



Geography

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

School of Natural Resources
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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

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Greetings from Lincoln

Jim Merchant



Welcome to the 2012 edition of the **UNL Geography Alumni Newsletter!**

This has been an eventful year for our program; so, on

behalf of the Geography faculty, staff and students, let me share with you some of the news. Just a few weeks ago we concluded our annual celebration of Geography Awareness Week (GAW), another outstanding success thanks to the efforts of our students and staff, especially Brian Baskerville, current president of the Geography Student Organization (GSO). The 2012 Geography Bowl, organized by GSO, attracted almost 100 student competitors from across the university, and our annual photography contest had 45 entrants. It was a pleasure, during GAW, to host UNL Geography alumnus Dr. Lloyd Queen who was our featured speaker and visiting scientist. Lloyd is now Director of the National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis and Professor of Remote Sensing in the College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana. And, during GAW we observed the 40th anniversary of the Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT), a program that has been closely associated with Geography since its founding.

A number of noteworthy changes in the Geography faculty occurred this year. We congratulate Dr. Brian Wardlow who was promoted to Associate Professor and became the

(Continued on page 2)

FEATURE ARTICLE

Rundquist honored

Don Rundquist was prepared for questions following his afternoon seminar Nov. 12, not the ambush sprung by Art Zygielbaum, a remote sensing specialist at UNL's School of Natural Resources.

Moments after Rundquist finished his remarks reflecting on "40 Years of Remote Sensing in Nebraska," Zygielbaum rose for a short presentation of his own: A presentation honoring Rundquist's dedicated service to UNL.

Rundquist, who is will retire with emeriti status, began his career while still a graduate student at UNL when the Nebraska Remote Sensing Center was created in 1972. By 1986 the facility was renamed to the Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT) and he was its director. He ushered the Center through a series of innovations and transitions that included early adoption and adaptation of cutting edge technologies, and recruiting and training some of the most prominent experts in the field.

During his tenure as CALMIT director, the center expanded to mount sensors on mobile platforms such as boats and re-purposed farming equipment. In 2000, he even added a Piper Saratoga airplane to the arsenal. "I never thought we'd get funding to buy an airplane," he said during his lecture, "but we did."

Through Rundquist's leadership, CALMIT developed the ability not only to make sophisticated field observations from satellites, aircraft or handheld instruments, but also perform high-level laboratory testing that helped make those observations practical for real-world applications. That unique blend of abilities gave CALMIT and UNL global prominence in the remote sensing field.

Before the more than 50 people that filled Hardin Hall's ninth floor conference room, Zygielbaum presented Rundquist with a framed photo collage of friends, colleagues and students from decades of work at UNL. Zygielbaum also read excerpts of letters from former students and colleagues that noted Rundquist's accomplishments and influence.



Former CALMIT director Don Rundquist shares a laugh with Joyce Hurst and former student Mark Svoboda—who authors the U.S. Drought Monitor—shortly after a brief ceremony Monday, Nov. 12, that honored Rundquist's dedicated service to UNL.

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Old Geography Building



In 1905 Charles H. Morrill donated funds for the construction of a museum to house the university's growing natural history collection. The brick structure with sandstone trimmings and a slate roof was intended to be only one wing of a much larger building, but various circumstances led to the abandonment of expansion plans; and in 1913 a fund for an enlarged building began. Morrill Hall (Elephant Hall) was dedicated in 1927.

One year later Geography was established as a stand-alone department (i.e., no longer a joint department with Geology or Conservation). In 1948 the name of this building was officially called the Geography Building (but commonly called "Old Geography" building). Although the campus police occupied the ground floor in later years, the upper two floors were entirely used for geography classes, offices, and libraries (Hewes and Bowman). Even though the building was architecturally incomplete, the department enjoyed the recognition of a distinct department in its "own" building.

Geography lost its unique building in 1970 when the structure was razed to make room for the newly constructed Hamilton Hall (see photo). The Geography Department was housed temporarily in parts of Burnett Hall until it moved to the renovated Avery Hall, the top floor of which was designed especially for the spatial needs of geographers.

-Bob Stoddard, Nov. 2012

Greetings cont'd

new Director of CALMIT, taking over from Dr. Donald Rundquist who is retiring in December after more than 30 years on the faculty at UNL. Dr Qingfeng (Gene) Guan is also leaving us in December to assume a faculty position at the China University of Geosciences in Wuhan, China. We will miss both Don and Gene as they move on to other endeavors.

We also note some important achievements of our faculty. This year, for example, Dr. Sunil Narumalani was appointed UNL Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Wardlow co-edited a new book entitled **Remote Sensing of Drought** (CRC Press) and Dr. David Wishart completed his new book, **The Last Days of the Rainbelt** (University of Nebraska Press). Dr. Clark Archer and Dr. David Wishart also embarked on a new two-year venture to develop an **Atlas of Nebraska**. Also noteworthy is a new Geography field course developed by Dr. Paul Hanson and offered for the first time last May. In 2012 the course focused on western Nebraska, but in spring 2013 Paul will be collaborating with other School of Natural Resources (SNR) faculty to lead a field course in Puerto Rico. We hope to expand our field-oriented courses in future years. Finally, this year Dr. Donald Wilhite and I have been working with NU central administration to develop a system-wide Initiative in Geospatial Information Science. An initial planning workshop, held in October 2012, drew Geography faculty from all four NU campuses. We are excited about the prospects for increasing collaboration among NU geographers and about the opportunities such collaboration can provide as we seek to make Geography an important component of the NU Water for Food and

Rural Futures Initiatives. A second workshop will take place in the spring.

If you haven't visited Lincoln recently you'll likely be surprised at all the changes. The Antelope Valley project, a ten year effort focused on flood control, traffic improvement and community revitalization, is nearly complete and now makes a grand eastern entrance to the UNL city campus. The Haymarket district is a beehive of activity as new hotels, restaurants and shops are constructed in anticipation of the fall 2013 opening of the 16000-seat Pinnacle Bank Arena. The multipurpose arena will be a venue for concerts, exhibitions and conventions and will host UNL basketball (<http://www.haymarketnow.com/>). So, please come and visit, and if you visit, please stop by Hardin Hall and say hello.

Let me conclude by extending thanks to our staff, Joyce Hurst and Milda Vaitkus, for all that they do to ensure the success of the Geography program. Joyce, Geography Office Associate, provides administrative support for all faculty and students on a daily basis, serves as our principal liaison with other UNL units and is our primary point of contact for alumni. Milda provides technical and outreach assistance in GIS, web-page development and many other areas, including preparation of this newsletter. Joyce and Milda make critically important contributions to UNL Geography, and we greatly appreciate their efforts!

Best wishes for the holiday season and a happy, prosperous new year,
Jim Merchant
Program Leader, Geography
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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. *The Atlas of the Great Plains* with Steve Lavin and Fred Shelley at the University of Oklahoma, published by the University of Nebraska Press in summer, 2011 was selected for the *Library Journal* "Best Reference List for 2011" and by the American Library Association as a "Booklist Editors' Choice for Reference 2011". The *Atlas of the 2008 Elections*, to which Clark contributed 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, published by Rowman and Littlefield in fall, 2011 also was selected for the *Library Journal* "Best Reference List for 2011" and by the American Library Association as a "Booklist Editors' Choice for Reference 2011". Clark is currently involved along with others in the School of Natural Resources and the Center for Great Plains Studies in an on-going project to create and publish an *Atlas of Nebraska*. Other longer term interests 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 program and the Center for Great Plains Studies. During the Fall 2012 semester, she taught Introduction to Human Geography (GEOG 140), Elements of Physical Geography (GEOG 155), the online version of GEOG 155 (GEOG

155X), and the online course Women of the Great Plains (GPSP 377, GEOG 377, WMNS 377). During

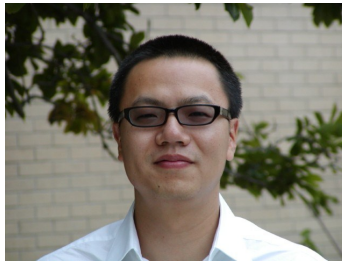


the Spring 2013 semester she will be teaching Elements of Physical Geography, Geography of Nebraska (GEOG 370), and Women of the Great Plains. Her latest publications include book reviews which appeared in the Summer 2012 edition of *Great Plains Quarterly* and the Winter 2012 edition of *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*. In her free time, Becky enjoys traveling, camping, fishing, and exploring the outdoors with her husband, son, and daughter.

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Gene Guan

Dr. Qingfeng "Gene" Guan joined SNR in August of 2009. His research and teaching interests include geographic information systems (GIS), Geo-



Computation, 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.) (Gene has recently accepted a new position and will be leaving UNL to assume a faculty position at the China University of Geosciences in Wuhan, China)

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Paul Hanson

My research interests are directed at resolving the evolution of landscapes over the past ~ 25,000 years, with

most of my work focused on the Great Plains and the upper Midwest. 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 north-eastern Nebraska. Working with colleagues in Wisconsin, I am establishing when dunes were active along



Lake Michigan's shoreline and the impact that changing lake level had on landscapes in the past ~ 7,000 years. In the past year I

have done more work with archaeologists, including a study of prehistoric landscape changes in the southeastern U.S. and another dating prehistoric Hohokam canal deposits in Arizona. In addition to teaching Introduction to Physical Geography I am teaching two field courses including the Physical Geography of Western Nebraska and Tropical Ecology of Puerto Rico.

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Jim Merchant

I continue to serve as the Program Area Leader for the Faculty of Geography and GIScience. In addition to my administrative duties, I teach a Proseminar in Research Methods and Professional Development each fall semester as well as the introductory course in GIS each



spring. I also chair the Geography General Seminar series offered in both fall and spring. My recent research has focused on landscape structure and satellite remote sensing, GIScience literacy, and wildlife habitat assessment on the central Platte River. My wife Loyola and I are "quasi" empty nesters. Our son Karl lives in Kyoto, Japan where he is employed in adult education as a teacher of Eng-

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lish. Our daughter Anne, a junior 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.

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Katherine Nashleanas

Dr. Katherine Nashleanas is a lecturer in the Faculty of Geography teaching courses in Human Geography and Quality of the Environment as well as supervising the continued revision of two distance learning courses for the department, World Regional Geography and Economic Geography. For the Academic year, 2012-2013 Katherine is participating in the campus-wide Peer Review of Teaching Project, designed to provide a model for how to document, assess, and make visible one's teaching and student learning through developing a course portfolio. A faculty member's experience consists of a year-long (August to May) fellowship that supports the writing of three short essays on different aspects of teaching (intellectual content, teaching practices, and student understanding). Faculty combine these essays into a reflective document (a course portfolio or case study) that illustrates inquiry into the success of a course in helping students learn.

Katherine has been active in geographic education, continuing to serve 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 addition to her classroom teaching obligations, Katherine is authoring an anthology in Human Geography Readings and investigating alternatives to the iClicker classroom response system. Katherine's continued research interests 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 Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Some of Sunil's responsibilities include promotion and tenure, reappointments, hiring and other faculty-related



issues. He is also the Director of Global 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. He 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 Ramirez



This year I started writing an electronic text book titled

"Geography of the U.S." I am interested in emphasizing Native American's

geography, history, legacy, and culture. I think it is fascinating how much we can learn from them and I am expect readers will benefit from understanding Native American's struggles, strengths and challenges. The book will also emphasize the uniqueness of the U.S. in terms of its economic power, human potential and creativity, presenting geographic features that will awe the reader, not only because of their intrinsic beauty, but also because of the human dimension behind them. I thank the Geography and GIScience and the School of Natural Resources at UN-L for their support in funding this effort. In terms of projects, I continue working on evaluating web-map services for the police officers in the City of Lincoln. This is a \$494,500 grant funded by the National Institute of Justice. The second grant that I am currently involved as a P.I. is related to the identification of food deserts in Nebraska. This grant is funded by the John C. and Nettie V. David Memorial Trust Fund. The project will identify food deserts to help the community address health issues such as obesity, along with describing the demographic and socioeconomic conditions of those populations affected by the lack of accessibility to fresh food.

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Don Rundquist

Dr. Rundquist will be retiring on De-



cember 31, 2012, at which time he will become Professor Emeritus. His remaining graduate students will continue to work with him until their graduation. Retirement plans include time with family, his vineyard activity, travel, and relaxation drundquist1@unl.edu

Bob Stoddard

My educational involvement contin-

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ues to focus on classes for OLLI (the UNL-associated continuing education program) and the annual Winter Lecture Series.



My last publication was the "Foreword" in *Holy Places and Pilgrimages: Essays on India* (2011). Other activities include a minor role in governance at my residential complex and participation in amateur stage performances.

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Brian Wardlow

The year of 2012 was marked as both the 'year of change' and the 'year of accomplishment' for me. After spending 6+ years as the GIScience Program Area Leader for the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), I accepted a tenure-line re



ote sensing faculty position in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in March. In my new position, I will be responsible for teaching remote sensing courses and developing future curriculum, while maintaining my research program in the areas of drought, land use/land cover, and vegetation dynamics. I also maintain a faculty affiliation with the NDMC and will continue to work on national and international remote sensing projects with my colleagues there. In April, the book I edited entitled *Remote Sensing of Drought: Innovative Monitoring Approaches* was published by CRC Press (<http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781439835579>). Publication of this book was both professionally and personally gratifying being the culmination of 2+ years of work with some of the leading remote sens-

ing scientists around the world. In July, I received my promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor. On August 1, I was named the Director of the Center for Advanced Land Management Technologies (CALMIT) having the privilege to lead a Center that has trained a generation of remote sensing and GIS scientists over the years. Late summer also marked another professional milestone with the graduation of my first Ph.D. student (co-advised with Sunil Narumalani), Sharmistha Swain, who accepted a research faculty position at Texas Tech University. Other highlights from 2012 included the start of a NASA project to develop a new drought monitoring tool called the Quick Drought Response Index (QuickDRI), the development of pilot projects in both Canada and Mexico to extend the Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) concept, and invited presentations at the North American Drought Monitor Forum in Cancun, Mexico and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA. I also remain actively involved with UNL Geography students serving as faculty advisor for the Geography Student Organization (GSO) and Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) chapter, as well as serve on several graduate student committees. wardlow2@unl.edu

David Wishart

Yes, I'm still here, now in my 39th year and heading for another clock for achieving 40 years of service to UNL. I still teach many of the courses that I have taught since I came, of which the Historical Geography of the Great Plains (Geog.334) is my favorite. Next year the University of Nebraska Press will publish my book, *The*



Last Days of the Rainbelt, dealing with settlement and failure on the High Plains in the late Nineteenth Century. I will then turn to working on an Atlas of Nebraska with Clark Archer. I've also been researching the early days of Whiteclay, Nebraska, the town of 14 people and 4 liquor stores that clings like a leech to the bottom of Pine Ridge Reservation. I'm going to keep working at the university until my body or the students tell me it's time to quit. dwishart1@unl.edu

Art Zygielbaum

As I wrote in the last newsletter, I had my first foray into teaching. Along with being a significant



"learning experience" for me, I think it was fairly successful. With the good support of my Graduate Teaching Assistants, Tony Nguy-Roberson and Paul Merani, a class of nearly 40 was given an overview covering geospatial information technologies. We had several short "highlight lectures" to augment the class. Dr. Clark Archer, Dr. David Wishart, and Rick Perk were among the presenters. The most significant error I made in lecturing was a coordinate transformation that put Memorial Stadium in the middle of the Gobi Desert. Other than that, it went well. The feedback on the significantly revised course was positive. I am looking forward to teaching it again in the Spring. Research continues to go well. Along with my colleagues, Drs. Tim Arkebauer and Betty Walter-Shea, we have made significant progress in establishing that an increase in visible spectrum reflectance when plants are subject to water stress is due to a vegetation photoprotective response called chloroplast avoidance movement. Experiments are planned to explore this effect in C3 and C4 grasses grown in the greenhouse and to examine the effect in field-grown

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grasses and corn. There are two potential outcomes from this work. The first is remotely sensed early detection of stress in vegetation. And the second is including the increased reflectance from stressed plants in climate change modeling. We have one paper in publication, one that is in review, and an invitation to deliver an oral presentation at the upcoming American Geophysical Union Fall Conference in San Francisco. azygielbaum1@unl.edu

More extensive Faculty profiles are available on the SNR website at

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

Rundquist honored (cont'd)

Once Zygielbaum concluded his remarks, Rundquist deflected any credit for the high praise.

"I didn't do all of what's been done," Rundquist told the crowd. "It was

done by all of our great faculty and staff."

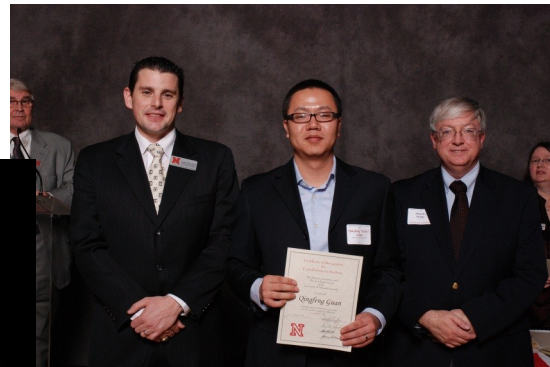
Tala Awada, interim director of the School of Natural Resources, also presented Rundquist an engraved, decorative clock that read, in part, "Your friends, students, and colleagues recognize your many years of friendship, intellectual leadership, scientific achievement and commitment. You enabled the success of so many, and we are grateful."

-Charlie Litton, SNR Communications



Geography Faculty recognized by UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association

Three UNL Geography Faculty, Drs. Rebecca "Becky" Buller, Gene Guan and David Wishart, were recognized by the UNL Parents Association for their contributions to students. For the past 24 years, the UNL Parents Association has solicited parents of UNL students to consult with their sons and daughters and to nominate a faculty or staff member who "has made a significant contribution to their lives while at UNL." Becky, Gene and David were nominated by students to receive this recognition. Becky teaches courses in Physical Geography, Geography of Nebraska and Women of the Great Plains. Gene teaches Advanced Techniques in GIS, Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and a Seminar on GIS. David teaches Introduction to Human Geography, Historical Geography of the Great Plains, History & Philosophy of Geography and the Geography Senior Seminar. At a reception on February 3, 2012, Becky, Gene and David were formally congratulated for their efforts in making UNL a special place for students.



Faculty Updates

Journal, colleagues honor Gitelson

Anatoly Gitelson thought that he had been summoned to a meeting in mid-July with Prem Paul, Don Wilhite and others to discuss matters of strategic importance. Instead, the professor of remote sensing at UNL's School of Natural Resources found a room full of long-time colleagues, stu-



dents and friends, gathered to celebrate his lifetime of accomplishment, the start of a new project, and a birthday ending in "0."

There Gitelson learned that the forthcoming edition of the *Israel Journal of Plant Sciences* is dedicated to him, including a tribute, "A Physicist in the Plant Kingdom," and a list of his publications from 1990 through 2011. He received a plaque showing the cover of the commemorative journal and the inscription, "Friends and colleagues from around the world honor Anatoly Gitelson."

In one of the articles in the special edition, one of his former students, Art Zygielbaum, now an adjunct associate professor at SNR, and co-authors Tim Arkebauer, Elizabeth Walter-Shea, and Dave Scoby wrote, "Anatoly Gitelson has been a key participant in the research reported here. His considerable insight, knowledge, enthusiasm, humor and encouragement helped guide our work and challenged us to perform rigorous analyses of our data. As a colleague, teacher, mentor, and friend, Anatoly is a vital part of our academic lives and careers. We are proud . . . to acknowledge Anatoly, his contributions to science, and his dedication to his research, students, and colleagues."

Gitelson, who specializes in using satellite data to assess plant conditions, will relocate to the Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa in late August to continue his work for UNL. He will establish a global crop modeling consortium, and will be able to work closely with colleagues in Europe and other countries who have valuable data to share.

Gitelson has led development of a crop model at UNL that

estimates yield, crop status and conditions, and needs to work with colleagues around the world to compare their data on actual crop yields to the model's predictions. "I'll be working with friends in Europe – where they have lots of data from Africa – and Japan and China," he said. "They will all benefit if we are successful."

The UNL model uses data from NASA's MODIS satellite, and next year will begin using data from the European Sentinel-2 satellites.

"In principle, we know it will work," he said. "But do we need to change coefficients to model wheat in Argentina, or soybeans in Brazil, or rice in Japan and China?"

Gitelson, who is originally from Russia, immigrated to Israel in 1990, and chose to come to UNL in 2000 – over other, more prestigious institutions -- to work with Don Rundquist at UNL's Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT), which is now based in the School of Natural Resources.

"Don Rundquist created a great infrastructure within CALMIT," Gitelson said, and added that colleagues such as Shashi Verma, who led the Great Plains Regional Center for Global Environmental Change, and others in agronomy, contributed invaluable data to the project. "It's not just crop yield, but also leaf area, biomass, and all the biophysical characteristics of crops, plus gross primary production," Gitelson said. "What we've got at UNL is really incomparable."

Gitelson has a master's and Ph.D. from the Institute of Radio Technology in Taganrog in the former Soviet Union. In Israel, he was a scientist, professor and department head at the J. Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. At UNL, in addition to pursuing a vigorous research agenda, Gitelson taught classes and has worked with eight Ph.D. students, including two still in progress. He has published more than 150 peer-reviewed papers.

-- *Kelly Helm Smith, School of Natural Resources*

Anatoly is currently working to develop an international crop modeling project. He is spending time in Israel, but is also doing some travel in Europe to establish collaborations with colleagues and identify a set of global test sites for his models. He has an office in the Technion (aka the Israeli Institute of Technology) in Haifa, Israel, but is working on behalf of UNL and maintains his appointment here.

Wardlow, NDMC add value to NASA project

Work performed by Brian Wardlow and the National Drought Mitigation Center could lead to the development and application of new satellite-based Earth observations products using gravity data from current and future NASA missions, according to a recent article published by a NASA website.

In collaboration with NASA scientists, Wardlow — a professor at the School of Natural Resources — used data provided by two satellites to create applications for measuring changes in soil moisture and groundwater levels across the United States.

Success in creating highly detailed maps of groundwater levels across the continental United States has shown NASA the value of using satellite-based gravity data for monitoring sub-surface hydrology in support of operational drought monitoring. The satellites collecting the information are called the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment, or GRACE.

"GRACE's measurements of groundwater, ice, and oceans are now so essential that NASA is preparing to launch a follow-on mission," said the article featured on NASA's "Earth Observatory" webpage.

Wardlow, a remote sensing expert, has worked with the NDMC's GIScience Program and is director of UNL's Center for Advanced Land Management Technologies.



Read more about the project at <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/GRACEGroundwater/>

Staff Updates

STAFF

Joyce Hurst

Alumni, I love hearing from you!



Thank you for taking the time to send me your updates and pictures. You feel like family. Please keep sending me job announcements too; our current

students have expressed their appreciation in receiving this information. I also keep a list of alumni who want to receive job announcements; just let me know if you would like to be included. I continue to marvel at how blessed I am to work with such a positive, cohesive group of people, and I am very proud of our program. When you are in Lincoln, please stop in to see us, I would love to reconnect you

and show you Geography today.

jhurst3@unl.edu

Milda Vaitkus

I'm now in my 16th year at UNL, about 11 of which have been spent at CAL-MIT in a variety of roles. I'm in my 8th year as the Program Manager of the [NebraskaView](#) Program, a USGS program dedicated to making geospatial technologies more accessible to the citizens of Nebraska. For the last 4 years, I have served on the Board of the national [AmericaView](#) program. 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 outreach (Geography Awareness Week, NaturePalooza, Weatherfest), and new course submissions, student recruitment, mvaitkus@unl.edu

Jessica Ditmore

Jessica, a senior from Topeka, Kansas, majoring in Anthropology and History, has been assisting Geography faculty and staff for the past three 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 Seminar Series— 2012

Spring

- January 13 Brian Baskerville, Geography Graduate Student
Morocco: The Crossroads of the World
- January 20 R. Maxwell Baber, PhD, Director of Academic Programs, U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation
Geospatial Intelligence: Deriving Knowledge from Data for National Security and Beyond
- January 27 Adonna Fleming, Associate Professor & subject librarian for Geosciences, GIS, Maps, Mathematics and Computer Science, and Joan Konecky, Associate Professor & subject librarian for Natural Resources, Biological Sciences, Dentistry and Nursing, UNL Libraries
Library Resources for Geography and Natural Resource Sciences
- February 3 & 10 Presentations by students preparing for AAG
- March 9 Alice Kang, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Ethnic Studies (African and African American Studies)
Bringing International Women's Rights Home: Issue-Specific Mobilization in Muslim and Non-Muslim Africa
- April 6 Monica Haddad, Assistant Professor and GIS Specialist, Department of Community and Regional Planning Iowa State University
Planning for Open Space: A Spatial Analysis of Subdivisions in Des Moines
- April 20 Scott Josiah, State Forester and Director, Nebraska Forest Service
Fire, Floods and Bugs: Nebraska's Forests - Past, Present and Future

Fall

- September 7 Juan Paulo Ramirez, UNL Faculty of Geography & Public Policy Center
Professional Experiences as a Geographer in the U.S.
- September 21 Jeremy Dillon, Department of Geography, University of Nebraska-Kearney
Engineer Cantonment (Stephen Long Expedition): The Intersection of Geography, Geology, Archaeology, History and Art
- October 5 Melinda Benson, Department of Geography, University of New Mexico
Rules of Engagement: the Spatiality of Judicial Review
- October 12 Shishi Liu, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Terrestrial Carbon Dynamics at Different Scales
- October 19 Leilani Arthurs, Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, UNL
Regional Differences and Similarities in Novice Conceptions about Hurricane Formation
- November 2 Glenn Humphress, UNL PhD candidate in Geography
Technology Toponyms: Connecting the Public to Naval Vessels Using Place Names
- November 14 LLoyd Queen, Professor of Remote Sensing/ Director, National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis /Chair, Department of Forest Management, University of Montana
Characterizing Fire-on-Fire Interactions in Three Large Wilderness Areas Using the Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity (MTBS) Fire Perimeter Data
- November 30 Annabel Major, Nebraska Master Naturalist Program Coordinator, UNL
The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program
-

New Geography Field Course

Summer 2012 was the inaugural Geography Field Tour that was held from May 7-12. This year's course was focused on the unique physical geography of central and western Nebraska, and although each of the four students was from Nebraska, few knew of the interesting landforms and history of the panhandle region. The majority of the trip was spent in the Chadron and Valentine areas where we visited Chadron State Park, Fort



Robinson State Park, the Hudson-Meng Bison bone bed, Toadstool State Park, Smith Falls, Snake River Falls, and Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge. We also stopped at loess exposures in the North Platte area, Ogallala exposures and the visitors center at Lake McConaughay, and climbed Courthouse Rock. Throughout the trip we discussed the physical geography of the area including the region's archaeology, climate regime and changes, geological stratigraphy and groundwater resources. To a lesser extent we discussed the cultural geography and history of the settlement of western Nebraska. The highlights of the trip included the spectacular scenery and fos-

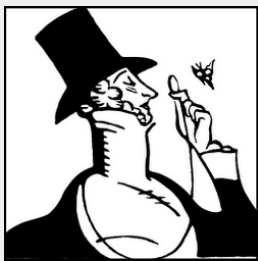
sil finds in Toadstool, a behind the scenes tour of the Hudson-Meng bone bed, and several serendipitous stops we made—my favorite being a long-abandoned one room schoolhouse complete with piano and chalkboard. This class will be run again this May, and I plan again to focus the class on the geography of the Nebraska panhandle. In the future I would like this course to be expanded out to other areas of the U.S. or perhaps to international locales.

-Paul Hanson



Observations—The Geography Turn...

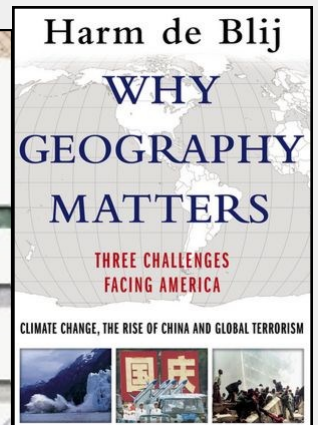
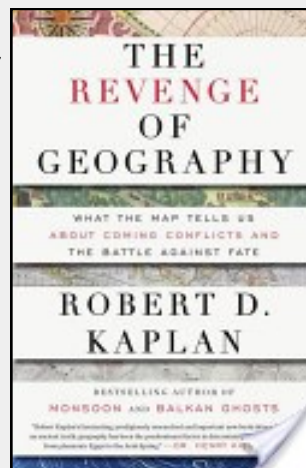
You may have noticed that Geography has been much in the news recently. Other disciplines have discovered us, and scholars are now glowingly referring to the Geographic Turn in scholarship. There's a long [review essay by critic Adam Gopnik](#) in the most recent New Yorker, featuring R. D. Kaplan's new book, *The Revenge of Geography*, with some reference to



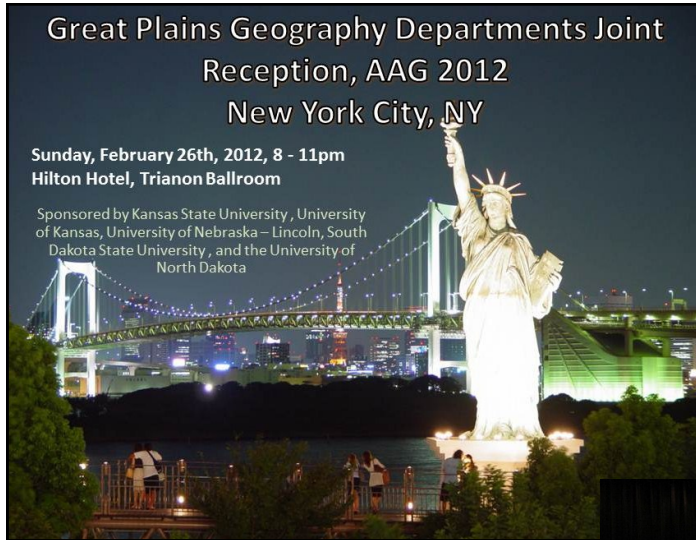
Harm de Blij's new book, *Why Geography Matters: More than Ever*. There's also a [letter by Brian Blouet](#), formerly Chair of our dept. in Sunday's New York Times Book Review, responding to a previous review of Kaplan. This should all be good news, but the Geography that Kaplan champions

is very close to our old environmental determinism. What Geography has really contributed to academic thinking in recent decades is the Spatial Turn, the revelation that space is filled with meaning and controls, and influences us as much as time does. This has influenced scholars from planning to history to literature and art history. It's interesting, that even when we earn praise it's not for the right stuff.

-David Wishart



AAG, New York— 2012



Above: UNL Faculty, students and alumni visit during the reception. (from L to R, Ruopu Li, Lesli Rawlings, Jeff Crump, Clark Archer, Chris Nycz, Victoria Alapo and Jinfu Leng



Graduate students Chris Nycz and Victoria Alapo share a laugh at the reception



Left: Brain Wardlow catches up with Alyson Greiner from Oklahoma State University and her guest.

2012 AAG Presentations by UNL Geography Faculty & Students

A.Clark Archer - *Mapping Nebraska's Changing Population Geography*
Contemporary United States Political and Electoral Geography – Chair
The Political Landscape of the 2012 U.S. Presidential Election – Panelist

Qingfeng “Gene” Guan - *Opportunities for SLEUTH in High-performance Computing*

Victoria Alapo - *The Positive Influence of Brain Drain on the Socio-Economic Development of Nigeria: a Case Study of the City of Ogbomosh*

Gabrielle (Collins) Tegeder - *Dangerous Encounters*

Ruopu Li - *Exploring the relationships between drought intensity and drought impacts in the United States: A spatio-temporal perspective*

Christine Nycz - *Reconstructing Middle Holocene Environments in the Central Great Plains through the Analysis of the Archaeological Record*

Sharmistha Swain - *Non-invasive estimation of relative water content in soybean leaves using infrared thermography*
Biogeography Methods and Dynamics -- Chair
Remote Sensing Specialty Group Student Honors Paper Competition I -- Chair, Organizer
Remote Sensing Specialty Group Student Honors Paper Competition II -- Chair, Organizer

2012 Degrees Awarded

PhD degrees

Sharmistha Swain, *Evaluating Vegetation Response to Water Stress Using Close-Range and Satellite Remote Sensing* (Drs. Sunil Narumalani and Brian Wardlow, advisors)

MA degrees

Nwakaku Ajaere, *Multi-temporal Remote Estimation and Analysis of Biomass for a Rain-fed Corn and Soybean Field* (Drs. Sunil Narumalani and Don Rundquist, advisors)



BA/BS degrees

Heather Achterberg
 Lucas Batenhorst
 James Benes
 Dominic Biondo
 Jeff Bragg
 Scott Broberg
 Austin Butterfield
 Justin Davis
 Miles Essay
 Stjepan Figuric
 Andy McDowell
 Tanner Powell
 Jason Windhorst

Deshler, NE
 West Point, NE
 Lincoln, NE
 Lincoln, NE
 Bloomington, IL
 Tilden, NE
 Lincoln, NE
 Camden, SC
 Bayard, NE
 Lincoln, NE
 Alexandria, VA
 Norfolk, NE
 Raymond, NE

Current UNL Geography Graduate Students

PhD

Victoria Alapo
 Ashley Barnett
 Molly Cannon
 Matthew Cartlidge
 Gregory Fetterman
 Theresa Glanz
 Mary Hallin
 Glenn Humphress
 Humphrey Kalibo
 Jee Hoon Kim
 Elizabeth Lostetter
 Paul Merani
 Angela Pochanasomburana
 Sean Pummill
 Robert Shepard
 Kristin Sorensen
 Mikal Stewart
 Gabrielle (Collins) Tegeder

MA

Wendy Austin
 Brian Baskerville
 Jason Byers
 Junyao Chen
 Amanda Davey
 Jordan Dornbierer
 Fauzal Fauzal
 David Gibbs
 Jonathon Howell
 Drew LaBounty
 Troy Lee
 Jinfu Leng
 Jason McGuire
 Kevin McMillan
 Christine Nycz
 Kathie Pfaffle
 Katelyn Pietz
 Deusilene Schneider
 Xueming Wu
 Travis Yeik

Baskerville is 2012 Geospatial Scholar



Geography graduate student Brian Baskerville is the recipient of the 2012 Geospatial Scholarship, awarded annually by the St. Louis Region of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS).

In a letter of congratulations to Baskerville, ASPRS official and associate professor of geography at Northwest Missouri State, Ming-Chih Hung wrote: "The panel of judges was truly impressed by your outstanding accomplishments both in and outside the classroom."

Baskerville, an Iowa native, was an environmental education volunteer with the Peace Corps before coming to UNL where he currently serves as the Geography Student Organization president. He performed his undergraduate studies at South Dakota State University and Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa.

-Charlie Litton, SNR Updates

Gamma Theta Upsilon

Alpha Phi Chapter



In April 2012 the Faculty of Geography and GIScience was pleased to honor twelve students who qualified for membership in **Gamma Theta Upsilon**, the International Honorary Society in Geography (<http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/>). Congratulations to:

- Victoria Alapo
- Wendy Austin
- Brian Baskerville
- Matt Cartlidge
- Theresa Glanz
- Patrick Keady
- Kathryn Pfaffle
- Deusilene Schneider
- Kristin Sorensen
- Robert Shepard
- Ashley Streit
- Travis Yeik



L to R—Brian Baskerville, Kristin Sorensen, Robert Shepard, Kathryn Pfaffle, Wendy Austin, Chris Nycz, Theresa Glanz, Travis Yeik, Ashley Streit, and Victoria Alapo, Not pictured Matt Cartlidge, Deusilene Schneider, and Patrick Keady

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

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.

OFFICERS FOR 2012-13

President: Brian Baskerville
Vice President: Dorian Roffe-Hammond
Treasurer: Rob Shepard
Secretary: Kristin Sorensen

GSO members, under the leadership of Geography graduate student Brian Baskerville, have been especially active this year in a variety of activities:

- **Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium and Weatherfest** - March 31, 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.
- **Spring BBQ—April 27, Antelope Park**
- **UNL East Campus Welcome Back Fair—Aug 23**
- **UNL Registered Student Organization (RSO) Fair-**
- **Sept 11**
- **College of Arts & Sciences Student Involvement Fair—Sept 19**
- **IANR 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Morrill Act —Sept. 25**
- **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 2012 Geography Bowl on November 13th 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.

GSO also collected over 300 text books for the [Africa Library Project](#) which coordinates book drives in the U.S. and sends the books to African schools and villages to start small libraries.



More information about GSO activities is available at <http://snr.unl.edu/geographygis/students/>

We're on Facebook!

Follow Geography Student Organization on

Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/UNLGSO>



Annual Geography Bowl demonstrates importance of geographic knowledge

Shelby Wolfe | DN (NEWS@DAILYNEBRASKAN.COM)

The reigning champion of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Geography Bowl, Greg Vinton, upheld his title Tuesday evening.

Vinton's teammate Clay Koziol, a sophomore biology and pre-med major, won second place at last year's event. This year, the team won by two points. They each won a Garmin Geocaching GPS.

"It's kind of a fun event," said Vinton, a junior economics major. "The thrill of victory is better than any GPS."

About 90 students gathered Tuesday evening in the Hardin Hall auditorium for UNL's annual Geography Bowl. The event was part of Geography Awareness Week and coordi-



Shelby Wolfe | DN

The twelfth annual UNL Geography Bee was held last night in the auditorium of Hardin Hall on East Campus. Lecturer and doctoral student Matt Cartlidge has been participating in the event for the past three years as a speaker and moderator.

nated by the Geography Student Organization.

Participants were divided into pairs. They answered multiple-choice questions using i-clickers. The competition was seven rounds with 10 questions each. After the seventh round, the competition was narrowed to 15 teams for a semifinal round. The final round featured six teams.

Brian Baskerville, president of the Geography Student Organization, said the event's goal is to promote and enhance geographic knowledge.

"It's a globalized world now," said Baskerville, a geography graduate student. "We need to know about the world we live in. The U.S. has been sort of lackluster in its geographic literacy. This happens to be a fun event because it's a competition."

The Geography Bowl started in the 1980s, according to Baskerville.

Brian Wardlow, adviser for the Geography Student Organization, said geographic knowledge is critical in today's



Shelby Wolfe | DN

Emma Reid, sophomore mathematics major, crosses her fingers for good luck as she anticipates the answer to a geography question.

world.

"Students need to have basic geographic knowledge to understand the social cultural complexities of the world that are really key to many of the issues that we face throughout the world, whether it's conflicts between countries, managing of our natural resources, better understanding of issues like climate change," he said.

Wardlow said geographic awareness can help in understanding links between different cultures and the relationship between humans and the natural environment.

The Geography Bowl draws students from both City and East campuses, according to Wardlow.

"I think (the Geography Bowl) has an appeal among students across many of the disciplines at UNL," Wardlow said. "Not just geography."

In fact, none of the competitors in the final round were geography majors.

Other events of Geography Awareness Week included a photography competition display in the Hardin Hall lobby and a Geography Wheel Game in front of the Nebraska Union.

Wednesday at 3:30 p.m., University of Montana professor Lloyd Queen delivered a seminar about fire-on-fire interactions in large wilderness areas.



Brett Blackwell, a freshman marketing major, and Reid Jensen, a freshman engineering major, celebrate choosing the correct answer in the last round of questions.



GSO Spring picnic—a little chilly, a lot of fun!



GSO president Brian Baskerville ready to attract new Geography students at the UNL East Campus Welcome Back Fair



Graduate students Kevin McMillan and Glenn Humphress spread the word at UNL's Morrill Act Celebration



Undergraduate Geography student John Jackson quizzes a young visitor about U.S. geography during UNL's annual Weatherfest celebration.

In a recent article in *The Professional Geographer* (VOL. 64, No. 4, Nov. 2012: 475-90) Xingjian Liu and F. Benjamin Zhan calculated the "Productivity of Doctoral Graduate Placement Among PhD-Granting Geography Programs in the United States: 1960-2010." Alumni of the Geography Program at UNL will be pleased to learn that Nebraska ranked 25th in the nation, with 11 graduates being placed in faculty positions in PhD-granting departments from 1960 to 2010.

Alumni Updates

Mark Avery, MA, 2011

Since graduating in December of 2011, I searched for jobs for almost seven months before landing a job with Fiserv in Lincoln. The job involves technical writing for financial software products that are used by banks and other financial institutions. The job in and of itself has no direct connection to Geography or GIS. HOWEVER, it was my graduate school teaching/training experience, the writing required by the program and specific elements within the GIS curriculum that made the difference in



Teddy chillin' in the truck

my application and subsequent hire. Funny enough, the company has now begun researching the usefulness of GIS in banking and subsequently I have begun re-reading all my texts, papers and notes to reacquaint myself with the material. I think my current employment is testament to the quality and breadth of instruction that is provided by the faculty within the Geography department

Darcy Boellstorff, MA 2000; PhD 2004

I am still teaching at Bridgewater State University and was promoted to Associate Professor starting this fall. I am also fortunate to have a semester-long sabbatical this fall semester (2012). I've been enjoying learning more about Massachusetts geologic history and soils and will be working with NRCS staff on an automated soil mapping project in Plymouth County. We will be differentiating soil types on a glacio-fluvial pitted plain. Last December I bought my first home, a condo in southern Massachusetts, so this area is now officially my home away

from home (Nebraska). I get back to visit family as often as I can and they enjoy getting out here to visit New England. I'm only about 30 miles from Boston, but there are wild turkey, foxes, coyotes, fisher cats, hummingbirds and all types of songbirds that frequent my backyard. There are even black bears in this area. This spring I visited Reykjavik, Iceland and was amazed by the beauty of the landscape.

Kenneth Cannon, PhD 2008

I was recently named President of USU Archeological Services (www.usuas.com) and Research Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Utah State University. USUAS is a cultural resource consulting firm located in Logan, Utah started with a grant from USU to assist in the training and employment of USU students enrolled in the Master of Science program in Cultural Resource Management in Archaeology. We are in our third year and have been fortunate enough to have landed some interesting and fun projects. These projects include *Understanding Landscape Response to Climate Change Through Faunal Analysis; Is there a Long-Term Record at the Stinking Springs Rockshelter, Teton County, Wyoming; and New Fork River Crossing Historical Park, Sublette County, Wyoming*. These projects have involved partnerships with USU Spatial Data Collec-



Ken along with Dr. Ken Pierce (US Geological Survey) and USU students discussing geologic context of Stinking Springs Rockshelter.

tion Analysis and Visualization Lab (<http://anthropology.usu.edu/geospatiallab.aspx>). I am enjoying life in Logan with Molly and our two sons, Brennan and Quincy, and looking forward to a big snow year (last year was lame).

Jerry Gerlach

I have been studying the geography of Wine Tourism. In November of 2011 I presented a paper at the West Lakes division of the AAG in Chicago "To a Geography of Wine Tourism". The paper compared wine tourism in France with that of Wisconsin. In January and February of 2012 I traveled to Chile and Argentina to study their wine tourist industries. A paper "Wine Tourism : Argentinean and Chilean Examples ", will be presented at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Geographical Society this September.

Joan Lubischer, PhD 2006

In May, I cruised from Budapest to Prague. Each day we had a musical experience: opera, ballet, Slovakian wedding dance, private piano concert in Bartok's home, concert by a violin prodigy, chamber orchestra rehearsal, violin, cello, piano concert on board. We attended a concert of the largest organ in Europe, sitting in the choir loft. We had a 6-course dinner in a castle while listening to a 7-piece symphony; in between courses, either two ballet dancers would dance or a tenor or soprano would sing, or they would sing a duet. Our farewell dinner was at the Lobkowicz Palace. The Lobkowicz family is very interesting. For details, see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Lobkowicz

Murat Karabulat, PhD 2001

I started my PhD education at the University of Nebraska, Department of Geography in 1996 and completed in 2001. The subject of my dissertation was "An Assessment of Vegetation Response to Different Moisture Conditions at Multiple Resolutions". My adviser was Sunil Narumalani and doctoral committee included Dr.

Alumni Updates

Rundquist, Dr. Lavin, and Dr. Peters. After completion of my education I came back to my country, Turkey. I have started to teach at the Kahramanmaraş Sutcu Imam University, Department of Geography since 2002 as a Assistant Professor. I Have also appointed to Department of Geology and Environmental Engineering Department. I am currently teaching several courses such as Introduction to GIS, Advanced GIS, and Introduction to Remote Sensing, Air photo and Satellite Imagery Interpretations, Cli-



matology, Climate Change, Statistics in Geography at undergraduate and graduate level. My research topics focus on the environmental issues such as land use change, climate effect on vegetation, climatic variations and GIS modeling, Statistical analysis. I have done few project in Turkey such as "Development of wetland management plan for Golbası Lakes", "Development of strategies for reconstruction of Gavur Lake wetland", "Community based Nature Education", "determination of best sites of landfill for city of Kahramanmaraş using GIS", "change detection of urban areas using remote sensing: a case study of Kahramanmaraş", "establishment of research and development center for university, industry, public relations (establishment of GIS and Spectroradiometer laboratory)". I have also es-

tablished spatial analysis laboratory for undergraduate and graduate students. During this time, my family is also expended with beautiful daughters named Asude and Sueda. I am currently living in city of Kahramanmaraş with my wife Canan and daughters. I am currently the Director of Graduate School for Social Sciences at Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University. mkarabulut@ksu.edu.tr, mkarabulutksu@gmail.com

Paul Kelley, PHD 2005

There have been many changes over the last year. In November 2011, I started working part-time at Harvest Local Foods, a local foods delivery service and market, and have just interviewed for a gardening position at a small museum devoted to the life and work of a well-known sculptor of wood pieces. In January, I moved into a small apartment in a historic home in Media, Pennsylvania, which is a fine little town known as the first Free Trade community in the U.S. It is a beautiful setting in a quiet neighborhood, yet only three blocks from downtown. In February, one week before the house I had lived in was due to go on the market, and as I was moving things into a storage unit, a bin slid against my arm and I was unable to prevent my car from hitting a telephone pole. I was fine, but my vehicle was finished. The same day, my mother, who has Alzheimer's, fell while exiting a store with my father. She has been in skilled nursing ever since, but is walking again and still a pleasant person to be with. Suffice it to say that there have been a lot of life lessons compressed into a short time frame this year. The house sold in June. I was satisfied with having been able to spend time gardening there through the spring flowering season, and left the new owner with a guide to the gardens (at least 130 native trees, shrubs, and flowers were planted in the last five years) and a book about native plants.

I traveled to a family reunion on Lake Chautauqua again this summer and camped along the way. One of the highlights was walking through the

Cathedral Forest at Cook Forest State Park in western Pennsylvania, which is full of three to four hundred year old hemlocks, cherries, and pine trees, towering twenty stories above the forest floor. I still teach geography and astrology classes for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the Widener University campus in Exton, PA, and this summer added a native plant gardening class. In early October, I took my geography students to Hawk Mountain, and we finally hit a banner day, with a steady stream of eagles, hawks, ospreys, and kestrels coming by at cruising speed. I still have my volunteer interests, though less frequently now. I shelve books at a local public library and help out with Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve events. I will be lecturing there (tomorrow) about Pennsylvania geography to their naturalist trainee class and then leading them on a walk. I am looking forward to another SOTA astrology conference (next week) in Niagara Falls. The pictures taken at the falls last year were enchanting. This year, I am going as a scholarship recipient of the Association for Astrological Networking (AFAN). I also became a charter member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Council for Geocosmic Research (NGCR), another professional astrologer's association. Their national conference will be in Philadelphia next August, which always triggers memories of the Centennial AAG conference. The weekend after the conference my sister is getting married in a small, relaxed ceremony in an actor's theater in Philadelphia, and I have bought my first suit coat in over twenty years for the event.

Chris Knowles, BA 1975

Following my graduation from UN-L in 1975 with a BA in Geography and a concentration in Cartography I spent the next five years as an Environmental Resources Planner, first for the Nebraska Department of Water Resources and then for the Iowa Natural Resources Council. In 1980 I became a Graduate Fellow at the Institute for Public Affairs and Administration at Drake University. In 1982 I graduated with a Master of Public Administration

Alumni Updates



(MPA) degree. Since that time I have served in healthcare management, running hospices in Iowa and New York, home health agencies in New Jersey and Massachusetts,

two community health centers in The Bronx, and holding down a number of positions in hospital senior management. In December of 2010 I became the Health Director for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) on the island of Martha's Vineyard. My eldest son, Sean, holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Iowa, an MBA from Arizona State and a Master of Finance from Boston College. My middle son, James, holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from UMASS - Lowell, and my youngest son, Thomas, received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Fairfield University in May, 2012. My wife, Mary, who holds a BS in Mathematics from The College of Good Counsel and an MBA from Iona College, is a teacher at Project Headway, the special needs preschool here on Martha's Vineyard. In the twenty-one years since I moved to the Island I have taken up writing novels as an avocation. Three make up a murder trilogy. The fourth, *A Matter of Perception*, is an adventure story which revolves around the sectarian violence between the Roman Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland in the mid-1970s (thanks for the inspiration, Professor Wishart!).

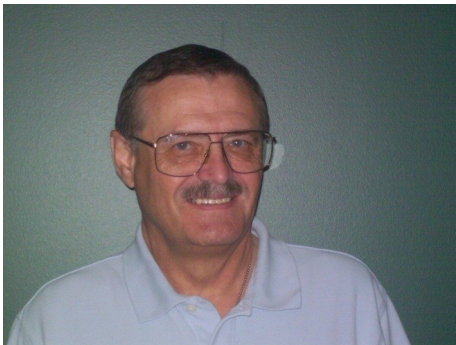
David Montgomery, MA 1972

I'm beginning to plan retirement after 38 years with the Nebraska Department of Health (and its multi-titled successor agencies). Most of my career has focused on the regulation of health care professionals. During that career I have developed and administered

several State programs, including the Medical Student Loan Program to augment the number of rural physicians and the Credentialing Review Program to advise the Legislature on the advisability of regulating new health professions or changing the scopes of practice of existing ones. I have led licensing boards for optometrists, paramedics, cosmetologists and several other health professions in Nebraska. Earlier in this century I directed a long-term study of the Nebraska regulatory system that resulted in a complete re-write of the State's health professional credentialing statutes in 2007. I was also privileged to facilitate two Governors' Task Forces on health care within the Nebraska prison system, from which major improvements emerged.

During retirement I hope to focus on three hobbies. First, my wife Shirley and I love to travel. We have sailed by river from Amsterdam to the Black Sea, fallen in love with Prague and Budapest, and will be riding part of the Trans-Siberian Railway next year. We have physically been in 93% of the counties of the United States (including all counties in 31 States) and hope to make it 100% in the near future.

Second, I became a 60-year-old virgin



with amateur theater in 2007 and came to love it. Since that time I have appeared onstage in six productions with the Beatrice Community Players and currently serve on their Board of Directors.

Third, I have become active with a men's barbershop singing chorus in Beatrice, the Homestead Harmonizers. This is a chapter of a larger district and national organization. In my roles with these organizations I have staged three district-wide (6 States) weekend

training sessions and serve on the national committee that oversees officer training in the chapters.

Shirley has recently retired from 33 years of teaching, mostly at Norris High School south of Lincoln. She now works part-time as a CPA, both for a local firm and as a private practitioner. Our son Michael (30) is completing his master's degree at the George Lucas School of Film at USC and hopes to work as a director. Our son Robert (28) is the morning emcee at Silver Dollar City in Branson, MO, where he also performs as a street character and in dinner theater productions.

Lesli Rawlings, PhD 2010

Lesli Rawlings is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Wayne State College

(Nebraska), which offers a BA or BS in Geography. Since fall of 2010, Lesli has taught Computer Mapping, Urban Geographic Information Systems, Urban



Geography, World Economic Geography, and a variety of regional geography courses. As a co-faculty advisor of Gamma Theta Upsilon, Lesli has organized the first and second annual Geography Bowl in honor of Geography Awareness Week. In April 2011 and 2012, she served as a moderator for the Nebraska State Geographic Bee. In August 2012, Lesli received the Applied Geography (AAG) Specialty Group Class Exercise Award. This service-learning exercise developed for the City of Wayne requires students to create an interactive Google Map, which depicts the locations of historic buildings and artwork along Wayne's main street corridor. A user can click on a Google place marker to view a photo and a brief description of the feature. Dr. Michael Peterson, a geography professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha provided the base code, which was modified for this exer-

Alumni Updates

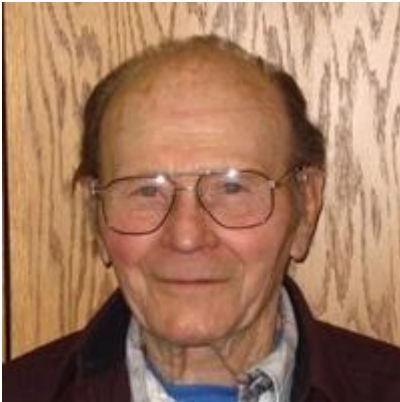
cise. Lesli's current research interest involves population loss and its impact on schools and communities in Nebraska.

Don R. ten Bensel, MA 1971

While I was never in an academic setting, I believe my training in Geography allowed me to be a very successful community/regional developer with a rural, eight county organization in west central Georgia. Geography taught me how to thoroughly examine the situation, identify the real problems, and come up with fundable solutions. My south-central Nebraska farmboy training taught me to not give up on a project easily.

William 'Bill' Wayne

Born 23 April 1922 in Cass County, Michigan. Attended schools in Elkhart, Indiana, graduating from Elkhart High School in 1940. Attended Indiana Uni-



versity, receiving an AB in 1943 with a major in Spanish. I served in the U.S. Army 1943-46; sergeant, K-398, 100th Infantry Division 1943-45; 1st Military Government Detachment, Stuttgart, Germany, 1945-46. On returning to the U.S., on 9 July 1946 I married Naomi Liebl, who had also graduated from IU with a BS in Physical Education in 1943. Both of us returned to IU in 1946 for graduate studies, I in Geology and Naomi in Physical Education. She completed two degrees in 1948, MS and DirPEd. I completed an MA in 1950 and a PhD in 1952 in geology (geomorphology). We have three children.

Accepted a position with the Indiana Geological Survey in 1952. My research included studies of the geomor-

phology, stratigraphy, and paleoecology of the Pleistocene deposits of Indiana. From 1957-1964 I served on the Monroe County Planning commission, and from this background as well as the Quaternary studies, I began a program of the geology of urbanizing regions, which included preparing reports on physical geography and geology of several Indiana communities. In 1968 I accepted a position to teach geomorphology at the University of Nebraska, where I taught physical geology, geomorphology, glacial geology, and later organized a course in urban geology. My research involved geomorphology, stratigraphy and paleoecology of the Quaternary deposits in Nebraska, including evidence of late Pleistocene permafrost.

In 1980, 1983, and 1985 I conducted projects in Mendoza, Argentina (with Arturo Corte of IANIGLA) to study rock glaciers and other frozen ground phenomena in the Cordón del Plata, supported by the NSF. In 1987 I received funds from the National Geographic society and in 1993 from the Fulbright Foundation to investigate mass wasting in the Province of Salta, Argentina. The result of these projects was an inventory of the landslides in the Province. Naomi helped as my field assistant through all these projects, in Nevada and in Argentina. In addition to the field studies, I taught a short course in urban geology at Universidad Nacional de Salta in 1987 and in Jujuy in 1994.

After my 1987 project I was asked to be coordinator of the Latin American Studies program at UNL, which I did from 1988 to 1993, along with my teaching and research responsibilities in geology. I became Professor Emeritus in 1992, but continued advising graduate students until 2000, including one PhD in Salta, Argentina. In 1997 taught Geography of Latin America.

After becoming a Professor Emeritus, I was able to complete and publish projects with some of my Argentine colleagues, including an updated and shortened version of my report on the landslide inventory (2011, "Mass wasting as geologic hazard in the Province of Salta, Argentina", in *Cenozoic Geology of the Central Andes of Argentina*) and the Prólogo for a book by Ricardo

Alonso ("Riesgos geológicos en el norte Argentino", 2011). wwayne3@unl.edu

Glenn Williams, BS 1997, MA 2010

I earned both a BS and MA in Geography from UNL. This is my 13th year as a Cartographer with the Nebraska Department of Roads in Lincoln. I am a Senior Cartographer after two promotions. I update city and county maps for the State. We are currently busy populating the attributes of a local roads GIS database by county for inclusion in future Federal Highway Administration reports. By 2014 all 93 Nebraska counties will have the attributes of every road and highway in GIS format. In July 2012 I taught a one-hour overview of Google Earth capabilities to some engineers in my department. This was an opportunity created by my involvement in a Toastmasters Club in my department, where one of the engineers saw my geography related speeches and later gave me the chance to put this Google Earth overview together for his division. I love to travel in my spare time!



In May 2012 I created the Glenn L. Williams Geography Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation in honor of the late Dr. Lavin for UNL Geography. This will go to various Geography needs in perpetuity. glrw@windstream.net

Don't be a stranger!
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.

In Memoriam

Paul D. Yamamoto, BS 1988, MA 1991

June 7, 1961 - Aug. 1, 2012

Paul David Yamamoto, 51, of Lincoln, died Aug. 1, 2012, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Paul was born in Alliance, Nebraska, on June 7, 1961, to Rev. Jack and Mildred (Rice) Yamamoto, Paul was the fourth of five children and their only son. He grew up in Broken Bow and later McCook, Nebraska, where he graduated from high school in 1979. He went on to graduate from the University of Nebraska -- Lincoln, where he later received a Master's degree in Geographic Information Systems. Since 1992, he was employed by the State of Nebraska where, until his death, he held the position of Senior GIS Analyst in the Department of Environmental Quality.

Paul was a loyal Husker football, volleyball, and women's basketball fan, attending virtually every home game, as well as traveling to several out-of-town games. When his health permitted, he attended nearly all of his niece Taylor Lewis's volleyball games, as well as the sporting events of Rian and Danny Suiter, who affectionately referred to him as "Uncle Paul."

His hobbies included golf, computers, other "techie" gadgets, music, games, watching almost any sporting event on TV, and spending time with family, friends, and the family pets. Paul had an easy-going personality, but was also known for his quick wit and his eternal optimism, both of which persisted despite his diagnosis of terminal cancer.

Paul was preceded in death by his . Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Millie Yamamoto; both sets of grandparents, and his beloved dog, Annie.

He is survived by his sisters, Cay Yamamoto of Lincoln, Nebraska; Deb Yamamoto of Eaton, Colorado; Dr. Mary (Jeff) Fidler of Rochester, Minnesota; and Susan (Rich) Lewis of Lincoln, Nebraska. He is also survived by nephews, Andrew and Alex Fidler of Rochester, Minnesota and nieces, Sarah and Taylor Lewis of Lincoln. He will also be remembered by his aunts, cousins, and many friends. -*McCook Daily Gazette*

Remembering the Past



Band Day, 1954—Archives & Special Collections, UNL Libraries

Time passes and everything keeps changing. In an effort to hold on to some of the memories, UNL Geography would like to create a digital archive of images from the past. Please contact Joyce (jhurst3@unl.edu) if you have any old photos you would like to have scanned and included in the archive.



Support the UNL Geography Program

Donations to Geography Funds. A very Special Thanks to these contributors:

Bradley H. Baltensperger	Christopher A. Knowles	Nancy K. Omdahl
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Your Gift is Important

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

Recruit and Retain Outstanding Faculty

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

Maintain Excellence in the Graduate Program

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

Enhance Our Exceptional Undergraduate Programs

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

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

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

To explore options for giving to Geography at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, please contact Ann Bruntz, abruntz@nufoundation.org, 402-458-1176,

Select a Fund

To remain competitive, we need your support for graduate student fellowships and faculty research funds. We have several funds that may interest you. For more information about available Geography funds please visit :

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

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Geography Student Support Fund

This fund was established to provide fellowships to students. [Contribute now](#)

Dr. Stephen Lavin Memorial Fund

This memorial fund provides support for the department. [Contribute now](#)

Glenn L. Williams Geography Fund

A gift to this fund provides support for the department. & its students [Contribute now](#)

Drs. Robert H. and Sara (Sally) Stoddard Student Travel Fund—**Coming Soon**

This Fund is for the benefit and support of student travel and related expenses in the Geography and Geographic Information Science program. Preference shall be given to supporting students who will present research at professional conferences in the area of human/cultural geography, geography of Asia, or geography of religion.