

SPRING 2008

THE COLLEGE OF **arts&sciences**

geography

DEPARTMENTAL NEWSLETTER



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Retrospective

From The Chair



Spring semester 2008 marks my 38th year in the department as a faculty member and 17th year as departmental chair. I have been exceedingly fortunate to have had the opportunity to develop an academic career in the company of wonderful colleagues—students, staff, and faculty. In 1970, upon completing graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, I arrived at the University of Kentucky as an assistant professor in the ge-

ography department which was comprised of eight faculty members, eight graduate students, and one staff secretary. “Startup” for some faculty members was a manual Royal typewriter, a stapler, and a few pencils; others had to bring personal typewriters from home. The teaching load was three courses per semester. Though modestly equipped, our undergraduate course enrollments were strong and the faculty was active in research and publication. Though our departmental travel budget was almost nil, we regularly attended regional and national meetings, often traveling as a group in someone’s personal car just as we had done as graduate students. Although some faculty members departed during the early 1970s, the dean provided funds to hire three new colleagues. By 1975 we were joined by Richard Ulack, Thomas Leinbach, and Gary Shannon. Our collective research activity increased dramatically, as did graduate student applications, and undergraduate enrollments continued to grow. John Watkins and John Paul Jones obtained the department’s first personal computers in the mid-1980s, two IBM ATs, which, although funded by an extramural grant, cost \$30,000.

Today our departmental staff and faculty is larger by three fold than it was in 1970. Our faculty of eight has grown to twenty; our “broom closet” cartography lab in Patterson Office Tower, long since converted from manual to computer cartography, now occupies three rooms in Miller Hall, all under the guidance of Dick Gilbreath, director of our Gyula Pauer Cartography Lab. Our GIS lab occupies two rooms in White Hall Classroom Building and a

room in Miller Hall. Jeff Levy is our staff GIS instructor and technician. Our POT office is managed by two talented full-time staff members, Lori Tyndall and Raegan Wilson. In the late 1990s we elected to add a physical geography component to our teaching curriculum and research clusters. We have since hired six faculty members whose research and teaching interests incorporate geomorphology (Jonathan Phillips, Alice Turkington, and Marshall Wilkinson), biogeography (Rosemary Sherriff), and environmental issues (Tad Mutersbaugh and Morgan Robertson). Our professional presence in the discipline is marked not just in the “AAG Guide to Graduate Programs,” but by our page on the world wide web, newly revised by our former student Boyd Shearer (see www.uky.edu/AS/Geography/index-b.php). And, to further strengthen our graduate program, we have put considerable effort into developing three endowments. The Withington, Barnhart, and Percy funds are now vested, matched in part by faculty and alumni donations and Research Challenge Trust Fund support, so that discretionary monies can be used to support graduate student research and travel to professional meetings.

One can measure academic departmental strength and appeal in several ways: faculty research productivity as suggested by extramural grants received, books and journal articles published, professional journals edited, professional meetings arranged and hosted, and graduate students recruited, advised, and graduated. Teaching success is evident in superior student evaluations and graduate student placement. In all these measures our department excels. More difficult to measure, but straightforward to experience, is the pride that our faculty, staff, and students take in the department’s reputation as a wonderfully collegial place to work and study. We genuinely enjoy the personal and professional company of our colleagues and are not embarrassed to refer to ourselves as a community of scholars. Doubtless academic geography at the University of Kentucky over the next four decades will see even greater change than we experienced over the past forty years. But the enduring thread of continuity that we would hope to continue, whatever the circumstances, is a legacy of first-rank scholarship and teaching conducted in a warm and collegial setting.

Karl Raitz
Chair, Department of Geography

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COVER PHOTO: "There is nothing -- absolutely nothing -- half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats," said Ratty to Mole in *Wind in the Willows*, and recent geography graduates Tiffany Thompson and Mary Richie would appear to agree! See Cover Story on page 15.

BACK COVER PHOTO: A ridge road traverses the Eden Shale Country of western Anderson County.

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Faculty and graduate students meet to start the new academic year, August 2007.

Department News

Richard Ulack Retires and Establishes a Fund to Help Students Study Abroad

Thirty-two year veteran of the UK Geography Department, Richard Ulack, announced his retirement effective spring semester of 2006. Dick obtained his doctorate in geography from Penn State University in 1972. After two years on the faculty at Indiana State University, Dick joined our department in 1974. His research and teaching interests centered on Third World Development, and he was especially interested in issues relating to population, migration, urbanization, and tourism and recreation in South, East, and Southeast Asia. He was widely recognized as one of the discipline's foremost experts on Southeast Asia, especially the Philippines where he accumulated some six years of field research, and service as a visiting Fulbright Professor.

Dick served two illustrious 4-year terms as departmental chair from 1988 to 1996. He also served as Director of Undergraduate Studies (eight years), and Director of Graduate Studies (seven years). He lent his considerable energy and intellectual talent to the geography profession by serving as contributing editor of the "Philippine Geographical Journal," President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Asian Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, and as a board member of the University Press of Kentucky. Dick authored, co-authored, or co-edited some three dozen journal articles and seven books including "Appalachia: A Regional Geography; Land, People, and Development" (1984); "Mobility and Employment in Urban Southeast Asia" (1987); "Atlas of Southeast Asia" (1989); "AIDS and the Social Sciences: Common Threads" (1991); "Atlas of Kentucky" (1998); and "Southeast Asia: Diversity and Development" (2000).

Upon his retirement, Dick arranged a departmental endowment in his name that is intended to support travel as well as language and area studies training, and other educational experiences for undergraduate students who wish to participate in study abroad programs. During his tenure here at UK, thousands of students' educational experiences were enriched by Dick Ulack's teaching and advising. We strongly encourage all of Dick's former students, alums, and friends of the Geography Department to consider making a donation to the Richard Ulack

Study Abroad Endowment Fund, in care of the Department of Geography, to help underwrite this fund which promises to assist undergraduates to broaden their educational experience through study abroad.

Rosemary Sherriff and Marshall Wilkinson Join the Geography Department

In August 2007, our two most recent tenure-track faculty hires, Rosemary Sherriff and Marshall Wilkinson joined the department. Rosemary is a biogeographer. She completed her doctorate at the University of Colorado, working with advisor Thomas Veblen. Rosemary's research interests include disturbance history and climatic influences on forest dynamics, especially as these factors relate to fire occurrence and fire regimes in Rocky Mountain pine and fir forests. Prior to joining us Rosemary was on the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Marshall Wilkinson obtained his doctorate in physical geography from Macquarie University in 2006 where Geoff Humphreys was his advisor. Marshall's research and teaching interests include geomorphology, pedology, biogeography, and ecology. His current work relates to vegetation patterns, soil thickness, and landforms as they relate to long-term landscape evolution.



Marshall Wilkinson and team investigating biotic activity in soil formation in the Smoky Mountains.

Tom Leinbach and Anna Secor Win NSF Awards

The Geography Department is pleased to announce two new National Science Foundation (NSF) grants to departmental faculty this past year. The NSF awarded Tom Leinbach another major research award—Tom has now earned some 15 grants from NSF during his research career—for his project entitled “Towards a Knowledge Economy: Firm Competitiveness, Institutional Thickness, Localized Learning, and Supply Chain Networks in Penang, Malaysia.” This award in the amount of \$110,000 will run from 2007-09.

Anna Secor’s NSF award is on “The Veiling-Fashion Industry: Transnational Geographies of Islamism, Capitalism, and Identity.” Anna’s award is for \$199,000 and is funded for 2007-09.

Faculty Honors and Achievements

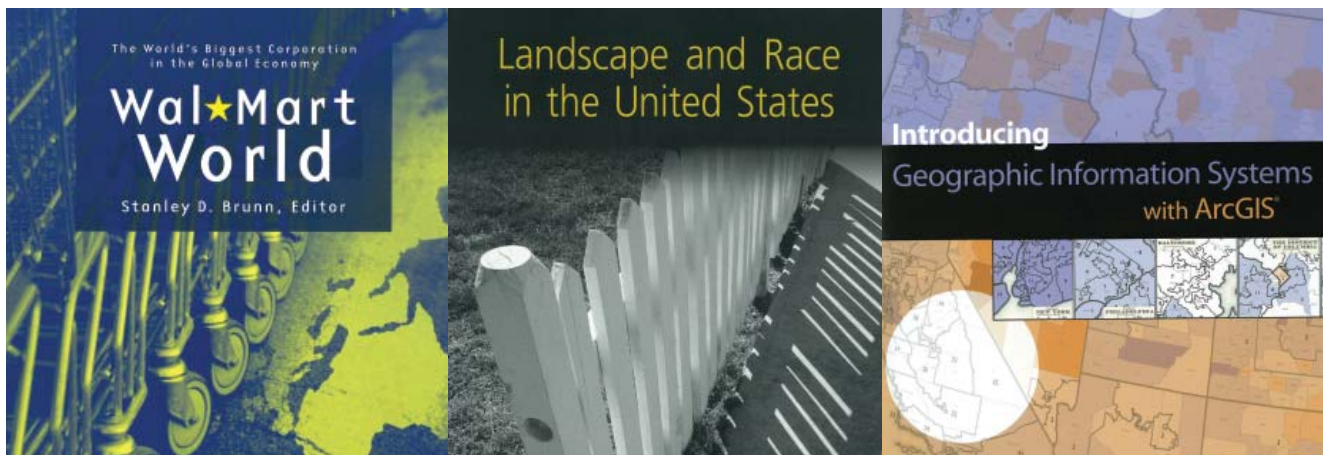
The department celebrated with Alice Turkington and Matthew Zook who were each awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor in 2007. Karl Raitz was honored with the UK 2006-07 Historic Preservation Faculty of the Year Award. Marshall Wilkinson won the Sir Keith Murdoch Fellowship from the American Australian Association. Stan Brunn was awarded the Life Time Achievement Award by the Southeast Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG). The University of Kentucky Geographical Society (UKGS)

selected Michael Crutcher as their Outstanding Faculty Member for 2006-07.

The faculty were busy applying for and winning grants to support their research. Michael Samers, together with collaborator Jane Pollard of the University of Newcastle, received a grant from the British Academy for a one year research project on “The Production of Trust: Making Islamic Finance in the UK and US,” and Matthew Zook received a Research and Exploration grant from the National Geographic Society and a Fulbright (which, unfortunately, he had to decline) to research the rise of Estonia’s software industry. Stan Brunn also received a Fulbright award and spent the fall 2007 semester in Kazakhstan.

Lynn Phillips earned professional certification and is now a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Stan Brunn was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Third Annual Conference on American Studies in Central Asia and Paul Karan presented the keynote address at the International Conference on Natural Hazards and Disasters held in India. The conference also marked the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Andhra Pradesh, and the 80th Anniversary of the Indian Geographical Society.

*New books by UK geographers include Stan Brunn’s “Wal*Mart World,” Rich Schein’s “Landscape & Race in the United States” and Michael Kennedy’s “Introducing Geographic Information Systems with ArcGIS.”*



Department News

Levy Hired as GIS Specialist

The Department of Geography was delighted to hire Mr. Jeff Levy as the new GIS Laboratory Manager. Jeff graduated from UK in 2000, and has since honed his GIS abilities working with the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, the Bluegrass Area Development District, private contractors, and local universities on a wide array of projects involving emergency response, planning and zoning, transportation maintenance, infrastructure inventories and accessibility, conservation, and map production for publications. Jeff notes that, such GIS work is increasingly central to civic infrastructure and assessment. Moreover, updating the maps of city water, roads, and zoning, generates new views of the region — in Jeff’s words “giving people something they had never seen before.”

These days, Jeff is to be found sharpening his valuable GIS skills in Miller Hall basement. A GIS analyst and instructor, Jeff teaches GEO 309: Digital Spatial Data as well as ESRI-Authorized ‘Introduction to ArcGIS I’, a popular two-day GIS certification course offered once a semester. Jeff enjoys his new position and is already working with faculty as they seek to integrate GIS and GIS generated maps into their research and teaching.

New GIS Lab Up and Running

The department received funding from the dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and the Executive Vice President for Research to purchase equipment to outfit a new, state-of-the-art Geographical Information Systems lab in the White Hall Classroom Building, and a multi-station GIS research lab in our Gyula Pauer Lab in Miller Hall. This new lab has been up and running for three semesters and has been used by a number of GIS and statistical methods classes. During the fall 2007 semester it was also used for an experimental class on “The Politics and Processes of GoogleEarth” taught by Professor Matthew Zook. Our newest addition to the Geography Department staff, Jeff Levy, is in charge of maintaining the lab as well as teaching GIS classes there.

UK Economic Geographers in Beijing

The Geography Department was well represented at the Second Global Conference on Economic Geography held in Beijing, China, in June 2007. A total of seven representatives of UK, faculty members Sue Roberts, Michael Samers, Andy Wood and Matt Zook; doctoral candidate Mark Graham; and alumni Josh Lepawsky (Memorial University of Newfoundland) and Jamey Essex (University of Windsor), took part in the conference. The conference was a follow up to a similar one that took place in Singapore six years earlier and was an opportunity for economic geographers from around the world to share research through three days of paper sessions. The location of the conference venue (immediately opposite the main stadium for the 2008 Olympics) also provided attendees with a first hand look at the incredible growth of China and Beijing. This was extended by a series of fieldtrips to the Zhongguancun High-Tech Region, the Beijing Economic and Technological Development Area, and the 798 Art Zone. Most of the attendees also got a chance to visit the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and shopping centers full of Chinese made goods ranging from traditional handicrafts to dubiously copyrighted versions of apparel and DVDs.



Left to Right: Professors Andy Wood, Matthew Zook, Sue Roberts and Michael Samers at the Beijing Conference

UK-University of Nottingham Exchange

Professor Louise Crewe of the University of Nottingham, Great Britain, was a guest of the department during the fall 2007 semester. Professor Crewe is an economic geographer specializing in issues of consumption, retailing, commodification, and disposal. In addition to meeting with students and faculty, she presented a talk titled “Does shopping matter? Passion, possession and the production of meaningful consumption.” From UK, Professor Andy Wood will visit Nottingham in April to present on his research.

Semple Day 2007

Amy Glasmeier was the 2007 Semple Day Speaker. Glasmeier is the E. Willard Miller Professor Economic Geography at Pennsylvania State University and the John Whisman Scholar of the Appalachian Regional Commission. She has written widely on technology industries and the special development problems of rural areas. Her most recent book, “An Atlas of Poverty in America: One Nation, Pulling Apart 1960-2003” (Routledge, 2005), examines the experience of people and places in poverty and the impact of poverty reduction policies. Her current work for the Appalachian Regional Commission explores the potential of renew-

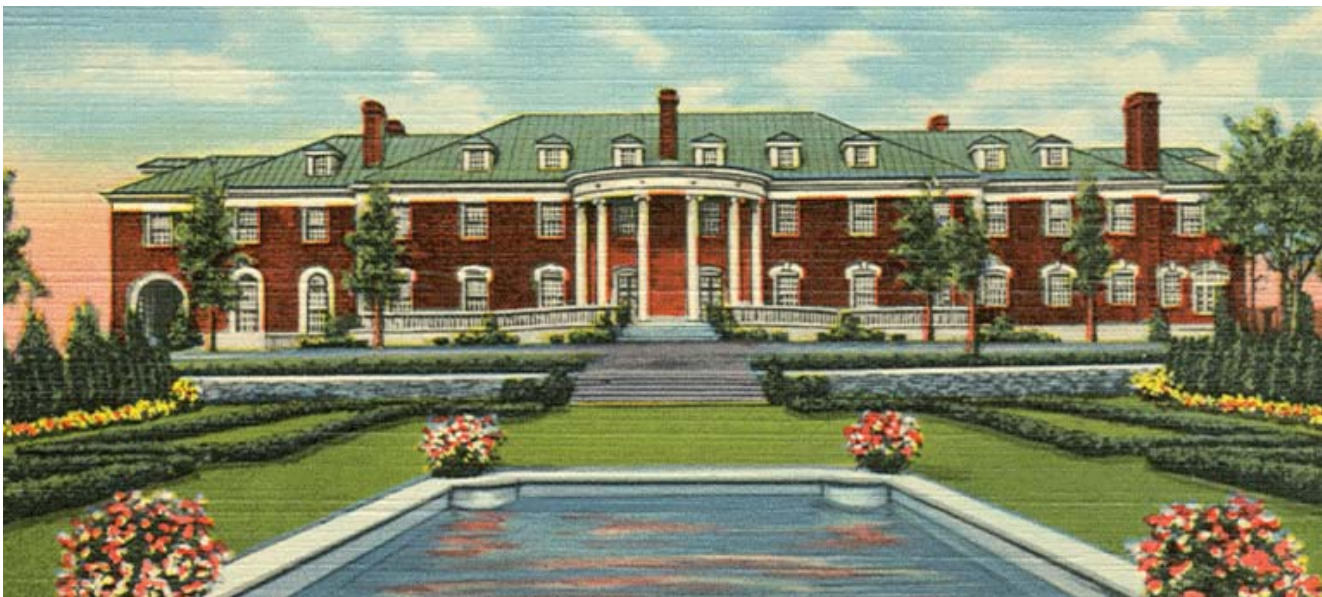


*Professor Amy Glasmeier,
Semple Day Speaker
2007.*

*Below: Spindletop Post-
card, c. 1935.*

able energy technologies to provide economic opportunity for communities in the region.

As is the tradition, Semple Day included an evening banquet at stately Spindletop Hall featuring the Department's annual awards ceremony.



Department News

Distinguished Professor from Japan is Spending 2007-08 at UK

Shii Okuno, a professor in the Faculty of Information Science, University of Marketing and Distribution Sciences at Kobe, Japan, is spending the 2007-08 academic year in the Department of Geography as visiting professor. Professor Okuno's research focus is on urban studies, economic geography and local economic development. He has published many studies on globalizing cities, the digital divide, environmental conservation, and regional development in Taiwan, and Southeast China, and minority settlements in Western Sichuan. He has also conducted research on sustainable communities in Japan, urban renovation programs in Tokyo, and Japanese investments in China. His book, "New High Tech Industrial Development District of China," is a classic work and Professor Okuno taught a course on the geography of China in fall 2007 at UK.



Shii Okuno

UK Geography Successfully Hosts Conferences

Immigration and Public Space: An Opportunity for Debate

Geography hosted a symposium entitled "Immigration and Public Space: An Opportunity for Debate" in March 2007. Conference organizers Patricia Ehrkamp and Michael Samers designed the event to solidify the growing interest in migration/immigration issues at the University of Kentucky, and to foster dialogue between academics and policy-makers. An evening forum featured presentations by Jan Rath of the University of Amsterdam, Lynn Staeheli from the University of Edinburgh, Alison Mountz of Syracuse University, and Mat Coleman from the Ohio State University. The next day featured a Graduate Student Roundtable and a Public Forum that included panelists from the local region involved in immigrant services and education, legal clinics, migrant rights organizations, and a Spanish language radio station.

The symposium was part of an initiative, led by Patricia and Michael, to develop a research and teaching cluster on migration.

A poster for a symposium. The top part has a blue background with white text: "Immigration and Public Space: an opportunity for debate". Below this, on a white background, it says "Sponsored by the Department of Geography and The College of Arts & Sciences". To the right, it lists the date "March 21, 2007" and the event "Immigration and Public Space: An Academic Forum". Below the date, it lists the time "4:00 6:30" and the location "Classroom Building Room 114". At the bottom, it lists the panelists: "Panelists: Dr. Jan Rath (University of Amsterdam), Dr. Mat Coleman (Ohio State University), Dr. Alison Mountz (Syracuse University), Dr Lynn Staeheli (University of Edinburgh)". There is also a note "Reception to follow". The poster features a decorative border of small human icons in yellow and blue.

14th Annual Mini Conference on Critical Geography

In October 2007, we hosted the 14th annual Mini Conference on Critical Geography. Outgrowing its previous designation as “Mini-”, the conference brought 100 scholars together to collectively explore critical geographies of social and environmental justice. The conference began with geographers Bruce Braun from City University of New York, Jim Glassman from the University of British Columbia, and Melissa Wright from Pennsylvania State University, offering reflections on social and environmental justice. After the opening dialogue, conference attendees enjoyed a reception, catered by Stella’s, a local eatery co-founded by former UK geographer Les Miller and family.

Friday and Saturday featured papers on topics ranging from sexuality to Critical Mass bike politics to the African palm oil industry in Ecuador. The breaks offered participants a chance to partake of local organic vegetables and cheese, fair trade coffee and chocolate, and Ale-8-1 salsa. UK Food Systems Initiative coordinator Bob Perry introduced conference participants to the endeavor to move the university catering service from industrial food contracts to partnerships with local Kentucky growers and businesses. Social and environmental justice never tasted so good.

opening chord:
critical geographies of social and environmental justice

thurs, oct 4 - 5:30-7pm
singletary center for the arts, president's room

speakers:
Bruce Braun, CUNY
Caroline Desbiens, Univ Laval
Jim Glassman, Univ of British Columbia
Melissa Wright, Penn State

14th annual mini conference on critical geography
october 4 - 6, 2007

paper sessions will convene on the 18th floor of patterson office tower
fri 8:30am-5pm and sat 8:30am-12noon,
coffee and bagels at 8am

opening reception:
thurs, oct 4
bell house 7-9pm

information: mmrobertson1@gmail.com

sponsored by: Department of Geography, College of Arts and Sciences,
the Vice-President for Research and the Latin American Studies Program

UK KENTUCKY

All-in-all, congratulations to the conference organizers Mathias Detamore, Patricia Ehrkamp, Morgan Robertson, and Anna Secor for all their successes in fundraising, organizing, and managing such an inspiring conference.

Fair Trade Coffee, Organic Bananas: Examining Product Certification

Also in October, we co-hosted another meeting on the theme of “Democracy vs. Transparency in Certified Products Networks” co-organized by Tad Mutersbaugh and Sarah Lyons, an anthropology professor. Sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences, the Gaines Center for the Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities the events were advertised on a hand-printed poster by local press Eight Seventeen.

The gathering began on a Wednesday evening with a double-feature at the Kentucky Theater “Buyer Be Fair: The Promise of Product Certification” and “Black Gold”—complete with local coffee roasters and retailers.

The following evening Julie Guthman, from Community Studies, UC Santa Cruz, presented a lecture “How Michael Pollan made me want to eat Cheetos,” and the conference wrapped up with two days of workshops.

Democracy, Transparency & Fair Play in Certified and Local Foods Networks

Wednesday October 10th
6-9 pm at the Kentucky Theatre
films on Coffee and Fair Trade:
' Buyer Be Fair:
The Promise of Produce Certification'
&
' Black Gold'

Graduate Program News

Geography Funds at Work

The Barnhart Memorial Fellowships in Geography and the Dr. William A. and Anne T. Withington Graduate Support Fund in Geography were initiated through the generous contributions of Jean T. Barnhart and Bill and Anne Withington, augmented by faculty and alumni contributions, and matched by the Commonwealth's Research Challenge Trust Fund. These endowments support short-term graduate awards in the Department of Geography for graduate student travel to research conferences and graduate student field work (including archival or other data gathering/generating trips) and/or foreign language training and/or any other research work critical to the successful prosecution of student theses and dissertations.

This past year the funds became fully vested and the department is very pleased to announce the inaugural awards of both the Barnhart and Withington endowments. Recipients included Liana Vasseur, to begin her dissertation field work in Florida on the landscapes of immigration; Stephanie Simon, who spent the summer in Boston and New York undertaking research for her dissertation on urban security in a post-9/11 world; and Jackie Salmond, who took language training classes in Kuala Lumpur in addition to her dissertation field work in the Perhentian Islands, Malaysia. Other students who received an award included Juli Hazlewood, for pre-dissertation work in Ecuador; Lauren Martin for pre-dissertation language training; and Abby Foulds, for language training and dissertation field work in Nicaragua. Finally, in the spirit of Bill and Anne Withington's long-standing commitment to student conference participation, 15 of our graduate students received modest funds to attend the 2007 AAG meetings in San Francisco.

Graduate Students Win Awards

Ellen Hostetter and Mark Graham received NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Awards. Matthias Detamore and Garrett Graddy received James S. Brown Appalachian Studies Awards. James Looney won a Multi-Year Fellowship, Tommy Wilson won a Still Fellowship, and Lauren Martin won a UK Presidential Fellowship, all from the UK Graduate School. Garrett Graddy and Mark Graham have received UK Dissertation Enhancement Awards, also from the Graduate School. Taro Futamura was awarded the "Outstanding Geography Teaching Assistant" prize for 2006-2007 by the UK Geographical Society.

Graduate Students Roam Far and Wide

Doctoral candidate Mark Graham conducted research in northeastern Thailand on the silk industry. Liana Vasseur has been enjoying the sunshine of Miami while conducting her doctoral dissertation work on Cuban migration. Abby Foulds also enjoyed sunshine this year, as her doctoral work took her to Nicaragua, where she investigated expatriate-led gentrification in Granada. Garrett Graddy spent the spring in the southern highlands of Peru harvesting potatoes and corn and looking into agricultural biodiversity measures in Cusco and the surrounding communities of La Parque de la Papa. Juli Hazlewood also traveled to South America to conduct doctoral research in 2007: she worked with local Afro-Ecuadorian communities in resistance movements to the encroaching African palm bio-fuel industry. Jacqueline Salmond spent the summer of 2007 and part of spring on the Perhentian Islands in Malaysia conducting the first part of her dissertation research with an island community involved in tourism. Jessi Schmid was in Cambodia where she was doing research on sex workers' organizations for her MA thesis.



Geography Graduates Find New Appointments

Mike Begin (PhD 2006) is teaching at the Korean National Maritime University in Mokpo, South Korea

Stephanie Blessing (MA 2007) works for the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, in Columbus, Ohio.

Marcia England (PhD 2006) is now Assistant Professor of Geography at Miami University, Ohio

Tyler Huffman (BA 1996) has come back to Kentucky and is now Assistant Professor of Geography at Eastern Kentucky State University

Ellen Hostetter (PhD 2007) is Ainsworth Visiting Scholar of American Culture at Randolph Macon, Va.

Esther Long (PhD 2005) is Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, Government and History at Morehead State University

Linda Martin (PhD 2006) is an independent consultant in Missouri.

Zach Musselman (PhD 2006) is now Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology, Millsaps College Mississippi

Viva Nordberg (PhD 2006) is a Lecturer in the Department of Geography, East Carolina University and also teaches at Pitt Community College in Greenville, N.C.

Laurel Smith (PhD 2005) is Assistant Professor in Geography and Honors at the University of Oklahoma

Deborah Thompson (ABD) is the Director of Programming in the Appalachian Center at Berea College in Kentucky

David Walker (ABD) is Assistant Professor of Geography, Ohio Wesleyan

Completed Theses and Dissertations

MA

Oliver Belcher, “An Archaeology of the Exception: Executive Power, Sovereignty, and the Production of ‘Enemy Combatants’” (Secor)

Benjamin Blandford, “‘Push one for English, push two to get deported’: Cardinal Valley and the Threat of Illegal Immigration” (Schein)

Stephanie Blessing, “‘Appalachian Ingenuity’ in Action: Activists Reach Beyond Traditional Economic Development in Kentucky” (Roberts)

Donna Gilbreath, “Projecting the results of state smoking ban initiatives using cartographic analysis” (Brunn)

Jason Speck, “Flexible Mormonism: Or the Post-Fordist Restructuring of Latter-Day Saint Religiosity” (Raitz)

Tommy Wilson, “Making Mountains: Between Landscape, Law, and Power” (Schein)

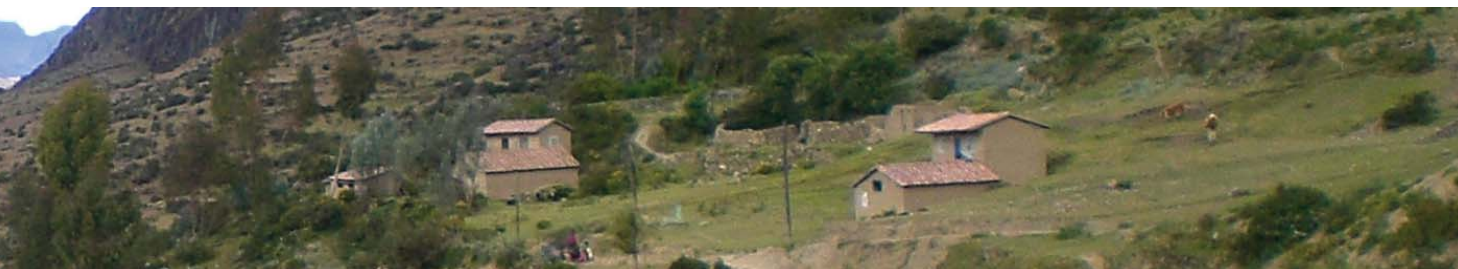
PhD

Michael Begin, “‘Virtual’ brides in the post-Soviet context” (Natter)

Taro Futamura, “Toward the Construction of ‘Kentucky Food’ in the Twenty-First Century: Food Localism and Commodification of Place Identity under Post-Tobacco Agricultural Restructuring, 1990-2006” (Raitz)

Jim Hanlon, “Distressed Public Housing and HOPE VI Revitalization: An Analysis of Park DuValle in Louisville, Kentucky” (Schein)

Ellen Hostetter, “The Emotions of Public Housing Policy: A Critical Humanist Exploration of HOPE VI” (Schein)



The landscape of small scale agriculture in the southern Peruvian highlands.

Undergraduate Program News

UKGS Annual Caving Trip

In October 2007 the University of Kentucky Geographic Society (UKGS) embarked on its annual fall caving trip to the Sinks of the Roundstone located in Rockcastle County, Ky. Led by the intrepid Professor John Watkins, this year marked the 20th anniversary of this tradition. Close to 400 adventurous students have made the trip so far without a single injury or mishap (unless one counts the deer Watkins hit coming home 15 years ago).

Undergraduate Student Awards

Jacob Wasilkowski was awarded a prestigious internship with the National Geographic Society (NGS) in Washington, DC. The purpose of the internship program is to offer geography students “a professional learning experience through participation in various projects aimed at the diffusion of geographic knowledge.” Jacob was selected from a national pool of applicants to be one of eight to ten students who will spend the summer of 2007 at the NGS.

Gamma Theta Upsilon initiates for 2007 are Christopher Lee Amburgey, Sandra Bottoms, Adam Michael Fox, Ashley Kelley, Brian David Labude, Daniel Ryan Labude, James Kenneth Maynard II, Michelle Grace Smith, Meagan Todd, and Bethany Zick.

At Semple Day, in April 2007, the following geography majors were awarded prizes:

Barrett Gahafer – Withington Human Geography Award for an undergraduate paper on a cultural geography theme - “Cardinal Valley: Re-creation of the Vernacular through Cultural Influences”.

Lindsay Beebe – Joseph A. Schwendeman Award for Highest Grade Point Average.

Meagan Todd – Ellen Churchill Semple Award for Best Undergraduate Research Paper. “Kaliningrad Oblast as a Flash Point of Conflict between Europe and the Russian Federation”.

Jacob Wasilkowski – Geohegan Award for his work with University of Kentucky Geographical Society.



The muddy aftermath of the UK Geographic Society annual caving trip.

Geography Majors Appreciate Their New Academic Advisor

Beginning in the fall 2007 semester the College of Arts and Science instituted a new advising structure in an effort to better serve its students. After their first year, students will be advised on their course schedules by professional advisors assigned to each academic major. Each advisor works hand-in-hand with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Chair of the relevant department.

Tricia Hargrove is the academic advisor for geography majors and is already advising students. Tricia received her Bachelor of Arts in corporate and organizational communication from Western Kentucky University and her Master of Science in organizational communication with an emphasis in business administration from Murray State University. She brings a wealth of experience to her advising duties, having worked as a marketing specialist for the College of Pharmacy at UK, a community and event representative for the Mid-South Region of the American Cancer Society, and an account representative for WTVQ News Channel 36 in Lexington. Before taking up her current position in the College of Arts and Sciences, Tricia was an academic advisor/graduate assistant for the College of Business and Public Affairs at Murray State. She reports that "After my time spent in the corporate marketplace, I found my niche in student academia while advising undergraduate business students during my graduate assistantship. Today, I truly believe in the philosophy of advising as teaching, and I look forward to seeing positive results in the successful academic outcomes of my students." Students report that Tricia has been providing excellent advice to our majors for which they are truly grateful.

Undergraduate Geography Majors Study Abroad

Our majors are an adventurous lot. Majors studying abroad this past year include Sandra Bottoms who went to Tallinn, Estonia, in summer 2007, where

she studied at Tallinn University. Jack Irvin spent the summer taking courses at the National University of Ireland – Galway. Robin Michler studied Hebrew and Geography at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Be'er Sheva, Israel from August 2006 through July 2007. Eric Lee O'Nan was in Madrid, Spain, at the University of Antonia de Nebrija for the fall 2007 semester, and Jacob Wasilkowski spent the summer of 2007 studying Polish language in Krakow, at the historic Jagiellonian University (Uniwersytet Jagiellonski).

Undergraduates Learn in New Physical Geography Lab

In order to provide lab space for the two new faculty hires in Physical Geography, Rosemary Sherriff and Marshall Wilkinson, the department oversaw the conversion of graduate student offices into state of the art labs in the basement of Miller Hall. Graduate Student offices were re-organized in Patterson Office Tower and new offices were secured in Bradley Hall to accommodate the former tenants.



Geography major Laren Bolender at work in the new physical geography lab.

Geography Major Spent Summer in Oaxaca, Mexico

Courtney Barlow, a geography senior, spent summer 2007 in southern Mexico. Courtney studied at La Universidad de la Tierra where she joined students from the University of Iowa and the University of Arizona in classes on the history and geography of Mexico and Oaxaca. Courtney and the other students also studied issues such as the rights of indigenous people (who make up a majority of the State of Oaxaca's population), environmental problems and their solutions, and the alternatives to development being pursued by people in the State. UK geography professor Tad Mutersbaugh and adjunct faculty member Oliver Fröhling coordinated the course, which included several guest lectures and field trips. While studying, Courtney stayed with a Oaxacan family, brushing up on her Spanish skills.

In addition, Courtney conducted her own research project. She studied the spatial strategies being em-

ployed by a group of teachers and social activists to maintain the broadcasts of their radio station in the face of harassment by various state authorities. Oaxaca has been caught up in social unrest since the teachers' sit-in during the summer of 2006 and Radio Plantón, as it is known, has been a significant resource for the umbrella Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (Asamblea Popular de los Pueblos de Oaxaca or APPO). Of her first time conducting her own research, Courtney reported that "it was a really good experience" but that because of the politically-charged nature of her research topic, she had to face difficult ethical and methodological issues that she did not anticipate. Courtney also travelled in the neighboring State of Chiapas, and is excited to be returning to Oaxaca in summer 2008 to take up an internship at Voces Oaxaqueñas Construyendo Autonomía y Libertad (VOCAL), an alternative media organization.



Classroom at Universidad de la Tierra, Oaxaca.



Courtney relaxing at La Universidad de la Tierra, Oaxaca.

geography

Name _____

Degree(s) _____

Class Year(s) _____

Current Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Stay Connected...

Please provide a brief statement of what you are doing and/or any recent changes.

We will include your news in an upcoming edition of the Geography Newsletter. Updating your mailing and email addresses enables us to communicate with you through future newsletters and other correspondence to Geography alumni.

Mail to:

Department of Geography
University of Kentucky
1457 Patterson Office Tower
Lexington, KY 40506-0027

Or E-Mail to:

rwils6@uky.edu

geography

Name _____

Degree(s) _____

Class Year(s) _____

Current Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Support Opportunities

Your support for the UK Department of Geography helps us provide opportunities for our outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. All contributions to the UK Department of Geography are tax deductible.

I would like to support the UK Department of Geography with a contribution of \$ _____

I wish to specify that my contribution be designated for:

The Richard Ulack Study Abroad Endowment Fund _____

Dr. William A. and Anne T. Withington Graduate Student Support Fund _____

The Barnhart Memorial Fellowship in Geography _____

G. Etzel Percy Graduate Fellowship in Geopolitics _____

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Alumni News

Alumni Updates

Please send us your news and updates via e-mail (to Ms. Raegan Wilson at rwils6@uky.edu) or using the Stay Connected form in this Newsletter. We love to hear from our alums!

Patricia Brown (formerly Casale) (MA 1974; PhD 1982) is a Senior Researcher at The Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Daniel Farr (BS 1998) owns and operates Healthsource Chiropractic and Progressive Rehab. He lives with his wife and daughter in Mayfield, Ky.

Leah Flora Heibert Marques (BA 2002) is currently living near Tokyo, Japan, teaching English language classes. She obtained a Master of Arts in applied linguistics with an emphasis on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in 2005. She writes that she thinks the department's website looks great!

Ronald W. Miller (BA 1954) retired from American Airlines after a 31 year career with three different airlines. He says "My geography education proved very helpful to my career in the airline industry" and reported that he enjoyed seeing the picture of Dr. Schwendeman, whom he remembers well, in the last issue of the newsletter.

Tom Moreland (BA 1999) is the GIS Coordinator for Madison County, Ky.

Dale Puffenberger has settled in Covington, Ky. He writes "I would like you to know that my background and training in the Geography Department have served me very, very well and I occasionally reflect on how fortunate I was to have made the decision to study there; with all the help and support I was given. When asked to give my occupation, I respond with a mixed sense of satisfaction and mischief "Geographer!"

Julia Daily Slaymaker (BA 1964; MA 1968) retired as a teacher of blind and visually impaired children, birth to 21, in spring of 2007. She resides in Nebraska.

Michael Warrix (BA 1985) is a Vice President of Keck and Wood, Inc., an 80 person consulting engineering firm in suburban Atlanta, Ga. He is responsible for business development, marketing, and traditional community planning activities.

Two Young Geographers from Kentucky meet up on the Bolivian Altiplano

Tiffany Thompson (BA 2006 summa cum laude) and Mary Richie (BA 2007 magna cum laude) each took different routes from Kentucky, but the two recent geography graduates met again at over 12,000 feet above sea level, on the Bolivian altiplano. Their time together included a hike across a dry lake bed encrusted with salt, where they came across the vessel shown on the cover of the newsletter. Tiffany is a Peace Corps volunteer in the small town of Huari working in environmental education. She reports that she is enjoying her time "living in the land of superlatives: the highest, driest, most barren, and still most inhabited high place in the world." Tiffany also has learned to speak some Quechua, to bake bread, and dance in parades! Mary journeyed to Bolivia via Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Peru, volunteering along the way for several non-governmental organizations involved in programs for street kids and addicts. She says her experiences have "touched her deeper than any amount of reading and studying could" and have given her a real sense of environmental and social problems.



Mary and Tiffany



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