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 Vandezeg (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 (GIS) is now available. Students interested in the theoretical knowledge and up-to-date applications of GIS in geography, environmental science, social science, and other fields can earn this certificate.

The Department of Geography continues to update its directory of 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.

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)

Feedback for the Alumni Directory

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. — Devon Hansen
Dr. Brad Rundquist spent much time this past year developing an on-line version of the university-level GIS 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 (NASA) and Sioux Falls twice (Regional AAG and AmericaView). His spring travel schedule was much lighter; the lone trip being a quick jaunt to Biomass (NSFSEC). Much anticipated was 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. Sudhie 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. With a background in agricultural economics, he presented for the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) meetings in Seattle and Atlanta. AmericaView (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 department at Shippensburg and Ball State University. 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 and the joint appointment in real estate development, urban and regional analysis, and GIS in Business. Sudhie says his experience teaching in Northwest Minnesota, where he's married and raised their two children, has been very fruitful as the department has a very collegial environment, an excellent academic atmosphere, and a bright group of students with whom he shared and exchanged ideas.

Dr. Paul Todhunter continues as department advisor for the International Water Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, a poster at the American Geophysical Union meeting in New Orleans, a paper at the American Geophysical Union (Regional AAG and AmericaView). His spring travel schedule was much lighter; the lone trip being a quick jaunt to Biomass (NSFSEC). Much anticipated was 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. Kevin Rundquist 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 Fibbie (also a geography graduate) have been the local community and have learned to like skate and even organized a departmental and master’s degree from the department. They also keep busy training and loving their puppy named Lazarus.

William C. Matta, '50 and Dorothy Ratcliffe Matta, '56 reside in Northome, MN and have been married for 56 years. In 1982 Bill retired after 30 years in the Northome School District. They enjoy traveling and visiting with their four children and grandchildren. Recently they became great grandparents.

Rellin Miles, '85 and his wife, Marryn Beckman Miles live in Sioux Falls, SD. Rellin retired in August 1990 after 37 years of service to the Federal Government. He retains his career in meteorology to two UND professors, Dr. Bill Wills and Dr. Kazeck (meteorologist). The Mannies travel quite extensively to visit their children and grandchildren. In winter he will spend four months in Sun City, AZ.

Dr. Bill Rundquist, '94 lives in Conyers, GA. 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 Georgia and Central Carolina Technical College. He teaches mostly surveys in geography and environmental history. He enjoys teaching and says that he owes it all to Drs. Wills and Wills.

Jerry Eldem, '68 lives in S. Burlington, VT and is semi-retired (or as Jerry prefers to say, semi-employed), he owns a name on our department website developer.

Dr. Gregory Vandeberg, who resides in Bismarck and is presently working as a freelance webmaster. The reports he that he married in 1999 for the first time at the age of 53. The combination of weather and climate continue to interest him.

Dr. Bill Wills, '59 lives in St. Joseph, MN and is semi-retired (or as Jerry prefers to say, semi-employed), he now names in our department website developer.

Dr. Kevin Romig, '04, the newest addition to our University of North Dakota was a Ph.D. candidate at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana.