

Department of Geography  
University of North Dakota  
P.O. Box 9020  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9020

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# DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

## Alumni Newsletter

University of North Dakota

Summer 2005

### Chairperson's Corner

Dear Alumni and Friends,

We welcomed two new tenure track faculty over the past year. Dr. Kevin Romig (Ph.D. Arizona State) has a primary interest in urban social geography, and will teach human geography, cartography and computer-assisted mapping, urban geography and planning, political geography, as well as other upper-division/graduate-level courses. Dr. Gregory Vandenberg (Ph.D. Kansas State University) has a primary interest in fluvial geomorphology, and will teach global physical environment, GIS, GPS: Theory and Applications (a new course), as well as other upper-division/graduate-level courses. Both seem to have adapted well and are making significant contributions to our department. Dr. Sudhir Thakur (Ph.D. The Ohio State University) has also been with us for the past year on a temporary appointment, and has recently accepted a tenure track position at California State University-Sacramento. We wish him the best and thank him for his outstanding work this past academic year.

Our on-campus Graduate Certificate in Geographical Information Sciences (GISc) con-

tinues to do well, and we hope to start an on-line version of the same program in the fall. Undergraduate enrollment in courses continues to be strong, and our majors are holding strong. Our graduate enrollment is near capacity. An increasing number of graduate students are presenting papers at professional meetings, which pleases us greatly. Two of our recent graduate students have accepted assistantships in doctoral programs. Faculty research is growing, faculty and students have been active in regional professional meetings, and a number of our students have gained meaningful academic year and summer internships.

Our fall homecoming banquet has been set for Saturday, 1 October 2005. Be there or be square! You can also use that time to visit us in our 'new digs' in O'Kelly-Ireland Hall. Our recent move back to the main part of campus has been absolutely wonderful! Please try to keep the department abreast of your job changes and relocations. We are trying to be more proactive at maintaining a more complete alumni address and e-mail filing system, and we need your help to do so effectively. Please also submit personal information that we might be able to include in the next GTU newsletter.

Dr. Paul Todhunter, Chair

### Geography Forums

The Forum for Contemporary Geographic Issues is held on a regular basis. Every year the Department invites experts in various fields and the past graduates to share their practical job-related experiences with the university students and community members. Last year's contributors include: Md. Shariar Pervez, UND geography graduate student; Charles Geraci, UND geography graduate student; Dr. Geoff DeVerteuil, Department of Geography, University of Manitoba, Dr. Phoebe Stubblefield, UND Department of Anthropology; Dr. Sudhir Thakur, UND Department of Geography; Dr. Rebecca Weaver-Hightower, UND Department of English; and Dr. Baleshwar Thakur, University of New Delhi.

If you would be interested in sharing your professional or job-related experiences with our students and community, please contact us to be a speaker in one of our geography classes, at a Forum for Contemporary Geographic Issues, or the Fall Homecoming Banquet. Please contact Kevin at 701-777-4592 or or one of the other geography faculty.

### Geographic Information Science online

Beginning in Summer 2006, the UND Department of Geography will offer its graduate certificate in Geographic Information Science online. This 12-hour graduate program, open to anyone with a bachelor's degree in any field from an accredited university and a GPA of at least 2.75 (on a 4.0 scale), is designed to provide students with the theoretical knowledge and up-to-date technical skills needed to compete for jobs in the rapidly expanding career field of geospatial technologies. The entire program can be completed in one year. For more information, please contact Dr. Brad Rundquist at (701) 777-4589 or [bradley\\_rundquist@und.nodak.edu](mailto:bradley_rundquist@und.nodak.edu). There are a limited number of seats available, so do not delay.

### Homecoming Banquet set for October 1

The fall homecoming banquet will be held at the Royal Fork in Grand Forks. The dinner will be at 5:30 PM and payment will be at the door. However, if you plan to attend, please let us know by Monday, September 26, 2005, so we can reserve an appropriate size meeting room. We are pleased to announce that Dr. John Coomansingh, Assistant Professor, Division of Social Science, Minot State University will be the banquet speaker. He will present "If It's Not Geography, Then Tell Me What It is?" For more information or to make reservations for the banquet, call Cindy at 701-777-4246 or visit [cindy\\_purpur@und.nodak.edu](mailto:cindy_purpur@und.nodak.edu).

### North Dakota Thematic Atlas Has Been Revised

Publication of a revised edition (2005) of the North Dakota Thematic Atlas: Population, Social, and Economic Dimensions (\$20, 106 p.) has been announced by UND geography professors, Hemmasi and Hansen. For more information, contact the authors at 701-777-4587 or [devon\\_hansen@und.nodak.edu](mailto:devon_hansen@und.nodak.edu) or [mohammad\\_hemmasi@und.nodak.edu](mailto:mohammad_hemmasi@und.nodak.edu).

### Feedback for the Alumni Directory

The Department of Geography continues to update its directory of the alumni for mailing purposes. If you have not done so or need to update your address information, please complete the following form and return to: Department of Geography, UND, Box 9020, Grand Forks, ND 58202 or e-mail us the information: [cindy\\_purpur@und.nodak.edu](mailto:cindy_purpur@und.nodak.edu)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email \_\_\_\_\_

**NEWS ABOUT YOU** for us to share with other alumni in our next issue (information about your current position, significant achievements, family activities, etc)

**Editor's Note:** The Geography Department and GTU were very pleased that so many alumni participated in this past year's department activities. If you have any suggestions that will help us strengthen our ties to alumni, please let us know. If you have any comments or suggestions for items to include in the next year's newsletter, please e-mail me at [devon\\_hansen@und.nodak.edu](mailto:devon_hansen@und.nodak.edu). — Devon Hansen



We celebrated Dr. Douglas Munski's UND Foundation/Bertin C. Gamble Faculty Award for Excellence in Academic Advising on March 1, 2005, in the B.L. Wills Room. Congratulations Dr. Munski! Cutting the cake is Lara Dando, UND Geography alumnae and spouse of new faculty member Greg Vandenberg.

## Geography Faculty and Staff Activities

**Dr. Devon Hansen** continues to be busy with teaching, research, and service activities. She enjoyed teaching the Quantitative Applications in Geography course for the first time at UND during the fall semester. In March, she presented a paper on the Grand Forks flood disaster recovery at the AAG meeting in Denver. Currently, she is working on a paper regarding housing recovery after the 1997 flood and housing affordability issues for the Cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. Last fall, Drs. Hansen and Hemmasi completed a needs assessment and housing market analysis for the Grand Forks Office of Urban Development. Their report was included in the recently released 2005-2009 City of Grand Forks Consolidated Plan for community development.

**Dr. Munski** has become the first faculty member at UND to win a campuswide academic advising award in a century different than the first award being given to him when he received the UND Foundation Bertin C. Gamble Award for Excellence in Academic Advising at Founders Day 2005. In addition to his duties in undergraduate advising, he is Graduate Director. If any alumnus knows of a person interested in pursuing either an undergraduate or graduate degree in geography at UND, please send that person's name, postal address, telephone number, and e-mail address to Dr. Munski.

**Dr. Kevin Romig** joined our faculty in August with teaching and research interests in urban, political, and cultural geography. Research articles stemming from his dissertation work at Arizona State University are published or in review in planning, geography, and sociology journals. Kevin and his wife Julie (also a geographer) have been embracing the local culture and have learned to ice skate and even organized a departmental outing to skate in University Park. They also keep busy training and loving their puppy named Lazarus.

**Dr. Brad Rundquist** spent much time this past year developing an on-line version of the graduate-level GISc Certificate. Two students (Brent Pringle and Kyle Glazewski) wrapped up very fine thesis projects. In the fall, Dr. Rundquist traveled to Houston (Space Grant), Kansas City (NCGE) and Sioux Falls twice (Regional AAG and AmericaView). His spring travel schedule was much lighter, the lone trip being a quick jaunt to Bismarck (NSGIC). Much anticipated is the annual Rundquist family fishing trip to northeastern Minnesota (Ella, now 3, is going for the full week!), and new to the family is a hyperactive yet lovable Shiba Inu puppy named Zipper.

**Dr. Sudhir K. Thakur** graduated from Ohio State (2004) and was a Visiting Assistant Professor in Economic Geography at the UND (Fall 2004-Spring 2005). He enjoyed teaching a wide variety of courses: Introduction to GIS, Economic Geography, and Conservation of Resources. This past year he presented papers at the Regional Science Association International (RSAI, 2004) meetings in Seattle and Association of American Geographers (AAG, 2005) meetings in Denver. He presented his research on *Structure and Structural Changes in India* in the department forum. In the Spring semester he was invited to lecture in the geography departments at Shippensburg and Ball State Universities. He was appointed the Chair of the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group at the AAG meetings in Denver (2005-2006). Recently, he has accepted a tenure-track faculty position with the College of Business Administration, California State University, Sacramento. He will be teaching land use regulation, real estate development, urban and regional analysis, and GIS in Business. Sudhir says his experience at the University of North Dakota was very fruitful as the department has a very collegial environment, an excellent academic atmo-

sphere, and a bright group of students with whom he shared and exchanged ideas.

**Dr. Paul Todhunter** continues as departmental Chair. He gave a paper at the International Water Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, a poster at the American Geophysical Union Meeting in New Orleans, LA, and was an invited presenter at the 37th Annual South Dakota State Geography Convention in Brookings, SD. His new course during the summer 2004 (Geog 300: Lewis & Clark in North Dakota) was both successful and fun. A paper he co-authored with Dr. Rundquist on flooding in Nelson County, ND appeared in *Physical Geography*, and one co-authored with two climatologists at the University of Georgia will appear shortly in *Geophysical Research Letters*. This summer Dr. Todhunter plans to continue work on an interdisciplinary NSF grant with colleagues in Geology and Atmospheric Science, and to work on papers concerning the impacts of wetland flooding in Nelson County, Red River flood flow frequency analysis, and borehole paleoclimate studies, and to work on research related to seasonally frozen soils in Fargo. This summer he will go to the Czech Republic and Norway for 3½-weeks with his wife.

**Dr. Gregory Vandenberg** is a new geography faculty who started in the fall. His interests are in fluvial and glacial geomorphology, disturbed land reclamation, and GIS and remote sensing technologies. He comes to us from Montana State University where he was a researcher in disturbed land reclamation. He presented a paper on modeling heavy metal transport in river systems at the AAG in Denver in March, and has been the coordinator for the department GTA's. On a personal note, Dr. Vandenberg is married to Lara Dando, a UND Geography alumnus, and has two children including a daughter Anna, 7, and a son, John, who was just born on May 11.

**Cindy Purpur** continues as the administrative secretary. This coming fall will be her 18th year with the department. She and her husband continue to go to Maple Lake and enjoy their cabin each summer. Her two daughters are now grown and live in Las Vegas, NV and Fargo, ND. This coming fall she will become a grandmother and has planned a trip to Vegas to see her first grandchild. She may even gamble!! Cindy continues to collect information on alumni and what they are doing. Please e-mail her at or call 701-777-4246 to give your up-to-date information for the department's files.

**Dr. Mohammad Hemmasi** recently moved to Normal, Illinois to be closer to his relatives. He has been invited to join Illinois State University as a visiting professor of geography beginning August 2005. However, he still considers UND as his favorite university and misses his students and friends.

(continued on next page)

## Geography Department Alumni News

**William C. Matta, '50** and **Dorothy Ratcliffe Matta, '50** reside in Northome, MN and have just celebrated their 54th anniversary. In 1982 Bill retired after 30 years in the Northome School District. They enjoy traveling and visiting with their children and grandchildren. Recently they became great grandparents.

**Rollin Mannie, '55** and his wife Marian Beckman Mannie live in Sioux Falls, SD. Rollin retired in August 1990 after 37 years of service to the Federal Government. He credits his success in his career in meteorology to two UND professors, Dr. Wills and Dr. Kazeck (a meteorologist). The Mannies travel quite extensively to visit their children and grandchildren. In the winter, they spend four months in Sun City, AZ.

**Barton M. Hayward, '61** resides in Camden, SC. In 1982 he retired as a full colonel after 30-year career in the U.S. Army. Bart continues to teach full time as an adjunct faculty member at the University of South Carolina and Central Carolina Technical College. He teaches mostly survey courses in geography and American history. He enjoys teaching and says that he owes it all to Dr. Wills and UND.

**Jerry Eidem, '68** lives in S. Burlington, VT and is semi-retired (or as Jerry prefers to say, semi-employed), working out of his home as website developer.

**Galen Geier, '73** lives in Bismarck and is presently working as a freelance webmaster. He reports that he married in 1999 for the first time at the age of 53. The physics and dynamics of weather and climate continue to interest him.

**Captain Tim Ewing** is currently serving in the U.S. Air Force as a Navigator on the E-3 Sentry. He is based out of Tinker AFB, OK where he lives with his wife, Sammi.

**Ralph Hoversten, '03** accepted a position as a Geographic Technician with Navigation Technologies in Fargo, ND.

**Erik Moe, '04** works as a GIS Analyst for Kadmas, Lee & Jackson in Bismarck. He is primarily doing AutoCAD drafting and then taking that data and using it in a GIS. Erik reports that the backlog has increased so they were able to hire another GIS Analyst last month, and they hired **Chris Carlson, '04** (former UND Geography student who graduated with Erik).

**David Brookman, '04** is an Imagery Analyst with the National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency

in Washington, DC. Brandee Pang, UND geography graduate student, and David Brookman were married March 2005.

**Kyle Glazewski, '05** accepted a position as an Associate Geographic Technician with Navigation Technologies in Fargo, ND.

## Geography Moves to O'Kelly-Ireland Hall

The Geography Department successfully moved from Clifford Hall to O'Kelly-Ireland Hall in August the week before fall classes. The first class, Quantitative Applications in Geography, was held in our new location on Tuesday, August 24th, 2004. By all accounts, the faculty and staff are pleased to be back in the heart of campus. An open house was held for the Geography Department on October 27th, 2004. We extend an invitation for all alumni to visit us in our new location by going through O'Kelly Hall's Second Avenue North doorway (across from the Law School) and following the internal signage.

## Gamma Theta Upsilon

The Psi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) participated in a variety of activities under the supervision of Drs. Devon Hansen and Douglas Munski. GTU organized the annual Christmas party and spring potluck. The Geography/GTU fall banquet, which coincided with the UND homecoming, was held at the Blue Moose Bar & Grill on October 16, 2004. The speaker was Richard C. Mower, a 1986 UND geography graduate. Mower is Vice President of Special Projects, Bismarck-Mandan Development Association, Bismarck, ND.

Much of the success of this year's GTU activities was due to the efforts of the officers, Cory Enger (President), John Hackett (Vice-President), and Rodney Iverson (Treasurer). Thank you to Cindy Purpur, administrative secretary, for her assistance in the planning and carrying out of all Geography/GTU events.

## In memoriam

It is with sadness that we announce the deaths of a former geography faculty member and former geography graduate teaching assistant.

**Dr. Ralph C. Brown, 81**, of Stoneham, Maine died November 14, 2004. He received a bachelor and master's degree from the University of Buffalo and a Ph.D. in Geography from Syracuse University. Dr. Brown was chair of the Department of Geography at Universities in New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and North Dakota.



Dr. Douglas Munski presents a gift of appreciation to UND Geography alumnus Richard Mower, an economic development officer in Bismarck/Mandan, who was the banquet speaker.

## Wills Memorial Geography Scholarship Award

The Wills Scholarship Award is presented to a high achieving undergraduate student who contributes to the excellence of the Department, not only by her/his outstanding academic performance, but also by being exemplary among her/his peers. This year's recipients, Emily Grewe and James Crayne, received a check and certificate. Congratulations Emily and Jim!

We express our thanks Laura B. Munski, '93, Karen Wills, '77, Rollin Mannie, '55, and Donn Burke Baker, '76 for contributing to the Wills Scholarship Fund. Thank you to Dr. Roger K. Sandness, '68, Susan Lardinois, '92, Ben J. Ehreth, '01, Miles D. Ramfjord, '81, Dr. Melvin E. Kazeck, '47, Michael W. Philipp, '84, Ruben N. Behrbaum, '55, Jay S. Larson, '84, and Lara M. Dando, '88 for their contributions to the Geography Department Fund.



The first class to meet in the new Geography Department space: Dr. Devon Hansen's Quantitative Applications in Geography (Geog. 377).