



Geography

School of Natural Resources
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Lincoln

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

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Greetings from Lincoln

Jim Merchant



On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of UNL Geography, I welcome you to the third annual UNL Geography Alumni newsletter.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to highlight important events and accomplishments of this past year, and thank each of you who contributed news about your work and your families.

By now, most of you have heard the sad news of the untimely passing of Dr. Stephen J. Lavin in May. A member of the Geography faculty for over 30 years, Steve was widely recognized for his excellence in teaching and research in cartography. His scholarship and friendship are sorely missed by all of us. During his career at UNL, Steve supervised 43 graduate students and served for 5 years as Chair of Geography. In October, many former students and colleagues honored Steve at a special paper session held in conjunction with the 2011 annual meeting of the North American Cartographic Information Society.

One of Steve's finest achievements is the new **Atlas of the Great Plains** (University of Nebraska Press, 2011) co-authored with his friends J. Clark Archer (UNL) and Fred M. Shelley (University of Oklahoma). The only comprehensive atlas of the region, the volume contains more than 300 original full-color maps and extensive text chronicling political and social

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Proof that Plains anything but drab

By [David Hendee](#)
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

A \$39.95 purchase could save your life, if you're expecting to have a heart attack around here and want to find a nearby hospital.

Or it could help keep your car from being stolen, if you choose places in the Great Plains with low rates of vehicle theft.

It could even help win a bet on whether Nebraska or Texas has more natives per capita in the National Football League.

Medical accessibility, crime and football are three of 29 categories with extended explanatory text in the new "Atlas of the Great Plains" published by the University of Nebraska Press. It features 312 maps, 11 graphs and eight illustrations.

The idea for the atlas surfaced after the NU Press published the "Encyclopedia of the Great Plains" in 2004, said J. Clark Archer, a geography professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and one of the atlas' co-editors. Archer edited maps in the encyclopedia.

Archer and a geography colleague, the late Stephen Lavin, proposed the atlas to the Center for Great Plains Studies at UNL. They enlisted Fred Shelley, a University of Oklahoma geography professor, as a co-editor.

"The idea was an atlas that would stand independently of the encyclope-



"Atlas of the Great Plains," published by the University of Nebraska Press

dia," Archer said. "It's a companion, not a supplement."

Archer said the Great Plains is a region that has been understudied and overlooked.

The atlas chronicles the history of the region, including political and social developments. It explores a variety of subjects, from American Indians to military forts and trading posts, ethnic ancestry to religious affiliation, homestead acreage to irrigated farmland, symphony orchestras to rodeos.

Archer said he and his co-editors selected topics based on what information was available and interesting — and whether or not they could create a map.

"Maps are more difficult than prose," he said. "In prose, if you lack something to write about western Nebraska, you do eastern Nebraska. But if you translate that to a map, it's im-

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(New updated Geography page coming soon...)

Greetings cont'd

developments, Native Americans, settlement patterns, agriculture, voting records, medical services and other topics. Geographers David J. Wishart (UNL) and John C. Hudson (Northwestern University) also contributed to the book. A recent editorial in the **Omaha World-Herald** congratulated the authors "for adding significantly to our regional knowledge." The atlas has also received accolades from reviewers for both the **World-Herald** and the **Lincoln Journal Star**.

In addition to publication of the **Atlas of the Great Plains**, let me mention a number of other noteworthy events of this past year:

- Dr. David Wishart was honored by former students during two special sessions held at the 2011 annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Seattle. And, Michael Forsberg and Dr. David Wishart's book, **Great Plains: America's Lingering Wild** (University Of Chicago Press, 2009), continues to accrue accolades.
- Dr. Juan Paulo Ramirez authored a new book entitled **Geography of Latin America: A Geographic Information Systems Approach** (Kendall Hunt, 2011).
- Dr. Katherine Nashleanas' article, **Metageographic Communities: A Geographic Model of Demassified**

Societies, was published in the **Annals of the Association of American Geographers** (May 2011, Vol 101, No. 3).

- Dr. Juan Paulo Ramirez and Dr. Gene Guan received funding from the UNL Center for Digital Research in the Humanities for research to develop a cloud-based GIS historical geospatial and photographic library of Nebraska.
- Dr. Arthur I. Zygielbaum joined the Geography Graduate Faculty as Adjunct Associate Professor of remote sensing.
- Dr. Paul Hanson has developed a new field course that will be initially offered in May 2012. This year the course will focus on the Geography of Nebraska.
- The Geography faculty and the UNL Geography Student Organization (GSO) sponsored several very successful events to celebrate Geography Awareness Week, November 14-18, 2011. These included seminars by Dr. Paul C. Sutton, University of Denver, and Dr. Fred M. Shelley, University of Oklahoma, a Best Photo Contest, focused on the theme Geography: The Adventure in Your Community, and the annual Geography Bowl that attracted over UNL 100 students.

As always, we invite those of you who may be visiting Lincoln to let us know

so that we can show you our facilities in Hardin Hall, share our accomplishments and learn about your work. If you haven't been in Lincoln for some time, you may be surprised at how our community is changing. A 16,000-seat multipurpose arena that will become the new home for UNL basketball is under construction in the Haymarket district, a new addition to Memorial Stadium that will provide seating for 6000 more Husker football fans (already sold out, of course) is underway, the Antelope Valley flood control and revitalization project just east of City Campus nears completion, and development of UNL's Innovation Campus (site of the former state fair) is moving forward aided by a \$25 million investment from the Nebraska Legislature. Developments such as these, coupled with UNL's exciting recent move to the Big10, suggest that the University has a very bright future in which Geography will continue to be important. As part of our family, we encourage you to experience the successes with us.

Finally, let me ask that you join me once again in extending thanks to Don Rundquist, Milda Vaitkus and Joyce Hurst for their efforts in assembling and editing this newsletter. Please let them know that you appreciate their efforts, and suggest ways that we can improve this publication.

Best wishes,

Jim Merchant
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Proof cont'd

diately obvious that it's not very adequate."

John Hudson, a Northwestern University geography professor, wrote in the introduction: "This atlas offers proof that the Great Plains is anything but a drab and uniform place with little future except one of depopulation and declining significance."

David Wishart, editor of the "Encyclopedia of the Great Plains," wrote in the forward: "Possibly no other American region is now so well served by reference works that capture the essence of its land and life."

Archer said it is the only current and comprehensive atlas of the region, and the first to include both the United States and Canada, showing the region's full length and breadth.

"Sometimes the 49th parallel was an

impediment," he said of the U.S.-Canada border.

Canada, for example, had no data matching U.S. information on access to hospitals.

Archer said he was fascinated by the population density maps.

"The early settlement in the Great Plains was probably overly optimistic," he said.

Many rural counties across the region had higher populations a century ago than they do today.

"It's hard to gain an appreciation of that unless you have maps that represent the patterns over time," Archer said.

Donations from Sandra and Bill Condon of Sterling, Colo., and The World-Herald assisted in publishing the volume. The Condons are enthusiasts of the Center for Great Plains Studies

and the Great Plains Art Museum.

Archer is best-known for his work on the geography of election results. He is the author of "Historical Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections, 1788-2004" and "Atlas of American Politics, 1960-2000."

He also studies housing patterns, the economic structure of the Great Plains, population change and settlement patterns.

"Human patterns that involve a lot of data crunching," he said.

The 366-page reference work is available at bookstores or directly from the NU Press.

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Faculty Updates

Clark Archer



Professor J. 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 was published by the University of Nebraska Press in summer, 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 also contributed to the *Atlas of the 2008 Elections*, along with co-editors Steve Lavin of UNL, Stanley Brunn of the University of Kentucky, Fred Shel-

ley of the University of Oklahoma, and Gerald Webster of the University of Wyoming, which was published by Rowman and Littlefield in early fall, 2011. 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.

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Becky Buller

Dr. Rebecca A. Buller currently serves as a lecturer for the Geography pro-



gram and the Center for Great Plains Studies. During the Fall 2011 semester, she taught Introduction to Human Geography (GEOG 140), Elements of Physical Geography (GEOG 155), 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 latest publication was the article "Intersections of Place, Time, and Entertainment in Nebraska's Hidden Paradise" which appeared in the 2011 Summer edition of *Nebraska History*. In her free time, Becky enjoys traveling, camping, fishing, and exploring the outdoors with her husband and son. On December 2nd, Rebecca and her husband welcomed their daughter Breelle Grace to their family

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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;



Faculty Updates

Geography of Land-Use Planning; and Environment and Society in the Sustainable Management program. He is currently the co-director for the Urban Studies program. His research includes: Urban Geography, Ethnic Residential Segregation, Historic Ethnic Enclaves, and Geography of Rap. kfrench.geog@gmail.com

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 geocyberinfrastructure. He teaches Introduction to GIS, Advanced Techniques in GIS, GIS Programming, and Seminar in GIS. He is also currently the co-advisor of the Geography Student Organization (GSO.) gguan2@unl.edu



Paul Hanson

My research interests are directed at resolving the evolution of landscapes over the past ~ 25,000 years 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 and undergraduate researchers in Wisconsin, I am establishing when dunes were active along Lake Michigan's shoreline and the roles that changes in lake level play in supplying



dunes with sediment over the past 10,000 years. I am excited to start teaching a field tour course focused on the geography of Nebraska in summer 2012. phanson2@unl.edu

Cody Knutson

As leader of the Planning and Social Science Program at the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), my activities typically focus on helping people better adapt and respond to water scarcity, drought, and climate change. This year, I've been fortunate enough to be part of five new grant projects that will take up much of my time during the next few years. The projects cover a range of topics including the development of tools to help farmers, urban water suppliers, and watershed planners better deal with climate variability and change; providing training to livestock producers on drought planning; and the creation of a national database of drought management strategies. At the international level, I and other faculty from the NDMC traveled to Ankara, Turkey, to host a workshop on drought monitoring and planning, sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I also had the opportunity to travel to Bangkok, Thailand, to provide input on a new Asia-Africa Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Project, which has the goal of sharing lessons learned between the two continents. Finally, I really enjoyed teaching a new Environmental Geography course this last Spring with a great group of students. cknutson1@unl.edu



Jim Merchant

I am now in my third year of service as the Faculty Area Leader for the Faculty of Geography and GIScience. In addition to my administrative duties, I teach our Proseminar in Research Methods and Professional Development as well as the introductory course in GIS each

spring, and I chair the Geography General Seminar series. My students and I are continuing work 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. My wife Loyola and I are "quasi" empty nesters now. In June, our son Karl moved to Kyoto, Japan where he is teaching English to adults. Our daughter Anne, a sophomore at UNL majoring in pre-nursing, is a piccolo player in the Cornhusker Marching Band and works as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Tabitha Health Care Services. jmerchant1@unl.edu



Katherine Nashleanas

Dr. Katherine Nashleanas is a lecturer in the Faculty of Geography teaching courses in Human Geography and Quality of the Environment. Katherine recently published an article in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* entitled "Metageographic Communities: A Geographic Model of Demassified Societies." The article explores the new spatial revolution that is occurring as digital media have allowed us to operate within an increasingly demassified society and presents a model by which flexible social and spatial forms can be evaluated. The model presented acknowledges the meaning individuals ascribe to local places, to the breadth of their social networks over distance, and it incorporates communications media as essential to dynamic community building and persistence. A Metageographic Community, or MGC, does not dissipate with distance nor is it restricted or defined by limitations of place or boundary, although each place adds its own richness. By developing MGCs, even small, dispersed groups, such as older ethnic groups, transna-

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tional migrants, refugees—or other spatially “fuzzy” networks—can build a persistent and effective community across otherwise heterogeneous social or political space as a dynamic yet demassified entity. In addition to her work on MGCs, Katherine has been active in geographic education, serving in a leadership position for the Advanced Placement Human Geography annual readings. For those who might not be familiar with the AP program, it provides students with the opportunity of earning college credit while still in high school. She also serves as an audit consultant for the Advanced Placement Program in Human Geography, evaluating syllabi for AP-qualified courses. In 2011 Katherine served on the Steering Committee for the Geographic Educators of Nebraska, developed geographic and social science questions for the objective portion of the Texas State Board Teaching Certification exam, and is currently authoring chapter questions for the Mastering Geography series in Human Geography produced by W.H. Freeman. In addition to her classroom teaching obligations, she also is supervising the revision of two distance learning courses for the department, World Regional Geography and Economic Geography. Katherine’s current research interests in addition to the patterns and dynamics of MGCs include the ethnic geography of Lincoln, pedagogical approaches for teaching Millennial students in large classes, and the impact of course organization on student mental health.

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Sunil Narumalani

Sunil Narumalani is the Associate Dean for Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). Some of Sunil’s responsibilities include promotion and tenure, reappointments, hiring and other faculty-related issues. He is also the Director of International Studies, an academic program with nearly 200 majors. Sunil’s



tenure home is 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 PhD in Geography from the University of South Carolina in 1993. His teaching emphasis was on remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) courses, and he continues to advise graduate students. 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.

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Juan Paulo Ramírez

Last April 2011, Dr. Gene Guan and I won a Research Faculty Fellow Competition for 2011/12 with the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at UN-L. Our research project is titled "Cloud-based GIS historical geospatial and photographic library of Nebraska." The total budget for the fellowship is \$13,260, with a completion date in July 2012. I just received news from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) that has approved a second year for the grant titled "Evaluation of Location-Based Services for Police: GPS-Enabled cell Phones and Laptops for Applications of Law Enforcement Patrol." I am the co-PI for this grant (Dr. Samal Ashok from Computer Science and Engineering Department is the PI). The total budget for the grant is \$494,000, with a completion date in September 2012. I am submitting a book chapter as a first author titled "Using GIS to Assist Police Officers in the Daily Activities: GPS Enabled Devices and Geomapping Software" that will be included in the book titled "Crime Modeling and Mapping Using Geospatial Technolo-



gies". Dr. Michael Leitner from Louisiana State University, Department of Geography, is the editor of the book. The publication date is September 2012. jramirez2@unl.edu

Don Rundquist

I continue to teach Introduction to Remote Sensing each fall semester and Practical Applications of Remote Sensing in Agriculture and Natural Resources each spring semester. I am currently advising four PhD and three Masters students. I also serve on several graduate student supervisory committees in various departments. My research these days remains oriented to remote sensing as applied to surface waters and terrestrial as well as aquatic vegetation. I currently have two grants from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, and one from NOAA/Florida A&M University. Peer-reviewed publications in the last two years include co-authored articles in the *Agronomy Journal*, *Remote Sensing of Environment*, *Acta Ecologica Sinica*, *American Journal of Enology and Viticulture*, *GIScience and Remote Sensing*, *Geophysical Research Letters*, and *GeoCarto International*. Since I reduced my faculty appointment in 2008 from 12 to 9 months (after 26 years as a 12-month employee) and no longer serve as CALMIT Director (after 22 years in that role), I now have more time in the summer to focus on my vineyard business. The harvest was quite good this year. We



again sold grapes to one of the local wineries, and we have a sizable quantity of our own juice at the fermentation stage. I did take time last summer, as usual, to do some fishing in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, and Carol and I spent a week during spring break in Arizona.

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Faculty Updates

Bob Stoddard

Bob continues to organize and teach classes for OLLI (the program of continuing education for older citizens) and to plan and present lectures for the Lincoln Winter Lecture Series.



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Brian Wardlow

This past year marked my fifth year at UNL with the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC). I continue to serve as the GIScience Program Area Leader at the NDMC and work on a wide range of remote sensing applications



aimed at improving drought monitoring and early warning both in the United States and internationally. I also continue to conduct remote sensing research in the areas of land use/land cover characterization and land surface phenology. In addition, I remain actively involved with UNL Geography students serving as a faculty co-advisor for the Geography Student Organization (GSO) and Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) chapter, as well as serve on several graduate student committees. Highlights for 2011 included international trips to Ankara, Turkey to participate in Drought Monitoring Tools and Practices Workshop sponsored by the United Nations' Foreign Agricultural Organization (FAO), and Nanjing, China to present work at the International Workshop on Water-related Disaster Prediction and Prevention. I also gave invited presentations at NASA's Global Drought Monitoring Workshop in Silver Spring, MD and the National Hydrologic Warning Council Meeting in San Diego, CA. I hosted international visiting scientists from Canada, Czech Republic, and India interested in learning about re-

mote sensing tools used at the NDMC for operational drought monitoring. I was also elected to a Director position for the Remote Sensing Specialty Group at the Annual Association of American Geographers Meeting in Seattle, WA. This year also marked the completion of a book that I edited entitled "Remote Sensing of Drought: Innovative Monitoring Approaches", which is scheduled for publication by CRC Press in early 2012.

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David Wishart

I am now in my thirty-seventh year as a member of the Geography program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which astounds me because I came here as a graduate student in 1967 for only one year. The highlight of this last year, and indeed one of the highlights of my entire career, was to be honored by my former doctoral students with two sessions to my name at the national AAG meetings in Seattle. I'm grateful to all who participated. This fall I submitted a manuscript entitled *The Last Days Of The Rainbelt* to the University of Nebraska Press for consideration for publication. This deals with the rapid settlement of the western High Plains from 1886-90, and the equally rapid abandonment in the drought of 1893-95. Following this, I will work with Clark Archer on an atlas of Nebraska. After that, a few years down the road, I might retire. I should add that I remain a Newcastle United supporter, despite all the pain involved.



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Art Zygielbaum

My dissertation research, completed in 2009, into remote sensing of water stress in crops resulted in more questions than answers. I am fortunate to be able to continue the research at UNL. While my dissertation reported a method to determine the relative water content (compared to a full saturation)

of leaves using only visible spectrum reflectance, subsequent research showed that that was not what was being measured. We now have good evidence that visible spectrum reflectance is actually an indication of photoprotective response in plants. This means that the measurements actually indicate the level of plant stress as it contends with too much light for the amount of water available to support photosynthesis. I have been working with Drs. Timothy Arkebauer and Elizabeth Walter-Shea in conducting research and interpreting the results. One paper is in publication, another in preparation, and I just presented a poster on the subject at the 2011 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. Many people discussed the poster and provided very positive feedback. My venture into teaching begins in the Spring. I will be the instructor for NRES/GEOG 312, Overview of Geospatial Information Technologies. My graduate teaching assistants, Tony Nguy-Robertson and Paul Merani, are helping me revamp and modernize the course. The picture included in this update is me holding the first fish I ever caught. It is a 4.5 pound, 26 inch walleye. Last year, Dr. Donald Rundquist taught me how to "fish."

That was in Snowbank Lake in Minnesota. This past summer, my son taught me how to "catch."



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More extensive Faculty profiles are available on the SNR website at

<http://snr.unl.edu/aboutus/who/directories.asp>

Staff Updates

STAFF

Joyce Hurst



January marks 15 years since I crossed the threshold into Avery Hall and started my job with Geography. I love my job and am thankful to work with such a great group of people.

Dr. Lavin's death has been a tremendous loss to us, but his legacy of leadership and teaching continues throughout the program. It has been a blessing to me to still remain in contact with his wife Ruth, and to have been able to reconnect with many former students at his memorial service. My husband Steve and I now are nearly empty nesters: Lucas is a high school senior and plans to attend UNL next year, Ryan lives in Lincoln, and Tera and her husband live in Guam but will soon be moving to Florida. My door is always

open, so whether you are near or far, stop in to see us. I'd love to show you around Geography today. jhurst3@unl.edu

Milda Vaitkus

This year I reached my 15th year anniversary with UNL. About 11 of those years have been spent at CALMIT in a variety of roles. For the last 7 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. My job is to develop and present geospatial outreach workshops and activities to groups ranging from 4H high school students and teachers to local & state government employees and the general public. Since 2008, when Geography joined SNR, my duties have expanded to include supporting the Geography program in a wide range of activities that include educational out-



reach (Geography Awareness Week, NaturePalooza, Weatherfest), and new course submissions, student recruitment, mvaitkus@unl.edu

Jessica Ditmore

Jessica, a junior from Topeka, Kansas, majoring in Anthropology and History, has been assisting faculty and staff for the past two years with the endless paperwork and logistics of keeping the Geography program running smoothly. She has proven herself to be a valuable member of the staff and received the College of Arts & Sciences Student Ovation award in October 2010. jditmore@huskers.unl.edu



Geography Field Trip, circa early 1920s, photo courtesy of Bob Stoddard.

In Memoriam



Stephen J. Lavin

Stephen J. Lavin, Professor of Geography at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), died May 3, 2011 following a year-long battle with cancer. Lavin was born February 1, 1943 in Buffalo, New York. Following service in the U.S. Navy, he earned a BS in Geography at the University of Buffalo in 1969, an MS at Montana State University in 1971 and a PhD from the University of Kansas in 1979. Lavin taught four years at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire before joining the Department of Geography at UNL in 1981. During his three decades at UNL he mentored 43 graduate students, served as Department Chair for 5 years and was Chair of the Geography Graduate Committee for nearly 20 years.

A specialist in cartography, Lavin was well known for his research on map design, cartographic communication and computer cartography. His published work received a number of awards including, for example, the British Cartographic Society's *Best Article Award* for 1988 for his research with Randall Cerveny on Unit-Vector Density Mapping published in **The Cartographic Journal**. During the last decade, Lavin devoted much of his time to working with his close colleague Clark Archer on production of atlases. These included **The Atlas of American Politics: 1960-2000** and **The Historical Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections 1788-2004**. The latter was a *Best Reference List* selection by the **Library Journal** and was chosen as the *Best Single Volume Reference in Humanities and Social Sciences for 2006* by the Association of American Publishers, Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division. In total, Lavin designed and prepared well over 1000 maps for these books.

Lavin's two final projects, published this summer, are a fitting culmination to his career. In May the University of Nebraska Press published his **Atlas of the Great Plains**, a volume containing over 300 maps within its 336 pages. Shortly thereafter, Rowman and Littlefield issued the **Atlas of the 2008 Elections** on which Lavin served as chief cartographer and co-editor with Archer and others. In honor of Lavin's lifetime achievements in cartography, his students and colleagues will sponsor a special session at the 2011 annual meeting of the North American Cartographic Information Society.

The Dr. Stephen J. Lavin Memorial Fund has been established at the University of Nebraska Foundation. Contributions can be made at <https://nufoundation.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=8321>.



Special Session at NACIS Honors Dr. Steve Lavin

UNL Alumni Matthew Dooley (PhD 2006) and Ezra Zeitler (PhD 2008) organized a special session, *Papers in Honor of Stephen J. Lavin*, at the [annual meeting](#) of the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) held in Madison, Wisconsin October 12-14th, 2011.

The session, [Papers in Honor of Stephen J. Lavin](#), was composed of papers that honored the life and work of Dr. Stephen J. Lavin. Steve made significant contributions in the area of computer mapping and animation; and co-authored several noteworthy atlases, including the "Atlas of the 2008 Elections" and "Atlas of the Great Plains." Papers focused on a range of topics relevant to Steve's work, including map animation, regional mapping, and atlas production, among others. Presenters also reflected on Steve's life, discussed his influence on their work, and highlighted his contributions in the field of cartography.

Papers in Honor of Stephen J. Lavin

NACIS 2011 Annual Meeting, October 12-14, 2011, Madison, WI

Organizers: Mathew A. Dooley and Ezra Zeitler

A Geographic Cartographer in a GIS World: A Retrospective in Honor of Professor Stephen J. Lavin

Dennis Fitzsimons, Humboldt State University Dennis.Fitzsimons@humboldt.edu

The academic career of Professor Stephen J. Lavin paralleled the rise of Geographic Information Sciences (GIS). Professor Lavin's graduate education, particularly during the early 1970s at the University of Kansas, positioned him to be able to offer his own students insights into the mapping problems created through the development of modern graphic displays for the communication of complex spatial data. Professor Lavin's background in traditional cartographic techniques, as well as a strong core training in geographic principles, enabled him to make significant contributions in both animated mapping and the production of highly-detailed specialty atlases.

Teaching Cartographic Production (and Geography) with Class Atlas Projects

John Kostelnick, Illinois State University jckoste@ilstu.edu

A common challenge in cartography courses is the development of mapping exercises and other class activities that simulate "real world" cartographic production projects. Yet, when such projects are simulated effectively in courses, students may benefit by better understanding common workflows and challenges in the practice of cartographic production. At the same time, such projects in cartography courses can also be a good avenue for teaching about broader geographic principles and the geography of a region. This presentation will provide an overview of a regional atlas project integrated into the introductory cartography course at Illinois State University. The presentation will provide both instructor and student perspectives about the "Atlas of the Human Geography of the Midwest" project and how it is utilized for teaching principles of atlas design/production as well as the broader geography of the region. The presenter will also provide his recollections as a student in the late Dr. Stephen Lavin's electronic atlas production course, in which a similar project was utilized for teaching cartographic principles.

Political and Regional Atlas Production: the 'Historical Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections, 1788-2004' and the 'Atlas of the Great Plains'

Clark J. Archer, University of Nebraska-Lincoln jarcher@unlserve.unl.edu

Stephen J. Lavin co-authored several atlases, including the *Historical Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections, 1788-2004* (Congressional Quarterly Press, 2006), and the *Atlas of the Great Plains* (University of Nebraska Press, 2011). It is an indication of the high quality of Steve's work that the *Historical Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections* won the Professional and Scholarly Publishing division of the Association of American Publishers 2006 "Award for Best Single Volume Reference in Humanities and Social Sciences." Steve also co-authored the *Atlas of American Politics, 1960-2000* (Congressional Quarterly Press, 2002)--selected as a "Choice Outstanding Academic Title, 2003" by the Association of College and Research Libraries "--and the *Atlas of the 2008 Elections* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2011). The purpose of this presentation is to highlight Steve's highly creative cartographic work on these atlases, as viewed from the perspective of one of his collaborators on these projects. Illustrations from these works are shown, and relevant aspects of the methods used to produce the atlases are discussed.

From Film to the Internet: 35 years of cartographic animation

Michael P. Peterson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln mpeterson@mail.unomaha.edu

The technology for producing cartographic animations has changed dramatically since the mid-1970s when film was still used. Subsequent decades have brought new technology from the personal computer to the Internet. Each has provided new possibilities for cartographic animation. A progression of animations is shown based on personal experience with each new technology. Cartographic animations are presented that were made using film, early personal computers, through web pages, and from online databases. Finally, reflections are offered about cartographic animations in general and why the form of mapping has not developed into a major form of mapping.

Defining the Northwoods Region: A Student-centered Approach

Ezra Zeitler and Josephy Hupy, UW-Eau Claire ZEITLEEJ@uwec.edu, hupyjp@uwec.edu

Millions of people are familiar with the Northwoods region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, but where are its borders? Can the region be delineated by tree density alone? What role do elements of human geography play in delineating the Northwoods? As Rossum and Lavin (2000) discuss in regards to the Great Plains, regional boundaries are often remarkably malleable. With this in mind, the presenters designed a course based on a simple question: Where are the Northwoods? This presentation summarizes our approach to instructing the course, highlights student-based delineations of the region, and reinforces the value of teaching regional geography and cartographic analysis through a student-centered research project.

To Tween or not to Tween: Exploring smooth transitions for dynamic proportional symbol maps

Mathew A. Dooley, UW-River Falls mathew.dooley@uwr.edu

In dynamic mapping smooth transitions are commonly used between known states to promote graphical congruency, communication, and aesthetics, among other considerations. It has been effectively argued that smooth transitions are more appropriate for certain kinds of data and visual variables, however, much remains unknown about how effective or appropriate smooth transitions are for showing change in dynamic maps. In this paper, I explore the effectiveness and aesthetics of smooth transitions for dynamic proportional symbol maps. I then consider ways to visually communicate uncertainties associated with temporal interpolation.

2011 Degrees Awarded

PhD degrees

Roberto Bonifaz-Alfonzo, *Assessing Seasonal Features of Tropical Forests Using Remote Sensing* (Dr. James Merchant, advisor)

Cynthia Williams, *Levels of Response in Experiential Conceptualizations of Neighborhood: The Potential for Multiple Versions of This Place Construct* (Dr. David Wishart, advisor)

MA degrees

Ting Chen, *Using a Geographic Information System to Define Regions of Grape-Cultivar Suitability in Nebraska* (Dr. Don Rundquist, advisor)

Nicole Wayant, *Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Malaria in Paraguay* (Dr. James Merchant, advisor)

Mark Avery—*non-thesis* (Dr. James Merchant, advisor)

BA/BS degrees

Sarah Brey

Rebecca Briles

Jonathon Howell

Do Kim

Troy Lee

Shea List

Gerald “Jared” Matzke

Thomas Murray

Christopher Schaffer

Brenton Willoughby

Raymond, NE

Omaha, NE

Lincoln, NE

Seoul, South Korea

Lincoln, NE

Omaha, NE

Gothenburg, NE

Lincoln, NE

Gretna, NE

Omaha, NE



Current UNL Geography Graduate Students

PhD	MA
Victoria Alapo	Wendy Austin
Ashley Barnett	Nwakaku Ajaere
Molly Cannon	Brian Baskerville
Matthew Cartlidge	Jason Byers
Gabrielle Collins	Amanda Davey
Gregory Fetterman	Fauzal Fauzal
Theresa Glanz	David Gibbs
Mary Hallin	Drew LaBounty
Glenn Humphress	Troy Lee
Dennis James	Jinfu Leng
Humphrey Kalibo	Jason McGuire
Jee Hoon Kim	Christine Nycz
Paul Merani	Shelley Schindler
Angela Pochanasomburana	Deusilene Schneider
Sean Pummill	Joshua Uloth
Robert Shepard	Xueming Wu
Kristin Sorensen	Travis Yeik
Mikal Stewart	
Sharmistha Swain	



Geography graduate student Nwakaku Ajaere & undergraduate Andy McDowell engage young visitors at Weatherfest.



A young visitor puzzles their way through world geography with Geography graduate student Mikal Stewart at the 2011 NaturePalooza.

Geography Seminar Series— 2011

Spring

- January 21 Joshua Uloth, MA candidate in Geography, UNL
Understanding the Geography of the Mormon Movement
- February 4 Dr. Yunwoo Nam, Assistant Professor, Community and Regional Planning, UNL
Active, Healthy, Walkable Community: Physical and Social Environment
- February 18 Dr. Martha Shulski, Director, High Plains Regional Climate Center, UNL
Impacts of a Changing Climate on the Alaskan Landscape and Beyond
- March 4 Dr. Stacey Smith, Associate Professor, School of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Kansas
Sustainability Innovation in Rural America: The "Greening" of Greensburg, Kansas
- April 1 Dr. Charles Francis, Professor, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture
Experiential Learning in Agroecology in Norway: Action Education Leading to Responsible Action
- April 22 Dr. Lynn Usery, Research Geographer and Director, Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information Science, U.S. Geological Survey
Ontology and Semantics for The National Map

Fall

- September 9 Jerome Deichert, Director, Nebraska State Data Center, University of Nebraska-Omaha
Nebraska's Changing Demographics: What We Learned from the 2010 Census
- September 23 Rachel Simpson, Data Manager, Nebraska Natural Heritage Program, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
At-risk Species and Natural Communities: GIS in the Nebraska Natural Heritage Program, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- October 21 Katherine Walter, Professor and Chair, Digital Initiatives & Special Collections, UNL Libraries, and Co-director, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities
The Center for Digital Research in the Humanities and Geographical Issues in the Humanities
- November 4 Mark Kuzila, Professor and Director, Conservation and Survey Division, UNL School of Nat. Resources
Soils of Nebraska
- November 15 Paul Sutton, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Denver, Denver, CO
The Real Wealth of Nations: Mapping and Monetizing the Human Ecological Footprint
- November 16 Paul Sutton, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Denver, Denver, CO
The Earth from Space at Night: Explorations of the Human-Environment-Sustainability Problematic using Nighttime Satellite Imagery

Gamma Theta Upsilon Alpha Phi Chapter



In April 2011 the Faculty of Geography and GIScience was pleased to honor eleven students who qualified for membership in **Gamma Theta Upsilon**, the International Honorary Society in Geography (<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/>). Dr. Qingfeng (Gene) Guan was also inducted.

Congratulations to:

- Mark T. Avery
- Dominic Biondo
- Austin Butterfield
- Dr. Qingfeng Guan
- Humphrey W. Kalibo
- Jeehoon Kim
- Troy H. Lee
- Andrew J. Prokop
- Christopher Schaffer
- Maren Stewart
- Brenton Willoughby
- Jason Windhorst



From left to right—Dr. Gene Guan, Austin Butterfield, Jason Windhorst, Brenton Willoughby, Dominic Biondo, Christopher Schaffer, Troy Lee, Andrew Prokop, Jeehoon Kim, Humphrey Kalibo and Maren Stewart & daughter.

Members of GTU share a career interest in geography and have qualified for membership by achieving excellence in academics.

GTU's goals are:

- To further professional interest in Geography by affording a common organization for those interested in the field.
- To strengthen student and professional training through academic experiences in addition to those of the classroom and laboratory.
- To advance the status of Geography as a cultural and practical discipline for study and investigation.
- To encourage student research of high quality, and to promote an outlet for publication.
- To create and administer funds for furthering graduate study and/or research in the field of Geography, and
- To encourage members to apply geographic knowledge and skills in service to humankind.

UNL 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 2011-12

President: Chris Nycz

Vice President: Travis Yeik

Treasurer: Brian Baskerville

Secretary: Dominic Biondo

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

Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium and Weatherfest - In April 2011, 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 interactive exhibit that highlighted U.S. Geography and the role of geographers in dealing with natural hazards.

Naturepalooza - The second annual SNR Naturepalooza was held on November 6, 2011 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 600 visitors attended. Geography sponsored several interactive exhibits that were very well received- "Water Always Wins" (the always-popular stream table), "Find Yourself with Google Earth" and "Where in the Plains Is?"

Geography Awareness Week - More than 100 UNL students attended the 2011 Geography Bowl on November 17th as part Geography Awareness Week (GAW). Teams competed to answer questions about all aspects of Geography. GSO also sponsored a photo contest that attracted more than 30 entries. The event was given prominent newspaper coverage from the student paper, the Daily Nebraskan and several reporters even competed in the Bowl.

More information about GSO activities is available at

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



GSO President Chris Nycz and Geography graduate student Matt Cartledge quiz participants in the 2011 Geography Bowl.



GSO Faculty Advisors Brian Wardlow and Gene Guan offer moral support during the Geography Bowl.



Photo contest First Place winner Tyler Burg, Geography undergraduate describes his prize-winning photo.

UNL Geographers in the News

Geographer Explores Brownville Cemetery for Clues About the Past

Writer: Katharine Shiffler, Communications Associate, School of Natural Resources, kshiffler2@unl.edu, 402-472-6781

On a hot and humid day in June, Ashley Barnett, a PhD candidate in Geography at the University of Nebraska-



Lincoln walks from gravestone to gravestone in one of the oldest Euro-American cemeteries in the state, in Brownville, Nebraska. A specialist in necrogeography, or the geography of burial practices, Barnett stops to examine each monument, taking notes, a picture and a GPS point. She is looking for clues about how these gravestones reflect changes in the culture of Brownville over time.

The symbols, the words and the details of each gravestone are cultural materials, said Barnett. "All of those things were influenced by what was going on in their community, their lives, their churches, and we see that reflected here".

Many styles of gravestones are in evidence. Some are tall sandstone monuments cut by hand, and others are

simple plaques bordered with peonies. Symbols occur again and again: an engraved hand, a Masonic seal, and religious figures and phrases. The newer graves are often granite and made by machine, and some feature images from a life: a portrait, a galloping horse, a tractor in a field.

Barnett is interested in analyzing these aesthetic and material differences over time to understand why some features occurred when they did – possibly revealing new stories about Brownville's past.

Today Brownville is a village of just 146 people, but when it was established in 1854, the town was among the largest in Nebraska Territory and was an important port on the Missouri River. Consequently, the cemetery is very large, located high on a hill overlooking the town. Barnett says that with so much information to process, she is just beginning to see themes emerge.

"There is much variety on the surface but when you look closer you really find some strong trends and patterns in it," she said.

In her research, Barnett uses the tools of physical geography, GPS and GIS, to document the spatial layout of the cemetery, and will eventually create a detailed map. As a human geographer, Barnett also draws from anthropology, religious studies, history and geography to look at why humans

have caused certain changes to the landscape.

Her entrance into necrogeography and cemetery studies started with a summer road trip to Brownville with a friend. Finding that all of the shops were closed, they went to the graveyard on a whim. "We ended up spending hours walking around the cemetery looking at the gravestones and checking out the 'stories' of the people buried there," she said. The Brownville Cemetery became a paper topic for a Historical Archaeology class and the project spiraled from there to become her dissertation research. Dr. David Wishart in the Geography Department of the School of Natural Resources is her adviser.

When she is not walking around cemeteries, Barnett works full-time as an archeological technician for the National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center.



Geography lecturer recognized by UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association

Dr. Rebecca Buller, lecturer in Geography, was honored by the UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association at their annual recognition ceremony on Feb. 4th, 2011. Certificates of recognition were presented to faculty and staff for their contributions to students. The Parents Association solicits its nominations through an annual mailing, asking parents to nominate a faculty or staff member who has made a significant difference in their student's life. Dr. Buller teaches courses in Physical Geography, Geography of Nebraska and Women of the Great Plains.

Great Plains Geography Departments Joint Reception, AAG 2012 New York City, NY

Sunday, February 26th, 2012, 8 - 11pm
Hilton Hotel, Trianon Ballroom

Sponsored by Kansas State University, University of Kansas, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, South Dakota State University, and the University of North Dakota



Scenes from Seattle—AAG 2011



Dinner with friends: Sarah Disbrow Wishart, David Wishart, Ryan Weichert, Mel Johnson, Becky Buller, Kenny French, & Ezra Zeitler.

Brad Bays presenting during special session for David Wishart



Don Rundquist, Sunil Narumalani & Paul Merani at Nebraska Night



Alumni Updates

Darren Adams , PhD 2010

I'm working at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, and I'm also working at Midland University in Fremont Nebraska (teaching Geology, and Physical Geography). My teens, Josh, Amanda, and Carey, are doing well. Josh is a great helper around the house. Carey is enjoying high school, and recently visited her beloved New York City with one of her schoolmates. Amanda has shown some interest in fiction novels and the artwork pertaining thereto.
dr.adams.t@gmail.com

Karen Falconer Al-Hindi, BA 1987

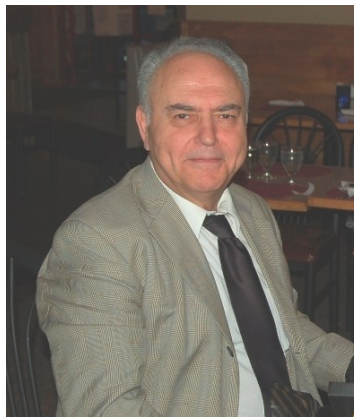
Karen Falconer Al-Hindi is Professor of Geography and Women's Studies



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.

Dr. Mehmet T. Aritan, BA 1973



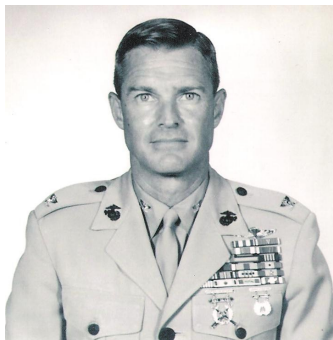
I am a 1973 graduate of Geography with a Geology minor (BA). I got my Masters and

PhD in Geography at Univ. of Kentucky. Started to teach actually before I got my PhD diploma in 1983. That is why I have put in 30 + years here at Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse. I retired as of June 1 of 2009. Now, busy with things I put off for 30 years, I luckily get to travel once or twice a year. Some day, I am looking forward to stop by to visit my old stomping grounds. Until then, keep up the good work. mehm@uwlax.edu
<http://www.uwlax.edu/geography/dept/aritan.htm>

Roger H. Barnard, BA 1960

I am a retired Marine. I graduated from UN in 1960 with a double major, geology and geography. I started at UN in the fall of 1947 as a "student at large," and enlisted in the Marine Corps in the summer of 1948. I returned to UN in 1953 to major in geology, but

went back on active duty in the USMC with two semesters remain-



ing to earn the B.A. degree. The USMC gave me a nine-month leave of absence to finish my degree, starting the fall of 1959. Dr. Hewes and Dr. Gilliland were the respective department heads at that time. Upon

assignment to the University of Colorado in 1964-67 as an assistant professor of Naval Science, I was accepted in Graduate School to work on earning a masters degree in geography. I completed twenty hours of class work but did not have time to finish a thesis. In 1971 I earned a M.S. (International Affairs) from The George Washington University while a student at the Naval War College. I never worked as either a geographer or a geologist, but the education I received in both disciplines was of great help to me as a career Marine officer (infantry). I retired from the Marine Corps in 1976, worked 17 years for a trade association (Federal Credit Unions), and reside in Fairfax, Virginia.

Jeff Crump, PhD 1986

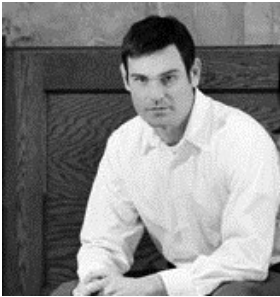
I am currently an associate professor in the Housing Studies Program at the University of Minnesota. I am also an adjunct associate professor with the Department of Geography at the University of Minnesota. My current research interests are focused on mortgage lending and foreclosure in the Twin Cities. My work has been published in *Urban Geography*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* and the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. I teach courses on housing and community development and a GIS course that addresses proper map design as taught to me by Professor Archer. I am excited that Nebraska is now in the Big Ten conference and look forward to the Big Red coming here to play in the land of the Golden Gophers! My hobbies include playing roots music on the acoustic guitar, model railroading and camping. I live in St. Paul and have a large garden in my front yard.

Matt Dooley, PhD 2006

Matt Dooley earned his PhD in 2006, under the supervision of Dr. Steve Lavin. He is now an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls. There, he teaches and conducts research in the areas of cartography, GIS, and field mapping. Matt serves on the editorial

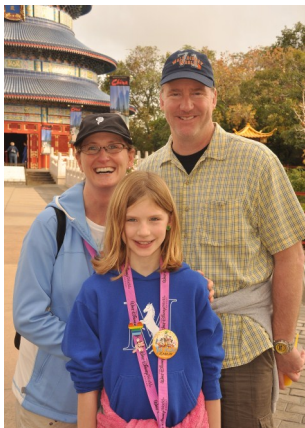
Alumni Updates

board of the journal *Cartographic Perspectives* and runs Mapsy Cartographics, LLC, a creative map design studio in northeast Minneapolis. He is also contributing cartographer to the [Maya Portrait Project](#). In January 2011, Matt married Kaylee Spencer, a fellow professor at River Falls, and now happily lives in a thriving art district within Minneapolis.



Tim Ehlers, BA 1993

Currently employed at Marion County Assessor's office since June 2003 where I am the GIS/Cartographic Supervisor. This Marion County is located in Oregon, and contains the capital of the state, Salem. We maintain all the cadastral data and ownership information for the Assessor's office and the cadastral dataset is the base layer for the rest of the county's GIS information. Have been married for twelve wonderful years to my spouse Lisa, a Colorado native and CU Grad! We met when we both worked for Summit County in Colorado.



I had moved there in late fall 1997 to work and then we started dating a few months later. I spent only 5.5 years there before we moved to Oregon. We have a wonderful 10 year old daughter, Emma, who is in 5th grade and she loves school and also plays soccer, basketball or volleyball depending on the season. I hope to make it back some day and see the department since its move from the downtown campus. Best Wishes to all!

Luoheng Han, PhD 1994

Associate Dean and Professor in Geography, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Alabama. I am finishing up my third year as Associate Dean of Natural Sciences and Math at University of Alabama (by January 1, 2012). I still teach one of the two remote sensing courses offered by UA's Department of Geography every semester. I also supervise several Master's students. I really enjoyed meeting with my PhD advisor, Dr. Don Rundquist and other faculty at "Nebraska Night" during the AAG Annual Meeting in Seattle in April.

Bob Harding, MA 1986

After getting an MA in 1986, a temporary job at National Geographic in Washington, DC brought me east. I then started working as a cartographer at R.R. Donnelley and Sons in Lancaster, PA and have been in Lancaster ever since. The company kept changing names and ownership (R.R. Donnelley, GeoSystems, MapQuest) but when AOL bought MapQuest the "writing was on the wall" that cartographers were expendable, so a small group of us started our own company. It has been a learning experience to say the least. I'm also a student again (at age 55!) taking GIS certification through Penn State. Interesting, but I keep thinking I should be looking at

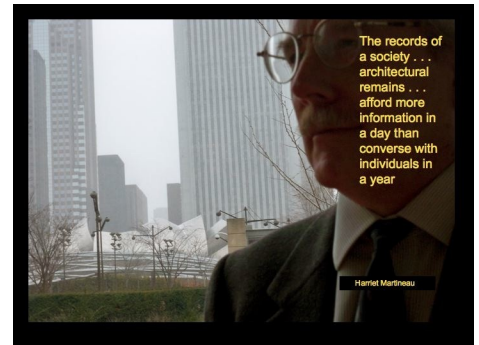


retirement brochures instead. I've really enjoyed traveling over the years but have never made it back to Lincoln. One of these days I hope to – it'd be great to see how much Lincoln, the university, and the department have all changed. The photo is very recent – just got back from a week in Maine

and thought a geographically related photo would be most appropriate!

Michael R. Hill, MA 1969, PHD 1982

Michael R. Hill (MA, Geography, UNL, 1969; PhD, Geography, UNL, 1982) is currently the editor of *Sociological Origins*, a scholarly journal devoted to the history and development of sociology. The website for the journal is www.sociological-origins.com He also serves as a senior Mentor, Writing Consultant, and Tutor in the Hewitt Academic Center for Student-Athletes Tutorial Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he recently qualified under the International Tutor Program Certification program administered by the College Reading and



Learning Association. During spring semester 2011, Michael was a Visiting Scholar in Sociology at the University of Notre Dame. During the spring and summer of 2011, he participated in three workshops for teachers at the Art Institute of Chicago, and completed an advanced graduate readings course in Phenomenological Sociology under the direction of Professor Andrew Weigert at Notre Dame. In November, 2010, Michael was the guest of Uppsala University, Sweden, where he presented a discussion on "Charlotte Perkins Gilman and the Entrepreneurial Turn" at The Jane Addams Conference on Social Entrepreneurship. This international conference was arranged by the Department of Sociology at Uppsala University in cooperation with The Nobel Museum, Stockholm. Michael's paper is forthcoming in a volume edited by Vessela Misheva. 2011 saw the publication of Michael's tenth book-length project: *Families, Marriages, and Chil-*

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dren, by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, edited by Michael R. Hill (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers). This endeavor appeared, simultaneously, in Italian translation as: *Famiglie matrimoniali e figli, Note sociologiche*, da Charlotte Perkins Gilman, a cura di Michael R. Hill, traduzioni di Raffaele Rauty (Esplorazioni 08, collana diretta da Giuseppina Cersosimo; Calimera (Italy): Edizioni Kurumuny). With several book projects in the pipeline, a Lake Michigan cottage needing constant repairs, and an undisciplined Jack Russell Terrier, Michael reports that he is busier than ever. Correspondence may be addressed to editor@sociological-origins.com

Joe Hlady, MA 2001

The last two years have been busy ones for the Hlady family, my wife Cherine and I welcomed our first child, Lucy Marianne Hlady, into the world on May 19th, 2010. We are expecting our second at the end of March 2012 but I don't think we are going to find out the sex a head of time.



Since the new addition to our family, Cherine and I have both left the corporate life in Calgary behind and started our own consulting firms. I have two firms, Capti and Aventine Consulting. The former a geomatics solutions company, the latter, an information services company focused on geospatial data management in the oil and gas industry. So far, both are doing well and I am looking forward to strong growth in 2012.

Cherine's PR consulting company is also doing well. She wants to keep her firm small for the time being though as we are expecting. Thanks to the move to the Big Ten, I am now

getting the Husker's games so I still get a taste of Nebraska from time to time. Cherine, Lucy and I wish all Alum's well and all the best in 2012.

Steve Kale, MA 1972, PhD 1978

In 2004 I retired from the State of Oregon, where my last job was as a senior planner and economist with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). After retiring, I continued working for ODOT on retirees' appointments in 2004 and 2005. Since then, I have been self-employed part-time as



a freight transportation planning consultant. This has included work for federal and state governments, Oregon ports, and the private sector. I participate regularly in activities of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), and have been the author or co-author of several articles in TRB's *Transportation Research Record*. I also continue to be involved with rural geography, including through the International Geographical Union's Commission on Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Response, and have written chapters for books edited by commission members. For the last three years I have been a member of the Alumni Board for the Department of Geography at Kansas State University, where I received undergraduate degrees in geography and in business administration. I live on an acreage outside Salem, Oregon, where I spend lots of time cutting/stacking firewood and removing invasive plants such as English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberry.

Paul Kelley, PHD 2005

In 2011, I've engaged in many new activities, which have created a greater feeling of connectedness and purpose

in my life and generally supported rather than distracted from the (admittedly sometimes obsessive) work I still do on the difficult issues. In September, I began another semester of teaching older adults in conjunction with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The facilities and technology are excellent, which is a nice perk, since the pay is minimal. Last spring, I led a group to Hawk Mountain as the culmination of a four-week introduction to the geography of southeastern Pennsylvania. There were still a few piles of snow to throw around, grand views to take in, and a couple dozen raptors and other birds flying by or landing on the rocks with us. The second class I've been offering at OLLI is all about astrology and the zodiac. I finished work on a short text for that course just before the fall semester's class started. I attended the Midwest Astrology Conference again in Cleveland this year and, on the way, visited the Allegheny Portage Railway NHS near Altoona, PA. I registered for an October conference in Niagara Falls, NY, and hope there will be more beautiful fall foliage along the highway north out of Williamsport, as there has been the last two years. One camping trip was all there was time and money for this summer, but it was a good one, across eastern Pennsylvania to a site along a stream in a secluded hemlock grove east of State College in the Ridge and Valley province of the Appalachians. I continue to post photographic essays from most of my journeys on smugmug.com. I'm knitting weekly with a group of people I've come to know quite personally over the last three years. My closet shelves hold several more scarves, mittens, hats, and socks than they did last year, though I've yet to try making that first sweater. This year, I increased my volunteer involvement at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, leading group tours and being present at more of the regular lectures, as well as working both spring and fall plant sale events. The preserve was hard hit by the weather events at the end of summer, but continues to be one of the best places to get to know native plants in the Mid-Atlantic region. I've expanded my passion for native

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plants and gardening by offering my services to others. In the spring, I designed and installed a small, mostly native plant garden for a couple I met while working for the Census Bureau last year. I also beautify established gardens for people who need pruning and weeding work done. Since January, I've been happily re-shelving books for a couple of hours each week at a local library. I've also taken on the job of keeping the adult non-fiction and local history section in order, and am amused that no one else seems to like spending time familiarizing themselves with the offerings on those shelves, while improving their overall organization. Also in January, a Greenpeace ship made a stop at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia and I began periodic volunteer work with that organization. Their local office's current campaign is focused on closing old, dirty, coal-burning power plants, and I've helped out by collecting signatures for petitions and participating in other safe and legal activities.

James Knotwell, PhD 1995

Dr. James Knotwell, age 53, PhD class of 1995--after leaving Wayne State College faculty to become GIS Analyst for a wind energy company that opened a branch office in Lincoln for some 20 months prior to its rather drastic and unanticipated company



failure, I now work for the US Army as a cultural, geospatial, "human terrain," expert, based out of Ft. Leavenworth, KS. This work included a 9-month deployment to Afghanistan in 2010 working with the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (NTM-A/CSTC-A) completing various GIS cultural analyses pertaining to cultural-

behavioral motivators for Afghan National Police men and women; then transferring to the TRADOC Analysis Center's Complex Operations Data Development Activity (TRAC/CODDA) to conduct analyses in support of the Army in grappling with cultural nuance within what used to be called Counterinsurgency (COIN), now Irregular Warfare (IW), in the more modern context of Wide Area Security (WAS), in short, helping the Army learn how to integrate cross-cultural competence in culturally cognizant operations (could not resist the buzzwords and alliteration); and now preparing to perform the broader duties of a Regional and Functional Scholar for the TRADOC G2 Intelligence Support Activity (TRISA) as they answer the general Department of Defense call for centralized access to a diverse and decentralized cultural knowledge network.

Jim Langtry, MA 2003

I currently live in Lincoln and am employed by the US Geological Survey as the Geospatial Liaison for Nebraska and Iowa. I received my Master's Degree in Geography in 2003 from the University of Nebraska and have over 25 years of experience in GIS being involved with the development of Lancaster County's GIS since its inception in 1988 through 2007 when I went to work for the USGS. I currently represent the

Federal Agencies on the Nebraska GIS Council. I was on the development committee that created

the Nebraska GIS/LIS Association and served as a member of the Board and as President of that Association. I has also served as the Chair of the Mid-America GIS Consortium (MAGIC) from 2007 – 2010. I enjoy traveling and since visiting Costa Rica during my Master's program I have returned



once and am planning on going back again this winter.

Gary Rimington, BA 1982

Upon graduating with a B.A. in 1982, I chose a career path in local government. I went on to earn a M.P.A. and spent 25 years serving municipalities in Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming. Four years ago I switched careers and took a position with Cabela's at their corporate headquarters in Sidney, Nebraska. I now manage Cabela's real estate development and site selection for retail, distribution and office expansion. I'm actually utilizing many of the basic principles learned in my economic geography classes in the early 1980's to determine site location strategy today. My employment has provided me the opportunity to learn about people and places all across the United States and Canada. It's a bit like a Lewis and Clark adventure but with an iPhone and Google Earth.

William R. Stanley, MA 1962

The year started out with a flourish but relapsed into a sleepy several months. My continual achievement has been to financially enhance the various retirement plans of several medical practitioners. For the first season since 1964 I missed my annual research-curiosity trip to Africa. This was due to my choosing to join a small group of Americans in Beirut with the goal of sailing to Gaza in order to challenge Israel's naval blockade of that impoverished land. As it evolved, our ship never left port in Tripoli. The ship's propulsion machinery had been sabotaged. The popular consensus was that this was the work of Israeli agents. If only we had delayed this sailing endeavor until 2011, we might have had the protection of the Turkish Navy! My days in Lebanon were spent visiting a refugee camp in southern Beirut and several farms in the northern end of Lebanon's Bekkah Valley bordering on Syria. The camp visit clearly rattled my emotions and resulted in my preparation of a short essay. Not surprisingly, local newspapers in South Carolina found any number of reasons not to publish this essay. I attach it to this [annual](#)

Alumni Updates

[report](#) to my Nebraska geography friends.

Don R. ten Bensel – MA 1971

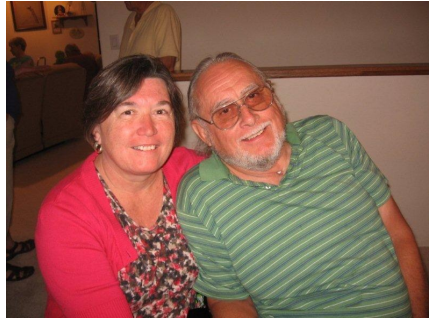
I retired from the Middle Flint Regional Commission - Americus, Georgia, with 41.5 years of service, on 12-31-2008. The last five years I was Executive Director. My work area included local governments in an eight county, rural area. My work passion was community development, which involved grant writing and project management. Projects included water, sewer, streets, drainage, buildings for social services, industrial infrastructure, recreation/tourism facilities; anything our governments needed that we could find funding for.

Training in Geography was absolutely perfect for my vocation: research, analysis, mapping, respect for culture, history, economics, environment, inter-connections. I had great teachers at NWU and NU.

My wife Carol and I still live in Ellaville, Georgia in the home we built in 1969. We celebrated our 48th wedding anniversary in August. We have two children and eight grandchildren. Our son Wade is with JAARS/Wycliffe Bible Translators. Our daughter is a Dental Hygienist. We attend a non-denominational, charismatic fellowship which we helped form in 1985. We provide free financial counseling *through Crown Financial Ministries* and are currently leading a small group on financial management. We have traveled to Atlantic Canada, Mexico, Peru, Israel, Jordan, and Taiwan.

Beth Siffring Vavrina, BA 1978, MCRP 1995

I live in Lincoln with my husband, Erwin, in a house built in 1892 (so we always have some type of project to keep us busy). Since 1996 I have worked in human services, much of that time doing program development and planning, including the free medical clinic and Curtis Center transitional housing program at the People's City Mission. I have a grant-writing and consulting business, and work part-time at Southeast Community College managing a statewide renewable ener-



gy curriculum development project. We have 4 grown children, and 3 grandchildren who keep us busy with their sports and activities. <http://www.linkedin.com/in/bethvavrina>

Paul D. Yamamoto, BS 1988, MA 1991

I'm still in Lincoln and employed by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) as a Senior Support Analyst. Next January (2012) will mark my 20 year anniversary with the NDEQ. At the NDEQ I coordinate and support all agency GIS activities, including utilization of GPS, web map-

ping applications, and some general IT support. I represent the NDEQ on the Nebraska GIS Council, and am an active member of the Nebraska GIS/LIS Association. I served on the GIS/LIS



Association's Board of Directors from 2002-2005, and served as President Elect, President, and Past President from 2006-2008. Away from work I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I also enjoy supporting the Huskers as a new member of the Big 10. Go Big Red!!

Ron Zelt, MA 1988

In the past couple years, Ron has enjoyed the opportunity to do more project work (as opposed to management tasks). Projects have included wrap-up on Niobrara River geomorphology study and co-authoring Jason Alexander's report on the results; developing

a study of sandbar dynamics in the lower Platte River in relation to habitat needs of least terns and piping plovers (led by Alexander); and most recently a chance to work on a river in Ron's native Michigan, where he is half of a geomorph team advising USEPA concerning the monitoring and cleanup of spilled heavy crude oil in the Kalama-



zoo River near Battle Creek. On the personal side, both daughters graduated from UNL with International Studies major (not quite Geographers, but kinda close). Youngest son is a freshman at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo. (I'm a proud papa these days.) Ron's wife, Cindy, began teaching an after-school art club at Everett Public School in recent weeks, an elementary school that has dropped fine arts from the curriculum. Photo: Dropping off son, Ben, at college in Liberty, Mo.

Many thanks to all the UNL Geography alumni who provided updates.

We look forward to hearing from you again, and from other colleagues who didn't 'check in' this year.

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