

Department of Geography
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DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

University of North Dakota

Summer 2007

Chairperson's Corner

The department continues to do well. This fall we welcomed Dr. Enru 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. Enru will play a key role in our community and urban development track, and the University's growing China initiative.

Dr. Douglas Munski 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 is 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 GIS 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_purpur@und.nodak.edu.

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_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. 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/Geog/mainpage.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 geobowl 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 Association. He 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 Munski, who was selected as the winner of the 2006 UCEA (University Continuing Education Association) Great Plains Excellence in Teaching Award. From left: Dr. Douglas Munski, Laura Munski, and Dr. Charles Kupchella.

Geography Faculty and Staff Activities

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 Larimore, ND. Professional travel took her to the CAG/PD regional meeting in Rugby, ND and at the AAG national meeting in San Francisco, CA. She advised a completed thesis project on aging in place in North Dakota. She is currently conducting research regarding population changes across the state of North Dakota as the baby-boom generation ages into retirement.

Dr. Douglas Munski 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 undergraduate academic advisor are his most productive and intrinsically satisfying efforts as a professor.

Dr. Brad Rundquist keeps busy with the on-campus and on-line GIS programs, which continue to grow. He had two master's advisees finish this year (Scott Abel and Lisa Kuchy) and he published the 20th refereed paper of his career (with former student David Brookman). One of his former advisees, Charles Geraci, won the 2006 UND Graduate School's Distinguished Thesis Award. Dr. Rundquist is the Vice Chair 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. She is anxious to start kindergarten. Kristen continues to enjoy her work as the natural resources manager at the GFAFB. She was named the outstanding program manager last year.

Dr. Paul Todhunter gave two presentations at the CAG/PD Meeting in Rugby, and the GP/RMD Meeting in Lincoln, NE. He is currently revising, writing, or working on papers about wetland flooding in Nelson County (ND), flood flow frequency of the Red River of the North River, snow cover control of winter soil temperatures in the Great Plains, and the nature of seasonally frozen soils at Fargo. Next year will be his lame-duck year as Chair, and he anticipates taking a developmental leave ASAP after that time to gear up for a more active teaching role. Time spent outside UND continues to focus on the activities of his four college/high school/middle school age children.

Dr. Gregory Vandenberg is completing his third year at UND. He presented and/or co-authored several papers at professional meetings including the CAG Prairie Division, GPRM

AAG, and the Billings Reclamation Symposium. He also published a symposium paper on modeling heavy metals in streams with Charles Martin and Gary Pierzynski of Kansas State University. Dr. Vandenberg helped graduate his first masters degree student (Josh 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 Great Plains physiography course.

In his first year as a tenure-track assistant professor, **Dr. Enru Wang** was busy with teaching and research. This past year he taught five courses, including Economic Geography, Conservation of Resources, Introduction to GIS, Regional Geography of China, and Selected Topics in Economic Geography. He was revising manuscripts based on his dissertation and also gave a presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in San Francisco. He looks forward to the trip to China on May 16 and the presentation to be given at the Second Global Conference on Economic Geography in Beijing. Dr. Wang worked as the faculty advisor for the UND International Organization, and helped students organize the 45th Annual Feast of Nations in February. He, and wife Juan, enjoy every minute spent with their daughter, Aurora, who is about 19 months old now.

Dr. Mohammad Hemmasi retired from UND in 2004 and settled in Normal, Illinois, where he is an adjunct professor at the Illinois State University. His half-time appointment involves teaching courses for the Departments of Geography-Geology and Politics & Government. He contributes to the field by reviewing manuscripts for publishers and geography journals. His new email is: mhemma2@ilstu.edu.

To say that **Dr. Bob Seidel** has retired (2004) from teaching is apparently something of a misleading statement. This spring he taught the Map Reading and Interpretation course for the Geography Department and a Global Physical Environment course for the Trio Programs this summer, as he has for the past eighteen years. He has also taught a World Regional Geography course for two semesters at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. It is very likely that he will do that again this fall.

Cindy Purpur continues as the administrative secretary. This year Cindy celebrated 30 years at UND. Recently, Cindy and her daughter Gina traveled to Panama City, Florida to visit former geography faculty member Judson Edwards and his wife Stacey for a week. Cindy continues to collect

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Alumni News

We are pleased to share news with you from the following alumni:

Dr. Gary Johnson, '65, '66 returned to UND in 2002 as Executive Officer and Professor in the Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium. He moved to the Office of the Vice President for Research in 2005 as Associate Vice President for Research and Co-Project Director of the ND Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). Since February of 2007, he has additionally served as the Interim Vice President for Research. Johnson left UND as Chair of the Geography Department in 1976 following seven years on the faculty. In the intervening 26 years he worked for state and federal government, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and aerospace contractors Hughes and Lockheed Martin. He also held adjunct faculty positions with South Dakota State University and the University of Missouri. Johnson earned his doctorate from Indiana State University in 1974 and was recognized as the Bismarck State College Alumnus of the Year in 2005.

Thomas (T. J.) Williams, '95 recently completed his seventh year working for Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, CA. He is considering getting back into an academic setting by teaching geography courses part-time at the local community college.

Jason Danielson, '00 has been hired as a GIS Database Analyst for the City of Helena/Lewis and Clark County, in Helena, MT. His wife **Lindsey Morgan**, '00 continues to work as a Planner with Lewis and Clark County.

Steve Moe, '03 is working as a GIS Research Analyst with the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University in Mankato, MN.

Mitch Schull, '03 was recently awarded a NASA Earth System Science Fellowship. He will present his research at the IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS) 2007 conference in Barcelona, Spain, July 22-27, 2007. Mitch is in the third year of the post-bachelors Ph.D. program in Boston University's Department of Geography and Environment.

Chris Carlson, '04 accepted a GIS Programmer/Analyst position with the City of

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Geography Faculty and Staff Activities

(Continued from previous column)

information on alumni and what they are doing.

Please call 701-777-4246 e-mail her at cindy_purpur@und.nodak.edu to give your up-to-date information for the department's files.

Bernt Lloyd 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, Zach Karsky and Kelly Dezell, received a check and certificate. Congratulations Zach and Kelly!

We express our thanks to Donn Burke Baker, '76, Douglas and Laura B. Munski, '93, and Gerald Rott, '80 for contributing to the Wills Scholarship Fund. Thank you to Lara M. Dando, '88, Barton Hayward, '61, Neil Hnatiuk, '90, Gordon Langlie, '73, Jason Maier, '00, Lee Okeson, '58, Michael Philipp, '84, Dr. Roger K. Sandness, '68, Dr. Paul Sando, '88, and Steve Walker, '81 for their contributions to the Geography Department Fund. Both funds are administered through the UND Alumni Foundation, so people should identify the fund to which they are contributing when doing so in 2006-07. Alumni support to these two funds is much appreciated.

Gamma Theta Upsilon/ Geography Club

The GTU/Geography Club had a busy year. They helped sponsor three speakers for the annual GIS Day. The three speakers were Scott Ralston, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Bill Dando (W.A.'s son), TCF Bank; and Amanda Hancock, NDSU Central Grasslands Research Extension Center. Club members also put together a booth in the Memorial Student Union for Geography Awareness Week. Seven students, accompanied by Dr. Vandenberg, attended the South Dakota State Geography Conference in Brookings and participated in the Geography Bowl. The students also continued their successful "Munski's Marauders" broomball team that made it into the intramural playoffs.

Alumni News

(Continued from previous column)

Bismarck. His works includes customizing GIS to make it user friendly for people with little knowledge of how GIS works.

Paige Baker, '06 has been hired as a GIS Specialist with Wright Water Engineers in Denver, CO.

Tom Chambers, '06 has been accepted into the Master of GIS program at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN.

Jessica Rawlings, '06 lives in Bismarck and works at Bartlett & West Engineers as a GIS Technician.

Help Us To Remember Dr. Bernt Lloyd Wills

The Geography Department has been proud to award a \$250 scholarship to a deserving geography student each semester since 1986. This award has been given to honor the career of UND Geography professor Dr. Bernt Lloyd Wills and his thirty-five years of teaching at the UND.

"Mr. Geography" as Dr. Wills was known passed away in 1985. Faculty, staff, family and friends have made gifts in his honor through the years that have funded the annual scholarships. In addition to the annual scholarship amount additional funds have been placed in a fund to establish an endowment for the scholarship. We have great news - we are very near the amount needed to endow this scholarship! Endowing this fund would mean that the fund would generate enough interest each year to provide the Wills scholarships in

perpetuity without ever needing to touch the principle.

As the endowment continues to grow the funds available for the B.L. Wills scholarship would continue to increase. This would allow us to increase the value of the scholarships awarded, after all, \$250 doesn't go quite as far these days as it did in 1985!

Please help us support our deserving students and honor Dr. Wills with your gift. Please send your donation to us at the UND Geography Department. Make your checks payable to the "UND Foundation" with "B.L. Wills Scholarship" written in the memo section of your check. This gift is tax deductible and will make a difference in the life of many future UND geography students. If you have any questions, please call Mike Meyer at 701-777-3669 and he will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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: Dr. Judson Edwards, Troy University, Troy, Alabama; Scott Ralston, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Bill Dando, TCF Bank Inc.; Amanda Hancock, Central Grasslands Research Extension Center, North Dakota State University; Dr. Haifeng "Charlie" Zhang, SUNY-

Binghamton; Dr. Shuo-Sheng "Derek" Wu, Center for Excellence in GeoSpatial Information Science at Rolla, USGS; Dr. Xuwei Chen, Texas State University; Josh Johnston, UND geography graduate student; Tina Billups, UND geography graduate student; Lisa Kuchy, UND geography graduate student; and Scott Abel, UND geography graduate student.

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 one of the geography faculty.



Charles C. Geraci received the 2006 UND Graduate School's Distinguished Thesis Award at a reception on May 7, 2007 in the North Dakota Museum of Art. Attending the reception are, from left: Dr. Martha Potvin, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Joseph Benoit, Dean of the Graduate School, and Charles Geraci.