Departmental Event

GTU/Geography Club/St. George Geographical Society: Cleaning up of a section of US-77 (Adopt-a-Highway), April 3 (Friday) afternoon. Afterwards at 6:00 pm, a St. George Meeting will be held at Nelson’s Landing, Leonardville. Geography students willing to participate in cleaning up of US-77, please meet in GISSL (Seaton 164A) at 2:30 pm for a brief KDOT info video. Snacks will be provided. Those unable to help with Adopt-a-Highway are more than welcome to join for dinner.

Departmental Activities

Travel Awards

Bill Wetherholt received a 2015 Graduate Student Council Prestigious International Travel Award, $1,000. Congratulations Bill! The award will be applied to travel costs associated with the 8th Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian, and American Rural Geographers this July 6-12 in Wales.

Avantika Ramekar received an Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Research Travel Award, $1,000. Congratulations Avantika!

Departmental Scholarships

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 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-
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

Cartography Technicians, GARMIN, Olathe, KS: GARMIN is seeking full time Cartography Technicians to partner with its engineering teams in the research, definition, creation and evaluations of maps produced for use in Garmin products. Essential functions for this role include: edit, manipulate and maintain geographic data using custom and 3rd party software; ensure the application of cartographic specifications to the data; help evaluate and process database updates according to established methodology; assist in map generation and product compilation; conduct testing and evaluation of Garmin cartography products; perform established operations for quality assurance; and continuous growth and evolve with engineering technology. Qualifications include a Bachelor’s Degree in cartography or geography with a minimum 3.0 GPA or a minimum of 4 years experience performing a role substantially similar to the essential functions of this job description. Qualified candidates will possess a basic understanding of geo-databases and a working knowledge of cartography and geography relevant to Garmin’s business needs. Proficient computer skills, including familiarity with PC applications and Windows Operating System (OS) and typing skills with the ability to type 30 wpm are also musts! Other required qualifications include: must be detail-oriented and have the ability to work proactively and effectively with minimal supervision; ability to prioritize and multi-task in a flexible, fast paced and challenging environment; demonstrated strong and effective verbal, written, and interpersonal communication skills; ability to work and thrive in a sophisticated technical environment; and candidates who are familiar with ArcGIS or other GIS applications, GIS principles and methodologies, and/or possess experience using a GPS device are preferred. Bilingual skills are also a plus! Interested students can contact Lynda Wolf at Lynda.Wolf@Garmin.com and apply online at http://www.garmin.com/careers. Please include unofficial transcripts.

Post-doctoral position in Geomorphology, Forest Service, Fort Collins, CO: Forest Service seeks a post-doctoral researcher interested in landscape-scale forest and flood disturbances in the Front Range of Colorado. There are two components to this position: 1) an analysis of post-fire sedimentation responses from the High Park burn area in the Cache la Poudre River watershed, and 2) an assessment of channel conditions on US Forest Service lands impacted by the Northern Colorado flood in September 2013. The position will be based in Fort Collins, CO and hired through Colorado State University. Office and lab space will be available at the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station facility, which is adjacent to the Colorado State University campus. This position requires a completed Ph.D. in geosciences (or equivalent earth science field) at the time of appointment. Demonstrated field research experience is also required. This is a full time position with salary between $45,000 and $50,000, depending on experience and publication record. Funding is available for one year, with a second year contingent upon securing additional funds. Forest Service would like to fill the position prior to the onset of the field season in July 2015, but no later than September 2015. To apply and view a complete position description, please visit http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/home/about-wcnr/employment-opportunities. For full consideration applications should be submitted by April 5, 2015.

One Year Visiting Assistant Professor or Instructor of Geography, Clark University, Worcester MA: Applicants are invited to apply for a 2015-2016 academic year, non-tenure-track position in Earth System Science at the Visiting Assistant Professor or Instructor level. A Ph.D. or ABD in Geography or related field is required. The successful candidate will teach six courses (3-3 load), including two sections of introductory earth system science, weather and climate, artic systems science and a fifth course of the candidate’s choice. Advising may stand in lieu of the sixth course. Experience teaching earth system science courses is strongly preferred. To apply, electronically submit a letter of application, a C.V., a graduate school transcript, a statement of teaching philosophy and interests, the names of two referees, and example syllabi if available to
Ccreelman@clarku.edu. Applications should be received by April 15, 2015 to receive full consideration, but will be accepted until the position is filled. The position also includes health insurance benefits and a modest allowance for conference/research expenses. Feel free to contact Jody Emel, Acting Director of the School of Geography, if you have questions about the position (jemel@clarku.edu).

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX: The Department of Geography invites applications for 3 Visiting Assistant Professors (VAPs). Two positions will focus on human geography or human-environment geography. One position will focus on physical geography. Visiting assistant professors will be required to teach two classes during the Fall and Spring semesters. VAPs are expected to publish and conduct research during the time of appointment. Candidates must have a Ph.D. at the time of appointment and a strong commitment to excellence in research and teaching. Appointments are for one year with the potential for a one-year renewal pending adequate funding and job performance. Candidates should submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and names and addresses (including e-mail addresses) of three referees to Dr. David Cairns (cairns@tamu.edu), Department Head, Department of Geography, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 77843-3147. The department will begin reviewing applications on April 15, 2015. Please indicate availability at the Annual Meeting of the AAG in Chicago as we will be interviewing at that time.

Student Opportunity

Summer Institute on Sustainability and Energy (SISE), University of Illinois at Chicago, IL: The SISE is a two-week intensive workshop and lecture series for students and professionals. From August 6-18, a diverse body of participants will engage a broad spectrum of energy and sustainability-related topics through daily presentations, collaborative projects, mentoring activities, site visits, and networking opportunities with leading research institutions and companies in the digital technology and energy sectors. The issues presented will be of interest to scientists, economists, political scientists, urban planners, engineers, architects, and entrepreneurs. Graduates leave as thoughtful and informed global citizens with a firm foundation and expanded network for careers in sustainability, energy, and smart technology and infrastructure. The University of Illinois at Chicago is now accepting applications and will continue to do so until July 1. The university welcomes all graduate students and senior-level undergraduates from all academic disciplines to apply. Applicants will need to submit an online application form, resume, and two recommendation letters for consideration. All this information can be found at the website (https://sise.uic.edu/). If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Alán (uic.sise.admissions@gmail.com), SISE Program Coordinator.

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