



# Geography

School of Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln

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

Volume II/ December 2010

## Greetings from Lincoln

Welcome to the second issue of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Geography Alumni Newsletter. We're gratified that so many of you have expressed support for this annual publication and that you have provided us news about yourselves and your families. Please join me once again in extending thanks to Don Rundquist, Milda Vaitkus and Joyce Hurst for their efforts in assembling and editing the newsletter this year.

In spite of tight budgets, I am happy to report that Geography is thriving at UNL. As most of you know, in 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. The School 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. It's now clear that the integration of Geography and SNR has been mutually beneficial and has provided a firm foundation on which we are continuing to build our program. Please let me take this opportunity to tell you about some highlights of this past year:



Enrollments: Geography undergraduate and graduate degree programs (BA, MA and PhD) continued to expand in 2010. We now have over 40 undergraduate majors and 30 graduate students. Moreover, about 1300 UNL students per semester enroll in Geography courses that support both undergraduate general education and specialized programs in Natural Resources, Environmental Studies, Asian Studies, European Studies, Latin American Studies, International Studies, and Elementary and Secondary Education.

Curriculum Development: This year, Dr. Gene Guan offered new courses in Advanced GIS and GIS programming, respectively, and Dr. Rebecca Buller developed and taught a new course on Women of the Great Plains. In addition, Dr. Cody Knutson and Dr. Paul Hanson began planning for a field methods course that we hope to offer for the first time next summer.

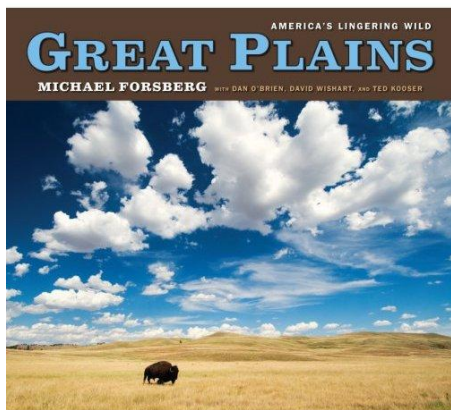
Strategic Planning: This year Geography faculty prepared a strategic plan to help guide future development. Our five key priorities are to:

- maintain/enhance teaching and research strengths in human and historical geography and in GIScience;
- expand/enhance programs in physical and environmental geography (e.g., biogeography and natural hazards) and human-environment interaction, including the human dimensions of natural resources (e.g., land use, human behavior);
- increase both ethnic and gender diversity of the faculty;
- engage more tenure-line faculty in teaching undergraduate courses; and,
- enhance collaboration with other SNR units and our external partners including the Center for Great Plains Studies, Women's Studies, International Studies, Community and

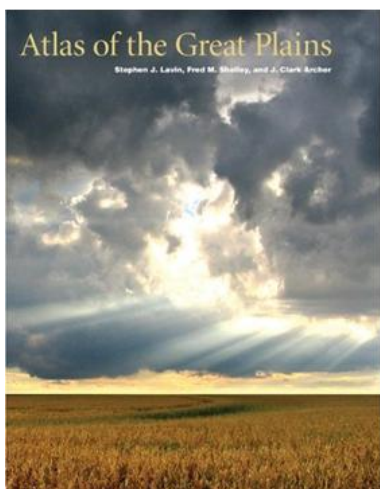
Regional Planning, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Publications: A new book, **Great Plains: America's Lingerin Wild**, coauthored by UNL Geogra-

phy alumnus Michael Forsberg and Professor David Wishart, was honored with several awards, including the 2010 Prose Award/American Publishers Awards for



Professional and Scholarly Excellence, and the 2010 Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize conferred by the UNL Center for Great Plains Studies. It was also named one of the Best of the Best by



the Association of American University Presses and one of the top 10 travel books in 2010 by Booklist, the buying source for American libraries. In July, we look forward to publication of the **Atlas of the Great Plains** (University of Nebraska Press) co-authored by Professors Steve Lavin and

Clark Archer.

Geography Awareness Week: The Geography faculty and the UNL Geography Student Organization (GSO) sponsored several very successful events to celebrate Geography Awareness Week, November 14-20, 2010. These included a two-day visit and seminar by Dr. May Yuan, Director of the Center for Spatial Analysis at the University of Oklahoma, a Best Photo Contest, focusing on the GAW theme "Freshwater," that had more than 50 entries, and the annual Geography Bowl that attracted over UNL 100 students.

Nebraska Night at the AAG – In March 2010 Dr. Cody Knutson and PhD candidate Paul Merani organized and hosted a reception for over 50 UNL faculty, students, alumni and friends at the AAG Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. We are planning on holding a similar event at the 2011 AAG Annual Conference in Seattle, WA in April. As you can tell, we're excited about Geography at UNL. We're looking forward to hearing from you, and we invite you to please let us know if you are planning to visit Lincoln so that we can arrange a time to welcome you back at UNL.

Best wishes,

Jim Merchant  
jmerchant1@unl.edu

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## Featured Article

### ***Understanding Nebraska: Pride, Geography and Self-Deprecation***

By Becky Gailey, SDN Undergraduate Intern

What makes Nebraskans proud? What makes them stay, generation after generation, in what some call "flyover country"? What makes them stay through long, cold winters and long, hot summers, often hearing someone say, "It could be worse"?

#### ***Conquering geography***

"A Nebraskan...is attached to a place that many other people might not be attached to because of its wide horizons, what is perceived as a lack of detail in landscape by many people," said David Wishart, a University of Nebraska- Lincoln geography professor and editor of the Encyclopedia of the Great Plains.

Many of Nebraska's settlers found the wide horizons lonely and difficult to cultivate. So many of them left that Wishart called 19th century Nebraska a place of "chronic impermanence."

But some people stayed. They stayed through the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl and the farming crisis of the 1980s. They stayed and helped culti-

vate the Great Plains, a region Wishart described as "the most successful agricultural region in the world over the last 100 years."

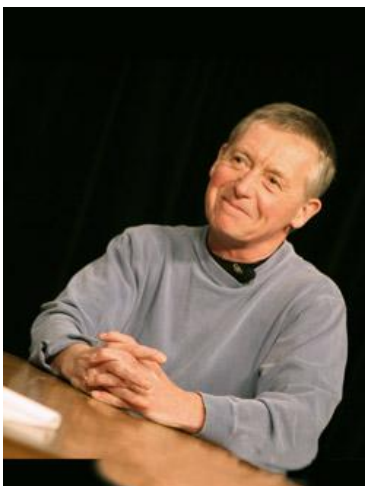
### *"The self-deprecating boast"*

Despite the dependence of America and other countries on Great Plains agriculture, many people view Nebraska as one of those flat states somewhere in the middle of America.

Wishart said that in the Great Plains "there is a sense of perhaps inferiority, a sense of feeling rural and maybe out of the stream of life that's going on in New York and San Francisco and the bigger metropolitan [areas]."

Wishart believes, however, that this feeling of inferiority also creates a sense of pride in Nebraskans, which is one of their major characteristics. They are proud to live in this land that was too harsh for others, and out of this pride comes an interesting reaction - the "self-deprecating boast" - a way of showing pride in the concept of being unpopular, of being proud of traits others would not find attractive.

Instead of struggling to "fit in" with the rest of America, Wishart said Great Plains people react to America's view of their geography with a sense of humor. Wishart found an example of a self-deprecating boast when he visited a bar in Yates Center, Kansas. The pub, Earl's Tavern, was one of the most ramshackle looking places Wishart had ever seen, and hanging on the side was a sign saying, "We only look expensive."



Wishart, who was born and raised in northeast England, has visited several restaurants in rural Nebraska. Rural Nebraska still has insular characteristics, despite the fact that new communication technology is bringing the world to rural communities, Wishart said. When he enters one of these restau-

rants, conversation often stops because he is someone different.

"People are not unfriendly; people are almost shy," Wishart said. "Whereas it might be difficult to get a conversation going there, if I were to get in my car and break down a mile down the road, any one of those people would stop and fix it... so I see it as a generous place."

### *A sense of place*

Nebraskans' humorous response to being thought of as "rural" is partly due to their strong attachment to the land. According to Wishart, it is much easier for people to develop a strong sense of place in a rural area where chain restaurants and gas stations have not taken over Main Street, where family businesses still thrive.

"It's difficult to have a sense of place where houses all look the same, the lawns look the same and it's all so modern. Sense of place, I think, takes time, generations perhaps, on the land," Wishart said.

But studies show that the newest generation of Nebraskans is leaving the land behind. A 2009 study by UNL sociology professor Randy Cantrell for the University of Nebraska Rural Initiative reported that 73 of Nebraska's 93 counties experienced population loss between 2000 and 2007. Douglas, Sarpy (the Omaha metropolitan area) and Lancaster county (including Lincoln) all experienced growth during this time period, so rural population loss can perhaps be explained by immigration to urban areas.

More young people may be leaving rural Nebraska, but Wishart said they still retain their attachment to the land. In Lincoln and Omaha, unlike many other American cities, numerous residents are only one or two generations removed from rural communities. Nebraskans still return to their rural roots to visit family for holidays, and their sense of place, their attachment to the land, still exists.

### *Loss of the Reproductive Population*

Nebraska's rural youth leave home for a variety of reasons, but they leave behind the same two things: peers who have fewer options for life part-

ners and an elderly population that does not want to leave.

"The social amenities of small towns are not great, but young people are full of ambition and enterprise. So I think that young population's going to continue to leave, which means the reproductive population, the population capable and likely to have children, is gone. Therefore, you get a population structure which is top heavy," Wishart said.

In the United States, there are two areas with concentrated populations of people who are 75 and older: Florida, because people move there, and the Great Plains, because people want to stay there. While this attachment to the land is a core characteristic of a Plains person, it can have economic consequences when combined with a leaving reproductive population because a dwindling work force must struggle to support an aging population.

### *The Past*

Nebraskans' deep attachment to rural areas seems even deeper when considering the number of people who have left the land. European immigrants established towns along the newly-built railroads, but the Sand Hills discouraged western expansion. Early farmers did not have the technology to survive in the more than 19,000 square miles of semi-arid land that stretches down from the South Dakota border, and many of them returned to the more fertile land of the East when their crops failed.

Today there are still remnants of the divide that formed between settlers who stayed in western Nebraska and those who left. Geography helped separate different cultures as people chose to settle parts of the state based on how they thought they could use the land. This divide evolved as western ranchers and urban businessmen developed different lifestyles.

It is always easiest to identify differences among the various geographical regions of Nebraska, but Wishart said that Nebraskans share more similarities than differences. For the most part, all Nebraskans eat the same food, watch the same TV shows, and, most importantly, define themselves as Nebraskans.

"There are a lot of similarities around the state, not least of which, probably the preeminent regionalism, is identification with the state and iconic things like the football team," Wishart said.

### *The Future*

Although people left Nebraska in the past, the population of the state is now growing, and Wishart predicted that Nebraska's population will become increasingly urban in the future.

"Two-thirds of the population lives in the standard-statistical metropolitan areas of Omaha and Lincoln," Wishart said. "At a certain point you hit rock bottom. You do have to have farmers on the land still, but I can't see any option... What are young people going to do?"

Young people may be leaving their agricultural roots, but this does not mean some rural centers cannot flourish in the future. Towns with attractive locations, enterprising citizens and effective advertising will always be able to attract new residents. Despite the increased social and job opportunities in urban areas, rural Nebraska has many attractive traits: parents walk their children to school instead of commuting; friendly neighbors watch over children playing outside when mom has to run down the street to the grocery store; and the vast beauty of the Great Plains always lies nearby.

Originally published in: *Strategic Discussions for Nebraska*, UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communication

<http://www.unl.edu/sdn/opportunities/articles/understanding.shtml>

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## 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 available from the University of Nebraska Press on July 1, 2011. Clark also recently completed entries on "Geography and Public Policy" and "Urban Spatial Structure" for the [\*Encyclopedia of Geography\*](#), edited by Barney Warf, which was published by Sage Publication Inc. 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 elections, and geographical impacts of various aspects of federal, state or local public policies. <http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty-member.asp?pid=929>

### Becky Buller

Dr. Rebecca A. Buller currently serves as a lecturer for the Geography program and the Center for Great Plains Studies as well as an adjunct professor at Midland University. During the Fall 2010 semester, she taught Introduction to Human Geography (GEOG 140), Elements of Physical Geography (GEOG 155), Principles of Geography (ESC 123), and the online course Women of the



Great Plains (GPSP 377, GEOG 377, WMNS 377). During the Spring 2011 semester she will be teaching Elements of Physical Geography, Geography of Nebraska (GEOG 370), and Women of the Great Plains. Her current research projects include examinations of the intersections of place, time, and entertainment in Nebraska's Hidden Paradise.

And the most significant news of the year... on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Brian and Becky first met their son, Sean Caleb Buller, an agronomist, geographer, and adventurer in training.



<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty-member.asp?pid=949>

### Kenneth French

Kenny French is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. There he teaches Geography of World-Regions; Race and Ethnicity in America; Introduction to Human Geography; Urban Geography; and Geography of Land-Use Planning. At UNL he teaches a number of online courses including Elements of Physical Geography, Geography of the United States 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



Dr. Qingfeng "Gene" Guan joined SNR in August of 2009. His research and teaching interests include geographic information systems (GIS), GeoComputation, geospatial dynamic modeling, high-performance geospatial computing, and geo-cyberinfrastructure. He teaches Introduction to GIS, Advanced Tech-

niques in GIS, GIS Programming, and Seminar in GIS. He is also currently the co-advisor of the Geography Student Organization (GSO.)

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty-member.asp?pid=1105>

### **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://snr.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty-member.asp?pid=758>



### **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. This year, I was able to complete several multi-year projects, such as the crea-

tion of a water and drought educational website for the Republican River Basin (in NE, CO, and KS) to assist in watershed planning, finishing a web-based drought planning guide for ranchers in the Great Plains, and working with pilot communities in Nebraska, Illinois, and Oklahoma to complete a

drought planning guide and the criteria for a national "Drought-Ready Communities" program. At the international level, I also had the opportunity to collaborate with UNESCO and UNICEF to host a drought training workshop for Iraqi officials (in Amman, Jordan), and FAO to host a similar week-long workshop near Menemen, Turkey, for officials from across the Middle East and Central Asia. On the teaching front, I've been developing two new courses, Environmental Geography and a Geography Field School, which are planned to be taught during the Spring and Summer of 2011.

<http://snr.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty-member.asp?pid=430>

### **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 available from the University of Nebraska Press on July 1, 2011. His latest project 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. Steve lives with Ruth, his wife of 42 years, and a cat.

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



### **Jim Merchant**

I continue to serve as both the Faculty Area Leader for the Faculty of Geography and GIScience and the Director of the Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT). In addition to my administrative duties, I annually teach our *Proseminar in Research Methods and Professional Development* as well as two courses



in GIScience and I chair the Geography General Seminar series. My students and I are working on research focused on landscape structure and satellite remote sensing, modeling soil erosion and sediment transport in small agricultural watersheds, exploring consequences of invasive plants on Platte River habitat, and forecasting impacts of future land use change on groundwater quality. This year, for the first time, I'm proud to note that my wife Loyola and I have two children attending UNL – Anne, a freshman, is majoring in pre-nursing and is a piccolo player in the Cornhusker Marching Band, and Karl is doing postgraduate work in GIScience and Asian Studies.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty-member.asp?pid=81>

### **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). In August 2010, Sunil also became the Director of the Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (GP CESU). Sunil received his PhD in Geography from the University of South Carolina in 1993. He teaches courses in remote sensing (digital image analysis) and advanced geographic information systems, and is presently advising 4 students, 2 Master's and 2 PhD. His research focuses on the use of remote sensing for the extraction of biophysical information from space and airborne 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-member.asp?pid=85>



### **Juan Paulo Ramírez**



This past year has been a busy one... In March 2010 I submitted and received a National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Geospatial Technology Division grant to examine laptop and hand-held computing devices that integrate geospatial technologies for use by Lincoln police officers. Geocoded police data will be incorporated into the moving map of an AVL system, so that police officers are constantly being presented with information about events or persons of interest (sex offenders, paroles, gang members, etc.) relevant to their current position. Partners on this grant are the Lincoln Police Department, the University of Nebraska Department of Computer Science and Engineering, and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center where I hold a position as a Center Affiliate. I also wrote a textbook, "Geography of Latin America: A Geographic Information System Approach" for the class that I teach, Geography of Latin America. The book covers the first civilizations of Latin America, geographical features of the region, demography, economic development, and the arts. Emphasized in the book are the environmental aspects that make Latin America such an important force in terms of global climatic change and sustainability. I have included satellite images that show features of the main ecoregions of Latin America, such as the Amazon Basin, the Caribbean Sea, the Atacama Desert, El Chaco, Patagonia, Las Pampas, just to name a few. Additionally, I developed a webinar, "Using Google Earth for Evaluation: Applications in Environmental Evaluation and Beyond" to introduce the use of Google Earth and other geovisualization techniques to environmental evaluators to help identify threats to the environment. I used deforestation that is occurring in the Amazon (i.e., Rondônia State in Brazil) as an example. I continue teaching Geography of Latin America (GEOG378), an online class during fall semesters and a regular lecture on spring semesters.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty-member.asp?pid=941>

### **Don Rundquist**

I continue to teach Introduction to Remote Sensing each fall semester and Practical Applications of Re-



remote Sensing in Agriculture and Natural Resources each spring semester. For many years, I taught Field Techniques in Remote Sensing during spring and traveled with students to an assortment of interesting (warm) locations for data collection and study. Unfortunately, the costs associated with travel (and the age of the Professor) have led to teaching the field course infrequently. I very much miss the field work, and the days I spent in the field with my students were the best days of my professional career. I am currently advising two PhD and two Masters students.

My research these days remains oriented to remote sensing as it relates to water quality and vegetation. More specifically, I am working on experiments dealing with remote sensing of water quality, submerged aquatic vegetation, crops and rangeland, and grapevine leaves/canopies. A new project involving Phragmites is just now beginning. I currently have two grants from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, and one each from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and NOAA/Florida A&M University. I am a collaborator on a couple of others.

Since I reduced my faculty appointment in 2008 from 12 to 9 months (after 26 years as a 12-month employee), my summers tend to be focused on my vineyard business. Brian (my youngest son) and I currently have about 2,300 vines, each of which requires a significant amount of personal attention. Regardless of the workload at the farm, I always take time in summer for the annual fishing trip to the Ely, Minnesota area with Brad's (my oldest son's) family. Carol and I also enjoy spending time with each of our six grandchildren (three boys and three girls, ranging in age from 3 to 18).

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty-member.asp?pid=103>

### **Brian Wardlow**

In 2010, I completed my fourth year as the leader for the GIScience Program Area at the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) and had the opportunity to work on a wide range of projects that apply remote sensing and GIS technologies including



drought monitoring, evapotranspiration and terrestrial water storage estimation, irrigation mapping, and vegetation phenology characterization. My activities include the overseeing both basic and applied remote sensing research projects at the NDMC and working with researchers, decision makers, and the general public to utilize geospatial information for drought monitoring and impact assessment. I also continue to be involved with UNL Geography students through my roles as co-advisor with both the Geography Student Organization (GSO) and Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU).

Highlights of 2010 include conducting a drought early warning system workshop in Argentina for agricultural producers in the Patagonia region, participating in a National Academy of Science Natural Hazards and Remote Sensing meeting in Washington, DC, and working with University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers to understand the relationship between drought, heat waves, and bird populations in the U.S. Great Plains. I also continue to work on a remote sensing applications book entitled 'Remote Sensing of Drought: Innovative Monitoring Approaches' that is scheduled for publication in January 2012 by CRC Press.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty-member.asp?pid=784>

### **David Wishart**

David Wishart is now in his 36th year in Geography at UNL. He is currently working on a book entitled The Last Days of the Rainbelt: Settlement and Failure on the Western High Plains in the Late Nineteenth Century. He aims to have it finished by the





end of 2011.

<http://snrs.unl.edu/aboutus/who/people/faculty-member.asp?pid=691>

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## STAFF

### Joyce Hurst

It has been a privilege to have been a part of the Geography program for nearly 14 years. There have been many transitions and changes, but the high quality and integrity of our program has gone unchanged and I am proud to be a part of that. I continue to work part-time, and you will find me in Hardin Hall weekday mornings. During my time away from work, my family enjoys camping and four-wheeling. For those of you who knew my children in those early days, Tera is now 26 and lives with her husband in Guam, Ryan is 25 and lives in Lincoln, and Luke is 17 and still at home. One of the best parts of my job continues to be working with students and watching them achieve their career goals. I hope in some small way that I make that process easier. I absolutely love it when alumni stay in touch with me, send pictures, and stop in to visit.



### Milda Vaitkus



I have been working at CALMIT in a variety of roles for over 9 years now. In that time, I've worked on a wide range of projects, including Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans for the NE National Guard and also the NE Gap Analysis Project. For the last five years I have served as the Program Manager of the [NebraskaView](#) Program, a USGS program dedicated to making geospatial technologies more accessible to the citizens of Nebraska. As part of this program I have developed and taught a variety of geospatial outreach workshops and activities to groups ranging from 4H high school students and teachers to local & state government employees. Since 2008, when Geography joined SNR, my du-

ties have expanded to include supporting Geography educational outreach activities, such as Sundays With a Scientist and NaturePalooza, recruitment and assisting Joyce when (rarely) needed.

### Jessica Ditmore

Jessica, a sophomore from Topeka, Kansas, majoring in Anthropology and Forensic Science, has been assisting Joyce for the past year with the endless paperwork and logistics of keeping the Geography program running smoothly. She has proven herself to be a valuable member of staff and received the College of Arts & Sciences Student Ovation award in October.



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## UNL Service Awards

**5 Years**

Paul Hanson

**25 Years**

Clark Archer

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## Alumni Updates

### **Karen Falconer Al-Hindi, BA 1987**

Karen Falconer Al-Hindi is Professor of Geography and Women's Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where she directs the Women's and Gender Studies Program. Her teaching and research encompass both Geography and Women's and Gender Studies: Introduction to Women's Studies in the Social Sciences; Geography, Gender and Work; Research Methods; History and Philosophy of Geography; Urban Social Geography Seminar. She'll offer her second entirely online course in spring 2011. Her work has been published in scholarly journals including *The Professional Geographer* and *Society & Space*, and she has co-edited a book: *Feminisms in Geography* (2008). Karen lives with her husband and two sons in Omaha. Musa teaches Arabic at Creighton University. Son Liam attends Westside Middle School; son Sean is in fifth grade. Karen is active in the Autism Society of Nebraska and is researching geographies of autism.



### **Steve Bellovich, PhD 1974**



It has been a long time since I have done anything in geography, but I have seen a lot of geography because of travel associated with my job. For the last 16 years I have served as dean of the College of Engineering & Natural Sciences at the University of Tulsa, a small private university located in eastern Oklahoma. Our college, with 1146 undergraduates and 307 graduate students, is the largest of the university's four colleges. The college consists of 10 disciplines---4 engineering and 6 science---108 faculty and 71 staffers. In any given year the faculty brings in between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000 in research grants and contracts. Since a big part of my job involves fund-raising and alumni relations, I have traveled extensively throughout the U.S., western

Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, and the Persian Gulf. Consequently, I have seen many of the phenomena---physical and cultural---that I only read about when I was a student at Nebraska. Recently, my travels have been curtailed by a cancer diagnosis, and I am limited to traveling to M.D.

Anderson in Houston, Texas, where I am participating in a medical trial. Soon, I will complete my chemo treatments, and I plan to return to a more normal travel schedule. Unless my health deteriorates, retirement is not an option right now because I am having too much fun on the job. We are in the final stages of a \$400,000,000 capital campaign that includes two new buildings for my college. Groundbreaking is scheduled for April, and I plan to stick around until the buildings are constructed. After that, I will hang it up and go fishing.

### **Ron Block, MA 1978**

I am currently in my 23rd year as senior meteorologist/forecaster with the National Weather Service. This includes serving at offices in New York City, Phoenix, San Juan, Puerto Rico and for the last eleven years in Tallahassee Florida. Prior to my entry into the Weather Service, I served briefly as an air pollution meteorologist in private industry and for five years with the U.S. Government oversees as a meteorologist in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. My varied career has provided a wide array of experiences including helping countries establish university meteorology programs and, coordinating long term climate predictions to best develop agricultural products. I have forecasted and lived through more than twenty hurricanes, and a myriad of tornadoes, blizzards, tsunamis and other severe weather. My varied research papers have focused on urban meteorology, an outgrowth of my master's thesis, which focused on applying thermal infrared imagery to detect micro heat island patterns. I also spend ample time on outreach activities discussing weather safety and encouraging students of all ages to consider climatology/meteorology as a career. My wife Diana and I have one son, David, 21 years old.

### Darcy Boellstorff, MA 2000, PhD 2004



Assistant Professor of Geography at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

I was awarded tenure last spring at Bridgewater State University. Myself and my colleagues in Lilongwe from World Relief-Malawi were awarded a "Exploratory Project" grant from UC Davis' Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program funded through USAID. The year-long project is entitled "Geographic Information Accessibility for Improving Horticulture-based Income Generation in the Mzimba District of Malawi."

### Jeff R. Crump, PhD 1989



Associate Professor, Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel, University of Minnesota. Recent publications- Territorial Stigmatization and Public Housing in the United States: Urban Landscapes and the Geography of Hate in *The Geography of Hate* (2004).

### Jack Dohrman, BA 2008

I have been the GIS Analyst for the Nebraska Legislature since graduating in 2008. We are currently preparing geographic and demographic data for redistricting of several Nebraska political boundaries following the 2010 Census. Working for the Legislature has led me to the opportunity of becoming a member of the Nebraska GIS Council.



My wife, Heather and I are usually trying to keep up with our three busy kids, Bailey, 12, Cole, 8 and Avery, 4. They enjoy visiting their grandparents near Lewis and Clark Lake to go boating, swimming and skating and also get to ride horses at their grandparents near Stanton.

### Marcela Doubková, MA 2006

e-mail: [mdo@ipf.tuwien.ac.at](mailto:mdo@ipf.tuwien.ac.at)

Hello to all UNL Alumni WAS. I studied, worked and greatly enjoyed to be at the Geography department and CALMIT in years 2003-2006; first as a visiting student from the Czech Republic (2003-2004,



granted Robitschek scholarship) later as a master student under supervision of Geoff Henebry. In 2006, I received my M.A. diploma in Geography. In 2006, I followed Geoff on his move north (SDSU - South Dakota State University) and continued working on projects related to my thesis.

Since 2007 I work at the Technical University of Vienna in Austria at the Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (IPF). Here I work with a great team of people from almost entire Europe. I am gaining experience in active microwave remote sensing, in particular applying SAR and Scatterometer data towards Earth Observation of land and water. In 2009 I started my PhD. As I enjoyed the best of Nebraska (biking, running, international parties) I also enjoy the best of the Austria (hiking, climbing, and going home to the Czech Republic). On weekends you usually find me in the hills and forests somewhere in Austrian Alps. This winter I got the opportunity to join the land and water resources team at CSIRO, Australia in their soil moisture field work. I also spent some additional time at the Land and Water department in Canberra.

NOW. I am working on my PhD and leading a project at IPF.

### Jodi Elliot, BA 2004

I am currently enrolled in UNMC's nursing program, in Kearney. I finished my Geography degree at UNL in December of 2004. I spent the summer of 2005 in Slovakia, helping with English camps for youth. I returned to Lincoln and worked for



*Family Service* supervising after-school programs. I enjoyed creating a variety of activities to build on the interests of the students, including their know-

ledge of the world. During this time, my Grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and being involved with her care gave me a desire to move into the field of nursing. I worked for 2 years as a nurse aide at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. I started the nursing program this January, and I am scheduled to graduate in May 2012 with a BSN. I now have a passion for caring for sick and elderly, and know that it is how I want to spend my life. As a nurse aide, I have worked with many great people who are from a variety of places from Butte, NE to India.

### **Jason Felton, MA 2003 and Tiffany Spaulding, MA 2003**



Jason and Tiffany Felton welcomed their daughter Sophia Marie Felton into the world on June 29, 2010. Sophia has kept Jason and Tiffany very busy, but she is a real joy! Jason has worked as a GIS Analyst at the Unified Government of Wyandotte

County/Kansas City, KS, for over three years. Prior to this, Jason worked in the FEMA floodplain mapping industry for AECOM. Jason is also active with the Kansas City ArcInfo Users Group, GIS Certification Institute, and other organizations. Tiffany is a GIS Analyst for Black & Veatch of Overland Park, KS. She has worked in the Federal Services Division for six years now, and her projects have taken her to Germany, among other destinations. Jason and Tiffany enjoy life in the Midwest – especially during football season – and still have family in Missouri and Nebraska.

### **Ken Foley, MA 1989**

After graduation, I accepted a position with the Nebraska Department of Roads as a Cartographer and participated in



NDOR's tentative initial efforts to transition from a manual to a digital cartographic production environment.

However, when contacted by the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA) in the spring of 1991, I began a rewarding career with the Department of Defense that has now reached 19+ years. I have had the pleasure of serving with DMA as it has evolved into the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) and, ultimately, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). I have been involved in many diverse areas of cartographic and GEOINT (Geospatial Intelligence) production in support of our military men and women around the world. Early in my career, I produced 1:50,000 and 1:100,000 Topographic Line Maps and 1:250,000 Joint Operations Graphics. These products were constructed to exacting military standards and I found the work to be professionally rewarding and personally satisfying. I have also been involved in the Agency's vector mapping programs (VMap), contract cartographic production and quality control, commercial imagery acquisition oversight and many other NGA initiatives.

My current position finds me back in Nebraska. In 2004, I accepted an assignment with NGA's Support Team to US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) at Offutt Air Force Base. I currently lead eight talented and dedicated analysts who provide time-dominant GEOINT to the command's J2 (Chief of Intelligence). It is a demanding and fast-paced environment, but the products our Imagery and Geospatial Analysts generate are amazing and provide a critical geographic perspective and impact that cannot be overstated.

I now live in west Omaha with my wife of 31 years, Pam. My son, Chris (who, as a seven-year-old, occasionally tagged along with me when I taught Physical Geography lab sessions at UNL!) and daughter-in-law, Jen, live in Syracuse, Nebraska. My first grandchild, a beautiful little girl named Olivia, arrived in May 2010. Very exciting! Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Lavin and Dr. Wishart who advised me and guided me through graduate school and contributed to the success I have enjoyed in the geography field. I look forward to visiting the department soon and wish the faculty, alumni and current geography students the best.



### **Erin Hogan Fouberg, MA 1993, PhD 1997**

Dr. Fouberg is Associate Professor of Geography and Director of the Honors Program at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Between 1997



and 2003, Erin was Assistant and then Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Mary Washington (then Mary Washington College) in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Erin is co-author of *Human Geography: People, Place and Culture* with Alexander B. Murphy and H.J. de Blij (John Wiley & Sons). They are currently working on the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the textbook. Erin is also excited to publish *Understanding World Regional Geography* with William Moseley (John Wiley & Sons) in 2011 so she can open up time on her research and writing agenda for other projects.

Erin and her husband, Robert (UN-L College of Law '95), have two children, Maggie, age 10 and Henry, age 7. Erin and Robert returned to Lincoln in fall 2010 so Erin could give a guest seminar in the department and they could take their children to their first Huskers football game.

### **Jerry D. Gerlach, BA 1964, MA 1968**

I very much enjoyed the Geography Alumni newsletter of February 2010. I missed hearing about alumni from the 1960's and 1970's. I received a B.A. from N.U. in 1964 with a Geography major. I then received my M.A. in 1968. My Ph.D was obtained from the University of Oklahoma.

As an undergraduate and graduate student I had classes from Professor Hewes, Rugg, Bowman, and McIntosh. I also worked for professor Hewes on his suitcase farming research. Nels Bengston was around as well. I was a fellow graduate colleague of Dave Wishart. My training at NU was very helpful to my career. My career highlights would include publishing more articles in FOCUS than any other geographer and being selected as a Fulbrighter to each in England. Most of my published work was based on field work, which was stressed by the NU faculty.

Since the last newsletter I have remained in my position as a professor of geography at Winona state university. I attended the AAG meetings in Washington DC and went to the Nebraska party. The on-

ly Nebraska 'alum' I knew at the party was Brian Blouet. In the summer of 2010 I travelled to Germany, France and Spain. My goals were to research my Russian German roots in Germany and to examine wine tourism in France. Success was achieved in both endeavors. My direct ancestor left Budingon, near Frankfurt, in 1767 to immigrate to the Volga area of Russia. My grandfather immigrated to Lincoln a little over 100 years later. In France I toured and researched wine tourism in the Dordogne, and Loire river valleys.

### **Luoheng Han, PhD 1994**

After one and half years as chair in the Department of Geography, I was appointed Associate Dean for Natural Sciences and Mathematics in the Arts & Sciences Dean's Office in January 2009. Much of my time is now spent on administration. I do enjoy working with chairs and faculty across science and math departments. With the enrollment at the University of Alabama reaching record high, our faculty have been working really hard in teaching, research and service. I still teach remote sensing courses. That gives me the chance to interact with students. I do, however, miss my research, particularly the field work of hyperspectral sensing of water quality.

### **Paul A. Kelly, PhD 2005**



When I returned to my suburban Philadelphia hometown in 2007, I set about creating a regional geography course to teach to adult community members at my old high school. I have been gradually expanding my travels and knowledge of Pennsylvania and have a photo-essay blog to showcase my twin passions of

geography and photography:

<http://pakman6.smugmug.com>. I'm an active volunteer naturalist and native plant gardener, having gone through the training program at one of the Northeast's finest native plant sanctuaries ([www.bwhp.org](http://www.bwhp.org)) as well as the Philadelphia Horticultural Society's Tree Tender training. My current intellectual passion is astrology. Yes, astrology. I learned the basics on my own, have taught classes to community members, written a short text, and I participate in regional conferences much like those

of the AAG and other professional organizations. My plan is to pursue a more engaged, structured educational program, perhaps culminating in professional certification. This year, I worked for the U.S. Census on three consecutive projects over the spring and summer months, which added almost 1100 miles to my vehicle and netted me around \$3600, some intense frustration, and a sense of accomplishment. Also this year, I began writing essays about the job I have taking care of the house in which I live and my quest to master the basics of astrology. It can be found at <http://domesticastrologer.blogspot.com>. My email address is pakman6@verizon.net.

### **John 'Jack' Kinworthy, PhD 1981**

Professor of Geography, Earth Sciences and Economics-Emeriti Concordia University-Nebraska. The only change in my family is that we have another granddaughter named Alexandra Nicole who lives in Ft. Worth, TX with her parents. She was born on July 23rd and is a cutie.

### **Stephen M. Kuzma BA 1977**

I graduated from UNL in 1977 with a BA in Geography/Urban Studies and my academic advisor was Dr. Dean Rugg. I also studied under Richard Lonsdale, Douglas Amedeo, Robert Stoddard, C.B. McIntosh and David Wishart. I'm very sorry to hear about the passing of Rugg and McIntosh; they were both good men and always very helpful to me.

Wishart taught Human Geography as well as Senior Seminar and I wrote a paper on Lewis Mumford which I enjoyed very much. I actually interviewed Mumford over the phone and many of his comments were included in my paper.

Back in 1977 there were five special programs within Geography, namely Urban Studies, Locational Analysis, Climatology, Environmental Studies and Cartography. I had always moved a lot growing up and from living in so many different cities; I chose to study under Dean Rugg.

After I graduated, I went to work for Burlington Northern Railroad, which is currently BNSF Railway. As you're aware, we were recently purchased by Warren Buffett, which should prove to be very beneficial. I've been with BNSF for 31 years and am currently employed as Manager-Land Revenue in our Corporate Real Estate Development group. We handle property sales & acquisitions as well as permits, donations and other

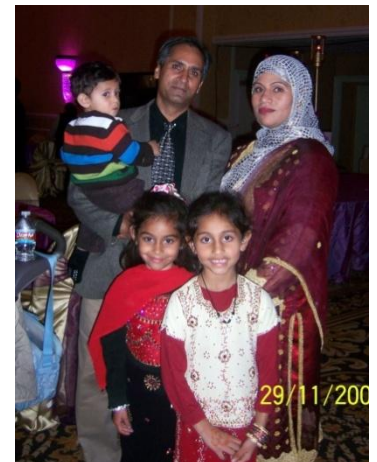
related contract work. I've also been involved with many recent projects in Lincoln with both the City and the State. It's a career I enjoy very much and my years at UNL were extremely beneficial in preparing me for the working world.

### **Mohammed Lawal, BS 1980, MA 1981**

Senior Lecturer of Geography and Planning, Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos, Nigeria. His duties include the theses supervision of M.A. students. Publications include "Oil Refineries and Oil Pipelines in Nigeria" in *African Perspectives on Globalization and Sustainable Development* (2005) and "Railway Development in Nigeria: Problems and Prospects" in *Studies in Nigeria Development* (2006).

### **Mahtab A. Lodhi, PhD 1998**

I am an associate professor of geography at the University of New Orleans (UNO). I have been teaching remote sensing and several other geography courses since joining the UNO in the fall of 1998. As some of you know, I am also an alumni of University of Nebraska - Omaha (UNO), so this is my



second UNO. My recently completed remote sensing projects are: 1) Smart Growth Education Project for Tangipahoa, Washington, St. John and St. Tammany Parishes; 2) Gulf of Mexico Coastal Geospatial Information Support System (CGISS). Both projects were funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. My current project deals with Haitian Earthquake damage assessment.

My family includes beautiful wife Tabassum, sons Ahsan (10) and Rayhan (21 months), daughters Maliha (7) and Lamees (6).

We invite our friends from CALMIT and the Geography Department to visit us in New Orleans, the "Big Easy". Any time is the best time to visit New Orleans, but Mardi Gras time is the best of all!



### **Ruta Radziunas Rauber, BS 1980**

I graduated from the then-Department of Geography in May 1980. Dr. Ken Dewey was my advisor. The only living person I recognized in the newsletter was Dr. Wishart. I was saddened to read of Dr. Rugg's and Dr. McIntosh's passing. They were such dedicated and approachable professors. Dr. Rugg still had a dark head of hair back in the late 70s while Dr. McIntosh had already gone completely gray. I believe you arrived at UNL shortly after I graduated.

After I graduated from UNL, I was conditionally accepted to the Atmospheric Science Department at Colorado State University as a graduate student. Academically, I did not survive the rigors of the program and ended up leaving the program in May 1981. However, I ended up marrying one of the other grad students who is now the head of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences here at the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana. (Dr. Adam Houston, one of the geoscience guys is a former grad student of DAS.)

I was employed in a couple of air quality companies and worked as office support for weather research-related grants for about 5 years before pursuing an M. A. in Elementary Education at University of Northern Colorado-Greeley. So, while I'm not a weather/climate person in a professional sense, weather research has been a part of my life in a personal way. I've been around cloud physicists, modelers, remote sensors, dynamicists, and climate scientists for the past 25 years.

### **Robert Stoddard, MA 1960**

Prof. Emeritus of UNL. Continues educational work through teaching and the organization of courses for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and for the Lincoln Winter Lecture Series. Recent publications include "Great Plains Region" in the *Encyclopedia of Religion in America* (2010); "The Geography of Buddhist Pilgrimage in Asia" in *Pilgrimage and Buddhist Art* (2010); and "Pilgrimage Places and Sacred Geometries" in *Pilgrimage: Sacred Landscapes and Self-Organized Complexity* (2009).

### **Paul D. Yamamoto, BS 1988, MA 1991**

I currently live in Lincoln and am employed by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as a Senior Support Analyst. I have been with the DEQ since 1992. At the DEQ I coordinate and support all agency GIS activities, including Global Position System (GPS), web mapping, and

some general IT support. I currently represent the DEQ on the Nebraska GIS Council (previously known as the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee). I am an active member of the Nebraska GIS/LIS Association, and served on the Association's Board of Directors from 2002-2005. I also served as President Elect, President, and Past President of the Nebraska GIS/LIS Association from 2006-2008. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I also enjoy golfing, and cheering for the Huskers at various Husker sporting events. Go Big Red!!



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## **In Memoriam**

### **Clark Harding Brooke, Jr. (1920-2009), PhD 1956**

Prof. Brooke was born in Evanston, Ill., and moved with his family to Seattle, where he attended public schools. In 1942 he earned a B.A. degree in geography from the University of Washington. On Dec. 8, 1941—the day after the Pearl Harbor attack—Prof. Brooke enlisted in the United States Navy and served with distinction as an officer during the 1943-1945 Pacific Theater campaigns. For two decades he maintained an active reserve status and retired with the rank of commander. After the war ended, as a representative for the American Salvage Company, he worked on projects in Asia and Africa. For the newly independent Philippine Government he successfully recovered bullion that had been dumped into Manila Bay to prevent its seizure during the Japanese occupation.

In 1949 Prof. Brooke began geography graduate studies at the University of Washington, and pursued thesis research on coastal razor clams, fulfilling requirements for an M.A. degree that was awarded in 1950. When he launched doctoral studies at the University of Nebraska, he shifted research emphasis to African studies. From 1952 to 1954 he conducted field studies and taught in Ethiopia, which established his reputation as a regional specialist, and culminated in a PhD degree awarded 1956. In 1954 Prof. Brooke took a geography instructor appointment at the Portland Extension Center, the forerunner institution that a year later became Portland State College. Investigating food supply problems, land use, and relevant genetic characteristics of endangered breeds of

sheep led to extensive and varied overseas field studies in Turkey, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Tanganyika, and Europe. Ongoing research undergirded frequent presentations to scholarly organizations and produced a long list of juried publications. A wide range of universities—Wyoming, Alaska Methodist, Washington, and Kabul in Afghanistan, among others—took advantage of his academic specialty by engaging him as a visiting professor.

Peace Corps training projects at PSU and Georgetown utilized his expertise for area studies instruction related to Ethiopia, Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan. He achieved emeritus status in 1990.

*Excerpt from —Victor C. Dahl, Professor Emeritus of History, with assistance from Charles M. White, Professor Emeritus of History, [The RAPS Sheet, Portland State University, January 2010](#)*

## Current UNL Geography Students

PhD	MA
Ashley Barnett	Nwakaku Ajaere
Roberto Bonifaz-Alfonzo	Mark Avery
Molly Cannon	Jason Byers
Matthew Cartledge	Ting Chen
Gabrielle Collins	David Gibbs
Kurt Elder	Jason McGuire
Gregory Fetterman	Christine Nycz
Mary Hallin	Shelley Schindler
Glenn Humphress	Joshua Uloth
Dennis James	Nicole Wayant
Humphrey Kalibo	Xueming Wu
Jee Hoon Kim	Travis Yeik
Paul Merani	
Sean Pummill	
Mikal Stewart	
Sharmistha Swain	
April Whitten	
Cynthia Williams	



Graduate Students Josh Uloth & Mikal Stewart help out at the 2010 Geography Bowl



Graduate Student Kaku Ajaere is interviewed by Daily Nebraskan reporter Josh Woolery about Geography Week activities.





## 2010 Graduates

### PhD degrees awarded

Darren Adams, *Preservation Ethics in the Case of Nebraska's Nationally Registered Historic Places*

Lawrence Bradley, *Dinosaurs and Indians: Paleontological Dispossession from Sioux Lands*

Lesli Rawlings, *Public School Characteristics, Proximity, and Home Values: a Case Study of Lincoln and Omaha Nebraska*

### MA degrees awarded

Nathan Freitas

Christopher Ladegard

Glenn Williams

### BA/BS degrees awarded

Rebecca Briles

Christine Cary

Jared Cranston

Jenna Hodge

Do Kim

Trisha Larson

Tyler Lawrence

Troy Lee

Caranda Leland

Michael Marnik

Robert McCown

James Thayer

Seth Walker

Ryan Will

Christopher Wilson

Omaha, NE

Lincoln, NE

Colby, KS

Lincoln, NE

Omaha, NE

Mead, NE

Lincoln, NE

Lincoln, NE

Northbranch, MN

Ft. Collins, CO

Lincoln, NE

Bladen, NE

Grand Island, NE

Lincoln, NE

Wahoo, NE

## Gamma Theta Upsilon

### Alpha Phi Chapter

In April 2010 the Faculty of Geography and GIScience was pleased to honor thirteen students who qualified for membership in **Gamma Theta Upsilon**, the International Honorary Society in Geography (<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/>). These students exhibited superior academic performance in Geography courses.

Congratulations to:

- Nwakaku Ajaere
- Jeff Bragg
- Jenna Hodge
- Glenn Humphress
- Trisha Larson
- Caranda Leland
- Gerald Matzke
- Paul Merani
- Mikal Stewart
- Sharmistha Swain
- Ryan Will
- Glenn Williams
- Xueming Wu



## Geography Seminar Series 2009-2010

The faculty and students of Geography and GIScience sponsor a seminar every other Friday at 2:00pm in room 228 Hardin Hall. The seminars are free and open to the public. Thanks to all of those who spoke in our seminar series during the 2009-2010 academic year.

### Fall 2009

- September 11 ***An Overview of the use of GIS in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services***, Ge Lin, Associate Professor of Geography and Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center.
- September 25 ***The Changing Economic Landscape of a Rural Region since the Construction of Large-scale Economic Development Projects: A case study of the Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir in the Kaysinger Basin of Missouri***, Mel Johnson, PhD candidate in Geography, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- October 9 ***Improving Conservation Planning in Nebraska Watersheds by Mapping and Modeling Agricultural Land Sales***, Steve Shultz, Professor of Land Use Economics, University of Nebraska-Omaha
- October 23 ***Screen Time Nation: and the need for Fieldwork in Geography***, Joel Helmer, Associate Professor of Geography, Concordia University
- November 6 ***Landology: Studies in Landscape, History, and the Media***, Dr. Christina Dando, Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Nebraska-Omaha
- November 20 ***The Geography and Geopolitics of Genocide***, Steve Egbert, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Kansas
- November 30 ***Exploring Ordinary Space in Everyday Living***, Molly Cannon, PhD candidate in Geography, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- December 4 ***GIS in Redistricting***, Jack Dohrman, GIS Analyst, Nebraska Legislative Research

### Spring 2010

- January 15 ***Three Guidelines for Developing a Geography Curriculum for a Summer Camp***, Gabrielle Collins, PhD candidate in Geography, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- January 29 ***The National Drought Mitigation Center***, Michael Hayes, Professor and Director, National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- February 12 ***Scenery as a Natural Resource***, Richard Sutton, Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- February 26 ***Communicating the Value of Biodiversity with the Healthy Farm Index***, John Quinn, PhD candidate in Applied Ecology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- March 12 ***Hooters for Neuters: Sexist or Transgressive Animal Advocacy Campaign?*** Julie Urbanik, Assistant Professor of Geosciences, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- March 26 ***The Role of Geography in Public Health: Moving Beyond Mapping***, Mike Shambaugh-Miller, Assistant Professor of Geography, NU Medical Center
- April 23 ***The Geographic Educators of Nebraska: Lessons Learned by a New Coordinator***, Randy Bertolas, Professor of Geography, Wayne State College

### Fall 2010

- September 10 ***The Impacts of Soil Moisture on Different Plant Functional Types in California***, Shishi Liu, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, University of California-Santa Barbara
- September 24 ***South Dakota Political Cultures: Negotiating Identity and Scale in the Voting Booth***, Erin Foubert, Associate Professor of Geography, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD
- October 22 ***The Rise and Decline of the Official Automobile Blue Book Route Guide*** John Bauer, Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Nebraska-Kearney
- November 5 ***Social Services and Community Planning with GIS***  
Kurt Elder, Urban Development, City of Lincoln, NE
- November 17 ***GIScience Approaches to Understanding Geographic Dynamics***  
May Yuan, Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor and Director, Center for Spatial Analysis, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
- December 3 ***Galapagos Travelogue***, Art Zygielbaum, Associate Research Professor, CALMIT, UNL School of Natural Resources

## AAG NEWS



<http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>

### AAG Nebraska Night Thursday, April 14, 2011

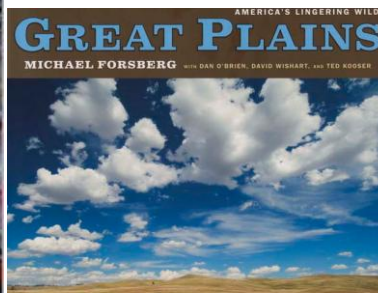
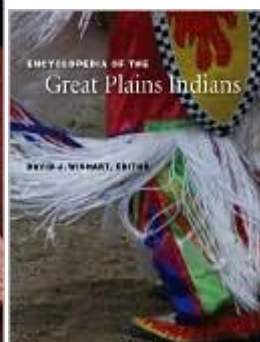
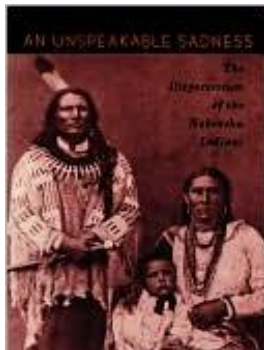
Please join current UNL Geography students, faculty and fellow Alums for an evening of drinks, hors d'oeuvres and camaraderie. Check the meeting program for time and location.

### AAG Special Session

David Wishart, Professor of Geography in the Geography/GIScience Faculty in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be honored for his 30 years of scholarly pursuits during two special sessions during the April 2011 AAG meeting (check the meeting program for time and location.) David currently teaches Introduction to Human Geography, Historical Geography of the Great Plains, History and Philosophy of Geography, Senior Seminar, and graduate seminars in Historical Geography and in the Great Plains region.

David's particular interest is in Historical Geography, especially in the regional context of the Great Plains and in the dispossession of indigenous peoples and their more recent claims cases. He is also interested in the epistemology of Geography and History, especially the question: what can be known about the past?

Most recently, he is a co-author of *The Great Plains: America's Lingering Wild* (University of Chicago Press, 2009). He has been the chief undergraduate advisor since 1974, and he chaired the Department of Anthropology and Geography from 2002 to 2008. David was asked to present the Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture in fall of 2004. He received the J.B. Jackson Prize in 1995 for the Best Scholarly Book in North American Human Geography for his book, *An Unspeakable Sadness: The Dispossession of the Nebraska Indians*. He also edited the *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*, which was released in 2004, and the *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains Indians* (2006).



## Geography Student Organization (GSO)

The GSO is comprised of both graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in Geography. Dr. Brian Wardlow and Dr. Gene Guan serve as faculty advisors for the organization. GSO officers during the past year included:

### OFFICERS FOR 2009-10

- **President:** Paul Merani
- **Vice President:** Nikki Wayant
- **Treasurer:** Caranda (C.J) Leland
- **Secretary:** Kaku Ajaere

### OFFICERS FOR 2010-11

- **President:** Kaku Ajaere
- **Vice President:** Mikal Stewart
- **Treasurer:** Jason Windhurst
- **Secretary:** Sharmistha Swain

During the past year, GSO members have been engaged in a variety of activities, including:

**Geography Awareness Week** - More than 100 UNL students attended the 2009 Geography Bowl held in November as part Geography Awareness Week (GAW). Teams competed to answer questions about all aspects of Geography. In celebration of GAW, GSO also sponsored a photo contest that attracted more than 40 entries.

**Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium and Weatherfest** - In April 2010, several thousand people visited Hardin Hall to learn about severe weather and the School of Natural Resources, and to tour dozens of booths and displays. GSO members helped develop and staff an exhibit that informed about Geography's important role in dealing with natural hazards.

**Sunday with a Scientist** – Geographers and CAL-MIT faculty, staff and students spent an afternoon in May at Morrill Hall, UNL's Museum of Natural History, to inform people about earth observations from space, mapping and Geography.

**Naturepalooza** - The first annual Naturepalooza Expo was held in October 2010 at Morrill Hall, UNL's Museum of Natural History. GSO members and Geography faculty and staff joined others from SNR in mounting educational displays about all facets of natural resources. Over 500 persons attended.



Students from many UNL departments participated in the 2010 Geography Bowl



Dr. Paul Hansen demonstrates stream table at Naturepalooza, October 2010



Jeehoon Kim, PhD candidate in Geography, discusses Google Earth with a visitor at Naturepalooza, October 2010

# Support the UNL Geography Program

## Donations to Geography Program

Dr. Bradley and Mrs. Victoria Baltensperger	Houghton	MI
Drs. Louis C. & Joann C. Brandhorst	Monmouth	OR
Mr. Timothy R. Ehlers	Salem	OR
Dr. Frederick B. Piellusch	Greer	SC
Dr. William E. Powell	Pittsburg	KS
Mr. Don R. Ten Bensel	Ellaville	GA



## UNL Geography Has a Long and Rich History

Geography at UNL has 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](mailto: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>

### Leslie Hewes Fund

The Leslie Hewes Prize is an award for outstanding graduate students in the Department of Geography in recognition of excellence in scholarship. Gifts to the fund enhance the award.

[Contribute now](#)

### Geography Founders Fund

A gift to this fund provides support for the department.

[Contribute now](#)

### Geography Student Support Fund

This fund was established to provide fellowships to students.

[Contribute now](#)