I assumed the Chair of the department in January, 2015. I would like to thank Dr. Rundquist for serving as Chair for the past 6 ½ years. His strong administrative skills and organization will be difficult to duplicate. Dr. Rundquist will be serving as an Administrative Fellow for Research in the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office for the coming year. We wish him the best, and look forward to his continued involvement with the Geography Department.

The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) has approved our name change to “Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science” for Fall 2015. I believe that adding “Geographic Information Science” to our name will enhance the public’s understanding of what we do, and help us to recruit new majors. The SBHE also approved the addition of an undergraduate Minor in Geospatial Technologies which will emphasize GIS and remote sensing.

Our students continue to amaze me with their hard work and creativity. We had six students: Hannah Bahnmiller, Mitch Braget, Manna Khan, Megan Quinlan, Dasuni Ranapathi Arachchige, and David Wiosna present papers or posters at the AAG Annual Meeting in Chicago in April 2015. Many of them rode in a university van from Grand Forks piloted by Dr. Wang on the trip down, and me on the way back. It was a fun, but long trip. Graduate student Morgen Burke presented at the Canadian Association of Geographers Prairie Division meeting in Riding Mountain National Park in September; and several students presented at the UND Graduate Student Forum. Students also participated in numerous local and national internships. We had 15 new graduates this past academic year, along with 4 masters graduates. Undergraduates Austin Braget, Mitch Braget, and Megan Quinlan were inducted into the International Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, and Karl Bauer, Austin Braget, Manna Khan and Stephanie Schaub were inducted into the Gamma Theta Upsilon International Geography Honor Society. David Wiosna received the Lee Okeson Scholarship; Austin Braget and Karl Bauer received the B.L. Wills Scholarship; Manna Khan received the Virginia George Memorial Scholarship; and Morgen Burke, Jay Sandeen and Benjamin York each received a ND View Scholarship this past year. Finally, graduate student, Dasuni Ranapathi Arachchige, received a fellowship from the ND Water Resources Research Institute.

The Department celebrated Geography Awareness Week with several activities this year. These included a campus-wide photography contest, the showing of the movie “Chasing Ice” followed by a talk by Dr. VanLooy and myself on “Expeditions in America’s Backyard: Glacial Research in the Wind River Range, Wyoming; an international bake sale, and of course, the GTU banquet. Mr. Ross Keys (B.S. 1983, M.A. 1987) received the Distinguished Alumni Award, and was the guest speaker for the GTU Banquet.

I am proud of all of the accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni. I look forward to helping continue this tradition as we move forward on our geographic sojourn.
Graduate Student Accomplishments

Lawrence Burkett (Geography Graduate student) and his wife Bonnie are the new parents of a baby girl, Kes Renee, who was born in March 2015.

Dasuni Arachchige (M.S., 2015) accepted a one-year lectureship position to teach introductory physical geography courses at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD.

David Wiosna was the first recipient of the Lee and Marlene Okeson Graduate Student Fellowship.

Danny Fasteen (M.A., 2010) and Angie, his wife, had a baby, Riley James Fasteen, at 3:27 pm on 6 September 2015. Riley weighed in at 6 lbs, 4 oz.

Recent graduates Austin Braget (B.S., W 2014) and Mitch Braget (B.S., Sp 2015) were admitted into the Masters program in Geography at Kansas State University, in Manhattan, KS. Both brothers received funding. Way to make us look good, guys!

Faculty/Department Awards

Dr. Enru Wang received a College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research/Creative Activity Fund award.

Dr. Paul Todhunter was honored for 25 years of service to the department and university, although he missed his free meal since he was teaching in Norway.

Calling All Business Cards!

The department has been brainstorming on ways to build our number of undergraduate majors and minors. During a recent departmental ‘start of the year workshop’ we came up with the idea of creating a montage of business cards from our graduates that we could display on our display case. We would greatly appreciate it if you could mail your most recent business card to the department::

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

Geography Alumni News

Joel Crawford (B.S.) took a new job as GIS Specialist with the McLeod County Highway Department in Hutchinson, MN, after working at Garmin in Kansas City for six years.

Ali Rood (M.A., 2010) was recently elected Vice-President of the Dakota Transit Association Board of Directors.


Zachary Braun (M.S., 2014) is working as a GIS Specialist with South Central Technical Service Area in Mankato, MN. They provide engineering and technical assistance for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the region.

Nick Kludt (B.S., 2012) defended his thesis in the Department of Biology on 20 November 2014. The thesis title is “A Remote Sensing Analysis of the Effects of Watershed Disturbance and Riparian Integrity on Stream Fish Communities in the Red River of the North Basin.”

Darrel Nucech (M.S., 2008) is now GIS Coordinator for the City of Bismarck, ND.

Department to Host 2017 Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division Meeting!!

In September 2008 the Department successfully hosted the Annual Meeting of the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the Association of American Geographers.

September 2017 will mark the 20th anniversary of the 1997 Grand Forks Flood, and provides a good opportunity to once again host the meeting. The long lead time allows us to encourage faculty, graduate student, and undergraduate student research projects concerning long-term disaster recovery at Grand Forks that might form the content for one or more paper sessions at the meeting. Grand Forks remains one of FEMA’s ‘crown jewel’ disaster recovery cases.

We anticipate seeking University financial support for hosting the meeting, but will also use some Geography Alumni contributions. If you would like to make a contribution to the UND Foundation to specifically support this project please send us an email stating your intent and we will earmark it for that meeting.
The annual Geography Alumni Banquet is set for 21 November 2015 at the Ramada Inn in Grand Forks (5:00 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. supper). Dr. Gary Johnson will provide an after-dinner talk. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ms. Cindy Purpur (701-777-4246 or cindy.purpur@email.und.edu) by Thursday, 12 November. The cost of the banquet is $22 per person. We hope to see you there!

Dr. Gary Johnson to Receive Distinguished Alumnus Award

Gary Johnson served as the System Vice President of Research for the South Dakota Board of Regents from October 2008 to June 2012. Prior to assuming that position he served as the Interim Vice President for Research at UND.

Johnson is a geographer with a specialization in applied remote sensing. He holds advanced degrees from the University of North Dakota and Indiana State University. He served as a Visiting Scientist at Purdue University’s Laboratory for Applications of Remote Sensing in 1971 while compiling data in support of his doctoral dissertation.

He began his academic career at the University of North Dakota in 1966, and following a sabbatical leave with the ND Governor’s Office as Director of a regional environmental impact study pertaining to proposed lignite coal development, Johnson went on to a career in applied geospatial technologies and research program management beginning at the US Geological Survey’s EROS Data Center near Sioux Falls, SD. He held a concurrent appointment as Adjunct Professor of Geography at South Dakota State University. He later spent a combined four years in Bangkok, Thailand, first with the Asian Institute of Technology developing the post-graduate Asian Regional Remote Sensing Training Center under USAID sponsorship and later as Director of the United Nations Environment Programme’s Global Resource Information Database serving Asia and the Pacific. While at AIT he was privileged to design and implement a personalized training course for HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, daughter of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit of Thailand. Sandwiched between those two international assignments, Johnson served as a Physical Scientist and Branch Chief of the Climatic Applications Branch of NOAA in Columbia, MO and concurrently held Adjunct Professor positions in the Department of Geography and the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Missouri for five years.

Johnson has also served as the Vice President and Director of the Information Resources and Technologies Division of the NASA sponsored Consortium for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) in University Center, MI and as Manager of the Science and Applications Division of the Remote Sensing Directorate, Lockheed Martin Stennis Operations at NASA’s Stennis Space Center, MS. Following an absence of 26 years he returned to his alma mater, the University of North Dakota, in 2002 as Executive Officer of the Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium, and subsequently as Assistant Vice President for Research and Co-Project Director of the ND Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). He was named Interim Vice President for Research in 2007. He concurrently held the positions of Professor in the graduate program in Earth System Science and Policy and Adjunct Professor of Geography at UND.

Johnson was married to Diana Grandpre (deceased) and they have two children, daughter Tracy in Rapid City, SD and son Rob in Columbia, MO. They are the proud grandparents of one exceptional granddaughter and four outstanding grandsons.
Even More Geography Alumni News!

Patrick Bright (M.A., 2012) is now working as a Research Specialist in the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Grand Forks, ND. He coordinates and facilitates data collection and analysis focusing on rural health workforce information, and provides GIS technical services. This followed a stint at UND Institutional Research.

Dr. Joseph W. Nicholas is Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. He gets out most summers to the Moab, UT area to do field work, but has not been able to make it to UND. The Geography Department at UMW has grown quite a bit since he arrived in 1991. He was the sole physical geographer in a faculty of 6 full-time; they now have another physical geographer in a faculty of 9 full-time. In the mid-2000s UMW added a GIS certificate and more recently got an MS in Geospatial Analysis approved and running. They are the first department in the College of Arts and Sciences to get a masters program! He says that he will always be thankful to UND and the Geography Department for taking such good care of him as a master’s student.

Dr. Christina Dando (B.A. 1986), has been awarded the 2015 Distinguished Teacher-Higher Education award from the National Council for Geograhic Education to be presented in August in Washington, D.C. at the national conference.

Amber Boll (B.S., 2013) was recently admitted to the Ph.D. program in Geography within the Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky, where she will work with Dr. Mark Wilson.

Matthew Fahrenbruch (B.S., 2011) continues in the Ph.D. program at the University of Kansas (http://geog.ku.edu/fahrenbruch-matthew).

William Wetherbolt (M.A., 2008) is nearing completion of the Ph.D. program at Kansas State Univ.

Garrett Jepsen (B.S., 2014) is in his second year in the Masters of Geography program at the University of Northern Iowa, in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Tina Cummings (M.S., 2010) recently received the GIS Professional Certification from the GIS Certification Institute.

Dr. Greg Vandeberg (Geography) and Dr. Jeff VanLooy (a geographer in Earth System Science and Policy) led a field research team to the Wind River Basin in WY to conduct glacial research in 2014.

New GISc Minor Approved by SBHE

The ND State Board of Higher Education recently approved our request for a 21-credit undergraduate minor in Geographical Information Science (GISc). Courses will be selected from:

- 271: The Power of Maps (3)
- 274: Introduction to Geospatial Technologies (3)
- 374/L: Environmental Remote Sensing (2/1)
- 471/L: Cartography and Visualization (2/1)
- 474/L: Introduction to GIS (2/1)
- 475: Digital Image Processing (3)
- 476: Special Topics in GIS (3)

Left: Danny Fasteen with newborn son Riley.

Right: Mitch Braget and Megan Quinlan at the ΦΒΚ ceremony.
Department Graduates

M.S.

M.A.
Derrick LaPoint (M.A., 2015) Needs Assessment of a Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program in the Near Southside Neighborhood in Grand Forks, ND. (Advisor: Dr. Devon Hansen)
David Wiosna (M.A., 2015) Changing Bike Mode Share between Time Periods for Suffolk County, MA. (Advisor: Dr. Michael Niedzielski)

B.S.
Winter 2014
Hannah Bahnmiller (Summa Cum Laude)
Austin Braget (Summa Cum Laude)
Alex Brandon
Erin Caughey
Kyle Economy
Christian Sovak

Spring 2015
Mitchell Braget (summa cum laude)
Ryan Domeier
Grace Oberg (cum laude)
Megan Quinlan (summa cum laude)
Stephanie Schaub (magna cum laude)
Andrew Schmaus
Dillon Skogen
Garrett Stevens (commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Army)
Tyler Weichel

Bailey Bubach (UND Geology), Dr. Niedzielski: Geospatial Analysis of Unconventional Rock Units, Using Conventional Methods.
Roberta MacDonald (UND ESSP), Dr. VanLooy (UND ESSP), Dr. Vandeberg: Analysis of changing glacial conditions and melt water contribution to stream flow in the Wind River Range, Wyoming: 1966-2012.

Strong UND Presence at AAG Chicago Annual Meeting

The Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting was held 21-25 April 2015 in Chicago, IL. The close proximity provided an opportunity for the department to take a van of students to the meeting. City tours and concierge service were also provided by Dr. Niedzielski, who went to high school and college (DePaul University) in Chicago. The following paper and poster presentations provide a nice profile of the type of work being done in the department. UND faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students are bolded.

Dr. Rundquist, Dr. Goodwin (UND Biology): Recent Changes in Crop Diversity in the Red River Valley, North Dakota and Minnesota.
Dr. Hansen, Mikel Smith, Dr. Munski: Perceiving Quality of Life in the Near South Side Neighborhood of Grand Forks, North Dakota.
Dr. Vandeberg, Dr. VanLooy (UND ESSP): Geochemistry of Continental Glacier Meltwater in the Northern Wind River Range, Wyoming.
Dr. VanLooy (UND ESSP), Dr. Vandeberg: Continental Glacier Meltwater Dynamics in the Northern Wind River Range, Wyoming.
Dr. Niedzielski, Dr. O'Kelly (OSU Geography): Validating synthetic commuting data.
Dr. Wang, Dr. Li (China NEMC): Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Air Pollution in Chinese Cities.
Hannah Bahnmiller: Neoliberalism and Its Implications for Uneven Spatial Development.
Megan Quinlan, Austin Braget, Dr. Rundquist, Dr. Niedzielski, Dr. Braun (UND American Indian Studies): Development of a Web-Based GIS to Support Decision-Making on the Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota.
Mitchell Braget, Dr. Rundquist, Eric Plummer: Simulating UAS Photography to Digitally Reconstruct a Traffic Accident Scene using Structure from Motion.

David Wiosna, Dr. Niedzielski: Changing Bike Mode Share Between Time Periods For Suffolk County, MA.
Dasuni Perera, Dr. Vandeberg: Mapping Flash Flood Potential using GIS and the Flash Flood Potential Index in the Turtle River and Forest River Watersheds, North Dakota.
Dr. Christopher J. Atkinson continued to teach heavily in GIS, as well as physical and regional geography. One of his favorite courses last year was Winter Storms and Human Impacts, a seminar in physical geography. In addition, Dr. Atkinson continues to work with the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program and will be traveling to the Great Plains Rocky Mountain AAG conference in October. In addition to presenting, he will support Ms. Manna Khan, a geography student and McNair Scholar presenting at the meeting. Finally, Lawrence Burkett successfully defended his MS thesis, *Blizzards in the Upper Midwest, 1980-2013*, on July 20, 2015.

Dr. Douglas C. Munski continued emphasizing a heavy teaching load and wide range of service duties with appropriate elements of research and administration as he has since January 2, 1978. During 2014-15, he also served as the faculty fellow supervising the UND Center for Community Engagement while its director, Dr. Lana Rakow, was on her developmental leave. Furthermore, Dr. Munski resumed officially another term as the department’s graduate director. Ergo, if alumni know of prospective graduate students for the geography/GIS programs at UND, please encourage them to contact Dr. Munski.

Dr. Michael Niedzielski had a busy and exciting year. He led an interdisciplinary group of students in experiential and collaborative learning to map demographic, economic, and social change across North Dakota. A big thank you to Drs. Rundquist and Vandeberg and Dean Storrs for the support! In addition to teaching these students as part of A&S499: Interdisciplinary Practicum, he taught GEOG 471/L: Cartography & Visualization in Fall 2014 and GEOG 457: Urban Geography and Planning in Spring 2015. He graduated his first master’s student, David Wiosna. He presented research at the International Geographical Union Conference in Kraków in August 2014 and at the 111th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Chicago in April 2015. In Chicago, he was also involved in poster presentation by undergraduate and graduate students. He published a paper in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. And best of all, he got married in Warsaw, Poland in January, 2015!!!

Dr. Brad Rundquist is serving for at least one year as Administrative Fellow for Research in the College of Arts and Sciences. He will teach one course per semester in Geography and continue to work on research activities when time permits. He is on the planning committee for the 2015 North Dakota GIS Conference, which will be in Fargo. In May, Dr. Rundquist was proud to witness his son Kendall’s graduation from Baylor University with a degree in computer information systems. Son Riley finished his sophomore year at the University of Houston majoring in hotel and restaurant management. Ella finished her second year of middle school, and likes to remind her parents, who think she is growing up too quickly, that she’ll soon be in high school. She continues to be heavily involved in competitive dance, making numerous trips around the region during the “dance season.” Autumn keeps busy entertaining her family. She is enjoying guitar lessons, the Summer Performing Arts program, and dance lessons.

Dr. Gregory Vandeberg had a very productive year in research. He was on developmental leave for the Fall semester, and co-led a 5 person expedition to Continental Glacier in the Wind River Range, Wyoming with Dr. VanLooy, ESSP in August 2015. The team included two undergraduate geography majors (Christian Sovak and Sami Swartz) and Robbie MacDonald, a graduate student in Earth System Science and Policy. The team collected water flow and quality data from the glacier (12,000 – 13,000 ft) to determine its impact on water resources of the upper Wind-Missouri River basin. Dr. Vandeberg also spent some time with colleagues at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan investigating badlands erosion near Avonlea, SK and mass movements along the Qu’Appelle Valley, SK. He also worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel out of the Devils Lake, ND office on collecting water quality samples in the vicinity of Lake Alice National Wildlife Refuge. He was author on two research papers accepted for publication, and gave presentations at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Chicago, and the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Prairie Division in Riding Mountain National Park, MB. He continues to conduct research on the water quality of prairie lakes and streams, and the water resources of mountain glaciers.

Dr. Enru Wang resumed his normal teaching duties after his developmental leave. He collaborated with Dr. Qian Li from Beijing on research on air pollution in China. They coauthored a paper on economic growth and pollution emissions in China published in *Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment*. In April 2015, he attended the annual AAG meeting in Chicago and presented a paper on air pollution in Chinese cities (also co-authored with Dr. Li). He also published a paper on development and plan-
Geography Faculty Profiles (cont.)

Dr. Paul Todhunter spent the spring semester 2015 teaching at the American College of Norway (ACN). He previously taught there in the spring of 2002. He was very busy with many courses – Global Physical Environment, Global Physical Environment Laboratory, Geography of North America (first time ever!), and Human Impact on the Environment, and many students – a total of about 120 students. He and Debbie had a marvelous time reconnecting with old friends in Moss, and working on their Norwegian. Travel included trips to Brussels, Belgium/Paris, France (including Paris Disney), Sandnes, Norway to visit a friend, Røros (World Cultural Heritage Site, an old copper mining town), and Edinburgh, Scotland. Teaching at ACN and reconnecting with old friends in the community/church was fabulous, and a highlite of their adult lives. Paul presented a paper at a regional AAG Meeting in Albuquerque, and is continuing with his work on the hydrology and hydroclimatology of Devils Lake and its surrounding basin. He missed celebrating his 25th Anniversary at UND at Founder’s Day (and a free meal) because he was in Norway!

Dr. Devon Hansen continues to be busy with teaching, research, and service activities. In April, she presented a paper on perceiving quality of life in the Near Southside (NSS) neighborhood of Grand Forks at the AAG Annual Meeting in Chicago. Dr. Hansen advised a completed thesis project evaluating ways to implement a neighbors helping neighbors program in the NSS neighborhood. She participated in the 8th Annual Community Connect Forum in Cavalier, North Dakota on April 25, 2015. Lastly, this summer she enjoyed time away from Grand Forks visiting family and friends.

Undergraduate Student Accomplishments

Megan Quinlan (B.S., 2015) accepted a job as a GIS Specialist with Barr Engineering Co. in Bismarck, ND.

Hannah Bahnmiller (B.S., 2015) was accepted to the City and Regional Planning program at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.

Manna Khan (undergraduate geography major) received a grant of $200 from the Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) International Geography Honor Society to help with her travel costs to the Association of American Geographers Meeting in Chicago in April.

Manna Khan, a McNair Scholar, gave the presentation “Water Pollution and Related Impacts in Bangladesh” at the McNair’s Scholar Forum at UND on 16 April 2015.

Karl Bauer was chosen as the recipient of the B.L. Wills Scholarship for the spring semester 2015. The award was made at the recent GTU picnic on Friday May 8, 2015.

Austin Braget was the fall semester 2014 winner of the B.L. Wills Memorial Scholarship.

Manna Khan received the Virginia George Memorial Scholarship.

Morgen Burke, Jay Sandeen, and Benjamin York were recipients of North Dakota View Scholarships.

Austin Braget, Mitch Braget, and Megan Quinlan were elected into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Past Faculty News

Dr. Vijendra Boken, a former Visiting Assistant Professor in the department, was recently promoted to Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Congratulations Dr. Boken!

Graduate student David Wiosna was the first recipient of the Lee and Marlene Okeson Graduate Student Fellowship. Presenting the award was GTU president Karl Bauer.
Alumni Contributions Total $13,380 in 2014-15!

2014-2015 Donors (some multiple times)

Mr. Jason Maier
Dr. Douglas Munski
Mr. Michael Phillip
Mr. Mark Kuhn
Dr. Roger Sandness
Ms. Barbara Serr
Mr. Larry Skroch
Ms. Antoinette Peck (Blaesing)
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Mr. Jason Danielson / Ms. Lindsay Morgen
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Mr. Donn Baker
Mr. Gerald Rott

Mr. & Mrs. Lee & Marlene Okeson
Mr. Josh Jorde
Dr. Tom Mote
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Thanks Dziękuję
Merci Gracias
Gam-Sa Takk
Danke Xie Xie
to our Donors!

UND Geography on Facebook!

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 >

September 2014:

35 Undergraduate geography majors
9 Undergraduate minors
7 Graduate students
46 GISc Certificate students
5 Graduate minors