Chairperson’s Corner

The department continues to do well. This fall we welcomed Dr. Enra Wang as our newest faculty member. Dr. Wang specializes in economic geography, regional development, retail geography, GIS applications, and the Geography of China. He holds a Masters degree from Kansas State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Washington. His teaching responsibilities will include Human Geography, Economic Geography, Conservation of Resources, Regional Geography: China, Introduction to GIS, and Selected Topics in Economic Geography. Enra will play a key role in our community and urban development track, and the University’s growing China initiative.

Dr. Douglas Musnki received the regional 2006 National Faculty Service Award from the University Continuing Education Association for his work in continuing education, and then received the national award to boot! This was quite an honor for him, and in recognition of his longstanding commitment to correspondence study and on-line distance education. Charles Geraci also received a campus award for the outstanding Masters thesis at the university from The Graduate School.

Our efforts to advertise for a permanent GIS laboratory manager are on hold while we seek supplemental funding necessary for the position, but we hope to keep that effort moving forward. Our on-campus Graduate Certificate in GISc continues to do well, and we will have our second on-line cohort in the fall. Our undergraduate majors and graduate students have been extremely successful securing summer internship and cooperative education opportunities. We plan to advertise next year for an open position to teach cartography, GIS, human geography, and urban geography and planning, as this year’s search was not successful.

Please consider visiting the department, and please keep us abreast of your job changes, relocations, and noteworthy news items of a personal or professional nature.

Dr. Paul Todhunter, Chair

Fall Homecoming Banquet set for September 28, 2007

The fall homecoming banquet will be held at the Ramada in Grand Forks. The social hour will begin at 5 PM and the dinner at 6 PM. We are pleased to announce that Mark Robbins, a 1992 UND geography graduate, will be the banquet speaker. Robbins works for ESRI at the Minneapolis Regional office. He is the account manager (sales) for state government and their agencies. Tickets for the banquet are $18 and can be purchased at the Geography Department. Please make your checks payable to GTU. If you plan to attend, please let us know by September 24th. For more information or to make reservations for the banquet, call Cindy at 701-777-4246 or e-mail: cindy_purpar@und.nodak.edu.

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Dr. Paul Todhunter, Chair

Feedback for the Alumni Directory

The Department of Geography continues to update its director of the alumni for mailing purpose. If you have not done so or need to update your address information, please complete the following form and return to: Department of Geography, O’Kelly-Ireland Hall, University of North Dakota, 221 Centennial Drive Stop 9020, Grand Forks, ND 58202 or e-mail us the information: cindy_purpar@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, signifi-
cant 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. The current alumni newsletter, past alumni newsletters, and additional department photos and news of Geography GTU events can be found at our website: www.und.edu/dept/Geogmainpage.htm If you have any comments or suggestions for items to include in the next year’s newsletter, please e-mail me: devon_hansen@und.nodak.edu. — Devon Hansen.

UND Geography hosts Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division Meeting Sept. 12-13, 2008

UND Geography will host the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the Association of American Geographers on Sept. 12-13, 2008. On Sept. 12, UND faculty will lead participants on field trips to local/regional places of interest. The meeting itself will be on Sept. 13 in the Memorial Union and will feature poster and paper presentations, a noon banquet with a keynote speaker, and a gosgbowl competition. This is an opportunity for UND Geography to showcase the department, university, city, and state. The meeting potentially will include geographers from Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, Nebraska, Montana, South Dakota, and North Dakota, as well as West Lakes Division members from Minnesota and our colleagues affiliated with the Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. We have secured some funding from UND administration, but we are requesting donations from alumni and friends of the department to help offset miscellaneous costs associated with holding a successful meeting. If you can help support this need, please e-mail the department chair (paul_todhunter@und.nodak.edu) when you send your donation to the Alumni Office. We will keep track of all contributions in support of the regional meeting and make sure they are allocated properly. Any donated amount is helpful and very much appreciated. Please also contact Dr. Todhunter if you are interested in volunteering time to help with meeting events. For more information on the meeting itself, please contact Dr. Brad Rundquist at bradley_rundquist@und.nodak.edu or (701) 777-4589.

UND President Dr. Charles Kupchella speaks at a reception in honor of Dr. Douglas Musnki, who was selected as the winner of the 2006 UCEA (University Continuing Education Association) Great Plains Excellence in Teaching Award. From left: Dr. Douglas Musnki, Laura Musnki, and Dr. Charles Kupchella.
Dr. Devon Hansen continues to be busy with teaching, research, and service activities. This past year she enjoyed teaching a wide variety of courses, including a community development course that incorporated a service learning component assisting the community of Laramie, ND. Professional travel took her to the CAGFD regional meeting in Rugby, ND, and the UNL national meeting in San Francisco, CA. She advised a completed thesis project on aging in place in North Dakota. She continues conducting research regarding population changes across the state of North Dakota as the babbling brook research. Dr. Douglas Musinki continues to emphasize service to the department, the university, and the state of North Dakota as well as successfully maintaining an above-average teaching load for the campus. His 2006-07 academic year included being recognized by the University Continuing Education Association’s national excellence in teaching award. Obviously, his work as the department’s graduate director and senior most-graduate academic advisor is his most productive and intrinsically satisfying accomplishment. Dr. Brad Rundquist keeps busy with the on-campus and on-line GIS programs, which continue to gain in importance. This past year he finished his PhD dissertation (Scott Abel and Lisa Kuczy) and he published the 20th refereed paper of his career (with Marcia S. Sandusky) that is part of his former advisor’s, Charles Geraci, won the 2006 UND Graduate School’s Distinguished Thesis Award. He is an adjunct professor at the University of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the AAG and he will be Chair next year. He is also the book review editor for Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing. Ella, who is 5, keeps us busy with dance, soccer, and other activities while keeping us on our toes. Kristen continues to enjoy her work as the natural resources manager at the GAFRB. She was named the Outstanding Young Alumni by the North Dakota Alumni Association at the AAGP meeting in Rugby. Dr. Paul Tothasner gave two presentations at the CAGFD Meeting in Rugby, and the GP/ RMP Meeting in Lincoln, NE. He is currently revising, writing, or working on papers about wetland flooding in Nelson County (ND); flood flow frequencies in the Missouri River, snow cover control of winter soil temperatures in the Great Plains, and the nature of seasonally frozen soils at Fargo. Next year he will be a lama-due-year as Chair, and he anticipates taking a development leave ASAP after that time to give him more active teaching role. Time spent outside UND continues to focus on the activities of his four college-high school buddies who are the foundation of his friendship. Dr. Gregory VanDeveer is completing his third year at UND. He presented and/or co-authored several papers at various conferences including the CAG Prairie Division, GPRM AAG and the Billings Reclamation Symposium. He also published a new paper on modeling heavy metals in streams with Charles Martin and Gary Piepgrys of Kansas State University. Dr. VanDeveer graduated his first masters degree student (John Johnston) in December 2006. He also developed three new courses this year: an online GIS course; a hydrology field methods course (with Dr. Phil Gerla in Geology); and a GIS and photography course. In his first year as tenure-track assistant professor, Dr. Eric Wang was busy with launching the AAGP and Graduate Student Symposium. He worked for the faculty advisor for the UND International Organization, and helped students organize the 49th Annual Symposium of National Field Conference in Freedom and wine Juan, enjoy every minute spent with their daughter, Aurora, who is about 19 months old.

Dr. Mohammad Hennouri retired from UND in 2004 and settled in Normal, Illinois, as a Research Associate at the Illinois State University. His half-time appointment involves teaching courses for the Departments of Geography-Geology and Political Government. He contributes to the field by reviewing manuscripts for publishers and journals in his area of specialization. His new email is: m-hennouri@ilstu.edu.

To say that Dr. Bob Seidel has retired (2007) is an understatement of a misleading statement. This spring he taught the Map Reading and Interpretation course for the Geography Department’s Global Physical Environment course for the Trio Programs this summer, as he has for the past 10 years. He is also the Regional Geography course for two semesters at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. It is very likely that he will do this again this fall.

Cindy Parpur continues as the administrative secretary. She has been working diligently and with a smile on her face. She has celebrated 30 years at UND. Recently, Cindy and her daughter Gina traveled to Panama City, Florida to visit former graduate faculty member Judson Edwards and his wife Stacey for a week. Cindy continues to collect (Continued in next column)