

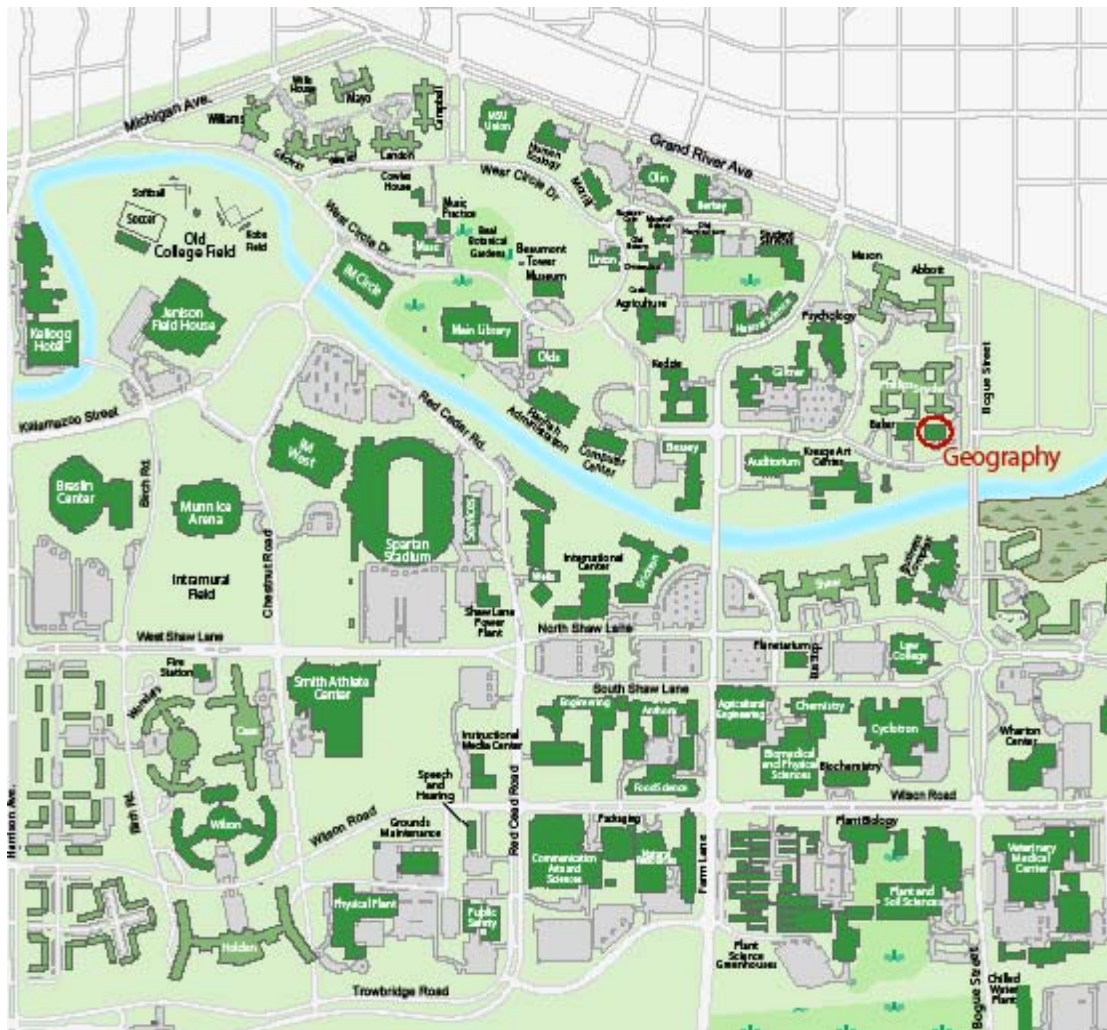


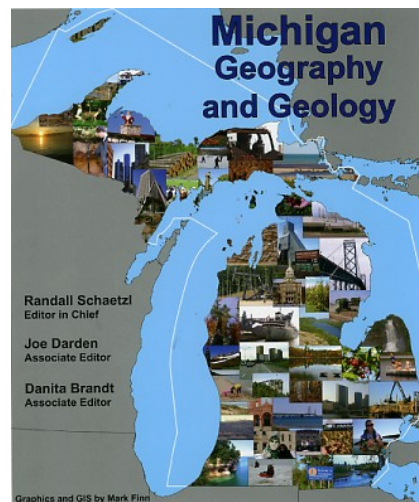
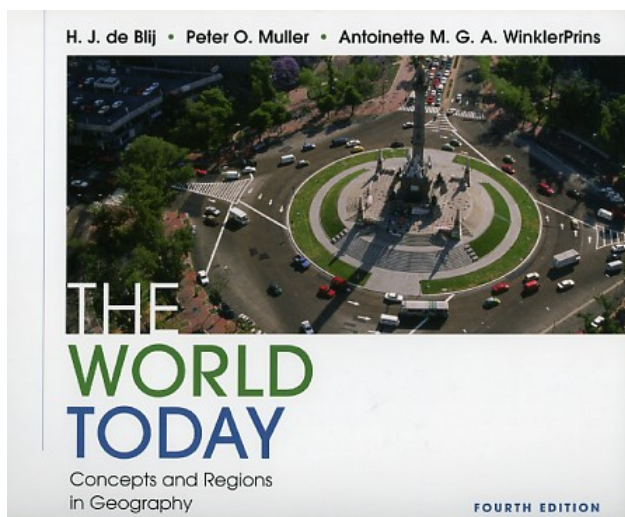
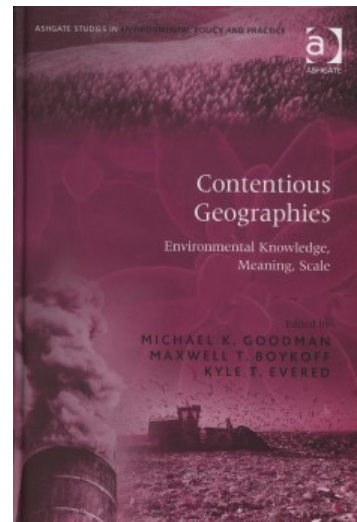
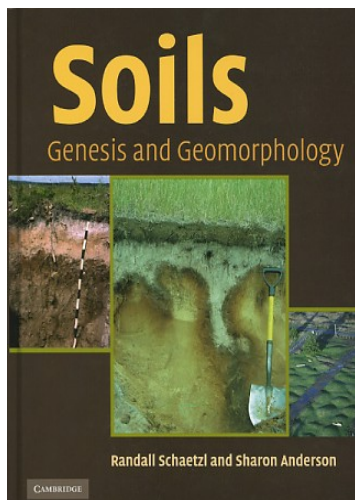
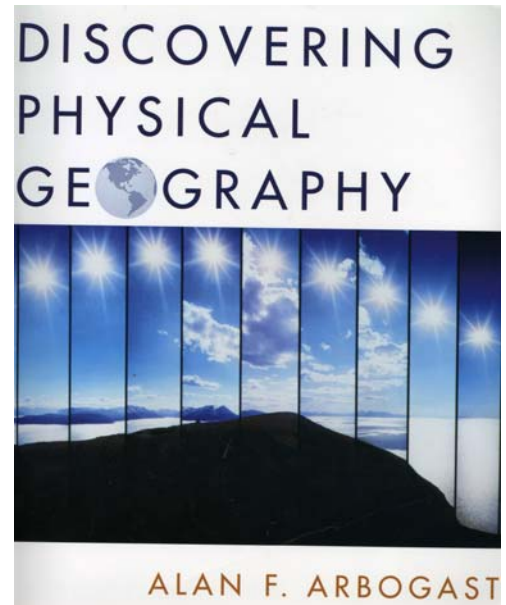
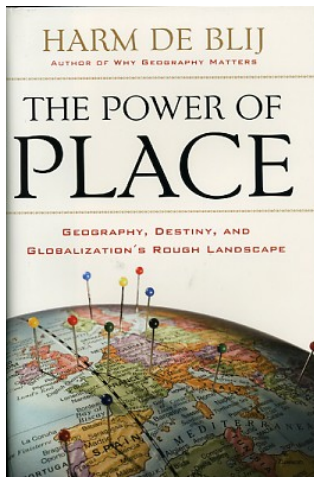
# SPARTAN GEOGRAPHER

Department of Geography

College of Social Science

Michigan State University





Some recent faculty publications





## Message from the Chair - 1 -



Greetings to all Alumni and Friends of Michigan State Geography. We have had a busy year in the Department and Geography seems to be thriving at MSU. Geography

enrollments are steady and most courses are “full.” Our research programs continue to flourish (see table below) and our state and local outreach activities are at an all-time high (please see the special section on **RSGIS**, pp 16-17).

We were pleased to welcome new faculty member **Arika Ligmann-Zielinska** last fall. Arika received her PhD from San Diego State University (in conjunction with the University of California-Santa Barbara) and specializes in human-environment modeling (please see her bio on page 6). Other personnel changes included the reappointment of **Kyle Evered** as Assistant Professor; the tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of **Catherine Yansa**;

and the granting of tenure to Associate Professor **Sharon Zhong**. Congratulations to all.

We anticipate continued growth in the near future with three ongoing faculty searches this spring. These include a remote sensing position at open rank, an assistant professor position in hydroclimatology, and a unique joint appointment with a Chinese University. The latter is a position in environmental analysis, jointly appointed with the College of Natural Science at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China. The tenure home will be at MSU but the successful candidate will be expected to spend a semester teaching and conducting research at each University. This position will be a unique and unprecedented experience for both the faculty member and for the Department. Should we be successful in filling the three positions, we will once again be out of space in the Geography Building.

As always, we hope you enjoy the Newsletter and that you will stay in touch with the Department.

Grants and Contracts Involving Geography Faculty: 1999-2008				
Year	# Submitted	# Funded	\$ Requested	\$ Funded
1999	36	14	\$3,775,294	\$1,755,546
2000	37	19	\$6,461,160	\$2,266,837
2001	38	23	\$3,948,085	\$1,998,902
2002	34	14	\$7,129,502	\$1,163,092
2003	33	11	\$4,289,944	\$3,554,502
2004	42	18	\$5,917,487	\$2,858,846
2005	43	22	\$5,515,120	\$2,566,138
2006	33	25	\$3,884,428	\$3,037,043
2007	41	22	\$6,357,962	\$4,945,875
2008	45	19	\$6,332,286	\$1,336,890*

Source: MSU Contract and Grant database  
\*Some funding pending



Both **Alan Arbogast** and **Randy Schaetzl**, and their students, have been studying wind-driven, or eolian, processes for several years now. Alan and his students generally focus on sand dunes, both those inland and along the shores of the Great Lakes. In times past, the many millions of hectares of sand in Michigan have been variously exposed to the wind by fire, flood, or other processes. Strong winds at these times led to the many sand dunes that dot our landscape. These dunes are not only important to the state's tourism industry, but also for foundry purposes, preservation of unique natural environments, and home sites in selected areas. The thrust of Alan's work has been on dating these features and understanding why cycles of dune activity occur. His recent work is focusing on the history of dunes on the northern part of the Lake Michigan coast and how they differ from those in the southwestern part of Lower Michigan. Several of Alan's students have reconstructed dune histories at various places in Michigan. **Brad Blumer**, for example, just completed a Master's thesis on the history of dunes near Arcadia.



**Trevor Hobbs**

Randy's recent work has been wind-focused, but his emphasis has been on loess - silty sediment carried and eventually deposited by the wind. Thick loess deposits have always been known to exist along the Mississippi River, but almost no loess had ever been documented in Michigan and now Randy is busy mapping loess deposits across Michigan and Wisconsin. **Trevor Hobbs**, a MS student in Geography, has identified thin loess deposits even in the hilliest, sandiest landscape of all (the hills north of Evart, MI), where one would never expect to find loess.

What does this all mean? Redistribution of silt by wind was clearly a dominant process after the ice left the region, some 17-12,000 years ago. Silt was able to move much more readily than sand since dune formation requires stronger winds. Many areas in our state, therefore, actually do have a thin cover of this silt (loess), which has dramatically improved their forest and agricultural productivity. Knowing the geography of these deposits will also help better understand paleo-climate, as well as the distribution of soils and their parent materials.

**Ken Corey** is serving as a co-investigator and member of the CIDS (Comprehensive Intelligent Development Strategy) Project Research Team, with five other faculty and staff, to research "Innovative Job Creation Strategies and Collaborations in Northern Michigan." The project grant is \$522,972 supported by a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce to the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development, September 2008 to February 2010. He has also authored (along with Mark Wilson in Urban and Regional Planning) several book chapters and reports in the urban arena.



In fall 2008, **Guo Chen** taught a new seminar on China and Globalization. This course brought together six students from multiple disciplines to a weekly discussion session located in Geography. Students read recent scholarly work and popular writings about the many challenges facing urban China. They also conducted data research and each successfully completed a full-length research paper. During the semester, students were joined by guest speakers, including **Arika Ligmann-Zielinska** for a lively discussion about China's environmental problems. Now a research website for urban China including course materials and China data is available at <https://www.msu.edu/~guochen/china/> Starting in 2009, Guo will be working with graduate students exploring the impact of urban expansion on changing inequalities and the social groups living on the city margins in China. This project will allow her to seek collaboration with geographers at several Chinese universities including Peking University and Sun Yat-Sen University. Guo is also a major faculty sponsor of a bi-weekly Global Urban Studies Workshop series at MSU GUSP [http://gusp.msu.edu/?t=news.php&c\\_id=154](http://gusp.msu.edu/?t=news.php&c_id=154) where she has been invited to give a talk about poverty and contested space in April.



**China and Globalization students**

**Harm de Blij** writes: There are some advantages to getting older – the alternative is unacceptable – but for geographers it does tend to cause one to seize opportunities to see places not yet (or recently) seen. What might in the past have led to a response something like “I’ll do this later” makes you realize that later is now. A few years ago in Florida I had an unexpected phone call from Rio de Janeiro from someone in local business to whom I had said that I ought to see the inside of one of the city’s less accessible *favelas* as a lesson in human geography. If I could get on the overnight flight to Rio, he said, he would meet me and make it possible: he had made the necessary contact. What followed was one of the most riveting, exhausting, dangerous, and edifying excursions ever, a nine-hour climb and descent across a patch of hell on earth.

So when I had the opportunity in 2008, through Japanese intervention, to get a visa for Myanmar to see for myself a place of which I had only heard and read, I jumped at the chance. But nothing prepared me for the experience: the virtual absence of modernization in the delta, the razor-wire barricades, sandbagged foxholes and bullet-riddled facades in Yangon months after the October rebellion, the road (is this the worst 300 km in Asia?) to the junta’s Chinese-a building subsurface capital at Naypyidaw, the roar of the generators along city streets in a place where electricity is a luxury. Speaking of luxury, the villas and playgrounds of the junta and their connections are second to none in Southeast Asia. Expatriates, mainly Japanese and Chinese, are beneficiaries.

I had flown in from Thailand and left by ship for India, sailing down the river many older locals still call the Rangoon with farmlands



little more than a meter above water level as far as the eye could see. I wondered how Myanmar had apparently escaped the fate of neighboring Bangladesh for so long. Three weeks later, Cyclone Nargis struck.

A helicopter trip out of Nuuk in Greenland in September quickly reveals why you can now buy “Greenland-Grown” vegetables in the local supermarket: the ice is receding and Greenland seems to be going back to its pre-Nebraskan moderation (boreal forest covered the south at the time); you cannot help but wonder whether a Heinrich event is in the offing. Meanwhile, globalization reaches even here. A nine-hole golf course, the northernmost in the world, adjoins the university. Look across the fairway, and the private jets of addicts can be seen to fill the parking area.

It was a pleasure to welcome Antoinette WinklerPrins to the production team of *The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography* (4<sup>th</sup> edition, John Wiley & Sons, 2009); her innovations and ideas can be seen throughout this new edition. My new trade book *The Power of Place: Geography, Destiny and Globalization* (Oxford University Press, 2009) appeared in July. I was honored to receive the AAG Media Award in Boston in April. Op-Ed commentaries in the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Los Angeles Times* got some people hot under the collar, and not everyone agreed with my argument that geographers should lead the way in abandoning the neocolonial regional term *Latin America* as I proposed on the Op-Ed page the September *Newsletter* of the Association of American Geographers. Promoting geography on the lecture circuit took me to about a dozen US locations including Carlsbad (CA), Pittsburgh (PA), Dallas (TX), Traverse City (MI), Osage

Beach (MO), and Phoenix (AZ).

Meeting the incoming graduate students in Randy Schaetzl’s autumn seminar is always a highlight, and I continue to appreciate the opportunity to meet other classes when I am on campus.

**Joe Darden** (along with John Frazier and Noah Henry) co-edited a new book, “The African Diaspora in the United States and Canada at the Dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Global Academic Publishing, Binghamton University, Binghamton, N.Y.

**Kyle Evered** has had a busy year with travels to Turkey, Uzbekistan, and other points east. Along with **Jianguo Qi**, he edited a book compiling the presentations from a NATO Science for Peace and Security Conference in Tashkent entitled “The Environmental Problems of Asia and their Economic, Social, and Security Impacts.” He also attended the International Geophysical Union meetings in Tunisia in fall of 2008 along with **Igor Vojnovic**, and **Antoinette WinklerPrins**.

Two relatively new faculty members in Geography were awarded grants in the Intramural Research Grants Program (IRGP) sponsored by the office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. **Guo Chen** was awarded \$39,700 for her proposal “Urban Expansion and Inequalities: Cases of Emerging City-regions in Coastal China.” **Kirk Goldsberry** received \$30,718 for a study on “Nutritional Terrain Mapping: Analyzing Produce Availability and Accessibility in Lansing, Michigan.” Both Guo and Kirk joined the Geography Department in fall, 2007.





Senior Research Specialist **Dave Lusch** was the recipient of two prestigious awards last year. The “Jim Living Geospatial Achievement Award” was presented at the IMAGIN Annual Conference and Expo in Dearborn, Michigan. This award is given to an IMAGIN member, in recognition of career-long dedication and commitment to the IMAGIN organization, its geospatial professionals, colleagues, members and the public that it serves. Dave also received the “Distinguished Academic Staff Award” from Michigan State University. The award is presented in recognition of extraordinary academic achievement, excellence and exceptional contributions as a Specialist. Dave received the award from MSU President, Lou Anna K. Simon in February, 2008.

The Family Resource Center of MSU has awarded the Outstanding Supervisor award to **Jessica Moy**, Director of the Remote Sensing and GIS Research and Outreach Services unit in the Department of Geography. The award recognizes work ethic and high regard for professional and personal needs of their employees.

**Randy Schaetzl** was named a Research Associate with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Based on past affiliations, Randy is now able to easily collaborate and participate in research programs with colleagues in the Survey. Randy also offered a short course, Geography of Michigan Field Survey, in summer session, 2008. Nine students toured all parts of Michigan observing the physical and cultural geography of the state.

**Julie Winkler** has been appointed to the Committee of Visitors to review the Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences programs at the National Science Foundation. The committee is charged with reviewing NSF’s performance in proposal awards for all programs in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences.

**Antoinette WinklerPrins** spent 2007-08 on sabbatical leave. She continued her duties as Graduate Program Coordinator during that year, but was able to travel extensively including a trip to China during September. Much of the year was spent preparing the 4th edition of “The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography” with co-authors and colleagues **Harm de Blij** and Peter Muller. She also spent a month at the Center for Research in Environmental Geography (CIGA) at the National University of Mexico-Morelia (UNAM-Morelia) writing and starting a collaborative research project on the “Landscapes of Those Left Behind” in Michoacan State, Mexico. In Fall 2008 CIGA’s director, Dr. Gerardo Bocco visited MSU and gave several talks on campus and in the department, fostering future collaboration between CIGA and MSU Geography. In addition to the new work in Mexico, Antoinette continues her research on Amazonian Dark Earths in Brazil and recently presented a paper jointly with MSU graduate student **Steve Aldrich** on mapping Dark Earths at the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) meeting in Granada, Nicaragua.



For Sharon Zhong, this past year was busy with domestic and international travel. The year began with two back-to-back trips to Colorado to attend an invited workshop at the National Center for Atmospheric Research to help evaluate the



Sharon on the Prime Meridian

new concept on "Adaptive Sensor Array for Atmospheric Research" and to attend and lead a working group at the DOE sponsored Workshop entitled "Research Needs for Wind Resource Characterization." This was followed by a number of colloquium talks in the Midwest, Texas, and California. At the beginning of summer, she gave two presentations at the 18th Symposium on Boundary Layer and Turbulence in Stockholm and then traveled to London to visit her colleagues there. The July heat and humidity in Shanghai was unbearable for a Michigianian, but the work at the Polar Research Institute of China in Shanghai on data taken from Dome A in Antarctica, the coldest place on Earth, kept it cool. The most fun activity was the invitation to lecture at the Mountain Weather Workshop in beautiful Whistler, Vancouver and to visit the next winter Olympic venues there. The workshop, entitled "Bridging the Gap between Research and Forecasting," helped to train winter Olympic forecasters from Canada and forecasters and graduate students from many alpine countries in the world. She also gave a number of presentations at the 17th Conference on Applied Climatology and the

13th Conference on Mountain Meteorology. This past year has been a productive year in research for Sharon with 10 peer-reviewed articles published in the top journals in the field of atmospheric research such as Journal of Geophysical Research and the Bulletin of American Meteorological Society.

New Faculty

Arika Ligmann-Zielinska

After receiving my Ph.D. from the Departments of Geography at San Diego State University and University of California Santa Barbara in May 2008, I was jointly appointed to



the Department of Geography and the Environmental Science and Policy Program at MSU. My dissertation focused on modeling land use dynamics with the major part devoted to developing two loosely coupled models: an exploratory agent-based model of risk-related residential development decision-making, and a generative multi-objective land use allocation model equipped with a localized spatial constraint of infill development. The model will be employed in time-variant global sensitivity analysis to determine the most influential model components and their fluctuations during simulation executions. I am also very enthusiastic about offering a new seminar on modeling coupled human and natural systems that brings together complexity theory and agent-based modeling, along with a good dose of applications including segregation, urban growth, animal movement, and disease spread.





The third annual **GEOCAMP** (organized by graduate program coordinator, **Antoinette WinklerPrins**) was held in August to introduce incoming graduate students to MSU, the Department, and to some interesting geographical features of Michigan. The camp was held at the Kellogg Biological Station on Gull Lake. Eighteen new students visited the Lake Michigan dunes (led by **Alan Arbogast**), the Kalamazoo urban scene (led by **Bruce Pigozzi**), and participated in geocaching exercises (led by **David Baylis**, graduate assistant).



**Chuan Qin, Dick Groop, Jiaguo Qi, Minting Ye at Homecoming, 2008.**



**Grandparents Day. Tara LaLonde, Lindsay Campbell, Jenny van Ravensway and Jiaguo Qi**



### THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT'S E. JAMES POTCHEN AWARDS



Every Spring Semester, the Department of Geography honors graduate and undergraduate students with the E. James Potchen Award in Geography in recognition of superior performance in their respective programs. The award includes a commemorative desk set and a cash prize.

These awards were established to honor Distinguished University Professor and Department of Radiology Chair **E. James Potchen**, MD, JD, MSc, a graduate (BS, 1954) of Michigan State University whose remarkable, global career in medicine, business, law and other areas is an example to all of us who work in our most interdisciplinary of disciplines. A valued friend of the MSU Department of Geography, Dr. Potchen enriches and inspires countless personal and professional lives and sets an example for us all.

The first E. James Potchen Awards were made in 2007 to graduate student **Marcellus Caldas** and undergraduate student **Heather Aschoff**. The 2008 recipients included graduate students **Kristine Stanley** and

**Tara Lalonde** and undergrads **Lindsay Campbell** and **Joshua Watkins**. A permanent plaque to be installed in the Geography Building will display the names of the recipients.

The GTU Reception and Ceremony was held in the Atrium of the Radiology Building on April 25, 2008. At the same ceremony, undergraduate student **Sara Bowers** was awarded the 2008 John Hunter Award in Geography.



**Sara Bowers, Tara LaLonde, Joshua Watkins, Lindsay Campbell, Dr. Potchen**



**Faculty participation during the ceremony. Winkler, Duvall, Zhong, Harman, Chen, Shortridge, Zulu, grad student Steve Aldrich (holding plaque).**





**Joshua Watkins** receives his award from **Harm de Blij**.

The Geography Career Night was again a great success with many state agencies and private companies represented.



**Everett Root** from the Michigan DIT talks with **Morris Thomas**, **Mandie Hawley** and **Bob Kramer** at Career Night.

**Pariwate Varnakovida**, PhD student in Geography, received a graduate school Dissertation Completion Fellowship, funded at \$6,000 from the MSU Graduate School.

PhD student, **Peter Richards**, was awarded a \$5,000 Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council. He used the funds to attend two workshops on Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change and other pre-dissertation expenses.

**Carolina Santos**, PhD student, was granted a dissertation fellowship from the NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship Program for her work on “Complex Land Use and Cover Trajectories in the Northern Choco Bioregion of Colombia.”

Geography graduate student **Crosby Savage** led a team of weather forecasters from Michigan State to first place in the Weather Challenge competition in Crescent City, California. The competition involves about 70 Universities annually in forecasting skills.



**Geo Club** members at “The Rock”: **Jay Strahan**, **Jenny Monroe**, **Brian Urquhart**, **Claire Forgacs**, **Mandie Hawley**, **Shannon Moore**, **Lars Zwaanenburg**, **Emily Arbour**.





### STUDENT DEGREES COMPLETED

#### Fall 2007

**Bilal Butt**, PhD (Antoinette WinklerPrins),  
“Grazing on the Edge: Cattle Mobility,  
Conservation and the Political Ecology of  
Maasai Herding Around the Maasai Mara  
National Reserve, Kenya.”

#### 2008

**Blumer, Bradley**, MS (Alan Arbogast),  
“First Application of OSL Dating to Test the  
Perched-Dune Model on Michigan Coastal  
Dunes.”

**Caldas, Marcellus**, PhD (Robert Walker),  
“Settlement Formation and Land Cover and  
Land Use Change: A Case Study in the  
Brazilian Amazon.”

**Doherty, Stephanie**, MS-GIS (Antoinette  
WinklerPrins)

**Fusina, Lesley**, MS (Shiyuan Zhong),  
“Investigation into the ability of the Bluesky  
Smoke Modeling Framework in Simulating  
Smoke Impacts from Wildfires.”

**Holmstadt, Jennifer**, MS (Alan Arbogast),  
“Geomorphology and Geoarchaeology of a  
Small Foredune Complex along the Eastern  
Shore of Lake Michigan.”

**Joslin, Audrey**, MS (Cynthia Simmons),  
“The Negotiation Between Conservation and  
Development Objectives in Agrarian  
Reform Settlements in the South of Pará  
Brazil.”

**LaLonde, Tara**, MS (Ashton Shortridge),  
“Characteristics of Shuttle Radar

Topography Mission (SRTM) Elevation  
Error.”

**McAninch, Andrew**, MS-GIS (David  
Lusch)

**Sandberg, Eric**, (Joseph Messina),  
“Childhood Lead Poisoning in Michigan:  
Spatial Analysis of the Distribution of and  
Factors Relating to Community Elevated  
Blood Lead Levels.”

**Savage, L. Crosby**, (Shiyuan Zhong), “A  
Comprehensive Study of a Regional Scale  
Downslope Flow in Northern Arizona.”

**Schmidt, Jeffrey**, MS-GIS (Ashton  
Shortridge)

**Schrotenboer, Bradley**, MS (Alan  
Arbogast), “Locating Alternative Sand  
Sources for Michigan’s Foundry Industry:  
A Geographical Approach.”

**Seamount, Simon**, MS-GIS (Ashton  
Shortridge)

**Shi, Yi**, PhD (Ashton Shortridge), “Virtual  
Organization Based Distributed  
Environmental Spatial Decision Support  
Systems: Applications in Watershed  
Management.”

**Stanley, Kristine**, MS (Randall Schaetzl),  
“Characterization and Paleoenvironmental  
Significance of the North Central Wisconsin  
Loess Sheet.”

**van Ravensway, Jenni**, MS (Julie Winkler),  
“A Climatology of the Origin, Movement,  
Duration and Termination of Convective  
Systems in the North-Central United States.”

**Walters, Brian**, MS-GIS (Andrew Finley)



**Kathleen Baker** (PhD, 2002) writes: I am at Western Michigan University now. I just received my first large grant (\$1.2 million) from USDA, a project that grew from my interdisciplinary dissertation between geography and plant pathology at MSU. The title of the grant is: “Synoptic weather forecasting and web-based information delivery systems for managing crop disease risk in multiple regions of the U.S.” The project will create crop-specific weather-based disease risk forecasts for leaf spot of peanut in Georgia and northern Florida, Fusarium head blight of barley in the northern Great Plains, and late blight of potato in Michigan. Web based information delivery systems will make forecasts available to growers on a daily update basis. Such risk forecasts can improve crop quality while at the same time reducing pesticide use by allowing growers to improve the timing of pesticide applications. This project will be a proof of concept that similar systems could work for multiple crops, at multiple scales, in multiple regions of the United States. A number of research partners throughout the U.S. will participate.

**David Berg** (BS, 1985). I am still enjoying my work at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency here in St. Louis. This fall will mark 22 years for me at the agency! I am involved in research and development, particularly on a project using Google Earth as a tool to disseminate data to our users.

**Juleigh Bookout** (MA, 2006 and Geography Virtual Coordinator). Over the winter break, my family and I traveled with my in-laws to Corpus Christi, Texas to visit my sister-in-law and her family, who live on

a barrier island in the gulf. Since moving to Padre Island in March, she has weathered daily bouts of wind and sand, two hurricanes, swarms of mosquitoes and dragonflies, and many, many scorpions. I took the opportunity to do some sight-seeing and picture taking at Padre Island National Seashore, Port Aransas, downtown Corpus Christi, and a handful of local refineries. I took many pictures of the area, some of which I plan to use in MSU’s virtual geography courses.

**Bilal Butt** (PhD, 2007) was the recipient of the “Gill-Chin Lim Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in Global Studies” from MSU. Advised by



**Antoinette WinklerPrins**, Bilal won the award for his dissertation, “Grazing on the Edge: Cattle Mobility, Ecology and Maasai Herding in Southern Kenya.” He is currently working as a Natural Science Foundation Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Wisconsin and as a visiting scientist at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Mary Dooley** (PhD, 1975), recently retired after 24 years as a faculty member at Mankato State in Minnesota, has published a revision of her dissertation entitled “The Andrews Bailiwick” (Minnesota Heritage Publishing, Mankato, 2007). The first part of the book deals with early migration in southeastern Michigan followed by a genealogical account of some of her ancestors. Dr. Dooley served on the MSU Geography faculty in 1948-49.



**Brian Holly** (PhD, 1974). After 24 years in the Geography Department at Kent State University, I opted for early retirement in 1998. My years at Kent State were interrupted by appointments at the University of Liverpool (1985), National Science Foundation (1991-1993), and University of Washington (1996-97). I moved to Oregon in 1998, where I spent a year as a visiting professor at Portland State University. This was followed by an interesting two-year stint as Senior Policy Analyst in the Oregon Economic Development Department where I was able to apply my spatial knowledge and skills to a wide range of economic development issues in the Pacific Northwest. Federal government service beckoned again in late 2001, taking me back to Washington, D.C. to assume my current post as Project Review Coordinator for the U.S. Census Bureau. I manage the research proposal process for all external research projects that seek access to confidential Census and other microdata at the nine Research Data Centers maintained by the Bureau around the country (see [www.ces.census.gov](http://www.ces.census.gov)). Although I have drifted somewhat from my geography roots, I never seem to shake them off completely. I attend AAG meetings occasionally, and in 2007 spent four months back at NSF on a detail to help out with the Geography and Regional Science Program. This was followed immediately by a long delayed total replacement of my left hip (titanium now), which plays havoc with airport and other metal detection devices. Otherwise, all is well. Email: [brian.p.holly@census.gov](mailto:brian.p.holly@census.gov).

**Christina** (PhD 2006) and **Joe Hupy** (PhD 2005) are both in tenure tract positions at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. UWECs emphasis is on excellence in undergraduate research. Christina teaches introductory and advanced GIS and conservation of the environment, as well as biogeography and digital image processing. Joe also teaches conservation of the environment, as well as military geography, historical geography, and weather and society. Christina continues to conduct biogeographic research on vegetation change in the Great Lakes Region. Joe continues to be involved in the AAG and is currently serving as president of the Military Geography Specialty Group. Joe has expanded his research on the impacts of war on the environment to Vietnam where he has traveled to collect preliminary data. Christina and Joe have a one-year-old daughter, Katya Hupy.

**Jim LeBeau** (PhD, 1978). Professor, Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency, and Corrections, Southern Illinois University Carbondale: email [lebeau@siu.edu](mailto:lebeau@siu.edu). I am completing my 24<sup>th</sup> year at SIUC after previous stops in North Carolina and Indiana. SIUC is a great place. One of the many advantages is that it takes me ten minutes to travel from my home to office – walking. I can tell you that being a geographer who turned to crime has been very rewarding. My first few years away from MSU were spent learning how to teach and teaching criminology/criminal justice courses in teaching intensive departments. Eventually, I was able to carve out several articles from my dissertation on *The Spatial Dynamics of Rape*. The responses to these





articles from the academic and applied worlds were overwhelming. I delivered lectures and workshops to the FBI, the British Home Office, the Amsterdam Police, the Criminal Intelligence Service of the Netherlands, and a variety of domestic and international universities. I became involved in the “crime mapping craze” and accepted an invitation to be a Visiting Fellow in the National Institute of Justice during 1997. I helped set up the Crime Mapping Research Center. I still travel and deliver workshops and lectures on various topics. During 2003, the State Department sent me to the European Academy of Forensic Science meeting in Istanbul to give a workshop on CRIMESTAT that was simultaneously translated into Turkish and Russian. One of my more unique experiences was doing a study for the Corrections Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Justice. The study examined how Japanese prison officials addressed NIMBY problems with local residents. Currently, I have two projects going: The first is examining jury summoning and selection in Cook County, Illinois; and the second involves analyzing crimes in hotel and motels. These projects are keeping me busy and I am having so much fun I do not intend to retire soon. My wife Gwen is an administrator in our county public health department. Our sons, both born in Lansing’s Sparrow Hospital, are grown up and married. Zach, the eldest, has a Hungarian wife Andrea who is an artist and they are the proud parents of our beautiful granddaughter Lauren. Zach traveled around the world for several years then ended up in Hollywood. He has been a model, actor, and script writer. He just finished writing, producing, directing, and shooting his first movie “The Scientist.”

Our youngest son, Aaron, is not as widely traveled as Zach, but he has trekked several times through Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim, and Bhutan. He lives in Baltimore with his Swedish wife Maria who is a chemical engineer. He just completed a PhD in Pharmacology at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine so he is the scientist. In March they are moving to San Francisco so Aaron can do his post-doc work at UCSF. Over the years I have tried to keep track of the developments in the department. During June, 2006 I was co-teaching an ICPSR workshop at MSU. I got away for a few minutes and Dick Groop showed me around the new department. It was great to seeing Bob Thomas and Dave Lusch. I came back for East Lakes in 2007 and gave a paper and was drafted to chair a session. I had a lot of fun. It was good visiting with Joe Darden, my advisor, and Bruce Piggozi, and meeting the other folks. I can tell from the newsletters, the department’s webpage, and from the journals that a lot of great things are happening in, and coming from, MSU’s geography department. Good luck and keep up the good work. If you ever come to Carbondale look me up.

**Bryon Middlekauff** (PhD, 1987) is still actively teaching at Plymouth State University, New Hampshire. Last fall he served as the organizer of the New England -St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society (Nestval) annual meeting. He co-led a field course in May 2008 to the Four Corners region with undergraduates from Keene State College, NH and the University of Wolverhampton, UK. He also organizes the Nestval World Geography Bowl team for the AAG meetings each year.



**Jim Mulvihill** (PhD, 1976) writes: I retired from California State, San Bernardino in 2007 but continue to teach part time there. I've been a San Bernardino City Planning Commissioner since 2006 and this year I'm chairing the SB City Historic Preservation Commission. I have also started a planning consulting business. In each of the last three years, I have taught urban planning and economic development to city and provincial administrators from Wuhan, China within a three month seminar series and will do so again this February. I plan to be in Las Vegas with a paper at the AAG in a session on "Greening Campuses."

**Charlie Rader** (PhD, 1995) writes: During spring, 2008, I taught a semester length program in Europe called the International Traveling Classroom, where we ran students on a grand tour through 6 or so countries. I've been teaching human geography, a course on global change, and a third on contemporary Europe. In summer I stepped down as chair at River Falls after 8 years. John Heppen (MSU grad) began as the new chair in July. e-mail: charles.p.rader@uwrf.edu

**Rick Sambrook** (PhD, 1992) is serving as Director of the Ecuador Program for the Kentucky Institute of International Studies, a position he also held from 1998-2005. He also had two articles published in 2008. Stephanie Wilson Sambrook is working as the Assistant GIS Director for the City of Richmond, Kentucky.

**Kathy (Ford) Thorne** (PhD, 1991) writes: I am making a major career change in the next few months. After 15 years in the Geography and Geology Department at Mansfield, PA, I have resigned my position

at the end of this academic year. As of September 2008 my husband has a new position at an astrophysics observatory outside Baton Rouge (LIGO). I've decided to become a trailing spouse for a change rather than continue to commute. My plans at this point include growing organic fruit and vegetables for the local market and designing and building a green/hurricane resistant home. I look at this as a chance to become an applied geographer as I tackle the challenges of the climate and soils of southern Louisiana. After May 1, my email address will be [k2thorne@charter.net](mailto:k2thorne@charter.net).

Gamma Theta Upsilon, the international honor society in Geography, has had two presidents in a row who are MSU graduates. The current president is **Don Zeigler** (PhD, 1980) and the immediate past president is **Howard Johnson** (PhD, 1972). Don is professor of Geography at Old Dominion University in Virginia Beach and Howard is recently retired from Jacksonville State University in Alabama. The GTU web site is <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org>.



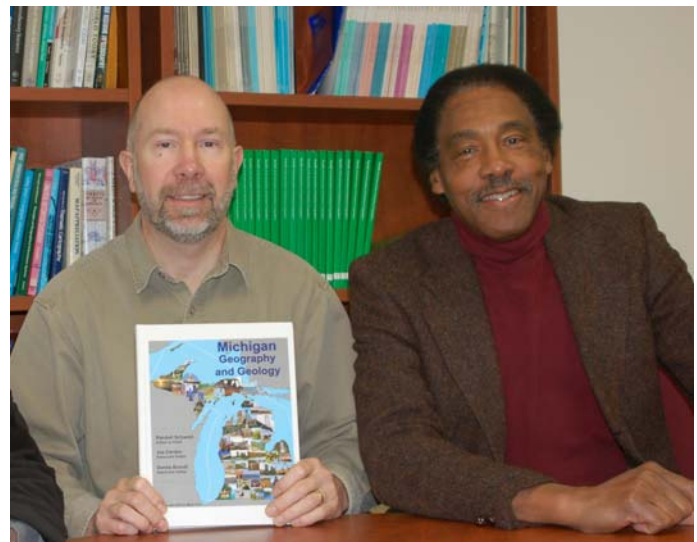
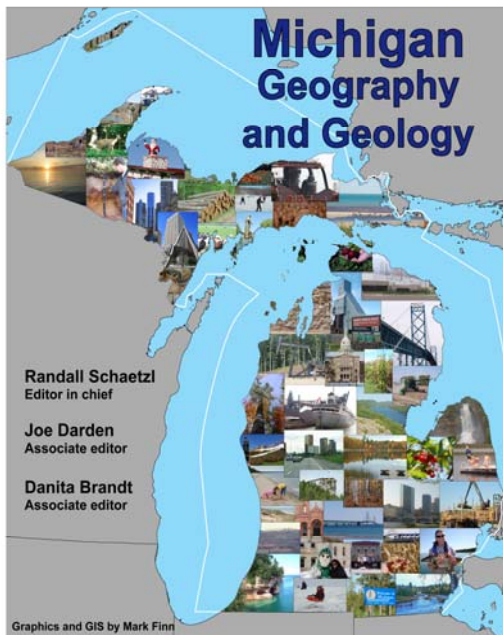
**Professor Qi** brainstorms another research grant



### Geography of Michigan Book Project Wraps Up

For many years, Professor Duke Winters taught the Geography of Michigan course at MSU, with colored chalk and a spiral-bound, mimeographed coursepack, largely due to the lack of a comprehensive textbook on Michigan's geography. Randy Schaetzl, who now teaches the course, inherited the same dilemma. The Department is now happy to report that the problem has been rectified! Four years in the making, Michigan Geography and Geology was published in hard-cover and full-color this past January by Pearson Custom Publishers. The book was edited by Randy Schaetzl and Joe Darden from Geography, along with Danita Brandt from Geological Sciences; Dick Groop served as cartography editor and general benefactor. All told, the book has 54 authors, most of which represent the statewide "expert" in their respective fields. Eighteen of those authors either currently have, or once had, MSU Geography Department affiliations. Most of the major Universities in Michigan, and several of the Colleges on the MSU campus, are represented on the author list. The color graphics, a real strength of the book, were done entirely by Mark Finn, a Geography Master's student who graduated in 2008. Like Larry Sommer's 1977 Atlas of Michigan, this book was a real Department-wide effort, and one which we believe will stand the test of time as a serious, comprehensive, attractive, and highly readable reference on the state of Michigan.

Schaetzl, R.J., Darden, J., and D. Brandt. D. (eds). 2009. Michigan Geography and Geology. Pearson Custom Publishers, Boston, MA. 672 pp. ISBN 10: 0-536-98716-5



**Co-editors Randy Schaetzl and Joe Darden  
(Danita Brandt, not pictured)**





# Special Features - 16 -

Jessica Moy  
Director  
Member since: 1997



Despite the current opinion that Jessica lost track of GIS in ArcView 3.0, she keeps her finger on the pulse of the geospatial industry - shepherding the RS&GIS team, serving on the State of Michigan Cross Boundary Solutions

Committee and IMAGIN Board of Directors, and teaching courses for the Department of Geography.

Matthew Farra  
IT Manager  
Member since: 1998



Wired on green tea, Matt keeps RS&GIS well-connected - managing racks of servers and a plethora of PCs, programming Mash-up sites, servicing our clients' IT needs, and challenging us all. Anyone for a triathlon? Wii Fit?



Justin Booth  
GIS Analyst/ Database Manager  
Member since: 2002

A social butterfly from birth, Justin continues to hone his networking skills - serving as liaison for State of Michigan clients, sweet talking office database and imagery software into metadata compliance, and showing off his best moves on the dance floor of MiCAMP.

## REMOTE SENSING & GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH AND OUTREACH SERVICES

Matthew Schutte  
GIS Analyst/Training Coordinator  
Member since: 2008



Matt made the big leap across the pond from Wisconsin to join the RS&GIS staff. He was lured from the private sector to take leadership in SDE management, imagery analysis, technical workshop administration, and leader of the Badger cheering section when UW comes to town.

Jessica Nelson  
Field/Aerial Archive Manager  
Member since: 2008



A newcomer to the "official" staff, Jess is no stranger to RS&GIS, having learned the ropes as a student intern and temporary employee - supervising a busy archive, coordinating a variety of infrastructure mapping projects, and assisting on data mining projects.

Derek Moy  
Web/Graphic Designer  
Member since: 2002



Catering to the creative needs of RS&GIS and its clientele, Derek is the master of websites, logos, scientific illustrations, and Tchotchkes. Always talented, often quirky, he inspires us to think outside the box.



# Special Features - 17 -



**Tamsyn Mihalus**  
Administrative Assistant  
Member since: 1974

Tamsyn's longevity makes her the administrative and financial guru for RS&GIS - running budgets, sending invoices, and keeping us all in line.

for most judicious use of acronyms Ed would surely win. Would anybody care for an AJAXified ESRI AGS WebADF ASP.NET MVC WMA written in VB.NET running on IIS consuming WMS compliant map services built on SDE? We may not know what all the acronyms stand for, but we are impressed by the suite of web-based applications he has developed.

**Edward Bissell**  
GIS/Programmer Analyst  
Member since: 2007



**Robert Goodwin**  
GIS/Remote Sensing Analyst  
Member since: 1998

A client once declared Bob the "Air Photo god" and while we cannot speak to his divinity, he does display a certain gift for aerial and satellite image interpretation, remote



sensing applications, and the ability to master any GPS equipment presented to him. Funny how he always seems to know our whereabouts...

Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Science Research and Outreach Services (RS&GIS) is a non-academic program in the Department of Geography, providing geospatial technology services to state/federal government, municipalities, not-for-profits, and the private sector. Comprised of 12 technical/research staff and supporting technician personnel, the program maintains over a century of combined expertise in the areas of GIS, Remote Sensing (RS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Application Development, Cartography, and Design.

**David Lusch**  
Senior Research Specialist  
Member since: 1978



Few in this world possess knowledge equal to the breadth and depth held between Dave's ears. And of those few, even fewer have the ability to express that "gobblely gook" as eloquently. Dave has pioneered geospatial technology applications in Michigan, including statewide mapping of groundwater and geologic resources.

He has developed several virtual courses in remote sensing. In 2008, Dave was recognized with both the MSU Distinguished Academic Specialist Award and the IMAGIN Geospatial Achievement Award.

**Sarah AcMoody**  
GIS Analyst / Cartographer  
Member since: 2001

Sarah's enthusiasm makes her a favorite of the RS&GIS clientele, whose diverse projects keep her on her toes and her skillsets ever-expanding. Resident GIS expert, she challenges the technology in geoprocessing and cartographic output, leads technical workshops, and chairs the RS&GIS Fun Committee.



**Joel Lenz**  
GIS/Programmer Analyst  
Member since: 2006

"Joel the Builder." Whether it be custom, desktop ArcObjects applications, VB.NET programs, household bars, or fence rows, Joel is the RS&GIS general contractor.





From University Distinguished Professor Emeritus **John Hunter**, Mesa, Arizona, Faculty Member 1967-1995: On leaving MSU, I now realize just how much I miss its large green landscaped campus; the libraries, laboratories, centers of excellence and the ebb and flow of students and faculty. An academic habitat of fine buildings and institutions is desirable but, as we know, it is basically people who make programs, not *vice versa*. In that perspective, I wish to thank and pay tribute to former colleagues, now deceased, who welcomed me on arrival at MSU and subsequently made life in the Department more pleasant, stimulating and productive. In many different ways, they contributed to the interaction of ideas that makes a university. My happy arrival at MSU was entirely due to Harm de Blij. I intend to pay my tribute to Harm, a long-time friend, in a later *Spartan* issue. Here, late in retirement, I first wish to reflect on “fallen comrades.”

### **Paul Morrison**, Faculty Member 1931-1969

Paul was a founding member of the Geography faculty with Chair Edward Prophet. He emanated warmth when I arrived from Durham (UK) in July 1967. He enthusiastically showed me the ropes, unjaded by four decades of service. Unfortunately, Paul suddenly died of a heart attack before I had time to turn around. But I remember his friendly spirit and gracious introduction to campus life.

### **Clarence Vinge**, Faculty Member 1947-76

With three decades of service, Clancy was known for his acerbic wit and pithy comments. He held his views strongly, commanding respect, and bluntly challenging modern fads and fashions. A trip up the elevator with Clancy was a refreshing antidote to complacent acceptance of current ideas. The “other side” of Clancy was revealed in an elegantly written note he sent me on the “exquisite agony” of a certain issue, showing his inner depth and sensitivity. He, in turn, contributed significantly to our Department’s dynamics.

### **Georg Borgstrom**, Faculty Member 1966-1981

Georg was our first visible symbol of international pre-eminence. He was a winner of a Swedish Academy of Sciences Gold Medal, presented by the King of Sweden, which is prestigiously parallel to the Nobel Prize. At the height of fame he debated population and food problems on the world stage following publication of his renowned book, *The Hungry Planet*. Georg’s academic appointment was shared with Food Science & Human Nutrition, in which area he was more expert. His authoritative manner of speaking could intimidate or exasperate the listener. In my opinion, he was a genuine, high-powered academic who was unprepared for teaching in the hurly-burly of American Academia. Georg’s *pro-forma* attendance at faculty meetings was lightened by his loud snoring that no one dared to disturb. But he was an outstanding scholar, bold on big global issues. His private library holdings and library loan requests were legendary in magnitude. He died in Sweden during the first year of retirement.





### **Dieter Brunschweiler**, Faculty Member 1957-1983

Dieter contributed an authentic European flavor, engagingly jovial, endlessly smoking a Meerschaum pipe clenched in his teeth and hanging down over his chin. The sound of his rapid-fire German-Swiss accent, or scent of tobacco, would presage friendly conversation in the hallway. Zurich-trained, his favorite topics were field excursions and physical Geography. A key Department issue became the place of field work in graduate training, especially between the physical and human branches of the discipline. Dieter, who preceded me by 10 years, died of a heart attack in 1983. His breadth of general physical geography and also his South American studies, were missed; but he had accomplished much for the Department.

### **Ian Matley**, Faculty Member 1963-93

I arrived four years after Ian took up his appointment. Ian offered the clear enunciation of an Edinburgh Scot. A WWII British Air Force veteran, he was a University of Michigan PhD. He was modest and polite with everyone, perhaps a little formal or shy. But behind a preliminary shield of reticence, Ian was open and honest in his relationships and in humanitarian concerns. He showed sustained interests in cultural geography and regularly visited Eastern Europe during times that were not easy. He set standards for us in scholarship in his area. Known for reliable teaching and research, he was a long-term scholarly presence. Like Georg Borgstrom earlier, Ian died in the first year of retirement. Also like Georg, Ian had returned to the land of his birth, Scotland. Typically, Ian did not wish to tell us of his impending medical disaster and it was a shock. He was one of the Department's important building blocks.

### **Dan Jacobson**, Faculty Member 1966-95

Dan was the colleague loved by everyone, warm hearted, and a wonderful teacher. He was past-President of National Council for Geographic Education, but was always gently unassuming. His loyalty to the Department and to consensus within it, despite deeply-felt differences, was exemplary. He was a consistent advocate for student concerns, and always reminded us of the student's side of the equation. He was deeply passionate in debate without having a polarizing effect. Dan was well respected by both students and staff, a true humanitarian. A valued colleague and contributor, Dan died of leukemia in 1995 while still in harness as a teacher, much to our dismay. He greatly added to quality of Department life.

### **Harold Winters**, Faculty Member 1965-1995

"Duke" Winters was a major figure in the Department and a conspicuous presence in the AAG. He was known nationally for his lecture tours in physical geography and also, interestingly, in Civil War physical geography. Duke established a national reputation as a scholar by analyzing Michigan glaciations through the medium of well-drilling records. He was a captivating raconteur, and he set high epicurean standards. As a sports analyst and forecaster, he was our informal group organizer and leading spirit. Duke was without peer in meticulous planning, organization and leading of field trips at both regional and national meetings. He also delivered exemplary public lectures. His standards were always the highest. His preeminence over three



decades became symbolic of our Department's national visibility. Three years ago Duke passed on. We are honored by his contributions.

### **Larry Sommers, Faculty Member 1949-1989**

Larry Sommers is synonymous with MSU Geography. Our Chairperson for 26 years, he built the Department in times of growth and turmoil. Larry died when he was 88 years old in 2007. It would be an impertinence for me to attempt to reflect on his many career achievements; others have already done so; see Richard Groop's worthy column in the *Spartan Geographer* of spring 08, and Judy Olson's report in *Ubique*, American Geographical Society (Sep. 08). My own experience was that Larry was a careful, conservative, risk-averse manager. At the personal level, Larry was remarkably even-tempered and patient, never impetuous. When approached, he would always listen. It is true that there was criticism that plagued his governance in later years, especially during the period of Viet Nam unrest. But, the longer I worked in the Department, the more I appreciated the constructive role he played. When the time came for Larry to step down, he did it with quiet dignity. Over the years, recognition grew for his achievement in building the Department virtually from scratch. He was indeed our principal, foundational, building block. In his last working years he served as an advisor in the Office of the University Provost, and remained well-liked and active in geography.

The rich mixture of skills offered by these deceased colleagues collectively contributed to the growth of our institutional stature. They are to be saluted for their supportive efforts and deserve recognition in the history of the Department. Perhaps others will make contributions in the *Spartan Geographer*, historical in nature, helping to make the picture more complete.

**Morris Thomas**, Visiting Professor of Geography at MSU, Professor Emeritus from Lansing Community College, and former Geography graduate student, received a prestigious College Distinguished Teacher of the Year award from the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE). The award was presented at the 2008 National Conference on Geographic Education in Dearborn in October. Pictured L to R back row: Judy Olson, Amber Schultz, Carol Thomas (Morris' wife), Alan Arbogast, Antoinette WinklerPrins, Bob Thomas, Dorothy Thomas, Dick Groop, front row: Morris Thomas, Harm de Blij.





Thanks to all of you who contributed to the various Geography Department funds and scholarships. We are making continued efforts to increase our departmental contributions to enhance our programs and benefit students. Please consider donating to one of the Geography Department funds listed below.

### **Ian Matley Memorial Fund**

Established to bring guest speakers to campus to enrich the geographic education of students and faculty.

### **Marjory and Lawrence Sommers Geography Graduate Fellowship for International Research and Travel**

A graduate fellowship to be awarded yearly for Masters or PhD students to support international research and travel.

### **GTU/Geography Endowment Fund**

Established in 1999 by Robert and Dorothy Thomas to fund geography-related student activities.

### **Harold A. "Duke" Winters Scholarship**

To support graduate study in Geography at MSU.

### **Jay R. Harman Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography**

To support undergraduate study in Geography at MSU.

### **Geography at MSU Fund**

Established in 2001 to promote the MSU Department of Geography, including related advertising, fundraising, travel, and similar expenses.

### **Geographic Field Experience Fund**

Established in 2001 to fund student field experiences, including field trips, primary data collection, course related field experience, and transportation and lodging expenses.

### **Geographic Literacy Fund**

Sponsored by Harm de Blij, this fund promotes the field of Geography to students.

*We are tentatively beginning a "History of Geography at MSU" project. We are seeking anecdotes and stories from former students, faculty, and others that might be included in such a history of the Department. Please e-mail Dick Groop [groop@msu.edu](mailto:groop@msu.edu) with your contributions.*





## Please contact us

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We hope you find this newsletter informative and interesting. One way you can help keep it that way is to send us news about yourself. Share news about your career, family, or other things with your fellow alumni. Send an e-mail or letter and we will insert it into the next issue of the newsletter. Thanks for helping make the newsletter even better.

We also encourage you to update your contact information on the MSU Alumni page at: [www.msualum.com](http://www.msualum.com) to help us keep in touch.

Department of Geography  
116 Geography Building  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1117

Editors: Richard Groop [groop@msu.edu](mailto:groop@msu.edu)  
Judy Reginek [reginek@msu.edu](mailto:reginek@msu.edu)

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**Spartan Geographer**  
Department of Geography  
Michigan State University  
116 Geography Building  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1117