Welcome to the 2013 K-State Geography Alumni Newsletter, an opportunity for us to share with alumni and friends of the department the news of the past year! Looking back on the just-completed year, there are many reasons to be optimistic about the future of the Geography Department and the role it will play in the university. The administration at K-State continues to plan for goals outlined in the K-State 2025 initiative that will make the university a Top 50 Public Research University over the next 13 years. The Geography Department at K-State, with its mix of outstanding teachers, scholars, and students, is well positioned to contribute to this initiative in the coming years. Strategic planning at the departmental level began in the last year and will continue this spring as we align our goals with those of the College of Arts and Sciences and university. The members of the faculty and students in the department enjoyed remarkable success in the just-completed year. The two student scholarship endowed funds established in 2010 by K-State Geography alumni continued to grow as did the Geography Alumni Fund (for student support) that was established in 2009 and to which all alumni can contribute. In 2012 funds from geography Foundation accounts provided more than $7000 to support the travel of undergraduate and graduate students to professional meetings and workshops. In addition to financial support, our alumni generously contribute their time and expertise, whether serving on the Geography Alumni Board, visiting in the classroom with students, or contacting the department about job and internship opportunities. One of the more visible alumni events in 2012 was the annual Geography Career Day in February. Organized in 2012 by Tracy Brown and Jason Sweet, this annual event helped our students secure jobs, internships, and gain experience in preparing resumes and conducting interviews.

**Faculty Highlights:** Members of the Geography faculty were again very successful in research, teaching, and professional service during 2012. Since 1 July 2011, faculty members of the department have secured more than $1 million in new research funds from 10 extramural research grants. The funding has come from agencies such as the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Defense, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Geography faculty in 2012 served as a Jefferson Science Fellow with the U.S. Department of State, were appointed to editorial and scientific boards of national and international journals, named as officers in professional organizations, and served as chairs and members of scientific committees for professional meetings and conferences. In 2012, faculty of the Geography Department authored 31 refereed journal articles, book chapters, and reviews and gave 69 professional and invited research presentations, a remarkable accomplishment considering that all members of the faculty taught undergraduate and graduate courses and participated in a variety of departmental, university, and national service. The department is currently conducting a national search for a permanent department head who will begin on 1 July 2013. As the personal summaries and highlights on the following pages attest, K-State geography faculty members are a diverse, dedicated, and highly productive group of scholars and educators.
**Student Highlights:** The Geography Department had a strong group of graduate students and undergraduate majors in 2012. At the end of the 2012 Fall Semester, the department counted 1 Post-Doc, 24 PhD students, 13 MA students, 95 geography majors, and 29 geography minors. Nearly 4000 students enrolled in Geography classes in 2012, continuing a trend that has characterized our courses since the 2003-2004 academic year.

Six of our students were awarded their Ph.D. in 2012: Jeremy Aber, Melissa Belz, Ryan Bergstrom, Matt Gerike, Tyra Olstad, and Jim Wells. Since the first doctoral students graduated in 2000, 29 students have completed the Ph.D. degree in the department. Our M.A. program graduated 3 students in 2012 and 22 majors received the B.A. or B.S. degree this year. We also saw 7 students complete the Graduate Certificate in GIScience and 12 students finish the undergraduate certificate in GIS.

Our students and alumni are making a positive impact in business, industry, government, and academia. The annual survey by Career and Employment Services at K-State of our 2011 graduates indicates that 71% are employed and 11% are enrolled in a graduate or professional school. Current students have been selected for a remarkable array of awards outside the department as well as the annual departmental awards that are presented during our annual Spring GTU/Geography Banquet. You will read about some of the highlights in the pages that follow.

**Staying Connected with You:** In addition to our recently re-designed webpage (http://www.k-state.edu/geography/), the K-State Department of Geography has a Facebook page and a KSU Geography Alumni page. I hope you will check them on a regular basis to keep up with events in the department and among our alumni. On behalf of my colleagues, I want to thank our alumni, parents, students, and friends for the gifts that support our students and help meet the needs of the department. Your generosity contributes substantially to the education of our students. As always, we welcome your comments about the department and K-State. When you are visiting campus, please stop by Seaton Hall and say “hello”. Thanks to all of you for your ongoing and generous support of K-State Geography!

**Williams Faculty Fellowship**

**Robert H. Williams Faculty Fellowship in Geography**
The Geography Department was extremely pleased in 2012 to receive word that Mr. Robert Williams of Smith Center, Kansas, had created the Robert H. Williams Faculty Fellowship in Geography through the Kansas State University Foundation. The fellowship, which will be dispersed upon the death of Mr. Williams, will be used to support one or more endowed faculty fellowships in the department and to provide additional support for a faculty member or members of the department. A portion of the gift will be designated for the Robert H. Williams Scholarship in Geography, a fund that was created by Mr. Williams in 2010 to support undergraduate students in the Geography Department.

Mr. Williams graduated from K-State with a B.A. degree in geography in 1967 and was a member of the Air Force ROTC. Following graduation he began a career as a transportation officer in the U.S. Air Force, which took him throughout western Europe. After serving for eight years in the Air Force he retired to his farm in Smith Center. In 1988 he retired from the Air Force Reserve.

The faculty, staff, and students of the Geography Department sincerely thank Mr. Williams for his generous donation which will help the department retain and potentially recruit the highest quality faculty members to the department.
**Faculty News**

**Kevin Blake:** Greetings Wildcat Geographers! This year I have been pleased to have the opportunity to serve as the advisor for four students who earned their bachelor’s degree and two who earned their doctorate degree, plus two other students who finished their dissertations with me as part of their committee. Congratulations to all of our graduates! Travel continues to be a big part of my life, and it was great this year to visit ten new countries and two new continents (Europe and Asia). Some highlights included Venezia (Venice), Istanbul, Capri, Monte Carlo, and Dominica. It is fun to have so many photographs and experiences to share as I teach World Regional Geography, Mountain Geography, Geography of the American West, and Perception of the Environment. Within the U.S., I enjoyed conferences in New York City (the AAG meeting) and Spearfish, South Dakota (Zane Grey’s West Society), plus two short research trips to Colorado’s Front Range mountains. I have been writing about mythic landscapes of North America and the geographical imagination of Pikes Peak (Colorado). I have enjoyed serving during this year as a presidential lecturer at Kansas high schools and community colleges, where I give talks about my research topics, including the images in prairie postcards, Zane Grey’s portrayal of Kansas in his western fiction, climbing the Colorado Fourteeners, and symbolic lighthouses in America.

It is also interesting to serve on the committee that selects books each year for the university common reading program. The program, called the K-State Book Network, or KSBN, is in its fourth year. The selection committee reads dozens of diverse books each year in our search for something stimulating for the university community and enjoyable for the students. On the home front, gardening garners much attention in the warmer months, as I enjoy creating a low water use, organic woodland environment around the house, complete with ornamental concrete fountains, as well as many benches and stepping stone paths made from beautiful native Kansas limestone.

**Marcellus Caldas:** I was taking my time thinking about the year of 2012 and trying to remember all the things that I had accomplished this year. The first thing that came to mind was “Wow! Today I am completing five years at K-State.” I stopped a little bit to think about this landmark and I have no doubts “I made the right choice in coming here.” The department has so many nice people and I made a lot of friends, inside and outside the department, which helped me to accomplish so many things. For instance, for the third year myself, Dr. Dodds (English Department) and Dr. Smith-Caldas (Division of Biology) took students to Brazil in our Study Abroad “Development, Environment and Non-Fiction Writing in Two Brazilian Ecosystems: The Amazon and the Pantanal Wetlands.” This course was again a success and we decide to offer it again in 2013. This is stimulating but I realized that I had accomplished many other good things. I was selected as the K-State International Educator of 2012 and I have 5 papers under review in the following journals Society and Natural Resources, Economic Geography, Geoforum, Land Use Policy, Journal of Environmental Management, and one paper approved for publication in the journal Disaster. In addition, I published 1 paper and 1 editorial in 2012. The editorial was published in the journal Geography & Natural Disaster and the paper was published in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers. The paper in the Annals is also a landmark for me. It is my 6th paper in this prestigious journal. However, my accomplishment did not stop here. I submitted 4 proposals in 2012 that are under review and I was awarded a National Science Foundation grant in the value of U$611,000 to study the Direct and Indirect Drivers of Land Cover Change in the Brazilian Cerrado due to sugarcane expansion.

I have no doubt that the year of 2012 was a good year that made me gratified by my work in the department but the accomplishments that made me more proud occurred outside my professional life: the graduation of my daughter (Amanda) in Political Science (she is a K-Stater!!!), and to see my older son (Gabe) playing on the Manhattan High Varsity Football Team.

Happy New Year!!!!

**Doug Goodin:** My main emphases in 2012 were on land cover and biotope mapping in the Ukraine, and developing techniques for detecting canopy nitrogen from remote sensing at the Konza. In
support of these projects, I welcomed two new members to my research team, Ling Bohau and Kyle Anias, both MS students. Last May, I travelled to Volyn Oblast, western Ukraine, where I spent three weeks surveying land cover types and laying the groundwork for a comprehensive LULC biotope map. This map will provide input for a model to predict the spatial distribution of Tularemia, a bacterial disease found in small mammal reservoirs and capable of causing disease in humans. Although the trip was productive, it was not all work. My colleagues and I spent some time exploring the landscape and visiting the numerous, historically significant cities in the area. I plan to return this spring.

Closer to home, my research (along with Bohau Ling) on mapping nitrogen in the Konza continues to go well. We have developed new models for retrieving N values from hyperspectral remote sensing data, which in turn allow us to estimate nutrients in the canopy and map their distribution across the landscape. This work is part of a larger project aimed at better understanding how macrograzers (in this case, bison) perceive and respond to the patterning of nutrients in their environment. The project is in collaboration with Dr. Tony Joern, of the KSU Division of Biology, and is funded through the NSF.

In addition to international travel in the spring, I’m looking forward to some domestic trips, as well. It’s been more than two years since I’ve been to the AAG, so I’m anticipating attending this year in Los Angeles. If you’re there, let’s catch up!

John Harrington: It has been a rewarding and very productive year. Lots of professional presentations (travel), work on grants (both funded and efforts to get more), teaching a full load of classes, time spent writing, and continuing to read the latest scholarship on climate change, climate science education, and global change. Some of my travel was personal and included a trip into Carlsbad Caverns during spring break. I’d set a goal to be able to walk 2 miles within a national park within a year after the hip replacement surgery. The hike along the trails inside the caverns enabled me to meet that goal. 2012 was the 20th anniversary of the 1992 environmental talks in Rio. As a part of Rio + 20, a pre-meeting science conference, Planet under Pressure (PuP), was held in London in late March. It was a real treat to present at PuP and to see faces and hear the voices of so many of the global leaders who are advancing our understanding about the rapid pace of global change. Another treat was attending and presenting at the Adaptation Futures conference in Tucson in late May; again, all the big names addressing how we might adapt to planetary change were there.

Lisa and I marked our 25th Anniversary in June with a trip to Victoria, BC and a trip to Butchart Gardens and some local provincial parks (including the local Niagara Falls). After the ferry ride back to Port Angeles, we drove and then hiked in the mist and rain to Cape Flattery (one really needs to be a geographer at heart to set a goal to get to the northwestern most point in the lower 48). During the ‘summer break,’ I was asked to provide a number of presentations on climate change and/or global change; it was really nice to receive a strong positive response to my sharing some of the latest information about the multiple global scale inconvenient truths of climate change, land cover change, and ocean acidification. It is clear to me that people want to learn just how bad thing are and the destructive path we are headed along. In September, I attended the Long Term Ecological Research All-Scientist Meeting in Estes Park. I was fortunate to be part of the planning team for the once every 3 year meeting. It was really nice to see the ecologists respond very positively to the presentation by geographer, Bob Kates, on sustainability science. I had a “once in a lifetime” experience on the day I left the meetings. I drove Bob down to meet up with one of his students, Dr. Bill Travis, in Boulder. Bill took us both to the site of the Gilbert White Monument along Boulder Creek. What an awesome moment to see Bob Kates reach up and touch the memorial for his mentor, Gil White. Another highlight during the last few months of the year was working with my now former student, Matt Gerike. Matt finished his dissertation and earned his doctoral degree. It is always great when your students become the knowledge expert and teach you a few new things!
Lisa Harrington: Last year was, as usual, busy. The ‘big’ personal event was that John and I celebrated our 25th anniversary. (Yes, we’ve much more than tolerated each other for that long!) We went to Vancouver Island, Victoria, Butchart Gardens, a waterfall or two (all in BC, Canada), Olympic National Park (where we ran into alum Judd Patterson), and Cape Flattery (WA). Nice ferry ride between countries, and I took lots of pictures, of course. We spent until mid-August (except for our respective professional trips) at our house in Bay Center (WA). Much as I like the Flint Hills, I love summer in a rural coastal place. I made some trips to NM to check up on and do things for my mom over the course of 2012, then moved her to Manhattan after Thanksgiving. Still working on getting her ‘settled.’ Professional trips were to the AAG meeting in New York, the Applied Geography meeting in Minneapolis, the regional AAG meeting in Park City, and an interdisciplinary workshop on teaching sustainability at Carleton College in MN.

My wishes for a calm and happy year to alumni and friends of Geography at K-State. Keep in touch.

Shawn Hutchinson: Another great year in the Department of Geography has come and gone. It seems that as I get older the years pass more quickly… Some highlights include having five peer-reviewed papers published or accepted, submitting five research proposals, giving four invited research presentations on two continents, presenting three papers at professional conferences, and hooding Dr. Jeremy Aber at graduation this December. Whew!

This past year was another record one in terms of growth for the GIScience curriculum in the department. After a quick look at our enrollment figures, we’ve seen a 315% increase in the number of students taking GIScience courses since 2000. The two related GIS/GIScience certificate programs administered by the department also continue to enjoy success, with 12 undergraduates and 7 graduate students finishing up this past calendar year. While the certificates have always attracted a very diverse group of students from different departments and colleges across campus, this past year saw our first students enroll from departments/programs such as Security Studies, Public Health, and Curriculum & Instruction (College of Education).

My students and I continue to invest significant research time looking at issues related to the monitoring and sustainability of military training lands at Fort Riley and other Department of Defense installations. We are moving forward with projects and publications that document vegetation condition and historical trends at Fort Riley, contrasting vegetation phenology on military versus non-military lands in the Flint Hills, installation and use of distributed sensor networks for environmental monitoring (moving towards and Internet of Things framework), and mobile device application development to support crowdsourcing of environmental data.

During the spring and summer, GISSAL hosted graduate student Thomas Devienne from the Ecole d’Ingénieurs de Purpan (Toulouse, France). For his thesis, Thomas conducted remote sensing analysis and fieldwork at Fort Riley to help explain the influence of fire frequency and seasonality on vegetation species composition on disturbed training lands. After returning to France in August, Thomas successfully defended his thesis and graduated from Purpan this fall. This year, GISSAL also joined forces with the Department of Agricultural Economics on a US Aid-funded project to perform spatial analysis and mapping of health and nutrition data from Ghana. For those who’d like to keep abreast of news related to GISSAL, check out our website (http://www.ksu.edu/gissal), “like” our Facebook page, and/or follow GISSAL on Twitter (@kstate_gissal).

Travel was also a big part of 2012! Several fun work trips such as New York City (AAG Meeting); Corvallis, Oregon (invited presentation); and Toulouse, France (research at Ecole d’Ingénieurs de Purpan). I also had the opportunity to participate in a joint Biological & Agricultural Engineering/Geography delegation to China where we toured and presented research seminars at four universities (see highlights below). One of the outcomes of that trip is a likely summer study abroad experience at Jilin University during summer 2014.

Our children Mitch (11) and Marleigh (8) are in 6th and 4th grades, respectively. Mitch, now in braces, is in his last year at Marlatt Elementary School and will move on to Susan B. Anthony Middle School next year. Both kids are active with soccer and
basketball and, as with the past couple of years, we spend the majority of our weekends at various locales in Kansas and Missouri watching the kids and their teams compete in tournaments – successfully, I might add! Marleigh is a budding scientist, with a moderate Netflix addiction, who knows computers about as well as I do... We had family trips to Montana this summer and Christmas, along with short visits to Paris and London (via the Chunnel) after work concluded in our “second home” in Toulouse. Mitch would argue that the best part of London was visiting Stamford Bridge, home to his favorite Premier League soccer team Chelsea. Our chocolate lab, Mocha, is now a lovable – and 80 pound – adult. To say that she is well-loved and spoiled would be an understatement!

Best wishes for a safe, happy, healthy, productive, and rewarding 2013!

Max Lu: It is hard to believe another year has passed us by. I hope you are all doing great in the new year. The biggest news for me in 2012 is we had another child (yes, life is full of surprises!) Ackton was born on Feb. 5 and he is a happy and healthy boy, full of energy and growing up too fast. In terms of travel news, I did get a chance to spend a little over three weeks in China in June. The rapid change China has been experiencing is truly amazing. I grew up there, follow the news about China closely and actually teach a class on China, yet, when I was there I had this feeling of “a stranger in a strange land.” For my trip from Beijing to Hangzhou, I took China’s brand new high-speed train. It was very fast (at a speed of over 300km per hour), smooth, and comfortable. The whole trip took just over 6 hours (it was three times as long before). It was a bit strange to see only about a dozen passengers in my car. It turns out high-speed rail costs more than flying in China so, not surprisingly, many people choose to fly. One can only wonder why the railway authority does not change their pricing to make it more attractive to take trains. What a waste of transport capacity! Before my piece gets too long, I also want to let everyone know that Dick Marston is now the faculty contact for our Alumni Board. I really enjoyed working with Jason Sheeley, Will Breitkreutz, Jason Sweet and everyone else on the board. Thank you very much for all you do for K-State Geography.

Richard Marston: I was honored to complete my year in residence in Washington, D.C. as one of 13 Jefferson Science Fellows. I was assigned to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Office of The Geographer and Global Issues. As a senior analyst, I was asked to address a variety of international environmental security issues related to mountain geography, natural hazards, and water resources. I spent three weeks in Nepal, during which time I presented invited talks at the U.S. Embassy and Kathmandu University. As part of my work for the State Department, I hiked to Namche Bazaar and beyond in the Solukhumbu region, reaching within 15 miles of Mt. Everest, to explore opportunities for small hydropower development as well as the risk and mitigation options from glacial lake outburst floods. I am continuing to work on challenges for sustainable living in the Himalaya, Hindu Kush, and Tibet Plateau caused by climate change and melting glaciers. I was pleased to co-organize (with Carl Legleiter at the University of Wyoming) the 43rd Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium on the topic of “the Field Tradition in Geomorphology.” The symposium was held in late September 2012 at the Snow King Resort in Jackson, Wyoming, with over 120 geomorphologists attending. Carl and I are co-editing a special issue of Geomorphology that will include invited, refereed manuscripts from the symposium. I also completed editing of Volume 7 of the Treatise on Geomorphology to be published by Elsevier in 2013. This volume contains 36 chapters by an international collection of authors on the subtopic of “Mountain and Hillslope Geomorphology.”

I continued to be gratified by the achievements of the 43 students, with whom I continue to stay in touch, who have completed their degrees under my supervision over the years. They are gainfully employed in business, government, and academia...and moving up through the ranks. My very first undergraduate student advisee has herself retired as a geography professor and is now living in a cabin in New Mexico, surrounded by the Carson National Forest.

My son, Bryce, worked in the summer of 2012 for the U.S. Forest Service in Saratoga, Wyoming (as he has done in recent years), but now he is working full-time during the school year on his Ph.D. in...
Geography at Kansas State University, supervised by Dr. Melinda Daniels. Bryce’s dissertation topic has been approved (woody debris in streams of the Medicine Bow National Forest as affected by pine beetle damage) and now he is preparing for his preliminary exams in Spring 2013. Meanwhile, he is teaching a junior-level course in Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 on Cartography and Thematic Mapping.

My daughter, Brooke, graduated from the University of Colorado in May 2012, with a double major in Music (oboe performance) and Geography. She presented a wonderful Senior Oboe Recital in March 2012, including one piece composed by her uncle, Don Meyer. Brooke received a teaching assistantship from Oregon State University and began studies in Fall 2012 toward her M.S. degree in Geography.

**Kendra McLauchlan:** The year-in-review for 2012 has been full of a diverse set of activities. The year began with an invited talk at a conference at the University of Oxford about using the paleorecord to understand ecosystem services. This was my first trip to the United Kingdom and I loved it! I am working on making new research connections there with a strong set of physical geographers. Another winter highlight was obtaining almost 40 m of sediment core from two lakes in the upper midwestern U.S.: Devils Lake, Wisconsin and Fox Lake, Minnesota. This was quite an adventure coring from frozen lakes! My graduate student Josh Mueller and postdoctoral associate Joe Williams were reliable and hardworking both coring outdoors in cold temperatures, and working on the cores in the lab for much of February. The mud has already yielded some secrets and more await discovery this coming year!

I am taking on more scientific leadership roles, including organizing a five-year Research Coordinating Network funded by NSF about ecosystem response to disturbance. We kicked off this network with the first workshop in April at Konza Prairie. Twenty-four researchers from six nations spent a few days working on these topics and enjoying the Flint Hills scenery, grassland burning, and bison herd. My research program continues to roll along with a great group of graduate students, undergraduates, and postdocs.

We are keeping everyone updated with a new Paleoenvironmental Lab Facebook page.

My children, Micah and Isabel, are growing up fast. At ages 7 and 4, they still are willing to accompany my husband and I to small field work projects. But they are also developing their own interests, and quickly outpacing my knowledge of many of those topics. Our family also added a dog this year, a 3-year-old black lab mix named Star. She is a wonderful companion.

Individuals in the Paleoenvironmental Lab exploded in research productivity in 2012, with six conference presentations by undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers this year. We had three undergraduate researchers working on various projects this summer. Scott McConaghy from K-State conducted a calibration of charcoal, vegetation cover, and fire on Konza Prairie, Evan Pugh from Denison University conducted a landscape-level analysis of nitrogen cycling at Konza Prairie, and Emily Mellicant from the University of Miami worked on the lithology and magnetic parameters from Devils Lake, Wisconsin. Graduate student Chris Morris published his first paper in a peer-reviewed journal and also won third place for best poster at the AAG-GPRM conference: "Comparing two modern analog technique metrics to determine prairie type in modern Great Plains prairie assemblages."

**Bimal Paul:** Unlike 2011, I was not able to publish a book in 2012. However, I have a book contract with Lexington Books – a division of The Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Group. The tentative title of the book is *Climate Change in Bangladesh: Confronting Impending Disasters* and it will be co-authored with Dr. Harun Rasid, who was my teacher at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, now retired from the faculty of University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, WI. If everything goes as planned, the book will be in press in the middle of June of this year.

In 2012, I published four papers in refereed journals and one book chapter. Three papers and four book chapters have been accepted for publications. Since June of last year, I have been working as the editor of the *Geographical Review*. 
Like the last four years, I was not able to visit my native Bangladesh in 2012. However, I did visit the UK as an invited guest to attend an Expert Workshop on Environmental Change and Global Migration Futures held at International Migration Institute, University of Oxford, Oxford, June 21-22, 2012. I also gave a guest lecture at Kent State University, Kent, OH on September 28, 2012.

On the family front, our eldest daughter Anjana is now working with Verizon Cellular Company in Olathe. Our younger daughter Archana is studying nursing at St. Luke Nursing College in Kansas City, MO. Both are living in Overland Park. Our son Rahul completed fifth semesters at K-State. Anjali, my wife, and I are planning to visit Bangladesh in March 2013.

**Jeff Smith:** Happy New Year! I hope 2013 is filled with joy and peace. I spent most of 2012 continuing to flesh out my research results (e.g. Cuba, Mexico, and the American Southwest/Border Region). Most of my summer was spent doing research on an invited book chapter that focuses on Colonial European Influences in North America. This was a time consuming project, but very rewarding. I look forward to seeing it in print. During Fall 2012 I was granted a reduced teaching load that enabled me to spend time doing research **DURING THE SEMESTER.** What a delight. Usually I spend all of my time during the semester attending to my teaching duties.

In June 2012 I was part of a contingent of K-State administrators and faculty who traveled to Mexico City. It was truly an honor to be a part of such an illustrious group of people. Unfortunately, I was inflicted with shingles during my entire time in Mexico. I strongly recommend all but my worst enemies get the shingles vaccine. It’s a painful and miserable condition to endure.

I continue to teach many of the same classes including GEOG 100 (World Regional Geography) and GEOG 620 (Geography of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean). Over the past academic year I had over 390 students pass through my classrooms. That is considerably fewer than in most years. It always pleases me to see my former students stop by my office. As I always say: if you find yourself on the K-State campus please stop by and say hello!

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**From the Office:**

**Alison Hodges:** Hello Alumni! I am the Account Specialist and Office Manager for the Department of Geography. I stepped into the big shoes of Lisa Percival in October, 2011 and have been happily providing support to the department since that time. The biggest push for me this past year has been a change in our accounting system that I hope will provide faster answers, more detailed data, and provide the information needed to the department and aid in utilizing our funds to meet our short and long term goals effectively. We are looking closely at any areas we can adapt to better meet the needs of our department. Kathy has been key in helping me to get up to speed on departmental history. I have worked for the State of Kansas for 24 years, 23 of those years at KSU. My background is in grants and contracts, fiscal management, and office management. I hope to help contribute to the department in every way that I can.

On a personal note, I currently share my home with my son Chris, who is a junior at KSU with a double major in Economics and Statistics. We have additional family members, two dogs, Gunner (Gunnie) and Nia. Gunner is a saluki mix we obtained from foster care and Nia, a golden retriever mix, was rescued from a neighbor many years ago. I have the travel bug, and have made a number of interesting trips over the last decade. My favorite to date is Turkey. I’m saving for the next trip but haven’t chosen a destination yet. I also write poetry and am focusing on putting poetry and pictures or graphic art together. As a poet, I love music from Phil Oches to Woody Guthrie, Hank Williams and spreading out to Rise Against The Machine and Three Days Grace. Poetry is poetry regardless of the medium! Needlepoint and gardening are two hobbies I do periodically. I hope to get to know our Alumni better over the next year and look forward to meeting any of you who come to campus for a visit.

**Seth Heronemus, Student Office Assistant:**

I have worked for the Department of Geography for four months now. I am currently majoring in mechanical engineering. I am still undecided on exactly what I want to do with my degree, but so far I like the field. The K-state aero design team has been one way that I have explored the possibilities of engineering. In my spare time I like to read, go running and hang out with friends.

**Kathy Zimmerman:** I have worked for the Geography Department since 2006, and enjoy working with our students; faculty, and staff.
**Selected Faculty Accomplishments**

**Kevin Blake:**
- Lis Pankl and Kevin Blake co-authored “Made in Her Image: Frida Kahlo as Material Culture,” published in vol. 44, no. 2 issue of *Material Culture*.
- At the annual convention of the Zane Grey’s West Society, I received the Charles G. Pfeiffer Award for “excellence in academic research, analysis, and writing on the life, lore, and legend of Zane Grey.” This is a national, competitive award, and is only awarded every two years. This was the first time this award had been granted by the society. It was especially meaningful to me because Charles Pfeiffer made legendary contributions to the study of Zane Grey’s geography over the past thirty years.
- Selected to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Geographical Review*.

**Marcellus Caldas:**
- I was selected as the K-State International Educator for 2012.
- I published 1 paper and 1 editorial in 2012. The editorial was published in the journal *Geography & Natural Disaster* and the paper was published in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*.
- I was awarded a National Science Foundation grant in the value of U$611,000 to study the Direct and Indirect Drivers of Land Cover Change in the Brazilian Cerrado due to sugarcane expansion.

**John Harrington:**
- I was elected and began service as an AAG National Councilor.
- I developed and taught a new 4 credit lab class on Atmospheric Science, GEOG 235.
- My paper, “Developing strategies to convey climate science to Kansas stakeholders: evolution and approach,” was selected as the lead paper for Volume 35 of the annual *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences*.

**Lisa Harrington:**

**Shawn Hutchinson:**
- Graduate student Jeremy Aber completed is Ph.D. dissertation, “Comparing the Dominant and Continuous Frameworks of Spatial Microgenesis” and graduated in December 2012.
♦ Five peer-reviewed papers published or accepted for publication and five research proposals submitted in 2012.
♦ Toured and presented research seminars at four universities in China: South China Agricultural University (Guangzhou), Zhejiang University (Hangzhou), China Agricultural University (Beijing), and Jilin University (Changchun).

Max Lu:
♦ President of the AAG’s Population Specialty Group, 2012.

Richard Marston:
♦ Completed my 14th year as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Elsevier journal, Geomorphology, by editing a record 230 manuscripts for the year, making a total of 1,470 for the 14 years.
♦ Published an article in Progress in Physical Geography, with Inci Guneralp of Texas A&M as lead author, titled “Process-form linkages in meander morphodynamics: bridging theoretical modeling and real world complexity.”
♦ Presented seven papers (five invited) at professional meetings and university seminars, including one at the U.S. Department of State and one as keynote speaker for Geography Awareness Week at the University of Wyoming.

Kendra McLauchlan:
♦ Gave an invited talk at a conference at University of Oxford: "Reconstructing ecosystem services: nutrient cycling in the paleorecord."
♦ Organized the PROBE workshop for twenty-four researchers from six nations at Konza Prairie Biological Station (Paleo Reconstructions of Biogeochemical Environments).
♦ Presented a new record of the past 15,000 years of nitrogen cycling at the Ecological Society of America meeting: "Global nitrogen cycling changed during the Holocene as terrestrial ecosystems accumulated carbon."

Bimal Paul:
♦ Working as the editor of the Geographical Review.
♦ Published four papers in refereed journals.
♦ Served as an external examiner of a dissertation submitted to Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal, India, 2012.

Jeffrey Smith:
♦ I am lead author on a co-authored article in the Geographical Review titled “Research in Cuba: Navigating Logistical Barriers.”
♦ I am lead author on a co-authored manuscript that was accepted for publication in FOCUS on Geography titled: Cacharros: Persistence of Vintage Automobiles in Cuba.
♦ I applied for a grant from the Colorado Historical Society to study Penitente Moradas in south-central Colorado.
Emeritus News:

David Kromm: Another year of mostly family-related travel and researching family history. I completed a book on my Kromm ancestors, telling the story of six generations in Prussia and America. Travels were mostly for happy events and included the annual Woody Guthrie Folk Music Festival in Oklahoma, a granddaughter graduation in Boston, a wedding in Detroit, and a week at a fantastic place in far northern Vermont owned by the parents of one of our daughters-in-law. All our children and grandchildren (13 of us in all) came together for a great time swimming, boating, hiking, singing, and much more. There were sad trips to see Bobbie's brother who was in very poor health in Santa Fe and then traveling to Detroit again in November for his funeral. On our first drive to Santa Fe we followed the Santa Fe Trail for three days, exploring numerous sites, many off rural roads in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico. Bobbie and I remain in good health, and we have tickets for a week in March to visit family in Florida. We hope everyone in the K-State Geography Community, which celebrates 150 years this year, has a healthy and happy 2013.

Stephen Stover: For me, 2012 was much like 2011. I'm settled now in the assisted living program at Meadowlark Retirement Center here in Manhattan, Kansas. I seldom leave the place having turned in my driver's license on my 91st birthday. (As a boy of 12, I started driving on the family farm in McPherson County — back in the days before there were drivers licenses!). But I ride the bus to church most Sundays, and several times this past year I've rejoined the Geography faculty for special events on campus. Department news I read with interest — congratulations on your accomplishments. Kansas State University football — which recently reached #1 in the nation — requires my regular attention. My extended family continues to grow thanks to great grandchildren (12 at last count). Occasionally, several at a time, they infuse life into this place. My magnum opus — a not so scholarly book of memoirs — is now published with the aid of my New Zealand family and extensive use of 21st century technologies.

Graduate Student News

Jeremy Aber: 2012 was an eventful year for myself. In the spring, I covered two sections of World Regional Geography at K-State, and one section of Cartography at Emporia State University. I was also trying to finish my dissertation, and for some reason, I didn't think that this workload would be a problem! Fortunately, I survived the defense in April, and then got to work on edits and changes to the dissertation over the summer. In the fall, I started a temporary full-time job at Emporia State in the Earth Science department teaching Intro to Earth Science, Cartography, ArcGIS Applications, and Computer Mapping. Throughout the fall semester, I put the finishing touches on the dissertation, and ended the year on a high note by participating in the commencement ceremony at Bramlage in December. Throughout this past year, my wife Amy has continued teaching full time as an instructor in the English department here at K-State, since we still live in Manhattan. With my current position at Emporia State being temporary, I also busied myself in the fall by sending out job applications, and I've been fortunate to receive a few interviews. We'll just have to see where 2013 takes us!

Sarmistha Chatterjee- Namaste everyone, this is my second semester in the department and the first
outline in the newsletter. It has been a pleasure to become a part of this family. An Indian by nationality and a geographer by passion, I am in love with the fluvial system of the earth. 2012 has been indeed a great year for me, as I got the opportunity to travel across the globe to get into the Doctoral studies at KSU. I am presently working with Dr. Daniels in response of fluvial systems to climate change and learning a whole new world every day. Besides, I also attended AGU Fall meeting at San Francisco this year and travelled a bit in the east coast, exposing myself to a wonderful sensation of seeing both the Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean in the same year. Un-academically speaking, I learnt cooking, which I could have never done if I were back at home. The journey here has been wonderful and I look forward to the rest.

**Lis Pankl:** Hello again! I’m pleased to share that I was admitted to candidacy after passing my preliminary examinations in the Spring of 2012. Since then, Dr. Kevin Blake and I presented at the 2012 AAG national meeting as well as published an article “Made in her image: Frida Kahlo as material culture” in the publication *Material Culture* in the Fall of 2012. In addition to dissertating, I’ve continued to teach Geography of Tourism online for the department and enjoy interacting with a wide range of students—international, non-traditional, military, etc. Looking forward, Dr. Blake and I are traveling to Hawaii in January 2013 to present on Frida Kahlo at an international, interdisciplinary conference.

**Nick Patch:** Salutations! This is my first year as a Geography PhD. My M.S. came from the Geology department in 2009 just down the hill, and I cannot stress enough how much I enjoy being back in Manhattan and learning all I can about how the environment works. I am interested in studying fluvial geomorphology in the Philippines. Deforestation there is severe and entirely unsustainable. Roughly the land area of Arizona, the Philippines was once 97% covered in dense tropical forest, but is now looking at about 15% coverage. I would like to examine the geomorphic response characteristics and associated time frames of either clear-cutting or subsequent reforestation efforts. I plan to make my first reconnaissance trip during spring break this March to make friends and contacts and to learn which streams I can access that fit my criteria for study. This semester I have been fortunate enough to also be teaching two of our Physical Geography labs. Teaching is something I have thoroughly enjoyed for a number of years, and is the primary reason for my pursuit of a PhD. I thoroughly enjoy rekindling our students’ innate curiosity of the world around us. “I think Nature’s imagination is so much greater than man’s, she’s never gonna let us relax.” –Richard Feynman.

**Claire Ruffing:** Hello! My third year in PhD program has been a busy and productive one so far. After returning from a successful field season in Wyoming, I had the pleasure of teaching my first lecture – World Regional Geography. Fortunately, there were not too many bumps along the way. I also finished my comprehensive exams in December so I am officially a candidate. What a relief! This semester I will be teach World Regional Geography again, as well as continuing to plug away at my dissertation and the other side projects I have accumulated along the way. Aside from my professional achievements, it has been a big year for my hometown football team, the Baltimore Ravens. They will be making their second appearance in the Super Bowl this year. As of the writing, the big game is still two weeks away but I could not be any more excited. Have a great year!

**Carter Wang:** Happy New Year everyone! The year of 2012 is such a productive year. I successfully graduated and got my master’s degree in May. Now I am a continuing Ph.D. student in our Department. Now I have switched my research interest from the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil to the grassland in Kansas. The use of small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) as a means of collecting hyperspatial remotely sensed data aroused my keen interest in developing new methods for predicting grassland biomass and monitoring plant growth. My future research work will be focused on this topic.
I attended the national AAG meeting in New York in February and the fall meeting of Kansas Society of Rangeland Management in October. I also spent my spare time visiting National Parks and places of interests in the U.S., such as Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Grand Canyon, and some National Parks in Utah. As a young geographer, I have always been enthusiastic to explore the Mother Nature, and I wish I could visit more places in this coming year.

Brandon Weihs: This past year has been busy and full of exciting developments. I have attended several conferences such as the AAG annual meeting in New York, NY, the ESRI End-User conference in San Diego, CA, and the Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium in Jackson Hole, WY. I am proud to have finished my required coursework, proposed my new dissertation topic to the faculty (Playa lake inundation patterns in the Southern High Plains), and I am now making preparations to take my preliminary exams in late January. I am looking forward to completing the analyses portions of my dissertation, as well as composing the dissertation in its entirety during this next year.

Bill Wetherholt: 2012 proved to be a very challenging and rewarding year. I began to feel more at-home in the department and saw some momentum shift in my favor with respect to research interests as they tread into the operational realm and a methodological framework begins emerging in the new year. Last spring was long and pleasant with opportunities for fishing the local waters around town and failing to hook trout while grading papers. The summer was one of many extremes: temperatures, elevations, life cycles, and even law. In a few short months away from the rigors of graduate school, I married the woman of my dreams, travelled across about 7,000 miles of our country, crossed the Continental Divide a half-dozen times, explored the Ozarks of southwestern Missouri by both car and canoe in search of legal history, and hopelessly watched our little garden wither in the Kansas heat. It was a season not soon to be forgotten. Fall was a full plate with taking courses, teaching a full lecture here at KSU, teaching an online course for the University of North Dakota, and all of the stressors and responsibilities in-between. I finished the year strong, amassed a full committee, had my program of study signed off and into the Graduate School, and headed back east for the holidays feeling a warm, modicum of confidence, which is the maximum level of confidence a grad student possibly can experience (remember that palpable angst?). I recharged the batteries of my soul scrambling along exposed Navajo Sandstone fins, taking breaks under breathtaking arches, and paying penance to the ghost of Edward Abbey in the Canyonlands region of eastern Utah before the current semester began. The mantra this semester is “write.” We all know that the work is never done, but starting out in 2013 there is clearly lots of more work to do. First thing first, as acting Grand Wazoo of the Saint George Geographical Society, I had better call a meeting for Friday. Cheers!

ALUMNI NEWS
Leonard LeBlanc: I have attached the covers of my new novels and have provided a link to a book review from THE NATION newspaper.
Something of a mystery at U-Tapao - The Nation
Source: nationmultimedia.com
Something of a mystery at U-Tapao The Nation A yarn about the closing months of US military operations in Thailand is a convoluted blur of time travel - and fun to read

Student Awards

Huber Self Geography Scholarship: Neal Rasmussen
The Self Scholarship was established in 1981 and honors Dr. Huber Self who retired in 1980 after devoting more than 33 years of his professional life to the advancement of geography at Kansas State University. The scholarship is supported by Dr. Self, alumni, and friends of the Department of Geography. It is presented to an outstanding undergraduate geography major.

H.L. "Sy" Seyler Undergraduate GIScience Scholarship: Rachel ElShamy
The Seyler Scholarship was established in 2006 and honors Dr. H.L. "Sy" Seyler who retired in 2000 after devoting nearly three decades of professional service to the advancement of both geography and geographic information science at Kansas State University. The scholarship is supported by alumni and friends of the Department of Geography.

William D. Grimm Memorial Scholarship: Caleb Wilson
The Grimm Scholarship was established in 1992 and honors William, a 1986 K-State Geography graduate who was killed in the Persian Gulf War on 31 January 1991. The scholarship is supported by the Grimm family, alumni, and friends of the Department of Geography. It is presented to an outstanding undergraduate geography major.

LeBlanc Outstanding Undergraduate Major Award: Bryanna Pockrandt
The LeBlanc Award was established in 1977 and is made possible through the generosity of Leonard LeBlanc III, who earned a B.S. in Geography in 1973. It is presented to an outstanding undergraduate geography student.

National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)/Association of American Geographers Award for Excellence of Scholarship: Adam Rezner
The NCGE/AAG Award was established in 1979 is presented to the graduating senior in K-State Geography with the highest grade point average. The cash award is supported by the Department of Geography.

White Geography Graduate Teaching Assistant Excellence Award: Tyra Olstad
The White Award was established in 1989 and is presented to the K-State Geography graduate student selected for outstanding performance as a teaching assistant. The White Award is made possible through the generosity of Steve and Sue White.

Rumsey B. Marston Scholarship: Claire Ruffing
The R.B. Marston Scholarship was established in 1986 and honors the memory of Rumsey Bissell Marston, and is supported by the Marston family, alumni, and friends of the Department of Geography. The scholarship is presented to a graduate student who writes a thesis or dissertation proposal in physical geography that involves a significant level of well-conceived fieldwork.

Graduate Student Leadership Award: Ryan Bergstrom
The Leadership Award was established in 2002 to recognize K-State Geography graduate students for their professionalism, dedication, and leadership. The Leadership Award is supported by alumni and friends of the Department of Geography.

Mary Dobbs Outstanding Citizenship Award: Jeremy Aber
The Mary Dobbs Award was established in 2006 to honor the memory of Mary, a K-State Geography doctoral student who passed away in Fall 2006 and was awarded the Ph.D. posthumously. The Dobbs Award is presented to geography students who best exemplify the spirit of the department and a willingness to give "110 percent." The Dobbs Award is supported by alumni and friends of the Department of Geography. K-State students have now earned 20 Udall scholarships. K-State is third among state universities in Udall scholarship competition. Only the University of Montana with 31 and Arizona State University with 21 have had more Udall winners since the competition began in 1996.

**Notable Student Achievements**

Melilssa Belz was nominated for the K-State Presidential Teaching Award.

Ryan Bergstrom received the doctoral-level AAG Mountain Geography Specialty Group’s Mauna Kea Student Presentation Award, for *A Transition toward Sustainability: Challenges in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.*

Ryan Bergstrom was selected as the K-State Doctoral Nominee for the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools Excellence in Teaching Award.

Kathryn Blair & Jesse Fitzpatrick were elected to membership in the Beta Kansas chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa honorary society.

Katie H. Costigan (with Melinda Daniels) received a grant for “Thermal, Hydraulic and Geomorphological Dynamics at Stream Confluences,” National Science Foundation, Geography and Spatial Sciences, Doctoral Dissertation Research grant, $11,695.

GTU Beta Psi chapter officers are Danielle Williams, President; Ryan Mulcahy, Vice President; Mike Weber, Secretary, & Rebecca Goltry, Treasurer.

Chris Morris received a one-year Graduate Fellowship from the EIDRoP GK-12 Program at KSU for 2012-2013. Chris is doing research into pollen assemblages and paleoecology of the Great Plains.

Chris Morris won third place in the student poster competition at the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the Association of American Geographers annual meeting.


Lisa K. Tabor (PI) and Lisa Harrington received a grant for “Relating Girls and Science: Increasing Geography-Based STEM Interest for Rural High School Girls in Kansas” from the Association of American Geographers (AAG) EDGE program, 2012-2013, $500.

The K-State team (Johnny Bryant, David Burchfield, Ben Detrixhe, Brandon Haddock, Atena Haghighatallah, and Chris Morris) took first at the regional GeoBowl competition in Park City, Utah. Their very high score was led by Ben Detrixhe, who took first in individual scores, and will be on the regional team at the World GeoBowl in April 2013.

Gina Thornburg received a dissertation research grant ($500) for "Bonanza--or Bust--on the Land? Vulnerabilities and Incompatibilities in the Political Economy of Oklahoma’s Farm-to-School Program."

Carter Wang’s thesis was nominated by the College of Arts and Sciences for the K-State competition for Distinguished Thesis Award.

Carter Wang received a scholarship to participate in the 2013 Kansas Natural Resources Conference, from the conference convenors.
## Congratulations Department of Geography 2012 Graduates

### Spring 2012

**Doctor of Philosophy**
- Ryan Dennis Bergstrom
- Tyra Anne Olstad
- James Edward Wells

**Master of Arts**
- Chuyuan Wang

**Bachelor of Arts**
- Kathryn Anne Blair
- Sara Ilene Devine
- Jesse Arlington Fitzpatrick
- Amy Goldstein
- Bryanna Rae Pockrandt
- John Robert Sparks

**Bachelor of Science**
- Christopher E. Bennett
- Andrea S. Cekovsky
- Rachel Lynn ElShamy
- Matthew Edward Hickins
- Christopher Lea Hopkins
- William Wade Johnson
- Matthew Ryan Meyers
- Michael Jess Rawitch
- Tye Thomas Remy
- Adam Patrick Rezner
- Bret C. Simons
- Arlen James Steinle
- Daniel Alexander Truex
- Adam Benjamin Ukena
- Elizabeth Grace Uthoff
- Eric Matthew Zahn

### Fall 2012

**Doctor of Philosophy**
- Jeremy Ward Aber
- Melissa Malouf Belz
- Matthew John Gerike

**Master of Arts**
- Savannah N. Neufer
- Lianling Su

**Bachelor of Arts**
- Dustin Charles Dheyvetter

**Bachelor of Science**
- Tyrel Joseph Blecha
- Rosemary Lynn Dahlgren
- Tyler Brent Harper
- Sarah Johanna Heinen
- Kerschen, Justin Martin
- Tyler Thomas Link
- Neal Keith Rasmussen
- Daniel Alexander Truex
2013 Alumni Fellow

Driven by a vision to achieve collaborative, inclusive, and integrated research and education for sustainable development, Dr. Patricia Solís has created innovative programs for youth leadership and global citizenship engaging nearly 4,000 students, teachers, and professors in 35 countries, including the U.S. and many developing nations.

She has been awarded $8 million in grants for more than 40 geographic perspectives and technology initiatives helping people develop solutions to climate change, biodiversity loss and food security. Solís’ research broadens participation of underrepresented minorities, international students and faculty in 70 university geography departments. Her work has been featured at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, adopted by the Organization of American States, and funded by the National Science Foundation.

Previously, as community development director for the City of Liberal, Kan., her projects earned the Diversity Award from the National League of Cities and the Community Achievement Award from the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing. A native Kansan, Solís earned bachelor’s degrees in physics and German and a master’s degree in geography from K-State, and a doctorate in geography from the University of Iowa. She resides in Panama with her husband and two sons.

Marcellus Caldas selected as International Educator of the Year

By Mary Pyle

The office of international programs has announced that Marcellus Caldas, assistant professor of geography, is the 2012 winner of the International Educator of the Year Award.

The K-State International Educator of the Year Award recognizes an individual each year who has made significant contributions to advancing international education at Kansas State University. One faculty, staff, administrator or other member of the K-State community is selected and honored for their major contributions and sustained commitment to advancing international education at K-State.

The International Educator of the Year is usually recognized annually during International Education Week, Nov. 12-16. Due to the awardee’s travel schedule, the award reception has been rescheduled for 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, in the Hemisphere Room of Hale Library. Caldas will be presented with a plaque recognizing his accomplishments and a $1,000 honorarium presented by Provost April Mason.

Caldas earned his Master of Science in agricultural economics from Federal University of Vicosa, Brazil; his Doctor of Science in applied economics from University of Sao Paulo, Brazil; and his Doctor of Philosophy in geography from Michigan State University.

He was also a postdoctorate fellow at the Center for International Development, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is currently a full-time tenure track faculty member in the department of geography.

“Dr. Caldas has worked tirelessly to improve international education and scholarship during his five years at K-State, while at the same time he is working to put together the strongest possible research, teaching and service portfolio for his upcoming tenure and promotion decision,” said Marcelo Sabates, associate provost and associate professor of international programs.

“He has unbounded enthusiasm for international programs and his hard work is evident in generating opportunities for K-State students to learn more about the world outside our borders,” Sabates said.
WHERE THE RIVER RUNS  By Jennifer Tidball, Communications and Marketing

Geographer channels research to understand how dredging affects river health, water supplies

A Kansas State University researcher wants to clear the waters when it comes to dredging.

To improve river health and maintain municipal water supplies, Melinda Daniels, associate professor of geography, is monitoring several in-channel sand dredging sites along the Kansas River. In-channel dredging is the process of taking sand from the river bottom and pumping it onto the riverbank to be processed and sold.

Daniels is studying water and sediment movement to determine the effects of dredging on the Kansas River and its tributaries. Because numerous cities receive water supplies from rivers, Daniels’ research on the environmental and economic effects of dredging can apply to rivers nationwide.

“We are studying the specific processes operating in the river,” Daniels said. “Much of the research on in-channel dredging has been done in places like California, where the riverbeds are made of gravel and cobbles. We have sand-bedded rivers in the Great Plains and we don’t have specific studies to point to from other sand-bedded systems. The basic principles of water and sediment transport tell us that changes will occur faster because sand is easier to remove and a river can erode it more quickly than gravel or cobble.”

Daniels’ latest research is funded by the Kansas Water Resources Institute at Kansas State University, which is sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey. Daniels and her research team are sharing their valuable findings with state organizations and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which issues permits regulating the number and scale of in-channel dredges on the Kansas River. Dredge holes in the river have been measured as much as 12 meters deeper than the base elevation of the riverbed, where the flow averages less than two meters deep.

“The concern is that when you excavate a hole in a river channel, it causes a chain reaction,” Daniels said. “The removed sediment causes the riverbed to incise, or cut downward, so the bed of the river lowers. The upstream edge of the dredge hole starts to move upstream as a nickpoint. What we want to know is whether the nickpoint stays really steep or if it diffuses over distance as it moves upstream. We also want to know how fast it moves upstream.”

If the riverbed lowers too much, banks become unstable and start failing. As the riverbed lowers so does the water level in the river and in the linked floodplain groundwater system, leaving floodplain creeks, wetlands and well fields perched. Perched waters can run dry more often, and perched well fields need to be dug deeper to provide sufficient water supply for cities. Several large Kansas cities such as Manhattan, Topeka and Lawrence all get water supplies from well fields in the Kansas River floodplain. Other problems occur as riverbeds lower. Bridges become unsafe and must be replaced. Land loss occurs as banks erode and fall into the river. Costs associated with reconstruction, land loss and riverbank stabilization can add up, Daniels said.

“A lot of money is spent repairing bridges, installing bank protection and doing other engineering work to the river,” Daniels said. “Preventative measures may not stop the problem. If riverbeds continue to incise, the engineered structures may continue to fail and need to be replaced. These engineering works degrade the river in terms of its ecosystem properties. The end result is that the river is transformed into an expensive-to-maintain, engineered ditch with reduced fish, wildlife, recreation and water supply ecosystem services. “Daniels and her research team will continue performing field measurements in the spring to understand how the dredge
sites affect the entire river network. Daniels also presented her research at the Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, which took place in October in Manhattan, Kan.

Barrett Swenson, master’s student in geography, tows a research instrument called an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) behind a kayak in the Big Blue River. The instrument is used to map the river bed and the return signal is relayed to another device on shore.

Kansas Water Resources Institute
By Jennifer Tidball, Communications and Marketing

Research from Melinda Daniels, associate professor of geography, is supported by the Kansas Water Resources Institute at Kansas State University.

The institute — funded by the U.S. Geological Survey — develops and supports research on high-priority water resource problems and objectives, as identified through the state water plan. The institute also co-hosted the October 2012 Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, in Manhattan, Kan.

“The institute brings together people across disciplines at Kansas State University and brings researchers together from universities across the state,” said Dan Devlin, director. “The institute also connects our research results and our researchers with stakeholders in the state.”

Each year, the institute funds research at universities and organizations across Kansas. Two Kansas State University projects were chosen for funding this year: Daniels’ research and a collaborative project from Nathan Nelson, associate professor of agronomy, and Dan Sweeney, professor at the Southeast Agricultural Research Center.

The collaborative project involves evaluating phosphorus levels in runoff water throughout the state. The researchers are studying the accuracy of current tools, evaluating best management practices for reducing phosphorus and improving water quality throughout Kansas.
A Kansas State University professor will be the first speaker in an adult lecture series at Manhattan's new Flint Hills Discovery Center.

John Harrington Jr., professor of geography, will present "Science in Kansas: The NSF Climate and Renewable Energy Effort" on Sunday, as part of an evening of intellect, exploration and education at the center. The event, which includes dinner, will be from 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Harrington's presentation will be 30 minutes.

Harrington will discuss reasons that Kansas is a great place to address important science questions, the changing nature of the scientific endeavor, recent trends in the types of projects that the National Science Foundation is funding, what the research team is hoping to accomplish with the current Kansas National Science Foundation Climate and Renewable Energy project, and what may be coming down the road for future Kansas National Science Foundation EPSCoR major funding efforts.

Harrington is project manager for the Kansas National Science Foundation EPSCoR Climate and Renewable Energy project. He also played a key role in working with the design team for the current temporary exhibit at the Flint Hills Discovery Center that highlights the ongoing Kansas National Science Foundation Research.

Harrington elected national councilor for the Association of American Geographers

John A. Harrington Jr., professor of geography, was recently elected to serve a three-year term as a national councilor for the Association of American Geographers. His term begins in July.

The association's governing board is known as a council and members are elected by the membership at large and by the association's regional subdivisions. Two members of the association are elected each year as national councilors.

As a national councilor Harrington will assist the leadership of the association in decision-making and moving the organization forward. The American Association of Geographers, an organization of professional geographers, has a membership of more than 10,000.

Harrington also is currently serving as a member of the association's Research Committee and as a member of the Committee on the Status of Women in Geography.

The former head of the department of geography from 1999-2005, Harrington's research and teaching interests are in climate and climate change, the Great Plains, ecological climatology, the coupling of natural and human systems, geographic information science and geographic education. He is currently working on three National Science Foundation-funded projects: the Long Term Ecological Research project, Maps and Locals; the Kansas EPSCoR or Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research-funded Climate and Energy project; and the Central Great Plains Climate Change Education Partnership.

Harrington also is a co-coordinator for the Kansas Geographic Alliance, a volunteer organization dedicated to helping K-12 teachers and others interested in advancing geographic literacy within Kansas. The Geographic Alliance is funded and coordinated at the national level by the National Geographic Society.
Excellence in research: Geography group selects Harrington for John Fraser Hart Award

By Communications and Marketing

Excellence in rural geography research has earned a Kansas State University geographer national recognition.

Lisa M. Butler Harrington, professor of geography, will receive the John Fraser Hart Award for Research Excellence from the Association of American Geographers' Rural Geography Specialty Group. The award will be presented at the association's 2013 national meeting in Los Angeles, where the specialty group is planning a special session in her honor.

The award was established to recognize scholars who have achieved and maintained excellence in the fields of agricultural and/or rural geography research. It is named in honor of Hart, a career rural and agricultural geographer at the University of Minnesota who has published numerous books and refereed journal articles.

Harrington studies all aspects of human-environmental interactions in rural regions, including sustainability, use and management of natural resources, human impacts on the environment, hazards, and environmental perception. Much of her work is related to the Great Plains/High Plains region and to the Pacific Northwest. She has numerous publications, including peer reviewed journal articles and co-edited books, and has been active in an international rural geography conference series. The National Science Foundation, National Institute for Global Environmental Change and other entities have supported her rural geography research.

Harrington has been active as an officer in the Association of American Geographers, serving it via various committees and in specialty group roles. She also is a member of several other professional organizations and is on the board of the Applied Geography Conferences.

A member of the K-State faculty since 1994, Harrington was promoted to full professor in 2005. She earned a bachelor's in recreation resources from Colorado State University, a master's in recreation and park administration from Clemson University and a doctorate in geography from the University of Oklahoma.

The rain, the plain and the drain

How a geographer and an engineer are marrying their expertise to study changing weather, challenging landscapes and the ways we manage water

For Shawn and Stacy Hutchinson, several pairings are key to their research. Geography and engineering. Military experiences and academic backgrounds. Husband and wife.

The two married Kansas State University professors are using these partnerships to understand how humans and the military affect landscapes and influence hydrology. “We are trying to protect natural resources,” said Stacy Hutchinson, associate professor of biological and agricultural engineering. “There is a range of change and human influence on landscapes, and we are trying to figure out...”
how the natural water cycle is affected by this. We also want to understand how this affects our safety and livelihood, as well as flooding, water pollution, soil erosion and the loss of agricultural crops.”

During the past four years, the husband-wife team has received more than $1 million to support the research. Shawn Hutchinson, associate professor of geography, studies methods for monitoring and forecasting environmental change — from natural and human causes — and designs digital decision support systems to better visualize landscape dynamics. Stacy Hutchinson uses this information to create better stormwater systems that prevent soil erosion and improve the natural flow of water. Together the researchers have created a Web application that monitors landscape health.

While much of their research has focused on the effects of urbanization or agricultural production on landscapes, the Hutchinsons are now studying the less-understood effects of military training on landscapes. Both served in the U.S. Army and are using their military backgrounds to help nearby Fort Riley, home of the Army’s 1st Infantry Division.

Military landscape disturbance is driven by national security needs, Shawn Hutchinson said. Nearly every square inch of military land is affected from events and training exercises that use tanks, dismounted infantry or wheeled vehicles, depending on the current military warfighting doctrine. A healthy landscape keeps soldiers safe and provides realistic training conditions, while mismanaged training lands can cause a variety of issues such as erosional gullies that can damage equipment and injure soldiers.

“Environmental damage can cause a less realistic training environment for soldiers,” Shawn Hutchinson said. “It’s the difference between training on a completely barren landscape versus a landscape with trees and healthy grasses that provide cover. Sustainably managed training lands, then, benefit the environment, soldiers and military readiness.”

To measure landscape changes, the researchers turn to geospatial maps. Shawn Hutchinson is the director of Kansas State University’s Geographic Information Systems Spatial Analysis Laboratory and creates digital maps using Fort Riley satellite images for areas of land as small as 30 meters by 30 meters. The images show how the landscape is affected by various activities — weather, wildfires and even training exercises.

Every 16 days, new images show Fort Riley’s changing landscape greenness, which is closely related to the amount and condition of the installation’s vegetation. The researchers use this information to assess the current health of the training land vegetation and how this will affect water runoff during a storm. They also study weather patterns and various rainfall amounts to determine flooding potential.

“We can delineate a watershed, capture a near-real time estimate of vegetation condition and use this information to design stormwater management systems and size them correctly,” Stacy Hutchinson said. “We also want to understand how much rain we are getting and how frequently because that helps us to size stormwater systems appropriately so that we don’t have excess flooding.”

Shawn Hutchinson posts the satellite images and information on a custom-designed Web application so that military officials can quickly see and fix landscape problems before they become too large and even more costly to repair. Using the same imaging technology, the researchers also can apply their work to similar problems that may occur on urban or agricultural landscapes.

As they move forward, the Hutchinsons want their framework for monitoring military lands to become a model for other military installations and Department of Defense-owned land. The department is the steward of the second-highest total area of land in the U.S.

“When you add up all the Department of Defense land in the United States, it makes a huge imprint on air, water and all kinds of pollution and measures of environmental quality,” Shawn Hutchinson said. “The underlying theme of military lands is sustainability. The nation is going to need its military installations, like Fort Riley, well into the future. The Department of Defense can’t afford to do something now that would prevent utilizing the land in a safe manner 20 years from now.”

By Jennifer Tidball, Communications and Marketing
The office of the provost and senior vice president will host a university wide lecture by Richard Marston, university distinguished professor of geography, at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1, in the Little Theatre.

The title of the presentation is "Science and Environmental Security in Foreign Policy: A year in the Jefferson Science Fellowship Program."

Marston recently finished a 12-month residence as a Jefferson Science Fellow in Washington, D.C. He was one of 13 scientists and engineers to be selected for the program in 2011-12, and the second K-State professor since the program began.

Marston has served as a science adviser in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, and Office of the Geographer and Global Issues. He has followed international developments related to environmental security that involved water resources and geohazards -- including glacier changes in the Himalayas and construction of hydropower dams. In addition, Marston interacted with other offices in the Department of State, including the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary, the Water Team -- largely the Bureau of Oceans and International Scientific and Environmental Affairs, -- the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, and undersecretary for civilian security, democracy and human rights.

Marston is part of a group working on a possible Global Dialogue on Emerging Science and Technology on Himalayan watershed management. He will discuss the scope of the Jefferson Science Fellowship Program and his experience in it in hopes of inspiring other K-State science and engineering faculty to apply.
Richard Marston, K-State university distinguished professor of geography, will be one of the leaders for an international workshop from Feb. 18-27 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Association of American Geographers, or AAG, secretariat for the My Community-Our Earth, or MyCOE, program, has formed a partnership with the NASA SERVIR program that is designed to bring geographic research tools to the Himalayan region. The association leader of the My Community-Our Earth program is Patricia Solis, a native Kansan and K-State graduate who has been named a K-State Alumni Fellow for 2013.

The workshop is offered at the beginning of a 10-month-long fellowship program for capacity building on the theme of "Climate Change in Mountain Areas," supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development and NASA. The My Community-Our Earth and NASA SERVIR workshop is designed for university students and their faculty mentors from south Asian countries and will provide customized training in geographic information science, or GIS, remote sensing, global positioning systems, GPS, and environmental geography of the Himalayas.

From a total of 130 student applications, 15 undergraduate and graduate students and their faculty mentors were selected from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan. Each student authored a proposal as part of the application process for a project they will pursue subsequent to the workshop, with a report due at the end of the 10-month period. Participants are supported by funding from U.S. Agency for International Development and NASA. The workshop will be hosted by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in Kathmandu who provide some of the additional leaders of the workshop.

Marston's participation in the workshop is a natural outgrowth of his Jefferson Science Fellowship in the U.S. Department of State during the 2011-12 academic year. He will cover the following topics, including lectures, exercises and discussions.

- Overview of climate change science in the Himalayan region
- Implications of climate change for glaciers, snow, permafrost, monsoon rain
- Geomorphology in the Himalayan region
- Role of science in the landscape of global climate change policy, environmental security, sustainability
- Research skills: Proposal writing, literature search and academic publishing
- Outreach activity discussion: Ethics and career resources
University geographer recognized as one of the state's top scientists

By Communications and Marketing

A geographer who turns to the past to determine what is happening in the present has earned a top spot among Kansas' scientific history.

Kendra McLauchlan, assistant professor of geography at Kansas State University and director of the university's Paleoenvironmental Laboratory, was named by the Ad Astra Kansas Initiative as one of the top 150 scientists ever to work in Kansas throughout its 150 years of statehood.

For her research McLauchlan reconstructs ecosystems of the past and their functions in order to provide context for the modern changes to Earth's environments. Additionally, she also looks at human-environment interactions.

One of her largest studies looks at the nitrogen availability in forest and grassland ecosystems from 10,000 years ago. By reconstructing and evaluating past changes in nitrogen cycles, McLauchlan can see how vegetation, climate and other disturbances affect biochemical changes over time. Doing so can also formalize techniques for scientists to determine whether humans are increasing or decreasing nitrogen availability.

In 2010, McLauchlan received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award. It is one of the nation's most prestigious awards, and recognizes young faculty who have high potential of becoming future leaders in their field.

"This question about changes to nutrient cycling seems simple, but it has been surprisingly hard to answer," McLauchlan said. "It is exciting to know that we now have the tools to answer it. Pieces of the puzzle are already coming together."

Throughout 2011, Ad Astra spotlighted 150 Kansas researchers, scientists, inventors and engineers from the past to the present who have advanced the scientific field in Kansas’ 150 years of statehood. The initiative's project, "Science in Kansas: 150 Years and Counting." celebrates the state's sesquicentennial and emphasizes the importance of science and the career possibilities in research and innovation to K-12 students.

McLauchlan is the one of the 21 active faculty researchers at K-State to be named among Kansas' top 150 scientists. She joins other historically noted state researchers on the list like George Washington Carver, Charles H. Sternberg, Clyde Cessna and Hall Livingstone Hibbard.

Geography professor named editor of prestigious geography journal

I started my responsibility as an editor of the Geographical Review (GR) in June, 2012. This is an appointment for three years. During my tenure, we will publish three volumes (103 through 105) of the journal. My colleague Max Lu is associate editor of the GR. Our graduate student Kathy Su is working as assistant and Peter Lewis of the American Geographical Society (AGS) is book review editor of the GR. With cooperation from reviewers, board members, authors, and editorial team, we intend to accommodate advances and changes that occurred in our discipline in recent years without compromising the journal’s long tradition and distinctive traits.

We welcome submissions of high-quality and well-written, empirically rich manuscripts from all sub-fields within geography, including physical geography, as well as from all over the world. We will actively pursue both early career and established geographers to submit manuscripts for the GR.

25
We hope to introduce online submission of manuscripts within next few months and this move will make the *Geographical Review* competitive with other geographical and social science journals. We sincerely hope that this will not only reduce the turn-around time, but also help in increasing the impact factor and timely publication of each issue of the GR. I feel honored to be chosen to edit the *Geographical Review*. We will strive to maintain the standard of this journal established by our predecessors.

**Geography Colloquia for 2012**  
**Department of Geography and Gamma Theta Upsilon**

**Friday, 3 February, 3:30 pm,** Union Big 12 Room: Ken Foote, AAG Past President “Building Community, Changing Culture”

**Friday, 14 September, 3:30 pm,** Seaton 132: Joe Eckman, regional ESRI representative, “What's New in the ESRI University Site License”

**Friday, 5 October, 3:30 pm,** Seaton 132: Wendy Lauritzen, National Park Service, Tallgrass Prairie; “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Managing a Park through Partnerships”

**Friday, 2 November, 4:30 pm,** Seaton 106C Geography & Landscape Architecture colloquium: Amita Sinha (Univ. of Illinois), “Cultural Landscapes of Orchha, India: Reclaiming the Lost Heritage;”

**Friday, 9 November, 3:30 pm,** Seaton 132: 2012 K-State Geography Distinguished Alumna: Holly Barcus (Macalester College), “From Manhattan to Mongolia: Connecting the Great Plains to the Eurasian Steppe through Rural Geography”

**Geography on the Web**

**Social Networking and Listservs**

The following websites are designed to help keep current and former Students abreast of events, keep in touch with friends, and advertise employment opportunities.

- Facebook - [Department of Geography](#)
- Facebook - [Geography Alumni](#)
- Facebook - [GTU Beta Psi Chapter](#)
- Facebook - [GISSAL](#)
- Linked In - [K-State Geography Alumni](#)
- Twitter - Department of Geography (@kstate_geog)
- Twitter - GISSAL (@kstate_gissal)
- Alumni Listserv - email [Dr. Jeffrey Smith](#) to be added or removed
List of Contributors

The Geography Department Fund, William D. Grimm Memorial Scholarship, Huber Self Geography Scholarship, LeBlanc Geography Award, Rumsey Bissell Marston Scholarship, and the White Geography GTA Excellence Award (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012).

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HOW CAN ALUMNI GET INVOLVED AND SUPPORT K-STATE GEOGRAPHY?

We have been working hard to implement recommendations of the KSU Geography Alumni Board to increase the variety of ways that our alumni can interact with and support the Department of Geography.

1. To keep-up with events and news in the department, take a look at the department’s web site (www.ksu.edu/geography) and click on “K-State Geography in the News” for links to multiple news releases. Also, the weekly Seaton Globe and annual Geography Alumni Newsletter are posted at our departmental website.

2. In recent years, we have hosted a reception for K-State Geography alumni, students and faculty at the AAG Annual Meeting. We will do this once again at the 2013 AAG Meeting in the city of Los Angeles on April 12, 2013.

3. Make a donation to support K-State Geography students and/or other department needs. You can do this by sending a check to the K-State Foundation, payable to them, but remember to add a note in the memo line of your check that the funds are to be deposited in account F26200, the Geography Foundation Account. You can mail your check to us and we will make sure it is passed along to the Foundation. Or, mail it directly to the K-State Foundation at 2323 Anderson Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502-2911. You can specify how your donation is to be used, or designate it as discretionary funds to be used where most needed. Our three biggest needs are:

   - Student scholarships: one of the existing named scholarships (see the list elsewhere in this newsletter), or make a donation to be applied to scholarships where most needed.
   - Student development: funds to travel to professional meetings where students present their research, or funds to support student participation in professional development workshops. For example, the Geography Faculty Development Workshop in Boulder, CO, is one workshop each summer that would be of great benefit to our doctoral students but carries a $1200 registration fee.
   - Funds for teaching equipment in our classrooms and labs.

4. Consider a major gift for a new specific purpose that is important to you. For instance, a $30,000 donation will support an annual $1500 student scholarship or award. A $100,000 endowment will support a $5000 annual award for outstanding faculty. A $250,000 endowment would establish a lecture series with $12,500 per year in expendable funds to pay for honoraria, publicity and expenses of guest lecturers in geography. If you would like to make an impact on the Department of Geography you can contact Tracy Robinson, Development Officer for the College of Arts and Sciences at the KSU Foundation, about opportunities and information at 785-532-7524 or tracyr@found.ksu.edu.

5. Join us at our annual Spring GTU/Geography Awards Banquet, held on or close to the campus on April 26, 2013.

6. Every February since 2008, the Geography Alumni Board has organized a Geography Career Day. Several government agencies and private firms interview a large number of students. Alumni give short presentations to all interested students on resume preparation and interview skills. Consider participating if you are in a position to hire geographers.

7. Visit the department and offer to give a department colloquium or Brown Bag Lunch seminar about your professional or travel experiences. We would love to hear about it.
Department Photos:

Coring Sediment at Devils Lake, Wisconsin
February 2012
Kendra McLauchlan & Josh Mueller

Holiday Luncheon 2012
Back row, left to right, Sue White, Steve White, Charles Martin, Chuck Bussing, Dave Kromm. Center row, left to right: Sandy Bussing, Bobbi Kromm. Seated, Stephen Stover

Kathy Zimmerman with Stephen Stover, Holiday Luncheon 2012

Richard Marston, Nepal trip – hiking from Lukia to Namche Bazaar

Chris Hodges with Nia & Gunnie

Alumni Fellow Patricia Solís outside Seaton Hall
Richard Marston and daughter Brooke attending the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony January 21, 2013
Kansas State University Geography Alumni Update Form

We enjoy hearing from you, the Geography Alumni, so please take a few minutes to print and complete the following form or click and use our online form, now, before you forget!

http://www.k-state.edu/geography/alumni/alumni_form.html

Your information and comments will be included in the next Alumni Newsletter.

Thank you very much!

Name: ____________________________ Occupation: ____________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________

__________________________

__________________________

E-mail Address: ____________________________ Other: ____________________________

Year Graduated: ____________________________ Degree: ____________________________

Year Graduated: ____________________________ Degree: ____________________________

Year Graduated: ____________________________ Degree: ____________________________

Other information or comments of interest for the next Alumni Newsletter:
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Please print and return this form to:

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