IV. GEOGRAPHY FACULTY

Historical Data

Kansas State University’s first geography courses, as noted earlier in this document, were taught at different times in several different departments by faculty members within those departments—Economics and Sociology, Zoology, and Geology, for example. So, it is difficult to identify a “geography faculty” as such before Dr. Karl Stacey was appointed in 1943 as a member of the Zoology department. Since then, the number has varied, bolstered by new appointments and diminished by resignations and retirements. By 1947 the number of professional geographers had increased to four. In the 1960s the number fluctuated between five and six. In 1970 the faculty size became seven. Then, as student enrollments expanded, the department was able to justify additional faculty members. In 1990 the number reached ten. The next two years brought retirements and promotions to administrative posts and reduced the number of geography faculty to seven. Since then the number has risen; it stood at twelve in 2006. In 2007 the Department filled three new positions. In addition to the tenured faculty members, graduate student teaching assistants contributed to the instructional mission. Numbers varied from one in 1959 to 28, including graduate research assistants, in 2006. The Department also hired visiting professors and appointed adjunct professors from time to time. (See Appendix I.)

When geography first was established as a separate entity, Professor Siddall served as Division Chair 1966-1970. Since then there have been five department heads.

- M. Duane Nellis—1987-1993
- John Harrington—1999-2005
- Stephen E. White—1979-1987
- Richard Marston—2005-Present

Current Faculty Members

Each faculty member as of 2007 was asked to write and submit for editing a brief autobiography; the result is a variety of content and detail. Four Emeritus biographies were prepared by the authors of this history.

Kevin S. Blake. After earning a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Kansas, Kevin S. Blake embarked on a 6-year career in the natural
gas industry. Subsequently, a year of camping and traveling throughout North America convinced him to become a geographer. After receiving an MA in geography from the University of Kansas and a PhD in geography from Arizona State University, Dr. Blake’s first tenure-track academic appointment was as an assistant professor at the University of Wyoming. Several teaching and advising awards, as well as refereed journal articles and small research grants, marked his four years at Wyoming.

Dr. Blake joined the geography faculty at K-State in fall 2000 as an assistant professor, where he teaches large sections of World Regional Geography and Human Impact on the Environment. He developed three new courses for the geography curriculum: Geography of the American West, Mountain Geography (both serving primarily undergraduate students), and Western Landscapes as a graduate seminar. In spring 2002 Dr. Blake was promoted to associate professor with tenure, and in fall 2002 he served as interim department head during a sabbatical for then department head, Dr. John Harrington. Following two Stamey teaching awards from the College of Arts and Sciences in 2001 and 2002, in 2003 he received the K-State Presidential Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching.

Professor Blake’s record of scholarly journal articles on culture-nature interactions was recognized in 2003 with the Outstanding Recent Achievement Award from the Mountain Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). His articles appeared in such journals as the Geographical Review, Journal of Cultural Geography, Journal of the Southwest, the Zane Grey Review, Landscape Journal, Cultural Geographies, and Great Plains Quarterly. Dr. Blake is a Contributing Editor for a book edited by Barry Lopez and Debra Gwartney titled Home Ground: Language and the American Landscape, published in 2006. His current scholarly book project, Colorado Fourteeners: The Nature of Place Identity, is under contract with the Center for American Places. This book examines how the Colorado Fourteeners reflected and shaped culture, nature, and place identity at various scales and has been supported by a Faculty Fellowship from the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University and a Big 12 Faculty Fellowship funded by K-State and hosted by the University of Colorado. K-State granted him a research sabbatical in fall 2006 to support his mountain symbolism studies.
For departmental service, Blake’s most significant contributions have been as undergraduate lead advisor and graduate program director. His professional service includes regular book reviews and manuscript peer reviews, as well as several years on the editorial boards for *The North American Geographer* and the *Geographical Review*. In 2005-2006, Dr. Blake served as the Great Plains—Rocky Mountain Regional Councilor in the AAG.

**Deborah Che.** Deborah Che joined the Department of Geography at Kansas State University in 2006. She has an M.A. and PhD in Geography (2000) from Clark University, and a Master of Public Affairs with concentrations in Environmental & Natural Resource Management and Policy Analysis (1994) from Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She also has a B.A. in Economics and a B.S. in Marketing (1988) from the University of Maryland.

Dr. Che’s research interests include nature-based tourism and recreation (i.e., agri-tourism, eco-tourism), rural and community development, cultural/heritage tourism, nature-society relations, tourism development and marketing, environmental policy, race and ethnicity, and geography as an art. A common theme in her community development and natural resource tourism and recreational research is the interconnection between economic restructuring and shifting land uses. Her dissertation research examined how economic policy shifts from industrial to post-industrial development have affected the use of local land resources for production (i.e., manufacturing and resource extraction) and for consumption (i.e., nature-based recreation, and permanent/seasonal residences) in Appalachia’s Forest County, Pennsylvania. In her previous position as an Assistant Professor of Geography at Western Michigan University (WMU), she worked to further the development and marketing of agri-tourism and value-added food production. These have been proposed as avenues for economic diversification and landscape preservation in agricultural regions undergoing restructuring. At KSU she plans to continue her research in agricultural marketing/agri-tourism, tourism and community development, and tourism and migration.

In her courses Professor Che has linked her research and teaching. At KSU, she has incorporated her research on agri-tourism, value-added foods, and eco-tourism into
World Regional Geography. She looks forward to working with undergraduate, master’s, and Ph.D. students on shared research interests.

Professor Che has published her research in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *The Professional Geographer*, *GeoForum*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Tourism Review International*, *The International Journal of Wine Marketing*, *Papers and Proceedings of the Applied Geography Conferences*, *Proceedings of the Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium*, and an edited volume on tourism, diaspora, and space. Additionally, she has been invited to present papers at the “Political Ecology at Home” conference sponsored by Rutgers University, the Michigan Land Use Institute’s “Seeds of Prosperity: Food, Farms, and Michigan’s Economic Future” conference, and Michigan State University’s Michigan Tourism Outlook conference. Dr. Che is the immediate past Chair of Recreation, Tourism, and Sport specialty group of the Association of American Geography (AAG) and serves on the editorial board of *Tourism Geographies*. At the AAG Centennial Meeting, she presented a commentary, “Retrospect and Prospect: Recreation, Tourism and Sports Geography in the 21st Century.”

Karen De Bres. Karen De Bres is a cultural/historical geographer with specific interests in the geography of the 19th and early 20th century Central Plains and the Americanization of the economic and cultural landscape of Britain. She joined the Kansas State University geography department in 1990.

Professor De Bres attended the University of Missouri-Columbia for her undergraduate degree in history and a M.A. in geography. At Columbia University (NY) she earned a Master of Philosophy degree and a PhD (1986).

At KSU Dr. De Bres created and introduced a new course, the Geography of Tourism. She also teaches World Regional Geography, Historical Geography, Rural/Cultural Geography, Cultural Geography (a revived course), Geography of Europe, and Urban Geography. In 2005 she led the first KSU College of Arts and Sciences Semester Abroad program to London. Since then she has organized, with the KSU English Department, an annual two-week intersession summer school program, also in London.

Professor De Bres has supervised nine master’s students who completed theses, and two doctoral students. She has been asked to serve on four doctoral committees in the KSU History Department. In addition she has served on doctoral committees in Education at KSU as well as on one in geography at the University of Kansas.
Dr. De Bres received a Stamey Teaching Award in 1992, and in 2006, the E. Walter Morrison Award.

Dr. De Bres has developed a research program reflecting her varied interests. Her 14 published articles and eight book reviews deal primarily with tourism, roles of women, cultural geography, and history. Almost all of these have appeared in refereed journals, including: *Area, Geographical Review, Journal of Geography, Journal of Cultural Geography, Journal of Geography in Higher Education, Great Plains Research*, and *Great Plains Quarterly*. De Bres was one of four women chosen to write the “Geographic Perspective on Women” chapter for *Geography in America at the Dawn of the Twenty-first Century*. As an active member of the Riley County Historical Society, she edited a book of memories and recipes. In addition she wrote a walking-tour booklet for the 150th anniversary of Manhattan.

De Bres has received a number of small research grants, namely one from the Natural Research Council, a Linda Hall Library Research Grant, a Big Twelve Fellowship Grant, and an ADVANCE Grant.

Her list of service activities includes the following: Board member, Association of American Geographers (AAG) Commission on the Status of Women, 2000-2002; Board member, AAG Recreation, Tourism and Sport Specialty Group, 2001-2003; Chair of the Evaluation Committee for the geography department, St. Cloud State University, 1997; President, Kansas Academy of Science, 1996; Organizer, Annual meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science, 1999; Member, KSU Faculty Senate, 2002, 2004; KSU Calendar Committee, 2003-present; Board member, Women’s Studies Faculty, 2004-present; Member, International Student Service Committee, 2004-present; Member, University Strategic Planning Committee, 1997-2000; Member, Riley County Commissioners Board of Trustees for the Historical Society, 2002-present; Member, Riley County Museum Board, and the Heritage Committee of “Celebrate 150.”

Douglas G. Goodin. Douglas Goodin joined the department of geography at Kansas State University as an instructor in 1993. He reached the rank of professor in 2005. Goodin earned his doctor’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (1993). The University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana granted him his master’s degree (1989) and the University of Northern Colorado, his bachelor’s (1986).
While at Nebraska, his research interests included estimation of surface energy balance components from remotely sensed data and landscape-scale analysis of the relationships between land cover and surface-atmosphere energy exchange. His more recent research has emphasized development of techniques for extracting spatial information from multi-scale remote sensing data. He has used these techniques for observing and modeling the evolution and dynamics of spatial complexity in tallgrass prairie landscapes, with the ultimate goal of understanding how spatial patterns of canopy greenness dynamics emerge from spatial patterns of vegetation structure and optical properties. Ultimately, the goal of this research is to understand the role of energy throughput in ‘organizing’ patterns of spectral reflectance at a hierarchy of spatial scales in tallgrass prairie.

Dr. Goodin is also involved in a cross-disciplinary research program aimed at understanding the ecology of hantavirus in Paraguay. For this project, he is using multi-resolution remote sensing data to observe the effects of anthropogenic landcover disturbance on the dynamics of the environment-host-virus system that sustains hantavirus within its host population. Results from this research suggest that the structure of the landscape interacts with climatic factors to play a crucial role in constraining the dynamics of hantavirus within its host population. Much of his research has been sponsored by grant-making funds and agencies. For 18 of these projects (totaling almost $2.3 million in grant money) he has served as Principal- or Co-Principal Investigator.

Professor Goodin has been or is currently a member of four national or international committees, and he has reviewed manuscripts for 11 professional journals. Four national granting agencies have engaged him to review and evaluate proposals submitted to them.

Between 1989 and 2006 Goodin authored or co-authored 21 refereed articles, 10 refereed book chapters, and 12 refereed articles in “Proceedings” of various professional organizations and conferences. As a writer or editor he has contributed to two refereed books and to three non-refereed books. Paper and posters presented at professional meetings total 40.

At KSU Professor Goodin has taught Environmental Geography, Climatology, Remote Sensing of Environment, Digital Image Analysis, Boundary Layer Climates, and
a seminar in Spatial Analysis.

John Harrington Jr.  Professor Harrington’s university training began with a B.S. degree from Michigan State (1972), and it continued with an M.A. from Minnesota (1974) and a PhD degree at Michigan State (1980). Geography was his major emphasis in all three degree programs. He joined the KSU Geography Department in 1994.

Doctor Harrington’s research and instruction focus on three aspects of geography: climatology, remote sensing, and the application of geographic approaches and methods to deal with human-environment problems. Throughout his career he has addressed research topics in climatology, such as Colorado cyclones, extreme heat events, snowfall, and heavy Great Plains snowstorms. Publications on these topics have appeared in Physical Geography, Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Journal of Climate, Journal of the West, Journal of Geography, and Applied Meteorology.

As an MA student at Minnesota, Harrington worked on a project to see if the 1969 Minnesota Land Use map could be updated using imagery from Landsat I. As a doctoral teaching assistant, he taught the air photo laboratories; and as a new faculty member in 1978 at Oklahoma, he was recruited to participate in a NASA-funded technology transfer project. These early events prepared him for an aspect of his career wherein he examined the utility of remote sensing to treat environmental problems. Three significant topics have been addressed: lake and reservoir water quality, development of a capability to map rangeland resources in Niger, and the mapping of changing land cover in the Great Plains. Professor Harrington’s work on lake and reservoir water quality helped to establish a biophysical predictive relationship between broad band (Landsat) observations and suspended sediment levels. Major publications on this effort appeared in the International Journal of Remote Sensing, Geocarte International, and Remote Sensing of Environment.

In the late 1980’s Doctor Harrington helped to establish one of the first operational GIS systems in Niger. By 1990 the livestock ministry there had a working remote sensing and GIS capability to map the annual Sahelian grassland resource. Publications documenting this project appeared in the International Journal of Remote Sensing, Geocarto International, and the Journal of Range Management.
Classes and seminars that Professor Harrington has offered at K-State include: Environmental Geography, Climatology, Meteorology, Remote Sensing, Human Dimensions of Global Change, Human Impacts on the Environment, Climate of the Great Plains, and History and Philosophy of Geography. At K-State he has also supervised two doctoral students as well as 11 MA students who have completed their theses. Professor Harrington’s primary service activities for K-State have been as Director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Science Secondary Major, as Chair of the Provost’s All-University GIS Steering Committee, and as Department Head in Geography.

Lisa Harrington. Lisa M. Butler Harrington joined the faculty at Kansas State University in 1994, in a visiting assistant professor line which was then converted to a tenure-track line in 1995. Her PhD in geography was earned at the University of Oklahoma (1986), her master’s was from Clemson University (1982, park administration), and her B.S. was earned at Colorado State University (1979, park management). Harrington came to KSU having had appointments at Western Washington University, New Mexico State University, Central Michigan University, and Eastern Illinois University. She earned tenure and a promotion at EIU in 1993. At KSU she was promoted to Associate Professor in 2001 and to Professor in 2005.

Professor Harrington has taught a number of courses at KSU, including World Regional Geography (in the earlier years), Environmental Geography I and II, and Geography of Natural Resources as lecture courses. Human Impact on the Environment, Geography of Public Lands, and Rural Resources have been taught as seminars. She also has participated in the Natural Resources and Environmental Science secondary major capstone course.

Dr. Harrington has long-standing interests in environmental management, rural geography, and monitoring of environmental change, along with related topics including natural resources, environmental perception, natural hazards, and public lands. She comes from the tradition of human-environment studies within geography, and she combines her interests in physical geography with research that most often is approached from a ‘human geography’ standpoint. Her doctoral dissertation addressed variations in research use among US National Park and National Forest Wilderness Areas. Research work has included monitoring of vegetation change following the 1980 eruptions of Mount St. Helens, aquatic invasive species management in Washington, rural change
and resource use in the High Plains and Pacific Northwest, perceptions of and attitudes
toward climate change and change mitigation in southwestern Kansas, and evacuation/
non-evacuation response to Hurricane Katrina.

Harrington has been a participant in several funded research projects, including
Global change in Local Places (GCLP), Human-Environment Regional Observatories
(HERO), and NSF-sponsored work on Hurricane Katrina and Conservation Reserve
impacts on the central Plains (the latter being a doctoral dissertation research
improvement grant). She has published in a variety of outlets, including The
Professional Geographer, Journal of Applied Geography, Climate Research, and Global
Environmental Change, and several edited book volumes.

J.M. Shawn Hutchinson. Dr. Hutchinson completed his bachelor’s degree
in wildlife biology at Colorado State University and his master’s degree and PhD in
geography at Kansas State University. Before joining the Geography Department in a
tenure-track faculty position in 2002 he served as a visiting assistant professor at KSU in
both the Department’s of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and the Department of
Geography.

Dr. Hutchinson’s research interests center on the themes of environmental
assessment, biosecurity, and biogeography. Since 1998, he has been the principal
investigator for 21 grants and contracts worth over $1.2 million, and he has collaborated
with colleagues from across the nation in multidisciplinary research grants totaling
in excess of $4.4 million. Awarding agencies include the National Park Service, the
Natural Resource Conservation Service, the National Institutes of Health (Strategic
Environmental Research and Development Program), the European Space Agency, the
State of Kansas, and Kansas State University.

Hutchinson has authored or co-authored 14 peer-reviewed papers or book chapters
in journals such as Global Ecology, Biogeography, Transactions of the American Society
of Agricultural Engineers, International Journal of Remote Sensing, and Papers and
Proceedings of the Applied Geography Conference. Seven additional papers
have appeared in conference proceedings or other forums. His research has also been
featured in more than 50 paper or poster sessions at major professional conferences. Dr.
Hutchinson has traveled to China, Senegal, Utah State University, and Washington D.C. for invited lectures.

At Kansas State University, Professor Hutchinson has taught Photogrammetry, Environmental Geography, Cartography and Thematic Mapping, Geographic Information Systems I and II, and Geography of Water Resources. Besides his teaching assignments, he has served as Webmaster, as chair or committee member on 17 master’s and 18 doctoral graduate student supervisory committees, and as Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.-authorized ArcView Instructor.

At present Shawn is Director of GISSAL, Director of the Graduate and the Undergraduate Certificate programs in GIS, Delegate to the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, and Newsletter editor of the Water Resources Specialty Group (AAG). In addition he is a member of the State of Kansas GIS Policy Board, the State of Kansas GIS Technical Advisory Committee, and the State of Kansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program Advisory Committee. He also serves as a Consultant to the USDA Great Plains Plant Diagnostic Network.

Hutchinson’s fellowships and awards include the following: Team Member, ESRI’s Special Achievement in GIS Award for Agriculture; New Faculty Fellowship, College of Arts & Sciences, KSU; NASA Earth Systems Science Fellowship; and Department of Defense Environmental Fellowship.

Max Lu. Associate Professor Max Lu was born and reared in East China’s Zhejiang province. He did his undergraduate work in geography at Zhejiang University of Hangzhou. The geography courses that he took aroused his interest in the discipline and he moved north to attend the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in Beijing for more geography. After completing his M.S. degree in 1986, he had a three-year stint as a researcher at the CAS’ Institute of Geography, which allowed him to visit many parts of the country. A snowy January day in 1990 saw him arriving in the U.S. to start his doctoral program at Indiana University in Bloomington. He completed that degree in 1996 and was offered a tenure-track position at KSU.

Dr. Lu’s research interests lie mainly in the broadly defined fields of population geography and spatial analysis, though they continue to evolve as opportunities arise.
Most of his work involves GIS and statistics. One area of his research concerns household migration decision-making, residential consequences of migration, and changes in population distribution in the U.S. He has also been interested in analyzing changes in China’s spatial development patterns as the country goes through the transition from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented one with rapid industrialization and urbanization. More recently, Professor Lu has been studying spatially differentiated patterns of health outcomes, particularly heart disease and cancer mortality, and how geography plays a role in shaping such patterns. He was one of the researchers involved in the Human Environment Research Observatory (HERO) project, and he has been granted other research support as well. Lu’s research has appeared in such peer-reviewed journals as Environment and Planning A, Growth and Change, Population and Environment, Geografiska Annaler B, Global Environmental Change, International Journal of Population Geography, Great Plains Research, and Journal of the West. He has co-edited a book titled Changing China: A Geographic Appraisal (Westview Press).

Professor Lu teaches a variety of courses at KSU; World Regional Geography is one that he especially enjoys. He also has been teaching an introductory GIS course, East Asia/China, and three seminars in, respectively, rural population geography, geographic theory and methods, and spatial data analysis and modeling. In addition he has enjoyed leading a traveling seminar to China, and working for the College Board on its Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography program over the years.

Besides the usual departmental responsibilities—such as serving on the Admissions Committee, co-coordinating the department’s display in the University Open House, and participating in the telefund campaign—sponsoring the Geography Club (GTU) from 1997 to 2006 has been especially important. He has supervised two doctoral dissertations and several masters’ theses. Outside the department, he has served on a number of doctoral and master’s degree committees.

Richard A. Marston. Dr. Marston, University Distinguished Professor and Head of Geography at Kansas State University, was appointed in the summer of 2005. In 2005-06 he served as President of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). Since 1999 he has also been Co-Editor-in-Chief of the international Elsevier journal,
Geomorphology. The American Institute of Hydrology certified him as Professional Hydrologist #488 in 1984, and he has been re-certified several times. He has been elected a Fellow in three professional organizations: the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2005), the Geological Society of America (1997), and the Royal Geographical Society (1991). In 2003, Dr. Marston received the Ronald F. Abler Distinguished Service Honors from the AAG. In 2007, he received the AAG Mountain Geography Specialty Group Distinguished Career Award.

Prior to joining Kansas State University, Professor Marston served for six years on the faculty at Oklahoma State University, 13 years at the University of Wyoming, and six years at the University of Texas-El Paso. He earned his degrees in geography: a B.A. from UCLA in 1974, followed by M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Oregon State University in 1976 and 1980, respectively. He teaches courses in environmental geography, fluvial geomorphology, mountain geography, and water resource geography.

Marston’s principal contributions to geography have been studies that separate the effect of human activities on landscapes from change that would have occurred without human interference. He has studied landform stability and adjustment to environmental change, including the effects of mining, wildfires, deforestation and reforestation, grazing, river regulations, and dust storms. In several cases his research has identified the responsible agents for environmental damage in situations where the blame had been wrongly placed. He contributed to an award-winning environmental plan for the largest border community in the world, the city of El Paso, Texas. Dr. Marston was part of a team that developed a successful reclamation plan for a surface coalmine in northwest Colorado. Most recently, he has conducted research on how rivers respond to disturbances on hillslopes. He has conducted research in France, Brazil, Mexico, the Himalaya of Nepal-India-Pakistan, and the western United States, including six summers on the Juneau Icefield in southeast Alaska. In Australia and Northern California he has also served on independent scientific review panels that have addressed specific issues of human impacts on streams, wetlands, and related biotic resources. Marston has reviewed close to 200 research proposals and has served as a panelist for the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

As of May 2007, 40 students had completed their graduate degrees under Professor Marston’s supervision. He has mentored 19 undergraduate students in
three different National Science Foundation-Research Experiences for Undergraduate programs. He has been awarded 41 funded contracts and grants for university research, totaling $2.5 million and he has presented 350 papers or posters at professional meetings, seminars, and workshops.

Charles W. Martin. Chuck Martin came to Manhattan in August of 1989, not yet finished with the Ph.D. in Geography, but far enough along, in his words, “that the department at Kansas State University was willing to bet I would have the degree in hand by the end of the academic year.” He received the PhD from the University of Kansas in May of 1990. The “bridge” between KU and K-State, as some had called him at the time, assumed a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in KSU’s Geography Department.

Chuck Martin has enjoyed his years in the department and is surprised at how quickly the time has passed. He has had many meaningful moments working with students, but he says the circumstance that most connects him to the history of the department is being only the third faculty member in five decades to teach Geography of Kansas. He continues to offer that course every spring to an enrollment that has grown to more than 100 students. The class falls outside of his research interests, but it has been a source of constant learning about the state that he has called “home” since 1982.

Dr. Martin’s favorite courses have been the Environmental Geography I and II sequence. These classes have provided a unique opportunity to open the eyes of first and second year students to the physical world in which they live. Thus, he has taught students about, among other topics, global warming, ozone depletion, dust storms, natural hazards, and soil geography over the past 17 years. For the department’s graduate students he has served as lead instructor of the class that helps them put together the proposal that will become, for most, the basis for their M.A. theses.

Dr. Martin’s research has taken him near and far. Early in his career he expanded his work on post-glacial river and wind deposits in the central Great Plains that was the basis for his early publications. In 1993, however, the direction of this scholarship took a turn when, with his wife, Sabina, he visited her PhD advisor in Giessen, Germany. Thus began the international chapter in his professional life. He was awarded a Research Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Bonn, Germany, in October 1993. Dr. Martin subsequently spent the periods 1994-95 and 2000-2001 in Giessen at
the Geography Institute of Justus Liebig University conducting research on the storage and distribution of heavy metals in the Lahn River basin. He has returned to Giessen almost every year to continue work with colleagues in the Geography Institute. Along the way, his two children have had the opportunity for an extended stay in their second country of citizenship.

Recently, Professor Martin’s research has returned to historical river channel change in the Great Plains. With several M.A. students he has been examining the human impact on rivers in southwestern and northeastern Kansas. The arrival of Professor Dick Marston in the department in 2005 has given him a colleague with similar interests.

M. Duane Nellis. Professor Nellis joined the Kansas State University geography faculty in 1980 after completing his master’s and PhD degrees in geography at Oregon State University with specializations in remote sensing and in environmental systems. A native of Montana, he had earned his bachelor’s degree from Montana State University. In 1997 he became Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University. Prior to his departure he taught remote sensing and environmental geography courses in KSU’s geography department where he also supervised the preparation of master’s theses. Nellis served as geography department head and then as Senior Associate Dean of the college of Arts and Sciences. In 2004 Dr. Nellis returned to KSU to become Provost, the university’s chief academic officer. He also rejoined the geography faculty.

In his professional role, Professor Nellis has served as president of the National Council for Geography Education (NCGE) and later as president of the Association of American Geography (AAG). He also is a past president of Gamma Theta Upsilon and of the Kansas Academy of Sciences. He serves on the ten-member National Council of Arts and Sciences Research Universities’ committee.

Although Dr. Nellis’ research interests include geographic education, his primary focus is on remote sensing of environment. He has used satellite data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to analyze various aspects of the earth’s land surface. His research has been funded by more than 50 grants (for which he was either principal investigator or co-principal investigator) totaling more than three million dollars.
from such sources as NASA, the National Geographical Society, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This research took him to Botswana to analyze processes of desertification caused by over-grazing on the fringes of the Kalahari Desert. His research also has led to more than 100 articles and reports in a wide range of professional journals, and eleven books and book chapters. He has given more than 100 professional presentations, and he has been invited to speak at more than 60 universities and related settings.

Dr. Nellis has been recognized internationally for his work in research and for his teaching. Thus, during his earlier tenure at Kansas State University he received the AAG’s John Fraser Hart Award for Excellence in Research, and the AAG’s Remote Sensing Specialty Group’s Outstanding Contributions Award. In addition he has received the Young Research Scholar’s Award from the Institute of British Geographers, and KSU’s Outstanding Teaching Award and the University Advisor of the Year Award.

Bimal Kanti Paul. Bimal Kanti Paul, a native of Bangladesh, was appointed to the KSU Geography Department as an Assistant Professor in 1990. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1997 and to Professor in 2002. He earned a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Dacca in 1970, a Master of Arts degree from the University of Waterloo in 1980, and a Doctor’s Degree from Kent State University in 1988. Before coming to K-State, he held a Lectureship in the Dacca University’s geography department (1974-78), and he held a research Scholarship there (1973-74). Dr. Paul also served as sub-Editor of a Bengali daily paper.

The University of Dacca awarded him The University Scholarship, 1972-73, and at Waterloo he won the Graduate Scholarship in 1978-79. Five years later, at Kent State University he received the University Research Fellowship of the Department of Geography and in 1984 and again in 1986 he won the Graduate Student Research Scholarship Awards. These awards supported his teaching areas: quantitative geography, and cartography, human geography, and geography of Asia. They also encouraged him to develop several areas of related research in natural hazards. On that general subject he received 15 grants totaling $184,000 from the National Science Foundation and Fulbright/Hays. As does his list of grants received, Professor Paul’s 23 articles published in referred journals reflect the breadth of his interests. Nine of those articles concern
natural hazards in Bangladesh and one in Kansas. On health and medical care, five articles concern Bangladesh; one applies to South Asia, and one to rural Kansas. On miscellaneous topics, three concern Bangladesh, one South Asia, and one Kansas.

Dr. Paul’s service activities include the following: At KSU, Director of the South Asia Center, Adviser for the Bangladesh Student Association, and Member of the Dean’s Advisory Committee in the College of Arts and Sciences. Beyond this campus, he has been a board member of the Applied Geography Conferences, Inc., Editor of the Asian Geography Specialty Group Newsletter, Association of American Geographers (AAG); Associate Editor of Special Publications, National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE), and Member (and later Chair) of the Research Grants Committee (AAG).

At Old Dominion in 1989 he won the Jacques M. May Thesis/Dissertation Prize for the best thesis or dissertation done in North America. With his dissertation (“Levels and Correlates of Infant Mortality: A Retrospective Study of a Rural Area of Bangladesh”) he competed with other members of the Medical Geography Specialty Group of the AAG. From 1996 to 1998 he chaired the May Prize Committee.

Dr. Paul’s service activities include the following: Director of the South Asia Center, KSU; board member of the Applied Geography Conferences, Inc.; Editor of the Asian Geography Specialty Group Newsletter (Association of American Geographers) AAG; chairman of “Jacques”; May thesis/dissertation committee of the Medical Geography Specialty Group (AAG); Adviser for the Bangladesh Student Association of KSU.

Jeffrey Smith. Jeffrey Smith earned his PhD in geography from Arizona State University in 1997 with an emphasis in cultural, historical, and ethnic geography of the American Southwest and Mexico. He joined the faculty at Kansas State University as a Visiting Assistant Professor in 1998. The following year he was hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor and was awarded graduate faculty status. In 2004 he earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.

Thus far, Dr. Smith has published nine refereed journal articles that have appeared in outlets such as The Geographical Review, Professional Geographer, and Journal of Cultural Geography; three book/encyclopedia chapters; seven book reviews; and an
edited textbook for World Regional Geography (now in its 5th edition). His 2001 *North American Geographer* article won the Editor’s Choice Award.

In his eight years at Kansas State University, Professor Smith has taught more than 4,500 students in nine different classes/seminars including: World Regional, Human Geography, Geography of Latin America, Capstone Seminar, Field Methods, Land Use, and various seminars in cultural geography. He has served as major advisor for five Master’s students and three PhD. students. Over the course of his fourteen years of teaching college/university level classes he has earned six teaching awards, including the 2000 and 2001 William L. Stamey Undergraduate Teaching Award from the College of Arts and Sciences, and the 2004 Kansas State University Presidential Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Smith was the founding editor of the KSU Department of Geography’s weekly newsletter, *Seaton Globe*. He currently serves as Book Review Editor for the *Journal of Cultural Geography*, on the editorial board of *The North American Geographer* and as a member of the governing board of American Ethnic Studies Program at Kansas State University. In addition to securing eleven small research/travel grants, Dr. Smith has presented more than twenty-four papers at professional meetings, and he has been an invited speaker at seven different colleges and universities.

Stephen E. White. Stephen E. White received his bachelor’s degree in 1969, master’s degree in 1972, and doctorate in 1974 from the University of Kentucky. He joined K-State in 1975 as an assistant professor of geography.

White is Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of geography at KSU. Previously, he served as head of the department of geography for 12 years and as Associate Dean for four years. He has authored or co-authored 75 articles and book chapters and made 125 professional presentations on topics related to migration, population change and economic development in Appalachia as well as on demographic and groundwater issues in the American High Plains.

In 1991, White received the Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award for Excellence in Geography from the National Council for Geographic Education. He also received the Conoco Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award at K-State in 1988,
and the William L. Stamey teaching award in 1989. In 2001, he received the John Fraser Hart Award for Research Excellence from the Contemporary Agriculture and Rural Land Use Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy’s National Institutes for Global Environmental Change as well as many other sponsors.

Steve White is a member of the National Council for Geographic Education, and the Association of American Geographers, where he serves as the delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies.

Future Departmental Members

The department will expand to 15.2 faculty by Fall 2008. 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. The most recent hires are introduced below.

Dr. Kendra McLauchlan. (Ph.D. 2004, University of Minnesota) joined the department in Fall 2007. Dr. McLauchlan brings expertise in biogeography, soils, environmental geography, paleoecology, and North America. Prior to joining KSU, Kendra held a post-doc position at Dartmouth College where she was successful as a researcher scholar while also teaching seminars. She is already involved in the Konza Prairie research program at K-State.

Dr. Marcellus Caldas. (Ph.D. 2007, Michigan State University) was hired to join the department in Spring 2008. Marcellus’ specialties center on land cover change, GIS, remote sensing, economic geography, and Latin America. He has worked extensively in the Amazon and intends to continue that work while also developing a local/regional research program.

Dr. Melinda Daniels. (Ph.D. 2003, University of Illinois) was hired to join the department in Fall 2008. Melinda adds expertise in fluvial geomorphology, environmental restoration, stream ecosystems ecology, water resources, and environmental management. Melinda has established a solid record as a research scholar, and she has been a popular choice as an advisor of graduate students at the University of Connecticut.
Dr. Kevin Price was hired by KSU to start in Fall 2008, with an 80 percent appointment in Agronomy and 20 percent in Geography. Kevin contributes expertise in biogeography, landscape ecology, remote sensing, GIS, and resource management. Professor Price works with distinguished national and international research teams to study the impacts of global change on natural and agricultural ecosystems. Since 1995, he has led efforts to develop a national vegetation monitoring program called the Green Report.

Faculty 1988

Plate 8

Front Row: Stephen Stover, David Kromm, William Siddall
Back Row: Duane Nellis, Charles Bussing, Sy Seyler, Stephen White
Faculty 1996

Back Row: Huber Self, Kevin Page, Karen DeBres, H.L. Seyler, Lisa M. Harrington, David Kromm, Bimal Paul

Faculty 2001

Front Row: Karen DeBres, Bimal Paul, Sy Syler, Lisa Harrington, David Kromm, Max Lu
Back Row: Kevin Blake, Jeffrey Smith, John Harrington, Doug Goodin, Scott Dickson
Emeritus Faculty Member

As of June 2007, eight geographers have retired from K-State.

Charles E. Bussing. Charles E. Bussing, B.S. (University of Northern Colorado, 1959), M.A. (University of Colorado, Boulder, 1961), PhD. (University of Nebraska, 1968) was appointed as an instructor at Kansas State University in 1964. He retired as an emeritus professor in 1998. Dr. Bussing was a visiting lecturer at the University of Auckland, New Zealand (1970), and he taught the summer field camp for the University of Kansas from 2002 to 2004. Additionally, he directed International Studies at KSU, 1980-1995.


Dr. Bussing has been an effective advocate of interdisciplinary cooperation. For example, he participated in a summer post-doctoral institute in economics, and in the Scholar Diplomat Program offered by the Department of State. In 1976-78 he co-wrote the $260,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education that created a Tri-University Center for Latin American Studies with the University of Kansas and Wichita State University joining Kansas State University. The Department of Education later funded two additional grants to promote international studies. Other grants funded research in Africa and Latin America.

Bussing believes strongly in service to the university and his profession. On campus he has served as both co-chair and chair of the International Activities Council.
and as a member of numerous faculty committees, including Academic and Faculty Affairs, and four terms on Faculty Senate where he chaired the Salaries Committee. As a member of the Paraguay/Partners organizations, he served as a board member, and he chaired the University Linkage Committee.

Professor Bussing’s professional service has included numerous positions in the Association of American Geographers (AAG). He was on the Board of Directors of the Rural Development Specialty Group and both a member and chair of the Research Grants Committee. Twice he held the office of President of the Rocky Mountain Division of the AAG. He also served two terms on the National Council of the AAG. At retirement he was elected President of the Retired Geographers’ Organization from 2001 to 2003. Professor Bussing continues to be an enthusiastic supporter of the discipline and the Department of Geography at Kansas State University.

**David E. Kromm.** A native of Michigan, Dave Kromm was graduated with a B.S. from Eastern Michigan University and a M.A. and PhD. from Michigan State University. He served two years on active duty as a military intelligence officer in the U.S. Army and was subsequently honorably discharged from the Reserves as a captain. He married Roberta Joan Retzel in 1960. They have three sons and six grandchildren.

Professor Kromm joined the geography faculty at K-State as an assistant professor in January of 1967. He was promoted to associate professor in 1971 and to full professor in 1977. Dave retired in 2002. He was Happold Visiting Professor at the University of Nebraska in 1983.

Kromm taught mostly regional and environmental courses at K-State. His most frequent offerings were World Regional Geography, Geography of Natural Resources, Soviet Union/Former Soviet Lands, and Water Resources. He taught more than 16,000 students. In 1972 he was chosen University Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher, and he won a Stamey Teaching Award in 1990, 1995, and 1996. Kromm was named an Association of American Geographers Teaching Scholar, and in 1994 received the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) Distinguished Teaching Award. He directed the research of 33 M.A. students and one doctoral student.

Natural resources were the focus of much of Professor Kromm’s research. His early work dealt primarily with forests, during which time he developed the concept
of forestry as a space using residual land use. Dave subsequently utilized adjustment
to natural hazard methods to examine response to air pollution and water resources
management. He authored or co-authored more than 60 journal articles and two books.
He presented dozens of professional papers, including those at International Geographical
Congresses in nine countries, including the Soviet Union, Australia, China, Korea, and
South Africa. Dave’s wife, Bobbie, accompanied him to these and other international
meetings. Professor Kromm had research sabbaticals in Yugoslavia (Slovenia), Great
Britain, and Canada (Alberta). He was awarded more than 15 research grants, many
as co-investigator with Stephen E. White to support studies of the Ogallala aquifer in
the American High Plains. Dr. Kromm was part of the departmental Global Change in
Local Places (GCLP) and Human Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) teams.
Research awards include Journal of Geography’s Outstanding Article (1987), the John
Fraser Hart AAG Award for Research Excellence (1997), and being named K-State Phi
Kappa Phi Scholar (1999).

Dave Kromm served on many university and professional committees and
councils. He established Geography’s Visiting Scholar Program in 1967 and served on
the Graduate Admissions and Assistantships Committee most of his career. His favorite
course was World Regional Geography because of the excitement of engaging students to
see the world from the geographic viewpoint.

Sarah C. Larson. Appointed as Instructor in 1946, Sara Larson joined the faculty
of Kansas State University with a 1942 Master’s degree from the University of Chicago.
Later she took additional courses at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln). She retired in
1963 and died in 1975. She taught Physical, World Regional, and Human Geography as
well as Geography of Anglo-America.

Larson published “Lost Towns of Finney county: and “Soybeans in Midwestern
Farming” in Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science. In the late 1950’s she
visited Hawaii, Singapore, India, Egypt, Israel and several countries in western Europe.

Her friends remember her as wholly dedicated to her students and their welfare.
For many years she co-chaired the Department’s annual picnic committee.

Huber Self. Huber Self, now an Emeritus Professor, retired in 1980 after 33 years
on the faculty at KSU. Recently released from the navy, where he had received a
citation for laboratory research in bacteriological warfare, Professor Self was appointed to a position in the Geology Department in 1947. With a master’s degree from Oklahoma State University, he began developing his teaching and research interests: Geography of Kansas, Cartography, Geography of Soviet Union, and physical geography.

Professor Self played a role in establishing a local geography club and in achieving its recognition as a member of the newly organized national honorary fraternity, Gamma Theta Upsilon. For many years he sponsored the organization.


Professor Self traveled in the Soviet Union for a month in 1964, and he also has visited parts of Asia as well as 14 countries in Western Europe. His travels took him to China, Japan, and South Korea in 1988, to Australia and New Zealand the next year, and to Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, and Mexico in 1989 and 1990. Most of Huber’s travels were made in the company of his late wife, Audine. His intrepid VW “bug” played a major role in many of their travels.

Justus Liebig University extended to him a grant to lecture in 1964. Three years later KSU’s Agricultural Research Station supported his research to delineate agriculture regions in the state, and in 1979 he received another grant from the same agency to map with Dr. H. L. Seyler, the agricultural regions of Kansas.

Self has been a diligent promoter of geography at this university, and he repeatedly identified promising students and encouraged them to develop majors in the
field. His ongoing interest in students helps to explain the many hours he has invested, especially after retirement, in mapping their after-graduation locations. This entailed a large scale map of Kansas and a small scale map of the world. As of 2006 he continued to update addresses and map locations of K-State geography majors.


Further in support of Professor Seyler’s research, the Kansas State Agricultural Experiment Station’s Center for Rural Development Research provided a grant (1975 through 1977) and in 1979 the same agency approved for Dr. Seyler a grant to be coordinated with Professor Huber Self. Its purpose was to define and map the agricultural regions of the state. With M. Robinson, M.D. Nellis, H. Kok, J. Hickman, and A. G. Ham, Seyler received a grant of $184,000 from the Kansas Water Office. In 1990 the USDA Soil Conservation Service provided a grant of $30,000 (to be shared with the colleagues named above). Both grants helped to finance the first year of a five-year project to computerize the state’s soil survey at a scale of 1:24,000. That project was part of the Kansas Geographic Information System’s (GIS) initiative launched in 1990.

As an administrator and as a consultant, Professor Seyler served as Coordinator of the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Program, 1979-89; Director, University Summer Honors Program, 1979-89; Member, Governor’s Kansas Ozark Advisory Council, 1972-74; Analyst for Bucher and Willis, Kansas City, (Missouri) re: contracts with Ozarks
Regional Development Commission, 1976-78; Resources person for the Kansas City, (Missouri) Resources Authority (to identify criteria for the location of housing for the handicapped), 1978; and Advisor to the Secretary, Kansas Department of Economic Development (KDED), (to identify research needs and priorities, and to design research projects), 1978 and following.

In addition to extensive travels in the U.S. Dr. Seyler also visited parts of East and Southeast Asia, Oceania, and Latin America.

William R. Siddall. In 1962 Bill Siddall came to Kansas State University with a B.A. degree from Harvard and a PhD from the University of Washington. He retired in 1996, Siddall served as the first Head of a self-standing Department of Geography (1970-1979). He had chaired the Geography Division within the Geology Department (1966-1970) and had succeeded in effecting geography’s independent status with an emphasis on human rather than physical geography. He also directed the College of Arts and Sciences’ Independent Reading Program form 1970 to 1985.


In 1962 he was awarded a National Science Foundation grant to attend a summer seminar at Northwestern University. The subject was quantitative methods. He received two grants from KSU’s Bureau of General Research and from 1974 to 1976 he served on the editorial board of the Regents’ Press of Kansas. Siddall was named a Stamey teaching awardee in 1994.

In addition to his seasonal “migrations” between Nantucket and Manhattan, Professor Siddall traveled widely in western Europe, but he also ventured into higher latitudes with visits to the Canadian Arctic, Greenland, and Iceland. He enjoys hiking and climbing in his native New England, where he now lives in retirement with his wife, Abby.
Karl Stacey. Appointed in 1943, Karl Stacey retired in 1974. He died in Topeka in 2006 at the age of 97. At KSU Professor Stacey taught Economic Geography, Political Geography, Geography of Europe, Geography of Southeast Asia, Geography of South Asia, and Physical Geography. He earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Colorado. He prepared “Petroleum and Gas in the Economy of Okalahoma”, his PhD dissertation at Clark University (1955). While as a Visiting Professor at the Australian National University in Canberra (1967-68) he wrote “Consumption and Production of Petroleum from the Australian Mainland, 1968.”

Professor Stacey traveled in most western European countries and studied at the University of Zurich (1938-39). He was a Visiting Professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology (1956-57) while on a Fulbright appointment. Earlier, (1944) Stacey resigned from KSU to join the U.S. Army serving as an officer in the European theater. In 1947 he returned to this university and joined the newly organized Department of Geology. He became part of the “stand alone” Department of Geography when it was created in 1970.

Stephen L. Stover. Steve Stover joined the KSU geography faculty in 1964, and he retired in 1989. He earned an A.B. degree in history (1940) at McPherson (Kansas) College in his hometown, and an M.A. in history (1942) at the University of Kansas. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison he completed an M.S. (1955) and a PhD. (1960), both in geography.

A Fulbright appointment to New Zealand in 1966 and a sabbatical year there in 1972 inspired three journal articles on the role of the New Zealand government in farming, and there followed two more on combining farming and forestry in that country. A 1980 sabbatical leave provided the opportunity for writing a paper on silviculture and grazing in England’s New Forest. He published an article on embossed patterns for map shading, and, with Duane Nellis, two papers on using remote sensing imagery in the teaching of regional geography. For a New Zealand national secondary school program he wrote two units on Great Plains agriculture in the US, and he produced a study guide for the US Armed Forces Institute and a correspondence course for the Extension Division of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Stover received a travel grant to present a paper at the International Geographical Union regional conference in New Zealand in 1974, and in 1982 the U.S.
National Park Service supported his research into cultural landscape preservation. In 1984 he received a grant for a course revision under the Agriculture in Liberal Arts Program. KSU’s Bureau of General Research provided encouraging support on three occasions.

Classroom and seminar responsibilities for Professor Stover included Geography of Agriculture, of Hunger, of Australia and New Zealand, of Europe and of Kansas in addition to Human, World Regional, and Historical Geography. He initiated the department’s course in Remote Sensing of Environment. He also participated in an Elderhostel program at KSU.

Stover’s invited book reviews include one of the USGS’ *National Atlas of the US*, one of a photo atlas of the US, one on the public domain, one on sheep-raising in Ohio, and a review of the *Agricultural Atlas of Nebraska*. He provided an editorial review of the “Pacific World” and the “Australia and New Zealand” chapters, respectively, in two world geography texts. He also revived the moribund *Kansas Geographer* and edited it from 1969 until its budget-related suspension in 1985. For several years he was an associate editor of *Transactions* of the Kansas Academy of Science. Dr. Stover also co-authored *Perspectives on Applied Geography*, and he wrote exercises for Remote Sensing of Environment and for Environmental Geography.

On campus Stover served on two PhD. Committees. He was an external examiner at Punjab University, and at KSU he supervised preparation of 12 Master’s theses. Twice he acted as interim department head.

Dr. Stover’s foreign residence and extensive travel, sometimes with his family, have been especially important to him, beginning with an all expense paid round-trip to the Philippines during World War II. Stover’s travels have strengthened his resolve to broaden the horizons of his students and to maintain contact with former colleagues and graduate students.
Front Row: Dave Kromm, Bimal Paul, Dick Marston, Lisa Harrington, Jeff Smith, Karen DeBres, Deborah Che
Middle Row: Max Lu, Huber Self, Steve White, John Harrington, Shawn Hutchinson, Steve Stover
Back Row: Kathy Zimmerman, Chuck Bussing, Chuck Martin, Doug Goodin
Absent: Kevin Blake, Laura Moley, Duanne Nellis, Lisa Percival