

Department of Geography

Alumni Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Summer 2009

Chairperson's Corner

Special points of interest:

- Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division Annual Meeting (AAG)
- Dr. Wang of UND Geography to Head Peace Studies
- News about Homecoming 2009
- Alumni News

Last year was an exciting one for UND Geography. In this newsletter, you will read about the highly successful Great Plains/Rocky Mountain AAG meeting we hosted, the upcoming North Dakota GIS Users' Conference, the implementation of a Distinguished Alumni Award, a prestigious fellowship won by Dr. Jin-Kyu Jung, the acquisition of the Peace Studies program, the Excellence in Volunteering and Service Efforts award won by GTU, the Outstanding Student Leadership Award won by GTU President Rylan Kabanuck, and many other important faculty and student achievements.

Inside this issue:

AAG GP/RMD Report	2
2009 Geography Forums	2
1st Distinguished Alumni Award—Dr. Julie Winkler	3
Geography Alumni News!	4
Recent Department Graduates	5
Geography Faculty News	6
Thanks to Geography Department Supporters	8

We are also happy to report that our graduates continue to be highly successful in an increasingly competitive job market, and our students are having great success finding internship opportunities. In summer 2009, we have 10 students doing internships for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Grand Forks, Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District, the Energy and Environment Research Center, the Grand Forks/East Grand

Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization, PRAXIS, and World Endeavors.

We continue to teach large numbers of students in our 100-level courses. During the 2008-2009 academic year, 403 students took Global Physical Environment, 300 took Human Geography, and 281 took World Regional Geography. Our undergraduate program is doing well with about 40 majors, although we'd like to see it expand. Our graduate program has grown, with 15 students in residence last year. We are offering more undergraduate courses on-line, and, pending approval by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, we will offer our entire minor on-line beginning in fall 2009. Our on-line Graduate Certificate in GISc is showing growth. In summer 2008, 26 students began the on-line certificate program. It looks like at least that many will begin the program in summer 2009. Under the direction of Dr. Gregory Vandenberg, the on-line certificate is also morphing from a local/regional program to a national program. There



Physiography field trip to Glacial Ridge Preserve. Where is the glacier?

are some early signs that it might soon go international.

As we celebrate the successes of the past year we look forward to the challenges of the years to come. We largely measure our success on the successes of our alumni. We truly enjoy hearing from you, so **please** keep in touch. To facilitate networking between you, our students, and the faculty, we have initiated a UND Geography Facebook group (see the details in this newsletter). We hope that you will consider joining it to share information about yourself, provide some feedback to the faculty, and offer some advice to our current students. And, if you are in the neighborhood, please stop into the department to visit.

2008 Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division Meeting a Huge Success

The UND Department of Geography hosted the 2008 Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the AAG conference on 12-13 September 2008. The conference was attended by 145 people from 15 states and 2 Canadian provinces. For many, the field trips held Sept. 12 were the highlight. Dr. Todhunter took a group on a day-long tour of Red River Valley agriculture, Dr. Vandeberg led a day-long investigation of the glacial and fluvial geomorphology of the Drift Prairie Region, and Drs. Hansen and Wang, along with alumnus and Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Senior Planner Ryan Brooks, directed a half-day Grand Forks flood recovery tour. A reception was held that evening at the North Dakota Museum of Art, with Dr. Rundquist, GPRM AAG Chair and Meeting Organizer, serving as host. Dr. Gary Johnson, UND Vice President for Research and former chair of the UND Department of Geography, provided the welcoming address, and Dr. John Agnew, AAG President and Professor of Geography at UCLA, opened the meeting with greetings from the AAG. Papers and Posters were presented on Sept. 13 in the Memorial Union. Fifty-five papers were presented in 11 concurrent sessions and 15 posters were displayed. One panel discussion related to the geography of the 2008 Presidential Elections was held. Dr. John Agnew delivered the keynote address during the luncheon banquet. Student paper and poster presentation awards were presented, and six teams competed in the GeoBowl (UND finished third). The conference was highly successful and UND Geography received praise from several conference attendees. All UND faculty and staff contributed in significant ways to the success of the meeting, as did many graduate and undergraduate students.

2009 Geography Department Forums Highlighted By Drs. John Hudson and David Mark

Todhunter, Dr. Paul: The Grand Forks Flood of 1997: An Assessment of the Flood Forecast-Response System Performance. Professor of Geography, Department of Geography, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND, 10 October 2008.

Hudson, Dr. John: North Dakota's New Geography. Director of the Program in Geography, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 21 November 2008.

Jared Auch, Justin Braaten, Daniel Fasteen, Nicholas Hinnerichs, Alison Rood: Experience for a Future Career: Geography Internships. Department of Geography, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND, 12 December 2008.

Shokri, Ms. Tala: GIS Applications in Urban Planning and Disaster Management. Department of Civil Engineering, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND, 13 February 2009.

Jung, Dr. Jin-Kyu: Chung Gye Cheon Restoration Project in Seoul, Korea: Urban Revitalization or Urban Removal. Assistant Professor of Geography, Department of Geography, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND, 13 March 2009.

Mark, Dr. David M.: Ethnophysiography: Cultural and Linguistic Variation in the Conceptualization of Landscape, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Geography, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, 17 April 2009.

Geography Department to Lead UND Peace Studies

Dr. Enru Wang will serve as Director of Peace Studies beginning in Fall 2009. Dr. Wang takes over following the retirement of long-time UND Professor of Sociology Dr. Janet Moen, who led the Peace Studies major since 1995. The Peace Studies major is part of the UND program in Interdisciplinary Studies. For more information, please see <http://www.und.edu/dept/ids/>.

Geography Department will Host 2009 ND GIS Conference

The UND Department of Geography is hosting the 2009 North Dakota GIS Users' Conference Nov. 2-4 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. The conference is typically attended by 150-200 people from all levels of government, academia, and the private sector. This is the first time the conference will be held outside of Bismarck. The conference will include a keynote address, workshops, exhibits, and paper presentations. For more information, please see the conference website at <http://www.und.nodak.edu/org/urg/>.

Please Join Us for Homecoming 2009!

The UND Department of Geography has several events planned during Homecoming, which is 28 September – 3 October 2009. At noon on Friday, 2 October in the Memorial Union Lecture Bowl, alumnae Dr. Julie Winkler (B.S. 1975), professor of Geography at Michigan State University, will deliver a talk related to her research in climate change. The Geography Alumni Banquet is that evening at the

Bronze Boot Restaurant (5 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. supper). Dr. Winkler will provide an after-dinner talk at the banquet. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ms. Cindy Purpur (701-777-4246 or cindy.purpur@und.edu). The cost of the banquet is \$20 per person.

Dr. Julie Winkler to Receive Distinguished Alumni Award

The UND Department of Geography has implemented a Distinguished Alumni Award, which will be presented annually at the Department's Alumni Banquet. For 2009, the faculty voted to name Dr. Julie Winkler recipient of the award. Winkler is a Professor of Geography at Michigan State University. Her research interests include climatology, regional climate change, quantitative methods, and women in academia. She was raised on a farm outside of Oriska, ND, and received her B.S. in Geography from UND in 1975. She went on to earn the M.A. and Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Minnesota. While at

UND, she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Before arriving at Michigan State, Dr. Winkler taught at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and at San Diego State University. She also worked for the National Weather Service Techniques Development Laboratory in Silver Spring, Maryland, as a Research Associate and Visiting Scientist. Dr. Winkler has been actively involved in the Association of American Geographers, serving as a National Councilor, National Secretary, and as associate editor of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. Since 2001, she has served on the editorial board of the *Annals*.

She is also active in the American Meteorological Society, currently serving as that group's Commissioner for Education and Human Resources.

Dr. Vandenberg new Director of Online GIS

Dr. Vandenberg has been Director of the Online GIS Graduate Certificate since January 2008. The Certificate Program has more than doubled in student numbers from the previous year. There were 26 students enrolled in the online Intro. GIS course for Fall 2008, versus 11 who finished out the Certificate the previous summer. At least 22 stu-

dents are currently enrolled to start the online GIS Graduate Certificate this summer (2009). The online GIS Certificate continues to be popular among those currently working in the GIS field, as well as those looking for a career change. The price is also economical, with out-state students paying the same tuition rate as in-state students.



Dr. Vandenberg examines a poster with Megan Grove.

Geography Alumni News

Chris Atkinson (M.S., 2000) recently passed his Oral Examinations, and is now a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Kansas, in Lawrence, KS.

Brad Brackel (B.S., 1999) is an Industrial Specialist with Grubb & Ellis/Quantum Commercial Group in Colorado Springs, CO. He is married to Judy Mattie-Brackel and has two daughters, Caralissa (13) and Siteris (7). He recently received the Rising Star Award for his work.

Scott Dubsy (M.A., 2004) just completed a one year remote tour at Osan Air Force Base in South Korea where he was an Operations Officer with the Maintenance Squadron. He is returning to Phoenix, AZ where he will serve as Squadron Commander for the 56th Maintenance Operations Squadron at Luke AFB. He is still a major, and hopes to make his Lt. Col. Board in about two years. (rapcap954@yahoo.com)

Daniel Fish (B.S., 2008) is now employed as a GIS Technician with Bartlett & West, Engineers Inc. in Bismarck, ND. (daniel.fish@BARTWEST.COM)

Jim Flaaen (B.S., 2007) has recently completed his Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University and is working with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the Ohio Power Siting Board.

Sherry (Grzeskowiak) Slingsby (B.S., 2000; M.A., 2005) Sherry and her husband Ian are living in Surrey, England, where Ian works as a solicitor (lawyer) and she works with a company called Accenture as a management consultant. They recently spent two week in Mauritius celebrating the completion of Ian's law education. (sharon_slingsby@hotmail.com)

Eric Icard (B.A., 2000) has been appointed as Associate Director for the Center for International Business and Economic Development at Troy University – Montgomery Campus, in Montgomery, AL. He will be working with Dr. Judson Edwards, a former faculty member in the department.

Darrel Nucech (M.S., 2008) recently accepted a position as a GIS Technician with the City of Bismarck, ND.

Brent Pringle (M.S., 2005) is a GIS Specialist/Assistant Emergency Manager/Assistant 911 Coordinator

with Stark County in Dickinson, ND. (bpringle@nd.gov)

Lucas Rengstorf (B.S., 2007) received the Spring 2008 Masters Thesis Grant from the Cartography Specialty Group of the AAG in support of his thesis research. His thesis, under the advisement of Dr. Xiaomin Qui is entitled "Web-based Interactive Cave Mapping: A Case Study of Fitton Cave, Arkansas".

Megan Schlegel (B.S., 2007) is working as a Planner with the Community Growth Institute in Baxter, MN.

Chad Shumake (B.S., 1999) is working as a Project Engineer with Wanzek Construction in Fargo, ND.

Mike Zimney (B.S., 2001) is working as a GIS Analyst/Planner for Ulteig Engineers in Fargo, ND. He and his wife recently closed on an old home, circa 1927. (mike.zimney@Ulteig.com)

Angie (Binstock) Milakovic (B.S., 1997) is the GIS Program Coordinator and Instructor at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, ND.

Stewart Milakovic (B.S., 1997) is a Transportation Planner with the North Dakota Department of Transportation in Bismarck, ND.



GTU President Rylan Kabanuck accepts the 2009 Outstanding Student Leadership Award from Robert Boyd, UND VP for Student and Outreach Services.

Undergraduate Students Accomplishments

Adam Jonasson has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Rylan Kabanuck, GTU President, won an Outstanding Student Leadership Award from UND.

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) has won the Memorial Union's 2009 Excellence in Volunteering and Service Efforts by a Student Organization Award. GTU was one of six organizations selected this year among all the organization/clubs at UND.

Rylan Kabanuk (B.S., 2009) was commissioned Friday, 15 May 2009 as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Graduate Student Accomplishments

Lisa Kuchy (M.S., 2007) is working as an Imagery Scientist with National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in Washington, DC.

Susan Wahl (M.S. Candidate) is employed as a GIS Analyst/Parcel Editor with Teton County in Driggs, ID.

Cory Mock, a current M.A. student, was elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives.

Department Graduates

M.A.

Neau, Jordan: North Dakota's Renaissance Zone Program: Evaluating Success in Northeastern North Dakota. Spring 2009 (Chair: Hansen)

B.S.

Nicholas Hinnerichs (B.S., 2008)

Erik Nelson (B.S., 2008)

Erin Peterson (B.S., 2008)

Steven Alt (B.S., 2009)

David Gerszewski (B.S., 2009)

Megan Grove (B.S., 2009)

Brooks Hansen (B.S., 2009)

Rylan Kabanuk (B.S., 2009)

Daniel Ollhoff (B.S., 2009)



Ben Prusa and Rylan Kabanuck display the 2009 Memorial Union's 2009 Excellence in Volunteering



Brian Torborg and Dr. Enru Wang inspect a poster on Advanced GIS poster day.

Geography Faculty Profiles

Dr. Jin-Kyu Jung is happy to survive his first year as a tenure-track faculty member at UND after arriving here as a Visiting Assistant Professor in Fall 2007. He began to realize that there are many more things to do than teaching in the academic life. He also quickly learned that he should always carry an emergency kit with a blanket in North Dakota after experiencing a brutal winter storm last December. Academically, Dr. Jung continues to write manuscripts from his doctoral research, and actively presents his diverse researches. In the past year, he gave two talks at the "Forum of Contemporary Geographic Issues" and "College of Arts & Science Speaker Series" at UND, and presented papers at the both national and regional Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Also, he has been awarded a 2009 Visiting International Scholar Fellowship by the Institute of Social Research (ISR), Department of Sociology, University of Surrey, UK. The primary goal of this collaborative research is to build on more spatially enhanced mixed-methods research approaches by incorporating GIS and Computer-Assisted Qualitative Data Software (CAQDAS). His first visit will be in mid-May, and he will re-visit on November this year. He hopes this opens up collaborative research opportunities, and eventually leads to receive regional and/or national grants. Personally, his wife, Gunwha Oh, who is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Geography at the State University of New York at Buffalo, tries hard to finish her doctoral study this year. His 3 year-old daughter, Tate, made more friends now, and cannot be happier these days as spring is finally on the way.

Dr. Douglas C. Munski continues to be heavily engaged in undergraduate teaching, campus and off-campus service-related tasks, and limited research activities while having passed the 31 year mark as a faculty member. His principal teaching duties remain within human/cultural, regional, and geographic education dimensions of the discipline. He increasingly is involved in online course development, with GEOG 262 (Geography of North America) being prepared for release in the fall of 2009 as the latest online course he has created. Dr. Munski's service duties range from serving as chair of the University Campus Parking Committee to serving as a member-at-large of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) Prairie Division executive board. During the fall of 2008, he co-presented papers at the AAG Great Plains Rocky Mountains (GPRM) meeting at UND, gave a paper at Boissevain, Manitoba, as part of the sessions at CAG Prairie Division, and conducted a geographic education workshop at the

North Dakota Council for the Social Studies in Fargo. Dr. Munski co-presented posters at a community engagement workshop held in Rugby, ND, and also represented the department at the North Dakota Academy of Science as one of that body's board members when it met at NDSU. He presently is serving as the graduate director for the department, so alumni are encouraged to contact him if they know of someone who would be a "good prospect" that would benefit from the M.S. or M.A. programs in geography at UND. Dr. Munski remains active with undergraduate advising and again is going to be a faculty academic advisor for the 2009 Freshman Getting Started program.

Dr. Devon Hansen keeps busy with teaching, research, and service activities. She presented and/or co-presented several papers/posters at professional meetings including the AAG National Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada and the 2nd Annual Community-University Forum in Rugby, ND. Dr. Hansen continues to strengthen the University's ties to communities across North Dakota through various community-based research projects. Currently, she is working on a study of neighborhood revitalization and community investment in the U.S. with a Grand Forks neighborhood serving as a case study. She advised a completed thesis project evaluating North Dakota's Renaissance Program as an economic development tool for communities in the northeastern part of the state. In September of 2008, she led an AAG GPRM field trip (Grand Forks Area Recovery Since the 1997 Flood) with Dr. Wang and alumnus Ryan Brooks. This fall she will be busy developing lecture material and lab exercises for a new course in population geography, which will be taught for the first time in spring of 2010.

Dr. Brad Rundquist is finishing his first year as Department Chair. He stays busy teaching physical geography, remote sensing, and GIS courses, and working with graduate students. He is heavily involved in professional service activities such as Managing Editor of *Geocarto International*, book review editor for *Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing*, president of the Upper Midwest Chapter of ASPRS, past-chair of the AAG GPRM, and a director of the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group. Dr. Rundquist organized the 2008 AAG GPRM meeting in Grand Forks, and is working to organize the UMC ASPRS meeting (Oct. 5-6) in Sioux Falls and the North Dakota GIS Users' Conference (Nov. 2-4) in Grand Forks. He is also busy directing two grant programs: North DakotaView (funded by the U.S. Geological Survey and AmericaView Inc.) and a National

Geography Faculty Profiles (cont.)

Science Foundation Advanced Technical Education awarded in conjunction with Turtle Mountain Community College. Dr. Rundquist presented a paper at the 2009 AAG Conference in Las Vegas, and co-authored two presentations at the 2008 AAG GPRM. He was honored in February to receive a North Dakota Spirit Faculty Achievement Award for significant contributions in teaching, research, and service. Dr. Rundquist also keeps busy running a shuttle service for his 7-year-old daughter Ella. Soon, there will be two needing frequent rides: daughter Autumn is 2 in November. Son Kendall is now 17 and starting to think about college. Riley is 14 and enters high school in the fall. The entire Rundquist clan is looking forward to the annual summer trip to northeastern Minnesota and Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Dr. Gregory Vandenberg, Assistant Professor continues to conduct research on potential water quality impacts from confined animal feeding operations adjacent to Lake Alice National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern North Dakota. Lake Alice is a tributary to Devils Lake and water levels in both lakes have risen from 3-4 feet since last fall. He and his students presented research at several conferences this past year including the AAG GPRM meeting, the ND EPSCoR meeting, and the ND Chapter of the Wildlife Society. He also led a glacial geomorphology field trip for the AAG GPRM meeting. Dr. Vandenberg teaches courses in GIS, Intro physical geography, GPS, Great Plains Physiography, and Advanced Environmental Geography. The Great Plains Physiography course this spring included field trips to the Dahlen Esker and Edinburg moraine, Turtle River State Park, and Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge. Greg, his wife Lara Dando and their two children have been busy exploring the region with trips to many scenic areas. They spent some time hiking along the mighty Missouri River at Cross Ranch State Park near Washburn, ND and canoeing in the Turtle Mountains at Lake Metigoshe State Park this past summer. They also had a major road trip to Pennsylvania and Indiana to help celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary (July 2008) of Lara's parents, Bill and Caroline Dando. Many of you likely remember Dr. Bill Dando when he was a Professor in Geography at UND.

Dr. Todhunter enjoyed getting back into "the regular professor groove" after serving as Chair the past six years. Over the summer of 2008 he developed a semester-based online version of Geog 134: Introduction to Global Climate, and will be devel-

oping a similar type course this summer for Geog 121: Global Physical Environment and Geog 121L: Global Physical Environment Laboratory. He organized a field trip on Intensive Agriculture in the Red River Valley for the AAG GPRMD Meeting that was lots of fun. He recently submitted a manuscript dealing with the performance of the flood forecasting, warning, response system performance during the Grand Forks Flood of 1997, and is finishing a paper on the assumptions of the flood flow frequency methods used to determine the regulatory flood (100-year flood) in the U. S. using data from the Red River of the North. He received Office of Instructional Development support last summer for his effort to catalogue NASA remote sensing images in order to incorporate more remote sensing imagery into his classes. He will be on developmental leave the spring semester of 2010. Next year he will be down to one child in high school, but three in college! (two at U. Nebraska-Lincoln, one at U. Minnesota) He and Debbie will take an Alaskan cruise this summer to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

The high point of the past year for **Dr. Enru Wang** was the birth of their second child, a son Austin, on December 17, 2008. Austin is now five-months old and has grown quite a bit. Aurora is extremely happy to see the coming of her little brother and loves Austin very much. Aurora, now three and a half-year old, is also happy with her pre-school life. She is quickly learning language, painting, and many other things. With two young children, life is getting even busier for Enru and Juan. Some progress has been made in his research in the past academic year. He had one article published in *Environment and Planning C: Government & Policy* (with Jinping Song from Beijing Normal University, China), which was titled "The political economy of retail change in Chinese cities". He has two other papers accepted for publication by *The Service Industries Journal*, an international journal in management, and *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, a leading journal in area studies. He was also invited to write an entry for SAGE Reference project *Encyclopedia of Geography* (edited by Barney Warf), and gave a presentation at the Las Vegas AAG conferences in March. In addition to some routine courses, He taught a new course – graduate seminar in geography – with a focused theme of globalization and human geography.

Department of Geography
University of North Dakota
221 Centennial Drive Stop 9020
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9020

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Grand Forks, ND
58201
PERMIT NO. 10

Special Thanks to our Geography Fund / B.L. Wills Scholarship Alumni Contributors

Lowell Goodman	Geography
Paul & Jean Sando	Geography
Kenneth Jensen	B.L. Wills
Robert Muhs	B.L. Wills
Bradley Kontz	Geography
Jay Larson	Geography
Lara Dando/Greg Vandenberg	Geography
Michael Philipp	Geography
Frank Kohanowski	Geography
Vranna Quinn	Geography
Chris Atkinson	Geography
Gerald Rott	B.L. Wills

Thanks

Merci

Gracias

Gam-Sa

Donn Baker	B.L. Wills
Doug/Laura Munski	B.L. Wills
Lee Okeson	Geography
Steve Walker	Geography
Joe Nicholas	Geography
Steve Moe	B.L. Wills
Paula Lee	Geography
Julie Winkler	Geography
Josh Johnson	Geography

Your Name Here!!

UND Geography on Facebook!

Last fall we implemented a Facebook site to promote information sharing and networking for UND Geography Department alumni, faculty, and students. If you are interested in being a part of the Facebook site, please visit <http://www.und.edu/dept/Geog/> and click on the Facebook link.

