

Department of Geography Alumni Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Summer 2012

Special points of interest:

- Dr. Julie Winkler President-Elect of AAG!
- News about Homecoming 2012
- Alumni News
- Student Accomplishments



Drs. Wang & Todhunter at Enru's first baseball game in Cincinnati, OH (AP grading)

Dear Alumni and Friends,
Geography Essential Studies enrollments continued to be strong in 2011-2012. In fact, the Geography Department taught almost 1,700 students enrolled in sections of Global Physical Environment, Introduction to Global Climate, Human Geography, World Regional Geography, and Geography of North America last year, which is the highest number in recent memory. High demand for online and on-campus sections of Human Geography and World Regional Geography are fueling the increase. Despite seeing 17 undergraduate students graduate the year before, we had 52 majors by Spring 2012

Chair's Corner

Commencement, also a record since at least 2000-2001. Our graduate programs remain strong. Our graduate certificate in GIS, in particular, continues to 40+ applications each year from all over North America and some even some points overseas.

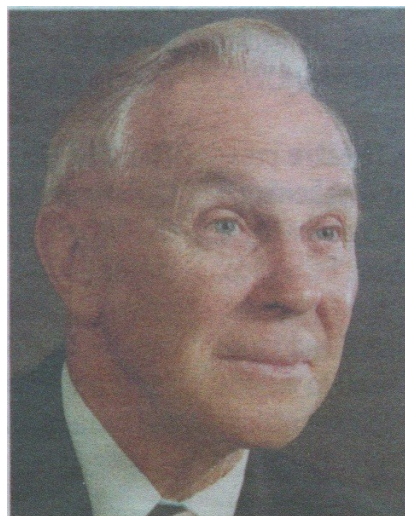
There have been a few transitions in administrative responsibilities in the department. Graduate Director Dr. Douglas Munski, who served in that role for many years, turned over those duties to Dr. Gregory Vandenberg on July 1, 2012. Dr. Munski is thanked for his remarkable dedication to the success of our graduate students. Dr. Vandenberg, in turn, turned over duties as GIS Certificate Director to

Dr. Enru Wang. Dr. Vandenberg's service as certificate director was nothing short of outstanding, and he successfully transitioned a relatively small on-campus program into a relatively large online program.

We are excited to share some of the accomplishments of UND Geography alumni, faculty, and students in this newsletter. I hope you find the information interesting and informative. If it's been awhile since you "touched base" with us, we'd love to hear from you! Please feel free to stop by the department if you are in the neighborhood, give me a call, send an email, or join the departmental Facebook page.

Inside this issue:

2011-12 Geography Forums	2
Homecoming 2012!	3
4th Distinguished Alumni Award—Mr. Brian Walters	3
Geography Alumni News!	4
Recent Department Graduates	5
Geography Faculty News	6-7
Thanks to Geography Department Supporters	8



Dr. Melvin Kazeck, 1915-2011

Dr. Melvin Kazeck, of Rancho Bernardo, CA, passed away November 2, 2011. Dr. Kazeck attended St. Cloud College and later received a Masters Degree from the University of North Dakota. His thesis, entitled "Audio-Visual Aids for the Modern High School" was the first masters degree granted by the department. He then earned a Doctoral Degree from Columbia University. He was a professor in the Department of Geography at the University of North Dakota with a specialty in meteorology and climatology. Later he was Chair of the Geography Department at Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville from which he retired in 1976. Dr. Kazeck was a highly regarded professor and was popular with his students. He was active as a golfer, traveler, bridge master, and belonged to several dance clubs. His interment is in Randall, MN.

Dr. Julie Winkler AAG President-Elect

Dr. Julie Winkler, Professor of Geography at Michigan State University and UND alumna, was recently elected Vice President of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), making her President-elect for the following year. Dr. Winkler received the first UND Geography Department Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009. Her research interests include climatology, regional climate change, quantitative methods, and women in academia. Dr. Winkler, who was raised on a farm

outside of Oriska, ND, 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 Scien-

tist. Dr. Winkler has been actively involved in the AAG, serving as a National Councillor, National Secretary, and as Associate Editor of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. She is also active in the American Meteorological Society (AMS), recently serving as its Commissioner for Education and Human Resources, and as an editor of the *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*. In 2005, Dr. Winkler was elected a Fellow of the AMS.

Graduate Student Accomplishments

Rhonda Fietzek-DeVries won second place in the poster competition at the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division Annual Meeting of the AAG in Denver on 7 October 2011.

Deepthi Waidysekera was one of three students nominated for the Graduate Student Civic Engagement Award.

Matt Dinger won first place in the student poster competition at the ND GIS meeting in Grand Forks, ND.

Matt Dinger won second place in the student paper competition at the West Lakes AAG meeting in Chicago, IL.

Rhonda Fietzek-DeVries won third place in the Professional Group category of the Geography Awareness Week/GIS Day Poster Competition at the ASPRS-St. Louis Region Meeting at Northwest Missouri State University.

Nicholas L. Roehrdanz and Bradley C. Rundquist: Analysis of the Influences Driving Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Enrollment Patterns in the Devils Lake Basin, North Dakota [GP/RMD Mtg]

Deepthi Waidysekera Population Trends in Buffalo, North Dakota: 1880-2010 [GP/RMD Mtg]

Nels Anderson and Bradley C. Rundquist Analysis of Temporal Changes in Canopy Structure, to Determine Temperate Species Inception to the Boreal Wilderness of NW MN [GP/RMD Mtg]

Rhonda Fietzek-DeVries Is Theodore Roosevelt National Park at Risk? Analyzing Historical Climate Data: 1895-2010 [GP/RMD Mtg]

Patrick Bright Violent Conflict and Natural Resources: The Spatial Connection [GP/RMD Mtg]

Emily Knish Water Surface Elevation Changes in Devils Lake, North Dakota, using the Spatial Synoptic Classification System [GP/RMD Mtg]

2011-12 Geography Department Forums

Dr. Stanley D. Brunn: "Geographies of Mobility." Professor of Geography, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky, 16 September 2011.

Dr. Kamlesh Lulla: "Emerging Trends in Geospatial Technologies: Are Geographers Ready?" Chief Scientist for Earth Observations, Director of the University Outreach, Collaborations, and Partnerships Office, NASA Johnson Space Center, 18 October 2011.

Dr. Thomas Mote: "Evidence of Recent Climate Change from the Greenland Ice Sheet." Professor of Geography, Department of Geography, University of Georgia, 21 October 2011.

Mr. Ryan Brooks: "Grand Forks Planning in a Post Flood Environment." Senior Planner, City of Grand Forks. 18 November 2011.

Dr. Shengli Huang: "Integrating Field Observation, Remote Sensing and Modeling for Wetland Ecosystem Services Evaluation in the Prairie Pothole Region." Research Scientist, EROS Data Center (USGS), 16 February 2012.

Please Join Us for Homecoming 2012!

The annual Geography Alumni Banquet is set for 16 November 2012 at the Eagle's Crest Grill at King's Walk Golf Course, 5301 S. Columbia Road (5:30 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. supper). Mr. Brian Walters will provide an after-dinner talk. Please note that this date differs from the date for the regular UND Homecoming, due to a schedule conflict with two separate professional geography meetings. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ms. Cindy Purpur (701-777-4246 or cindy.purpur@email.und.edu) by 9 November. The cost of the banquet is \$20 per person. We hope to see you there!

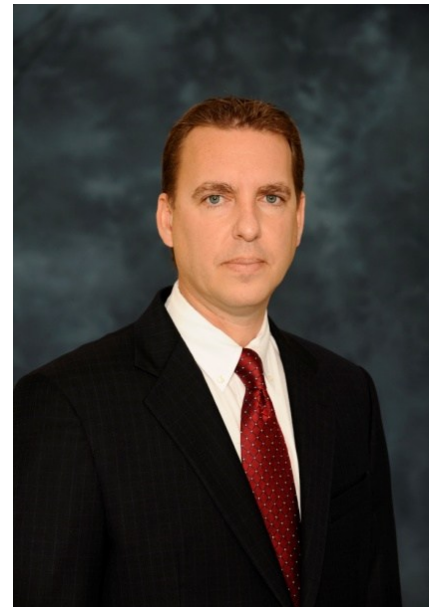
Mr. Brian Walters to Receive Distinguished Alumnus Award

Mr. Brian Walters is Executive Vice President of Innovation and Business Development for the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission (EDC) in Orlando, Florida. He received his M.S. in Economic Development from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS, and his B.S. in Geography from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND.

In May 2010, Brian joined the EDC as Executive Vice President heading up the Innovation & Business Development team. In his role, he oversees all business development functions and team members of the organization. Prior to joining the EDC, Brian served as the president of the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation for eight years. There, he was re-

sponsible for administration and strategic direction of the two-county, two-state economic development organization where he was instrumental in the establishment of the Cass/Clay Economic Plan, an initiative designed to place that region in a stronger position to compete for businesses and jobs in emerging high-tech industries such as vaccine development and smart technologies, among other notable accomplishments.

Brian is an accomplished economic development professional with a proven track record of success and over 15 years of direct industry experience in Purvis, MS; Conroe, TX; and Dumas, TX. He is a member of the International Economic Development Council.



Mr. Brian Walters, 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient (in his "work clothes")

Undergraduate Student Accomplishments

Korey Southerland (B.S., 2012) has been admitted to the Ph.D. program in Atmospheric Policy in the Laboratory for Atmospheric Research (LAR) within the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. While at WSU she will be supported by an IGERT Graduate Fellowship through the WSU NSPIRE Program. NSPIRE (Nitrogen Systems: Policy-oriented Integrated Research and Education) is an interdisciplinary research program focused on nitrogen cycle processes in the environment integrated with experiential learning of public policy.

Kyle Wikstrom (B.S., 2012) has been accepted into the graduate program in geography at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Danny Lissick (Junior in Geography) was selected for participation in the summer program entitled "Interdisciplinary Research Experience in Hyperspectral Imaging." The NSF-funded Interdisciplinary Research Experience in Hyperspectral Imaging (IDREHSI) program will take place at the University of Northern Iowa.

Nick Kludt (Senior in Geography) was selected for the NASA Graduate Internship Program this summer at the NASA AMES office in the San Francisco Bay area.

Nick Kludt (Senior in Geography) was also admitted into the graduate program in Biology at the University of North Dakota.

Jeremy Bancroft (Geography major) was selected for a GIS Internship at Hess Corporation in Minot.

Geography Alumni News

(Please send us news!)

- Roland Mower** (B.A., 1986) is CEO of the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation in Corpus Christi, TX. He has been working in regional economic development for over 23 years, the last ten of which have been in Texas. Things have been booming in that part of the states. He says he is "... not a Texan by birth ... but certainly by choice!" He can be reached at rcmower@ccredc.com.
- Rylan Kabunak** (B.S., 2009) earned his wings by graduating from Combat Systems Officer Training Class 11-06 at the 479th Flying Training Group at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL. Ryan, now a 2nd Lieutenant, will serve as a CSO in the B-52 at Barksdale Air Force Base, LA. His 11-month training involved 620 academic hours, 100 flight simulator hours, and 45 flight hours.
- Jim Mertz** (B.S., 2010) was recently hired as a GIS & Engineering Specialist for Ward County in Minot, ND.
- Rachel Turner** (B.S. 2011) recently completed the University of California at Riverside GIS Certificate Program, and has enrolled in the M.S. GIS Program at the University of Redlands (FYI: Esri is headquartered in Redlands).
- Rhonda Olson** (M.S., 2011) is working as an Environmental Scientist with Widseth, Smith and Nolting in Crookston, MN.
- Tina Cummings** (M.S. 2010) is now working as a GIS Analyst with SandRidge Energy Inc. in Oklahoma City, OK.
- Peter Metzger** (M.S., 2010) is working now as a GIS Manager with the North Dakota National Guard in Bismarck, ND.
- Nancy Godon** (M.S., 1995) and her husband Vince Godon (who also took a lot of geography coursework at UND), recently had an extended excerpt from their new book *Reshaping the Tornado Belt: The June 16, 1887, Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Tornado* printed in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* (2011) 92(12): 1692-1693. Look for copies in fine bookstores everywhere. It makes a wonderful gift or coffee table display item!
- Dr. Julie Winkler** (B.S., 1975), who is Professor of Geography at Michigan State University (and an Oriska, ND native), was recently elected Vice-President of the Association of American Geographers! This means that she will assume the role of President of the AAG the following year. Yowzers! Way to go Julie!
- Eric Bench** has been promoted to Vice President – Investments, in the Lakewood, CO office of Wells Fargo Advisors.
- Drew Flanagan** (B.S., 2011) has accepted a position as a Cartographic Technician with Garmin International in Olathe, KS.
- Kyle Wikstrom** (B.S. 2011) will be starting his MA in the geography program at The George Washington University, in Washington, DC. He received the Campbell Endowment Fellowship in Geography, and will be living in Silver Spring, Maryland.
- Jeff Kuhlman** (B.S., 1990) is working as a Regional Branch Supervisor for Wells Fargo Advisors in Minneapolis, MN. He lives in New Richmond, WI with his wife Marti, and their three kids, Travis, Alaina, and Adam.
- Peter Aldritt** (B.S., 2011) married Angela (Treece) Aldritt on May 19, 2012. Peter works as a Community Development Assistant for the City of Prior Lake, MN.
- Nick Henes** (B.S., 2011) was accepted as a student in the University of North Dakota School of Law.
- Andrea Laraway** (B.S., 2012) was recently hired as a Community Betterment Specialist with the Office of Urban Development for the city of Grand Forks, ND.
- Gary Votaw** (M.S., 2006) is now the Acting Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) and the Science and Operations Officer (SOO) at the National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Gary Votaw** (M.S., 2006) was a contributor to the Caribbean section of the Regional Climates chapter of the "State of the Climate in 2011" Special Supplement to the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* (2012) 93(7): S1-S264.
- Curtis Carlson** (B.S., 1986) is the GIS Coordinator for the Regional Multiple Listing Service in St. Paul, MN. He lives with his wife and son in Shoreview, MN.
- Ben Prusa** (M.S., 2010) works as a Precision Farming Specialist for Titan Machinery in Marshall, MN. He and his wife Jenna just purchased a home in Marshall.
- Randy Schmidt** (B.S., 1991) is working as a Remote Sensing Specialist at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Center in Jamestown, ND.
- Steve Zimmer** (B.S., 2001) now works as a Senior City Planner for the City of West Fargo, West Fargo, ND. He received his Master of Community and Regional Planning from the University of Nebraska in 2003.



Top: Tina Cummings, Harold Bergquist, Paul Todhunter, and Laura Munski at the Devils Lake Flood Tour, June 2011. **Bottom:** 2012 ΦBK inductees Nick Schmitz, Nick Henes, and Nick Kludt (Seriously, they are all named Nick!).



Right: 2nd Lt. Rylan Kabunak at flight school in Pensacola, FL.



2011 NDGIS Conference

The UND Department of Geography co-hosted the 2011 NDGIS Users Conference with the State of ND and the USGS in October 2011 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. There were a total of 160 attendees. Doug Olsen and Ho Jim Kim of Earth System Science and Policy, UND and Brian Vanderbilt, USDA Farm Service Agency were keynote speakers. There were 45 paper presentations, 16 posters, and 5 workshop sessions. The Department of Geography will be co-hosting the conference in Grand Forks in 2013. Dr. Vandeberg did a great job organizing the conference.

Department Graduates

M.A.

Bright, Patrick, M.A., "A Geographic Study of the Laotian Hydropower Sector." (Chair: Wang)

M.S.

Olson, Rhonda, M.S., "Assessment of Potential Sediment and Nutrient Loading from Rural/Agricultural to Urban Land Use Transition on the English Coulee, Grand Forks, ND." (Chair: Vandeberg)

B.S.

Winter 2011

Drew Flanagan (Cum Laude)

Nick Henes (Summa Cum Laude)

Erin Joki (Cum Laude)

Mitch Kasdan (Cum Laude)

Tom Nybo (Cum Laude)

Ashley Osborne

Rachel Van Winkle

Spring 2012

Benjamin Carlson

Derek Elioff

Nicholas Kludt (Summa Cum Laude)

Andrea Laraway (Magna Cum Laude)

Aaron Norby

Nick Schmitz (Summa Cum Laude)

Thomas Svobodny

Taylor Teske

Brian Trenbeath

Jeff Wicklund

Geography Faculty Profiles

Dr. Christopher Atkinson focused much of his energies during the school year helping and providing opportunities for students. He continues full involvement in online geographic education—Physical Geography, World Regional Geography, Geography of Europe, Geography of North America, and GIS, and contributes to the online GIS Certificate Program—Introductory and Advanced GIS, for which interest remains high. His continued encouragement for student participation at geographic conferences was highlighted at the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain AAG, held in Denver, Colorado, October, 2011, where five graduate students and four undergraduates represented the Department. Three of the students presented papers and three displayed posters. It was a great time, and Rhonda Fietzek-DeVries won second place in the student poster competition. Dr. Atkinson also served as co-mentor for Mr. Garrett Jepsen, a McNair Scholar in the Department. Mr. Jepsen successfully completed and displayed a poster at the UND Graduate Forum for his work on the climatology of tornadoes in ND, SD, and MN.

Dr. Atkinson and his wife Lisa enjoyed time early this summer in Missouri visiting friends. Both on and before the trip, they have enjoyed watching their son Miles grow in many ways (21 months in May 2012). His is full of energy and, at times, a challenge to keep up with. When not teaching or taking care of family, Dr. Atkinson enjoys music.

Dr. Devon Hansen presented a paper with geography undergraduate Andrea Laraway at the 2011 Canadian Association of Geographers Prairie Division Meeting in Devils Lake. This research focuses on neighborhood revitalization activities in the Near North Neighborhood in Grand Forks. Currently, they are preparing a paper for submission to a community development journal. Dr. Hansen and geography colleagues from UND (Drs. Rundquist and Wang) and University of Kentucky (Dr. Brunn) conducted a survey with local residents in three western North Dakota cities to assess the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the recent oil boom. In February, professional travel took her to the 2012 AAG Annual Meeting in New York City to present research related to youth out-migration in North Dakota. She participated in the Fifth Annual Community Connect Forum in Buffalo, ND on April 28, 2012. Dr. Hansen was featured in a Grand Forks Herald article (April 29, 2012) that highlighted North Dakota's 85 years and older population or what is considered the "oldest of the old" according to the U.S. Census. With the second highest proportion of the oldest old in the US, meeting the future needs of this population is an ongoing concern for the state. The article was reprinted in the Ransom County Gazette, the weekly newspaper serving Dr. Hansen's hometown of Lisbon, ND. Finally, she continues to devote time as a volunteer with the

Global Friends Coalition and their work with refugee integration in Grand Forks.

Dr. Douglas C. Munski continues to emphasize teaching, service, and administration with an appropriate modicum of research. He still handles large-sized courses in Essential Studies ("fondly" remembered as General Education Requirements by older alumni) as well as moderate-sized regional courses—Geography of Canada, and small-sized topical courses—Historical Geography. In November of 2011 he was recognized with the 2011 Public Scholar Award from the UND Center for Community Engagement. His current work in historic preservation and heritage tourism occurs beyond the bounds of campus; he was re-appointed recently as a member of the City of Grand Forks Historic Preservation Committee and was elected as a board member of the Grand Forks County Historical Society. His involvement in shared governance in higher education is significant and increasing, which was a key factor in his stepping down as graduate director. Starting on July 1, 2012, Dr. Munski becomes the Council of College Faculties 2012-13 faculty advisor to the North Dakota University System's State Board of Higher Education. He will also be the Council of College Faculties representative to the UND Senate Executive Committee as well as also being one of the Social Science Division representatives to the recently reconstituted UND College of Arts & Sciences Dean Search Committee. Finally, he retains his "open door" policy for his office in Ireland Hall 154, and would welcome seeing alumni any time that his door is open.

Dr. Brad Rundquist completed his first year of three as Regional Councillor of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the AAG, with meetings in Savannah, GA, and New York City. He also served as Vice President of the St. Louis Region of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and is now President of that group for one year. He continues to serve as Managing Editor of *Geocarto International* and director of North Dakota View. Dr. Rundquist presented posters at the 2012 AAG Conference in New York and the 2011 AAG GPRM in Denver. His family is enjoying more leisure time than usual during Summer 2012, including a wonderful 10-day trip to Maui (it was hard to leave the island!), the annual fishing trip to the Boundary Waters, and as proud owners of a 32' camper. His family is now officially classified as "weekenders" at a lake resort near Bemidji! His son, Kendall (20) successfully completed his first year at Baylor University. Riley (17) cannot wait to be a high school senior. Ella (10) finished fourth grade and continues to be very involved in dance and stage classes, and Autumn (4) keeps everyone entertained.

Geography Faculty Profiles (cont.)

Dr. Paul Todhunter His paper on the assumptions underlying the methods used to determine the regulatory flood (100-year flood) in the United States was published in the *Journal of Hydrologic Engineering* (fulfilling a life-long ambition to publish in an engineering journal!). A co-authored paper with Tina Cummings and Brad Rundquist based upon Tina's thesis also appeared in *Applied Geography*. Emily Knish defended her thesis on climate-water surface elevation relations at Devils Lake, and Rhonda Fitzek-Devries is concluding her analysis of the long-term climatic water budget at Medora, ND (Theodore Roosevelt National Park). He presented two papers on Devils Lake flooding at the 14th World Lake Conference in Austin, TX, and subcontracted to write six units for a major revision of a physical geography textbook published by Oxford University Press. He and Debbie have officially become "empty nesters," as all of their children are in graduate school/college. Their youngest (Rachel) heads off to begin college at that place down south whose name cannot be uttered. Their next life change will be their children's marriages and grandchildren, hopefully in that order! They purchased points in a Marriot Vacation Club in anticipation of travelling more, and will be going to Ireland in August as a 'pre-Rachel send-off celebration.'

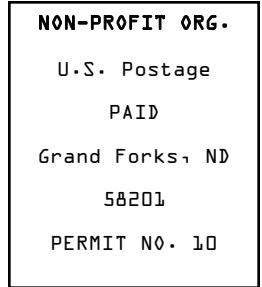
Dr. Gregory Vandenberg continues his work on water and sediment quality research in the upper Devils Lake Basin. He completed a major report for the U.S.F.W.S. documenting four years of research on this area. This research has been extended to include the modeling of potential soil erosion in agricultural fields with one of his M.S. students, Matt Dinger. Research results were presented at the ND GIS Users Conference, and the West Lakes Division of the AAG Annual Meeting in Chicago. Another advisee, Rhonda Olson, completed her M.S. degree with a study on water quality and land cover change along the English Coulee, Grand Forks. Dr. Vandenberg will be traveling to the Wind River Mountains, WY in August to participate in a mountain glacier study with Dr. Jeff Van Looy (UND ESSP) and researchers from the University of Utah. They will measure ice thicknesses and water flow, to determine the glacier mass balance, as well as document long term changes. Dr. Vandenberg received the UND Spirit Award at the Annual Founders Day Banquet. He hosted a visiting Fulbright scholar, Dr. Veena Joshi, from the University of Pune, India in October 2011. He completed his term as Director of the online GIS certificate, and begins as Graduate Director for the department in July 2012. The Vandenberg-Dando family continues to grow up, with daughter Anna entering high school this fall, and John advancing to second grade. Several trips were made to the Twin Cities to see family, as well as to Terre Haute, IN to see William (former Department chair) and Caroline Dando.

Dr. Enru Wang was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure effective from 16 August 2011. This past summer began by teaching the online GEOG 471/471L course,

and was followed by a trip to China in which Dr. Wang and his family visited family members, relatives and friends. It was an exciting trip for Aurora and Austin and they were amazed by many things they saw and heard. Dr. Wang met with his research collaborators in Beijing and was invited to give a research presentation to graduate students from the School of Geography and Remote Sensing at Beijing Normal University. He gave a presentation at the annual AAG meeting in New York City, and submitted two manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals for publication. He also worked with Drs. Brad Rundquist and Devon Hansen and Dr. Stan Brunn (U. of Kentucky) on conducting a survey to assess the social and environmental impacts of the oil boom in northwestern ND. In addition to regularly teaching GEOG 352, GEOG 463 and GEOG 151, Dr. Wang was one of the co-instructors of GEOG 576 Field Methods and Analysis in Geography, a graduate course that was offered for the first time in Fall 2011. In the spring he taught GEOG 454 Conservation of Resources, the geography capstone course that was approved to be an advanced communication course. His graduate advisee, Mr. Patrick Bright, successfully defended his thesis on Hydropower Developments in Laos.

Dr. Michael Niedzielski completed his first year in the department. The highlight in teaching came when he taught a service learning version of *Geog 471: Cartography & Visualization*. Students worked with the Near North Neighborhood of GF to create maps needed by the local organizations and residents based on their input. Each group of students worked closely with the neighborhood from the initial brainstorming through feedback to final product. A map packet was created that was first presented to the neighborhood at the February monthly meeting followed by a presentation to the Grand Forks city council. Dr. Niedzielski also talked about the benefit of having students apply class knowledge to real world needs at the *Community Connect Forum* in Buffalo, ND. The course and the students were featured in the Spring 2012 issue of *UND Discovery*, which is published by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development. He will teach a service learning version of the course again this coming fall semester focusing on maps needed by the Grand Forks refugee population. Other teaching highlights include developing new courses such as *Human Geography* and *Urban Geography and Planning*. The last year has been productive in terms of research and scholarship. He had a paper published in *Applied Geography*, and a paper accepted in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* and another in the *Journal of Geographical Systems*. Dr. Niedzielski traveled to three conferences: *North American Regional Science Conference* in Miami, *Accessibility and Mobility* conference at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization in Warsaw, Poland (December, 2011), and the annual meeting of the *Association of American Geographers* in New York City (February, 2012). He plans on visiting Vancouver, Warsaw and Mexico City over summer 2012.

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Geography Fund / B.L.Wills Scholarship Contributions Total \$7,515 in 2011-12!

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Thanks -

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to our Donors!

We maintain 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.

• < Key Numbers >

Spring 2012:

54 Undergraduate geography majors

12 Geography graduate students

21 Graduate GIS Certificate
students

19 Geography minors