Departmental Event

GTU/Geography Club Bowling Evening: 2 February, 6-8 pm, K-State Union. Games are $1.25 with a student ID.

Departmental Scholarships

William Grimm Undergraduate Geography Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded annually to a worthy geography major. The scholarship is named in honor of William Grimm, a former Kansas State University graduate killed in action during the Persian Gulf War, and is supported by the Grimm family. Any current undergraduate geography major enrolled during the 2014-2015 academic year is eligible for this scholarship. The value of this scholarship is $500.00. Receipt of the William Grimm Scholarship does not preclude the award winner from receiving any additional scholarships awarded at Kansas State University. If you are interested in being considered for this Scholarship, please turn in the following materials by the application deadline to the Department of Geography main office: 1) a one-page essay describing the importance of geography for attaining your professional goals, and 2) two letters of recommendation from instructors (letters should be sent to the department head, if sent separately). Applicants may also mail their completed packets to: Grimm Scholarship, 118 Seaton Hall, Department of Geography, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506. Selection of the scholarship recipient will be based on the completed essay, cumulative grade point average, and two letters of recommendation. The Department of Geography Scholarship Committee will select the recipient. Application deadline is March 12, 2015.

Rafferty Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded annually to a worthy geography graduate or undergraduate student who is a member of and an active participant in the Beta Psi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon at Kansas State University. The scholarship is named in honor of Milton and Emma Jean Rafferty and provides financial assistance to a student enrolled in the Department of Geography. Any current undergraduate geography major or graduate student enrolled during the 2014–2015 academic year is eligible for this scholarship. The value of the scholarship is $500.00. Application deadline is 12 March, 2015. Receipt of the Milton and Emma Jean Rafferty Scholarship does not preclude the award winner from receiving any additional scholarships awarded at Kansas State University. If you are interested in being considered for this Scholarship, please turn in the following materials by the application deadline to the Department of Geography main office: 1) a one-page essay describing the importance of geography for attaining your professional goals, and 2) two letters of recommendation from instructors (letters should be sent to the department head, if sent separately). Applicants may also mail their completed packets to: Rafferty Scholarship, 118 Seaton Hall, Department of Geography, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506. The Department of Geography Scholarship Committee will select the recipient.

Huber Self Scholarship: The Self Scholarship is supported by Alumni and Friends of the Department of Geography and is bestowed in the name of Professor Emeritus Huber Self. Professor Self retired in 1980 after having devoted more than 33 years of his professional life to the advancement of Geography at Kansas State University. He authored textbooks and atlases on the Geography of Kansas and numerous articles in professional journals. Huber Self passed away in 2011 at the age of 97. Any current undergraduate geography major enrolled during the 2014-2015 academic year is eligible for this scholarship. Application deadline is 12 March, 2015. The value of the Huber Self Scholarship is $500.00. Receipt of the Huber Self Scholarship does not preclude the award winner from receiving any additional scholarships awarded at Kansas State University. If you are interested in being considered for this Scholarship, please turn in the following materials by the application deadline to the Department of Geography main office: 1) a one-page essay describing the importance of geography for attaining your professional goals, and 2) two letters of recommendation from instructors (letters should be sent to the department head, if sent separately). Applicants may also mail their completed packets to: Self Scholarship, 118 Seaton Hall, Department of Geography, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506. The Department of Geography Scholarship Committee will select the recipient.

Seyler Undergraduate GIScience Scholarship: This scholarship is supported by Alumni, Friends, and Faculty of the Department of Geography, and is named for emeritus faculty member H.L. “Sy” Seyler. Dr. Seyler devoted nearly three decades of professional service to the advancement of geography and geographic information science at Kansas State University. Any current undergraduate geography major enrolled with at least junior standing during the 2014-2015 academic year is eligible for this scholarship. Application deadline is 12 March, 2015. The value of the Seyler Undergraduate GIScience
Robert H. Williams Undergraduate Geography Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded annually to a worthy geography major. The scholarship is named in honor of Robert H. Williams and provides financial assistance to undergraduate students enrolled in the Department of Geography at Kansas State University. Any current undergraduate geography major enrolled during the 2014-2015 academic year is eligible for this scholarship. Application deadline is 12 March, 2015. The value of the Williams Scholarship is $500. Receipt of the Robert H. Williams Scholarship does not preclude the award winner from receiving any additional scholarships awarded at Kansas State University. If you are interested in being considered for this Scholarship, please turn in the following materials by the application deadline to the Department of Geography main office: 1) a one-page essay describing the importance of geography for attaining your professional goals, and 2) two letters of recommendation from instructors (letters should be sent to the department head, if sent separately). Applicants may also mail their completed packets to: Williams Scholarship, 118 Seaton Hall, Department of Geography, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506. Selection of the scholarship recipient will be based on the completed essay, cumulative grade point average, and two letters of recommendation. The Department of Geography Scholarship Committee will select the recipient.

Department of Geography Graduate Research Grant (GGRG) Competition: The Geography Department solicits proposals to directly support thesis or dissertation research activities. Examples of supported activities include: travel to field sites, purchases/rentals of equipment, or other resources (computer cluster time, data sets, software, etc.). Salary requests to support the graduate student applicant will not be considered, nor will travel requests to attend conferences or workshops. The amount and number of awards will vary from year to year depending on available funds and the quality of applications. Individual grants will not normally exceed $3,000. Applicants must be currently enrolled full time Geography graduate students in good academic standing and making satisfactory progress toward degree completion. Master’s students may apply for support during their first year in the program. Doctoral students must be admitted to candidacy by the time funds would be disbursed (June 1). Successful applicants may apply to subsequent RFP’s providing they still meet eligibility requirements.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the merit. However, applicants who can demonstrate that they have actively sought external sources of research funding will have a significant advantage in this competition. Required Application Materials include: 1) a completed and signed routing form (found at: http://www.k-state.edu/geoacademics/forms.html), 2) a five-page research proposal focusing on the specific application of the grant funds and its relevance to the larger thesis or dissertation project, 3) a 250-word abstract summarizing item #2, 4) a detailed budget (a worksheet template can be found at: http://www.k-state.edu/geoacademics/forms.html ), 5) a detailed budget justification (not to exceed one page), and 6) a brief supporting letter from the applicant’s primary advisor. Please submit four copies of your complete application package to the Graduate Program Director (Dr. Douglas Goodin) by April 1, 2015.

Rumsey Bissell Marston Scholarship: This scholarship was established to support graduate students in Geography at Kansas State University who are pursuing theses or dissertations centered in physical/environmental geography. The scholarship honors the memory of R.B. Marston, a lifelong educator, who attributed his achievements to hard work, a positive outlook and effective mentoring. The thesis/dissertation proposal must involve a significant level of well-conceived fieldwork. Preferably, the project should explore one of the following two 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 thesis/dissertation 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 proposal are listed below. These guidelines will be used by the Graduate Committee to rank applications. Recipients receive a cash award (the amount varies from year-to-year), a framed certificate, and have their names engraved on a plaque that is displayed in the department. Application deadline is 1 April, 2015.

Guidelines for Preparing a Thesis/Dissertation Proposal R.B. Marston Scholarship:

I. Introduction: Problem Statement (one concise sentence) & significance (who would potentially be interested in your study?) (place your study in the context of bigger problems); Purpose (one sentence) and Objectives (itemize the major research questions); and Study Area (location and description; justify your choice of study area…is it just convenient or especially well-suited to achieve purpose & objectives?)

II. Literature Review (sub-sections for each major research objective): demonstrate that you are familiar with the literature on this topic; summarize what is already understood and what is still NOT well understood; do competing schools of thought
exist? Has the topic been studied anywhere? If so, what was found? What remains to be understood? And has it been studied in your study area? If so, previous findings? If not, what might be different about your study area?

III. Methodology (sub-sections for each major research objective): justify why each procedure is needed and why that particular method is best suited; techniques of data acquisition: what, how many, where, how often…field, lab, remote sensing, map interpretation; and techniques of data analysis: lab work, statistics, computer analyses, etc.

Additional Material for Proposals: expected form of the results (text, figures, maps, computer model, etc.), timetable (list of tasks for each objective and when that work will be undertaken), budget (outline the expected costs and sources of funding), and where will findings be reported: thesis, journal publication, and professional meeting.

Job Opportunities

Monash University, Australia: The School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment (SEAE) at Monash University is seeking to appoint a biogeographer to the physical geography program within the School. The new appointee at the Lecturer B Level will be expected to teach into the Environmental Earth Sciences and Geographical Sciences teaching streams of SEAE and to develop research linkages across the School. The successful candidate will have a teaching/research specialization in one or more of the following areas: vegetation modelling within an earth-system science framework, palynology/palaeo-environmental reconstruction, or application of GIS/remote sensing/spatial methods in biogeography. Applications close 10 Feb, 2015. For more information please go to: http://bit.ly/1y7453R/

King’s College, London: This college announces a new fixed-term lectureship post with a specialization in remote sensing/earth observation. This is ideally suited to an early career candidate. For further details on the post and the application procedure please see: http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/AKI910/lecturer-in-physical-geography/. Application Deadline is 15 February, 2015.

Student Opportunities

MA Geography Assistantships: California State University at Long Beach will support two graduate assistants who will collaborate on the data collection and analysis through the duration of a NSF funded project and on the publication of the research findings. The students will assist during a maximum of two academic years. The graduate research assistants will work as field and/or lab research assistants for a maximum of 20 hours/week during the academic year with the option for more hours during summer. Tasks will vary but will likely include some of the following: (1) obtaining and classifying satellite and UAV generated imagery for the study area, (2) storing and analyzing field and GPS data, (3) fieldwork in Mali, Africa using a UAV to collect data on tree cover, (4) creating maps and other visual representations of the data, (5) writing methods sections for publication, (6) conducting advanced GIS and/or statistical analysis of data sets, and (7) providing support for PI Laris and CoPI Lee on tasks related to the project. Requirements include: (a) must be enrolled as a CSULB Masters student and be committed to conducting a thesis for the project, (b) must have experience in one of the following two areas: Position #1, Remote sensing: GIS, Erdas and UAV experience required (GEOG 473, 475 and 485 or equivalents) and Position #2, Biogeography: GIS and advanced statistical analysis required (GEOG 400, 485 and 487A or equivalents), and (c) knowledge of French language a plus! For more information contact: Dr. Paul Laris, Chair of Geography, CSU Long Beach, laris@csulb.edu.

Geography Career Day, KSU: Please make plans to attend activities of the Geography Career Day, which will be held on 10 February, 2015. The career day is a wonderful opportunity for students to connect with potential employers. It may be of special importance if you are seeking an internship or full-time or part time employment in the field of Geography beginning Summer 2015. The main activity includes (30 minutes blocks) interviews with potential employers.

OTHER

Green Education Foundation: This foundation is putting on National Green Week starting February 2 and going until the end of Earth Month (April). This event gives schools many ideas and potential classroom activities relating to sustainability to incorporate into their lessons. Different themes for the lessons include energy, waste reduction, gardening, transportation, green buildings, and water. Schools may choose any week, day, or activity during this time frame to have the environmental lessons. Learn more at: http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/greenweek.html

Please contact Bimal Paul (bkp@ksu.edu) and/or Matt DeCapo (mjd3@ksu.edu) with K-State Globe items.