

Geography

School of Natural Resources
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

<http://snr.unl.edu/geographygis/>

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Greetings from Lincoln

Welcome to this first issue of the Geography Alumni Newsletter. The last 18 months have been exceptionally exciting and rewarding for geographers at UNL, and many of the recent accomplishments of our faculty and students are detailed in the following pages. We are pleased to share our progress with you, and to provide this vehicle that we hope will serve to forge stronger linkages between those of us in Lincoln and you, our many alumni who have gone on to successful careers across the U.S. Please join me in extending thanks to Don Rundquist, Joyce Hurst and Milda Vaitkus for their leadership in bringing this newsletter to fruition.



Let me share a few highlights of recent developments at UNL. In August 2008, the Department of Geography joined the UNL School of Natural Resources (SNR) and moved to

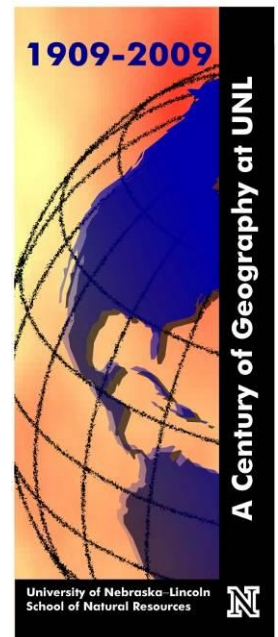
new facilities in Hardin Hall on the UNL East Campus. Established in 1997, SNR is a cross-campus, multidisciplinary enterprise that includes faculty from both the UNL College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Dr. Donald A. Wilhite, a geographer, serves as SNR Director. After many years, virtually all UNL Geography faculty, staff and students are now housed in one building under a single administration.

The School is structured in a non-traditional manner intended to retain traditional disciplinary strengths, but, at the same time, encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary teaching and research required to address important issues involving climate variability and change, water resources, applied ecology and human-environment interaction. As part of SNR, the **Faculty of Geography and Geographic Information Science** will continue to offer undergraduate, M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Geography with emphases on our special strengths in: (1) *Geographic Infor-*

mation Science, capitalizing on the strengths and facilities of our Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT); (2) *Historical and Human Geography*, including historical settlement of the Great Plains, environmental perception and political behavior; and (3) *Natural Resources*, focusing on human-environment interaction and the geospatial dimensions of conservation biology, water resources, natural hazards, climatology and related areas. In addition, we will continue to build our doctoral program in *Community and Regional Planning*, combining strengths of the Faculty of Geography and GIScience and the faculty of Community and Regional Planning. For additional details, see <http://snr.unl.edu/geographygis/>.

In August 2009, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Qingfeng "Gene" Guan to the Geography and GIScience faculty. Gene has a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of California - Santa Barbara, and most recently was a post-doctoral research scientist with the USGS Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information Science in Rolla, MO. His research and teaching interests include geographic information systems (GIS), geocomputation, high-performance computing and environmental modeling. Gene significantly enhances our GIScience programs.

As many of you know, this year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the award of the first Ph.D. in Geography at UNL. The first doctorate was awarded in 1909 to Joseph Allen Warren whose dissertation was entitled *An Agricultural Survey of Nebraska*. At the time, the University of Chicago had the only other graduate program in Geography in the Midwest, and UNL's was the first to be established west of the Mississippi River.



Geography at UNL has a rich heritage of which we can all be proud. As part of our celebration, UNL Geography students organized a series of events during Geography Awareness Week 2009 (Nov 16-20, 2009,

<http://snr.unl.edu/geographygis/awareness-week2009.asp>), and Emeritus Professor, Dr. Robert Stoddard authored a brief history of UNL Geography that you can read in the following pages.

Finally, I want to encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by this newsletter to share your news with your UNL colleagues. But, let me also call your attention to two other opportunities to stay in touch. First, you'll note that the UNL Geography web page features short news items that are regularly updated. Most of the news has focused on activities of those of us in Lincoln, but we would also like to feature stories about what our

alumni are doing. If you wish to contribute, please let me know. Second, please take note of our Geography seminar series, currently held on Friday afternoons at 2:00 pm. Seminar dates and the schedule of speakers are posted (and regularly updated) on our web page. If you are visiting Lincoln, we cordially invite you to attend the seminar, visit with faculty and students and see our new facilities in Hardin Hall. Moreover, if you are interested in making a presentation, please let me know so that we can arrange a time to welcome you back at UNL.

Best wishes,

Jim Merchant
jmerchant1@unl.edu



Photograph courtesy of Michael Forsberg, UNL Geography 1989
<http://www.michaelforsberg.com>

A Century of Geography at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

by

Robert Stoddard

On the Occasion of **Geography Awareness Week**

November 2009

In 1909, the Department of Geography and Economic Geology was established at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) as an autonomous division of the Department of Geology, thus creating a department ranking "second only to the University of Chicago in the Middle West in the length of time graduate work in Geography has been given" (Hewes, 1983). In the same year, the first Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Nebraska was granted to Joseph Allen Warren, whose disserta-

tion was entitled *An Agricultural Survey of Nebraska*.

The events of 1909 were built on several earlier beginnings: [1] in 1902-03, the first Geography course was taught (by George Condra); [2] in 1905, Economic Geology and Geography was recognized as a division within the Department of Geology; [3] in 1906, graduate credit in Geography was given; and [4] in 1908, two M.A. degrees in

Geography were awarded (one of which was authored by Nels Bengtson).

Since those early beginnings, Geography experienced several administrative changes. In 1912, the academic emphasis was modified when economic geology was re-assigned and Conservation was added; thus the departmental title became "Department of Geography and Conservation." In 1918 when George Condra became director of a newly formed Division of State Conservation and Soil Survey, Geography was again merged with geology as the Department of Geology and Geography. A decade later, a distinct Department of Geography was established.

Although George Condra pioneered Geography at the University of Nebraska, it was Nels Bengtson who was "a true 'apostle' for Geography in the central Plains area, and he was the creator of the Department of Geography at the University of Nebraska" (Van Royen, 1968). He had worked closely with Professor Condra during the early years and was the logical person to guide the newly created department in 1928. He continued as chair for eighteen years after which time Leslie Hewes became chair. Professor Hewes' tenure as chair lasted until he retired from that position in 1968. Following the 60 years of leadership by only two geographers (Bengtson and Hewes), the administrative responsibility for Geography was assumed by approximately a dozen professors during the next four decades.

In 2001 the Departments of Geography and Anthropology were merged by the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Seven years later, geographers separated from that combined department to form the Faculty of Geography and Geographic Information Science within the School of Natural Resources. Building upon a hundred years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, geographers continue to guide undergraduate and graduate students in their studies of spatial and environmental issues.

References

- Hewes, Leslie. 1983. "Geography at the University of Nebraska", *Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Geographical Journal*, vol.11, pp.10-18.
- Van Royen, William. 1968. "Nels August Bengtson (1879-1963)", *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, vol.58, pp.601-605.

News

Geography Graduate Goes 16,000 Miles by Bike

Matt Baumeister traveled the 16,000-mile stretch from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska — the farthest north you can get in North America, on a road — to the end of the Pan-American highway at Ushuaia, Argentina, the world's southernmost city, on a bicycle. The adventure followed his graduation from the UNL in May, 2007 with a degree in geography. Having a Geography diploma certainly must have come in handy along the way for Matt. His riding partner was Scot Colburn of Boulder, CO. Matt reported that he had not ridden a bike all that much prior to the transcontinental venture, and this trip required more than 140 days. He lost 15 pounds over the first few weeks of travel. Matt and Scot stayed in a motel only twice along the way, with the rest of the nights being spent out of doors, mostly on the ground or on park benches. They traversed 14 countries along the way and, of course, two continents. The trip was self-financed.

Faculty Updates

Clark Archer

Professor Clark Archer is interested in political geography, population geography, urban geography, quantitative methods in geography and GIS. He teaches Geography of World Regions, Political Geography, Geodemographics, Spatial Analysis, and Urban Geography. He recently completed *The Atlas of the Great Plains* with Steve Lavin, also at UNL, and Fred Shelley at the University of Oklahoma, which will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2010. Clark also recently completed entries on "Geography and Public Policy" and "Urban Spatial Structure" for the *Encyclopedia of Geography*, edited by Barney Warf, which will be published by Sage in 2010. Clark is currently working on material for a project tentatively titled *The Atlas of the 2008 Elections*, along with co-editors Steve Lavin of UNL, Stanley Brunn of the University of Kentucky, Fred Shelley of the University of Oklahoma, and Gerald Webster of the University of Wyoming. Other longer term projects involve continued research on changing patterns of urban and rural settlement in the Great Plains, the geography of US federal elec-



tions, and geographical impacts of various aspects of federal, state or local public policies.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/archer-john.asp>

Becky Buller

Dr. Rebecca A. Buller currently serves as a lecturer for the Geography program and the Center for Great Plains Studies. During the Fall 2009 semester, she taught Introduction to Human Geography (Geog 140) and World Regional Geography (Geog 272). She also developed and instructed a new interdisciplinary online course for the Center for Great Plains Studies entitled Women of the Great Plains (GPSP 399). During the Spring 2010 semester she will be teaching Quality of the Environment (Geog 181), Introduction to Human Geography, and Women of the Great Plains. Her current research projects, funded in part by a Nebraska State Historical Society Grant, include examinations of the material culture of as well as the intersections of place, time, and entertainment in Nebraska's Hidden Paradise.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/buller-rebecca.asp>



Kenneth French

Kenny French is currently a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. He also teaches a number of online courses for UNL, including Elements of Physical Geography, Geography of the United States, Introductory Economic Geography, and Geography of World Regions. His research interests include: Urban Geography, Land Use Planning, Social Inequality, Ethnic Residential Segregation, and Geography of Rap.



Gene Guan



The Faculty of Geography and GIScience is pleased to welcome Dr. Qingfeng "Gene" Guan who joined SNR in August of 2009. Gene has a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of California - Santa Barbara, and has recently been working as a post-doctoral research scientist with the USGS Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information

Science in Rolla, MO. His research and teaching interests include geographic information systems (GIS), geocomputation, high-performance computing and environmental modeling.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/guan-qingfeng.asp>

Paul Hanson

My research interests are directed at resolving the evolution of landscapes in the Great Plains and the upper Midwest. Currently ongoing projects include studies of prehistoric dune movement and drought activity in eastern Nebraska and Kansas, the long-term evolution of the Platte River system, and the origin of wind scoured landscapes in northeastern Nebraska.

Working with colleagues in Wisconsin, I am establishing when dunes were active along the shores of Lake Michigan and along the shores of remnant glacial lakes in the central portion of the state. Finally, working with local Natural Resource Districts and other collaborators at UNL, I am assessing the use of various geophysical tools to better understand groundwater resources in the varied and complex geology of eastern Nebraska.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/hanson-paul.asp>



Cody Knutson



As leader of the Planning and Social Science Program at the National Drought Mitigation Center, my activities typically focus on helping people better adapt and respond to water scarcity, drought, and climate change. My current U.S.-

based activities include developing a water and drought educational website for the Republican River Basin (in NE, CO, and KS) to assist in water-shed planning; constructing a real-time ground water monitoring network for Nebraska; creating a web-based drought planning guide for ranchers in the Great Plains; and working with pilot communities in Nebraska, Illinois, and Oklahoma to develop a national "Drought-Ready Communities" program. At the international level, I've been working with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

to publish a drought policy document, which provides global guidance on drought adaptation. I'm also consulting for the United Nations Development Programme to write an overview of their Community Water Initiative, which funds grants in Africa, South Asia, and Central American to protect local water resources and adapt to climate change. Finally, I'm collaborating with UNESCO/UNICEF/FAO to plan and host a drought training workshop in Iraq, as the first step in developing a national drought plan for the country.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/knuts-on-cody.asp>

Steve Lavin

Steve is Professor of Geography at SNR who specializes in cartography, and has research interests in map animation, symbolization, and atlas design. He teaches Introduction to Cartography, Electronic Atlas Design and Construction, Scientific Visualization in Cartography, and Seminar in Cartography. He recently completed *The Atlas of the Great Plains* with Clark Archer also at UNL and Fred Shelley at U. of Oklahoma, which will be published in 2010. His latest project has just begun, and its tentative title is *The Atlas of the 2008 Elections*. The Atlas is a joint project of geographers at the Universities of Kentucky, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and of course SNR at UNL. It will also be published in 2010. Steve lives with Ruth, his wife of 41 years, and a cat.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/lavin-stephen.asp>



Jim Merchant

July 2009 marked my twentieth year as a faculty member at UNL. I'm currently serving as both Head of the Faculty of Geography and GIScience and Director of the Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT). In addition, I just completed an 18-month assignment as Coordinator for the School of Natural Resources Five-Year Comprehensive Review (held in September 2009). Although my administrative duties this year have been time consuming, I still managed to teach two courses in GIScience and chair the Geography General Seminar series. This fall I also de-



veloped and offered a new course for our incoming graduate students - *Proseminar in Research Methods and Professional Development*. On the research front, my students and I have continued to pursue investigations of land use and land cover characterization via satellite remote sensing, and have recently employed GIS to model soil erosion and sediment transport in small agricultural watersheds, explore economic consequences of invasive plants on Platte River Sandhill Crane habitat, and forecast impacts of future land use change on groundwater quality. A new project, on which I collaborate with Dan Pfeffer (CALMIT NebraskaMAP project manager) focuses on development of a Geospatial Data Portal for Nebraska (<http://www.nebraskamap.gov>.) The NebraskaMAP project augments the NebraskaView program (<http://nebraskaview.unl.edu>), now in its 9th year, in which I collaborate with Milda Vaitkus (CALMIT NebraskaView manager).

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/merchant-james.asp>

Katherine Nashleanas

Dr. Nashleanas currently is a lecturer for the Geography program. She teaches Human Geography, Quality of the Environment, and the Geography of Nebraska. She has developed mini-geography courses (8-weeks) for the Intensive English Program to provide advanced international students, who have not yet passed their TOEFL exam, with opportunities to practice classroom skills. Topics include US Geography, Nebraska Geography, and Physical Geography. Currently she is researching pedagogical strategies in geographic education to facilitate learning for "Millennial" students, and is continuing her research on ethnic populations and metageographic communities.

Sunil Narumalani

Sunil Narumalani is the Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). Some of Sunil's responsibilities include ACE implementation, curriculum issues, distance education, new student enrollment, CAS' Advising Center and recruitment. Sunil continues to hold a 25% appointment as a professor in the School of Natural Resources - Faculty of Geography/GISciences. He is also a Faculty Associate at the Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT). Sunil received his Ph.D. in Geography from the University of South



Carolina in 1993. He teaches courses in remote sensing (digital image analysis) and advanced graphic information systems, and is presently ing 4 students, 2 Master's and 2 Ph.D. His research focuses on the use of remote sensing for the tion of biophysical information from space and borne systems, integration of geospatial data sets for ecological and natural resources mapping and monitoring, and the development of new image-processing analyses techniques for information extraction.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/narumalani-sunil.asp>

Al Peters

Al Peters is now retired, but he continues to teach occasionally as part of the Geography Program. During the summer of 2009 and the fall semester of 2009, he taught two sections of Introduction to Physical Geography. Al and Becki are also heavily involved in a total renovation and upgrade of their Victorian era home, which was built in 1895 and is located in Elmwood, NE. Other "hobbies" include caring for their large vegetable and fruit gardens, canning, growing grapes, and making wine.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/peters-albert.asp>



Juan Paulo Ramírez



Juan Paulo has worked as a research specialist at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC) since May 2007. Before joining PPC, Dr. Ramírez worked as a scientific writer for Micro-Images, Inc., a private company in Lincoln, NE that created the GIS software TNTmips. Juan Paulo is interested in health-environmental issues and prediction of land cover changes through the use of GIS and remote sensing analysis. Juan Paulo has experience designing surveys, data collection, statistical analysis, website designs, and the use of Geographic Information Systems. Currently Dr. Ramírez is teaching Geography of Latin America (Geog 378) as an on-line class during fall semesters and as a lecture class during spring semesters. As a native of Chile, he visits his country regularly and keeps track of his disseminated family in Italy and Spain.

Don Rundquist



On August 18, 2008, Don stepped down as Director of CALMIT after 22 years in that role. He continues as a Professor of Geography in the School of Natural Resources and Research Scientist in Remote Sensing. Don teaches one remote-sensing course each semester. On the research side, he continues to collaborate with Dr. Anatoly Gitelson, CALMIT, on numerous subjects related to remote sensing of surface waters and agricultural vegetation. Don's "spare time" is spent with his vineyard business, located in Johnson County, NE. The Rundquist family has 80 acres of farmland there with about 2,000 American and French-hybrid grapevines. Don and his son Brian are busy learning about the process of making quality wine. Don and Carol spend a week each summer fishing with son Brad and his family in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/rundquist-donald.asp>

Brian Wardlow

I am currently an assistant professor and GIScience Program Area Leader for the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), where I oversee a variety of research projects that are developing remote sensing-based techniques for drought monitoring and impact assessment. In addition, I work in the areas of land use/land cover characterization and land surface phenology. I also participate in many national and international drought workshops to train, transfer, and educate scientists and other decision makers on new and emerging drought monitoring strategies. A highlight of 2009 was the opportunity to conduct a drought workshop in western Africa (Bamako, Mali) under the sponsorship of the World Meteorological Organization. Other workshop trips included stops in California, Montana, Nevada, and Texas. This past year, I also started to develop a book in collaboration with leading scientists that will highlight new, cutting-edge remote sensing monitoring techniques. The book will be part of Dr. Don Wilhite's Water Scarcity book series with CRC Press and is tentatively scheduled for publication in late



2011. I continue to serve as the faculty advisor for the Geography Student Organization (GSO), which has been busy developing activities for Geography Awareness Week and to celebrate 100 years of Geography at UNL. In the Spring 2010, I will get back into the classroom and begin teaching the tal Image Analysis course in Geography. My wife, Lori, works for the V.A. Hospital in Lincoln serving as the program manager of services (primarily post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury) for returning veterans from both Iraq and Afghanistan. We have two daughters, Madeline (age 4) and Natalie (age 2).

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/wardlow-brian.asp>

David Wishart

David Wishart is Professor of Geography at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, teaching Introduction to Human Geography, The Historical Geography of the Great Plains, Senior Seminar, History and Philosophy of Geography, and Seminar in Historical Geography.



He is working on a book dealing with the settlement of the western High Plains that is tentatively titled *The Last Days of the Rainbelt*. He was recently co-author of *The Great Plains: America's Lingerin Wild*, published by the University of Chicago Press (2009) and previously editor of the *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains Indians* (University of Nebraska Press, 2007).

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty/wishart-david.asp>

Robert Bowman	1949, 1967, 2007
C. B. McIntosh	1958, 1982, 2007

Leslie Hewes, following Nels Bengtson, was chair of the department for more than two decades, affected the disciplinary emphasis through faculty appointments (including the other three geographers mentioned here) and by inspiring the topical interests of graduate students. His scholarly interests were on historical geography and Great Plains studies. These emphases are illustrated by his 1973 book, *The Suitcase Farming Frontier: A Study in the Historical Geography of the Central Great Plains*. He continued researching and publishing long after retirement, with some articles written close to the time of his death at the age of 93.

Dean Rugg came to the department from a background in government service, primarily in Europe. His specialty was on the "socialist city," which contributed to the department's courses in urban studies and Eastern Europe during its domination by the Soviet Union. These academic interests are reflected in his books, *Spatial Foundations of Urbanism*, and *Geography of Eastern Europe*. After formal retirement, he continued to share his expertise on Eastern European countries through educational and governmental programs.

Robert Bowman had considerable experience in terrain analysis, refugee programs, and land settlement before joining the Department of Geography in 1949. Much of his knowledge in these fields was obtained while in the military during WWII when he was in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific; his article "Land Settlement in New Guinea" typifies his specialties. His role in geographic education after leaving the Geography Department continued through several years with the UNL Extension Division.

C. Barron (Mac) McIntosh had a long association with the Department of Geography. He commenced graduate work at NU in 1940 but his education was interrupted by military service during WWII. After the war, he completed his M.A. in 1950 and Ph.D. in 1955 at NU, and then taught in other universities before being appointed to the Nebraska Department of Geography in 1958. His major area of academic concentration was on the interrelationship between humans and the environment of the Sandhills, a focus that is exemplified by his 1996 book *The Nebraska Sandhills: The Human Landscape*. Even after his official retirement, Mac continued for many years to devote long hours to studying and mapping human-environmental relationships.

In Memoriam for Four Geographers

We commemorate four professors, who died within the last decade and whose combined appointments in the Department of Geography totaled nearly one hundred years. Significantly, each continued researching and/or teaching for several years after his official retirement. The years they joined the department, retired from it, and died are the following:

Leslie Hewes	1945, 1974, 1999
Dean Rugg	1964, 1988, 2000

We honor these four professors for their many years of acquisition and dissemination of geographic knowledge to students and professional colleagues. Their endeavors are especially demonstrated by their continuing dedication to research and/or teaching long after their salaries ended with retirement.

Robert Stoddard
Nov. 2009

Alumni Updates

Brad Bays, Ph.D., 1996



Brad Bays (Ph.D., 1996), associate professor of geography at Oklahoma State University, is a cultural/historical geographer. His areas of interest are American Indians, agricultural settlement, Oklahoma,

and geographic education. Brad enjoys playing with new technologies in his courses and promoting geography education at all levels. Twice he has been named the Geography Department's Outstanding Teacher, an award determined by the students. Since 2007 Brad has chaired the Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education (OKAGE), which is recognized as among the most effective NGS alliances, and he coordinates the annual Oklahoma Geographic Bee. At OSU, Brad manages a very popular general education offering, teaches online courses, advises GTU, and very much enjoys his role of Instructional Mentor to the department's 6-7 Graduate Teaching Associates. For the past five years, Brad has planned and guided the Dean's Bus Tour, which introduces new A&S faculty to Oklahoma's unique cultural landscape.

This year (2009-10) Brad is busy as PI on a \$64,000 NPS grant that has him locating and photo-documenting historic barns in 14 western Oklahoma counties. He has a book chapter on the growth of Indian casinos in Oklahoma coming out in early 2010 and is co-authoring an article on using GIS to reassess the nature and significance of vernacular regions. Brad's future research activity will, optimistically, be shaped by his role as co-PI on an upcoming NSF IGERT grant and as co-PI on an ACL grant. Brad's new office in historic Murray Hall, the Geography Department's new home after a \$17 million overhaul, has a very scenic view of Theta Pond.

Brad and Sharon recently celebrated 21 years of marriage. Their daughter Lydia (14 yrs) enjoys travel, writing, dance, and percussion in the high school marching band. Brad and son Luke (8 yrs) work out at a local martial arts studio where they are working toward their black belts in Karate.

Dan Becker, M.A., 2008

After graduating in August 2008 with a M.A. in geography, my fiancée, (now wife) and I moved to Phoenix, AZ. Why Phoenix, you may ask? I really don't have an answer for that, we literally grabbed the closest map and we choose a warm destination, where jobs seemed abundant!

For being a recent graduate, I found a job relatively quickly and started working as a GIS Technician at the CB Richard Ellis Mapping Center in Tempe, AZ. Activities involved demographic and general location mapping for the purpose of marketing commercial real estate across the country. Although the position offered me a great experience in learning a new GIS software package, real estate never sparked my interests.

Beginning in October 2009, I accepted a GIS analyst position at Vernadero Group, Inc. Being an environmental consulting group specializing in Army Installation planning, I am able to apply knowledge gained while in graduate school. I'm challenged on a daily basis to provide remote sensing and GIS support for Vernadero and various Army Installations.

My positive experiences at the UNL – Dept of Geography, and specifically CALMIT, go beyond explanation. While at CALMIT, I was exposed to hands-on remote sensing/GIS analysis, field work and introduced to the geo-spatial profession. All of these activities adequately prepared me to excel in my current position.

Darcy Boellstorff, M.A. 2000; Ph.D., 2004

Darcy Boellstorff is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Massachusetts.



Jesslyn Brown, M.A., 1990

Since graduating (20 short years ago!) with a Master's in Geography, I've worked at the Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Data Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In 2008, I became a civil servant with the U.S. Geological Survey. Before that, I worked for three different federal contractors and for UNL as a visiting scientist stationed



at EROS. In this time, I've had opportunities to work on a variety of remote sensing applications research. In the 1990s, I spent considerable time mapping land cover on many scales, both nationally and internationally. My current interests include monitoring changes in vegetation phenology (i.e., seasonal dynamics) and tracking drought impacts. I also recently led a project to

map irrigated agriculture across the U.S. I have taught international workshops, served on conference committees, and published in the scientific literature. Since 2001, I've worked closely with UNL's National Drought Mitigation Center on several drought-related projects. It's been great to renew ties with UNL.

I've been married since 1999. Jerry, my husband, is an engineer with a firm in Sioux Falls. I'm a stepmom to three (I can't call them kids anymore). Eric and Aaron (twins) are now 25 and Amber is 20. They are all making their way into adulthood—at varying speeds. Jerry and I enjoy golfing together and traveling. One of our most interesting trips was to a friend's wedding in Bulgaria.

Don Buckwalter, M.A., 1981

Don Buckwalter is Professor of Geography and Regional Planning at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He holds a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Tennessee (1988).



Ken Cannon, Ph.D., 2008

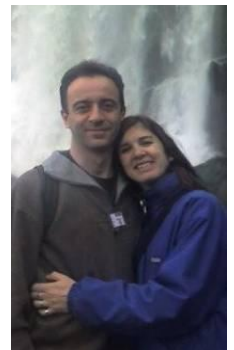
Kenneth P. Cannon is currently the Director of USU Archeological Services and adjunct professor in anthropology at Utah State University. Ken continues to work on biogeographic issues and hunter-gatherers in the Intermountain West. He is also the President of the Rocky Mountain Anthropological Association and serves as Councilor for Archaeology with the American Quaternary Association (AMQUA) and on the Science Board for the Hudson-Meng site, Nebraska. Ken is the co-PI on a recently awarded (2009) NSF-MRI grant to establish a multi-scalar geospatial laboratory at USU. He is married to Molly Boeka Cannon and they have two beautiful and highly active boys, Brennan (5) and Quincy (3).

Ken Dagel, Ph.D., 1994

I am currently Professor of Geography at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, MO. In addition to my teaching duties, I have been involved with the Outdoor Semester Program here at Western for 10 years. This is an innovative interdisciplinary program that combines classroom with a major field-trip and is focused on one of two areas, 1) westward expansion, and 2) sustainable energy. Physical Geography typically serves as the bedrock course in the program. Beyond the classroom, I currently serve as a board member for the National Pony Express Museum here in St. Joseph, and was appointed by former Missouri governor Matt Blunt to serve on the Missouri Board of Geographic Names. My wife, Kathy, and I have three adult children and two grandchildren.

Mariles Faggella, M.A., 2001

Hi, my name is Mariles Faggella, I've been living in Lincoln NE for 4 years, from 1998 to 2001. In those years I studied Geography. I came back to my hometown, La Plata, Pcia Buenos Aires, Argentina and since then I've been working in Direccion Provincial de Catastro Territorial, now called ARBA: (Agencia de Recaudación Provincia de Buenos Aires). Basically I work on maps, choosing those areas that have to be visited because people don't declare their properties. There is a Department that works on Remote Sensing and part of their job is to find those properties, but also we have to go to those places to verified areas. I also worked in other ministries applying GIS knowledge as a consultant. I also sang in different chorus: Coro de Fonoaudiólogos, Coro de IOMA and Coro Ex Ovo. Actually I only sing at home with my kid, because I don't have time. I have one kid for now, Abril, she is 2, and is adorable: she talks a lot, and it seems to be very happy. Now my husband and I are worry because she begins to climb to every place: her seat, her bed, so sooner or later we will have to put something in our balcony (we live on the fourth floor). To be in contact I send you my personal email: mariles-faggella@hotmail.com



**Jason Felton, M.A., 2003 and
Tiffany Spaulding, M.A., 2003**



Former CALMIT graduate assistants Jason Felton and Tiffany Spaulding were married in April 2009. Jason is a GIS Analyst at the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS. He is also a Certified Floodplain Manager and ESRI Authorized Instructor for ArcGIS Desktop. Tiffany has worked for Black & Veatch of Over-

land Park, KS, for the last 5 years as a GIS Analyst. Jason and Tiffany are back in Nebraska often to visit family, and love cheering on the Huskers!

Kari Forbes-Boyte, Ph.D., 1997

I am currently the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a Professor of Geography at Dakota State University. I have been in my present job for over four years and prior to that I was Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Sacramento City College. I am still actively involved in research and continue exploring the connections between American Indians, sacred places and critical legal scholarship. Currently, I am under contract with the University of Nebraska Press for a book entitled, "The Politicizing of Religions—the Lakota and Bear Butte: A Case of Infringement on Religious Freedom." My husband Steve just completed his M.S. degree in Geography, with an emphasis on geospatial modeling and works for EROS. I have four children—my oldest daughter, Nicole is married and working in San Antonio, Texas. My son Taylor is a sophomore at the University of Nebraska, Kearney, majoring in Criminal Justice and English, and plans on attending law school. My son Tristen is a freshman at Dakota State University and is an undeclared major and plays on the college football team. My daughter, Maisa is a high school junior and is active in both cross country and track. I spend my time away from work training to run a half marathon in the spring.

Luoheng Han, Ph.D., 1994



I received my Ph.D. under the supervision of Dr. Don Rundquist in 1994. Since then, I have been with University of Alabama. As a faculty member, I continued my research in hyperspectral and satellite remote sensing of water quality. The courses I taught in-

clude two remote sensing, two GIS, and one physical geography. I was tenured and promoted to Associated Professor in 1999 and to Full Professor in 2005. In 2007, with unanimous support from my colleagues, I was appointed as Chair of the Department of Geography. I became Associate Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences in January of 2009. Talking about my family, my wife, Yang, teaches Suzuki violin in the Community Music School of the University of Alabama. We have two children: our son, Lian, is graduating from the University of Florida; and our daughter, Rebecca, is in the fourth grade. She always reminds me when the Nebraska Cornhuskers play someone on TV. Go Big Red!

Joseph Hlady, M.A., 2001

The last eight years since I left UNL has seen a lot of

changes in my life, particularly over the last three years. I have been working in Calgary, Alberta since graduating, and I have filled a variety of roles in the GIS and remote sensing business community here. In 2005 I completed an MBA,



which has helped to round out my skills in the business world of information services. I recently left WorleyParsons Geomatics as the Global Director for Geomatics Corporate Strategy, and started at Husky Energy where I am the Manager of Information Services Business Solutions. Reporting to the CIO, I am responsible for all information services projects in Husky and as well as ensuring that Husky has the innovative information services needed to provide for growth and competitive advantage. It is proving to be a very challenging and rewarding role.

In February 2009 I was married to my lovely wife Cherine and we are expecting our first child in May 2010. We love living and working in Calgary in the energy sector and we both enjoy the opportunities our respective careers provide us with for making positive social and environmental changes in our industry. I wish the UNL Geography program all the best; it has proven to be a very valuable experience for me—personally and professionally.

Tom Houle, M.A., 2003

I am currently employed by Hennepin County, Minnesota, and work in Downtown Minneapolis. I work in the Survey Division, and my job title is Engineering Technician. Overall there are 22 of us in the division, and 4 of us (including myself) are working on a GIS project involving Coordinate Geography (CO-

GO) for many areas of the county that need to be fixed at the parcel level, and with various "boundaries" that have or will shift, such as city limits, townships, water-shed districts, and school districts. I also assist 2 of my other co-workers with other areas of GIS, such as Geocoding Road Centerlines, Addressing, and creating maps for internal and external customers. I may help out with them full-time once the COGO project is complete. And after most of THAT work is complete, chances are likely we will work more with online maps by adding more relevant data and processes so customers can perform their business without having to call or come into the office. We're probably behind other counties our size in terms of using the technological advancements of GIS for quick and easy data dissemination to the public, but we are catching up.



No promotions yet, but I received a Cornerstone Award earlier in 2009, which is given out to workers who exhibit work that is above and beyond what is expected of them. I'm also up for a promotion to a Senior Engineering Technician, which I will hear about sometime next year.

I still have 1 brother, 2 sisters, a brother-in-law, and sister-in-law, and 4 nephews and 1 niece. Two of the nephews were born after I graduated in 2003, and are now in 1st grade! Oldest nephew is a junior in high school (!) and niece is a freshman, and other nephew is in 7th grade. I've also continued running, and will run in the Lincoln All-Sport Half Marathon in May 2010 as well as the Chicago Marathon in October 2010.

Darla Juhl, Ph.D., 2002

I am currently in my sixth year as the Coordinator for the Solomon Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, Inc in Stockton, Kansas. The RC&D serves Norton, Phillips, Smith, Graham, Rooks and Osborne Counties in north central Kansas. In October of 2005 I also assumed the duties of Acting Coordinator for Smoky Hills RC&D. The two RC&D Councils administer or guide a number of different projects including a national three year Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Innovation Grant with the Kansas Black Farmers Association to grow and market teff. Water conservation and water quality is also a concern in the area as the RC&D areas sponsor and administer the Assessment and Planning Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) grants for the Wacon-

da and Cedar Bluff Reservoirs. The Solomon Valley RC&D is working with the North Olympic Peninsula RC&D on a \$1.6 million NASA grant to use remote sensing and GIS for an assessment of the Waconda and Prairie Dog Creek watersheds.

John Kinworthy, Ph.D., 1981

I retired in 2007 from teaching geography courses at Concordia after serving 38 years at the school. I taught every course that we offered including the initial May term geography tours for three weeks to every section of the nation. We named these tours U.S. Landscapes/ Northeast, or Southeast, or Northwest and Southwest & Hawaii. We began these three week classes in 1973 and they are still offered today. I received the Distinguished Teaching Award for College Geography Professors from the NCGE at their Philadelphia meetings in 2002. It was indeed a high honor to do so. I am indebted to several friends at the University of Nebraska and Concordia, and the University of Akron, OH for my nomination. I shall always cherish that experience and award from this national organization.

My wife Judi and I have been married for 34 years and still live in Seward where we raised our two sons, Ryan and Andrew. Ryan attended Concordia and majored in Computer Science and now works in Omaha. He met his wife Leah at Concordia. They have one daughter, Camryn who is now 2+. Our youngest son Andrew married his Seward High sweetheart and he graduated from the Business College at UNL. From there he attended the Law School at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. They now live in Ft. Worth, TX.

Judi and I were happy to travel to Europe in the winter of 2006-07 for several weeks and joined a class from Concordia. We toured London; saw several Shakespeare plays at Stratford-On-Avon, visited Copenhagen, Amsterdam, and Prague. It was a thrill to see that part of Europe for the first time. My second career is in Real Estate, and I now am a real estate agent for Woods Bros. in Lincoln, NE. This really is a great application of location, location and location. My minor was Economics, so the money applications are quite appropriate. My memories from the department focus on the great courses and faculty who taught them, as well as good friends I met there over the many years of study. My very strong support and thanks go out to Dr. Richard Lonsdale and Dr. Robert Stoddard who guided me and encouraged me every step of the way. Best wishes for the department and its bright future.

John Kostelnick, M.A., 2000

John Kostelnick is currently an assistant professor in the Geography-Geology Department at Illinois State

University. His research and teaching are in the areas of cartography & geovisualization, GIScience, and the cultural geography of the United States, all interests that developed from studying at UNL Geography. Recent research projects include investigation of cartographic and visualization issues related to hazards. A highlight for this year is attending the International Cartographic Conference in Santiago, Chile. John and his wife Ayrrin have two daughters (Isabelle (6) and Francesca (2)) that keep them both plenty busy. In his free time, John enjoys travel, home improvement projects, and following the Huskers and the Big 12 from Big 10 country.



Chad Kudym, M.A., 2001

A little late but I just finished moving my family back to Lincoln from Parker, CO so it has been very busy the last few months... After leaving CALMIT I worked for HDR Engineering for 2½ years in Omaha and another four years in Denver. I have been working at the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District in the Denver Metropolitan area for the last five years. In 2008, I attained the GIS Professional certification. I recently accepted a position with GIS Workshop, Inc. in Lincoln working for another CALMIT alumnus, Marcus Tooze, and I start there in December. My wife, Renae, and I have two daughters, Abigail, 10 and Taylor, 6. They just started their new school in Lincoln on November 16th and are looking forward to being close to all their relatives.

Karen Morin, Ph.D., 1996

I am professor of Geography at Bucknell University, in Lewisburg, PA. I recently published a book *Frontiers of Femininity: A New Historical Geography of the Nineteenth Century American West* (2008, Syracuse University Press.). David Wishart and Jeanne Kay Guelke were my principal advisors.

Tom Mote, M.A., 1991; Ph.D., 1994



Nancy and I and our two boys are at home in Athens, Georgia, where we have lived for all but one of the last 15 years. I continue as a faculty member in the Geography Department at the University of Georgia. I was promoted to professor a few years ago and now serve as the associate head of our department. My research continues to focus on hydroclimatology, climate change and remote sensing, and my work is supported by NASA, NSF, the De-

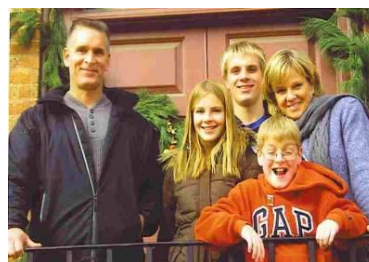
partment of Energy and the U.S. Forest Service. My family and I spent several months last year in Porto Alegre, Brazil, as part of my Fulbright award to the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. The boys attended a local school, and we had the opportunity to travel in Brazil and Argentina in our free time. We now feel like honorary gaúchos and are big fans of southern Brazil's churrasco (barbeque), but we never took to the chimarrão (mate tea). It was a rewarding experience, and I look forward to returning to Brazil. Nancy continues writing and editing as time permits; she spent several years as editor of a local magazine. Our older son, Jeremy, just started high school this fall, and our younger son, Andrew, is in the third grade. They truly are native Georgians, but they like returning to the Midwest to visit family and enjoy the snow. They haven't had an opportunity to see Lincoln, but we are already encouraging Jeremy to consider UNL when he is ready to decide on college!

Tom O'Toole, M.A., 2000

Shortly after graduating in 2000, I moved to Omaha and worked for a civil engineering company. My primary duty there was to do GIS work on the south and east beltway project around Lincoln. After two years in Omaha, my career moved me out to the Washington D.C. area. I worked for the Arlington County Police Department as a GIS mapping specialist and crime analysis. In 2006, I moved to my present job at the International Association of Fire Fighters. I am a GIS analyst that works with fire department union representatives in the United States and Canada helping with their fire and emergency medical service deployment capabilities.

I currently live in Arlington Virginia. I am unmarried up to this point, so I keep busy with a social life of friends, play in a hockey league, and never miss watching the Huskers play football at either the Nebraska alumni bar or at home on TV. My travels include going to Florida every winter to escape the cold and attend the Daytona 500. I relax with my family in the summer at my parent's lake home in Minnesota. My job also lets me travel to interesting places around the country for our convention or conferences.

Steve Payton, Ph.D., 2001



After graduation, I won appointment to a post-doctoral research position with the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Lincoln, NE. Concurrently; I re-enlisted in the

Army Reserve for two years. Concluding the appointment and my enlistment at the end of the 2003 summer, I accepted a position as a Senior Spectral Scientist with Science Applications International Corporation, Inc. (SAIC) in Chantilly, VA. The work is exciting and interesting. When not working I'm busy with home improvement projects (ask me about wood-fired pizza ovens).

While transplanting a family with three school-aged children 1300 miles over the holiday season was challenging, we seem to have tolerated the move and acclimated to what we've come to know as "the northern Virginia experience." Lee (16) swims for 90 minutes daily commencing at 4:45, stands 6'1", and weighs 205lbs (which we attribute to our "Husker" years). Amanda (14) plays soccer year-round and can't understand why I don't enjoy shopping. Benjamin (10) dreams of driving in a NASCAR race and wouldn't vote for Obama because "he wants to make us go to school all the time." My wife Deb works as an RN full-time yet manages to keep everyone fed, clothed, and to their commitments on time.

Shaula Ross, M.A., 2001

I am a GIS Specialist at the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD). I have been with the LPSNRD since 2004. I am currently serving a term as the Secretary for the Nebraska GIS/LIS Association. Don't forget to keep up to date with GIS/LIS Association news and events at <http://www.gislis.org/>.

My husband and I have been blessed with two beautiful daughters. My oldest daughter (Hannah), who I had while I was working on my Masters Degree, is now 10 years old and in 5th grade. Our second daughter (Hailey) is 6 years old and in 1st grade. Most of my time outside of work is spent working with the kids on school, Girl Scouts, soccer and viola.

Sonja Rossum, M.A., 1998



I am still living in Lincoln and am happily married (as Sonja Barber) with sons Mason (5 years old) and Aaron (2 years old). Now that Mason has started kindergarten, I hope to return to freelance web design work. Right now it's convenient to work from

home, and I like that web design uses similar skills as cartography: graphic design, understanding usability issues, and illustration work on the computer. My favorite site I designed and maintain is www.krossum.com.

Jennifer Sharpe, M.A., 1994

Since graduation I have been working for the U.S. Geological Survey, first in Lincoln, Nebraska, and then, starting in September 1997, in Urbana, Illinois. I am the USGS Illinois Water Science Center's GIS specialist, responsible for assisting staff hydrologists with their data needs. My recent projects have included flood inundation mapping in the Chicago suburbs, assessment of recharge potential in the metropolitan Chicago area, and Great Lakes water use. I also indulge my creative side by developing graphics and maps for USGS reports, presentations, and other outreach materials.



My partner, Paula, and I have 2 wonderful girls, Annie, age 5, and Riley, age 7 months.

Shawn Slade, M.A., 2007



My studies in Geography at UNL have led me to gainful employment with Leica Geosystems where I am responsible for selling airborne imaging and LiDAR sensors. I started with ERDAS (now part of the Leica family) as an instructor. I then transition to

selling ERDAS and Leica Photogrammetry Suite software. I had a short hiatus from Leica Geosystems where I spent 1½ years selling mapping services. I have also served on the Rocky Mountain ASPRS Region board. My job keeps me busy traveling as well. In my 10+ years of employment after college I have racked up about 350,000 life time airline miles. I have been fortunate enough to see places such as Taiwan, Singapore, Switzerland, Germany and too many places to name in the United States and Canada.

When away from work I enjoy the company of my wife, Amy and our two daughters Riley and Emily. They are a real blessing. I also like to spend time training to run marathons, lots of road cycling, especially climbing mountain passes is a favorite past time of mine, and doing the occasional triathlon.

Clayton Stryker, M.A., 2003

While working on a M.A. in Geography, I went to work for CALMIT as a GIS Specialist beginning in November 2002. In this capacity, I was hired as a contractor to the Nebraska Army National Guard (NEARNG). My



duties included development, maintenance and update of all NEARNG GIS data and applications. This afforded me the opportunity to gain experience with geodatabases, aerial imagery, modeling, cartography and web applications. I completed the Masters program in May 2003 and continued contracting with NEARNG until March 2007. During that period, I also completed coursework in web design and computer programming. I had originally planned to complete an advanced degree in computer science to complement my GIS background when I was offered the opportunity to serve NEARNG as the Master Planner during the spring of 2007. Because of the demanding nature of this position, I've had to put my educational ambitions on hold. However, I have been rewarded with a very dynamic and enjoyable experience. My duties include developing various military master plans, and managing the Planning and Programming Department, including the GIS program.

I am also very lucky in my personal life. My wife, Michelle, and I are approaching both our tenth anniversary and second child in the next few months. My home life is very busy but very rewarding. When I do have free time, I enjoy playing music, reading, and being outdoors.

**Ryan Weichelt, Ph.D., 2008
and Katie (Haselwood)
Weichelt, M.A., 2007**

Ryan Weichelt and Katie (Haselwood) Weichelt have had a busy two years. Upon Katie's graduation in 2007, she began her Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Kansas. Her research has included issues of the gender, economics, and historical geographies of the Great Plains and Upper Midwest. Katie hopes to complete her Ph.D. in 2010. Upon finishing his Ph.D. in 2008, Ryan took a Visiting instructor position in Geography at the University of Central Oklahoma. Starting in 2009, he began a tenure track position at an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Ryan's research continues to focus on political and electoral geography, quantitative methods, and urban geography. Having met one another at UNL, Ryan and Katie were married in October 18, 2008 in Topeka, Kansas. Both Ryan and Katie are both very excited to live and explore Wisconsin.



Dan Wurdinger, M.A., 1994

After graduation in the Fall of 2004 I started working with the U.S. Census Bureau in Suitland, Maryland (Washington DC area). A year later I decided to leave that job and found myself again working with



Honda. I have been with Honda Aero as a buyer for four years now and relocated to the Burlington, NC area. I miss not working in the geospatial/cartographic field, but for now I have a solid job that helps support my family. If the opportunity comes and my motivation is still there, I would

like to revisit my geographic career path and probably teach. I really enjoyed teaching and still do. I married Deborah in 2005 in Lincoln. We have two cats and a growing black lab puppy. Best wishes to my fellow students, faculty and staff who made UNL years very memorable. Although I don't mind Carolina blue, I still like the red. Go Huskers! wurdinger@juno.com, 571-213-0901.

Wenli Yang, Ph.D., 1997

Wenli Yang is with the Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS) and the Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science (GGS), George Mason University (GMU), in Fairfax Virginia. His work primarily involves Earth observing remote sensing data and information systems, including data and information models, standardization, services, and system design and implementation. Some of the recent projects he involved include service interoperability among different Earth science research communities, intelligent web services for automated geospatial knowledge discovery, intelligent archives in the context of knowledge building systems, and large scale data mining. He also teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in GGS. The courses he has taught include remote sensing application, earth image analysis, and digital processing of remote sensing imagery. Prior to joining GMU, he was with the Raytheon Company, working in the sensor design science team designing the NPOESS/VIIRS (National Polar-Orbit Environmental Satellite System's Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite).

Ezra Zeitler, M.A., 2003; Ph.D., 2008

Ezra Zeitler is enjoying his second year as an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He has been teaching classes in human and regional geography and loves taking students into the field to places like Door County, the Menominee Nation, the Mississippi Delta, and the Northwoods of the Midwest. Students in his Northwoods class measured a variety of geographic phenomena to determine the boundary of this region and posted their results on a Geography of the Northwoods website: <http://www.uwec.edu/webprojects/geog367/northwood>

ds. He remains active in the AAG as the Secretary of the Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group and as a Board Member of the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group. Ezra has published an article entitled "Creating America's 'Czech Capital': Ethnic Identity and Heritage Tourism in Wilber, Nebraska" in the *Journal of Heritage Tourism*, and edited a special of Historical Geography titled *Monuments, Memories, and Identities*.

Ron Zelt, M.A., 1988

In 2002, Ron had two big milestones: completion of an M.S. thesis program in Watershed Science at Colorado State University, and reassignment to the U.S. Geological Survey's water resources office in Lincoln, Nebr. After spending 6 years at USGS' Cheyenne, Wyoming, office, seeing some deep green in the landscape was a welcome view. During these past 7 years in Lincoln, Ron has led a small team of scientists in studies of water quality in the Platte River basin, geomorphology and sediment quality studies of the Niobrara River, and long-term changes in hydrology and physical habitat in the lower Platte River. A few opportunities to collaborate with UNL professors Sunil Narumalani and Erkan Istanbuluoglu on the Niobrara River study, and with several UNL faculty on a presently evolving proposal for study of climate-change effects, have been among the highlights. In 2006, Ron received Interior's Departmental Honor Award for Superior Service. Now in his 23rd year with USGS, Ron is presently one of three Associate Directors of the USGS Nebraska Water Science Center. This has reduced his availability for data analysis and report writing, but he now invests about one-third of his work time in reviewing all of the Center's information products for technical quality and (hopefully) improvement. Leisure time commonly involves attending swim meets or other school events to proudly watch his children, or in the great outdoors, gardening, bicycling, hunting, or practicing archery. Ron frequently attends UNL basketball games also, sometimes with Cindy, his beloved wife of 27 years.

Geography Student Organization (GSO)

This semester the Geography Student Organization (GSO) really showed their stuff during Geography Awareness Week, held November 16-20, 2009). The annual Geography Bowl attracted 70 participants and an estimated 30 more people in attendance to watch the event. All of the participants walked away with prizes ranging from posters to gift cards from Applebee's. The geographic battle royal lasted almost 2 hours and culminated in a sudden death overtime

elimination round for the final two teams. A new competition was added to this year's festivities to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the first Geography Ph.D. at UNL. The first annual Geographic Student Photo Competition attracted 83 students from throughout the university to submit personal photos in reference to the theme "Places and Faces." The photos were on display all week in Hardin Hall and open to judging by UNL Students as well as faculty from Geography and the School of Natural Resources. The top 4 entries received prizes ranging from Starbucks coffee to a new GPS Navigation unit. All total, an estimated 400 people participated in Geography Awareness Week events.

Coming up for the spring will be Nebraska Night at the AAG conference in Washington DC. GSO plans to participate in the festivities and would like to invite all of our alumnae to join us for a fun night in our nation's capital!

Paul Merani, GSO President

Current Students:

Ph.D.: Darren Adams	Nancy Roll
Ashley Barnett	Mikal Stewart
Roberto Bonifaz-Alfonzo	Sharmistha Swain
Lawrence Bradley	April Whitten
Molly Cannon	Cynthia Williams
Gabrielle Collins	M.A.: Nwakaku Ajaere
Kurt Elder	Jason Byers
Gregory Fetterman	Ting Chen
Mary Hallin	Nathan Freitas
Glenn Humphress	Christopher Ladegard
Humphrey Kalibo	Jason McGuire
Jee Hoon Kim	Joshua Uloth
Paul Merani	Nicole Wayant
Sean Pummill	Glenn Williams
Lesli Rawlings	Xueming Wu

Alumni (2004-2009)

Ronald Bahl, M.A., 2005

Benjamin Barnette, Ph.D., 2009, "Qaluyaaq: An Archeology Survey and Oral Histories Collection of Nelson Island, Alaska"

Kyle Baxter, M.A., 2008, "A Cost Examination of Historic Trails Starting at the Missouri River and Passing near Fort Kearny, Nebraska"

Daniel Becker, M.A., 2008, "Modeling the Effect of Urbanization on Surface Runoff within the Apalachicola - Chattahoochee - Flint Watershed"

- Darcy Boellstorff*, M.A., 2000, "Using DEM for Updating Soil Surveys"; Ph.D., 2004, "Impacts of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy Set-Aside Scheme on Soil Erosion in Castilla-La Mancha"
- James Bowller*, M.A., 2004
- Rebecca Buller*, M.A., 2004; "Settlements of Holt County, Nebraska: A Historical Geography of Failed and Successful Towns"; Ph.D., 2009, "Intersections of Place, Time, and Entertainment in Rural Nebraska in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries"
- Henry N. Bulley*, Ph.D., 2008, "A Watershed-Based Classification System for Lakes in Agriculturally-Dominated Ecosystems: A Case Study of Nebraska Reservoirs"
- Kenneth Cannon*, Ph.D., 2008. "Biogeography of Holocene Bison in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem"
- Sudheer Chadalavada*, M.A., 2005, "A Procedure to Identify West Nile Virus Potential Risk Areas for Seven Counties in Nebraska Using GIS and Remote Sensing"
- Weirong Chen*, Ph.D., 2004, "Characterizing Scale-Dependent Spatial Structure in Multi-Resolution, Multi-Temporal and Hyperspectral Remotely Sensed Imagery"
- Melissa Connor*, Ph.D., 2005. "Landscapes of Conflict"
- Joel Connot*, M.A. 2005, "Quantification of Leaf Defoliation Caused by Simulated Hail Damage using Close Range Spectroscopy"
- Mathew Dooley*, M.A. 2002, "Assessing the Role of Visibility in Unofficial Prehistoric Place Use in Central North Dakota"; Ph.D., 2006, "Multi-Temporal Land-Use Patterning in the Western Papageria: A Geoarchaeological Analysis of Pre-Columbian Cultural Landscapes"
- Marcela Doubkova*, M.A. 2006, "Synergistic Use of AMSR-E and MODIS Data for Understanding Land Surface Phenology: Case Study from the Central Great Plains"
- Nicholas Emanuel*, M.A. 2004
- Matthew Engel*, Ph.D., 2007, "When a Prison Comes to Town: Siting, Location, and Perceived Impacts of Correctional Facilities in the Midwest"
- Martin Flynn*, M.A., 2005
- Kenneth French*, M.A. 2002, "Ethnic Groups in the Urban Fringe: An Analysis of Residential Patterns in Four Midland Cities"; Ph.D., 2008, "Patterns and Consequences of Segregation: An Analysis of Ethnic Residential Segregation at Two Geographic Scales"
- Patrick Guiberson*, M.A., 1997, "Cartographic Visualization for Exploratory Unofficial Research in Historical Geography"; Ph.D., 2007, "An Examination of Transparency as a Visual Variable for the Mapping Sciences"
- Katie Haselwood*, M.A. 2007, "Childbirth in Homesteading Communities of the Great Plains, 1862 – 1920"
- Thomas Jeffery*, Ph.D., 2006, "An Analysis of Potential Soil Productivity and Land Use on the Standing Rock Reservation"
- Melvin A. Johnson*, Ph.D., 2009, "The Changing Landscape of a Rural Region: The Effect of the Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir in the Osage River Basin of Missouri"
- Sateesh Karri*, M.A. 2005
- Paul Kelley*, M.A., "The Pipestone Quarries: An Historical Unofficial Geography"; Ph.D., 2005, "Population Change in the Upper Midwest and Northern Plains, 1960-2000"
- Cody Knutson*, M.A., 1997; Ph.D., 2004, "Rural Water Development for Marginal Regions"
- Sarah Kohtz*, M.A. 2007
- Joan Lubischer*, Ph.D., 2006, "Micropolitan Areas as Unique Economic Regions"
- Nataliya Lys*, M.A. 2009, "Analysis of Thematic Maps in Newspapers: Quality, Quantity and Variety"
- Paul Merani*, M.A. 2007, "Salt Marsh Species Discrimination and Mapping in the Chesapeake Bay Using Hyperspectral Remote Sensing"
- Bidisha Nag*, Ph.D., 2005, "A Journey across the Black Waters: Female Migration from India to the United States"
- Katherine Nashleanas*, Ph.D., 2005, "Metageographic Communities: Structuring the Non-Place Place"
- Ian Ratcliffe*, M.A. 2005, "Occurrence and Persistence of Hailstreak Devegetated Zones as Observed by Synoptic Sensors"
- Jeffrey Rhodes*, M.A., 2007. "A GIS Analysis of Social Vulnerability in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area"
- Melinda Schinstock*, M.A. 2009
- Michael Shambaugh-Miller*, M.A., 1997, "The Frontier in Nebraska as Depicted by Scientific Visualization"; Ph.D., 2004, "Rural Vulnerability in Health Care Delivery: A Geographic Information Systems Analysis"
- Shawn Slade*, M.A. 2007, "A Comparative Analysis of Per-Pixel Classification Techniques Versus Boolean Logic Classification Techniques: An Economical and Practical Approach"
- Chad Smith*, M.A. 2006, "A GIS Analysis of Social Vulnerability in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area"
- Mark Steele*, M.A. 2007, "Non-Destructive Estimation of Leaf Pigments and Monitoring Phenology of Grapevines"
- Travis Talbitzer*, M.A. 2007
- David Weekley*, M.A. 2009
- Ryan Weichelt*, Ph.D., 2008, "Scale Factors in Hispanic Voting Behavior"
- David Wurdinger*, M.A. 2004, "Interactive Maps and Geographic Comprehension: A Case Study"
- Ezra Zeitler*, M.A. 2003, "The Vitality of Ethnic Culture in Rural America: A Comparative Study of Dannebrog and Wilber, Nebraska, 1871-2003"; Ph.D., 2008, "Geographies of Indigenous-based Team Name and Mascot Use in American Secondary Schools"
- Arthur I. Zygielbaum*, Ph.D., 2009, "Detection and Measurement of Water Stress in Vegetation Using Visible Spectrum Reflectance"

Support the UNL Geography Program



UNL Geography Has a Long and Rich History

As you will see when you read Bob Stoddard's brief summary of the history of Geography at UNL, we have a storied past. Nels Bengtson, George Condra, and Leslie Hewes were Nebraska pioneers in our discipline, and it was over 100 years ago that the first Geography PhD was granted. Today's UNL Geography professors continue to train young scholars for careers in academia, government, and private business.

Your Gift is Important

These are difficult times for the nation's universities. Your contribution will allow us to:

Recruit and Retain Outstanding Faculty

By creating endowed chairs and professorships, supporting interdisciplinary centers linked to Geography, and funding programs of research.

Maintain Excellence in the Graduate Program

By allowing us to provide monetary incentives to attract the brightest and best students, support field activities, and assist students with travel expenses.

Enhance Our Exceptional Undergraduate Programs

By allowing us to offer **merit and need-based scholarships** to our outstanding undergraduate Geography students. Your gift can make an important difference to a young Geographer.

To remain competitive, we need your support for **graduate student fellowships** and **faculty research funds**. Your gift can help support the next generation of the nation's Geographers.

In short, your tax-deductible contributions not only provide opportunities for our students but they also give our faculty the resources necessary to enhance a wide variety of Geography initiatives and programs.

To explore options for giving to Geography at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, please contact Ann Bruntz,

abruntz@nufoundation.org, 402-458-1176,

Select a Fund

To remain competitive, we need your support for graduate student fellowships and faculty research funds. We have several funds that may interest you. For more information about available Geography funds please visit <http://nufoundation.org/Page.aspx?pid=1621>

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