From the Department
Head, Chuck Martin

Welcome to the 2021 K-State Geography Alumni Newsletter, an opportunity for us to share news and happenings from the past year with alumni and friends of the Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences! Thank you to my long-time colleague Dr. Bimal Paul for taking on the alumni newsletter this year. And thank you also to another long-time colleague, Dr. Lisa Harrington, who put together the newsletter over the last several years.

It probably goes without saying that the last year has been an extremely challenging one for the department and the university. The pandemic forced all classes online as of mid-March 2020, and since then it has been a mixture of “in-person”, “online”, and “hybrid-blended” courses. Suffice it to say that we have all learned a great deal about delivering our classes to students in ways that were hardly imaginable a year ago. The response of the department’s faculty and staff when we pivoted to online classes earlier last year was fantastic. Not only did my colleagues covert their own classes, but many worked tirelessly to provide students with online access to computer workstations in our GIS and Earth System Science teaching labs. And all within the space of about one week.

There were also tremendous budget challenges in the College of Arts and Sciences that filtered down to the department. Most are related to falling enrollments in the College, in part driven by the pandemic and in part by changing student demographics in the state. As part of cost saving measures, faculty in the department (and in all other departments of the College, too) were required to take furlough days (from 5 to 19 days, depending on salary) or agree to a voluntary pay reduction for the academic year. Our GTA allocation was severely reduced and College support for other professional activities was nearly eliminated. Unfortunately, the budget outlook for next year appears equally grim, and so we will likely be facing another year of furloughs and cuts.

But there was good news over the last year! Dr. Jida Wang was promoted to associate professor with tenure in August 2020. After nearly two years of planning and renovation, the department’s Richard A. Marston Earth System Science Research Laboratory was completed in Seaton 0108/0109. The facility is named after former department head and faculty member Dick Marston whose generous financial support turned the lab into reality. The lab will be a tremendous resource for the department’s strong earth system science program, benefitting both faculty and students. The department’s new Geographic Information Science & Technology (GIS&T) major was approved in June by the Kansas Board of Regents and officially became an option for undergraduate students as of August 2020. Dr. Shawn Hutchinson in particular spent countless hours shepherding the proposal through the approval process over many months. Its existence is testament to his unwavering dedication. We continued to upgrade the Geospatial Teaching Lab on the third floor of Seaton Hall, adding a new table, new workstations and new chairs, thanks in large part to generous donations by alumnus Ted Payne that are earmarked for GIS education in the department. The members of the faculty and students in the department enjoyed remarkable success in 2020 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 2020 funds from geography Foundation accounts and other sources provided several thousand dollars of scholarship support to our undergraduate and graduate students. 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 2020 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.

**Student Highlights:** The Geography and Geospatial Sciences Department had a strong and multinational group of graduate students and undergraduate majors in 2020. As the 2020 Fall Semester began, the department counted 13 PhD students, 5 MA students, 22 geography majors, and 10 geography minors. About 2100 students enrolled in Geography classes in academic year 2019/20.

So far in 2020, three students completed the PhD degree and two completed the MA degree in geography. The very successful GIS certificate programs continue to flourish and we look forward to the first students enrolling in the GIS&T major.

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 (held this year by zoom). 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 and Geospatial Sciences 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. Although these are very difficult financial times for the College and the department, there are opportunities (e.g., new GIS&T major, proposed online GIS Undergraduate Certificate, pending multi-disciplinary Environmental Sciences major in GEOG/GEOL/BIOL) that stand to benefit the department and strengthen the role it will play in the college and 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 it is again safe to visit 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**

**Hélène Avocat**

Like many of us, 2020 has been very busy and challenging with the pandemic and the quick transition to online teaching. But this showed us how resilient we could be as well! This year has also been marked by the birth of our fourth baby, Jean.

**Marcellus Caldas**

My family, as many families in the country, had expectations and plans for 2020. Plans that would be part of our memories. The year of 2020 was supposed to be the year that we would commemorate the graduation of Gabe Caldas, the soccer senior year of Lucas Caldas, the 86th anniversary of my Dad, the 85th anniversary of my mom, the 87th anniversary of my father-in-law, and I was planning a big party to celebrate my anniversary (yes, I am 60-year-old now!!). None of these was celebrated in the way we want to, but we celebrated in the best way we could celebrate.
On the professional side, the year of 2020 was not too bad, and it shouldn’t be a difficult task to write about it. I was taking my time thinking in how to describe these things for the newsletter, when I realized that many things are more important for me this year than my accomplishments. I have seen too much suffering, sadness, or uncertainty about the future. There are a lot people unemployed, battling hunger, suffering from prejudices, or suffering for the loss of dear ones. For you that is in some way (or another) struggling, I want you to know that we are here for you as a source of support, and that you can count one of us. Together, we will make 2021 a better year to all of us!!

Doug Goodin

Typically, these newsletter pieces tend to be a pretty straightforward recap of the year’s activities, but this past academic year has been anything but typical, to the point where it’s hard to really know what to say about it. Over the past several years, I have based these personal updates on movie titles that seemed fitting to describe my year. It’s tough to think of a good title that captures 2020, though. Maybe “A Little Chaos” is appropriate? Or perhaps “Apocalypse Now”? Whatever the title, the movie of 2020 has not been a pleasant one, and if I were sitting through it in a theater, I think I’d ask for my money back. Clearly, that’s not an option, and I’ll be glad when we’re all safely vaccinated and can continue with normal life again, whatever “normal” means!

My main research efforts this year follow from the work I have been doing over the past several field seasons. I continue to make progress with my collaborative research on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and its effects on Ash trees in urban environments. One of the problems with EAB is that it is difficult to detect its presence and effects until has extensively damaged the infested tree, making both its diagnosis and treatment challenging. This is especially true in areas such as suburban streets and parks, where the Ash is often used as an ornamental tree. Maintenance of these trees (e.g. by pruning) can “hide” the effects of EAB, making visual assessment of the damage difficult. My colleagues and I have made substantial progress toward developing a method for detecting EAB and other stress effects at the leaf level using spectral analysis. This is an improvement over previous remote sensing methods, which relied on observing the entire canopy. We have tested our method in-situ using a portable spectrometer. Next season, we plan to use a UAV-mounted spectrometer to see if we can detect the stress that way. Hopefully, I’ll have some results by this time next year.

On a personal level, I anticipate that at least the first six months or so of 2021 will be mostly spent masked and isolated as much as possible. I have begun to make some after-pandemic plans, though. Once we are vaccinated and community spread of COVID is checked, I plan a massive road trip to visit family and friends. I haven’t see some of them in person in well over a year, and that’s just too long. I hope you and your families are safe and healthy, and that the upcoming year is a better one for all of us.

Lisa Harrington

Well, as for everyone else, 2020 has been a bit limiting. This has mainly been felt as more restrictions in travel (including professional meetings) and in-person socializing, although zoom and other media have kept less direct connections going. It’s helpful to have homes at the coast and in the Cascade foothills, although having grown up in Colorado it seems a bit odd to be in wet winter foothills on the west side of the range.

I did get a book chapter done and I’m working on another with Chris Laingen. Dr. Joslin and I oversaw completion of Avantika Ramekar’s dissertation, and it’s looking like Christy Jean will complete as my last grad student in spring. It is really disappointing (though very reasonable) that the Seattle AAG meeting had to be cancelled — I was looking forward to a meeting within easy travel (there’s a train from Kelso to...
Seattle for those of us who hate traffic there). At any rate, I’m still doing a poster on change at Mount St. Helens, 1980-2020. Did get to my repeat photo stops there this year.

It’s time for me to prep for my spring teaching—my last class before retirement (!!!) is January-March 2021. I’ll also be serving as a geography department’s external reviewer in February. I audited an online class at the local college in the fall, moving toward the next phase of life. After decades, I can still draw 😊.

Shawn Hutchinson

This year marked my 20th as a faculty member in the department. It really is amazing how quickly time passes when you are doing something you enjoy and get to work with a great group of faculty and students!

This year, which has been challenging in so many ways, also marked an important milestone in the history of the department. As many of you already know, we recently re-branded ourselves as the Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences. With the modified name in place, we have officially added a new bachelor’s degree program in Geographic Information Science and Technology this year following approval from the Kansas Board of Regents. This achievement was easily a decade in the making and involved the work of many geographers over the years.

We are excited about the potential of this new interdisciplinary degree for our students and look forward to working closely with the Department of Computer Science on this unique program. Given the pandemic and with an eye towards growing future enrollment for both the new major and our GIS certificate programs, we have also begun an intentional design process to develop a robust online GIS&T curriculum.

With travel restricted, I can’t report much on interesting trips this past year. Instead, we moved forward with some long-planned backyard improvements including a new patio, deck, and hot tub. We decided to take the idea of a “staycation” to heart! The Hutchinson’s did manage to fit in a scuba trip to Cozumel in spring before everything shut down. We also “quarantined” ourselves for a month at our cabin in Montana. A planned Alaska float trip this summer on the Arolik River was postponed, but I’m holding out hope that it might happen in 2021!

The rest of the Hutchinson family is doing well. Stacy has transitioned successfully into her new position of Associate Dean for Research in the College of Engineering. Our son Mitch is a sophomore in Computer Science here at K-State and is an Engineering Ambassador. As some may know, Mitch faced a significant non-COVID health challenge this fall, but we’re happy to report that he is on the path to a full recovery. Marleigh is now a senior at Manhattan High and we are crossing our fingers that she will get to have a final soccer season this spring after last season was cancelled. It’s looking like K-State is in her future, as well. Finally, our labs Mocha and Maizy are still healthy and happy. They may be among the few who appreciate the pandemic as they get all of the attention and walks they could ever want!

Finally, I’d like to say a special thank you to all of the alumni who have stopped by to say “hello” over the past year. I very much enjoy learning about what our former students are doing after graduating. If you happen to be on or near campus in the future, please do visit once we’re allowed to do that sort of thing again!

Audrey Joslin

Although 2020 has certainly posed some unprecedented challenges, there have been many bright spots both professionally and personally this past year. It started out with an adventure to Guatemala for the Conference of Latin American Geographers in historic Antigua. Before the pandemic lockdown, I and my colleagues Jason Bergtold and Marcellus Caldas continued work on the wildfire project funded by the Global Food Systems Seed Grant. Together, we trained 8 graduate and undergraduate students in research and
Interviewing techniques and brought them on a spring break field trip to southwestern Kansas and the panhandles of Oklahoma and Texas where we conducted over 70 interviews with ranchers and farmers. Later in spring semester, my MA advisee, Michael Molloy, successfully finished and defended his thesis. My PhD co-adviser, Avantika Ramekar, followed suit and successfully defended her dissertation in the summer. In the meantime, I have been working on papers and grant proposals.

In terms of personal news, Michael Tyburski and I got married in Minnesota and then bought a house together here in Manhattan over the summer. The wedding was much smaller than we first planned (and in a different location!), but we have been humbled by the outpouring of support from family, friends, and colleagues. We cannot wait to have a housewarming party with friends and colleagues when it is safe to do so!

**Abby Langston**

Despite the upheaval in this crazy year of 2020, I have had many highlights both professionally and personally. My very first Masters student, Abbey Marcotte, successfully defended her thesis via Zoom in the spring semester of 2020, back in the early days of everyone figuring out how to live and work remotely. Her thesis was titled “Investigating rates and mechanisms of lateral erosion in a small bedrock river using erosion pins, structure-from-motion photogrammetry, and optically stimulated luminescence dating: Konza Prairie, northeast Kansas”. In the fall semester of 2020, I had two new graduate students start working with me. Olivia is a Masters student and will be working on how wide bedrock valleys develop on the Buffalo River in Arkansas, and Clay is a PhD student who will be working on numerical modeling of different mechanisms of valley width development through time.

The biggest news from me on the research front is that earlier this fall, I found out that my research proposal I submitted to the NSF Geomorphology and Land-use Dynamics program was selected for funding! The title of the proposal is “Beyond lithologic control of bedrock valley width: Investigating the role of persistent valley cover in bedrock valley width development, Buffalo River, AR”. Both Olivia and Clay, as well as my colleagues at the University of Arkansas will be working with me on this three-year project that includes field work (of course!) and a set of experiments in a laboratory flume.

I have enjoyed the extra family time I’ve had with my kiddos this year, and we went camping in Arkansas and South Dakota over the summer and to Colorado over Christmas. In August, I took my oldest child, Ethan, to Portland, OR where he started as a freshman at Reed College. He is doing great at college, and I’m happy he had an extra-long winter break at home!

**Max Lu**

Happy 2021! The past year has been an unusual one and I hope everyone is staying healthy and strong. My travel last year was all canceled but here are a couple of other updates. In spring and early summer, I helped to close K-State’s Confucius Institute after directing it for five years. The media has advanced a narrative about Confucius Institutes that is very different from what I have experienced. In the five years of its existence, our CI offered many language and cultural programs that aimed to enhance the public’s understanding of the Chinese culture and China. We invited a Pulitzer-winning journalist to talk about China’s birth control policy and other well-respected China experts to share their research. We participated in the China Town Hall organized by the National Committee on US-China Relations several years in a
row, which featured such speakers as Henry Kissinger, Condoleezza Rice, and former US ambassador to China Jon Huntsman. We worked with other units on campus (e.g., the Beach Museum) and in the community (e.g., local public libraries) to help sponsor their programs. We also offered workshops on calligraphy, taichi, paper cutting, and Chinese cooking. Our activities were well-received, sometimes attracting hundreds of people. I hope the general public has other ways of learning about China.

After being involved in the Advanced Placement Human Geography for many years, I teamed up with several geographers to write a textbook for it. The book “Human Geography for the AP Course” will be published by Bedford, Freeman & Worth in January 2021. Since its inception in 2001, AP Human Geography has been growing rapidly. In 2020, 218,300 students took the exam despite the pandemic.

On my home front, my daughter graduated from college in May. Like many other college students, Andrea completed her last semester back home, in Manhattan instead of Boston and now works at K-State’s Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. My older son Alex is a junior in mechanical engineering at K-State.

Chuck Martin
This year has been one with challenges like no other I have faced or seen in all my years at the university. In a typical year, most of my professional life is dedicated to serving as department head in geography. Of course 2020 was anything but a typical year, and the challenges of navigating the pandemic and its financial fall-out for the department have been nothing less than professionally consuming. Plans professional (e.g., present at the April AAG Meeting in Denver, conduct field work in Germany in July, attend the regional AAG meeting in Lincoln in October) and personal (celebrate my 60th birthday with family somewhere in the American Southwest in September) all fell victim to the pandemic. I lost count of the number of department head “zoom” meetings I attended on an almost weekly basis throughout the summer as the College scrambled to deal with an ever-darker fiscal picture. The conversion to teaching online from home from March to May is just a blur. The weekly trips after the shutdown last spring to an empty Seaton Hall, announcements hanging for events that never happened, are an eerie memory. Thank goodness for the supportive, energetic and creative colleagues in the department and the wonderful group of social science department heads to whom I turned often for ideas and support. I am truly looking forward to a more professionally and personally balanced year in 2021, with field work in Germany over the summer, daughter Christine’s graduation from Northeastern University in May, and a delayed 60th birthday celebration in the fall.

Kate Nelson
Happy 2021! Well, 2020 was certainly an eventful year. Like many, through all the change, I have at least learned a lot about working and teaching remotely. My family has been very fortunate to have remained healthy and in relatively good spirits throughout the year. The children, in particular, adjusted remarkably well. Moreover, we have been blessed with the addition of another family member. Our third daughter, Ruth, was born this past October and has been an absolute delight.

On the professional side, I was awarded my first major grant this year, had two papers published, and managed to submit five manuscripts for review. While the pandemic has certainly posed challenges to research progress I hope to be able to continue on this positive trajectory in 2021. Wishing all a safe and prosperous new year!

Bimal Paul
Although the 2020 was the most challenging year, it was the most productive year for my academic carrier – I published one book, edited two volumes of Encyclopedia on natural hazards and disasters, six papers in refereed journals, and contributed 42 book chapters. The year 2020 marked the crossing of my 100th publications in professional journals. I also received a Fulbright Flex award to conduct survey research in Nepal on housing recovery efforts after the 2015 devastating earthquakes. The award is for two years and my host institution will be Tribhuvan University, Central Department of Population Studies,
Kiritpur, Kathmandu, Nepal. I presented two papers—one in a professional meeting and other one in the University of Kansas. I served as external committee member for one dissertation from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand.

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. Our younger daughter is scheduled to marry on September 4, 2021.

Jeff Smith

While doing fieldwork in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico over spring break, I learned that the U.S. was in the midst of a major COVID-19 outbreak. Thankfully, I had made plans to return a day early and avoided the rush to get back into the U.S. From that point forward my entire life (like yours) has been disrupted by the pandemic. Nothing has been the same; teaching and research have all been disrupted. With that said, however, I am deeply thankful to have food to eat, a roof over my head, and a source of income. So many people throughout the world are not as fortunate. In late November I took a deep sigh of relief and as of late December, I am cautiously optimistic about the future. I wish each of you peace, happiness, and contentment. Please feel free to stop by my office when you find yourself in Seaton Hall, just wait until the COVID-19 vaccine has taken effect. Hang in there!

Vera Smirnova

Vera started 2020 by wrapping up a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, in Moscow, Russia and moving to Kansas in August. In the Fall she taught Human Geography and Urban Geography, while continuing her research into the post-socialist land privatization practices. In this regard, she has finished her project on the politics behind urban redevelopment in Moscow, resulting in a paper that is undergoing last revisions in a human geography journal Geoforum. Vera and her co-authors gave an invited seminar on this work at the New School for Social Research for the Decolonizing Eastern European Studies group in December. Vera also started a new research looking into the history of Russian geographic thought, which is due for submission in January. This project was presented at the Conjunctural Geographies of Post-socialist and Postcolonial Conditions workshop organized by the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (Dec.4-5). In addition, Vera has published a research paper on urban resilience at The Geographical Journal (Royal Geographical Society), book review at the Eurasian Geography and Economics, and organized a double special issue on urban disparities in Russian cities for the journal Urban Studies and Practices.

Arnaud Temme

Let me refrain from sharing the stories that did not work out in 2020, and focus on the great things that did happen with fantastic help from my amazing students and colleagues! First, I am happy to report the publication of a few exciting studies in 2020—six of which were in international peer-reviewed journals. My favorite one has “The future of landslides’ past” as part of the title, and deals with issues of terminology for landslides that cause more landslides. Second, all my graduate students successfully performed fieldwork and prepared datasets for analysis, which says a lot about their perseverance and about the value of working with our soil-science colleagues from the USDA. With their help, we sampled and described soils in Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and Michigan this summer and fall. This should lead to some interesting stories to
tell next year! Finally, we have our new lab space downstairs in Seaton’s basement up and running with the help of several alumni, and are currently equipping it with all we need. So, 2021 looks good from our perspective, especially if our plans to start an Environmental Science program come to fruition as well.

**Jida Wang**

During the bumpy year of 2020, I was blessed with health and safety, family and friendships, and continued progresses in career and life. Perhaps the most significant moment was my promotion with tenure. People often say tenure is all you work towards at a research university; I say it is the start of another exciting journey - where you have owned more flexibility to maneuver the path. This year, I said goodbye to my first Ph.D. graduate, Fangfang Yao, who had been a close company in my tenure-track period and will continue to be my dear colleague. I also welcomed my first postdoc, Safat Sikder, to our exciting team. Safat possesses top-notch skills in global hydrology and I am thrilled to work with him in the years to come. All my graduate students have made persistent progress their own ways, despite surely many challenges during this special year. At the end of 2020, I want to thank every one of our students and colleagues in the K-State Geography family.

Knowing my sabbatical was postponed, Jordan and I went on a two-week road trip to the Great Lake region this summer. We enjoyed the forests in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and particularly loved the Mackinac Island between Lakes Michigan and Huron. Here are a couple of pictures, with one proving we did practice ‘social distancing’. I am looking forward to more travels in 2021.

**Emeritus Faculty**

**John Harrington**

Remodeling our garage into additional living space and the construction of a new detached two car garage kept things interesting throughout much of 2020. Locals refer to a detached garage as “a shop.” In addition to 16 solar panels, our shop was designed with a loft for storage and perhaps as additional art studio space.

Driving to our second home in Bay Center, Washington, every couple of weeks for yard maintenance provides enjoyable views of the changing seasons. Travels in 2020 included 2 trips into the Cascades for hikes to waterfalls, a trip to Mt St Helens for repeat photography, and a trip to the Salton Sea area and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in southern California. Our October trip to Mt Rainier National Park had me hiking a trail that I had last been on in 1966. The Nisqually Glacier is now considerably smaller.

Thanks to the efforts of former students on whose graduate committees I served, I have had seven peer-reviewed publications published in 2020, including another in the Annals of the AAG and my first in the Geographical Review. During the past year, I was notified that I am a member of the 2020 class of AAG Fellows. My October blood donation got my lifetime total to five gallons.

**Dave Kromm**

As with everyone else our lives have been turned upside down by Covid-19. We watched one granddaughter Williams College graduation and another granddaughter North Carolina high school graduation online. We planned to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary with our family in northern Vermont, but we instead enjoyed all 14 of us together on Skype, including a granddaughter who is a doctoral student at...
Cambridge University in England. Bobbie and I take day trips in Kansas which included driving the Native Stone Scenic Byway. Our anniversary picture was at Echo Park along the way. Keep Safe!

Dick Marston

I am staying active in the profession by continuing to serve as General Editor for Physical Geography for the Wiley-AAG International Encyclopedia of Geography. I also serve on an AAG award committee, nominate colleagues for awards and honors each year, and am co-editing a geomorphology textbook for Cambridge University Press. I authored two journal articles that appeared in 2020:


Like everyone else, Nancy and I have curtailed travel during COVID, but enjoy walking, bicycling, and horseback riding. We split time between her California homes in Newport Beach and Big Bear Lake. I am happy to stay in touch with my former graduate students from my years as a professor at UTEP (6 years), Wyoming (13 years), Oklahoma State (6 years), and Kansas State (11 years). Nancy joins me in wishing GGS faculty, students, and staff a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Current Students

Meng Ding

As a current PhD student, I am still exploring how to become a qualified and creative researcher which I dream of being in the future. This process of achieving this goal is extremely challenging. The worse thing is that 2020 undoubtedly brought more difficulties for everyone. 2020 is destined to be written in a history book because there have been too many events that shocked the world throughout the entire year. From January to March, the epidemic in China, especially in Wuhan, is unexpected serious. I and many of my Chinese friends tried our best to support our families and reduce their anxiety by sending caring messages and communicating more. Unfortunately, since the spring break, we have to also care about ourselves when there are the increasing cases in the US. Until now, COVID19 is still affecting our normal study and life. Due to the vaccine, I believe that this hard time will pass quickly, and we will eventually defeat the virus. The benefit during the pandemic is that we have more time to spend with our families. But as an international student, because of the flight rules, I could not go back to China to visit relatives as planned before, and I can only hear about the changes in my family through the internet. My family in China welcomed a cute cat this year, and this cat can stay with my dear Labrador dog and play together. My only brother get married in September, I feel so sorry to be absent. Hope everyone will be safe in 2021.

Amariah Fischer

So much happened in this past year that it’s hard to even think of what to share, so I will just focus on a few highlights. During 2020, I began my second year as a PhD student at KSU and had the privilege of serving as the first NRES Graduate Student Fellow. Through this opportunity I was able to mentor a group of undergraduates through a semester-long research project, a challenging and rewarding
experience. Perhaps my happiest memory from last year, though, was my partner and I buying a puppy! Her name is Roma, and she is a Great Dane (hence why she doesn’t look like much of a puppy in the picture), and even as I type this, she is trying to get all 120 lbs. of herself on my lap. We couldn’t have asked for a better quarantine companion. My partner, Marc, and I also traveled to western Nebraska this summer to enjoy the non-flat portion of the state. The picture right is from Toadstool Geologic Park in northwestern Nebraska. Lastly, one of the most encouraging and heartwarming parts of 2020 was seeing the students from the department support one another through what was a really tough year. We would have zoom work sessions and help each other with assignments or just keep each other company while we worked. First picture is from a camping weekend with just a few of us. Last year would have been so much harder without my friends from the department.

Abu Maroof

I finished my 3rd year as a PhD student in 2020. The whole 2020 was something like a “Management Project”. The whole pandemic situation decreased the opportunity to interact with my fellow colleagues and teachers. I am the lead TA for the GEGO 122 lab since 2018, and it felt very strange to teach a lab online. We had to make many compromises, but I still believe we tried our best to teach the students the basics of physical geography.

I almost finished my final PhD proposal and completed some initial analyses. I presented a poster to the fall meeting of American Geophysical Union (AGU) in last December. I contributed to a book chapter (Natural Hazards and Disasters: From Avalanches and Climate Change to Water Spouts and Wildfires) that is published in last December and Dr. Paul is the editor. I am planning to pass my preliminary exam this year and be a PhD candidate.

On a more personal note, I count myself an angler and caught a lot of fishes last summer. It helped me a lot to keep my sanity in this unprecedented time. Hopefully, I am going to be a father for the first time in this summer. I am feeling both nervous and excited at the same time. I have great expectations for 2021 and I believe the situation will improve soon and we have good times ahead.

Nicholas McCarl

This year has been different and full of new experiences for me as a graduate student here in the department! I was given the opportunity to teach an online section Introduction to Physical Geography. I had an awesome time getting to know students as well as gain experience teaching! I also had the opportunity to help my advisor, Arnaud Tempme, craft a global campus version of that same class. In the Spring, I am hoping to teach a hybrid version of the course. Wish me luck!

I also went out many times to Konza Prairie for field work, while the weather was nice of course. I am getting quite familiar with the limestone bedrock benches in the landscape! In particular, at the end of November, my advisor and myself sampled limestone blocks for cosmogenic exposure dating. I can’t wait to see what 2021 brings for my research!

Alumni

Ryan Bergstrom

With a little extra “free time” on our hands, we spent our year hiking, mountain biking, swimming, and looking for agates along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Most of this was FFF (forced family fun), but the older kids enjoyed it from time to time as well! One recently acknowledged that they enjoyed how much
time we spent together as a family this past year (I’ll count that as a parenting win). Academically, I was awarded tenure at the University of Minnesota Duluth (I watched the Board of Regents vote via Zoom), and I began a new research endeavor looking at the synchronicity between climate driven disturbances and governance/community response in the Great Lakes. The project will bring together 30 interdisciplinary scholars from across the region over the next three years - and I’m hopeful that not all of it will be virtual. We are looking forward to being able to travel again soon - fika outside of Sweden is just watered down coffee and half-hearted attempts at pastry.

Johnny Coomansingh (JCee) (PhD 2002)

It’s been 15 months now that I am in Trinidad. I came to Trinidad in September, 2019 and got married in December 2019 and it seems that returning to the United States will be long in coming. Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoyed the mango season and the many tropical fruits that were available. Forming part of the fruity fare were guavas, West Indian cherries, pineapple, soursop (guanabana), sugar cane, sugar apple, star apple (June plum) and silk bananas. Of course, the several local dishes such as callaloo and coo-coo, pelau, dhalpuree roti with curry chicken, fish broth, cow heel soup, chicken foot souse and the famous roadside favorite known as “Doubles” once again became part of my diet. I was due to return to the United States in the middle of March 2020 but I chose not to return because of the COVID-19 restrictions. In fact, I was counseled to stay in Trinidad because of the way things were going in the US regarding COVID-19 infection rates and deaths. There are flights that are leaving but no flights coming in. Wearing a face mask is now law in Trinidad and Tobago (TT), and social distancing is compulsory at groceries, stores, restaurants and government offices. I comply. The beaches are now open but there are certain restrictions that must be observed. COVID’19 has taken quite a few lives here in TT. These days our mantra is “Stay Healthy, Stay Safe.”

Although I had to remain here in TT I did not let the days be idle ones. I am still in love with research and writing. I am now the publisher for My Trinidad, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, the only monthly online literary magazine in the Caribbean region. Under the auspices of My Trinidad, members have contributed via the Zoom platform to highlight some of the cities and villages in Trinidad with emphases on cultural geography. The magazine is available at MyTrinidad.net. Along with my work in My Trinidad I am involved with researching some tourism aspects about Trinidad and Tobago. Recently I published a chapter: "Saving the Leatherback Turtle in Grande Riviere, Trinidad: Community Engagement at Work" published in the text, The Routledge Handbook of Community-Based Tourism Management: Concepts, Issues and Implications. Presently I am working on three more chapters.

Leslie Duram (MS 1991)

Is still Director of Environmental Studies and Professor of Geography at Southern Illinois University. In early March 2020 she took a week-long backpacking trip into the Grand Canyon. It was a challenging, amazing, and beautiful experience. She had no cell phone coverage for 6 days, so imagine the shock when she returned to civilization to find the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. She hopes all K-Staters are staying safe! Looking forward to better times for all people and our environment in 2021!

Ian Fannin-Hughes (BS 2014, with NRES)

Ian currently works as the water resource manager and planner for a local government in the Kansas City
Metro. He continues to lead environmental initiatives across the Metro with groups like Heartland Conservation Alliance, Deep Roots, Mid-America Regional Council, and Johnson County Stormwater Management Committee. He is also a member of the University of Kansas Environmental Industry Board as of 2018. Ian completed his Master’s degree at the University of Kansas in Environmental Assessment and Planning in May 2020.

His capstone project was to create a Community Resilience Plan for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation to aid the Nation in building resilience in the face of acute disaster and long term stressors. Ian is currently collaborating on community resilience and natural-human systems research at the University of Kansas and plans to publish findings in 2021.

When not working, Ian can be found gardening, writing, and trying to keep his sanity with his two children and wife as they work from home.

Katherine Franke Jardieu, GISP (BS 2008, MS 2010)

I was a geography major graduating in 2008. I then stayed and continued working in GISSAL until 2010 under the Ft. Riley grant with Dr. Hutchinson. My husband and I moved back to Kansas from Nashville now that we have a son. Jimmy is four years old and we are hoping to bring another son home, from China, in 2021. I have veered from GIS into City Planning and obtained a Master’s from University of Nebraska-Lincoln through the GPIDEA consortium and am now the City Planner for Raymore, MO. I am enjoying being back in Kansas and am hopeful I will get to show off the area more to my family once things open up again.

Matt Gerike (PhD 2012)

Greetings from Tidewater Virginia! Thankfully I was able to take trips to Bristol and the Blue Ridge before the pandemic. I continue to manage the GIS aspects of Virginia’s Next Generation 9-1-1 deployment for the Commonwealth. This means working with GIS, public safety, and 9-1-1 staff in each of Virginia’s 133 localities, as well as regional groups, contractors, and vendors. It is exciting to see how geospatial routing of emergency calls following the NENA i3 standard leverages local GIS data and makes a difference for citizens when they need it most. I also continue to work with students, faculty, and staff at William & Mary as a Research Scholar of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Between RV trips to the James and Rappahannock rivers this fall, I was pleased to be a 2020 recipient of URISA’s Service Award at their virtual GIS Pro conference.

Jason Holcomb (MA 1994; PhD 2000)

What a year. I started 2020 in the Department of Agricultural Sciences after having been reassigned there to develop a certificate in precision agriculture (PA), despite having never had a course in precision agriculture myself. It was stressful and overwhelming, and then the pandemic hit. Near the end of the spring semester I learned there would not be enough funding to continue the PA program at this time and I would be moved back to my previous department, which was OK by me. Our annual trek to our place in Iowa was delayed by the pandemic and other factors, but we did make it for about one and a half months, pandemic hair included (see photo). I used my time in Iowa the previous summer to do fieldwork for an article I coauthored, which was published in March of 2020. See Holcomb, J.P.; Frederic, P.; Brunn, S.D. A Visual Typology of Abandonment in Rural America: From End-of-Life to Treading Water, Recycling, Renaissance, and Revival. Land 2020, 9, 94. doi:10.3390/land9030094.
This is my twentieth year at Morehead State University, and 2020 will mark the first year since 1987 that I have neither lived in nor visited Kansas, which is one more reason for me not to like 2020. We moved into a new house in Morehead in 2020 and really like our new neighborhood. Heather and family stopped farming a couple years ago now. Ian is in the second grade but has not spent a single day in the school building with his classmates. We are looking forward to a more normal 2021 and a visit to Kansas!

Leonard H. Le Blanc III (B.S., 1973)
I am Dean and Vice-President of Institutional Advancement, American University of Sovereign Nations (AUSN) and Professor of Social Science and Human Security. It is a new, on-line, global educational institution based in CA. I received a M.S. in Public Health in 2020 from AUSN. I am the General Manager of SEATE Services. We sell new and used books on-line plus the Iraq Commitment Medal (Military and Civilian versions) for anyone who served in Iraq during GWII. My new book DONALD TRUMP RUNS THE U.S. “DEEP STATE!” is on Amazon along with my other four books. It is about the largest theft and cover-up in U.S. history and largest group of Americans to betray their country. I am also a Contributing Editor for EXPAT LIFE IN THAILAND writing articles, interview and book reviews. I live in Bangkok with my wife and two children.

Rhett Mohler
Hi Everyone. I hope you are all saying safe as we near the one-year mark in the ongoing pandemic. It has been long enough since I have done one of these newsletter entries that I can’t remember where I left off last time! Currently, I am an Associate Professor in the Geography Department at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan, where I have been since 2012.

The main classes I teach are Remote Sensing, Advanced Remote Sensing, our department’s internship/research project class, and our Introduction to Physical Geography general education class. At times, I have taught Climatology and Climate Change and our general education World Regional Geography class as well. We are currently doing a hybrid approach for most of our classes due to classroom seating limitations from COVID. Many of my upper-division courses have been under this cap and can go on pretty much as normal so I am lucky in that regard. Nonetheless, like everyone, I am looking forward to things feeling “normal” again.

My research interests have shifted since I was at K-State, and instead of studying grassland burning I have been using drone imagery to map invasive species like Phragmites australis and common buckthorn. It is amazing how far drone technology has come in a relatively short period of time and how it has revolutionized small-scale studies and remote sensing of local areas. I can vividly remember being on the Konza Prairie with a K-State faculty member from another department trying to capture imagery with a digital camera strapped to a remote-controlled airplane (and the airplane crashing), or having a helicopter fly in from K-State Salina to try and capture similar imagery (fortunately no crashes). Getting this imagery has become so routine with a drone! In any case, my research program is now geared mainly toward providing undergraduate students with opportunities to engage in research, and they are responding well. So far, four of my students have passed their Federal Aviation Administration UAV exam to fly drones commercially or for research, and those and several others have presented research at regional meetings and at the national American Association of Geographers Conference.

Speaking of the AAG conference, I still attend regularly (hopefully they are in-person again soon) and hope to see some of you there – perhaps in 2022. I wish everyone the best in 2021 and as always – Go Cats!

Michael Molloy (M.A. 2020)
I am starting my Ph.D. at The University of Oklahoma in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability under Dr. Anthony Levenda. Additionally, I work for the City of Topeka as a GIS analyst. Also here is me standing over the prime meridian.
Rorik Peterson:
While 2020 was an extraordinary year where little went to plan, I was fortunate to enjoy a rather successful year personally and professionally. Professionally, I continue to serve as Director of Development in the Central Region for EDP Renewables North America, and we have advanced an aggressive growth strategy of wind farms and solar parks, with multiple projects under construction and in late stages of development. I feel fortunate to be able to participate in the growth of green energy and a cleaner future for all of us, while bringing investment to portions of rural America, where it is certainly needed. I went from traveling almost weekly prior to the pandemic, to not traveling at all for work, which was a bit of a transition, but it is nice to be home more (though, I admit, I'm eager to take to the skies and hit the road again soon!).

Personally, my husband and I continue to enjoy living in the Kansas City area, and while the pandemic greatly altered our plans for the year, we are grateful for all that we have been able to experience and enjoy this year. Our travel plans were largely scrapped, but we were able to escape to Colorado a couple of times for some snowboarding (right before the pandemic escalated quickly) and for some hiking this fall.

Patricia (Bennett) Solís (BA, BS 1994; MA 1996)
The AAG’s Ronald F. Abler Distinguished Service Honors for 2021 is awarded to Patricia Solís, Executive Director of the Knowledge Exchange for Resilience (KER) and Research Associate Professor in the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning at Arizona State University. Solís is an international leader in facilitating geospatial collaborations around local and global sustainability in novel ways that involve partners in higher education and institutions around the world.

Solís is truly innovative in her approach to develop and execute transformative programs. She has developed more than 50 programs promoting innovations in research, education, and community collaboration, funded by substantial support from federal agencies. Many of these programs seamlessly combine service to local and global communities with advancing the discipline of geography. One example of this is Solís’ work to fund and co-founded YouthMappers, an international network of university students and faculty working to support the creation and use of open geospatial data for humanitarian and development assistance. In YouthMappers, Solís strives to help youth develop their leadership skills through mentoring and training in geospatial techniques. Meanwhile, these youth leaders join what Solís refers to as the geospatial revolution, which supports improving the quantity and quality of open geospatial data and geographic knowledge to support improved decision making and policies that lead toward greater resilience.

Solís is now serving as director of Knowledge Exchange for Resilience (KER), where she once again demonstrates her innovative programming. KER is a program that aims to build community resilience in Maricopa County, Arizona, by linking multi-sector community needs with research innovations. Most recently, KER worked to bridge the community and university to improve the area’s resilience to COVID-19.

Solís has served the AAG for many years, including as Deputy Director, Director of Research and Outreach, and Director of Strategic Initiative. In these roles she implemented activities—including revitalizing specialty groups, supporting developing regions, and embracing...
diversity and inclusion—that transformed the organization, caused membership to surge, and aligned geography within the context of major global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development. During this time, she also played a part in establishing a multimillion-dollar endowment for the AAG, improving the organizations’ productivity and visibility—yet another way in which she has contributed to be transforming the lives of youth and advancing geography. As Ron Abler himself said of Solís’ service: geography’s future will “continue to brighten thanks to her manifold contributions throughout the Americas.”

Breitkreutz Wilhelm
I’ve been working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since graduation from the Master’s program at KSU. A few years ago I transitioned to the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) based out of Hanover, New Hampshire, but am working remotely from Kansas City. After spending the better part of my time working in geospatial software development, last year I was accepted to a long-term training program through the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) which provides a year sabbatical to pursue more training. This has allowed me to start a PhD in Geology at the University of Kansas, just down the road. I’ll be concentrating on glaciology and remote sensing of polar regions. This allows me to leverage some working relationships between CRREL and KU and I’m excited to see where it will let me go. Here’s hoping to a better 2021 for everyone!

Selected Faculty Accomplishments

Helene Avocat
Developing the cartography and GIS teaching has been one of my main task this year as we want to offer a fully online and updated curriculum. Writing an open textbook is part of this achievement
The Map of the Week series was also a very rewarding achievement, and collected many positive feedback

Marcellus Caldas
“Agricultural Food Production and the Conservation Reserve Program in the Context of Wildfire: Assessing Rural Perceptions and Land Management in the U.S. Southern Plains.” PIs: Audrey Joslin, Marcellus Caldas, Jason Bergtold (Kansas State University), Global Food System (GSF), (Funded).

Lisa Harrington

Shawn Hutchinson
Recent publications in the Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management (Editor’s Choice Award) and Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. Developed two online courses – Programming for Geographic Analysis (Python) and Computer Mapping and Geographic Visualization. New interdisciplinary major in Geographic Information Science and Technology approved by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Audrey Joslin
Presentation at the Conference of Latin American Geographers in Antigua, Guatemala
Publication in the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*

Successful defenses for MA advisee Michael Molloy and PhD co-advisee Avantika Ramekar

**Chuck Martin**
Served as member of the Editorial Board for the journal *Geomorphology*

Served as department head in what was the most challenging year for the department in the 31 years I have been at K-State

Taught half of my GEOG 761/861 seminar online in the spring, my GEOG 310 online in the summer, and GEOG 310 as a “hybrid” class in the fall

**Kate Nelson**


Kansas State University Global Food Systems – Seed Grants, “Quantifying agricultural and social vulnerability to climate change in the Eastern Kansas River Basin to inform decision-making”, summer 2020 – summer 2021. $45,324 (co-PI)


**Bimal Paul**

Received Fulbright U.S. Scholar (Flex) award, 2020-2021.

Published one book (“Disaster Deaths: Trends, Causes and Determinants”) and two edited volumes of Encyclopedia on natural hazards disasters.

Marked the crossing of my 100th publications in refereed journals.

**Vera Smirnova**


**Jeff Smith**

I published a co-authored article with Rodrigo Aranha in the *Geographical Review* – Cognitive mapping as a method to assess peoples’ attachment to place.

I published an article in *The Professional Geographer* – An assessment of the value of professional book reviews

I published an article in *Material Culture* – The effects of cultural disturbance on irrigation practices in the upper Rio Grande region.

**Arnaud Temme**

Six papers in Scopus, in international peer-reviewed journals

Successful (and safe!) fieldwork in several states

Lab facility in Seaton online and ready for use

**Jida Wang**

Gained tenure with promotion to Associate Professor

Awarded a research grant from the NASA Earth Science Division

Received a William L. Stamey Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award from the K-State College of Arts and Sciences
Graduate Student Theses and Dissertations

2020
Marcotte, Abbey L.  Investigating Rates and Mechanisms of Lateral Erosion in a Small Bedrock River using Erosion Pins, Structure-from-Motion Photogrammetry, and Optically Stimulated Luminescence Dating: Konza Prairie, Northeast Kansas (MA; Dr. Abigail L. Langston)

Molloy, Michael.  Adaptation to Coastal Environmental Change in Louisiana: An Analysis of Local and State Environmental Governance Relationships (MA; Dr. Audrey Joslin)

Ramekar, Avantika A.  Living with Oil and Natural Gas: A Risk Perception Study Among Adults in Kansas and Oklahoma (PhD; Dr. Lisa M.B. Harrington and Dr. Audrey Joslin)

Yao, Fangfang.  Global Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Inland Water Body Storage during the Satellite Altimetry Era (PhD; Dr. Jida Wang)

2019
Anderson, Christina.  Resettlement and Adjustment of Bhutanese Refugees in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area (PhD; Dr. Max Lu and Dr. Jeffrey S. Smith)

Ding, Meng.  An Improved Geography of Surface Water Abundance in Lakes and Reservoirs (MA; Dr. Jida Wang)

Chileen, Barrie.  Vegetation Response to Wildfire and Climate Forcing in a Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest over the Past 2,500 Years (MA; Dr. Kendra McLauchlan)

Rogers, John.  The Contemporary Scottish Gaelic Linguistic and Cultural Landscape (MA; Dr. Jeffrey S. Smith)

2018

Bauer, Karl F.  Free Land Programs Revisited: A Case Study of Four Kansas Communities (MA; Dr. Max Lu)

Fischer, Amariah 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)

Granco, 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)

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

Haghighatollahb, 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)

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Note from the editor: 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 ~ bkp@ksu.edu

- B. K. Paul (editor)