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# DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

University of North Dakota

Summer 2008

## Chairperson's Corner

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The department continues to do well. We were very fortunate to successfully hire Dr. Jin-Kyu Jung for our open GIS/urban geography and planning position. Dr. Jung had been at UND on a one-year appointment. He has a degree in planning, and a Ph.D. in geography from SUNY-Buffalo with a focus in urban geography, GIS, and qualitative methods. He will teach introductory human geography, cartography and computer-assisted mapping, introduction to GIS, and urban geography and planning. His research interests focus on incorporating qualitative methods within GIS. His strengths in GIS also complement our department well.

We continue to explore a way to hire a

permanent GIS laboratory manager but that will probably be a long-range goal. Our on-campus Graduate Certificate in GIS continues to do well, and Dr. Vandeberg has taken over direction of that program. Our undergraduate majors and graduate students have been extremely successful securing summer internship and cooperative education opportunities, but we would like to increase the number of undergraduate majors. Dr. Rundquist will assume responsibilities as Chair in the fall semester; the faculty have much confidence in him.

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

## 2008 Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division Meeting is Sept. 12-13

You are invited to participate in the joint meeting of the AAG Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division and ASPRS Upper Midwest Chapter Sept. 12 and 13, 2008, in Grand Forks. Three different field trips are planned for Sept. 12: 1) The Intensive Agriculture of the Red River Valley; 2) The Glacial and Fluvial Geomorphology of the Drift Prairie Region; 3) The Recovery of the Grand Forks Area since the 1997 Flood. Paper and poster presentations will be held Sept. 13 in the Memorial Union on the University of North Dakota campus. Special events include a keynote address by John C. Hudson, Ph.D., Northwestern University; an opening reception at the North Dakota Museum of Art; a luncheon banquet; paper and poster competitions for graduate and undergraduate students; and a Geography Bowl. UND has not hosted this event in Grand Forks since 1979, and we are excited to showcase the Department and the University. We expect visitors from Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, Nebraska, Montana, South Dakota, and North Dakota, as well as from Minnesota and Manitoba. There is much more information about the meeting and registration materials at <http://www.und.edu/org/gprm/>. The deadline to register is Aug. 29. You can also contact Dr. Brad Rundquist at [bradley\\_rundquist@und.edu](mailto:bradley_rundquist@und.edu) or 701-777-4589 for details.

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Alumni support to these two funds is much appreciated.

Thank you to Lee Okeson, '58 for his contribution to the Association of American Geographers 2008 Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division Meeting to be hosted by the UND Department of Geography in September.

## 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](mailto:cindy_purpur@und.nodak.edu).

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**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](http://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.edu](mailto:devon_hansen@und.edu). — Devon Hansen.

## Ben Prusa and Rylan Kabanuck receive Bernt Lloyd Wills Memorial Geography Scholarship Award

The B. L. 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. Congratulations to this year's recipients: Ben Prusa and Rylan Kabanuck.



Geography major Rylan Kabanuck accepts the Spring 2008 B.L. Wills Scholarship from Dr. Douglas Munski during the GTU Spring Picnic.

We express our thanks to Donn Burke Baker, '76, Donald and Phyllis Gornowich, '56, Barton Hayward, '61, Kenneth and Debra Jensen, '64, and Douglas and Laura B. Munski, '93 for contributing to the B. L. Wills Scholarship Fund.

Thank you to Christopher J. Atkinson, '00, Terry Bailey, '70, Lara M. Dando, '88 and Greg Vandeberg, John A. Gargave, Jr., Robert D. Kichline, Bradley D. Kontz, Mark and Myra Kuhn, '79, Paula H. Lee, '83, Joseph W. Nicholas, '87, Michael W. Philipp, '84, Dorothy Prusa, Miles D. Ramfjord, '81, Gerald M. Rott, '80, Jermone K. Sanders, '71, Dr. Roger K. Sandness, '67, Randy L. Schmidt, and Barbara J. Serr, '65 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 2008-2009.

## Geography Faculty and Staff Activities

This academic year has proven to be quite a busy time for **Dr. Devon Hansen**. She presented and/or co-authored several papers at professional meetings including the CAG/PD regional meeting in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, the AAG national meeting in Boston, and the North Dakota Academy of Sciences meeting in Grand Forks. She is currently working on a paper regarding population changes as North Dakota's baby-boom generation ages. In the fall, the focus of a community-based research project in her community development course was assisting the Mayor's Urban Neighborhood Initiative in conducting interviews to gain understanding of residents' general perceptions of the Near Northside Neighborhood in Grand Forks. Dr. Hansen also serves on two time-consuming university committees—Essential Studies and Curriculum.

**Dr. Jin-Kyu Jung** joined the UND Geography faculty as a Visiting Assistant Professor after finishing his Ph.D. study at the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY-Buffalo). He is also appointed as a tenure-track assistant professor beginning this coming fall. He feels really lucky to survive his first year at UND, and particularly his first winter in North Dakota. Dr. Jung has diverse research interests such as critical urban geography and planning, integration of GIS and qualitative research, and mixed-methods research. He started to write manuscripts based on his doctoral research and gave a presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Boston. He also taught five different courses in the past academic year including Intro to GIS, Cartography & Computer-Assisted Mapping, Human Geography, Urban Geography and Planning, and Maps Use & Interpretation. Dr. Jung, his wife Gunwha, and their 2 year-old daughter, Tate, enjoy their new life in Grand Forks, and, now happier with their first house.

Although **Dr. Douglas Munski** spent all of Fa07 and part of Sp08 serving on the labor-intensive and time-consuming UND Presidential Search Committee, he continued to engage in his usual set of duties for teaching, research, and service. Highlights included being nominated for a CASE teaching award, presenting co-authored posters and papers at Canadian Association of Geographers Prairie

Division (Weyburn, Saskatchewan), the North Dakota Council for the Social Studies (Minot, North Dakota), and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the North Dakota Academy of Sciences (Grand Forks, North Dakota), and receiving the UND Vice-President for Finance and Operations Award for Outstanding Service in part because of his efforts for UND Dining, UND Facilities, and UND Parking. Dr. Munski also was re-elected to serve as the department's Graduate Director, so he encourages alumni to help him recruit prospective graduate students interested in taking the M.S. or M.A. at the Grand Forks campus.

There were two headline events in the **Rundquist** household in 2007: Ella started kindergarten in August and Autumn Elizabeth was born in early November. Recently, Dr. Rundquist was named the managing editor of *Geocarto International*. He also serves as president of the Upper Midwest Chapter of ASPRS and as Chair of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the AAG. Much of his time has been spent planning for the regional AAG/ASPRS meeting in Grand Forks, Sept. 12 and 13, 2008. He hopes to see many UND Geography alums at that event! Dr. Rundquist will serve as chair of the Geography Department beginning next fall.

**Dr. Todhunter's** paper with Dr. Rundquist on wetland flooding in Nelson County was published in the journal *Natural Hazards*. He also gave an oral presentation and had a proceedings paper published on "The Red River Valley Flood of 1997: A Call for Worst-case Scenario Approaches to Flood Risk Management" at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Flood Defence in Toronto. Currently he is working on a paper on the assumptions of the flood flow frequency methods used to determine the regulatory flood (100-year flood) in the United States using data from the Red River of the North, and is developing a semester-based online version of Geog 134: Introduction to Global Climate. He is looking forward to teaching some of his courses on a more regular basis with the completion of his service as Chair.

Time spent outside UND focuses upon the activities of his four college/

high school/middle school age children – track, football, music, and teacher conferences. He and Debbie took a western Caribbean cruise this past summer and they are planning an Alaskan cruise next summer to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on 7 July 2009. He jokes that they have been happily married for 23.6 years! He is also excited about buying his first ever NEW CAR this summer/fall in anticipation of a lifetime of high gasoline prices. He officially yields in his competition with Dr. Munski for the title of "Professor with the crummiest car!"

**Gregory Vandenberg**, Assistant Professor, had three M.S. students graduate this past year. He continues to study the water and sediment quality of Lake Alice National Wildlife Refuge with a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He had a book chapter on Climatic Change and Fluvial Processes published in *Climate Change and Variation, A Primer for Teachers* that was edited by former department chairman William Dando and published by the National Council for Geographic Education. Dr.

Vandenberg presented papers at the National Council for Geographic Education meeting in Oklahoma City in October 2007, and at the AAG Annual Conference in Boston, MA in April 2008. He is the new Director of the Online GIS Certificate Program, and continues to teach courses in Introductory physical geography, GIS, GPS, and Advanced Environmental geography.

**Dr. Enru Wang** finds it hard to believe that he is completing his third year at UND. His past academic year started with a trip to China, during which he visited families,

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*Mark Robbins of ESRI, a UND Geography Alum, was the keynote speaker at the Fall Homecoming Banquet on September 28, 2007.*

## Alumni News

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

**Brad Brackel, '99** is employed as an Industrial Specialist with Grubb & Ellis/Quantum Commercial Group in Colorado Springs, CO.

**Lea (Smith) Bergwell, '03** is working as a GIS Specialist with the Planning, Research & GIS Division of the Planning Department for Saint Louis County in Duluth, MN.

**Ralph Hovenstein, '03** has taken a position as the Director of Economic Development for Divide County as of May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Ralph reports that, "This should be an exciting and challenging position for me."

**Scott Abel, '07** is employed as a GIS Specialist with the Red Lake Department of Natural Resources in Red Lake, MN.

**Lucas Rengstorf, '07** is a Masters student at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. The Cartography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers has awarded him the Spring 2008 Masters Thesis Grant. This award is given to promote scholarly research in cartography by students enrolled in a geography or related program. Lucas is working under the advisement of Dr. Xiaomin Qui on his thesis: "Web-based Interactive Cave Mapping: A Case Study of Fitton Cave, Alabama. Congratulations Lucas!"

**Megan Schlegal, '07** has been hired as a GIS Analyst with BullBerry Systems Inc., in Bismarck, ND.

**Joel Crawford, '08** has accepted a position as a Cartographic Technician with Garmin International in Olathe, KS.

**Kelly Dezell, '08** has accepted a position as a Cartographic Technician with Garmin International in Olathe, KS.

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### *Geography Faculty and Staff Activities*

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worked on a joint research project with collaborators, and gave a presentation to be given at the Second Global Conference on Economic Geography in Beijing. He also presented at the Boston AAG conferences in April. He had one first-authored article, "Retail restructuring in transitional urban China: changing ownership structure in Beijing," published in *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 48(5) 573-602, and another one, "The political economy of retail change in Chinese cities," in *Environment and Planning C: Government & Policy* (forthcoming in 2008). Currently he has two manuscripts that are respectively submitted to, or in preparation for, academic journals for publication.

**Cindy Purpur** continues as the administrative secretary. She and her husband Gary continue to go to their cabin at Maple Lake each summer. Cindy and Gary are especially enjoying spending time with their two young grandsons, Brody and McCain. Cindy continues to collect information on alumni and what they are doing. Please e-mail her at [cindy\\_purpur@und.edu](mailto:cindy_purpur@und.edu) or call 701-777-4246 to give your up-to-date information for the department's files.



*UND Geography students who attended the SDSU Geography Convention in Brookings, SD, April 3-4, 2008.*

## Forum for Contemporary Geographic Issues invites experts to share experiences

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. Jin-Kyu Jung, Department of Geography, University of North Dakota; Dr. Jeff Ueland, Department of Geography, Bemidji State University; Dr. Frank Cuzzo, Department of Anthropology, University of North Dakota; Dr. Travis Heggie, Department of Recreation and Leisure Services, University of North Dakota; Darryl Holman, GIS/Computer Specialist, U.S. Forest Service at Chippewa National Forest; Dr. Janet Moen, Department of Sociology, University of North Dakota; Todd Fahrni, UND geography graduate student; Julie M. Gallagher, UND geography graduate student; Jim Lindstrom, UND geography graduate student; Kristofor Parson, UND geography graduate student; Virginia M.G. Regorrah, UND geography graduate student; and William Wetherholt, 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.

## Activities Keep Gamma Theta Upsilon/Geography Club busy

GTU had a busy year with lots of activities. GTU hosted a fall picnic as well as highway cleanup and a bowling night. The group also had an information booth in the Memorial Union for Geography Awareness Week. Spring activities included popcorn sales in the Memorial Union, a winter trip to Lake Itasca State Park, participation in the campus "Big Event", collecting clothes for the downtown Mission, intramural broomball, and a spring picnic at Lincoln Park that was well attended. Club officers were William Wetherholt, Ben Prusa, Darrel Nucech and Rylan Kabanuck.