

SPARTAN GEOGRAPHER

LIGHTS!



CAMERA!



ACTION!



Message from the Chair



student mentoring, and teaching overseas. Our excellent staff continues to work hard under sometimes great stress to keep the administrative wheels humming and to provide faculty and graduate students alike with the support they need to do their work. It's been a very busy year.

The primary area of focus for many of us continues to be how to raise awareness of the Department in a way that increases our profile at MSU such that more undergraduates choose to major in Geography. In this context we have made a number of very important strides in the past two years. The first major change was the complete overhaul of our website so that it is more attractive, up-to-date, better organized, and easier to navigate. Have a look for yourself (<http://geo.msu.edu/>). At about the same time that the new website was launched in late spring, we hired Gary Schnakenberg to fill the very important role of Academic Advisor after Ellen White retired. Gary is a geographer himself, having successfully defended his PhD last spring, and knows how to “talk the talk” to undergraduates and others around campus.

Dear Geographers:

Believe it or not, it's again time for the annual Department newsletter. Boy, that year went by fast. Although advancing age probably has something to do with the quickened pace of time, I prefer to focus on the fact that a lot of very positive things happened since last year. The Department is cruising along at a rather fast and furious pace that makes time seem to fly by. Everyone is working hard on all sorts of things, ranging from career advancement, research productivity, promotion and tenure, graduate exams,



In an effort to extend our reach more broadly, we produced a professional promotional video that is featured prominently on the front page of the new website. We also plan to send it to surrounding school districts to raise awareness about geography so we attract students when they begin their careers at MSU. We have also overhauled our undergraduate curriculum with a new B.A. in Human Geography and a B.S. in Environmental Geography. These new majors may very well be approved by the time you read this note.

Beyond the promotional steps we have taken as far as the “face” of the Department is concerned, we have also been more aggressive about highlighting the role of geography in the environmental scene on campus. Toward that end, we organized and hosted two campus events in the past year that were very successful. Each of these events involved an invited popular speaker who gave an evening presentation to the campus at large on behalf of the Department. Before coming to MSU each speaker conducted a round of campus radio interviews promoting their respective events and the role of geography in their work. The first of these events occurred in late April and involved Jeff Orlowski, who produced and directed the amazing film *Chasing Ice*. This documentary focuses on the rapid retreat of the Earth's glaciers as a result of ongoing climate change. About 500 people attended a showing of the film, which garnered wide praise, including a nice note from President Simon. The

**DO YOU LIKE WORKING WITH PEOPLE,
THE ENVIRONMENT, OR TECHNOLOGY?**



MAJOR IN GEOGRAPHY!

**LAND A GREAT JOB
DOING SOMETHING YOU LOVE**

- GIS Analysts
- Urban Planners
- Climatologists
- Computer Mapping Specialists
- Earth Scientists
- Environmentalists
- Aerial Photo Interpreters
- Meteorologists
- Tourism Developers

MAP your FUTURE

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

FOLLOW US: <http://geo.msu.edu> @GEOatMSU MSUGeography

Message from the Chair



second event occurred during *Geography Awareness Week* in late November and involved the highly-respected environmental artist, Chris Jordan. Chris's work focuses on issues of scale as they relate to American consumption patterns. He also has examined the horrific plight of young albatrosses on Midway Island who have consumed plastic brought to them by their parents who believe it is food. Given Chris's high profile and the overwhelming success of *Chasing Ice*, which was held in a regular campus lecture hall, we held Chris's presentation at the Pasant Theatre at the Wharton Center. About 400

people came to Chris's lecture, which again, was widely praised.

Aside from the focus on Department promotion, we continue to experience adjustments within the faculty ranks that are the norm for an academic unit. We lost Antoinette WinklerPrins and Kirk Goldsberry, who took new positions at Johns Hopkins University and ESPN, respectively. Antoinette continues to be affiliated with the unit as Adjunct Faculty. Of particular note was the passing of David Campbell in May after a heroic battle with cancer. David faced his circumstances with a toughness and grace that was inspirational to all of us. In the context of "life oddly going on" we hired Amber Pearson last summer as our new medical geographer in association with the campus Water Initiative. Amber is now living and working in Wellington, New Zealand and will join us next August as an Assistant Professor. We are currently in the midst of a search for a new remote sensor/geospatial specialist and expect to successfully hire someone who will also join us next fall. And, of course, I should mention that Kyle Evered was promoted to

Associate Professor with Tenure last summer. Congratulations Kyle!

So, as you can see, things are humming along in the Department of Geography at MSU. We have done a number of very exciting things that are highlighted in this year's newsletter. Read about the successful *International Medical Geography Symposium*, for example, that Sue Grady organized and was attended by over 200 geographers from all around the world in July. Or, have a look at what some of our selected faculty are doing these days. Also check in with the contributions from our alums to see how their lives are going. Maybe you can catch up with someone you know. Also, please note that we are launching a major effort to fund a \$500,000 endowment to support the new de Blij Geography Scholars program. When fully funded, this endowment will spin off ten (10) \$2,500 scholarships every year for outstanding new students who plan to major in Geography. We have a very exciting and diverse Department, one with which I hope you are proud to be affiliated.

Alan F. Arbogast, Chair



Kyle Evered

Associate Professor

In addition to being promoted to Associate Professor and seeing his first PhD advisee graduate—and find a job (Jordan P. Howell, PhD, Rowan University), historical geographer Kyle Evered also traveled abroad for research and several invited talks in May 2013. In the early spring, Kyle took advantage of an invitation he received to deliver two lectures at the International Sakharov Environmental University in Minsk, Belarus. While in Minsk, he also had an opportunity to visit and speak before the Faculty of Geography at Belarus State University, and he engaged with students interested in study abroad in the US at the US Embassy.

In the following month, Kyle witnessed the later days of the June 2013 protests over Gezi Park. Early in the 2012-2013 academic year, Kyle and his wife (MSU historian Emine Evered) planned what they thought would be a peaceful, two-week research trip to visit the Atatürk Kitaplığı in Istanbul—a wonderful library with excellent newspaper collections from Turkey's Ottoman and republican periods. They rented a flat near the library (about six blocks away) and would pass by the Gezi Park area on the way each day. Though they were able to enjoy access to the library on most days, it was closed on others due to the nearby demonstrations. On these days, Kyle, Emine, and their son Augie took photos of the ongoing events and associated graffiti, they visited other collections in the city, and they looked for old Turkish comic books to purchase with funds Kyle received through a library collections grant from ITS (the Institute of Turkish Studies) to enhance MSU Library's Comic Art Collection's holdings of Turkish materials. Returning to their flat one night from another part of Istanbul—and loaded with old comic books, they watched a group of pro-

testers rush past them, they were followed by about two dozen uniformed and plainclothes police men—all wearing protective masks, and then they experienced tear gas. After ducking into a nearby hotel lobby and washing their eyes and faces, they had to find another way back to their flat.



After their exciting time in Istanbul, they all went to Cambridge University; both Kyle and Emine were invited to present papers at the university's Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies. The Skilliter Centre hosts an annual workshop devoted to different themes in Turkish studies, and the July 2013 theme was "The Ottomans and health: a comparative perspective." While in England, they also made use of the archival holdings found at the Wellcome Trust's famous medical history library located in London. Over the coming year, Kyle and Emine hope to complete a book manuscript based on their research into the historical geographies of disease, public health, and nation-building in the early Turkish republic.



Arika Ligmann-Zielinska

Assistant Professor



Over the last couple of years, I have been involved in two separate research projects on dynamic spatial modeling. Both projects utilize agent-based modeling (ABM), in which individuals like farmers, residents, and households are represented by independent entities making decisions which directly or indirectly affect their commonly shared environment. The fundamental principle that guides my ABM development states that models should not be measured by how closely their results match reality but by how much they reduce uncertainty about the future. Hence my core research addresses the issue of uncertainty embedded in models that represent social and environmental phenomena like land use change, the dynamics of water quality, and the obesity prevalence. Although my ABM applications span a wide variety of fields, like land science, landscape ecology, and medical geography, what they share in common is the complexity of systems in which they are embedded. Such systems are usually poorly predictable and full of surprises, since they involve interrelationships between humans, society, and the environment that vary over space and time. Knowledge about consequences of abrupt shifts and long-term changes in such systems is critical if we want to manage them in a sustainable way. Consequently, my research involves building tools that simplify these management decisions.

One example involves an NSF-funded project that focuses on simulating how farmer decisions on land conservation influence water quality of inland lakes in southwest Michigan. In collaboration with a group of aquatic ecologists, conservation biologists, and economists, my students and I built an integrated ABM-lake model, in

which farmer agents choose to enroll a portion of their land into a selected federal program aimed at protecting natural resources. So far, our research has revealed that the return on investment in such programs is maximized when the decision to withdraw land from production is carefully evaluated against the spatially-dependent environmental benefits. Enrollment of smaller portions of land located in biophysically vulnerable sites results in higher water quality than purely economic maximization of total land enrolled.

My second research project, funded by Faculty Initiatives Fund (MSU), concerns the influence of urban form on the dynamics of obesity in San Diego metropolitan area. Based on the results of an empirically-rich ABM, we inferred that accessibility to physical activity, neighborhood safety, and walkability significantly influence the magnitude of success of public health interventions aimed at obesity reduction.

I have also been busy developing my teaching curriculum. Together with Sandy Marquart-Pyatt (Sociology, MSU) and Laura Schmitt Olabisi (Community Sustainability, MSU), I contributed to a new interdepartmental graduate-level program called *Modeling Environmental and Social Systems* (MESS), launched by Environmental Science and Policy Program (MSU) in fall 2013. MESS courses expose students to cutting-edge modeling for addressing socio-environmental issues. The objective is to build a solid foundation in the theory of models and complex systems and provide experience with model design, development, and evaluation. As part of the MESS initiative, I designed and implemented a foundational course on modeling principles and challenges. I also constantly continue to improve my course on *Geosimulation*. Selected laboratory exercises from this course have recently been published in a free e-workbook entitled *Agent Analyst: Agent-Based Modeling in ArcGIS*.

Lifeng Luo

Assistant Professor



The year 2013 was my fourth year as an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at Michigan State University. I have really enjoyed working and living in the Central Michigan

area, and my research and teaching are continuously moving forward with some exciting highlights.

After completing a three-year collaborative project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), I now lead another NOAA project to develop best practice procedures for advancing sub-seasonal and seasonal hydrological predictions over the US. It was exciting to see that our experimental drought prediction system successfully predicted the 2012 US drought over the Central Plains and the flash drought over the Midwest during August 2013. This research has been continuously supporting US drought briefing activities at NOAA.

On the climate change front, I have been collaborating with Prof. Zhong and researchers at the US Forest Service to study the impact of climate change on wildfire risks over the Western US. Our study suggested that climate change may favor larger and more destructive wildfires in the American West in the future as future lower atmospheric conditions may be conducive to larger and more extreme wildfires. Our findings were published in the *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, and have received wide attentions from the public media, including a research highlight in the *Discover Magazine*.

In 2013, my collaborators and I also started a NASA-funded project to develop an integrated statistical-dynamical approach for downscaling

large scale soil moisture observations. This work is to prepare for the forthcoming NASA SMAP (Soil Moisture Active and Passive) Mission to obtain high resolution soil moisture information based on satellite remote sensing and hydrological modeling. We are very excited about this work and are working hard to achieve our project goals.

Additional to teaching courses on *Introduction to Meteorology* and *Severe and Hazardous Weather* at MSU, I was also invited to teach at the “2013 International Training Workshop on Extreme Weather and Climate Events: Detection, monitoring, prediction and risk management for developing countries”. The workshop was hosted by the International Center for Climate and Environment Sciences (ICES) and the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. Sixty participants were from 14 developing countries, including Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh in South Asia, and Egypt, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda in Africa. I really enjoyed teaching at the workshop, not only because it helps to enhance the capacity building for developing countries to tackle issues related to extreme weather and climate events, but also because I was able to make a lot of friends from other parts of the world.

During 2013, I was also active in serving the research community and establishing collaborations with other institutions. In July, I co-organized an AGU Chapman Conference on seasonal to interannual hydroclimate forecasts in Portland, OR, and in December, I convened and chaired sessions on Hydroclimatic Extremes at the AGU Fall meeting at San Francisco, and served as the liaison and judge for the Outstanding Student Presentation Award at the meeting. My collaboration with Institutions in China was reinforced by hosting three Chinese visiting scholars from Hohai University, Beijing Normal University, and Nanjing University of Information

Science and Technology. They worked really hard during their visits and thoroughly enjoyed the interaction with other graduate students and faculty members.

Looking ahead, 2014 will be another challenging year. Besides working hard in doing research and teaching, I am also looking forward to traveling to places to which I haven't been. I have stepped on five continents, including Antarctica. My next destinations are Africa and Australia.

Randy Schaetzl

Professor

Greetings from East Lansing where college football has regained its rightful and rosy place as the king of sport. OK, maybe not *king*, but at least it's fun when we are winning.

I have been busy with the usual activities, teaching, research, etc. Lately, I have been mostly studying loess in the upper Midwest, particularly regarding its spatial attributes. Much of this work has been done with and by my recent MS students Kristy Gruley (now in the PhD program at UW-Madison), Mike Luehmann (in our PhD program), Trevor Hobbs (now at the USFS in Cadillac), and Mike Bigsby (now with Tetra Tech consultants). For example, for many decades it was known that loess in the Midwest had been derived from large rivers that once carried glacial meltwater, such as the Mississippi and Missouri. This remains true. But we have learned that many of the smaller and thinner loess deposits in the upper Midwest have been derived from different sources - recently deglaciated landscapes such as outwash plains, lake plains, meltwater channels and moraines. This work is highly geographic, and gives credence to the longstanding notion that geography matters.

As a result of this work, I have been getting increasingly involved in the INQUA Loess Focus Group – a cadre of international researchers who study loess and who mainly reside in Europe and Asia. At two recent meetings (Novi Sad, Serbia and Leicester, England), I was one of the few Americans in attendance. They have great loess over there, and if things go well, I will be able to show them some of ours, as I am organizing a Loess Focus Group meeting in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, in 2016. Join us.

In order to help the organization, I developed a web site that hosts all of their past newsletters. These “Loess Letters” have been coming out once or twice annually since 1979. Only members of the group get the newsletter, and hence, they are not available in libraries. The web site is, thus, an important archive. The Loess Letter web site is www.loessletter.msu.edu Remember, Loess is More!

I want to also crow a minute about some work that some students and I did a few years ago; we developed a detailed and interactive physiographic map for Michigan. No other state can boast of a physiographic map of this detail. The web site for the map provides data (physiographic region

names, boundaries, definitions, and descriptive data) for 91 physiographic regions in our great state. The web interface enables the user to zoom around the state and explore the regions at a variety of scales. Have a look! www.physiomap.msu.edu

Lastly, as long as we are on the subject of web pages, have a look at my soil profiles web page. It is an archive of soil profile pictures from around the globe. If you have a good one, send it in and I will post it! <http://web2.geo.msu.edu/soilprofiles/>

On the personal side, my wife Julie and I are enjoying life at home with our three daughters, Madeline, Annika and Heidi. Alas, soon we will be empty nesters, but the good news is that at least some of the birds will be just down the street, at MSU. Life is good. Deo gratius.

Best wishes to you and yours from the MSU Geographic community.





David J. Campbell

Professor David J. Campbell passed away on the morning of May 16, 2013 after a long and heroic battle with cancer. He was 65. David Campbell grew up in Wales. He obtained his B.A. in Geography from the University of Bristol U.K., and his A.M. and Ph.D. from Clark University, Worcester, MA. He held a Post-Doctoral position funded by the Rockefeller Foundation at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya from 1976-1979. He served on the faculty at MSU since 1979. From 2000 to 2007 he was Associate Dean for Research in the College of Social Science, MSU. He conducted research and lived in a number of African countries including Kenya, Cameroon, Zimbabwe and Rwanda.

A fellowship has been established in David Campbell's memory to be used for MSU students who wish to travel to Africa to conduct society-environment research. Gifts should be made payable to "Michigan State University" and sent to:

The David Campbell
Memorial Fellowship Fund
c/o CGCEO
Manly Miles Building
1405 S. Harrison Rd, Rm 218
East Lansing, MI 48823

Kenneth E. Corey

The year 2013 was a productive and pleasant year for Professor Corey's scholarship. During the year, he completed a book, *The Global Information Society: Technology, Knowledge and Mobility*. Boulder, Colorado: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2013 (With Aharon Kellerman and Mark I. Wilson). Dr. Corey published several Journal articles and chapters: 1) "The Role of ICT in Arab Spring Movements," *NETCOM, Networks and Communication Studies*, vol. 26, nos. 3-4, 2012, pages 343-356 (with Mark I. Wilson). Published December 2013. 2) "Planning and Implementing Capital Cities – Lessons from the Past and Prospects for Intelligent Development in the Future: The Case of Korea," *Logos: Philosophical and Literary Journal*. Guest Editor, Vadim Rossman, No. 4 [94] (2013), pages 168-190. Online. Available at: <http://www.intelros.ru/category/logos> (Reprint Translated into Russian). 3) "Cities, Technologies and Economic Change," Chapter in *Cities and Economic Change*. Editors Ronan Paddison and Thomas Hutton. London and Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications. (Forthcoming 2014) (In press) (with Mark I. Wilson and Peilei Fan).

In 2013, Professor Corey finished his commitments on two grants funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration to the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development: "University Center for Regional Economic Development Innovation.", and "Creating an Innovative Regional Infrastructure Exporting to Support Market Entry and Expansion for Small and Medium Businesses."

In May and June of 2013, Professor Corey finished the field work for his continuing research into the planned revitalization of a local regional economy in Newfoundland, Canada. This regional planning initiative is being executed by the Shorefast Foun-

ation. Corey's research, to date, culminated in the completion of a working paper in December 2013. It is entitled *A Model for Rural Development: An Experiment from Fogo Island, Newfoundland*. This project is being conducted with MSU Professor Mark Wilson and Marie J. Corey.

Professor Corey is continuing to chair the Award Committee for the Dr. Gill-Chin Lim Global Award. It is presented every other year by the Consortium on Development of Seoul, Korea. In 2014, the Award will be made in the Fall.

In May 2013, Professor Corey retired from active university service and became Professor Emeritus of Geography; Professor Emeritus of Urban & Regional Planning; and Dean Emeritus of the College of Social Science at Michigan State University.

Jay Harman

Jay R. Harman once again taught his course, *Environmental Ethics*, in the Department during the fall semester, and at this point is committed to teach it again during fall, 2014. Despite his insistence that each year is his last in



the classroom, strong encouragement from colleagues and positive reviews from students have so far been successful at persuading him that pulling the proverbial plug on it just yet would be ill-advised. He remarks that as long as he feels he can make a difference in the classroom and hasn't fully succumbed to dementia, he is likely to continue to listen to such arguments from faculty colleagues for at least a while longer.

In another professional matter, he reports having finally submitted a manuscript for publication that he has

been working on (and off) over the last 5 years. It addresses what he calls “the imperiled status of truthfulness” in American political discourse and considers the adverse impacts such untruthfulness has on civil society and our democratic institutions. It’s a far cry from geography but not such a leap from other matters of environmental ethics, and what it may lack in rigor it makes up for in passion. He doubts that even one copy will ever sell but views its message as essential to his wider classroom themes, and, anyway, argues that as a citizen of good standing in geezerdom he is entitled to have his say, come what may. So there.

On a personal level, he and his wife and their two daughters took an extended (two-week) vacation tour of eastern China this past June, visiting many sights he and his wife had seen before, mixed with new sights along the way. They had been wanting to take their two daughters back to see their country of origin for some time, and now that both are in high school this seemed like the time to do it. They report that of all the many things that could have gone wrong on such an ambitious trip, hardly any of them did. Mostly, they met friendly, helpful people and saw some amazing sights. High points included seeing the karst province of Guangxi and riding the high-speed rail network on several legs of the trip.

Otherwise, he reports on the usual pursuits at home: gardening, keeping his bees (an average year), tending to their orchard (a most bountiful season), and keeping up with the girls in their activities. He has continued his involvement in a New Horizons community band, having dusted off his trombone that had not been touched in nearly 50 years. Revisiting an old skill as a geezer that had been developed as a youth offers its own challenges not to be tackled by the faint of heart.

As always, he looks forward to hearing from former students or

friends, and wishes you well wherever you are.

Assefa Mehretu

Assefa Mehretu has been Professor Emeritus of Geography since May 2012 upon completion of his consultancy year. In July 2012, he took a half-time position as Interim Assistant Dean for Educational Programming at the MSU Center for International Studies and Programs (ISP). He splits his time between his Geography office and ISP. He continues to write and to give presentations at professional meetings on issues of African urbanization and development with particular focus on Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. His post-retirement publications include one chapter in an edited book, and three peer-reviewed articles (see below). He continues to lead the Social Science in Rome study abroad program. He takes 20 to 24 students every summer. He has done that every summer since 1992.



Among his duties at ISP are overseeing the Center’s educational programs with a special responsibility to advance the internationalization of MSU’s undergraduate offerings. This includes working with area and thematic study center Directors at ISP to develop integrative minors as transcriptable offerings for undergraduates. He is also responsible for the oversight and performance review of units for external programs at ISP. Since fall 2012, he has chaired three search committees and one five-year performance review. His outreach

activities include serving as Executive Director of the Ethiopian American Foundation (EAF), a tax exempt national organization for higher education. The purpose of EAF is to offer financial support for research to graduate students and faculty in Ethiopian colleges and universities. Upon completing his tour of duties at ISP, he plans to devote his time to continue to lead the study abroad program in Rome, write papers and conference presentations on Africa, and complete a manuscript for a book on conflicting narratives on the modernization of Ethiopia. He will also continue his outreach activities in directing EAF.

“Delegitimizing Multicultural Collective Identity in Ethiopia: A Critical Reflection on Ethnic Federalism.” *Horn of Africa*, Volume XXIX, 2011, pp. 64-82. (Published in late 2012).

“Ethnic Federalism and its Potential to Dismember the Ethiopian State.” *Progress in Development Studies*, Volume 12, Nos. 2&3 (2012), pp. 113-133.

“Residential Marginality, Erasure and Intractability in Addis Ababa,” with Tegegne Gebre Egziabher, in Igor Vojnovic, ed., *Sustainable Urbanization*, (East Lansing, Michigan State University Press, 2013) pp. 205-308.

“Partners for Progress and Modernization: Rise and Fall of America’s Soft-Power Relations with Ethiopia” *East African Social Science Research Review*, Volume XXIX, No. 2 (2013), pp. 51-77.

Judy Olson

Judy Olson, Professor Emerita, says she doesn’t want moss to grow under her feet (or over them) for a long time yet. She keeps busy with volunteer work, including the Ingham Immigration Coalition and other social justice activities, as well as coordinating the annual Geo Career and Internship Event. Her travel highlight of the year was a trip to India and Nepal, led by former Peace Corps volunteers. In

addition to seeing New Delhi, Old Delhi, Agra (Taj Mahal), Jaipur, Kathmandu, Chitwan, and Pokhara, the group stopped at the village of Charoudi, served by one of the volunteers who has stayed in touch with the people with whom he collaborated as a volunteer to set up an agricultural cooperative. A Mt. Everest fly-by to see the Himalayas was about as up close and personal as a non-climber, non-trekker can get.



A lowlight for the year was nearly 10 days without electricity over the Christmas holiday, saved by a very generous neighbor who offered warm housing and good fellowship for the duration (and there were no broken pipes).

Robert Thomas

Although Bob stopped teaching on a regular basis in the early 1990s (he refuses to use the expression retirement) he remains very active within the department. He has sponsored several programs through the Institute of International Studies, organizing overseas programs for our students in such locations as Queretaro and Merida in Mexico, Dominican Republic and Cuba. In addition, Professor Thomas has been active producing several books. His initial effort documented his many travels throughout Latin America and the Caribbean during the last fifty years. These travels were published by an Educational Publisher under the title, "Latin America, An Autobiographical Sketch by a Career Geographer." He also completed an additional short text on his exploits in the Caribbean, "The Caribbean: Its Historic and Geographic Perspective." At present he is nearing completion on an additional text which describes and analyzes the banana industry of Latin America and the Caribbean.

About fifteen years ago Bob and his wife, Dorothy, set aside funds to organize the Gamma Theta Epsilon Geography Development Fund. The purpose of the fund is to generate

money to assist our graduate students in attending AAG meetings, where they present their research findings. Through their original contributions and your generous donations there is approximately \$60,000 in the GTU Fund at this time. Only the interest generated by the GTU Fund is used for the students each year. Your contributions continue to be greatly appreciated.



If you are interested in making a contribution, please make your check payable to MSU, include a note in the memo line for GTU, and mail it to Alan Arbogast at the Department of Geography.

Bob frequents the office on a daily basis and can be contacted through his email address: thomasr7@msu.edu or at his office phone: 517-353-1668. If you are on campus, please make a point to stop for a visit.

MEET POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

GEOGRAPHY CAREER AND INTERNSHIP EVENT

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014
2:30PM-4:30PM
BESSEY HALL - ROOM 108

Hear about job prospects, what people in geography careers do, and more...

Snacks provided
Handicapper accessible
Questions: olsonj@msu.edu

MAP your FUTURE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

FOLLOW US: <http://geo.msu.edu>

[@GEOatMSU](https://www.facebook.com/GEOatMSU)

[MSUGeography](https://twitter.com/MSUGeography)

2013 Career & Internship Event

The 2013 Geography Career & Internship Event, our largest to date, was held on Friday, March 15, 2013. At the beginning of the Event, our twenty-eight alumni and others in geography-related employment each gave a one-minute introduction, a rapid-fire set of information that gave a highly informative view of the variety of careers available to spatially-minded people. Following the introductions, all of our guests moved to their assigned tables where students could seek them out for face-to-face conversations. Some students carried resumes and were looking for positions; many others asked questions to learn more about what geographers do in the world of employment. Our guests came from Grand Rapids, the Lansing area, Ann Arbor, and the Detroit area. The entities represented are listed in the sidebar.

Given the growth of the Geography Career & Internship Event in recent years, we held the 2013 Event in Bessey Hall, a more spacious and centrally-located venue than in the past. As I write, we are getting ready for this year's Event, continuing with our Bessey Hall venue and our now traditional date of the Friday after Spring Break, which is March 14, 2014. The Event is from 2:30-4:30 PM, and we welcome the presence of alumni at the Event as well as interested students from any major and any college or university! If you will be in the area and would like to be on our list of potential representatives, please contact me; there are still a few slots available. Judy Olson <olsonj@msu.edu>



▶ Left: John Nelson , UX & Mapping Manager, and George Siegle, Director of Marketing, ready to talk to students about IDV Solutions.
 ▶ Right: Melinda Dickinson, Fifth Grade Teacher at Sheridan Road School and Teacher Consultant with the Michigan Geographic Alliance.
 ▶ Below: Ed Dempsey with students interested in Prein & Newhof.



▶ Below: Cristina Benton, Community Development Assistant at East Lansing Planning and Community Development, explains a current project.



▶ Below: Garth Banninga, discussing the Michigan Department of Transportation Statewide Model Unit.



- Ducks Unlimited**
- East Lansing Planning Department**
- IDV Solutions**
- Institute of Water Research at MSU**
- Map Library, MSU**
- MDNR (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)**
- MDOT(Michigan Department of Transportation)--**
 Project Planning and Environmental Section
- MDOT--Statewide Planning**
- Michigan Center for Shared Solutions**
 and Technology Partnerships
- Michigan Geographic Alliance**
- Michigan State Historic Preservation Office**
- Michigan State Police Emergency Management Div.**
- Michigan Tech Research Institute (MTRI)**
- MSU Career Services**
- MSU College of Social Science Internship and**
 Service Learning Program
- MSU College of Social Science Study Away Program**
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency**
- OnStar Location-Based Services**
- Peace Corps**
- Pitney Bowes Business Insight**
- Prein & Newhof**
- Remote Sensing and GIS Research**
 and Outreach Services at MSU
- Sheridan Road Elementary School**
- Student Conservation Association**
- Tri-County Planning Commission**
- U. S. Geological Survey**

Geo Camp



A recent tradition for MSU Geography is GeoCamp: just before the Fall Semester starts a couple of faculty and one current graduate student bring all new graduate students on a two-day expedition into the wilds of Michigan. Many of our students have never spent time in Michigan, and it's an opportunity to learn firsthand about our state's physical and human geography while also getting to know each other before the semester gets underway.

This past August, GeoCamp was hosted by Professors Ashton Shortridge and Catherine Yansa with help from PhD Student Steve Schultze. The GeoCampers arrived at Wa Wa Sum, a beautiful century-old fishing camp perched on a bluff above the AuSable River near Grayling. Professor Yansa took us through old-

growth white pines and discussed the logging era's lasting environmental and social impact, and the later regrowth of the much different forest that covers upper Michigan today. We also visited an old CCC camp at Higgins Lake, where millions of trees were sprouted in the 1930's and later planted in the region's then-barren hills. One camp highlight was learning to identify poison ivy (!). We cooked our meals in what might have been the smallest group kitchen we had ever seen, and played cards and chatted late into the night. Perhaps our most relaxing times were spent tubing and canoeing along the AuSable, or hanging out on the big porch overlooking the river. Overall GeoCamp was a fantastic and very cultural "up north" experience, and it got the semester off to a great start. Wa Wa Sum seems pretty hard to beat, but if you have any ideas for future GeoCamp locations, let us know!



► Below: L to R: Wei Liu, Catherine Yansa, Chris Connallon, Jen Kettle, Maura Casey, Caitlin Clark, Jordan Hess, Lual Awan, Brad Peter, Ashton Shortridge, Ameen Kadhim, Peiling Zhou, and Steve Schultze.



GEO/GTU Reception 2013



► GTU Initiates: 1st Row: Libbey Kutch, Valerie Morel, Anne Scobell. 2nd Row: Peter Koh, Tanita Suepa, Siam Lawawirojwong, Breanne Timm. 3rd Row: Jordan Parks, Scott Hawkins, Ralph Broad, John Slagle, Josh Vertalka, Fatima Barry. Not Pictured: Matthew Sierawski.



► Graduating seniors who attended the reception: Ralph Broad, Scott Hawkins, Hannah Morris, Jordan Parks, Charlene Arney, Jenifer Fisher.



► Geography faculty who participated in the presentation of the history and symbolism of Gamma Theta Upsilon. L to R: Nathan Moore, Assefa Mehretu, Sue Grady, Harm de Blij, Igor Vojnovic, Sharon Zhong, Jay Harman, Jeff Andresen, Julie Winkler, Lifeng Luo, Ashton Shortridge, Bruce Pigozzi, Cynthia Simmons, Joe Messina, Arika Ligmann-Zielinska, Alan Arbogast, Joe Darden. Seated: Judy Olson, Morris Thomas, Dave Lusch.



► Left: Graduate students Jay Strahan and Josh Vertalka entertained us with Triple G's yearly highlights.
 ► Bottom Left: Claudia Brown, Geo's Business Manager, is assisted with the door prize drawing by Geography Alumni Lt. Col Tim Densham.
 ► Bottom Right: Door prize winner, Breanne Timm, new GTU Initiate.



Award Winners



► Left: Dr. Harm de Blij with Graduate of the Year, Minting Ye.
 ► Right: Undergrad of the Year was Ben Arnosti. Ben's parents accepted the award on his behalf. Dr. de Blij is the contributing donor of the E. James Potchen Awards which funds the Grad and Undergrad Awards.



► Ellis Adams & Fatima Barry were awarded the Marjorie and Lawrence Sommers Fellowship for International Research and Travel. Presented by Dr. and Mrs. Sommers' daughter, Laurie Sommers.



► Professor Julie Winkler presented the Cultural Geographer of the Year Award to Ralph Broad.

GRADUATE RESEARCH PRESENTATION
 COMPETITION WINNERS:
 Ellis Adams
 Michael Luehmann
 Jay Strahan

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES 2013

Spring 2013 Geography BS

Charlene Arney
Benjamin Arnosti
Matthew Fitzsimons
Emily Samuelson

Geography BA Additional Major

Catalina Alfaro
Rebecca Grobelski
Jacob Makowski

GISci BS

Jenifer Fisher
Jasmine Kumar
Gabriel Mcgiveron
Hannah Morris

GISci BS Additional Major

Charlene Arney
Benjamin Arnosti

Summer 2013 Geography BA

Husain Alfaiikawi

Geography BS

Ralph Broad
Derek Ottenbaker

GISci BS

Douglas Cole
Scott Hawkins

Fall 2013 Geography BA

Mark Leonard

GISci BS

Peter Ferrini
Kokouvi Kouwoaye

GRADUATE STUDENT DEGREES COMPLETED IN 2013

Adams, Kristin, MS (Catherine Yansa), "Using GIS to Assess Faunmap and Determine Geographic Range Characteristics of Mammoths and Mastodons, Great Lakes, USA."

Doubler, Dana, MS (Julie Winkler), "A NARR Derived Low-Level Jet Climatology over North America."

Howell, Jordan, PhD (Kyle Evered), "Technology and Place: A Geography of Waste-to-Energy in the United States."

Keener, Alison, MS (Catherine Yansa), "Natural Landscape Drivers of Total Phosphorus Concentrations in Michigan Lakes."

Kopack, Robert, MS (Kyle Evered), "Monuments and Memory in the Landscapes of Kazakhstan."

Kotval-Karamchandani, Zeenat, PhD (Igor Vojnovic), "The Built Environment, Travel Patterns and Environmental Burdens: A Study of Six Neighborhoods in the Detroit, Michigan Region."

Lawawirojwong, Siam, PhD (Jiaguo Qi), "Soft Supervised Self-organizing Mapping (3SOM) for Improving Land Cover Classification with Modis Time-Series."

LeDoux, Timothy, PhD (Igor Vojnovic), "The Dynamics and Impacts of Retail Supermarket Decentralization in Detroit, Michigan."

McWhorter, Jeremy, MS (Sue Grady), "Examining the Preferences and Perceived Psychological Benefits of Urban Parks by Socioeconomic Status: A Case Study in Lansing, Michigan."

Miller, Bradley, PhD (Randall Schaetzel), "Incorporating Tacit Knowledge of Soil-Landscape Relationships for Digital Soil and Landscape Mapping Applications."

Perdinan, PhD (Julie Winkler), "Crop Production and Future Climate Change in a High Latitude Region: A Case Study for the Upper Great Lakes Region of the United States."

Perkins, Travis, MS-GIS (Ashton Shortridge)

Pollyea, Aaron, MS (Jeffrey Andresen), "Spatial and Temporal Trends of Soil Moisture in the Great Lakes region of the USA, 1900-2008."

Schnakenberg, Gary, PhD (Antoinette WinklerPrins), "What is a farm? Agriculture, Discourse, and Producing Landscapes in St Elizabeth, Jamaica."

Suepa, Tanita, PhD (Jiaguo Qi), "Satellite Time-Series Data for Vegetation Phenology Detection and Environmental Assessment in Southeast Asia."

onGEO Connection

For those of you that read this newsletter regularly, you may have noticed that we like to include an update about onGEO's activities (the branch of the Department dedicated to teaching, managing, and developing our online courses). As you have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, the MSU Geography Department went all-out for Geography Awareness Week this year (during November 2013). Given that we do all of our communication via the internet, onGEO decided to join in this celebration by generating awareness of geography and the MSU Geography Department through our various online social media outlets.

Our graduate student Instructors and onGEO staff each blogged (see our GEOBlog at <http://geoblog.vudat.msu.edu/>) about something that they think is cool or inspiring about geography. They used their post to inspire discussions about a variety of topics, including: flow maps, the use of remote sensing in archaeology, discovering that dad is actually a "geospatial geek" by day, and the journey to becoming a geographer. We also tweeted (@onGEOatMSU) several times each day, sending out fun facts about MSU GEO and geography, in general. And, one of our tweets sharing Juliegh Bookout's blog post (<http://geoblog.vudat.msu.edu/2013/11/geography-awareness-week-how-do-you-fare/>) was retweeted by National Geographic Education (@NatGeoEducation) - reaching their over 22,000 Twitter followers!

We also continued to make posts to the MSU Geo Department's Facebook page and the Facebook groups of our individual courses. This enables us to continue our outreach to students and members of the public about the many and diverse applications of geography in the real world.

Overall, it was a fun way to raise awareness about geography from behind our computers, yet still reach thousands of people! Here is how you can find us via social media and stay in touch with the entire department and onGEO:

- Facebook: 'Like' MSU GEO here: <https://www.facebook.com/MSUGeography> and/or join onGEO's group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ongeo/>.
- Twitter: MSU GEO at: <https://twitter.com/GEOatMSU>; onGEO at: <https://twitter.com/onGEOatMSU>
- GEOBlog: <http://geoblog.vudat.msu.edu/>
- Pinterest: <http://www.pinterest.com/ongeoatmsu/>
- Paper.li at: [Spacing Out \(onGEO Today\)](#)

Enhance your skills for the job you have. Learn new skills for the job you want.

Geographic Information Science courses offer exceptional convenience and value.

The Online Geography (onGEO) group at Michigan State University offers seven-week professional development courses, which can be taken individually or in combination to earn a Professional Certificate.

The Professional Certificate in GIS aims to advance the geospatial tools & technology skill-set of professionals currently working in fields that use geospatial technologies. It is also an excellent opportunity for anyone looking to revamp their current career, earn continuing-education or teaching credits, or simply learn new and marketable skills.

Boost your classroom skills with individual courses, or take all four and earn your Professional GIS Certificate. No previous geography classes required.

- Up to 60 teaching credits
- Seven-week sessions
- Completely online
- Courses qualify for State of Michigan SCECHs and MSU CEUs

Visit: <http://ongeo.msu.edu/certificates/> to learn more and register.

Introducing the de Blij Scholars Program



The Department of Geography is proud to announce the creation of the *de Blij Scholars Program*, and you can ensure its success. Dr. Harm de Blij, who has a long history with the Department of Geography at MSU, generously provided a key level of support to establish the scholarship endowment.

With a goal to establish a \$500,000 endowment to fund 10 competitive scholarships at \$2,500 per student annually, you can begin to see the profound effect this program could have on the Geography Department and our ability to attract talented new students. While any amount toward this fund is appreciated, anyone donating \$25,000 or more will have her or his name added to the title of the endowed Scholars program.

Eligible students may be incoming freshmen or transfer students from other institutions. A major goal will be to enhance the diversity within the department. As long as students remain geography majors and maintain suitable progress toward their degree, they will continue to receive the scholarship until they graduate. “Geography is and always was the most interdisciplinary of disciplines,” writes Harm de Blij, “and our scholarships will strengthen that dimension at MSU.”

Harm de Blij taught at MSU for 10 years in the 1960s and subsequently taught at Marshall University, Georgetown University, the Colorado School of Mines, and the University of Miami. He returned to MSU in 2000 as a Distinguished Hannah Professor. He has authored over 30 books including a number of very popular textbooks and the highly acclaimed *The Power of Place* and *Why Geography Matters - More Than Ever*.

“We believe the *de Blij Scholars Program* is one of the key vehicles we will use in the future to attract excellent students who will contribute to the field of geography for years to come,” said Geography Department Chair Alan Arbogast. “Thanks to Harm de Blij for his leadership in this endeavor, and we have high hopes that alumni will recognize the value of such a program and help us to reach our ultimate goal for the fund.”



Harm de Blij: My Five-Star Professor Who Introduced the Nation to Geography

by Rick Phillips

I can remember every teacher I've ever had. I have their names written down -- from kindergarten throughout college -- in case I should forget. Yet, the list itself continues to remind me of my experiences with each, forever buttressing my memory. I learned to write things down from my favorite professor of all, Dr. Harm de Blij, a world-renowned geographer who managed to make physical geography the most interesting and entertaining class of my education.

While attending the University of Miami in 1978, I enrolled in de Blij's class, held in a stadium-style classroom that seated well over 100 students. Designed like a half-cereal bowl, this mini-auditorium featured the podium down below, and the rows rising 20 long stairs high.

On the first day of class, I chose the back row for my seat, knowing full well that this first-day location would end up my permanent perch for the duration of the course. My back row selection was part paranoia and part cunning: 1) I've learned from Wild Bill Hickok's experience never to sit with my back to the door or anyone else; and 2) I could observe everyone (read: girl) in front of me in this lofty classroom theater.

From what seemed to be 50 yards away and 50 feet beneath me, de Blij would conduct his class, often waving his arms and gesturing throughout every sentence, orchestrating his words to his audience. Totally intrigued by his enthusiasm and passion, the classroom remained focused on its sole performer.

The ardent professor paced his staging area like a seasoned thespian playing Hamlet for the crowd. While lecturing, he peered at his captives as if to extract every last drop of their attention. His stage presence was Olivier-like. His charisma was Churchillian. His wit was Kennedy-esque.

In an especially psyched segment of a lecture, I remember de Blij exhibiting his fervor with pure, extemporaneous exuberance. While explaining the forces of plate tectonics, de Blij rapidly drew a landscape across a blackboard that stretched as wide as a highway billboard. Yet, for the ebullient geographer, it wasn't enough space. Unfazed by the end of the board, he continued onto the brick and across the classroom, diagramming in chalk the true dynamics of earthquake science.

That was the pivotal moment when I decided this guy's efforts were not going to go unrewarded. He captured my interest and never allowed it to escape. His anecdotes expanded the subject of geography into history and sociology and political science and sports. He challenged us to understand the relevancy of geography and to use that knowledge to better comprehend what was going on in the world.

The professor was soon to test his audience with a four-page, mimeographed exam (which I still have after a mere 35 years!) chocked full of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and essay questions. For me, the test was a cinch since de Blij had me completely enthralled in his favorite subject.

A week later while at his podium, de Blij rattled off each student's name from a clutch of tests in his hand, beckoning each collegian to receive firsthand his or her graded exam. Students gathered around him waving their hands like commodities traders to receive back their first assessment. Amidst the bustle, de Blij extended to me my exam while exclaiming with a conceding nod, "Students in the back row don't usually get A's!"

The sight of a bold "94" grade beneath my name on the exam sent me climbing back to my seat in amazement. Had this geography superstar actually noticed me sitting back there in his class? It's only been three weeks? How could he possibly have recognized me in that handout scum as one of his backbenchers?

Now I felt compelled. Challenged. This wiley professor... this psychological genius just guaranteed my "A" in his class. Not for anything he was going to give away, but for throwing down a subliminal gauntlet right at my feet. How could I not deliver him his "A" after calling me an exception to the rule? He knew I couldn't allow him to target me three months later with a retort like, "Well, as I said, students in the back row DON'T get A's!"

The geography master had me totally immersed in his lectures; de Blij delineated his brilliance on multiple levels. He was so entertaining, I would come home from college and regurgitate to my mother his entire class, complete with all his gestures and histrionics. And she was as enthralled as I was, despite the secondhand rendition.

Eighteen years later, it wasn't surprising to see de Blij selected as "Good Morning America's" geography editor. He then explained the topography confronting our soldiers during "Desert Storm" to a geographically-challenged, national audience, and in true fashion, he was spectacular. His passion, energy and drive, I'm sure, made General Norman Swarzkopf proud.

Now a well-decorated professor, de Blij continues to teach geography to students at Michigan State University. Lucky Spartans.

Now, three and a half decades since my greatest course, I salute the professor who profoundly affected my intellect and my appreciation for great pedagogical skill.

Richard (Rick) Phillips is a marketing expert and owner of Phillips & Associates, <http://www.RickPhillipsMarketing.com> a full-service marketing company started in 1982 specializing in retirement communities, real estate developments and business innovation.

Phillips is considered an expert in the field of census building and development of innovative marketing strategies for a wide spectrum of businesses. He has extensive experience as a public relations expert, conducting PR for a major public relations firm in a South Florida city. He has also been an award-winning sportswriter, and a weekly newspaper columnist while maintaining his marketing firm.

2013 IMGS Symposium

Last summer (July 7-12, 2013) the Geography Department hosted the XVth International Medical Geography Symposium at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of Michigan State University. There were 160 health/medical geographer's attending from 26 countries around the world. Travel grants supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) were given to faculty and students working in Brazil, Ghana, India, Malaysia, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philipppians, Senegal, Tanzania and Tunisia. Over the week there were 45 paper sessions with 230 presentations of new research in the field of medical and health geography. A selection of these papers will be highlighted in upcoming Special Issues in the journals Social Science and Medicine and Health and Place.

Dr. Sue Grady, Chair of the IMGS Planning Committee would like to give a special thanks to Libbey Kutch, PhD student who helped with the coordination of the symposium; Geography faculty Dr. Alan Arbogast, Dr. Joe Darden, Dr. Richard Groop, Dr. Joseph Messina, Dr. Bruce Pigozzi and Dr. Leo Zulu for their many hours of service in planning; all of the graduate students who helped during the week; and our exceptional staff Claudia Brown, Judy Reginek, Derek Moy and Wilson Ndovie for their limitless time and support. Please visit the 2013 IMGS website (<http://web2.geo.msu.edu/imgs/index.php>) for more information and photos.



► Dr. Marietta Baba, Dean, College of Soc Sci, MSU



► Dr. June Youatt, Acting Provost of MSU.



► Opening Plenary Session in Kellogg Auditorium.



► Dr. Douglas Richardson, Executive Director Association of American Geographers.



► Banquet Dinner at MSU Stadium Tower.



► Dr. Gerald Rushton, Geography Dept, University of Iowa.



► Fieldtrip to Van Buren State Park led by Dr. Alan Arbogast.



► Pre-Symposium Workshop on GIS and Health in Geo Dept.



► Luncheon in Honor of Dr. John Hunter.



**Eric H. Bauman,
Columbia, Maryland, BA,
1972, MA 1976**

Like producing a fine wine, some things take time, and so it is with me and coming back to MSU. It began several years ago. Through Dan Cheg-widden in University Development, my wife and I established a planned gift for an endowed scholarship fund. With Alex Tripp in the College of Social Science's Dean's Office, I reconnected with Geography and Dr Arbogast.

In my chosen field - energy and environmental, health and safety (EH&S) planning, regulations and management, I use what I learned at MSU every day. I am thankful for outstanding teachers and researchers in both Geography and College of Ag and Natural Resources who provided me with the tools and guidance to succeed.

While completing my BA with High Honors in Geography, I began working for and then leading a state-wide citizen environmental group in Lansing before returning to MSU for my MA with thesis in Geography and minor in Resource Development (essentially creating a study in environmental planning). Along the way I had the good fortune to serve the Governor's Office and MI Dept of Natural Resources on various environmental and land use advisory bodies, like the Michigan Environmental Review Board, and DNR State Land Use

Rules Advisory Committee. My MSU time was also rounded out through a teaching assistant and research assistant opportunities.

In my 35+ years since graduation, I have worked on assessing impacts of copper-nickel mining in northern Minnesota, and many aspects of EH&S for two electric utilities, state government, and as a guest scientist at a national research center near Cologne, Germany. For the last 18 years, I've been involved in EH&S project development with North American electric utilities through an international research institute.

In an upcoming guest lecture at MSU, I will describe how Geography has so much relevance to the energy sector, and to increasing "integrated" solutions to our challenges.

I hope my fellow Alumni will reach out to Dr Arbogast, too. He and I and Alex Tripp have discussed approaches to strengthen alumni service to the department. We've discussed mentoring, linking thesis ideas to real-world needs, jobs and internship referrals through personal contacts, and various on-line and social media. You may also be surprised -- like I was initially -- about all the options for financially supporting MSU.

Thank you to Drs. Chubb, Brunn, Thomas, Winters, and many others in Geography, and Drs. Cutler, Barlowe, Bernstein, and Schmid in CANR for their support, patience, and excellence in teaching.

If any students with interests in energy and EH&S would like to connect, please contact me at ehbauman@aol.com.

Steve Aldrich, PhD 2009

Steve and Rosalie Aldrich had a great 2013, and they learned a great deal. The chief lesson learned was to never again close on a house, move, and have a baby all in the same week (well, we took 8 days). Some life lessons are best learned by experiencing an insanity one never wants to relive. However, it was a very exciting week and culminated in the birth of Eliza in mid-March! Her older brother, Harrison (now 2.5yrs old), adores her (so do we) and all are doing well in Indiana.

Steve continues working at Indiana State University, and recently developed his first online class (applying some of the more practical skills learned as an online instructor -- thanks MSU!). Rosalie is a tenure-track faculty member at Indiana University-East, and teaches online and in-person classes in Health Communication. We're all healthy, happy, and thrilled with the Spartan Rose Bowl victory!

Le Roy G. Barnett PhD 1979

Back during the Great Depression, the WPA undertook a number of projects for the purpose of giving work to the unemployed. One of these endeavors was an effort to identify the early products of the American press (called "imprints"). For Michigan, this involved attempting to account for nearly everything generated by set type across our two peninsulas prior to 1877*. The findings of this enterprise for the period 1796-1850 were released in 1942, with a plan to publish the remainder of the bibliography soon thereafter. Unfortunately, World War II interrupted this schedule, and after the end of hostilities, interest in the exercise waned. The documents created by the study were put in storage and pretty much forgotten. Years later I found the WPA work slips for the unfinished portion of this project at

an archive in Ann Arbor, and decided to try to complete Volume Two of the survey. After about three years of organizing the papers and entering data, the contents for the delayed companion work are in finished form. This fall--seventy years after its intended debut--the Michigan State University Library published the last volume of Michigan Imprints, 1851-1876.

*Maps were excluded from the scope of the inquiry, but they can be found in my Michigan volume of Checklist of Printed Maps of the Middle West to 1900.

Wally Elton, PhD 1970

Wally Elton retired in 2011 from a career with various conservation nonprofit organizations focused particularly on building trails, including serving as executive director of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance in Vermont/New Hampshire. He now lives in Saratoga Springs, NY, and still devotes much of his time to helping that small and thriving city become a model pedestrian- and bicyclist-friendly community. He also remains in touch with Jay Harman, his advisor at MSU, and Phil Hathaway, a fellow grad student. He can be reached at wally.elton@earthlink.net.

Lisa Dershowitz, BA 2012

Since graduating from MSU in 2012 I have continued on to get my masters at Miami University in Ohio. I am continuing my studies in the Geography Department where I focus mainly on sustainable tourism and trails. I have been involved with several exciting things in our department from volunteering in Cincinnati, to helping put on an event featuring "Jeopardy" winner Ken Jennings. This past summer I was fortunate enough to travel to Israel where I conducted my thesis research on the trails of Israel. I was able to spend part of my time in the north on the Jesus Trail and the majority of my time in the Negev Desert exploring the Israel National Trail. During my research I was invited to speak in a

Geography class at the University of Haifa and also help to mark a new trail for hikers in the South. Now I look forward to presenting at the upcoming AAG conference in Tampa, finishing my degree, graduation, and finding a job in the real world; all of which would have not been possible had it not been for my time at MSU.

Jenifer Fisher BS 2013 Geographic Information Science

I still feel like I just left Geography, but I have been at my job at Consumers Energy for a few years. It is a really weird feeling, but I love it! Things have been going great here and I could not have done it without the aid of the GIS program. Over the 2013 holidays, during the massive ice storm that hit Lower Michigan, I volunteered to step out of my comfort zone and my normal abilities in natural gas mapping, to help out with the electric side. I gave up sleep and time with my family to be a part of the COLOSSAL process of getting people's power back and making them safe again from this record-breaking wire-snapping storm. During the outage, I learned how much of a team effort everything is and needs to be, met some great people, and learned of some flaws in their current GIS. Because of the knowledge I have gained through MSU, my brain constantly wandered to what we could do to improve the GIS system. What could make storm processes flow more efficiently? What tools could we use to enhance our reliability? Overall, what could make the company BETTER? Thank you MSU Geography for opening my eyes and giving me the tools I need to help me, help others.

Darren Grafius, BS 2005 Geo, Specialization: Spatial Information Processing

Darren Grafius' job search achieved victory in November 2013 when he began work as a post-doctoral research fellow at Cranfield University in the United Kingdom. There he will be

conducting environmental modelling of urban green spaces as part of an interdisciplinary project titled 'Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service Sustainability' (BESS). He is delighted to have his post-doctoral career kicking off in such an exciting position that is sure to keep him busy and impart many new skills. Darren graduated from the MSU Department of Geography in December 2005, before going on to get his doctorate in Geography from the University of Iowa.

Geoff Hatchard, BS 2000

In late February, I'll be starting a new job with Apple as a cartographer in their Maps division. I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to directly shape the look and feel of an application that is used by millions of people around the world for directions, exploration, and other geographic pursuits. My goal is to ensure that the data behind that application is as accurate as possible. It will be the first time I'll be using my geography and cartography skills in a way that's completely digital (that is, without any print-related components). The position is at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, CA, which means I'll be moving from Washington, DC, my home for the last 10 years. My wife and I have made many friends there, and we will miss the great sense of community and excitement, but hope to find something similar in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Denny Hausker, BS 1969

I graduated from MSU December 1969 just in time to be drafted in the #1 position, head into the US Army and go on to the Vietnam War. I was fortunate to return uninjured, other than from Agent Orange. I'm retired, and have been since 2003, so I can't say there are significant events to report this last year. I currently write books of fiction (epic fantasy). I occasionally come to East Lansing for lunch since I'm a donor, and to meet with a writing professor, I think you call them rhetoric? As far as Spartan sports, I've been a fanatic forever.

I very much enjoyed my trip with friends down to the Big Ten Football championship game. Those Buckeyes really didn't think it was possible that they could lose that game. I've never seen a stadium empty so fast. They sprinted out of their seats and out the door after MSU won!

Trevor Hobbs, MS 2009



Since summer 2012, I've been fortunate to work as a guest scientist with the U.S. Forest Service in Cadillac, MI. The position allows me the freedom to design and execute a variety of applied research projects related to Forest Service management goals. Examples of such projects include: mapping and inventorying sand and gravel pits using a combination of GIS, Google Earth and spherical panoramic photography; looking at land use legacies in relation to soil characteristics and the success (or failure) of prairie restoration; assessing the impact of acid deposition on sandy, nutrient-poor forest soils; and mapping groundwater dependent ecosystems. My guest scientist position with the Forest Service will continue through 2014.

I also teach an occasional online physical geography course for Central Michigan University. And beyond that, I'm still making records and touring the country with my band Breathe Owl Breathe. This summer we'll celebrate our 10-year anniversary! In all of this work, from GIS to soils, online teaching to managing in the music business, I rely heavily on the skills and experiences I gained as a geography grad at MSU.

I'm also happy to announce that my wife Katy and I had our first baby, a girl named Sylvia, this past December!

Jennifer Holmstadt MS 2008

I am a geomorphologist and project manager for Tetra Tech Inc., an environmental consulting firm. Our team applies geomorphic principles to solve a wide range of environmental problems. Presently, our team uses geomorphology to assess pipeline integrity at streams and along slopes for companies that operate crude oil pipelines. We collect and analyze publicly available datasets (i.e. DEMs, soils, aerial photos, hydrographic data, etc.) to determine baseline conditions at slopes and streams along pipelines. Field assessments are conducted at each location to confirm baseline conditions and provide additional information not available in a desktop review.

We also use geomorphology to determine the vertical and spatial extent of contaminated sediments and soils in streams and floodplains. For example, our team was involved in the Kalamazoo River crude oil spill cleanup. For that project, we used fluvial geomorphology principles to find and mitigate submerged oil. Geomorphic surfaces were delineated using variables such as sediment type, water depth, geomorphic setting, etc. These variables were also used to inform a hydrodynamic model used to determine sediment transport downstream of the Morrow Lake Dam.

Bobby Kopack, MS 2013

Happy New Year MSU Geographers,

Since finishing my studies on Bogue Street in East Lansing, I've made a bittersweet departure for Canada to begin PhD work at the University of Toronto. Bitter, because I have left the academic community of MSU that is dear to me, and sweet, because my affiliation with MSU Geography is a proud reminder of an outstanding academic

lineage that follows me. I was recently reminded of how close, in fact, I still am to MSU while lunching with Dr. Catherine Yansa and PhD candidate Albert Fulton at a UT soils lab.



My course work here is moving along swiftly, and I hope to take comprehensive exams in October of this year. Building on research that I conducted in Kazakhstan while at MSU Geography, for a dissertation project I am beginning to design a research plan that explores the complex spatial dimensions and legacies of the Soviet (now Russian) space program and Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. With luck, I will head out for field research beginning in the summer of 2015—when weather in Central Asia allows for expedient travel. Though, I have been known to spend a winter or two in the southern reaches of Siberia—it's not impossible!

James L. LeBeau PhD 1978

I have been a Full Professor Emeritus of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Southern Illinois University Carbondale since June 1, 2013. My wife and I will continue to reside in Carbondale.

I had a very good and unusual career for a MSU geographer and I am working on having a very good retirement.

Michelle Lee, BS 1998



Michelle recently moved from Atlanta, GA, where she has spent the majority of her days since graduation, to Washington D.C. In addition to routinely singing the MSU Fight Song with other DC-Area Alumni, she recently began working as a Senior Consultant at RSG Inc in Arlington, VA. Michelle has applied her Spartan education and expanded her skills spending the past 13 years as the project manager and GIS specialist on a range of transportation, health, physical activity, survey, planning, utility, and environmental projects. Most recently, Michelle has been responsible for all aspects of the GPS / accelerometer / engine sensor components of several large household travel surveys and physical activity and health studies, most notably the California Statewide Household Travel Survey. For these projects Michelle has been directly responsible for the design, deployment, data processing and analysis and reporting for over 50,000 persons/vehicles with GPS technology.

Michelle graduated from MSU in 1998 with a B.S. in Geography and a specialization in Spatial Information Processing. She was a member of the inaugural class of Certified GIS Professionals in 2003. On weekends she can be found rock climbing (a passion honed at good ol' Grand Ledge, MI), camping and hiking with her dog, Thor.

Jeremy McWhorter MS 2013

This past year was an amazing year, to say the least. To my fortune, I passed my thesis defense in late April and graduated soon thereafter. After finishing at MSU in the Geography Department, I trekked down to Brasil where I completed a FLAS Fellowship to learn Portuguese and conduct research on the forthcoming megavents in that nation. Returning back to the states in August, I struggled to find a job in this tough economy for a month or so, getting by with freelance GIS contract work with local government agencies. Thankfully, around mid-October, I accepted a full-time position with TomTom as a Geographic Field Analyst, operating out of the Detroit Metro Area. To say I enjoy my job would be an understatement. I enjoy the daily challenges and pleasures of keeping the digital geospatial world in touch with reality. Overall, 2013 was an exceptional year, and one I am blessed to have experienced. Here is to an even better 2014 for all of us GEO alumni!

Marina Metes, BS 2012 Earth Science

I finished my year-long AmeriCorps position back in August and now I'm living in Washington DC. I had a fall internship with the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) working mainly on wetland restoration and invasive plant removal. Specifically, I helped with initial surveying of Kudzu along the banks of some smaller tributaries to the Anacostia before it was removed by "Eco Goats". There were about two dozen goats brought in to eat it all!

I also worked a lot on the tidal freshwater wetlands in the lower reaches of the river where it flows through the District. AWS was part of a big study to determine the most effective method of eliminating phragmites through

various herbicide applications on both mowed and unmowed patches. I know Michigan has a lot of problems with phragmites, have you ever worked with it? Of course, the other interns and I were the ones who had to go out into the 14-foot phragmites patches with machetes and heavy duty weed wackers to cut it down - - it was a blast! But we were able to get in some field work by collecting all the baseline data for the study.



I have also been working on earning a GIS certificate through Elmhurst College's online program. I've taken the intro GIS class, Remote Sensing, and Python scripting, with two classes left to go. I'm really enjoying learning it. Last year as an AmeriCorps VISTA, I organized a lot of stream cleanups to remove flood debris from the 1,000-year flood that happened in Nashville in May 2010, and I was just amazed at how much flood debris still remained two years later. It was also alarming to learn that many of the low-income neighborhoods were built in floodplain areas. Since the flood, the floodplains of the Cumberland are being reassessed and many areas which had not previously been considered floodplain are now being considered part of it. I fear that many communities in the DC area, especially those in low-income areas, may be prone to devastating flooding if (or when...) a historic flood occurs in the Chesapeake area. Additionally, I would like to know if stream behaviors will continue to change as sea level rises. Since the Wash-

ington, DC metro area lies along the Potomac River so close to base level, fluctuations in the Chesapeake may impact this area of the river more so than areas further upstream and more inland. So essentially I would like to research the upstream effects of rivers as base level rises and how that may create the potential for areas which are currently not considered floodplain to become inundated if a major flood were to occur, like the one in Nashville.

Bradley Miller, PhD 2013



Guten Tag from Müncheberg, Germany. Müncheberg is a small town (or actually an association of villages) half-way between Berlin and the border with Poland. I am here working on a Cross-Sector Project for the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF). The purpose of the project is to bring together data collected by a variety of projects to examine issues of erosion and carbon storage at the landscape scale. The goal is to be able to detect or predict the degree of erosion/deposition, redoximorphic processes, and soil carbon. ZALF has served as a research and extension institution since the 1920s, primarily focused on improving agriculture in north-east Germany. Addressing ecological issues increased in importance in the late 1980s and was formalized into the center's mission with its reorganization into the Leibniz Association following the German Unification Treaty. ZALF

and its satellite research stations are all on landscapes glaciated during the Weichselian (~25,000 to 13,000 YBP). In addition to outwash plains, the till of the knob and kettle topography is also sandy, making the area similar to Michigan. The major difference is lower precipitation, which means Spodosols are rare. I am enjoying this opportunity to explore different methods of data analysis and experience German culture.

Ritaumaria Pereira PhD 2013

I am a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the Gibbs Land Use and Environment Lab, part of Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies at University of Wisconsin – Madison. Working with Dr. Holly Gibbs, I have lead data collection and analysis for a large project funded by Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.



The project aims to understand the impacts of zero-deforestation policy interventions for soy and cattle in the Brazilian Amazon. With this project, we have been able to interact with policymakers, beef industry and ranchers and, in partnership with Brazilian non-governmental organizations, we have worked to develop solutions, and to inform all sectors involved in the cattle economy, about better practices on the ground to make possible the development of sustainable livestock.

Charles Rader, PhD 1995

Continues to teach Geography, GIScience, and International Studies at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. He is currently working on several mapping projects for local community groups. Next fall, he will lead the university's multi-disciplinary Semester Abroad: Europe program, in which students undertake independent research projects throughout Europe. Charlie will be working with the orientations, project design, and logistics while in Europe. Nancy continues to work for MnGeo (Minnesota GeoSpatial Information Office) as a Senior Analyst specializing in GIS data and intergovernmental coordination. Gromit (the overly inquisitive Jack Russell – Beagle mutt) continually keeps us on our toes. We've had to teach him that library books are not chew toys.

Ivan Ramirez, PhD 2012

This past summer I joined the Interdisciplinary Science Program at Eugene Lang College, The New School in New York City, NY. I am Assistant Professor of Environmental Health and I teach courses, such as Urban Environmental Health, Climate and Society, Introduction to Epidemiology, and Climate Change and Health. As a geographer at The New School, my courses integrate health and medical geography with climate and environmental science. Overall, my role is to better integrate health and environment into a curriculum that connects science and mathematics to civic engagement and urban social justice.

Being in New York City, I have many opportunities to work with the United Nations. One engagement took place on November 21, 2013. It was a guest talk in the UN Council Chamber to 400 students from the Parson's School of Design. The title of the talk was "Visualizing Climate Change, Human Health and Urban Risk". It

was hosted by the Ambassador of Denmark, Jarl Frijs-Madsen, and the Dean of Parsons, Joel Towers. I was one of three speakers that included Shagun Mehrotra of Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy, The New School and John Steelman of the National Resource Defense Council.



More recently, I presented a keynote talk in collaboration with Michael H. Glantz on climate change and mountain communities for a side event during the 7th session of the UN General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS). The event was organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly with the permanent missions of Argentina, Italy, Kyrgyzstan and Peru to the UN. In attendance were diplomats from each of these missions.

On a personal note, Jieun and I are expecting a little one in April. We're very happy. However, we can include that info next year. We'll wait until he arrives!

We hope all is well in East Lansing.

John A. Rorabacher BS 1967; MA, University of Texas at Austin (1970); PhD, University of Minnesota- Minneapolis (1978)

The last three years have been spent researching and writing. Recently, the first of two books that emerged from that three-year exercise was accepted for publication by Manohar Publishers, a largely academic books publisher in India.

I choose to publish in India since that is where my interests lie and where better to get one's message about India out? The current volume is tentatively titled: *Property, Land, Revenue, and Policy: The East India Company, circa 1757-1825*. It deals with the social, political, and economic consequences of the British imposition of European ideas regarding property and ownership on a society where rights to land were based more on custom and multiple rights of use, than on ownership; and the role of British colonialism and the rule of law. The interplay of philosophies, goals, trade, jurisprudence, prejudices, and personalities served to drive the British, in the form of the East India Company, inexorably, toward empire and conquest.

A second volume, *Mithila: The Historical Roots of Backwardness*, is a follow-on work that examines our current concepts of what constitutes 'development' and why the largest concentration of "backward" districts in India exist in the State of Bihar and specifically in the northern half of that state, north of the Ganga River, in a cultural area commonly referred to as Mithila. The real causes of this area's 'backwardness' is seldom addressed by mainstream economic developmentalists nor domestic or international development agencies.

Tiffany Rossi, MA 2004

As I write this, the morning sun is shining over the city of Espoo, Finland (my hometown now of 10 years). The fierce yellow orb floats low over the southern horizon, casting the most beautiful golden tone over my surroundings. Since I first glanced the world through this near-Arctic filter of winter sunshine, I loved it. Simply put, if nostalgia had a color, it would look just like this.



Normally at this time of year we would have snow – lots of it. But this year it would appear that you Michiganders have taken our snow away! The polar vortex that would normally be slamming us with seven months of snowfall seems to have tipped your way. Finns are in protest over this unjust robbery of our snowfall. They sure do love their snow sports. As for this immigrant – I'm loving the warm winter. Selfishly, I'm thankful I don't have to stuff my infant son, screaming at 110 dB the entire time, into snow gear just to get some milk.

I sincerely hope you've enjoyed our generous gift of snowfall this year. Warm regards from Finland!

Emily (Leonard) Rubino BS 2001

I am always glad to hear from MSU GEO. I don't have much to report that is of interest to y'all, but I was thinking of my GEO studies when I drove from Raleigh to Asheville last week to visit the Biltmore. I still love to stare at the landscape and imagine what went into forming it. I live in Houston and we don't have much to speak of in the form of topography. I enjoy hearing about all things GEO, keep up the good work!

L. Crosby Savage III MS 2008

It's been five years since I achieved my Master of Science degree in Geography from Michigan State University. In that time I have followed a career in renewable energy with NextEra Energy Resources, contributing analysis to over 1.3 gigawatts of currently operating wind farms. Over 2013, I have begun to explore new challenges in solar energy, wind turbine performance analysis, and grid infrastructure. My geography background has been very beneficial because of my experience integrating multiple fields to solve a problem, and the universal application of GIS. Personally, 2013 has been a wonderful year. I was promoted to Senior Analyst, and I am now a leader of the solar and storage resource analysis team for my company. I purchased my first home just east of St. Paul, MN, and, most importantly, my wife and I welcomed Lowell Crosby Savage IV, our son and second



child. I look forward to another year full of challenges and continued growth.

As always, thank you MSU-Geography for the great foundation!

Corey Steimel, BA 2009

Greetings Spartan Geographers. We are recently upon a new year, which many look to for a "fresh start" or a "clean slate", to shake off the negativity of last year and pursue a more pure way of life. With a new year comes the infamous New Year's Resolutions, that seem so impossible to keep. How are you doing with yours?

Instead of setting yourself up for failure, use this opportunity to reflect on the past year and ask yourself a few questions; what went well, what went horribly bad, what went O.K., and most importantly why! Recalling your good, bad, and best will only bear growth if you analyze. There is no way you can control your destiny and yield the type of change you desire for your life without taking the time to thoroughly examine and understand yourself and where you are.

Now, to truly set forth on living the life you desire and accomplishing your goals, you must make a plan. When planning anything, it is crucial to formulate quantitative steps to measure your success. There is no objective way to measure or to see if you are on track for getting in shape, or becoming more sophisticated. Instead of hoping to achieve some abstract qualitative goal, define your goal quantitatively, in terms of something you can objectively measure; i.e., each week I will read one article from the publication *Nature* and write a 500 - 700 word analysis on the article, I will run 30 minutes four days a week.

When forming your goals and developing your plan to achieve them, create goals that seem easy! I cannot stress this point enough. Everybody likes winning, and it feels good to accomplish something. On the contrary, no one likes losing, it doesn't feel good, and does not serve as a very good motivator. Start off with a plan toward your goal that seems ridiculously easy, and spend a significant amount of time

nailing this goal. After a period six to eight weeks, once this goal is no longer even the slightest challenge, and is practically an automated process in your routine, then start to build on it. As you slowly build on your plan toward reaching your goal, you allow yourself the opportunity to slowly adapt to the new challenge you are facing, rather than a steep ramp up and a drastic change in behavior that can cause you to be overwhelmed, miss the mark, and become defeated. With focus, hard work, and consistent dedication you can fulfill your destiny.

Corey Steimel is a Quality Assurance Engineer embedded in the Mobile Application Team at TrainingPeaks.com, where he has the opportunity to both manually test and write user interface automated scripts to test TrainingPeaks Mobile, the world's finest athletic training software, on both iOS and Android platforms. Corey is also an Elite Amateur Triathlete in pursuit of the ever coveted USA Triathlon Elite License, with the ambition of racing at the international level.

Stu Pyper, MA 1963

Geography is still very much part of my life even after retiring from Education in 1996. I now volunteer at my grandchildren's school and make monthly presentations about different parts of the world. In retirement my wife and I have made it a big priority to travel and I love to take pictures. In the past few years we have traveled to: Eastern Europe, the Baltic, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, Panama Canal, Peru and Machu Picchu, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, China, Rhine River, Seine River, Turks & Caicos Island, for a total of 55 different countries. We still have plans for many more trips and before we leave, I study each place just as I did back in the days at MSU. (Probably even more.) We love what the maps programs have done as we travel with our iPads.

The schools don't seem to teach much geography any more, however I know one elementary school where the kids get geography every Wednesday, all through the year. stupyper@com-cast.net

Edna Wangui, PhD 2004

Edna Wangui was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure by the Department of Geography at Ohio University.

Sigismund A. Wilson PhD 2010

I obtained a Ph.D. in Geography at Michigan State University in summer 2010. I served as Assistant Professor (term-appointed) at Western Michigan University during the 2010/11 academic year. I joined Rogers State University in Northeastern Oklahoma as Assistant Professor of Geography in fall 2011 and have been instrumental in designing a number of geography courses including Military Geography, World Regional Geography, and Environmental Geography. Despite a heavy teaching load (4-4), I have been actively engaged in research and scholarly presentations focusing on human-environment interactions that incorporates mineral resources with particular reference to Sub-Saharan Africa.

My recent publications include: Wilson, S.A. (2013) "Diamonds Exploitation in Sierra Leone 1930 to 2010: A Resource Curse?" *GeoJournal* 78(6):997-1012; Wilson, S. A. (2013) "Company-Community Conflicts over Diamond Resources in Kono District Sierra Leone", *Society and Natural Resources: An International Journal* 26(3):254-269.2012; Zulu, L. and Wilson, S. (2012) "Whose Minerals, Whose Development? Rhetoric and Reality in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone", *Development and Change* 43(5): 1103-1131; and Wilson, S. and Wilson, C.

(2012) "Modeling the impacts of civil war on land use and land cover change within Kono District, Sierra Leone: A socio-geospatial approach", *Geocarto International* DOI:10.1080/10106049.2012.724456.

Don Zeigler, PhD 1980

Appointed to the position of Chief Reader for College Board's AP Human Geography exam, Don will oversee the "Reading" of over 120,000 exams taken by advanced high school students who have completed the course in Human Geography. The Reading takes place in Cincinnati each June. Readers from both university and high school ranks are needed to do the scoring of essay questions, so please send an email to Don if you are interested in getting involved (dzeigler@odu.edu). The course outline and the exam are put together by the Development Committee, which Don chaired between 2006 and 2009. Don is professor of geography at Old Dominion University in Hampton Roads, Virginia, where he has taught since he graduated from Michigan State in 1980.



Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the recipient of the 2012-2013 ISS Excellence in Teaching Award:

Laura Johnson, Department of Geography

As a graduate student in the Department of Geography Laura Johnson had the opportunity to work as a teaching assistant in ISS310, People and Environment, during three semesters. Her goal was to assist the professor in creating an active and dynamic presence in the online teaching environment by engaging students through a Facebook page and a Blog. She worked with the instructor to explain the reasoning behind each assignment in an effective way, which led to increased enthusiasm on the part of the students.

Congratulations, and thanks to all the nominees for their commitment to providing a valuable learning experience in ISS!

Christina DeJong, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science



THANK YOU !

To all 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 .

Please specify desired fund and make checks payable to:

Michigan State University

Mail to:

Department of Geography
 Geography Building
 673 Auditorium Rd Rm 116
 East Lansing MI 48824

You may make a credit card donation on-line at:
<http://www.geo.msu.edu/giving.html>

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.



Name: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please specify: Alumnus/Degree/Yr _____

\$ _____ Geography at MSU Fund

\$ _____ Geographic Field Experience

\$ _____ Geographic Literacy Fund

\$ _____ The de Blij Geography Scholars

\$ _____ Ian Matley Memorial Fund

\$ _____ GTU/Geography Endowment Fund

The de Blij Geography Scholars

Instituted in 2013 by Harm de Blij and supported by other major donors to award scholarships to promising first-year students who choose to major in Geography at Michigan State University.

Ian Matley Memorial Fund

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

GTU/Geography Endowment Fund

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

E. James Potchen Awards in Geography for Graduate and Undergraduate Students

Established in 2008 by Harm de Blij to fund yearly cash awards for outstanding graduate and undergraduate students based on GPA, progress towards degrees, and other quality indicators such as field work and research.

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.

Marjorie & Lawrence Sommers Geography Graduate Fellowship for International Research & Travel

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

Owen Gregg Endowment for Global Climate Change Research

Established in 2012 to support global climate change science research in the Department of Geography.

Address: _____

Email: _____

Friend of MSU Geography _____

\$ _____ E. James Potchen Awards

\$ _____ Harold A. "Duke" Winters Scholarship

\$ _____ Jay R. Harman Undergrad Scholarship

\$ _____ Marjorie & Lawrence Sommers Int'l Rsch

\$ _____ Owen Gregg Endowment-Global Climate Chg

Spartan Geographer
Department of Geography
Geography Building
673 Auditorium Rd, Rm 116
East Lansing, MI 48824

*MSU is an affirmative action/equal
opportunity employer. OC CNS-0071.5M-BRD-996*

Please contact us

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 keep in touch and provide your contact information. We have been working very hard to update and correct our e-mail and mailing lists. Please notify us whenever you have a change of mailing or e-mail address. This and past newsletters can be viewed on-line at our website, <http://geo.msu.edu/category/newsletters/>

Please join our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/MSUGeography>

Department of Geography
Geography Building
673 Auditorium Rd, Rm 116
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-355-4649
geo@msu.edu

Editors: Alan Arbogast <dunes@msu.edu>
Claudia Brown <browncm1@msu.edu>
Judy Reginek <reginek@msu.edu>