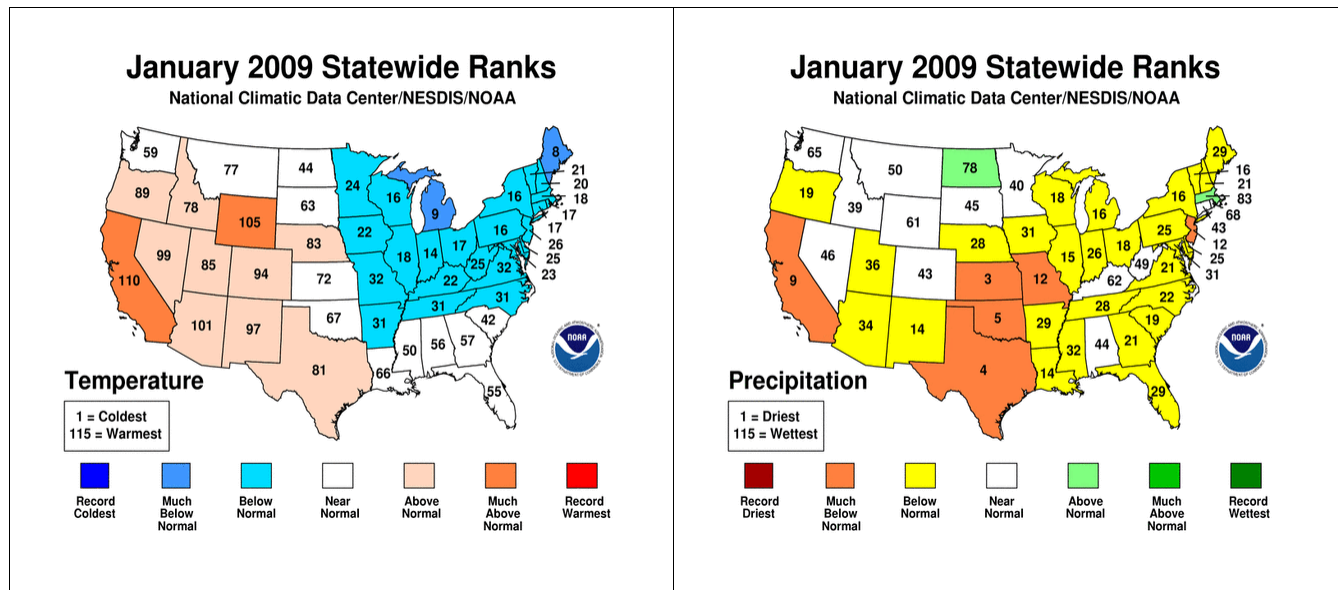
Need an outline map for use in your class? **Geography.about.com** has a collection containing outline maps of every county and major region on the globe. Just look through the alphabetical list, click on what you need, and download the .pdf!

Link: <http://geography.about.com/library/blank/blxindex.htm>

January 2009: Weather in Review

Temperatures for the contiguous United States last month were **slightly above the long-term average**, based on records going back to 1895, according to a preliminary analysis by scientists at

NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. The average January temperature of 31.2 degrees F was 0.4 degrees above the 20th Century average.



U.S. Temperature Highlights:

- January temperatures were below average across much of the eastern United States, while the western half of the nation experienced warmer-than-average temperatures.
- California had its sixth warmest January on record. Maine and Michigan had their eighth and ninth coldest January on record, respectively.
- Based on NOAA's Residential Energy Demand Temperature Index, the contiguous U.S. temperature-related energy demand was 3.0 percent above average in January.

U.S. Precipitation Highlights

- It was the fifth driest January for the contiguous U.S., based on data going back to 1895. **Kansas**, Texas and Oklahoma experienced their **third**, fourth, and fifth, respectively, **driest January on record**.
- All but 15 states experienced a drier-than-normal January. It was the ninth driest January on record for California, but wetter than normal for North Dakota and Massachusetts.
- At the end of January, 21 percent of the contiguous United States was in moderate-to-exceptional drought, based on the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Please contact Mitch Stimers (stimers@ksu.edu) or Bimal Paul (bkp@ksu.edu) if you have items for the Globe.