

Foreward

Geography as a discipline continues to grow in size and influence in business, industry, government, and society in general throughout America and the rest of the world. We at K-State Geography... alumni, faculty and current students... are taking our rightful place in this growth, and we are well-positioned for the future. We continue to attract and retain talented and motivated students from around the country and beyond our nation's borders. In the 21st Century, K-State Geography has served each year as the academic home for about 40 talented graduate students, about half of whom are pursuing the Ph.D. degree. We attract about 75 undergraduate students majoring in Geography each year plus another 25 students pursuing the minor. Over 4,000 KSU students enroll in Geography courses each year. About 15 geography majors graduate each year with a B.A. or B.S. degree, 10 graduate students earn the M.A. degree, five students complete the Undergraduate Certificate in GIS, and three students complete the Graduate Certificate in GIScience. The number of students graduating with the Ph.D. in Geography has averaged about one per year since the degree was initiated. The K-State (Beta Psi) chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the International Honor Society in Geography, won the International Chapter of the Year Award for the third time in 2005! We continue to enjoy an excellent reputation on and off campus for our teaching and research productivity, service on campus and to the profession, and the number and quality of students. Our biggest asset is our shared passion for geography.

Our faculty and students are addressing major challenges in geography: land cover change, tourism development, immigration issues, climate change, water resources, spread of diseases, drug abuse, response to natural hazards, earth system geography, and development and application of GIS and remote sensing technologies. K-State Geography faculty continue to be very successful in research-obtaining funding support that ranks high in the College of Arts and Sciences, employing students in research projects, presenting papers and posters at national and regional meetings, and publishing in high-quality journals and books. Our department employs award-winning classroom instructors, world class researchers, as well as an efficient and friendly staff.

Provost Nellis' goal for K-State is to be ranked in the Top 10 of land grant universities (without medical schools), in our country. It can be argued that K-State Geography already ranks very near the top of Ph.D. programs in stand-alone Geography departments among the land grant universities, especially when evaluated on the basis of productivity per faculty member. As of 2007, we are the only Geography program at a land grant university with two faculty members who have been elected as Fellows in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and the only university in the United States with two faculty who have received AAG Honors since 2000.

The Emeriti faculty...Drs. Chuck Bussing, David Kromm, and Steve Stover-are to be congratulated for preparing the text and appendices that document the K-State Geography story, updating the earlier work by Professor Huber Self. They have performed a valuable service for our alumni and current faculty, students, and university administrators by researching and compiling background data and unearthing some wonderful photos of faculty and students from past decades. I also want to thank Sandy Bussing, and Kathy Zimmerman for their editorial work on this volume. To the alumni and current faculty, staff and students, and to friends and supporters of the department: Thanks for all you do for K-State Geography!

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