The Seaton Globe

Kansas State University Department of Geography November 9, 2009
This newsletter is viewable on the department's website (www.k-state.edu/geography). Past issues are also posted.

Presentations

Nov 13 **Dr. Lisa M.B. Harrington**: "Conceptions of 'Sustainability'," 3:30 pm, 132 Seaton Hall

Nov 16 **Ryan Bergstrom**: "Perceptions of Sustainability in Amenity-driven Communities of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem", 2:30 pm, 164H Seaton Hall. A copy of the dissertation proposal is available in the office.

Publications

Ryan Bergstrom, "Percepts of Sustainable Community Development and Natural Resource Management: A Case Study of Two Montana Amenity Towns." *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences* 32: 86-95.

Iris Wilson, **John Harrington**, **Kendra McLauchlan**, **Elias Martinson**, and Stacy Hutchinson, "The Water Budget, Climate Variability, and Impacts Assessment in Northeast Kansas." *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences* 32: 189-196.

Rex Robichaux and **Lisa Harrington**, "Environmental Conditions and Restoration Actions in the Rainwater Basin Wetland Complex, Nebraska." *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences* 32: 217-225.

Benjamin Munro, "Public Perception of Midwestern Corn Ethanol Production." *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences* 32: 272-280.

Mike Dulin and **Shawn Hutchinson**: "Identifying and Assessing Windbreaks in Ford County, Kansas Using Object-Based Image Analysis." *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences* 32: 332-341.

Events and Things of Note

Ryan Bergstrom was awarded First Place in the Student Paper Competition at the 32nd Applied Geography Conference held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 28-31 October 2009. The title of Ryan's paper was "Perceptions of Sustainable Community Development and Natural Resource Management: A Case Study of Two Montana Amenity Towns." Congratulations Ryan!

Kabita Ghimire, **Mike Dulin**, **Rob Daniels** and **Shawn Hutchinson** presented to various members and partners of Coronado Crossing RC & D in Dodge City, Kansas on October 29th, 2009. The title of the presentation was “Identification and assessment of windbreaks in seven counties of Kansas using Remote Sensing and GIS techniques”

Some articles of interest :

From the New York Times, Published: November 2, 2009
By SINDYA N. BHANOO
The ice atop Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania has continued to retreat rapidly, declining 26 percent since 2000, scientists say in a new report.
Yet the authors of the study, to be published Tuesday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, reached no consensus on whether the melting could be attributed mainly to humanity’s role in warming the global climate.
Eighty-five percent of the ice cover that was present in 1912 has vanished, the scientists said.
To measure the recent pace of the retreat, researchers relied on data from aerial photographs taken of Kilimanjaro over time and from stakes and instruments installed on the mountaintop in 2000, said Douglas R. Hardy, a geologist at the University of Massachusetts and one of the study’s authors.
The photographs measure horizontal shrinkage of the ice, and the stakes indicate the reduction in depth. Both are decreasing at the same rate, Dr. Hardy said.
Researchers studying the mountaintop, including those involved in this study, differ in their conclusions on how much of the melting could result from human activity or other climatological influences.
The lead author of the study, Lonnie G. Thompson, a glaciologist at Ohio State University, has concluded that the melting of recent years is unique.
In 2000 he extracted deep cylinders of ice from Kilimanjaro’s glaciers and found that the higher layers were full of elongated bubbles — signs that melting and refreezing had occurred in recent years.
There was no presence of the bubbles in the deeper layers of the cores, Dr. Thompson said.
If his dating of the ice core layers is accurate, surface melting like that seen in recent years has not occurred over the last 11,700 years.
But Georg Kaser, a glaciologist at the Institute for Geography of the University of Innsbruck in Austria, said that the ice measured was only a few hundred years old and that it had come and gone over centuries.
What is more, he suggested that the recent melting had more to do with a decline in moisture levels than with a warming atmosphere.
“Our understanding is that it is due to the slow drying out of ice,” Dr. Kaser said. “It’s about moisture fluctuation.”
But Dr. Thompson emphasized that the melting of ice atop Mount Kilimanjaro was paralleled by retreats in ice fields elsewhere in Africa as well as in South America, Indonesia and the Himalayas.
“It’s when you put those together that the evidence becomes very compelling,” he said.

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Nepal’s cabinet will hold a meeting on Mount Everest to highlight the

threat from global warming, which is causing glaciers to melt in the Himalayas, an official said Monday.
The cabinet will meet at the Everest base camp this month, just before an international climate change conference in December in Copenhagen, said Deepak Bohara, the forest and soil conservation minister.

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and other cabinet members will fly by plane to the 17,400-foot camp, the starting point for mountaineers trying to climb the world's highest mountain.
Last month, the cabinet of Maldives donned scuba gear and held an underwater meeting to highlight the threat of global warming to that nation, the world's lowest.