Departmental Events

Faculty Meeting: February 18 (Wednesday), 3:00 to 4:30 pm, Seaton 164H.

Dissertation Proposal Presentation: Julie Commerford, “Investigating North American Grassland Biography throughout the Holocene,” 18 February, 1:00 pm, Seaton 164H.

Geography Presentation: S. Jahangir Hasan Masum, “Community Level Climate Change Adaptations in Five Ecosystems in Bangladesh: Lessons Learned,” 20 February, 3:30 pm, Seaton 132.

Departmental Activity

Publication


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.
Requests to attend conferences or workshops. The amount of funding will be determined by the amount of the award, the student’s cumulative average, and two letters of recommendation. A thesis/dissertation proposal, approved by the student’s committee, shall be the basis for judging applications. 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/geography/academics/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/geography/academics/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.

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 scholarship is $500.00. Receipt of the Seyler 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 narrative discussing accomplishments and future plans for using geospatial technologies in geographical research or employment, and 2) two letter of recommendation from instructors (letters should be sent to the department head, if sent separately). Applicants may also mail their completed packets to: Seyler GIScience Scholarship, 118 Seaton Hall, Department of Geography, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506. Selection of the scholarship recipient will be based on the completed narrative, cumulative grade point average, instructor assessments from geospatial technology courses, and two letters of recommendation. The Department of Geography Scholarship Committee will select the recipient.

Robert H. Williams Undergraduate Geography Scholarship: This 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/geography/academics/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/geography/academics/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 project 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.
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

Kutztown University, Kutztown, Pennsylvania: The department of geography at Kutztown University invites applications for a full-time temporary position in Physical/Environmental Geography to begin in the Fall 2015 semester. Ph.D. in Geography preferred, ABD in geography within one year of completion at time of appointment required at a minimum. Applicants must have relevant training and two years (or equivalent) of college-level teaching experience. Particular interest is in a faculty capable of teaching environmentally-related courses complementary to our current offerings including Elements of Physical Geography. Ability to teach other undergraduate courses in Physical and Environmental Geography will be necessary to complete a 12 hour per semester teaching load. A successful classroom demonstration and interview(s) are required. Send a letter of application highlighting substantive training and teaching experience and ability. Also, submit a curriculum vitae, transcript(s) of all college-level work (unofficial acceptable while official transcripts are in transit), and three letters of reference to Dr. Steven Schnell, Search Committee Chair, Department of Geography, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, Kutztown, PA 19530. Review of applications will begin March 15, 2015 and will continue until the position is filled. No electronic submissions will be accepted.

Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado: The Department of Geology at Colorado College invites applications for a one-year non-tenure track position in Geomorphology, broadly considered (e.g., neotectonics, fluvial/soil/eolian processes etc.), to begin in August 2015. The faculty visitor will teach Geomorphology, two intermediate-level courses in his or her area of specialization as well as introductory geology. Appointments will be at the assistant professor level for candidates holding a Ph.D. The PhD or ABD is a requirement for employment. Applicants must be committed to high-quality innovative undergraduate teaching, including field-oriented courses. The Block System of education at Colorado College, in which professors teach and students take only one course at a time for 3-1/2 weeks, lends itself to field and project-based teaching. The visitor will teach 6 out of 8.5 blocks in the academic calendar. The Department has excellent field equipment and laboratory facilities for teaching and research in all geological disciplines. Information on the positions, facilities, and Department is on line at http://www.coloradocollege.edu/academics/dept/geology/. Undergraduate research is an integral part of the Colorado College Geology curriculum; thus an ability to advise research in the candidate’s areas of expertise is highly desirable. The ability to teach GIS and/or to integrate GIS into courses is advantageous but not required. Applicants should send statement of teaching and research interests, curriculum vitae, and names and addresses of three referees to: Henry Fricke, Chair, Colorado College, 14 E. Cache La Poudre, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, 719-389-6514; email: geology@coloradocollege.edu. The search will remain open until the visitor position is filled.

Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire: The Department of Geography seeks a postdoctoral fellow with expertise in coupled human and natural systems. This two-year position will complement existing departmental strengths in quantitative global change, international development, and geospatial modeling. Research areas could address biophysical resilience to environmental change, socioeconomic drivers of land use, and institutional adaptive capacity to climate change. Approaches of particular interest include quantitative modeling (e.g., agent-based, integrated assessment), remote sensing, and political ecology. In the cover letter applicants should specify how their research approach addresses the interactive components of both human and natural systems. The successful applicant will contribute intellectually to the Department and College by collaborating with faculty to conduct interdisciplinary research while also teaching two approximately 10 week long courses.
per year. A doctoral degree in a relevant field must be completed by the start date of the fellowship. To apply please upload a cover letter, research plan (not to exceed two pages), curriculum vitae, names and contact information for three references, and up to three reprints to http://apply.interfolio.com/28020 by March 1st, 2015. Questions should be directed to Frank Magilligan (geography@dartmouth.edu).

Student Opportunities

Sprint Internship Competition, Overland Park, Kansas: An intern position is available at Sprint. Under close supervision, the intern performs entry level professional duties providing the opportunity for professional training in various capacities. The intern will be assisting with analysis, planning, design and modification of network components supporting customer communications. An ideal candidate will assist with the analysis of the short-term or long-term capacity needs for switching, routing transmission and signaling. Collaboratively working with other members on the team to formulate alternative ideas to assist the team in daily functions that involve all areas of Sprint’s Network. The position is a part of the GeoAnalysis team within the Domestic Roaming organization. The position requires RF Coverage Mapping and GeoAnalysis support for all wireless technologies. Position supports internal and external teams to Network with Geographical Information System (GIS) tools. For additional information, please contact: Tucker Hickey/Network Planner; tucker.hickey@sprint.com. Office (913) 315-4094.

Idaho State University (ISU), Pocatello, Idaho: Applications are now being accepted for ISU’s GEOL 4451/5551, Field Methods in Environmental Sciences. This three credit course for upper division undergrads and graduate students will be held in Gibson Jack Creek, Pocatello, Idaho from May 18 through 30, 2015. This course focuses on the tools necessary to do watershed scale budgets of water and carbon, including: a diverse array of sampling/measurement methodologies in water, gasses and soils data logger/sensor programming for deployment in aquatic, terrestrial and meteorological settings, and basic tools for QA/QC, time series analysis and spatial statistics. Long days in the field will be interspersed with classroom, lab and computer time. Students will prepare two reports and present their results to regional stakeholders. The course will enable students to do baseline monitoring and assessments as a either a research assistant, environmental consultant or employee within a state or federal agency. For more information and online application materials visit http://geology.isu.edu/FieldMethods/. Questions can be addressed to crosby@isu.edu. Application deadline is February 27, 2015.

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.