



# Geography

UNIVERSITY OF  
Nebraska®

School of Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Volume I / December 2013

## Greetings from the Director

**John Carroll**



Since arriving at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August 2013 to take on the Director role in the School of Natural Resources,

I have seen a great foundation for a dynamic and viable Geography Program. Over the years Geography has seen some significant changes in home and administration as a result of the difficulty for what I consider very much a cross-disciplinary program to be given an identity. I believe that SNR is a great fit for Geography and I am committed to a strong program that meets our mission of education, research and outreach. There is no doubt we will be able to strengthen and enhance the program over the next few years through true integration with SNR, but with enhanced identity as Geography. I know the team is excited to meet these new challenges.

## **Changes at UNL Geography**

UNL Geography has gone through some major changes. Dr. James Merchant stepped down as Program Leader in July of 2013 and Joyce Hurst, longtime Geography Administrative Assistant, moved to a different position within the University. Dr.

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## **Geography Hosts Retreat to Re-envision Program**



Attendees of the geography retreat at the Pioneers Park Nature Center on Nov. 11, 2013.

UNL Geography Program and SNR faculty and staff attended a full day retreat, "Re-envisioning Geography: Building a Sustainability and Action Plan," on Nov. 11 at the Pioneers Park Nature Center.

SNR director John Carroll delivered opening remarks and was followed by presentations from Geography research, curriculum, online education and outreach working groups. After each presentation, the floor was opened up for discussion.

"I hope by the end of November we will have a strategic plan ready for submission to Dr. Carroll for his review and input," said Tala Awada, SNR associate director and interim coordinator of the Geography Program.

Those in attendance at the retreat included geography faculty, staff, graduate students and members from SNR student services.

"The retreat was a refreshing endeavor in that it rekindled geographers' topophilia and their professional dedication to it," said Becky Buller, geography lecturer. "Physically retreating the faculty to a neutral space seemed incredibly effective in fostering innovative ideas on strengthening geography's visibility and reach. The ingenuity of brainstorming of what will be

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John Carroll, new Director of SNR, has initiated a major new strategic planning effort designed to set the course for UNL Geography over the next 20 years.

Geography faculty and staff have been expending a great deal of effort over the past six months developing a new vision and action plan to move forward (see 'Retreat to Re-envision Program' on the right.)

A **major emphasis** of this plan is for the Geography program to focus primarily on **two mutually complementary specializations** in order to:

- increase its undergraduate majors,
- strengthen its graduate program,
- address areas of perceived growth in research funding,
- and promote the overall priorities of the University, as well as integrate the Program more closely into other programs within the School of Natural Resources.

These specializations focus on:

**(1) *Geospatial analysis driven by Geographic Information Science (GIScience).***

Geospatial analysis, including remote sensing and GIS, is a current strength in the program and also an area of significant projected growth. Expertise on applications in agriculture, water resources, biogeography and land use/land cover change will enhance existing programs in SNR and in other departments.

**(2) *Human--environment interactions in global semi-arid and grassland environments.*** This specialization studies human adaptations to natural resources in these regions in the past, present and future, with a particular emphasis on changing land use, agricultural practices and water use in semiarid regions worldwide, including the Great Plains.

These areas of specialization will increase synergism with the applied climate science, applied ecology, human dimensions and water programs in SNR, as well as providing significant support to the Water for Food Institute and the Rural Futures Initiative.

It is anticipated that this new focus will attract students to the program, as well as generate opportunities for growth in funding. Proposed curriculum changes include the development of new Certificate Programs and Online Courses. Research collaborations with other programs and Centers at UNL, such as the Center for Advance Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT), Applied Ecology, Human Dimensions, Applied Climate Science and other Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources (IANR) units are seen as areas of growth in funding through large interdisciplinary grants for Federal and other agencies.

This Plan was submitted to College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) and College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR) Deans on January 8, 2014 and a decision is hoped for in the spring.

-Milda Vaitkus, SNR/Geography, GIS Project Manager

**UNL Geography Faculty & Staff**

Douglas Amedeo	<a href="mailto:damedeo1@unl.edu">damedeo1@unl.edu</a>	Professor, Geography
Clark Archer	<a href="mailto:jarcher1@unl.edu">jarcher1@unl.edu</a>	Professor, Geography
Rebecca Buller	<a href="mailto:rbuller2@unl.edu">rbuller2@unl.edu</a>	Lecturer, Geography
Paul Hanson	<a href="mailto:phanson2@unl.edu">phanson2@unl.edu</a>	Associate Professor, Geography/SNR and SNR Associate Director
James Merchant	<a href="mailto:jmerchant1@unl.edu">jmerchant1@unl.edu</a>	Professor, Geography
Katherine Nashleanas	<a href="mailto:knashleanas2@unl.edu">knashleanas2@unl.edu</a>	Instructor, Geography
Juan Paulo Ramirez	<a href="mailto:jramirez2@unl.edu">jramirez2@unl.edu</a>	Instructor, Geography
Milda Vaitkus	<a href="mailto:mvaitkus1@unl.edu">mvaitkus1@unl.edu</a>	Geography/CALMIT Project Manager
Brian Wardlow	<a href="mailto:wardlow2@unl.edu">wardlow2@unl.edu</a>	Associate Professor, Geography and Director, CALMIT
David Wishart	<a href="mailto:dwishart1@unl.edu">dwishart1@unl.edu</a>	Professor, Geography
Art Zygielbaum	<a href="mailto:aiz@unl.edu">aiz@unl.edu</a>	Research Associate Professor, Geography/CALMIT



View near Pioneers Park Nature Center, Lincoln, NE



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was contagious."

Juan Paulo Ramirez, geography lecturer, said that he was impressed with the retreat's overall organization and the eagerness of attendees to engage with one another.

"We had an agenda in advance and everyone knew the contents of the meeting, so there were no surprises," Ramirez said. "Participants were eager to listen and clearly communicate their ideas with depth and rationality. Everyone who made presentations was very well prepared and the dialogue was very constructive."

Geography joined SNR in August 2008 and moved into the facilities at Hardin Hall. After many years, a majority of UNL's geography faculty, staff and students were housed in one building under the single administration of the school.

Since that momentous shift, Geography at UNL remains a cross-campus, interdisciplinary field whose faculty members are appointed in both the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR).

"I am impressed at the depth of knowledge and skill among the faculty," said Art Zygielbaum, research associate professor. "Their breadth of interests allows me access to information I need to enrich my teaching and support my research."

The retreat proved to be instrumental in fostering creativity and excitement among those invested in the ongoing success of the university's Geography Program.

"This brief moment in UNL Geography's history is extraordinarily exciting," Buller said. "We have the rare opportunity to give a respectful nod to our program's solid academic tradition and innovatively break ground in constructing a powerhouse."

— Mekita Rivas, Natural Resources  
Inside SNR Nov 18, 2013



Dr. Paul Hanson presenting Geography Curriculum working group recommendations during retreat

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## English-born UNL geography professor writes 4th Great Plains book

Melissa Allen | Posted: Tuesday, October 29, 2013

When David Wishart moved to the U.S. from England in 1967, he didn't plan to stay. Forty-six years later, he's about to receive his 40-year clock as a professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and he's published his latest book focusing on the geography and history of the Great Plains. "I've become very fond of the Great Plains," he said. "The low population density, the huge skies. It's home."

His newest book, *The Last Days of the Rainbelt*, follows the story of settlers who journeyed to the Great Plains on a myth that agriculture in eastern Colorado would generate rain to sustain their settlements.

Ten years ago, in the Colorado Historical Society Library in Denver, Wishart came across volumes of hundreds of interviews conducted by the Civil Works Administration in Eastern Colorado during the 1880s. These interviews tell the tales of the rush of people into the desolate regions of the Midwest and their eventual departure during the 1890s. At the time, Wishart was the chairman of the Anthropology and Geography Department.

"I didn't get much writing done," Wishart said. "I'm pretty slow. In all it was a couple years of writing, but it took a decade to build it up to write." The biggest challenge for Wishart was synthesizing the information into a workable draft. "I can get a good first draft written, but it takes a while to get the book to where it's acceptable," he said. "You have to put yourself in the time and place, and try to see it through the eyes from the people you are writing about." Wishart's goal for his books is to write them with broad appeal, not just for professionals.

"His writing style is one of his many exceptional strengths," geography lecturer Rebecca Buller wrote in an email. "Wishart's works are simultaneously engaging, poignant, brilliant and profound, yet accessible to a general reader."

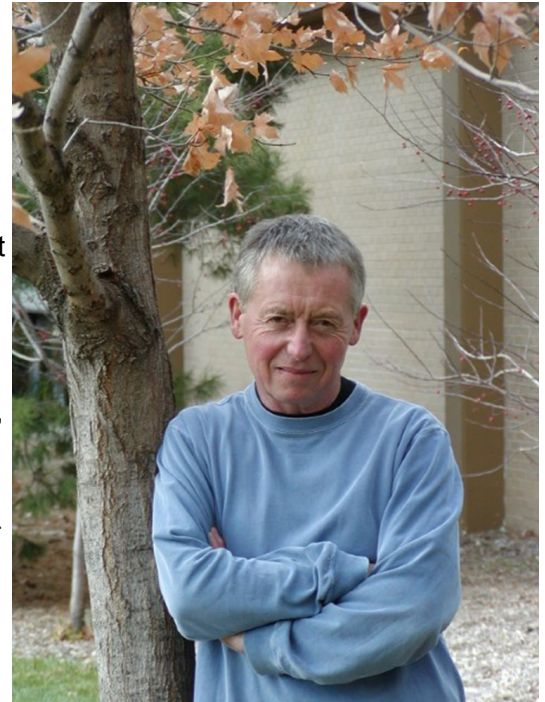
Born and raised in the coal-mining village of Rowlands Gill, England near Newcastle, Wishart's first exposure to the Great Plains was through the cowboys and Indians of Western movies. "America dominated everything when I was growing up," he said. "Western was the dominant genre." While Wishart was studying for his undergraduate degree at Sheffield College in northern England, one of his professors had studied in Nebraska.

"I wanted to see some of the world, and the most famous part of it at that time was the American West," he said. Wishart earned his master's degree in Great Plains historical geography at UNL.

"I've always been interested in the past," he said. "In England, the past is in the landscape, it's all around you. I like exploring the past, just as I like exploring another country."

Since relocating to the U.S., Wishart has written *Fur Trade of the American West* and *An Unspeakable Sadness: The Dispossession of the Nebraska Indians* and was the editor for the Encyclopedia of the Great Plains. He writes all his books by hand and has others type them for publication.

Wishart's primary time for writing is at 4 a.m., on the weekends while his wife is still asleep. After spending four hours working on his book the English soccer games come on. "When I'm writing a book, even when I'm watching football (soccer), I still think about what I'm writing about," he said. "It hard to let it go when you're writing a book. It becomes something of an obsession."



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Wishart finds his motivation and inspiration through music. “Bruce Springsteen and Neil Young know how to put words together that really mean something,” he said. “They influence me not just because of the way they effectively use words, but because they keep going, keep trying to get better, which is also a motivation for me as I edge toward retirement.”

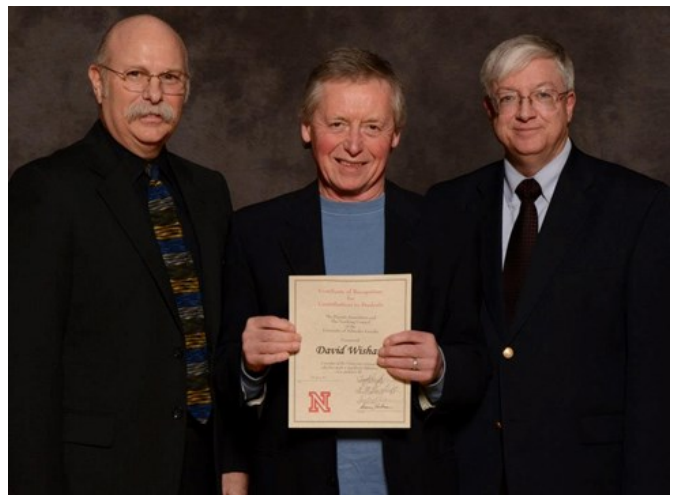
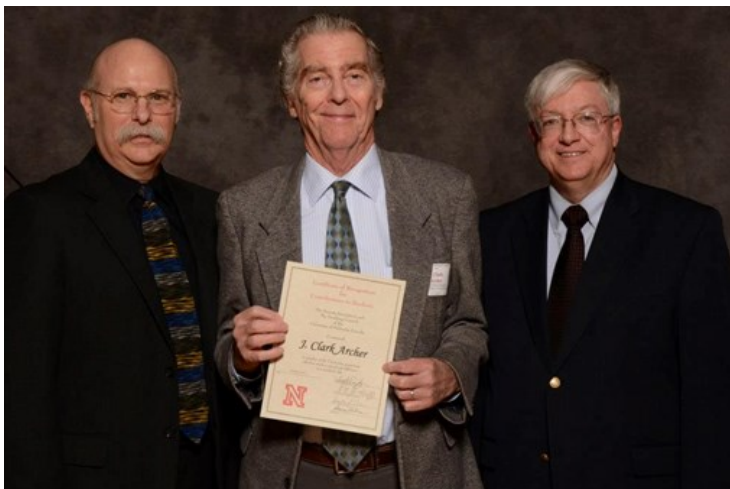
Buller first met Wishart as an undergraduate. “He leaves quite the first impression,” Buller wrote in an email “Because of his strong character as both a scholar and human being, I chose to pursue M.A. and Ph.D. degrees under his leadership. Even now, as I serve as a lecturer for the Geography Program, I occasionally look to Dr. Wishart for his valuable insights.”

Richard Edwards, director of the Center for Great Plains Studies and economics professor, said Wishart’s researching abilities and personality make him an inspirational colleague. *The Last Days of the Rainbelt* is a wonderful book,” Edwards said. “It’s very characteristic of the research that he does, the way he is able to attack a topic and squeeze out its meaning. Whenever one has a colleague that works in high quality intensity, it always inspires one to do the same.”

[news@dailynebraskan.com](mailto:news@dailynebraskan.com)

## Geography Faculty recognized by UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association

Two UNL Geography Faculty, Drs. Clark Archer 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.” Clark and David were nominated by students to receive these recognitions. This is the first award for Clark, who teaches the courses *Geography of World Regions*, *Urban Geography* and *GeoDemographics and GIS*. David, who received his seventh award, 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 8, 2013, Clark and David were formally congratulated for their efforts in making UNL a special place for students.



Drs. Archer and Wishart receive their UNL Parent Recognition awards from Dr. Timothy Anderson (College of Journalism & Mass Communication) representing the UNL Teaching Council (left) and Timothy Draftz, UNL Parents Association Co-President (right)

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## Geography Seminar Series— 2013

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### Spring

- January 13 Brian Baskerville, Geography Graduate Student  
***Morocco: The Crossroads of the World***
- January 20 R. Maxwell Baber, Ph.D., 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 6 Kristin Sorensen, Ph.D. candidate in Geography, UNL  
***Settlement of the Great Plains by EuroAmericans from 1854-1870***
- September 13 Caroline Jezierski, Wind and Wildlife Coordinator, SNR  
***Wind Energy Development & Wildlife in Nebraska – Striving for Co-existence***
- September 27 Mikal Stewart, Ph.D. candidate in Geography, UNL  
***Hunger in Nebraska: Locating the Children and Elderly Most at Risk***
- October 25 Dr. Sherilyn Fritz, George Holmes University Professor, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, UNL  
***The Role of Climate and Geology in the Evolution of Biodiversity in the Tropical Andes and Amazon***
- November 8 Dr. Bradley Bereitschaft, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Geology, UNO  
***New Life in the Old City: Who is Moving Downtown and Why? A case study of Omaha, NE***
- November 20 Stephen Wood, DigitalGlobe, Inc., Denver, CO  
***Satellite Imagery, Information and Insight: Response to real-World Demands***
- December 6 Rob Shepard, Ph.D. candidate in Geography, UNL  
***Urban Segregation in America, 1860-1880***

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## Presentation and Seminars— 2013

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### 2013 AAG Presentations by UNL Geography Faculty and Students

Los Angeles, CA April 9-13, 2013

**Victoria Alapo**- *The Neglected Continent: Africa's Contribution to Geographic Paradigms, Theories and Methods*  
Africa V—Politics, Engagement and Empowerment—Presenter

**J. Clark Archer**- *Settlement Dynamics and Geodemographic Restructuring in Nebraska*  
Transportation, Economic and Political Geography – Presenter

**Rebecca Buller** - *Interpreting Gendered Identity through Place-Based Entertainment*  
Diverse Perspectives on Women and Gender -- Presenter

**Kristin Sorensen** - *Settlement of the Great Plains During the Civil War*  
Geographies of the Great Plains and Upper Peninsula—Presenter

### Geography Presentations at Nebraska Academy of Sciences Meeting

Faculty and students from UNL's Geography program presented a series of papers at the 133<sup>rd</sup> annual Nebraska Academy of Sciences meeting, April 19, 2013 at Nebraska Wesleyan University. The session, organized by UNL's Dr. Clark Archer, highlighted geographic education and featured student work related to Geography Education, the Demographic Impact of Migration, using Landsat imagery for rangeland studies and Historical Geography for Spatial Analysis. Dr. Archer also presented a paper on his own research, *A Political-Geographical Perspective on the 2012 U.S. Presidential Election*. The **Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS)** is a professional society affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Association of Academies of Science whose objectives are to further the work of scientists and facilitate cooperation; improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare and environmental quality; provide the opportunity for scientific research related to the problems of the ever-changing environment of the Great Plains; increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of science in human progress; stimulate science education and encourage young people to become involved in science; foster the interaction of business, industry, government, education and the academic scientific community; and disseminate scientific knowledge and to recognize high achievements in attaining the Academy's objectives.

***Historical GIS for Spatial Analysis: Civil War Washington Experience***

Rob Shepard, Ph.D. candidate in Geography, UNL

***Estimating Rangeland Biomass with Landsat Imagery***

Christine A. Nycz , M.A. student in Geography, UNL

***Comparing Measures of the Demographic Impact of Migration***

Glenn O. Humphress, Ph.D. candidate in Geography, UNL

***Geography Education: Past, Present and Future***

Kristin Sorensen, Ph.D. candidate in Geography, UNL

***A Political-Geographical Perspective on the 2012 U.S. Presidential Election***

J. Clark Archer , Professor, Geography, UNL

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## Great Plains/Rocky Mountain AAG Annual Meeting 2013

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Five geography students – four graduate and one undergraduate – attended the annual meeting of the Great Plains Rocky Mountain Division of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), held Oct. 10-12, 2013 at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

The students in attendance were (*pictured below, left to right*) Glenn Humphress, Rob Shepard, Humphrey Kalibo and Victoria Alapo – all of whom are geography Ph.D. students – and Jon Swanson, a senior geography major.



The students' presentations were as follows:

Victoria Alapo – "The Neglected Continent: Africa's Contribution to Geographic Paradigms, Theories & Methods"

Glenn Humphress – "Mapping Geosynchronous Satellites"

Humphrey Kalibo – "Transmission of Solar Radiation in a Mixed Mid-Latitude Woodland: Investigating the Interception of Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR) among Selected Deciduous Trees at Prairie Pines Preserve, Lincoln, NE" (poster)

Rob Shepard – "Gender Differences in Residential Patterns of Young Adults in Kansas and Nebraska, 1990 – 2010"

Jon Swanson – "The Bible Belt: An American Vernacular Region" (tied for first place in the undergraduate paper competition.)

"The annual regional meeting – for us – is more than just a chance to get together and discuss research and vote on officers or agendas for the coming year," Shepard said. "Rather, we're all coming from very different places and often presenting research findings for very different issues."

Alapo, whose paper showed that the African continent and the work of African scholars was severely underrepresented in many Western scholarly publications, said she enjoyed being able to share her research.

"(My) paper was very well-received by the audience, and I look forward to more inclusiveness in the future when scholarly work is published," Alapo said. "It was a very good conference and I'm glad I went."

Kalibo said he was most looking forward to presentations that focused on remote sensing techniques in natural resource management.

"There were many interesting things I learned such as the innovative use of drone technology in the study of biomass in the Tall Grass Prairie of Kansas, and the role of hip-hop music as a means to create awareness about some urban problems facing sections of the city of Dakar, Senegal," Kalibo said. "I think there was great diversity in the presentations, which reflects the inter- and multi-disciplinary nature of geography."

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Julie Winkler, the current AAG president and former UNL faculty member, also attended the division's meeting.

"She did not just come to give a speech, either," Shepard said. "She actually sat in on many of our presentations and even chatted with a few of us over breakfast."

The meeting presented several opportunities to connect and engage with geographers who share like-minded interests.

"Networking and staying on top of the latest developments are very important in a field such as geography, and meetings such as this one provide important opportunities to accomplish both," Humphress said. "Geographers, particularly those engaged in the more technical side of geography, such as remote sensing or geographic information systems, are in high demand right now and conferences such as this one are great venues for enhancing one's skill set."

With the meeting being held in Nebraska, the students knew how important it was to represent UNL in a positive light. The group exposed their research to students from other schools, which was a potential marketing opportunity.

"We absolutely had to have a good showing," Shepard said. "Possibly, our visibility might help recruit some of them. More importantly, it communicates to other geography programs that we have a strong department with serious scholars – that's a form of promotion you can't buy."

— Mekita Rivas, *Natural Resources*



## **Brian Baskerville First Nebraska Student to Receive Buzzard Graduate Scholarship**

When Brian Baskerville received a very brief letter from Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the international geography honor society, he thought for sure it was a "sorry, you were not selected" note. He almost left it unopened.

Brian did open that letter on his walk back to his apartment and he's very glad he did. The selection committee, headed by Dr. Montz of East Carolina University, was writing to notify him that he was the latest recipient of the Buzzard Graduate Scholarship. The scholarship was named after GTU founder, Dr. Robert G. Buzzard, and is given to one graduate student annually who shows contributions to their GTU chapter and their department. Brian becomes only the second University of Nebraska-Lincoln student to receive this scholarship, Nataliya Lys received the undergraduate award in 2007.

Brian came to the University after serving two years in the Peace Corps and he immediately became secretary of the Geography Student Organization (GSO). In 2012, after seven months of active participation, he was initiated into the Alpha Phi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) and was elected president of both organizations. During his time as president, he has worked tirelessly with the executive board to provide a quality experience for all GTU and GSO members and to increase Geography's exposure on campus. Their accomplishments include hosting Geography education booths at five university fairs, facilitating Geography exhibits at the State Museum's annual NaturePalooza and December 2012's Sunday with a Scientist. Brian began a monthly geography video series for students and the general public, facilitated the National Geographic GeoBee for the Lincoln Area Home-school Association, developed an exhibit for SNR's annual Weatherfest and hosted Distinguished Professor of Geography, Dr. Charles Gritzner for a special seminar on the nature of Geography (article on p.15.)

When asked 'why Geography?', Brian says "because of its ability to take isolated bits of information and put them into a framework for understanding how the world works - what I believe to be the enduring mission of Geography." His long-term goal is to use the skills he's learned here to work as an officer in the U.S. Foreign Service because understanding Geography is imperative to diplomacy.

- Inside the School of Natural Resources, July 15, 2013

## 2013 Degrees Awarded

### Ph.D. degrees

Ashley Barnett, *We Shall Meet Beyond The River: An Analysis of the Deathscape of Brownville, Nebraska* (David Wishart, adviser)

Matthew Cartlidge, *The impact of subdivisions designed for conservation on prime farmland conversion* (Dr. David Wishart, adviser)

Molly Cannon, *Exploring the Nature of Space for Human Behavior in Ordinary Structured Environments* (Dr. Douglas Amedeo, adviser)

Mary Hallin, *Collaboration between Traditional and Bio-medical Practitioners in the Bui Division, Cameroon* (Dr. Patricia Draper, adviser)

### M.A. degrees

Wendy Austin, Option II: no thesis required (Dr. Brian Wardlow, adviser)

Brian Baskerville, *Building a GIS Model to Assess Agritourism Potential* (Dr. James Merchant, adviser)

Lucas Johnson, *A Historical Geography of Sand Island 1870-1944* (Dr. David Wishart, adviser)

Andrew LaBounty, Option II: no thesis required (Dr. James Merchant, adviser)

Christine Nycz, Option II: no thesis required (Dr. James Merchant, adviser)

Travis Yeik, *Proximal Sensing as a Means of Characterizing of Phragmites Australis* (Dr. Donald Rundquist, adviser)

### GIS Certificate

Amanda Davey

### BA/BS degrees

#### Spring 2013

Richard Craft	Lincoln, NE
Matthew Giesler	Waverly, NE
Patrick Keady	Omaha, NE
Dylan Saferstein	Omaha, NE
Darrin Schultz	Lincoln, NE
Clark Sintek	Ord, NE
Ashley Streit	Lincoln, NE

#### Summer 2013

Matthew Love	Omaha, NE
Noel Pacha	Davenport, IA

#### Winter 2013

John Jackson	Lincoln, NE
Mary Mitenko	Omaha, NE
Edward Rosenau	Garland, NE
Jon Swanson	Lincoln, NE
Robert Ward	Lincoln, NE
Kevin Williams	Lincoln, NE



## Current UNL Geography Graduate Students

### Ph.D.

Victoria Alapo	Sean Pummill
Theresa Glanz	Robert Shepard
Glenn Humphress	Kristin Sorensen
Humphrey Kalibo	Mikal Stewart
Jee Hoon Kim	Gabrielle (Collins) Tegeder
Paul Merani	

### GIS Certificate

William England

### M.A.

Jake Bruihler	Jonathon Howell
Jason Byers	Troy Lee
Junyao Chen	Jason McGuire
Christian Cruz	Kevin McMillan
Jordan Dornbierer	Kathie Pfaffle
David Gibbs	Katelyn Pietz
David Grosso	Deusilene Schneider
Aaron Greuel	Xueming Wu

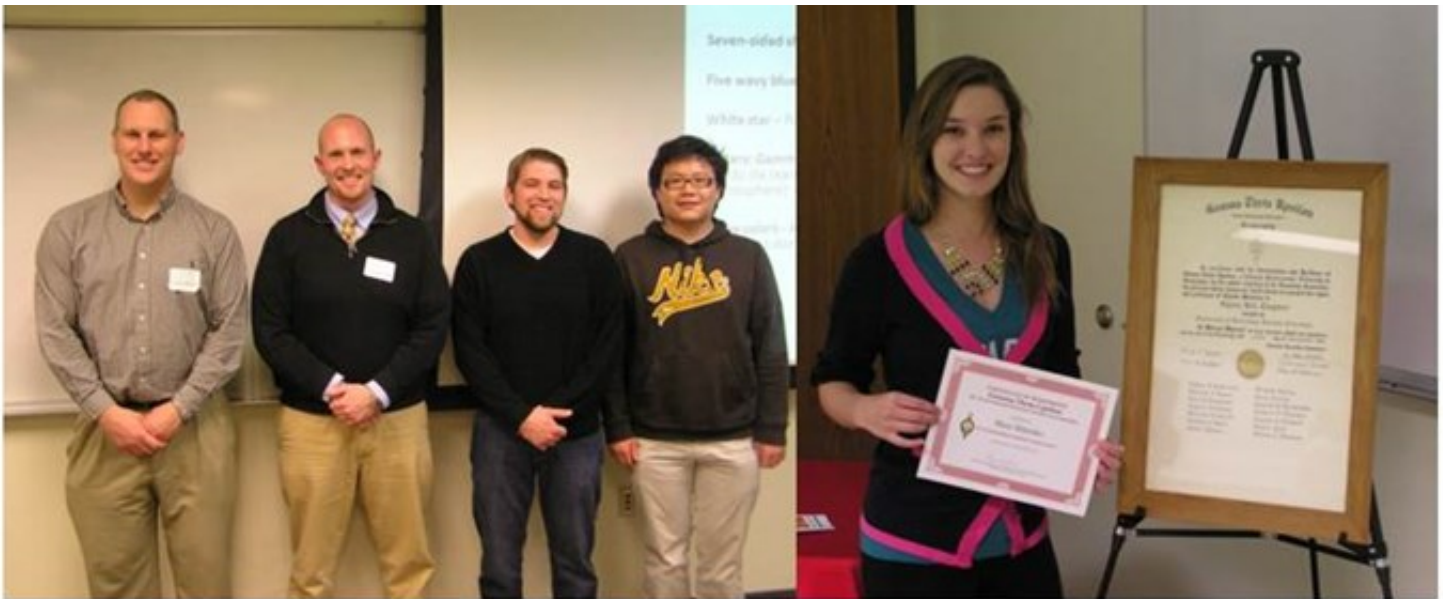
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## Gamma Theta Upsilon Alpha Phi Chapter



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

- **Kun-Yuan Lee**
- **Derrick Meier**
- **Adam Miller**
- **Mary Mitenko**



*Left (left to right)—GSO/GTU Faculty Adviser Brian Wardlow and 2012/2013 GSO President Brian Baskerville with GTU inductees Derrick Meier and Kun-Yuan Lee. Right—inductee Mary Mitenko. Not pictured—inductee Adan Miller.*

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.

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# UNL Geography Student Organization (GSO)

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The GSO is comprised of both graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in Geography. Dr. Becky Buller serves as faculty adviser for the organization.

## OFFICERS FOR 2013-14

**President:** Glenn Humphress  
**Vice President:** Kevin McMillan  
**Treasurer:** John Jackson  
**Secretary:** Humphrey Kalibo

GSO members, under the leadership of Geography graduate students Brian Baskerville (2012-13 GSO President) and Glenn Humphress (2013-14 GSO President), have been especially involved this year in a variety of activities:

- **Heartland Home Schoolers Association Geo Bee** (January 12, 2013). The GSO kicked off the year by administering the National Geographic Society's



annual Geography Bee to a group of 15 Lincoln home schoolers.

- **Making Global Connections video series**— In February the GSO launched a film series aimed at all students and the general public to help improve geographic literacy and awareness of global issues. The first film, “China Revealed” (February 28, see article on p.13) attracted 30 students and community. Additional movies in the series included “Egypt Revealed” (October 10) and “Australia Revealed” (November 18.) Each screening was fol-

lowed by a group discussion moderated by the GSO.

- **Great Plains Severe Weather Symposium and Weatherfest** - April 6, 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 “Where’s the Weather?” that highlighted U.S. Geography and the varying weather patterns across the country.
- **Special Seminar—April 26** - Dr. Charles F. “Fritz” Gritzner, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Geography, South Dakota State University, gave a special lunchtime presentation, “Working in the Mainstream, Walking in the Margins” open to all students (see Dr. Gritzner’s bio on p. 14)
- **Geography Awareness Week (GAW)** - GAW activities included a week-long **photo contest** with the theme of ‘Geography and the New Age of Exploration’. The 65 entries were judged by a committee of faculty and students from GSO. Prizes were awarded on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> for the best three entries. Over 60 UNL students braved a windy, snowy evening to attend **2013 Geography Bowl** on November 21<sup>st</sup> as part of Geography Awareness Week (GAW). Teams competed to answer questions about all aspects of Geography. 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://gso.unl.edu/>

## We’re on Facebook!

Follow Geography Student Organization on  
Facebook at

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



## Geography group hosts 'China Revealed' screening



A farmer at the Longji rice terraces in "China Revealed," a documentary by Discovery.

The Geography Student Organization showed the film "China Revealed" on Feb. 28 in the Hardin Hall auditorium.

"China Revealed" is the first video in the student group's "Making Global Connections" video series. The series will focus on increasing geographic literacy and an awareness of global issues. "China Revealed" documents an ancient civilization poised for the future.

The event was free and open to students, faculty and staff. A general discussion on topics raised by the film followed the screening.

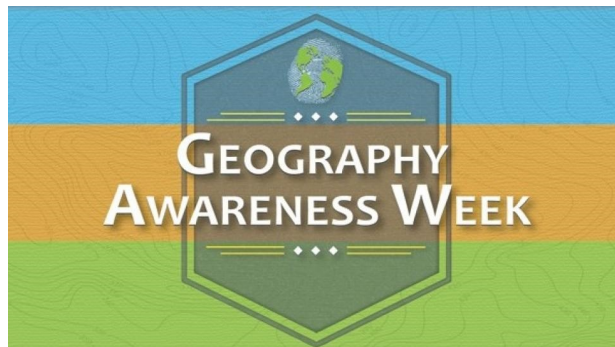
For more information about the film, go to <http://dsc.discovery.com/convergence/atlas/china/china.html>.



GSO 2012/13 president Brain Baskerville and GSO Secretary Kristin Sorenson with attendees at the "China Revealed" screening

## Geography Awareness Week is Nov. 18-22, 2013 (Published: 11/17/2013 )

Geography Awareness Week is Nov. 18-22 and will feature a seminar by Stephen Wood, an imagery analytic and geospatial professional; a screening of a documentary about Australia; the popular "Geography Bowl"; and a student photo contest.



"We start planning in August," said Kristin Sorenson, graduate student and member of the Geography Student Organization. "The amount of time is phenomenal. Each student who helps puts in a minimum of 25 hours of work – either with getting donations, designing posters, planning individual events and working each event."

Geography Awareness Week is an annual event sponsored by GSO. The week-long activities are part of a campaign by the National Council for Geographic Education to spread and share the importance of geography.

This year's theme for Geography Awareness Week is "Geography and the New Age of Exploration."

"Geography Awareness Week is important because at a time of increasing globalization, we Americans tend to understand less and less about the world, our place in it and how our actions affect others and vice versa," said Brian Baskerville, graduate student and GSO member. "Geography's strength is in being able to take isolated bits of information about people, places and things and put them into a framework for understanding how the world

*(Continued on page 14)*

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works – and that's really cool."

The complete schedule of Geography Awareness Week events is as follows:

Nov. 18-22: Photo competition in Hardin Hall (ongoing)  
Geography Game Wheel from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Nebraska Union

Nov. 18: Movie Night Showing of a documentary on Australia at 6 p.m. in Hardin Hall Auditorium

Nov. 20: Stephen Wood will present on satellite imagery at 3:30 p.m. in Hardin Hall Auditorium

Nov. 21: Geography Bowl at 6 p.m. in Hardin Hall Auditorium  
Pizza and Pepsi will be served. Prizes will also be given away.

"My favorite part of Geography Awareness Week is the 'GeoBowl' because over 100 students from around campus come to participate," Baskerville said. "We have interesting trivia about the world we inhabit, a little pizza for dinner and, of course, prizes – always a big student

draw."

In 2012, GSO introduced the "Geography Game Wheel" in the Nebraska Union, which allows participants to explore the many different facets of geography – from remote sensing to geographic information systems (GIS) to historical geography and more – for a chance to win prizes and coffee coupons from the Caffina Café.

"It was a big hit last year, with over 120 students participating," Baskerville said.

Even for those unfamiliar with geography, Baskerville said that for those individuals, that's all the more reason to participate in Geography Awareness Week activities.

"This week is dedicated to exploration of our world – I can't think of anyone who doesn't like to gaze at maps, wonder about exotic places and explore our fascinating planet," he said. "I encourage any and all UNL students to come. There's more than enough activity for everyone to find something they like."

Written by: [Mekita Rivas | Natural Resources](#)

## Getting a Job in Geography and GIS

A column by Doug Richardson, Executive Director, Association of American Geographers

Employees with geographic and geospatial skills are in high demand to help solve real-world problems and enhance organizations' efficiency and effectiveness. The latest estimates from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics classify GIS and remote sensing (RS) as "new and emerging" fields, in part because of their importance to the "green" jobs sectors. Job openings for GIS and RS scientists, technicians and technologists are projected to grow between three and nine percent between 2010 and 2020, while median salaries for these positions continue to rise. The job category of "geographer" is poised for even more dramatic growth, with job openings projected to increase nearly 30 percent by 2020.

A recent report by the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce revealed that geographers are highly dispersed across sectors and industries within the US work force. Therefore, a comprehensive search for geography-related jobs should span resources across the business, government, nonprofit and educational sectors. The [AAG's Jobs in Geography and GIS Center](#) is an excellent starting point. This online jobs listing allows you to search for current job openings by sector (e.g., private, public, academic, nongovernmental organizations [NGOs], etc.), by state or international location and by topical specialties.

Other leading industry resources for careers in geospatial technology and GIS include [Esri](#), [Directions](#), [GISLounge.com](#), [GISjobs.com](#) and the [GIS Jobs Clearinghouse](#). Because the public sector continues to be a Major employer of geographers, USAJobs.gov is a helpful place to go for federal government employment. Idealist.org is a central repository for volunteer and employment opportunities in the nonprofit and NGO sectors. Links to all these career resources can be found on the AAG careers website.

Research conducted for the AAG's National Science Foundation-funded EDGE program, which is geared to better preparing graduate students for nonacademic jobs in geography and GIS, indicates that employers today are particularly seeking employees who can apply broad, interdisciplinary perspectives and diverse expertise to the specific needs of their unique organizations and industries. More companies and industries are now using location-based data and spatial analysis to support business operations as wide-ranging as health care delivery, retail sales, environmental management, transportation planning, economic development and more.

While the employment outlook for geography and GIS careers is relatively strong, competition for openings is high. In a tight job market, Many students and professionals are considering strategies to boost their credentials

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## CHARLES F. "FRITZ" GRITZNER

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Geography  
South Dakota State University  
Speaker, April 26, 2013, GSO Special Seminar

Fritz Gritzner received his graduate degrees in geography/anthropology from Louisiana State University. He taught at the college level for 50 years, the last 30 at South Dakota State University, where in 1993 he became the university's sixth Distinguished Professor.

Academically, Fritz is best known for his work in cultural geography—although he was educated at LSU as a physical geographer and never had a course in Cultural Geography!—and for his work in the area of geographic education. As an educator, he was highly innovative—teaching a total of 73 *different* courses, which, he is told, may be a record in any discipline. Among his course offerings were: *GeoMythography*, *Geography of the Future*, *Geography of Conflict* and *Geography of the Paranormal*. Fritz also advised 66 recipients of the master's degree and several doctoral students.

Gritzner has authored or coauthored 33 books and has

had more than 150 of his works published as book chapters, or as articles in scholarly journals. Nationally, he has served as both Executive Director and President of the National Council for Geographic Education. Fritz has received numerous national awards including the highest teaching and service awards granted by the National Council for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers' Gilbert M. Grosvenor Honors for Geographic Education and the Association's Distinguished Teaching Achievement awards.

His topic "Working in the Mainstream, Walking on the Margins," is a retrospective assessment of American geography based upon his own experiences and insights that span nearly six decades as a student and active professional.



and enhance their portfolio of skills. In addition to opening up new career paths, further education can also lead to increased earning potential. A directory of state-by-state listings of online courses, certificates and degrees offered in geography and GIS is posted at [www.aag.org/education](http://www.aag.org/education). An important credential for GIS careers is professional certification. Information on becoming a certified GIS Professional (GISP) is available from the [GIS Certification Institute](http://www.giscertification.org), the leading GIS certification organization in the United States.

Volunteering and internships with potential employers also provide excellent work-based learning and professional development opportunities. Many employers recruit from their intern and volunteer pools, so these short-term experiences can often lead to longer-term or permanent employment. AAG has developed guidelines on how to get the most out of your internship and also lists internship and mentoring opportunities at its Jobs Center.

The Association of American Geographers offers a broad selection of resources to help current and aspiring geography and GIS professionals make the most of the many available employment opportunities. The Jobs & Careers area of the AAG website features a range of educational and informational materials to support career exploration, including profiles of geographers working in a variety of fields, salary data and employment trends for more than 90 geography and GIS-related subfields, tip sheets and resumé advice and much more. Also available is the new book, *Practicing Geography*, which provides a wealth of information on geography and GIS careers in business, government and non-profit organizations. To access this regularly updated information, visit [www.aag.org/careers](http://www.aag.org/careers).

The AAG's Annual Meetings (April 9–13 in Los Angeles this year) also feature a robust offering of current job listings, careers panel discussions, drop-in career mentoring services and professional guidance and networking opportunities for prospective employees at all career stages. Good luck with your next job search!

[Doug Richardson](#)

(with contributions by Joy Adams and Jean McKendry)

Source: ArcNews, Spring 2013 - <http://www.esri.com/esri-news/arcnews/spring13articles/getting-a-job-in-geography-and-gis>

# In Memoriam

## Richard Lonsdale, professor emeritus



Richard E. Lonsdale, emeritus professor of geography, died on Oct. 8 in Lincoln. He was 86. Among his survivors are wife, Mildred; daughter, Alison McGinn of Council Bluffs, Iowa and grandsons, John and Andrew McGinn.

Born in Stockton, Calif. to Elmer and Dorothy (Dulfer) Lonsdale, he grew up in San Gabriel and Alhambra, Calif. After serving in the US Army from 1944-1946, he went on to earn his bachelor's degree in geology and Master's degree in geography from UCLA.

From 1953-1957, he worked as a geographic analyst for the CIA in Washington, D.C., where he met and married Mildred M. Jordan.

In 1960, Lonsdale received a Ph.D. in geography from Syracuse University and was a Ford Foundation fellow in Moscow. He would go on to teach at SUNY-Binghamton, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and The Royal Military College in Australia before joining the UNL geography department as professor and chairman in 1971.

"He was very instrumental in building a strong academic program at the university in the 1970s," said Bob Stoddard, emeritus professor of geography. "It was the arrival of Richard Lonsdale in 1971 that commenced the dramatic growth of the department."

Within his first few years at UNL, Lonsdale attracted several new faculty members, three of whom are still at the university (Doug Amedeo, geography; Ken Dewey, applied climate science; and David Wishart, geography).

Dewey had just completed his doctoral degree at the University of Toronto when he was recruited by Lonsdale.

"He made me feel very at home as he drove me around the community and then to his house to meet his family," Dewey recalled.

As Dewey left for the airport to return to Toronto, Lonsdale told him that he had a good feeling about his interview and that they would be speaking again soon.

"He called me at home that evening and offered the job to me," Dewey said. "I had been on several other interviews and had several opportunities to start my career elsewhere, but it was the hospitality that (Lonsdale) and the department had shown to me – along with the good feeling I had about living in Lincoln – that made me choose UNL."

Under Lonsdale's leadership, UNL's geography department was identified by the Chronicle of Higher Education as one of the nation's "most improved graduate programs" and it ranked second in the number of student credit hours by geography students.

"Although he ended his role as chairman in 1976, it was his leadership that brought about a remarkable strengthening of the geography department," Stoddard said. "We remember Richard Lonsdale as a scholar who made a significant contribution to the University of Nebraska."

A memorial service will take place at 3 p.m., Dec. 5 in the Nebraska East Union (room to be announced). Anyone wishing to celebrate Lonsdale's life and contributions to the university is welcome to attend.

— Mekita Rivas, Natural Resources



# In Memoriam

## Steve Kale, M.S., Ph.D.

Steven R Kale passed away on November 7, 2013 in his hometown of Salem, Oregon, after a brief illness. Although only 65 years old when he died, Steve accomplished much in his life in academics, his profession and in relationships with others in his life.

Steve was born in Manhattan, Kansas in 1948 to Alton and Ruby Kale, the middle of three children. He spent his early years in central Kansas, graduating in 1966 from Mankato High School. During this period, Steve, like his brother James before him, earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He went on to graduate from Kansas State University in Manhattan earning degrees in Geography and Business Administration. He then obtained masters and PH.D. degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Steve's early career included work as an economist at the Nebraska Department of Economic Development from 1975 to 1982. He moved on to Oregon State University in Corvallis from 1982 to 1989 teaching courses and conducting research in economic development, area and community development, renewable energy and other topics.

He then took on transportation planning work at the Oregon Department of Transportation. When he retired from ODOT in 2005 he was the agency's primary freight planning person. He then set up his own consulting firm and took on jobs for several Oregon ports and intermodal freight businesses helping them plan and seek funding for projects. He subcontracted with other consulting firms on a variety of transportation related projects.

During his career, Steven was active in many professional organizations and national bodies. These included the American Institute of Certified Planners and the Intermodal Freight Transport Committee of the Transportation Research Board where he served as the chair. He was also active in groups such as the American Association of Geographers and the International Geographic Union. Steven never lost his enthusiasm for geography or his interest in helping his alma mater and served on the KSU Geography Alumni Board.

He had a lifelong interest in far-away places, traveling to many of them such as Oulu Finland, Mendoza Argentina, Sidney Australia, Dubrovnik Croatia and much of Europe, not to mention hitting all 50 U.S. states. He twice got to the Arctic Circle, once in Alaska and once in Finland. On his trips he did more than sightsee. He learned about the areas he visited and on occasion traveled to participate in conferences with his geographer peers.

Steve loved the outdoors. Other interests included hiking, camping, skiing, canoeing, whitewater rafting and bird-watching. He was a strong supporter of protecting the environment. He cultivated lifelong friendships with many people. His personal and professional qualities were very much respected and he will be dearly missed.

Steve was preceded in death by his mother Ruby (Streit), father Alton Dale Kale, his sister Elaine and brother James. He is survived by three nephews: Jonathan Cote, David Kale and Dan Kale.



Steve at Mt Bachelor – photo by Dan Kale

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To explore options for giving to Geography at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, please contact Amber Antholz, [antholz@nufoundation.org](mailto:antholz@nufoundation.org) 402-458-1182 direct, 800-432-3216 toll free.

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