From the Department Head, Chuck Martin

Welcome to the 2018 K-State Geography Alumni Newsletter, an opportunity for us to share news and happenings from the past year with alumni and friends of the Geography Department! It has been a few years since we published a newsletter; it is good to be doing so again. Thank you to Dr. Lisa Harrington for taking the lead this year in collecting information and putting it together in the newsletter!

The last several years have been productive and, at times, challenging for the department. Since the last newsletter was published in 2015, we welcomed several new faculty to the department. Dr. Kate Nelson joined us this August after completing her PhD at Vanderbilt University. In 2016, Dr. Audrey Joslin (PhD from Texas A&M), Dr. Abby Langston (PhD from University of Colorado at Boulder), and Dr. Arnaud Temme (PhD from Wageningen University in the Netherlands) joined the department. Several faculty left the department or retired over the last three years. Dr. Richard Marston retired effective May 2016 after 11 years of service to the department. Dr. Francesco Orsi resigned his position in May 2017 to return to his native Italy. Dr. John Harrington retired effective May 2018 after 24 years of serving the department. Finally, Dr. Lisa Harrington began phased retirement in August 2018, but continues to be active in teaching, research, and service.

In October over the last three years, the department honored its Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus, with Cheryl Blake (BA 1981) receiving the award in 2016, Leslie Duram (MA 1991) in 2017, and Ted Payne (MA 1999) in 2018. All visited campus and had the chance to meet and interact with students and faculty. In October 2016, John Guinotte (BS 1996, MA 1999) was honored with the Alumni Merit Award by the College of Arts and Sciences. Finally, in April 2017 Cheryl Blake (BA 1981) was honored as an Alumni Fellow from the College of Arts and Sciences by the K-State Alumni Association.

The members of the faculty and students in the department enjoyed remarkable success in 2018 as you will see below and in the highlights on subsequent pages. The Steven Kale Scholarship Fund, endowed through the estate of the late Steve Kale, continues to provide scholarships to geography undergraduate and graduate students to pursue research in the summer and fall. The department’s other Foundation funds continue to prosper thanks to the wonderful generosity of our alumni. In 2018 funds from geography Foundation accounts and other sources provided several thousand dollars of travel support for undergraduate and graduate students to attend professional meetings and workshops. In addition to financial support, our alumni generously contribute their time and expertise, whether serving on the Geography Alumni Advisory Board, visiting in the classroom with students, or contacting the department about job and internship opportunities. One of the more visible alumni events again this year was the 2018 Geography Career Day in February. The event continues to assist our undergraduate majors and graduate students in securing jobs and internships and provides them with valuable experience in preparing resumes and conducting interviews.
Faculty Highlights: Members of the Geography faculty completed a very successful year in research, teaching, and professional service during 2018. Since 1 July 2017, faculty members of the department have secured more than $620,000 in new extramural research funding. Geography faculty served as lead or co-editors of national and international professional journals, were appointed to editorial and scientific boards of national and international journals, elected officers of professional organizations, and served as chairs and members of scientific committees for professional meetings and conferences. In October 2018, the department hosted the annual meeting of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the American Association of Geographers. In 2017, faculty of the Geography Department published 1 edited book and 29 refereed journal articles, completed book chapters and reviews, and gave 47 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. 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 teachers.

Student Highlights: The Geography Department had a strong group of graduate students and undergraduate majors in 2018. At the end of the 2018 Spring Semester, the department counted 1 Post-Doc, 14 PhD students, 6 MA students, 50 geography majors, and 10 geography minors. About 2700 students enrolled in Geography classes in academic year 2017/18.

Two of our students completed the PhD degree and three completed the MA degree in 2018. Between August 2016 and December 2017, 9 students completed the PhD degree and 12 completed the MA degree. The very successful GIS certificate programs continue to flourish. So far in 2018, 3 students completed the Graduate Certificate in GIScience and 5 students finished 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 graduates during the 2016/17 academic year indicates that 45% are employed and 36% are enrolled in a graduate or professional school. Those numbers are a testament to the quality of our program. Current students have been selected for an astonishing array of awards outside the department as well as the annual departmental awards that are presented during our annual Spring Awards Reception. You will read about some of the highlights in the pages that follow.

Staying Connected with You: In addition to our 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. There are many reasons to be optimistic about the future of the Geography Department and the role it will play in the university. 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!

Personal Updates
Faculty & Staff

Hélène Avocat

This year at Kansas State University has been exciting and busy. I teach Cartography and Thematic mapping both in Spring and Fall, and this is just the perfect class for me as it is a good balance between Science and Art. I also teach my five year old boy how to make maps, as he is fascinated by them and wants to be a map maker later. I keep collaborating with my former colleagues in France when they need my services as an urban planning consultant, or my husband when he needs maps or GIS work for his reports in gold exploration. I am also working on the ancient art of making globes by hand-making plaster spheres, creating my own globe gores, hand painting using water colors; it is one of the most challenging projects I’ve had to work on.

We went back to France for summer, and made some field trips with three geology students from KSU who were there for an international field camp. They really enjoyed Jura Mountain landscapes!
Marcellus Caldas

The year of 2018 was full of good news. My whole family had a chance to travel together to Brazil. It was our first trip together in many years visiting family. On this trip, our kids had a chance to meet many relatives for the first time, and our daughter (Amanda) got engaged after 3 years of dating. Gabe and Lucas had a blast on the trip and they are doing great. Both are very fine young men, and Lucas is more involved than ever on his high school soccer team.

Martha is busy and working harder then ever in advising undergraduate students and teaching. She also had a blast in our trip to Brazil and her mind is now centered in helping Amanda with the wedding plans.

On the professional side it couldn’t be different for me. I completed ten and half years at K-State and I had a busy 2018 balancing teaching, research and administration. Administration has been a gratifying experience. My administrative position has helped me to meet many nice people that made my life easier more times than I could ever count (thank you all!!).

My research and administrative position has led me to the Philippines, Switzerland, Vietnam, and Brazil, where I gave talks in the University of Philippines Los Banos, Mariano Marcos State University, the Southeast Asian regional Center for Graduate Study and Research, Vietnam University of Agriculture, the State University, to cite a few. I have continued my work in Brazil and Kansas, and I have added new research in India.

I couldn’t end this short report to the Newsletter without thanking my visiting scholar Helder Martins, postdoctoral scholar Gabriel Granco, PhD students Rebecca Lima and Dong Luo, master student Komal Kaur, and GTA Hillol Dutta for helping me with my two courses and new ideas for 2019.

Doug Goodin

One of my all-time favorite movies is the inimitable “Back to the Future.” It occurred to me as wrote this summary that the title of my 2018 movie might well be “Forward to the Past.” After a number of years devoting most of my research efforts to projects spread over multiple countries and continents, I’m now emphasizing work that is (literally, in some cases) in my backyard. I have always been interested in how physical processes translate into spatial patterns, with a special interest in how those processes yield patterns of spectral reflectance. These are the types of problems I first began working on as a graduate student over 30 years ago, but moved away from in favor of more ecological/biogeographical analyses. In the past year or so, I have returned to thinking about biophysical problems in remote sensing. However, unlike my earlier work, which was very empirical, I’ve now adopted a more process-oriented approach. This change has been both good and bad. The good parts have been learning some new ways of thinking about old questions. The bad part is that I have a lot of catching up to do. So far, I’ve been working on two specific problems. One of these is how to detect the effects of (and ultimately map the presence of) the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive pest that kills certain species of ash trees commonly used as landscaping trees in urban areas. The pest is spreading in Kansas and surrounding areas, and it is important be able to detect where it is, in order to know where it’s going. The other (somewhat related) problem concerns how to parameterize and invert leaf and canopy level reflectance models, especially when they are applied to more complex, heterogeneous vegetation canopies. The intention here is to modify these models to predict how reflectance will change in canopies subjected to various stresses (e.g. pests like the EAB in trees, and variation in nutrient conditions in grassland canopies), and to invert them for use as practical tools for biophysical information retrieval. My field work for these projects involves collecting leaves from a variety of tree and grass species, and one of my trees “subjects” is the big oak in my backyard. Easiest field sampling I’ve ever done!

In the classroom, I continue to teach the remote sensing, spatial analysis, and geocomputation courses. Continuing with the forward to the past theme, I will be reassuming the teaching of Geog 535, Introduction to Climatology, a course I developed back in the 1990s but have not taught in many years. I am looking forward to taking it back on. Given the current state of climate
challenges facing us, I am especially excited about updating my old course to emphasize climate change. My first ‘at-bat’ will be next Fall, so I’ll let you know how it’s going in next year’s newsletter. I have also taken on teaching Geog 900, the research methods course for doctoral students. This course has been a stiff challenge for me, largely due to the fact that my methodological breadth as a geographer “runs the gamut from A to B,” to paraphrase Dorothy Parker. Working around this rather limited background has, at times, been terrifying. But, I have to say, it’s also been fun and interesting. I look forward to expanding my range of knowledge to include even more figurative letters of the alphabet. Who says extremely middle-aged dogs can’t learn a few new tricks?

Lisa Harrington
This year marks my entry into ‘phased retirement.’ (Yes, of course I’m still too young for this 😊.) For the next 2½ years, I have a 25% appointment, with teaching the natural resources class (GEOG 340) online, fulfilling service tasks (like pulling this newsletter together and doing various kinds of reviews), advising my last two PhD students—Christy Jean and Avantika Ramekar—to completion, and trying to fit in some research-writing on my book project. John and I (and sons) have moved our home base to southwestern Washington; we now have two homes here—one on the coast and one with a little elevation. When it’s too cold (winter) or hot (summer) inland, we can do the 1½ hour trip to spend some coastal time. Both are sort of ‘in the boonies,’ but it only takes 10 minutes to get to groceries from the Cowlitz County house. From the Pacific County house, we drive about 45 minutes to Oregon for shopping.

Didn’t have a lot of travel this year—except for multiple trips to the northwest for househunting and moving. A trip to Reno, to the regional AAG (APCG) meeting was in October, including stops at public lands, and a few photos to apply to the online class. I’m working on becoming a part of a new community, and also hope to be picking back up on showing the Wookiee dog, er, Briard. The main hope is that we don’t get kicked out for bad behavior.

Shawn Hutchinson
Greetings to all of our department alumni. It is wonderful to visit with you during the year to learn about developments in the lives of both you and your families. If you are on campus in the future, please do pop in and say “hello”. It is always a real treat to catch up!

As always, the past year has been filled with activities. Perhaps one of the most important developments has been the “grand opening” of the department’s new geoSMART Spatial Science and Technology Learning and Research Laboratory on the third floor of Seaton Hall’s west wing. This new space features a large and modern new learning laboratory with a maximum student capacity of 35-40, which gives us an ability to offer more and more of our GIScience courses in studio format. Directly connected to the learning lab will be the “research wing” which will be the new home of both GISSAL and the Remote Sensing Research Lab. This fall I will be moving my office upstairs to Seaton 3018 after being in the same place for about 15 years!

Conceptual view of the new geoSMART research space located in Seaton 3014C.

Perhaps the personal highlight of the last year was a family trip to Greece. Stacy and I enjoyed presenting current research at the 3rd Joint European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL) and NASA Landuse/Landcover Change Workshop in Chania, Crete.
In addition to touring Crete, we also had the opportunity to spend time in and around Athens and visit the islands of Sifnos and Santorini.

The Hutchinson family is doing well. It’s almost hard to believe, but our son Mitch is a senior at Manhattan High and will be graduating this spring. Our daughter Marleigh, a sophomore, is not far behind. Both are doing well in school and are involved in a variety of sports and club activities. Our labs Mocha and Maizy are still up to their same old tricks!

Audrey Joslin
My second year at K-State went by quickly! It has been a great experience thus far further getting to know colleagues across the university and more of our students in Geography. I got my chance to float down the Kansas River and even enjoyed seeing some shows at the McCain, including Cabaret and the B52s.

This past year was filled with professional activities. Among classes I taught, I was happy to newly offer the Geographies of International Conservation in the Fall 2017 semester and revive the Mountain Geography course during Spring 2018. I presented the AAG in New Orleans and enjoyed a field trip to the coast and catching up with colleagues from other universities over delicious Cajun food. In June, I presented at the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers in San Juan, Costa Rica, and also used that time to make connections for a potential new research project in the watershed surrounding the city. Soon after that, I flew to Oslo, Norway to POLLEN, the Political Ecology Network’s Biennial Conference. Aside from the wonderful talks, highlights of the conference included a tour of the hall where the Nobel Peace Prize is presented! From Norway I went to Ecuador and spent a month successfully collecting data to wrap up a project in Quito.
Micke) this spring as I launch a new research project examining relationships between wildfire and Conservation Reserve Program lands. I am sure this year will be filled with many other new adventures!

**Abby Langston**

Abby will be finishing up her position as Research Assistant Professor in 2019, and switching over to a tenure track Assistant Professor position.

**Max Lu**

Max continues to devote much of his time to his position as director of the Confucius Institute at KSU.

**Chuck Martin**

Most of my professional life is dedicated to serving as department head in geography, but I do find some time to continue my research on heavy metals in the Lahn and Dill Rivers of central Germany and teach one class each semester (Human Impact on the Environment in the spring and Geography of Kansas in the fall). After being reappointed as department head this past summer, I relinquished my role as lead undergraduate advisor in the department, a position that I held for 15 years. My colleague Dr. Arnaud Temme has taken over for me. I have enjoyed meeting new geography majors and potential geography majors, but the demands of being department head continue to grow and it was time for some new “blood” and ideas in the position. Unfortunately, my normal research trip to Germany in August was cancelled at the last minute when I was diagnosed at the end of July with a detached retina in my left eye. Outpatient surgery followed two days later in Kansas City. I am pleased to report that the surgery was a success and the vision in the eye will return to normal once I have a cataract removed from the same eye next month. Biking to and from work has been limited since the surgery, so I have learned how to use the city’s ATA fixed bus system (it’s free for KSU students and staff!) and rediscovered the joys of walking.

My wife Sabine started her own consulting company a few years ago. She continues to work with communities who seek funding through various EPA programs, but now does so at a pace of her choosing. We have been “empty nesters” since August 2016 when our youngest Christine left to attend Northeastern University in Boston. Like her brother Nicholas, she is majoring in mechanical engineering. Nicholas, who received his BS and MS degrees from the University of Vermont, spent the first half of 2018 finishing his Master of Research at the Von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics in Brussels. He returned to the US in September and recently accepted a position with an engineering firm on Long Island that provides aerospace and related engineering services to a variety of clients. Before my emergency eye surgery, I did find the time to take a trip to the east coast to visit family in the Boston area, catch-up with an old college roommate in Maine, and attend a Red Sox game at Fenway Park with our daughter.

**Kendra McLauchlin**

Kendra has spent the last year in a rotator position at NSF.

**Kate Nelson**

My first semester at KSU has been an amazing whirlwind of an experience. I’m very glad for the support of my wonderful colleagues here in Geography over the past few months as my family and I have settled into life in Manhattan and at KSU. We’ve enjoyed the beautiful fall weather and life in a small city thus far. As the elder of my two girls said while on a hike out a Konza, “I really like it here.” I’ve been teaching GIS 1 this semester and have had my hands full of late with reading spatial analysis project proposals. It really is exciting to see how the students take what they’ve learned in class and apply it to something they really care about. I’m looking forward to teaching GIS 1 again in the spring along with Sustainability Concepts and Issues. On the research front, I submitted my first NSF proposal this fall, had one manuscript accepted for publication, and have another two under review. I’m very excited about an ongoing research collaboration examining the impacts of landscape diversity on agricultural systems. The first of (hopefully) several publications from this project is on track to be submitted for publication by the end of the
year. I’ve also been fortunate enough to have a chance to discuss collaboration opportunities related to flooding and resilience issues in Manhattan with the city’s Assistant Director of Community Development, Chad Bunger. I’m really excited by the opportunity to conduct research about Manhattan and make a direct contribution to the city. Looking forward to the rest of the academic year!

**Bimal Paul**

The 2018 was one of the most productive years for me. I published four papers in refereed journals, two book chapters, and one book entitled Disaster Relief Aid: Changes and Challenges (Palgrave Macmillan). Through our three-year NSF grant (“Coastal Erosion Vulnerabilities, Monsoon Dynamics, and Human Adaptive Response in Coastal Bangladesh”), I went to Bangladesh twice in 2018 to conduct questionnaire survey, focus group meetings, and key personnel interviews. I also signed a contract for a book on Disaster Deaths: Trends, Causes and Determinants. (to be published end of 2019). Currently, I am editing two volumes of Encyclopedia on Natural Hazards and Disasters: From Avalanches and Climate Change to Water Spouts and Wildfires to be published early 2019 by ABC-CLIO. Last year I presented nine papers, two of which were invited. I also participated as an expert in several programs of the Voice of America (VOA) Bengali radio program on environment issues. On the family front, our two daughters and son have been living in Overland Park, KS. All of them are working in the Kansas City area.

**Jeff Smith**

This year has been busy, but productive for me. In January my edited volume (Explorations in Place Attachment – Routledge) reached print. To see it in print was a terrific feeling. I had worked for three years on the content of that book. But, the up-front effort paid off in the end. So far the book has received some very favorable reviews and seems to be making a contribution to our understanding of sense of place. I have also traveled to a number of conferences and delivered some visiting presentations. Most recently, I was invited to talk at the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon (Monterrey, Mexico). It had been 16 years since I did some field work in the “Sultan City of the North” and a lot had changed. I have also been working with a spectacular undergraduate on a research project. We are exploring the feeling of attachment residents have for Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community. I anticipate good things from the project. If you find yourself in Seaton Hall, be sure to stop by and say hello.

**Arnaud Temme**

In the last year, I managed to get a few really exciting papers published. Most prominent among those, perhaps, is the work by my PhD student Marijn van der Meij in *Earth Science Reviews*. In that paper, we review how far we are from being able to simulate the range of pathways of flow of water through and over soils in a landscape context over thousands of years. We found that some steps can be taken already, but others require more fundamental soil knowledge – particularly about the effect of structure on hydraulic conductivity changes.

Another highlight was organizing the 2018 AAG regional meeting here in Manhattan, with great help by Shawn Hutchinson. It was fantastic hosting over a hundred colleagues on our campus, and highlight our department’s strengths. I particularly hope that this will help us attract graduate students in the near future. Finally, I had a personal insight during last year’s conferences that I am willing to share. It is the inverse relation between the complexity of mathematics in presentations, and the words describing the mathematics used by the presenter. Slides full of hard, complicated formulae in tiny font are accompanied by sentences describing how easy and trivial it all is, whereas slides with one simple formula receive ample verbal packaging. I don’t know what this means, but it must betray a fundamental property of the universe.
This year has concluded my fourth tenure-track year. I started 2018 year with my mom’s visit. It was her first time in the Midwest. Except that she was surprised by how cold it was here (me too!), my mom really enjoyed the tranquility and beauty of Kansas. Because it was anomalously cold, my partner and I took my mom to a long road trip to the south. We drove down to Texas, all the way to Brownsville, the southern-most tip at the estuary of the Rio Grande. In our trip around coastal Texas, we saw the signs of destruction by the Hurricane Harvey, which was only a few months before the brutal winter here in the Great Plains. Extreme weather seems to be more frequent, but fortunately, climate change is only a “hoax”...

This spring saw the graduation of my second Master student, Blake Walter. Working with a good student like Blake made me understand how fast two years could fly! I guess this is one of the reasons I love my job.

In May, I attended a NASA-funded workshop at the University of Colorado, Boulder. It was a focused workshop, with only 30 or so experts in water remote sensing. Fangfang came along with me and participated in scientific discussions. It was a very unforgettable experience, particularly after I got drenched and pelted by an unexpected rain and hail storm, on a walk to dinner with a group of “PhD”s.

Right after my Colorado trip, I flew to the Philippines, South Korea, and then China for leisure and invited colloquia. I attached a picture taken from Intramuros (the historical Walled City), Manila, and at the border between the two Koreas. I wish for peace and prosperity for the peninsula.

In September, I was supported by K-State FDA to attend a conference in the Azores Archipelago, Portugal. It was the first “volcanic hotspot” I had ever visited. This conference celebrated the 25-year progress in radar altimetry. I presented a study Fangfang and I recently published, and drank wine with scientists worldwide. In my layover in Terceira, one of the volcanic islands, I did a one-day geo-tour. I was taken to several craters (see picture), including one that I actually walked into, that was at least 100 m deep. I had no idea when I would have the luck again to be inside lava chambers, so I lingered down there for quite a while.

Last, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Chuck and Marcellus, who nominated me for this year’s “K-State International Collaboration Incentive for Publication and Creative Work.” I am honored and humbled to receive this recognition, as I know there are many other colleagues who deserve this as well.

Marie Weide

At the end of 2018, Marie Weide will be moving from her one-year position at KSU to be Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Environment and Sustainability at SUNY Buffalo.

Emeritus Faculty

John Harrington

Greetings from 46.2°N and 122.9°W. Our new home in the Pacific Northwest is in a large lot, rural subdivision in Cowlitz County, Washington. We are in timber country and about a 10 minute drive from the twin cities of Longview and Kelso. Less than that to a couple of good bars with high quality pizza and/or reasonably priced sandwiches. Our elevation, at just over 500’ is well above the 25,000 year-flood plain. The ice age/Mizzoula flood elevation for Longview was about 375’. With the onset of the autumn rainy season, I am developing a greater appreciation for orographic precipitation.

The process of downsizing and of moving about 1,800 miles west and a bit north continues, but I’m beginning to think that a new normal is visible on the horizon. Our home has a Kelso street address but we are several miles north and east of the city and county courthouse. Kelso is the county seat for Cowlitz County (where the Cowlitz River joins the Columbia). Kelso was named for the town in Scotland, from where the town founder came. Our 211 Home Town Drive property is almost an acre on an east facing slope. The view from the living room window includes a rather large clear-cut on the west-facing slope across the valley. The home sits about 30 feet in elevation above the road, with a steep gravel driveway...
that makes deliveries somewhat of an adventure for some timid drivers of delivery trucks.

During my last semester in Manhattan, I lost a little over 20 pounds and about 2” off my waistline. I am now getting regular exercise walking our smaller dog, Moose, just about every morning. Additional exercise happens with each trip down to street level to check the mailbox. I am still doing scholarly stuff, with a co-authored presentation (on important climate ideas) at the recent Assoc of Pacific Coast Geographers meeting Reno. Little work has been done on the subject of ‘climatic thought’ so I hope to continue to add to that area of scholarship. The autumn colors were really nice for the drive to/from western Nevada. In addition to a first trip to Silver Falls State Park in OR and Lava Beds Natl Monument in CA, Lisa and I did a great APCG local field trip related to human impacts on the Truckee River.

I am continuing to work with my last K-State doctoral students and they have included me as a co-author on five peer-reviewed publications this calendar year. It is interesting that my last (partial) year as a K-State regular faculty member is among the most productive. I find it sad to leave behind the Kansas Geographic Alliance, especially at a time when the National Geographic Society has decided to change how they fund geographic education. Fortunately, the KGA has great brand recognition among K-12 teachers in Kansas and a wonderful cohort of people to help move K-12 geographic education forward in the state.

I continue to read some of the more recent books about how we are changing the planet and/or how we might think about it. And, I check out the new peer-reviewed scholarly publications related to climate and global change. I am typically up in the morning well before sunrise accessing the internet. The house is usually quite at 4 am as I enjoy a cup of coffee and check the latest news and the weather forecast. A nice thing about living in the Pacific Time Zone is that sports appear on the tube a couple hours earlier than I’ve been accustom to.

Perhaps I will see you at the 2019 AAG meetings in Washington, D.C. But, if you are out this way and want to swap a few lies, complain about politics, see Mt St Helens, and/or hike to a waterfall, please consider stopping by. The better email to reach me is now: johnaharringtonjr@gmail.com

Dave Kromm

The spring and summer of 2018 were an exciting time for Bobbie and me. In May we traveled to Cambridge for the graduation of our granddaughter Emma from Harvard and then in June to Durham for the 8th grade graduation of our grandson Alec. Emma is now a researcher and writer for the Tobin Group, and Alec is a freshman at the Durham School for the Arts. In September we both turned 80 years of age (Dave is 19 days older) and celebrated our 58th wedding anniversary. We traveled to northern Michigan to celebrate, and the photos are from Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore, a restaurant in Gaylord (and not far from where we own some forest land), and Tahquamenon Falls in the U.P.

Our sons Randall (lives in suburban Boston) and Christopher (Durham, NC), came for a long weekend birthday celebration which included a daylong cookout, with kayaking and fishing, at River Pond State Park (Tuttle Puddle), and another day tooling around town in our 1964 VW Baja.
Dick Marston

I am in my third year since retiring from K-State Geography, living on the Balboa Peninsula (squarely in the tsunami hazard zone!) in Newport Beach, CA. 2018 was my 20th (and final) year as Editor-in-Chief of the Elsevier journal, Geomorphology. In my first year (1999) as editor, the journal received 34 manuscripts. This past year, 960 manuscripts were submitted, reflecting the growth in that discipline! In April 2018, I was named a fellow of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), one of 20 in the inaugural class of fellows. I served the AAG as one of six co-editors of the 15-volume International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment and Technology published by Wiley. I was invited to join the UCLA Friends of Geography (FOG) advisory board and am helping to participate and organize career day seminars for UCLA (my alma mater) Geography students. The Wyoming Water Association invited me to present the banquet address in Sheridan, WY, at their annual meeting.

Nancy and Dick, Linderhof Castle, Bavaria, Germany

Nancy and I enjoyed a 2-week long trip starting in Munich and ending in Budapest, highlighted with a river cruise down the Danube. We are scheduled to travel on a National Geographic trip to Antarctica next February. I officiated two weddings in the past year. Following a series of classes with the Newport Beach, CA, Fire Department, I am now qualified to join CERT = Community Emergency Response Team, to assist in the event of a disaster (earthquake, tsunami, fire, floods, etc.).

Current Students

Barrie Chileen (MA student)

This past summer I did some field work in Rocky Mountain National Park and Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest in Colorado for my Masters thesis work and the Big Burns NSF grant. Thanks to the Muddy Boots Scholarship, Kale Graduate Fellowship, and the Geography Graduate Research Grant for helping to support the field work.

Collecting foliage samples from Gold Creek Lake in Medicine Bow/Routt National Forests (Left: Barrie Chileen, KSU; Right: Meredith Parish, University of Wyoming)

Barrie Chileen at Summit Lake with foliage samples collected from the four lakes visited for the fieldwork
Gold Creek Lake

**Christy Jean (PhD student [alumna: MA 2016; BA 2014])**

It's hard to believe we are already wrapping up 2018. Since I left Kansas, it feels like I have been running in quicksand. It's been a much slower pace than I am used to, but things are finally settling into place: both of my kids are in school now, and I am hopeful to be done with my PhD next summer! On a more personal note, I have continued to add to my chicken obsession, I now have 13 on our 2 acre 'homestead.' My husband and I celebrated our 10 year anniversary this year with a week-long trip to England. We stayed in London, and traveled to the coast twice, once by train, and once so he could practice driving on the other side of the road. It was such a great experience. I am already planning a graduation trip for myself - maybe New Zealand.

**Komal Kaur (MA student)**

Before joining graduate school this Fall, I vacationed in a South Indian state, Kerala. Replete with the natural beauty of beaches and the Western Ghats, Kerala is often referred to as 'God's own country'. In our 10 day tour, we stayed on a houseboat cruise for a day in Alleppey. The houseboats are often well equipped with all house amenities. Local chefs prepare authentic traditional food and snacks in the kitchen. One gets to see the way of living of local people of the island villages, as glimpsed in the picture. By the evening, the boat is tied to a corner and the boat slowly floats throughout the night. Some tourists shop for fresh seafood from the local market for dinner. We bought Toddy, a local, mildly alcoholic drink made from coconut to savor with the fish fry and rice.

Sadly, a month after my visit, this area was hit by one of the worst Monsoon floods the state has ever witnessed. I chose this picture as a reminiscence of the memorable time I spent on the cruise.

**Abbey Marcotte (MA student [alumna: BS 2017])**

This year (2018) was quite an eventful year for me. Having graduated with my B.S. in December 2017, I was able to relish in the non-student lifestyle a bit during the first part of 2018. I traveled the U.S. far and wide, including trips to Michigan; Colorado; Washington, D.C.; New Mexico; and the Florida Keys. Over the summer, I moved to Lawrence to work at The Nature Conservancy as their 2018 Beals Healthy Streams for Kansas Fellow. It was a wonderful experience learning about water security and quality issues that our state faces, as well as being able to hone my research, field, and GIS skills. And Lawrence really is an awesome place to live – good food, local shops, public library, and biking trails. Now, I am thrilled to be back in the department as a master’s student under the supervision of Dr. Langston. We are getting things off the ground with my research at Konza, where I’ll be studying bedrock erosion in Kings Creek. My first semester of grad school and teaching brought excitement, exhaustion, more reading and writing than I ever could have imagined, and of course some angst here and there. I am looking forward to 2019 and the rest of this journey!

Abbey at the Great Falls along the Potomac
**Rose Micke (BS student)**
This summer I was chosen for an internship with Tetra Tech as a GIS Intern. This internship has extended well beyond summer and is still a position I hold today.

**Michael Molloy (MA student [alumnus: BA 2018])**
Michael began the MA program, with advisor Audrey Joslin. He also coauthored a journal article:

**Avantika Ramekar (PhD student)**
This year has been very productive for me, both personally and work-wise. I visited India in the beginning of the year after a year and half’s gap. Every time I go home, I feel I have a new set of eyes. It’s amazing how your view of home changes after staying away! I traveled to three cities in the 3 weeks that I was there. One of the highlights was visiting a rural empowerment group gathering. Small and medium size rural self-help groups run by women from different parts of the State of Maharashtra had gathered to showcase their efforts in making women economically independent and socially empowered.

Homemade snacks for sale including homemade spices. In the background they proudly display the name of the bank who sponsored their initiative.

Women’s self-help group from tribal parts of Maharashtra.

I came back from India mid-January and completed my data collection via mailed questionnaire surveys. Currently, I am analyzing the data and preparing to go back to the field to interview public officials in a few selected counties of Kansas and Oklahoma.

Summer 2018 was exciting! I worked with the Global Campus’s Cat Community Program where I taught World Regional Geography & Diversity to a group of first-generation students. My class got a chance to interact with 25 Mandela Washington Scholars (also known as YALI scholars) from Africa. This was the third year K-State was hosted a group of young enthusiastic leaders from Africa who had come to the US to learn about leadership and take back lessons in their own field of work in their country. My class also visit the Flint Hills Discovery Center as a part of this course.

I am looking forward to 2019. I am hoping to finish my PhD by May 2019 and move to the next phase of my career. Currently, I am looking for jobs- both research and/or teaching. Hope the new year opens new opportunities!

**Alumni**

**Karl Bauer (MA 2018)**
For me, it's been a busy year with lots of change. I successfully defended my thesis in May, focusing on the free land programs in four central Kansas communities. Shortly after graduating with my M.A. in August, I started my new job as an instructor in the Department of American Indian Studies at my alma mater, the University of North Dakota. While I lament leaving a place where 70° F in the middle of winter is not unheard of for a place where -70° F windchills are not unheard of, it is a great fit and I am overjoyed to be back. It has proven to be a great fit so far!
I am currently teaching a seminar on sustainable development in AIS, as well as two geography courses, World Regional Geography and Global Physical Environment. In addition to these, I am serving as a co-instructor for the North Dakota Digital Atlas project. It is an interdisciplinary student-driven collaborative learning effort involving mapping and presenting on various topics related to North Dakota. These topics from ghost towns to nuclear missile launch facilities. It was a project I had worked on as an undergraduate, and it has been exciting to be working on it again from an advisory standpoint, as well as to see how it has grown and developed. It has recently been made public, and is available at: https://und.edu/nd-digital-atlas/.

**Sam Belling (BS 2015)**
Currently working as a Field Survey Technician for Tukuh Technologies in Kansas City. I’ve stayed busy traveling on the road working with the Army as a contractor. I’ve surveyed 12 military installations, from Washington D.C. to Camp Zama in Japan, as well as Camp Grafenwoehr in Germany.

**Ryan Bergstrom (PhD 2012)**
It has been an eventful few years since graduating from KSU (2012). From 2012 to 2014, I returned to my home state as a visiting Assistant Professor at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. This was a great opportunity to hone my teaching skills in both physical geography and GIS. More importantly, it is in southern Minnesota that I would eventually meet my lovely wife (Anna) and her two children. In 2014, I was offered a term faculty position at the University of Minnesota Duluth, again teaching classes in physical geography and GIS. As my second year came to a close the opportunity to apply for a tenure track position at UMD opened, and we jumped at the chance to continue living on the shores of Lake Superior. Today I teach a wide variety of classes across physical geography, GIS, and sustainability studies. My research has recently focused on the complexity of sustaining resource dependent communities in northern Minnesota, and I have begun comparative assessments with similar communities in the Arctic. In September 2017, we expanded our family with the addition of Ebba Majken Maria Bergstrom, and in September 2018, we deepened our roots in the community when we purchased a home. In the summer we spend our time hiking and mountain biking, or visiting Anna’s family in Sweden. In the winter we cross country ski and build snowmen, regardless of how cold it might be (low temperature last winter was -26!).

**Johnny Coomansingh (JCee) (PhD 2002)**
Despite my “early retirement” from academia, I have continued to visit my area of research interest, the Caribbean region. In terms of cultural geography, I must admit that Trinidad and Tobago is a literal cornucopia for research. The twin-island state is rich in history and
creativity. For me, its multiracial, multi-religious, and polyrhythmic offerings allow for great opportunities to the answers of “Why” and “Where.”

Extant on the landscape are events, items, structures, mannerisms, behaviors, and vegetation that I am now really able to question. Growing up in Trinidad I accepted the status quo, but now “my eyes have been opened.” Thanks to the geography program at Kansas State, I have a set of new “lens” when looking at things. I have published:


Coomansingh, J., 2016: Cocoa Woman: A Narrative about Cocoa Estate Culture in the British West Indies, Xlibris Publishers, Indiana, USA.

Coomansingh, J., 2015: Seven Years on Adventist Street, Outskirts Press, Denver, Colorado.

An Understanding of the Trinidad Carnival: a Mélange of Borrowed Cultural Elements (Outskirts Press, Denver, Colorado, USA (This book, an adaptation of my Master’s thesis in Geography, is now at the publishers).

On other matters...two years ago, I was blessed with a beautiful grandson, Jace. His father, Jessel R. Coomansingh, is also a graduate of K-State. Jessel is now a medical practitioner in Arizona. My first son, Josh R. Coomansingh, recently graduated from the National Academy for Performing Arts (NAPA), under the supervision of the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). His specialty training was in classical guitar. Josh is now here with me seeking for placement at a university to further his studies.

I inaugurated the Elias A. Toussaint Endowment Foundation (EATEF) on April 23, 2016, for students of the Sangre Grande SDA Primary School, with cofounders Dr. Lester B. Horrell and Ava R. Horrell. The Foundation seeks to facilitate less fortunate students and high achievers of the Sangre Grande Seventh Day Adventist Primary School with the assistance necessary to enhance their potential for success at all levels: physical, intellectual, and spiritual. So far, the EATEF has given out eight awards to students.

Leslie Duram (MS 1991)


Ian Fannin-Hughes (BS 2014, with NRES)

I’ve been busy since graduation! I spent the first couple of years out of school as a research toxicologist for the ag industry, traveling across the country to determine pesticide toxicity to pollinator and aquatic organisms. After hanging up the researcher hat, I took a job with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as the state regulator for confined animal feed operations. Not the most glamorous job, but one that was very rewarding for my current environmental management career in local government. I currently work as the water resource planner and manager for a local government in the Kansas City Metro. I have the
great pleasure to work with many great people and organizations, and I’m active in conserving local natural resources as a leader at the Heartland Conservation Alliance, Kansas City Native Plant Initiative, Mid-America Regional Council, and the Blue River Watershed Stakeholders. I’m also active in several professional organizations, including Kansas Water Environment Association, Air and Waste Management Association, Society for Freshwater Science and Society of Wetland Scientists. If you are in the Kansas City region in early February you could see me present at the 2019 KC Urban Stormwater Conference on floating wetlands and green infrastructure solutions.

When not working, I’m pursuing a Professional Science Masters in Environmental Assessment from the University of Kansas and hope to graduate in 2020. When not doing either work or school I can be found trying to keep my sanity with my two children and wife (they won’t read this, right?). Cheers!

Katherine Franke Jardieu, GISP (BS 2008, MS 2010)
I am now a City Planner for a suburb of Nashville, TN, called Brentwood. My husband and I also just adopted a son from China 2 months ago.

Matt Gerike (PhD 2012)
Matt Gerike and Shannon White made the move in August 2017 to Shannon’s homeland of greater Williamsburg, VA. One year in, we are both a bit settled into our William & Mary community. Our adventure included an 8-month stint of full time RV living. We are now looking forward to using our RV for recreation. If you are in town to experience the "authenticity" and representation at Colonial Williamsburg or passing through on your way to the Outer Banks, let me know.

Gabriel Granco (PhD 2017)
In May 2017, I became a K-State Alumnus, having finished my Ph.D. studies and being hooded by Dr. Caldas. Since then life has been moving at a fast pace! In August 2017, I joined the Stroud Water Research Center as a postdoctoral research scientist working with Melinda Daniels and Marcellus Caldas in the Coupled Natural Human Systems NSF-grant on the integration of culture, agricultural land use, and climate in the Great Plains. In 2018, I changed my appointment to K-State, and now I am a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Geography working under Caldas. Daniels, Caldas, and I organized a successful session at the AAG 2018 on the Integrative Modeling Framework. As a personal note, in 2017 Sara and I adopted two cats, Miranda and Saggee, and they have been keeping us happy and busy! Also, I got to see the Endeavour shuttle. All the best!!

Atena Haghighatallab (PhD 2016)
On Sep 3, 2018, I started my new position at college of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) at the University of Minnesota as CFANS Phenomics Lead. In this role, I am conducting a master planning process of current and potential UMN research capacities in the area of high throughput plant phenotyping including engineering, plant sciences, and informatics. This will entail developing a long range plan for research infrastructure investments that create opportunities for public-private partnerships; developing a sustainable funding model; and designing a core facility for delivery of high throughput plant phenotyping technologies to UMN scientists. My position is supported by CFANS and PepsiCo.

Jason Holcomb (MA 1994; PhD 2000)
Since the custom harvesting family I started working for the summer of 1988 got out of farming last year, I did not visit Manhattan on my way to Sterling for wheat harvest for the first time in many years. I am determined to return to Manhattan next summer, however. I have everything done but the final paperwork in donating my custom harvesting oral history project to the Morse Department of Special Collections at Hale Library. The fire at Hale has disrupted the work of the archivist, but my project was not damaged. Next summer I hope to assist in getting more items donated to the same collection. A year or two ago I contacted the grandchildren of the man who played a big role in organizing the Massey Harvest Brigade during World War II and I secured an agreement with them to donate their grandfather's original documents to Hale Library. One of his grandchildren has most of these materials at her home in Kansas.
Two years ago, I was pleased to publish an article about Great Plains harvest labor in the journal Labor History. In the article, I connected the evolution of the US public employment service (PES) to wheat harvest labor, from its origins in the late 1800s to the present time in which custom harvesters use the PES to hire foreign labor through the H-2A and J-1 visa programs. I continue to work toward collecting information about the foreign harvest labor and I began writing a book about the Great Plains harvest in which I will incorporate the oral history interviews. I am also working on a project related to Campbell Farming Corporation in Big Horn County, Montana, which Heather is assisting with by using her GIS skills to map allotments and leases. These projects are moving slowly because I have been extraordinarily busy with teaching full classes at Morehead State, including a new class this semester.

Another big change in our lives is that Heather’s father decided to retire from farming, which means Heather and Ian will no longer be traveling to Iowa in the spring and fall to help with planting and harvest, respectively. That is probably for the best since Ian started school this year. We will still spend our summers at our house in Iowa, which will make it more convenient to travel to Kansas and Montana and the other states of my preferred habitat.

Tommy Larsen (PhD 2018)

In August 2018, I accepted a position as Lecturer for the Texas State University Department of Geography. I currently collaborate with the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education on research grants, conferences, and publications dedicated to a large-scale educational reform initiative called Powerful Geography. In addition, I am helping to build a Texas State online master’s program in geography education. During the Fall 2018 semester, I received a Doctor of Philosophy in Geography from Kansas State University with the dissertation titled Developing a human-environment timeline: A chronology of ideas and events for the Anthropocene. Over the course of 2018, I accumulated four first-author publications in the Journal of Geography, Geographical Review, and The Geography Teacher; one co-authorship in Education Sciences; and one book review in the University of Northern Iowa’s UNiversitas. In addition to my research, I continue to work closely with members of both the Kansas Geographic Alliance (KGA) and the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE).


Len Le Blanc (BS 1973)

I am Academic Dean, Vice-President of Institutional Advancement, Professor of Social Science and Human Security, and Sustainability Graduate Programs Director.
for the American University of Sovereign Nations in Arizona, a global remote-learning, on-line graduate school. I was also appointed as a Commissioner for a new global accreditation agency called the Accredited Universities of Sovereign Nations, also based in Arizona. The organization is tied into other global universities that are members of the United Nations Academic Impact group. I am in the final phases of getting another (my 4th) Master’s degree in Liberal Studies. My thesis is entitled: “Ethical Considerations and Managing Refugee Populations due to Climate Change: A Historical Overview and Recommendations.”

Otherwise we are all doing OK. Lena got her Green Card extended 18 months; she is a Professor of Modern Standard Arabic and Social Justice at the same university I am at - she defends her PhD dissertation this fall. The kids are doing very well in 1st and 3rd grades here in Manhattan, and I am still selling books for a Thailand-based publisher of specialty books on Southeast Asia (except book sales have virtually collapsed--people have stopped reading!).

**Lisa Tabor Millsaps (MA 2011)**

I am now midst my second year as an Assistant Professor of Geography and Social Science Education at the University of Northern Iowa. I am excited to share that I enjoy my new(ish) job very much and I’m getting used to cold snowy winters. I teach a mix of geography and social science education classes, as the Secondary Social Science Education Program is housed within our department. My current fun project is building a university designated service-learning course. The course, Geog 1310, is called Digital Earth, and is updating the former maps and map interpretation course. I have partnered with the local historical society, which will culminate in the class with students creating story maps for display at the historical society. This officially kicks off in the spring – wish me luck! Life is going as well as work and having a dog that loves snow makes life that much better.

**Lis Pankl (PhD 2015)**

I’ve had an exciting 3 ½ years since receiving my PhD from K-State Geography in May of 2015. I spent 15 months at Stony Brook University Libraries as the Head of Academic Engagement. I was then fortunate to land a tenured position at the University of Utah as the Head of Graduate and Undergraduate Services at the J. Willard Marriott Library. My dissertation precis, *Frida Kahlo as Feminist Geographer*, will be published by *Gender, Place & Culture* in 2019. I will also travel to the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock, AR, in April to give a lecture for their exhibition entitled *Photographing Frida: Portraits of Frida Kahlo*.

**Judd Patterson (MA 2008)**

I continue to work for the National Park Service in Miami where I am a Data Manager/Ecologist for a network of parks across South Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It’s a rewarding career with interesting side projects, like catching and placing a satellite transmitter on an American Flamingo named “Conchy” (he was caught in the Florida Keys or “Conch Republic”). Flamingos have a bit of a forgotten history in the United States, which a few colleagues and I published on earlier this year: [http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.1650/CONDOR-17-187.1](http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.1650/CONDOR-17-187.1).

Travel to experience new cultures, foods, and birds continues to occupy much of my free time. I've now observed nearly a quarter (2,520) of the world's bird species, and I have a particular fascination with island endemism. Progress is slow, but I’m working on a draft book on Caribbean birds.

The biggest news of all is that my fiancée, Jennifer, and I are getting married in December. We've picked a beautiful spot nestled among live oaks that are dripping
with Spanish moss. We are both looking forward to future adventures!

**Jennifer Radcliff, GISP (MA 1998)**

I’m still single and living my best life in Olympia, Washington. I changed jobs in November 2017 to work closer to home and have more free time not spent commuting. I’m currently the GIS Coordinator for the City of Tumwater. In all of my newfound spare time I’m starting a podcast with a friend of mine. It’s called “Will We Make It Out Alive” and is about environmental restoration in the Pacific Northwest, GIS, and citizen science. We hope to debut on December 25, 2018. We do have a website (outalivepodcast.com) and blog that have been out since September, and we have our About Us podcast episode on our website. Once we officially release it will be available on Apple Podcasts and wherever else we think to put it. I’m also a founding member of a group called Washington Women in GIS and Technology. The past two years we’ve entered a poster into the Esri User Conference map gallery, and we made it into the Esri Map Book that was given out at the 2018 UC! We meet once a month and train each other, work on soft skills, do volunteer map sessions (such as contributing to Open Street Map in support of Hurricane Michael), and speak at Professional Women’s Night at Tech Trek, a STEM camp for 8th grade girls. On the personal side, my last really exciting trip was in March of 2016, when I spent a week volunteering with rescue elephants in Thailand and then spent a few days poking around the ruins at Angkor Wat.

**Mike Rawitch (BS 2012)**

This has been an exciting year for the Rawitches! My wife (Merritt) and I have taken full advantage of frequent flier miles and work trips to vacation to Denmark (pictured), Spain, Big Sur, Colorado, Southern California, and Seattle. In addition to our travel, we have purchased a home in Overland Park, and welcomed Gunner (a very playful labradoodle puppy - pictured) to our family. Merritt has continued her work as a pediatric physical therapist for Children’s Mercy Home Health, and continues to love what she does.

Professionally, it has been an extremely exciting year for me at Ramboll. Of particular interest, I have been involved in our corporate innovation program to develop new business service lines. The service line I have been working to develop was selected from nearly 300 original ideas company wide, and involves utilizing UAV technology, custom built machine learning algorithms, and web-based GIS reporting for mining companies undergoing reclamation. The process has involved me spending a full-month in Copenhagen throughout 2018, and has given me a great opportunity to be on the cutting edge of several emerging technologies and to learn A LOT about the integration of business and emerging technologies. I’ve also had the unique opportunity to co-found the US Drone Initiative for Ramboll, and have been able to deliver several presentations and publications on the topic of drone use for the environmental field.

**Patricia (Bennett) Solís (BA,BS 1994; MA 1996)**

This year marked the 11th year that I had the honor to serve on the KSU Geography Department Alumni Board. It is great to see new faces and a thriving group of geographers! I am so proud to be a Wildcat, even as my career has taken me to other universities. This summer, I joined another institution, Arizona State University, as the Executive Director of a new presidential initiative, Knowledge Exchange for Resilience. I’ve also been welcomed by the ASU School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning as research associate professor. I couldn’t be happier with such a great new home for my work. With the support of a $15M donation by a local foundation for the knowledge exchange, I help connect ASU intellectual resources to address community resilience issues in the Phoenix Metro area with nonprofit partners like the United Way, Salvation Army, and others. It has been a year of abundance - I also won two NSF grants, one for studying uptake of volunteered geographic information into official data domains by governments in Latin America, and another for studying how to support active military and veteran student populations in Texas to discover career and educational
pathways through mapping (for this last one I remain adjunct at Texas Tech). The YouthMappers program I founded three years ago has received another round of funding from USAID to continue. I am inspired daily by the enthusiasm and energy of college students around the world. Incredibly, we now have chapters of students supporting humanitarian mapping projects in 141 universities in 41 countries (including one at K-State, of course!).

Moving my family to Tempe in the middle of the Arizona summer heat has not been without its challenges, but we are adjusting well, with my youngest son Bennett (13) finishing middle school and my oldest son Trey (16) enjoying his sophomore year by playing for the high school soccer team and learning how to drive. We are so happy that ASU has also become home for my husband, Dario, who is the new Business Development Director for the Fulton Schools of Engineering. I continue to attend the AAG meetings every year to reunite with new friends and old, so I hope to see some of my KSU colleagues in Washington DC next April. Go Cats!

**Mitch Stimers (PhD 2011)**

Mitch now serves as Chief Information Officer for Cloud County Community College (Kansas). Along with pursuing painting as a sideline (with gallery shows), he reports that he got to meet Brian McClendon, “the Google Earth guy!”

**Lisa Harrington**


Elected as Pacific Coast board member for the AAG Rural Geography Specialty Group (2018)

**Shawn Hutchinson**

Promoted to professor effective the beginning of the Fall 2018 semester.

Recipient, 2018 College of Arts & Sciences Ron Gaches Undergraduate Teaching Award

Three peer-reviewed papers published in 2018 (and one more accepted)

**Audrey Joslin**


**Abby Langston**


Awarded an NSF EPSCoR RII Track-4 Award for “Using Novel Applications of Luminescence Techniques to Evaluate Channel Mobility and Bedrock Valley Development.”

**Chuck Martin**

Article on heavy metal storage in tributary streams of the Lahn and Dill Rivers accepted to *Catena*, an interdisciplinary journal of soil science, hydrology, and geomorphology.
Jeff Smith
Edited Book: *Explorations in Place Attachment*
Article accepted for publication in *Professional Geographer*
Advised Nicholas Gonzales (McNair Scholar) to completion of his project

Arnaud Temme
Chair of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Region of the American Association of Geographers, and of the 2018 GPRM meeting.

Jida Wang
Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), Boulder, Awarded K-State International Collaboration Incentive for Publication and Creative Work.
Appointed as Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Remote Sensing* (IJRS).
Published 7 peer-reviewed papers and 2 scientific datasets.

Marie Weide
Other Happenings

**GISci and other facilities have moved to the third floor of Seaton Hall—we gained space! See Dr. Hutchinson’s entry for more on this, and stop by for a look if you’re in the area.**********

We hosted the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the AAG annual meeting in October, led by Arnaud Temme, who was aided by Shawn Hutchinson. Faculty and students were valuable in these efforts.

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*Banquet keynote speaker AAG Vice President David Kaplan*

*Michaels Molloy & Stumpff with their GPRM posters*

*Drs. Temme & Hutchinson ended the GPRM banquet with student awards*

*Trap collection in 2017; Abbey Marcotte, Barrie Chileen, and Jennifer Roozeboom*

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The Paleoenvironmental Change Lab celebrated ten years of pollen trap collection this year! Big thanks to all who’ve contributed to pollen trap collection over the years.
Barrie Chileen and visiting student Marte Stoorvogel pose with a trap during 2018 collection

Some Graduation Photos:

Some of the KSU Geography graduates, Spring 2018: Front: Sarah Lamm; Josh McCrickard; Michael Molloy; Colin Keller; Kerstin Cherry; Back: Brennan Walter; Michael Stumppf; Gary Koons; Kyle Cook; Dr. Martin

John Harrington hooded his last PhD advisee, Thomas Larsen, Dec 2018

Graduate Student Theses and Dissertations

2018
Bauer, Karl F.  Free Land Programs Revisited: A Case Study of Four Kansas Communities  (MA; Dr. Max Lu)
Fischer, Amaariah J.  Developing and Evaluating a Geographic Information Dashboard to Improve Spatial Task Performance  (MA; Dr. Shawn Hutchinson)
Larsen, Thomas.  Developing a Human-Environment Timeline: A Chronology of Ideas and Events for the Anthropocene  (PhD; Dr. John A. Harrington, Jr.)
Mehl, Heidi.  Understanding Stream Incision, Riparian Function, and Indigenous Knowledge to Evaluate Land Management on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation  (PhD; Dr. Marcellus Caldas)
Walter, Blake.  An Enhanced Inventory of Global Dams and Reservoirs and their Contribution to Sea Level  (MA; Dr. Jida Wang)

2017
Allen, Matthew.  Stakeholder Perceptions of Flooding Issues in the Wildcat Creek Watershed  (MA; Dr. John A. Harrington, Jr.)
Braget, Austin.  Time Series Analysis of Phenometrics and Long-Term Vegetation Trends for the Flint Hills Ecoregion using Moderate Resolution Satellite Imagery  (MA; Dr. Shawn Hutchinson)
Braget, Mitchell.  A Novel Approach to Mapping Floodplain Extent in the Chobe River Basin from 2014 to 2016 using a Training Library  (MA; Dr. Douglas Goodin)
Brooks, Matthew.  Countering Depopulation in Kansas: Understanding Perceptions of Rural Life and the Effectiveness of the Rural Opportunity Zone Program  (MA; Dr. Max Lu)
Bryant, Johnny.  The Use of Remotely Sensed LIDAR and Multispectral Imagery for Modeling Eastern Redcedar Biomass within North Eastern Kansas  (MA; Drs. Douglas Goodin and Kevin Price)
Grancco, Gabriel.  Land Change Dynamics in the Brazilian Cerrado: The Interaction of Biofuels, Markets, and Biodiversity  (PhD; Dr. Marcellus Caldas)
Luo, Lei.  Proposing an Improved Surface Dryness Index to Estimate Soil Moisture Based on the Temperature Vegetation Dryness Index  (MA; Dr. Douglas Goodin)
Marston, Bryce.  Influence of the Mountain Pine Beetle Disturbance on Large Wood Dynamics and Channel Morphology in Mountain Streams  (PhD; Dr. Charles W. Martin)
Mellicant, Emily.  Geochemical Signatures of Parent Materials and Lake Sediments in Northern Minnesota  (MA; Dr. Kendra McLauchlan)
Safaei, Samira. Developing Global Dataset of Salt Pans and Salt Playas using Landsat-8 Imagery: A Case Study of Western North America (MA; Dr. Jida Wang)

Thornburg, Gina. "Who Benefits?: The Intersection of Governance and Agency in Farmers' Engagement with the Oklahoma Farm to School Program." (PhD; Dr. Bimal Paul)

2016

Bloedel, Penny M. Characterizing and Mapping Sediment Erodibility of Tuttle Creek Lake in Northeast Kansas (MA; Dr. Charles W. Martin)

Commerford, Julie L. Investigating North American Grassland Biogeography throughout the Holocene (PhD; Dr. Kendra McLauchlan)

Ghimire, Kabita. Geographic Distribution of Malaria in Nepal (PhD; Dr. Douglas Goodin)

Haddock, Brandon H. In Plain Sight: The LGBT Community in the Kansas Flint Hills (PhD; Dr. Lisa M.B. Harrington)

Haghighattalab, Atena. High-Throughput Phenotyping of Large Wheat Breeding Nurseries using Unmanned Aerial System, Remote Sensing, and GIS Techniques (PhD; Drs. Douglas Goodin, Jesse Poland, and Kevin Price)

Jean, Christy R. Hydrological Transitions: A Story of Kansas Watershed Districts (MA; Dr. John A. Harrington, Jr.)

Larsen, Thomas. Last Child on the Prairie: Geo-Progressions, Mental Maps, and Community-based Sense of Place among Kansas Third Graders (MA; Dr. John A. Harrington, Jr.)

Smith, Travis W. Place Images of the American West in Western Films (PhD; Dr. Kevin Blake and Dr. Jeffrey S. Smith)

Wetherholt, William A. Exploring Rootedness in the Very Rural Great Plains Counties of Kansas and Nebraska (PhD; Dr. Lisa M.B. Harrington)

Williams, Danielle. Time Series Analysis of Vegetation Dynamics and Burn Scar Mapping at Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range, Kansas using Moderate Resolution Satellite Imagery (MA; Dr. Shawn Hutchinson)

Out on the Konza:

Photo by Abbey Marcotte

Marijn van der Meij and Marte Stoorvogel
Abby Marcotte and Michael Molloy

Budding geographer Michael Molloy and retiring geographers Lisa M.B & John Harrington

Note from the editor: I hope you enjoy this update for the Department of Geography at Kansas State University. It was great to get news from students and alumni as well as faculty in the department.

Many thanks to those who contributed information and photos, and apologies for any mistakes. Photographers are not always noted because I don’t have that information; at other times the photographer may be pretty obvious. Photos reflect submissions.

If you were only reached late in the process of putting this together (or not at all), it is likely you are/were missing from our listservs, or at least the ones I was using. Please contact us so we don’t lose you! Also, if you have contact information for any other graduates of the department, please pass it along. Best wishes—keep in touch ~ LButlerH@ksu.edu