Hello Geographers!

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2013 newsletter. Our Depart- ment has seen many changes in the past year as we continue to evolve and collectively grapple with the many issues facing modern aca- demia. Given the crazy fiscal reali- ties at the national and state levels, the pressure on MSU to produce more quality research, win more grant awards, and continue top-notch classroom instruction with fewer resources is ever increasing. This pressure trickles down to the Department level where we contin- uously work to position ourselves in the best possible way to meet these challenges.

In the face of these prevailing winds it is reassuring that we have a healthy Department with a very strong track record of adjusting to changing environments. Much of the credit for our current strong position within the university belongs to Dick Groop, who led the unit for thirteen years through a period of rapid growth and change until he stepped down as Depart- ment Chairperson this past August. When Dick assumed the leadership role in 1999 the unit also included Urban and Regional Planning and Landscape Architecture. At that time the core geography faculty numbered 15 and we were housed in the Natural Science building. Everyone who remembers those days knows that Geography was widely scattered throughout that gigantic structure and that we had much of the most drab space of the lot. Talk about bad geography! Dick subsequently led the unit through our move to the current building, which was a very positive change. At the same time we separated from U.P.L.A. and grew to a very rich and diverse faculty of about 30. We also established a vibrant online program that is one of the best in the country. The Department owes a great deal of thanks to Dick for his stead. I also appreciate leadership during a very turbulent time.

With Dick’s very big shoes in mind, I took over as Department Chairperson at the beginning of the Fall 2012 term when he decided to step down. We continue to face many important challenges related to raising our profile within the university and broader academic community. We are in the midst of a major promotional effort, for example, to increase the number of undergraduate majors in the Department. Toward that end we are in the process of winning approval within the university for two new majors, including a B.A. in Human Geography and a B.S. in Environmental Geography. We also hope to implement a new minor in environmental science and public policy in the next year. In an effort to enhance the public face of the unit, we are also conducting a massive overhaul of our website. This new website will have a much more contemporary feel with radically improved navigation that will better serve undergraduates, gradu- ate students who are interested in us, and our rapidly growing online program. We are systematically moving into the world of social media so we can stay in closer con- tact with our alumni. Beyond these promotional efforts we continue to position ourselves for new faculty lines and search to find ways to increase our already high research output and grantsmanship.

Despite these challenges, I felt very comfortable taking over as Chairperson this year because I know we have such a strong, cre- ative, and team oriented faculty that collectively mentors a very productive group of graduate stu- dents. The following pages outline the accomplishments of our cohort in the past year. These deeds collec- tively reflect the broad diversity within the discipline as well as the overall health and vitality of our unit. I hope you enjoy learning about them.

Alan E. Arbogast, Chair

Message from the Chair

Faculty Focus

Harm DelBlij
Hannah Professor

The highlight of the year was a late-summer, extended visit to South Korea as a member of a U.S. dele- gation of educators on an intensive itin- erary organized by Joe Stoftman of Western Michigan University and hosted by the Northeast Asia History Foundation. Field trips, independent excursions, seminars, discussions and debates proved again that there is no substitute for being “on the ground.” South Korea is far more than just another economic success story on the Pacific Rim; in many ways it has succeeded where others have not. A robust, highly diverse democracy pre- vails, media have complete freedom, there is no religious persecution and no one is afraid of Falung Gong. Education at all levels is pursued with vigor, educators are actu- ally admired. South Korea has the world’s largest percentage of uni- versity graduates in the 25 to 39 age category. Its legendary industrial successes are matched by a vibrant popular culture that has followers worldwide. Its orchestras and the- atrical companies are superb. Its athletes have achieved astonishingly high rankings in international competitions, including the 2012 Olympic Games. In December 2012 South Korea elected its first female President. If you want access to the optimism re globalisation, South Korea is the place.

An earlier visit to Indonesia was not so encouraging. Muslim Imanis- m seems to be infecting society in ways that contradict Indone- sia’s reputation for multicultural accommodation, and more effec- tive leadership is direly needed. Environmental degradation is an overwhelming and tragic reality. In New Zealand the Chinese impact is pervasive and continues to change the landscape; Singapore’s spectac- ular modernization and territorial enlargement through reclamation continue.

It was a pleasure to once again present the E. James Potchen, Awards in Geography to three brilli- ant students during our Depart- ment’s annual ceremony in April.


The Spartan Nation is truly global. I met Michigan State Uni- versity graduates in almost every country I entered last year (maybe my NSF TShirt has something to do with this), including Dunedin, New Zealand, Semarang, Indonesia, and Seoul, South Korea, all of them putting their skills to work, some- times in the most unlikely settings. Go State!

Sue Grady
Associate Professor

In 2011, the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State Univer- sity received a “Building Inter- disciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health” (BIRCWH) award from the National Institutes of Health. There are approximately 125 BIRCWH Scholars in the United States and 25 BIRCWH Scholars at MSU. Her research evaluated the regionalized system of perinatal hospital care in Michigan, focusing on hospital admission and triage referral pat- terns of high-risk mothers and infants. Her methodology is currently being published and used by the Michigan Department of Commu- nity Health’s Infant Mortality Task Force to target hospitals and com- munities for interventions to reduce overall infant mortality and racial disparities in infant mortality in Michigan. Dr. Grady and colleagues published two articles in the Spec- ial Issue: Geographies of Health in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers on topics pertaining to racially isolated neighborhoods and ethnic density impacts on adverse pregnancy outcomes in Detroit and New York City. Dr. Grady is also currently working with faculty at Yale School of Medicine, to study the stressors of extremely poor African American mothers in New Haven, Connecticut. She recently collaborated with faculty in Criminal Justice at MSU to model homicide diffusion (1982-2008) in Newark, New Jersey. This research was published in Justice Quarterly and has led to a number of press and other inquiries that are currently being fielded in the Department of Criminal Justice. This BIRCWH

Why are these 2 men smiling?

Above: Harm de Blij (2nd from left) with friends in Swaziland, c. 1957.

Newark, New Jersey. This research was published in Justice Quarterly and has led to a number of press and other inquiries that are currently being fielded in the Department of Criminal Justice. This BIRCWH

Interdis-
The 2012 London Olympics will have thousands of tourists and visitors, but Eva Kassens-Noor, adjunct assistant professor in the School of Planning, Design and Construction, will not be one of them. After ten years of Olympic research and traveling to five Olympic host cities, Kassens-Noor will see the action from a new seat. Beginning July 27, she will be on her couch watching the Olympics— the topic of her recently published book that focuses on how cities change because of the Olympic Games. Planning Olympic Legacies: Transport, Dreams and Urban Realities was published in June in the United States. "The research for the book goes back probably about ten years when I started looking into how airports change or prepare for the peak demands that the Olympics impose on the airports and cities themselves," she said. To aid in her research, Kassens-Noor was granted interviews with key stakeholders in the planning process and had access to the Olympic archives. She called herself lucky to have been given these kinds of opportunities.

So what's next for Kassens-Noor? "I think I will continue down this path," she said of her plans to research and write about other mega events, like the FIFA World Cup and the world fairs, affect urban developments. Aside from her research on Olympic cities, Kassens-Noor teaches three classes at MSU in the School of Planning, Design and Construction.

Emilio Moran
Hannah Professor

The Department of Geography is very pleased to announce that Dr. Emilio Moran joined the unit in January, 2013. Dr. Moran is best known for his work addressing the complex relationship between people and environmental change in Brazil. He is a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences and is now the 11th member of the Academy at MSU. He is the first member of the Academy in the College of Social Science.

Our girls home-schooling, as getting into an overcrowded Chinese school, let alone navigating the language barrier, was impossible. We used Chinese in daily interactions and some technical terms from geostatistics. As a former tourist, I chose Hangzhou for fieldwork because of the tremendous learning experience, the friendships we made, and the chance to share perspectives and experiences. MSU geography has close connections with the Amazon Basin. We took a sabbatical for the academic year, 2011-2012, and lived in Belém with his family, at the mouth of the Amazon River. He taught Spatial Statistics, in Portuguese, at the Federal University of Pará, and discovered that there aren't always good translations for technical terms from geostatistics. Walker reports many adventures, both good and bad, from their time in Belém. Both of their children, Nathanael (8yr) and Johanna (14yr), came home to the US speaking Portuguese, so all in all it was a wonderful cultural experience. During his sabbatical period, Walker brought out a number of publications, including three articles in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers (Aldrich et al. 2012; Walker et al. 2011; Walker 2011). One of these, led by former student Stephen Aldrich of Indiana State University, presents research that has just led to a project funded by the National Science Foundation (contingent I.D.1092956, South of Pará). Walker also finished up a National Science Foundation project with former student, Ashston Shortridge
Associate Professor

MSU Geography has close connections to Zhejiang University, one of the top schools in China. I had the opportunity to teach courses there during ZJU’s spring term, from February through April, 2012. My wife and I realized that the chance to live in China, and to give our daughters—ages 8, 11, and 13—this experience, outweighed the many hurdles and challenges. So in the spring of 2012, after a very long flight, we found ourselves in the city of Hangzhou.

Hangzhou is in eastern China, about a half hour south of Shanghai. It is a large (upwards of 4 million people) and wealthy city in the most prosperous part of the country, and is growing rapidly. It is the oldest buildings on ZJU’s large main campus, roughly the size of MSU’s core, were built barely a decade ago. Its suburban location was surrounded by a forest of construction cranes, as 20-30 story highrise complexes sprang up in every direction. New business openings in Hangzhou are often celebrated with large fireworks displays, and the street sounds echoed and sounded like the Fourth of July.

We lived in a three bedroom apartment in a luxury complex just across the canal from the campus. We were on the sixth floor of a 25-story building, in a complex of over 30 buildings, home to up to eighteen thousand people. Its underground parking garages were packed with expensive SUVs and sports cars—this is certainly not Manhattan, China! This neighborhood was surrounded on three sides by massive construction sites; by the time you read this, the neighborhood will be entirely transformed.

Any diary about China has to focus on food! We bought our food in two completely different environments: a street market focuses on food in two completely different environments: a street market preoccupied in the middle of one of those construction sites, and a modern urban mall with a Walmart. Many of the vegetables from the street market were grown in small gardens planted along the canals and in any available open lot. As winter temperatures in Hangzhou rarely drop below freezing, this intensive gardening goes on year-round. My wife and I learned to prepare interpretations of a range of local dishes, while we won't be opening a restaurant any time soon, several of them have become regulars on our table back in East Lansing. We also ate out frequently: often in the enormous cafeterias (feeling that the entire campus, sometimes in restaurants in the neighborhood. Chinese food tends to be very spicy, and features lots of fish and seafood. As it is near the coast. Every few weeks we took a break from Asian-style food. There were a number of local pizza places near campus, a Papa John’s franchise in the mall, and KFC’s everywhere in the city. Globalization is a very real thing!"
Julie Winkler
Professor

Geography Professor Julie Winkler was elected last spring as Vice-President (president-elect) of the Association of American Geographers. This is a three-year commitment, which began July 1, 2012. Julie’s presidential year will begin in July 2013, and she will preside over the AAG’s annual meeting in Tampa, Florida. Julie’s priorities as AAG President will be to work to enhance Geography’s participation in interdisciplinary research, and to promote the use of collaboration among students, and to strengthen the linkages between the AAG and other disciplinary professional organizations.

Julie will also encourage young researchers to compete for the resources necessary to address large scientific questions that demand multi-investigator efforts, new technologies, and substantial time commitments and investments. Additionally, Julie remains committed that the AAG and the discipline of Geography reflect the diversity of our society. Julie is excited about this opportunity to interact with geographers across the United States and to become more familiar with the many diverse aspects of Geography. Next fall, she will be traveling almost every week between late September and early November to attend the meetings of the AAG regional divisions. Look for Julie’s monthly column in the AAG Newsletter beginning in July.

Julie continues her active research program on climate change impacts. She is currently leading a large international research team that is developing strategies for assessing climate change impacts in inter-related national market systems, using perennial crops as a model system. The team has a successful group meeting last August in Cologne, Germany, and presented early findings from this National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project at the International Geographical Congress. Julie is also a core team member of the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA) Center, funded by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Julie and Jeff Andresen (both representing GLISA) and Jerry Hatfield (from the USDA Agricultural Research Service) led the Midwest Technical Input Team (MTIT) to the National Climate Assessment. The MTIT prepared a series of peer-reviewed white papers that provided expert input to the assessment. The white papers summarize for the Midwest potential impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation options to climate variability and change across several sectors. They are currently available at http://www.glisa.umn.edu/great_lakes/climate/nca.php and will soon be available as a web book (edited by Julie, Jeff, and Jerry) published by Island Press.

Julie has also been collaborating with faculty and students at Michigan State University’s Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability on climate change, and is a co-author on a recent paper in Nature Climate Change on the potential impacts on understory bamboo and panda habitat in China’s Qinling Mountains. Julie, who has not abandoned her long-term interests in synoptic climatology, is additionally working with MSU faculty member Sharon Zhang and MSU Ph.D. alumna Monica Worthen on a NSF-funded project to prepare a spatially detailed, long-term climatology of low-level wind maxima in North America.

Leo Zulu
Assistant Professor

Since his appointment as MSU Coordinator for the MSU/Malawi Strategic International Partner- ship by the Dean for International Studies and Programs (ISP) in 2008, and working closely with Professor Anne Ferguson, Anthropology Department and Co-Director of Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen), Leo Zulu has helped to link MSU faculty and colleagues at the University of Malawi and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in collaborative partnerships on research, teaching and outreach. Formalized through a “Memorandum of Understanding” in 2008, the partnership builds on over thirty years of faculty-driven collaborative, interdisciplinary research in agricultural, environmental, social and health sciences. More than 40 current MSU faculty and administrators have participated, probably the largest concentration of researchers from a US or external university working on Malawi.

The partnership has generated considerable funding. More than 17 grants exceeding $25 million have been funded 2007-2012. Of them, the MSU USAID Higher Education partnership program between US and African Universities (including Lincoln University, PA) has played a central role in fostering international partnership building and search for additional funding opportunities. Partnership activities have included organizing three research planning meetings at MSU since 2008. The latest (November 2013) week-long meeting gathered eighteen faculty and two top administrators from Malawi, two from Lincoln University and over 40 MSU faculty developing collaborative proposals. One proposal focuses on targeted NSF and NIH funding. Leo was Co-PI on one of the resulting collaborative proposals linking irrigation food security research with the Malawi government, which was submitted to the NIH Fogarty Program in December 2012. Other ideas are being developed.

The partnership has also supported faculty exchanges, including a Malawi faculty member spending a semester at MSU and visiting MSU faculty conducting short courses in Malawi, supervising students, and helping to develop curricula. It has also been coupled to a study abroad program.

In summer 2012, Leo led a study abroad program to Malawi for the second summer: General Development — NGO Internships in Malawi. This ‘extreme study abroad’ program is a collaborative development program and trains graduate students, faculty and administrators in the areas of economic development, health, and the environment. It is a 6-week intensive program in Malawi that combines field trips to NGOs with in-depth seminars and community-based assignments. The program aims to prepare students for careers in the non-profit sector, government, development agencies, or consultancies. It is designed for students who are interested in development and looking for hands-on experience in a challenging context.

Leo also coordinated a study abroad program in Malawi for the fall semester: Gender and Development — NGO Internships. The program is designed for students who are interested in gender and development and looking for hands-on experience in a challenging context. It is a 6-week intensive program in Malawi that combines field trips to NGOs with in-depth seminars and community-based assignments. The program aims to prepare students for careers in the non-profit sector, government, development agencies, or consultancies. It is designed for students who are interested in gender and development and looking for hands-on experience in a challenging context.
Faculty Focus

More than half the world’s population currently lives in urban areas, and virtually all of the world’s population growth over the next three decades is expected to be in cities. What impact will this growth have on the environment? What can we do now to pursue the path for resource longevity? Sustainability has received considerable attention in recent years, though conceptions of the term remain vague. Using a wide array of cities around the globe as case studies, this timely book explores the varying nature of global urban environmental stresses and the complexities involved in defining sustainability policies. Working with six core themes, the editor examines the past, present, and future of urban sustainability within local, national, and global contexts.

Emeriti

Jay Harman

Jay Harman, (MSU Faculty 1968-2009)

Jay Harman once again offered a section of Environmental Ethics during the fall semester amidst questions about how much longer as an emeritus professor he intends to continue doing this course. The class continues to draw from a variety of environmental majors across campus (this fall was the largest section he has yet had) and he reports that many of the students seemed to engage the material. He is committed to offer it again during fall semester, 2013, but beyond that he says it’s “waist and see.” Part of the longer term uncertainty stems from finding other faculty in the Department who have the time to teach it, as the course is expected to remain an essential offering of the unit.

Otherwise, he reports that some of his time over the past year was devoted to writing (some of it related to Environmental Ethics). Beyond academics, he continues his warm season pastimes of gardening and bee keeping (he currently has 4 hives), looking after and expanding the family’s renewable energy systems, and travel. His two girls, now 13 and 14, otherwise occupy much of his time and commitment.

Fatima Barry

The past year has been a very interesting transition for me as I left “the working world” to come back to academia. It was a bit difficult at first as I had adapted to the late hours in my office, traveling to West Africa and Europe, and the many friends that I had made in the area. However, I believe that overall, I do enjoy being back in school and having the opportunity to work on some very important issues. It still feels a bit strange, but making great friends in the Geography Department and other departments has definitely helped ease the transition.

David Baylis

During 2012 I was fairly productive in furthering my progress toward the completion of my PhD. I developed and teaching new courses, and securing external funding. During the spring of 2012 I had the teaching obligation at MSU filling in for Dr. Kirk Goldberry by covering lectures for GEO 426 The Matic Cartography. Concurrently, I successfully completed my written and oral exams and defended my dissertation proposal. In addition, I completed the requirements of my Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Teaching Fellowship (IIT) at James Madison College and presented the results of my iterative syllabus project at the IIT/RCAH Symposium.

Through the summer of 2012 I worked on translating preliminary archival research (obtained from the Turkish Grand National Parliamentary Archive) teaching courses at Aquinas College and presented my dissertation research by writing an article and by applying for grants. In the spring, I took three courses and I was awarded with three different grants for pre-dissertation fieldwork research: the TINKER scholarship, The Latin America and Caribbean scholarship, and finally the Graduate Office Fellowship. I used the grants to travel to Brazil where I spent a month in the Amazon conducting pre-dissertation fieldwork research. In the fall, I was a TA for the Economic Geography class and I was the lab instructor for a class in Global Connections, Environment, Development, and Politics. I also applied for two different grants: the National Science Foundation (NSF DDRI grant) and for the Latin America and Caribbean Environmental Economics Program (LACEEP). My proposal was recommended for award in both of them and I will defend my dissertation proposal in the spring of 2013. I also finished the first draft of an article with Dr. Walker and we will submit it to the Annals of the Association of American Geographers in 2013.

Daniel Ddumba

I am now a 3rd year PhD in Geography and 2012 was a great year. I won two research grants that played a significant role in the initiation of my PhD research. These were the Norman E. Borlaug Leadership in Agriculture Program (Borlaug LEAP) fellowship that is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Graduate Office Fellowship (GOF) through the Department of Geography. These fellowships, together with the support of my advisor Dr. Andresen and the other four faculty of my guidance committee, have enabled me to launch my research activities focused on the impact of climate change and variability of sweet potato production in East Africa. During spring 2012, I was also privileged to enhance my research skills when I was awarded a Research Assistant position in my Department on a CLIP (Climate & Land Interactions Project) project funded by USAID to assess the impact of climate on maize production in Zambia.

Emirati University Instructor at MSU for the Human Environment ISS course. In the fall of 2012 I designed and taught an environmental history course at Aquinas College and served as an online instructor for GEO 423, Cartographic Design and Production. I also re-designed a US core geopolitics course which I am currently teaching at Aquinas College (alongside World Regional Geography and Thematic Cartography at MSU). Finally, I completed grant applications for Fullbright, SSRC-IDRF, and Boren. In January I was notified that I had provisionally received a Fulbright student award, which will begin in September 2013. I am also writing an article for submission to the journal Political Geography.

David Baylis

Overall I think I had a very productive year. I had a great teaching experience as a teaching assistant; I improved the design of my dissertation research by writing an article and by applying for grants. In the spring, I took three courses and I was awarded with three different grants for pre-dissertation fieldwork research: The TINKER scholarship, The Latin America and Caribbean scholarship, and finally the Graduate Office Fellowship. I used the grants to travel to Brazil where I spent a month in the Amazon conducting pre-dissertation fieldwork research. In the fall, I was a TA for the Economic Geography class and I was the lab instructor for a class in Global Connections, Environment, Development, and Politics. I also applied for two different grants: the National Science Foundation (NSF DDRI grant) and for the Latin America and Caribbean Environmental Economics Program (LACEEP). My proposal was recommended for award in both of them and I will
Dana Doubler
At the MSU Geography Department, I have learned wonderful skills in the past year. In my field, learning how to use different software programs and knowing certain programming languages is essential. This past year I have gained experience in using the WRF Model, learned the R programming language, and learned how to use GrADS.

Jeanette Eckert
Since starting in the PhD program last semester, I have been busy forming my committee and developing my plan of action for my time here at MSU. I am happy to say I have settled on my research topic for the dissertation which will deal with fast food access and consumption in relation to socio-economic status and overall economic and investment conditions in select Detroit neighborhoods. This is a new direction for me in my established area of research, which is generally urban environments and more specifically how the built environment plays a role in social and environmental justice issues, particularly access to food. I have also joined the Graduate Employees Union Pedagogy Committee, and am working on learning more about how we as teaching assistants can build our skill sets for teaching successfully at the university level. In addition to finding my place here in the Geography Department, I have been spending time over in Animal Studies to explore academic approaches to understanding the non-human interactions. The coming months will involve polishing past and current research for publication and conference presentation as well as delving deeper into my dissertation topic. By this next year I plan to have a more interesting blur for the newsletter.

Jia Feng
With three years trying to understand what I am doing and what I want to do, I finally finished my comprehensive exams and proposal defense last year. In August, thanks to the NSF-DEDR grant, I started my dissertation fieldwork to study slums and recycling migrant enclaves in Beijing. After the economic reform in 1978, China's rapid economic development has also created many migrant enclaves on the fringes of large cities. Hundreds of recycling related enclaves (Henancun, a.k.a. Henan enclosures) formed in Beijing dominated by rural migrants from Henan province. My dissertation project is trying to understand the development history and geography of these enclaves and migrants' coping strategies dealing with their stigmatized and marginalized identity in Beijing.

Albert Fulton
2012 was an exciting (and demanding) year as I began working toward my PhD in the Department of Geography at Michigan State University. Aside from the rigors of becoming familiar with a new school in an unfamiliar state, establishing relationships with new colleagues, and adjusting to non-human interactions. The coming months will involve polishing past and current research for publication and conference presentation as well as delving deeper into my dissertation topic. By this next year I plan to have a more interesting blur for the newsletter.
the wider group of Turkic speaking countries in the Middle East and Central Asia. I hope to spend the summer of 2013 studying intermediate Turkish in Istanbul.

Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani

2012 was an eventful year for me. During the Spring semester I had the opportunity to teach 2 courses in the Urban Planning Department at MSU. I taught an undergraduate level course on Research Methods at MSU. I taught an undergraduate course on some amazing landforms. I spent some pretty time in an effort to try to travel all over the Great Plains this past summer in an effort to try to find many more close and closer.

Libbe Kutch

During this past year Libbe has been involved in numerous interesting projects and generating maps to study infant mortality in Michigan and evaluate population vulnerability in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Libbe has also recently acquired a part-time epidemiology position with the Michigan Department of Community Health Division of Environmental Health where she is currently working on a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Importantly, Libbe is also the coordinator of the XVth International Medical Geography Symposium (IMGOS) that the Department of Geography will be hosting in July 2013, in addition, she serves on the symposium’s scientific review committee. Libbe is preparing for her PhD comprehensive exams, that she will take Fall Semester 2013.

Dan Kovalski

This past year I had the opportunity to work on some amazing projects and do some amazing things. First and foremost, I have been working diligently on a thesis that I hope will make a significant contribution to geography on the physical side. Thanks to a Graduate Office Fellowship, I had the opportunity to travel all over the state of Michigan this past summer in an effort to try to better understand dune processes and landforms. I saw a lot of pretty country that most folks will probably never have the chance to see, and really enjoyed the opportunity to meet many nice people along the way and take some great pictures for my thesis. I really have enjoyed my time in the Geography Department here at MSU, and am sad to see the end of my master’s degree edging closer and closer.

Siam Awawirojwong

I have completed my research (Soft Supervised Self-Organizing Mappings (SOM) for Improving Land Cover Classification with MODIS Time-Series) last year. I worked on improving and modifying the classification algorithm as well as conducting experimental study and data collection field work in summer 2012. I defended my dissertation last fall. Now, I am working on a revised version of the dissertation which I will submit and will graduate in spring 2013.

Cristina Leuca

2012 was a very busy year for me. During the spring semester, I finished and defended successfully my dissertation proposal, “The Diversity of Gentrification and Public Investment in the Infrastructure of Play in Chicago” which focuses on gentrification processes in the city. Also last spring, I traveled to the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers in New York City to present portions of my preliminary analysis from my dissertation research. Since defending my dissertation proposal I have been working diligently on the quantitative and qualitative analysis required for my doctoral research. During the summer semester, I spent several days in Chicago doing data collection for my longitudinal library research, and exploring gentrification processes in three neighborhoods that were selected for an in-depth case study analysis. During the fall of 2012 I had a great experience in teaching master students in the course of Planning, Design and Construction a course on the Economics of Planning and Development.

Xue Li

Year 2012 is my third year here as an international PhD student. I almost got used to the environment, doing research, and having a lot of fun, although I am still far from merging into the culture. This year, all of the courses, exams, and proposal defenses are finished and I am now ABD. It means the easy life is over!!! The ultimate challenge is asking myself what I really want to do with life, and pushing myself in that direction. I hope that I can get a better idea in 2013.

Mike Luehmann

2012 was a fun and exciting year for me, as a second year PhD student, studying physical geography at MSU. I was granted a Graduate Office Research Fellowship (GORF), from the Geography Department, for summer 2012 field work, and was able to get out of the sun-suppressed, basement of the geography building and out into the colorful and attractive ‘field’ to do some land looking and collect preliminary data for my dissertation project. Using the GORF funds, my advisor Randy Schaetzl and I drove throughout northern Lower Michigan and collected various sediment samples that had been deposited during the Wisconsin Glaciation. Using a laptop computer, equipped with ArcGIS and an internal GPS unit, we also ‘field’ checked a few sites mapped by researchers, that are currently being used as evidence regarding the deglaciation of northern Lower Michigan. This reconnaissance field work proceeded with the opportunity for me to tag along on Randy’s Environmental Geomorphology (Geo306), weekend long, field trip to northern Lower Michigan. At this time I bounced some of my ideas, on the deglacial history of northern Lower Michigan, off of a few of the other students in the class. Furthermore, during the 2012 academic year, I also submitted an application to the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), here at Michigan State University, and was accepted in to the Traveling Scholarship Program, for the Spring 2013 Semester. At the beginning of the application process, I could have chosen to study at any of the Big Ten universities, but picked the University of Wisconsin – Madison due to research interests and several faculty and grad student ties between our geography departments.

Jason Matney

The past year has been a uniquely productive one in Jason’s life. He co-authored a paper on multivariate modelling of tree variables using LiDAR data. He also became proficient in statistics by completing using R. Both of these goals could not have been accomplished without the aid of statistics. Coming from a liberal arts background, the challenge of shifting into a quantitative graduate field reliant on data processing has been a welcome one, and as a result his perspective has been permanently widened. Jason particularly enjoyed converting a large environmental dataset into statistical equations which then output valuable conclusions regarding the veracity of spatial modeling. Jason hopes in the coming year to deepen his understanding of spatial statistical models.

Jeremy McWhorter

This past year has been a truly amazing time to say the least; filled with challenges, adventures, knowledge, and reward. I was awarded graduate school a year and a half ago, I was oblivious to the nature
of academia and its pressures and delights. Despite not knowing exactly what I wanted to research for my master's thesis I was well-calibrated with open arms by Sue Grady. After countless conversations, literature reviews, methods tests, and a number of proposals, I finally decided on a topic that integrated my many interests in geography. In the next month I hope to defend my thesis titled "Evaluating the preferences and perceived psychological benefits of urban parks by socioeconomic status: A case study in Lansing, Michigan." Moreover, having the opportunity to investigate my academic interests while learning from some of the most intelligent and humble people I have come to know has been nothing short of a blessing. However, perhaps even more rewarding for me has been the experience of collaborating alongside my fellow graduate students and have become my dear friends. On a final note, this past year has had an impact on my intellectual development and I have learned that geography is still is my passion and that the juice has been worth the squeeze.

Bradley Miller

2012 was a year of formulating research ideas and fantastic teaching opportunities for me. In the process of preparing for comprehensive exams, which were successfully passed last summer, I was able to get better clarity on the research questions I wanted to address. That preparation led to having a clear plan for completing my dissertation in 2013 and a dissertation completion fellowship for this spring. My dissertation research questions have evolved into an essential geography questions of phenomenon and analysis scale, applied to understanding the spatial distribution of soils. In regard to teaching, I had the opportunity to teach an introductory GIS course on campus, an introductory GIS course online, and an advanced GIS course on campus. Each teaching experience was highly beneficial toward my goal of becoming a university instructor. I am grateful to the MSU Department of Geography for providing me with a positive environment in which to complete my PhD.

Glenn O'Neil

Master's program developed my quantitative skills, and my research focused on more hydro/technical issues of GISScience, such as topographic modeling and data uncertainty. As I progressed through the PhD program I continued to develop and refine those skills, and delved deeper into hydrologic modeling with support from the Geography Department and the Graduate Office Fellowship program. I am currently a week-long training in the Soil and Water Assessment Tool at Texas A&M last May. However, as I near the end of my program, my research focus is broadening to explore the linkages between what we can model in hydrology and the macro social forces that affect water resources management (economics, attitudes towards conservation, definitions of sustainability). Recent courses in agent-based modeling, water policy, and groundwater modeling have allowed me to explore these linkages and pursue research questions that can meaningfully inform water resource management, such as how groundwater sustainability vary spatially, what are the social indicators that most affect groundwater sustainability, and how might water use deregulation affect fish habitat.

Jason Piwarski

In the last year, my knowledge of the field of Geographic Information Sciences has grown rapidly while attending Michigan State. In particular, I feel more confident in my ability to present complex spatial analysis, develop computer models, and understand concepts related to fluvial geomorphology. Hence, I know that my future career will be much more rewarding. Additionally, the past year has also exposed me to new concepts through the interdisciplinary collaboration with faculty - something that has made my time in graduate school intellectually stimulating as well. This has been facilitated through discussion in the classroom, attending colloquium events, and through my work with the MSU Institute of Water Research - a place where I can apply the concepts I've learned in graduate school. Overall, I feel that my time has been well spent and I am looking forward to next year.

Mike Michalek

During the past year I have graduated NMU with a BS in GIS and Physical Geography. This summer I worked for Traverse City Light and Power as a GIS Tech, helping them map overhead and underground lines in northern Grand Traverse County. My first semester at MSU was a great learning experience! Classes such as Environmental Geomorphology, Seminar in Physical Geography, and Soil Resources expanded my knowledge that I gained as an undergrad and gave me new insights from my instructors. During the summer I plan to kayak the Muskegon River recording width and sediment data for my thesis work. This year looks to be another busy one with classes, thesis research, and research assistant work with Dr. Arbogast.

Peter Richards

Peter Richards (PhD 2012) completed his dissertation on indirect land use change and the expansion of the soybean and cattle sectors in the Brazilian Amazon last September. He was subsequently appointed as a post-doctoral research associate at Brown University's Environmental Change Initiative where he has since been working under the mentorship of Leah VanWey. At Brown, Peter is collaborating with researchers in both Providence and Brazil on a series of publications related to migration and agricultural change in the Amazon. He was recently awarded an SBE Post Doctoral Fellowship through the National Science Foundation to study farmer investment decisions in Mato Grosso, Brazil. This latter award will feature collaboration with researchers at Brown and Duke Universities as well as with NSU Geography alum Eraldo Matricardi (PhD 2008), presently of the University of Brasilia.

Steve Schulze

Steve has been very active in the last year. After teaching GIS and Physical Geography in the online courses in the last year, he was hired by the Center for Water Science, an offshoot of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department. He was the resident climatologist and hydrologist, working on a number of projects. These projects included an essay to be published mass-media multi-disciplinary overview of Lake St. Clair, a large-scale spatial and temporal look at pathogen loading in Great Lakes beaches as well as a number of mapping projects. For his research, he has focused on the effects of climate change on Michigan's wine industry. Michigan's wine industry is rapidly expanding, yet there have been no major attempts to look at the spatial and long term impacts of Michigan's changing climate on viticulture. Think there has been little change? His preliminary research shows that Michigan's grape growing season in the southwest corner of the State has grown by more than 28 days since 1971!

Nicole Smith

In the last year, I completed my Masters coursework, presented several pieces of my thesis in progress, and have continued to work toward its completion. Last February, I attended the annual AGA meeting in New York with the help of department funding and presented a poster titled "Impact of TRMM precipitation estimate imagery using NDVI at a site in Western Kenya." In May, I was able to attend the Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases NSF research group meeting in Berkeley, CA where I presented a thesis overview poster titled 'A geosimulation model of local-scale Anopheles distributions in Western Kenya lowlands endemic for malaria.' I look forward to defending my thesis in the upcoming months in order to graduate in May.

Jay Strahan

Over the second year of the Master’s program, I was busy with a few projects and my thesis work. Of
the two projects in the central UP, one of the projects was with Dr. Randy Schaezel of the Geography Department and Dr. David Roth-stein of Forestry studying development of sandy soils. The other was with three researchers from the Czech Republic and involved the excavation of tree-throw pits and mounds to establish forest stand chronologies using radiometric dating methods. Later during the summer and fall, I took five trips to my thesis study site in the central UP collected samples, and ana-lyzed the data. In January, I gave a QUIDDERS presentation within the department about my findings, linking the orientations of spits and dunes to broader colion regimes. My first conference presentations will be at the Michigan Academy of Science Arts and Letters at Hope College and at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Los Angeles. I am writing my thesis right now, des-parately wanting to go back to the UP.

Ying Tang
After finishing my master’s degree in geography focusing on remote sensing and GIS, I continued for a PhD studying cli-matology. If life is about connecting dots, I can see how my under-graduate study in Environmental Science, master’s in remote sensing have influenced my research interest. My current research focuses are Fire-Airmosphere Inter-action and Smoke Dispersion, and climate change. This is my fourth year in the US and I’m glad that I’m in a data-rich environment. My future plans are to apply my knowl-edge in remote sensing to climate modeling and use that to address environmental issues.

Minting Ye
I am working towards my PhD degree and focused on writing my dissertation. I also worked as a Research Assis-tant in the Global Urban Studies Program at MSU. Last summer, I worked as an online exam coor-dinator. I participated in two professional conferences in 2012, presenting my research “Exploring the Physical and Social Transfor-mation of Hong Kong from 1895 to 2006” at the AAG Annual Meeting at New York City and at the Urban Affairs Association 42nd Annual meeting at Pittsburgh with a paper titled “Institutional Design, Gover-nance, and Fiscal Policy Interde-pendence: Lessons from Michigan’s Cities.” I received a Graduate Office Research Fellowship to conduct summer research in Hong Kong where I spent one month for data collection and site obser-vation. At the end of the year, I was awarded the Dissertation Com-pletion Fellowship for Spring 2013.

Josh Vertalka
This past year has represented a personal and profes-sional growth that is difficult to write in words, but I’ll try anyway. I’ve been focused on two fronts: one research and the other finding an awesome internship. The research front consisted of getting published in the International Journal of Health Geographies for research on the 1981 influenza pandemic, con-ducting research on the Olympics and FIFA World Cup, and writing several research proposals for my recent ideas about disease surveil-lance. This summer I hope to end up with employment as a Geogra-pher at the World Health Organization in London, as an online GIS course instructor, or conducting urban mitigation strategies for influenza. It has been a wild year and it will be a wild summer. I can’t wait!
Sarah AcMoody (BS 2000)

After sixteen years at MSU, thirteen of which were spent at RS&GIS, I made the difficult decision to depart on a new occupational adventure. My journey didn’t take me far geographically; I moved less than 3.6 miles north to join the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) as an Agricultural GIS Technology Program Specialist. This position has allowed me to combine my love of and background in agriculture (I grew up raising beef on my B.S. in Animal Science) with my love of and experience in GIS. It’s been six months now, and although I miss my friends over in the Geography Building, I truly enjoy this new challenge. As the GIS Specialist at the Michigan FSA State office, my job responsibilities encompass many things. First and foremost, this entails providing GIS support to the forty-nine (49) county FSA offices in Michigan, which I’ve found to be a stimulating and rewarding job. On top of that, I do what most GIS Specialists do: run analyses, make maps and try to look pretty. Or wait…maybe that shouldn’t be try to make the maps look pretty?

Steve Aldrich (PhD 2009)

Steve Aldrich and his wife Rosalie (MA, Communication, 2006) live in Indianapolis and commute across the state. Steve is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Indiana State University in Terre Haute and teaches a variety of classes on human-environment themes and geospatial techniques. A new collaborative NSF project with MSU faculty and alums keeps Steve busy both at ISU and in Brazil. Rosalie works as an Assistant Professor of Communication at Indiana University–East in Richmond, IN. Together, Steve and Rosalie know every pothole on I-70 in Indiana.

Their son, Harrison, turns 2 in March and will be joined by his new sister or brother (nobody knows) in late March or early April. Steve and Rose have trained Harrison to yell “go green, go white” whenever he sees football on the television (a rare occurrence).
at the Univ. of New Orleans and Arkansas State Univ. I am in my first year of a three-year half time position at Professor at UNC. I am in the process of writing the 8th edition of my book on Applied Human Geography, having finished the fifth edition of “A Geography of the U.S. and Canada” last year with my co-authors Jeff Patton (Ph.D. Kansas), the current Head of our department, and my son, Leonard of Marshall Univ. A brief blurb on me is on our web page, if you would like any further information.

Mike Bigsby (MS 2010)
I am currently working for an environmental consulting company that specializes in investigation/ remediating polluted watersheds. The scope of my work involves county fluvial geomorphology, soil geomorphology, and GIS. During the past year I have traveled throughout the Midwest and Southeast for various projects. The majority of the past year was spent in Marshall, MI working on the Kalama River oil spill. Most of my time in the field was spent collecting sediment and water samples/temperature, describing sediment core profiles, and maps to handle geographic data distribution and stakeholder support. He is also happy to report the publication of “The OSL chronology of palaeo river sand deposition in a perched dune field across the northwestern shore of Lower Michigan” in the May 2012 issue of Quaternary Research. He would like to thank his fellow authors, Alan Arboages and Steven Peck for making GIS a reality with all of their time and effort. Finally, on a personal note, Brad is excited to announce that on September 8, 2012 he married his beautiful wife Deven, who began a new career in Quality Assurance at MillerCoors. They have moved to Wisconsin and are happier and stronger together.

Arkansas State Univ.  I am in my first year of a three-year half time role, I still get the occasional opportunity to hit the road and provide GIS/GPS training for field agents across the country which is a lot of fun. I currently live in Burke, VA with my wife Colleen (also an MSU grad) and my exceedingly energetic five-year-old daughter Cameron. I still frequent Michigan to visit friends, family and to catch an MSU hoops game and would very much enjoy an MSU alumni reunion if we could ever pull one off. Go Green!

Sissi Bruch (PhD 2006)
After moving to the Pacific Northwest 3 years ago, small town Michigan feels like a faraway land to anyone who has been immersed in Tribal affairs, civil politics, park master planning, organic gardening and pickleball. However, being closer to my family and the people who despite many hardships, manage to laugh a lot and enjoy life.

I am now working at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, where I work GIS/GPS training for field agents across the country which is a lot of fun. I currently live in Burke, VA with my wife Colleen (also an MSU grad) and my exceedingly energetic five-year-old daughter Cameron. I still frequent Michigan to visit friends, family and to catch an MSU hoops game and would very much enjoy an MSU alumni reunion if we could ever pull one off. Go Green!

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Mary T. Dooley (PhD 1975)

Minnesota State University Professor Emerita Mary T. Dooley, the first woman to earn a PhD in Geography at Minnesota State University, was recognized in a ceremony on January 18th. Professor Dooley recently donated a substantial sum to the Department of Geography at MSU (that's MINNESOTA State to those in Michigan at the other MSU). To acknowledge her generosity and years of service to the University, the Minnesota State Mankato map library will be named in her honor.

Melicia Egger (MA 2007)

I have such an exciting life right now. As of last month, I transitioned to a new job here at Peace Corps. I am in the Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services as the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Coordinator. This has been a very interesting way of saying that I work with returned volunteers on the Third Goal of Peace Corps, which is, to promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of all Americans. In short, I help returned volunteers tell their story, do educational activities and continue their service at home.

My new job is absolutely connected to my Geography degree in so many ways! My big project right now is Peace Corps Week Feb 24th-March 2 www.peacecorps.gov/pcweek. Peace Corps Week celebrates how Peace Corps Volunteers make a difference in host countries around the world and in the United States. The Peace Corps Week commemorates the date President John F. Kennedy signed the executive order to establish the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961. I am sure MSU will have some big events for this so stay tuned! In my personal life, I have finally found my hobby: story telling (in the style of the Moth podcast or This American Life). For those who know me, you know I love to tell a good story and now I do this new genre of spoken word regularly in various venues around D.C. In fact my biggest show to date was on Dec 15th for a crowd of hundreds and Antoinette Wink/Prins attended. I was honored and so grateful that everyone really liked her albeit briefly. I hope you are all well and staying warm this MI winter!

Melissa Faustich (BS 2005)

I have been working on OnStar at the GM headquarters in Detroit, MI for the last 7 years since my time at MSU. After graduation, I accepted a contract position with OnStar as a Mapping Analyst. We collected field collection audits by travelling to many locations in North America and acquired sample address data utilizing GPS and ArcPad technologies. I was responsible for triaging all data issues and submitting feedback back to our mapping and point of interest data vendors. My responsibilities shifted and I became the lead subject matter expert for maintaining and loading OnStar's point of interest database. In 2009, I was hired as a direct OnStar/GM employee with an increasing work load of manipulating map data, utilizing ArcGIS software, into various forms of routing destination feeds for our customers. I moved on within the organization to Project Manage a team of developers that worked exclusively on OnStar's GIS application that is used in our call centers. I then shifted to the other side of the GIS application and I worked with the Business Process Leader I created and owned all of OnStar's advisor processes for Navigation. I was responsible for ensuring that our advisors in all of our North American call centers had the appropriate tools and functionality within our internal GIS application to properly process routing calls for our customers and get them to their destinations safely. I recently accepted a new business role where I help build the strategy and design of how our company delivers Navigation services. I now lead a small team of resources that process and leverage all map data issues for North America and OnStar's newly announced global expansion regions.

Carolyn Fish (MA 2010)

I currently work for Esri, the world leader in GIS software, located in Redlands, California. My division, Software Solutions, within Software Development, aims to provide maps, templates, and other helpful solutions to our GIS users in both the Local Government and Business and Agency communities. I specifically work on the ArcGIS for Defense and Intelligence team as a cartographer. I develop symbology for our Defense templates and provide visualizations of geospatial data. I am also currently in the midst of a major project to make sure that the teams are placed in regions that are representative of majority of the project area - we often recommend more than one tower be installed to help with this. For example, if you have areas of communities or natural features that will allow our Defense community users to easily create basemaps with their own data. This past year, I have continued to attend and present at conferences including NACIS (North American Cartographic Information Society), AutoCarto, and the Esri Users Conference. I am on the Board of CAGIS (Cartography and Geographic Information Society) and I also support a symbology working group for the NAPSG Foundation (National Alliance for Public Safety GIS). I really enjoy being involved in SoCal related to our call centers. Redlands is at the base of the San Bernardino Mountains and just west of Los Angeles. I am also a business process leader that provide excellent hiking, camping, and backpacking. I try to take every opportunity I can to spend time outside.

Lesley Fusina (MA 2008)

I currently work as a senior meteorologist in the wind division at AWS Truepower, LLC, a renewable energy company based in Albany, NY (AWST specializes in both wind and solar energy production). Geography is used in almost all aspects of what we do: from data analysis/interpretation and consultation, starting with first characterizing the wind climate from region to region to help prospective developers get an idea of what potential wind energy load the wind in their development site may contain. If a developer decides they are serious about developing a plant, then we install monitoring masts that will collect wind speed, wind direction and temperature measurements. This will help us adjust our base wind maps based on actual site data. When sitting at turbines for an extended period of time, it is really make sure that the towers are placed in regions that are representative of majority of the project area - we often recommend more than one tower be installed to help with this. For example, if you have areas of communities or natural features that will allow our Defense community users to easily create basemaps with their own data. This past year, I have continued to attend and present at conferences including NACIS (North American Cartographic Information Society), AutoCarto, and the Esri Users Conference. I am on the Board of CAGIS (Cartography and Geographic Information Society) and I also support a symbology working group for the NAPSG Foundation (National Alliance for Public Safety GIS). I really enjoy being involved in SoCal related to our call centers. Redlands is at the base of the San Bernardino Mountains and just west of Los Angeles. I am also a business process leader that provide excellent hiking, camping, and backpacking. I try to take every opportunity I can to spend time outside.

Owen Gregg (BA 1964)

Great memories, coupled with a great education, have provided a full life. I was a geography major from the first time I set foot on campus, right until graduation. I took courses in physical geography, meteorology, climatology, and GIS. I work on research in the realm of climate and GIS, and I also supervise a staff of student research projects. GIS and other helpful solutions to our GIS users in both the Local Government and Business and Agency communities. I specifically work on the ArcGIS for Defense and Intelligence team as a cartographer. I develop symbology for our Defense templates and provide visualizations of geospatial data. I am also currently in the midst of a major project to make sure that the teams are placed in regions that are representative of majority of the project area - we often recommend more than one tower be installed to help with this. For example, if you have areas of communities or natural features that will allow our Defense community users to easily create basemaps with their own data. This past year, I have continued to attend and present at conferences including NACIS (North American Cartographic Information Society), AutoCarto, and the Esri Users Conference. I am on the Board of CAGIS (Cartography and Geographic Information Society) and I also support a symbology working group for the NAPSG Foundation (National Alliance for Public Safety GIS). I really enjoy being involved in SoCal related to our call centers. Redlands is at the base of the San Bernardino Mountains and just west of Los Angeles. I am also a business process leader that provide excellent hiking, camping, and backpacking. I try to take every opportunity I can to spend time outside.

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Kristy (Stanley) Gruley (MS 2008)

I am currently in the second (and final) year of a faculty fellowship at UW-Plattville. During my time here, I taught the senior capstone seminar for geographers, which I themed: The Geography of Food, Agriculture, and Sustainability. In this class we explored what it means to be a geographer and how geographers look at issues (in this case relating to food, agriculture, and sustainability). I have also taught three semesters of Geopolitics of East Asia (aka Intro to Physical Geography). I approach this large lecture, gen-ed class in the context of helping non-majors understand some of the basic science that underlies our understanding of climate change. This spring, I will be teaching an intro level geomorphology class – Regional Landforms, which will include a lab component. My dissertation research focuses on understanding the geomorphic history of the low-relief sandy terrain of Oneida County, Wisconsin, and how pedogenesis in this region is affected by climate. I am also looking at how carbon storage in this landscape is affected by land use and climate change. If you're interested, you can follow more about it at http://www.geog.uwsp.edu/gruley/website/region. If you're interested, you can follow more about it at http://www.geog.uwsp.edu/gruley/website/region.

Garrett Hammer (BA 2003)

It is hard to believe that nearly nine years have passed since I completed my undergraduate studies in Earth Science at Madison. I received my BA in History in 2003 with a minor in Geography as part of my secondary teacher preparation program in the College of Education. I have since completed my MAEd in 2009 through MSU’s online program and currently teach eleventh grade U.S. History and serve as a high school Social Studies Department Chair within the Frederick County Public Schools system here in Winchester, Virginia. My road to a Geography minor can be credited to the ISS 310 course I took my sophomore year with Dr. Albogast. Dr. Albogast inspired in me a love of Geography I never knew existed. The people-environment relationships he presented throughout the course made it apparent that Geography would be the perfect discipline to accompany my studies in History. This course opened it up to work with a number of incredibly knowledgeable and passionate professors in the Geography Department, including Drs. WinklerPrins, Moy, Thomas, and Schaetzl. Dr. Schaetzl's Geography of Michigan course and the week-long field experience that followed are among my favorite and most memorable courses taken during my undergraduate years. I always had the opportunity to study abroad but the week I spent tra-versing Michigan was the next best thing. I gained a true appreciation and deep understanding of the state that, no matter where I live, will always be home – Michigan!

In addition to my work, many other students share the same fond memories of their studies in the Geography Department as I do and I encourage you all to participate in the same rewarding field experiences that had such a profound impact on me. To ensure this is the case, please accept this small contribution the Geography Field Experience Fund. Here's hoping that current and future Spartans can continue to engage in field experiences that enrich the fascinating topics presented in the classroom.

David Harris (BS 1999)

During my time at MSU, I changed my major four times from Accounting, Teaching, History, and finally, in my senior year, Geography. I took Dr. Alan Arbogast’s Geography class during the summer 1998 and it changed my life. His class led me down a path to work for multiple municipalities in Michigan from 1999 2007 as a GIS Technician to a GIS Coordinator for the City of Pontiac. During GIS I earned a dual MS in GIS and Urban Planning from Eastern Michigan. In 2007 I took a position as an Intelligence Officer for the Department of Defense which led me to my current position as a Data Manager for the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency as a GIS Specialist in Earth Systems and Geoinformation Science specializing in Geospatial Intelligence at George Mason University. My current job has provided me the opportunity to travel to Afghanistan to teach GIS, work in New York to support to clean up the oil spill, and my current assignment allows me to travel to Hawaii every four months for the MDSS, which are the systems or bioterrorism events. I also prepared GIS support for multiple municipalities in Michigan. My current job has provided me the opportunity to travel to Afghanistan to teach GIS, work in New York to support to clean up the oil spill, and my current assignment allows me to travel to Hawaii every four months for the MDSS, which are the systems or bioterrorism events. I also prepared GIS support for multiple municipalities in Michigan. My current job has provided me the opportunity to travel to Afghanistan to teach GIS, work in New York to support to clean up the oil spill, and my current assignment allows me to travel to Hawaii every four months for the MDSS, which are the systems or bioterrorism events. I also prepared GIS support for multiple municipalities in Michigan.

Bree Harrison (BA 2007)

Shortly after graduation from the MSU geography department in 2007 Bree moved to China where she has been attempting to eke out an existence for the past 5 years. She initially came to China to help them solve their environmental problems. But after 2 months in the Middle Kingdom it became very apparent that they were not interested in changing anything due to the fact that within the current unregulated system they are making money hand-over-fist. Aside from having an outstanding spatial awareness and a keen ability to fold a map, Bree has found out that her guidance counselor was wrong, an individual cannot actually find a job working in environmental management with an undergraduate geography degree. Bree's inability to find employment in the environmental sector due to the lack of science/engineering qualifications, compounded by an aversion to return to higher education and amassing more debt, Bree has recently accepted a position as the Operations Director of an event company based in Shanghai, China. Before this time she was working freelance as a corporate business consultant, restaurant consultant and the GIS/GIS Specialis-tion Director of the USA Pavilion at Shanghai World Expo. She also spends a significant portion of her time working in the Arts in China. Through the company AAC (Affordable Art China) she helps to promote young Chinese artists to the national and international stages, supporting Chinese creativity and innovation.

Edward Hartwick (MA 2006)

After graduation from MSU with a Masters in Science in Geographic Information Science in June of 2006, I was hired as a Field Data Manager and GIS Specialist at the Michigan Department of Community Health as a GIS Specialist in the Communicable Disease Division. My primary duties included creation of geographic datasets and maps that would help to aid in visualization of disease outbreaks throughout the state as well as aid in outbreak preparedness for outbreaks, disasters or bioterrorism events. I also worked to support our communicable disease surveillance systems: the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS), which uses geocoding to assign jurisdiction to reportable diseases in the state, and the Michigan Syndromic Surveillance System (MSSS), which uses GIS as a component in visualizing hospital ER feeds for early detection of disease trends. In November 2010, I made a slight transition and took on more responsibilities for the MDSS and shifted more toward a health informatics role. I am currently the MDSS & GIS Coordinator for the Communicable Disease Division where my primary duties are to coordinate the future development of the MDSS which our epidemiology staff, oversee electronic messaging in and out of the system, troubleshoot issues with the system, and continue to provide GIS support as needed.

Denny Hausker (BS 1969)

I graduated in 1969 from MSU with a B.S. degree and geography was my major. I had planned on teaching until I got married and became a teacher in the family. I was #1 in the original draft lottery, so I graduated on a Saturday and was in the army on that Monday. With my luck, I knew where I was going and sure enough I spent a year in Vietnam. When I got back I had a year to go so I was stationed at a helicopter training base in Texas. By the time I got out of the army, recession had hit so I had to scramble to find any job I could. I never did pursue geography. The bulk of my working years I was a medical specialist for the Social Security. All the time I was doing this, I retired. Currently I do a little financial consulting part time and hope to cover young Chinese artists to the national and international stages, supporting Chinese creativity and innovation.
Christina Hupy (PhD 2005)
Chrisina has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Anthropology at the University of West Florida since 2007. She went up for tenure in fall of 2012 and has been successful through the college and university level. Thai and her husband, Joe Hupy, led a group of 8 students on a field trip to Honduras to gather data for a GIS-based habitat model for box constrictors. In 2013, Christina and her husband, Joe Hupy, led a group of 8 students on a field trip to Honduras to gather data for a GIS-based habitat model for box constrictors. In 2013, Christina also continues to teach biogeography related field courses. In 2010, she led students on a field trip to the Galapagos Islands. Students in the course studied island biogeography and collaborated with the Charles Darwin Research Foundation (CDF). Several of the students have internships with CDF and will be helping them with their geospatial data needs including mapping some of their famous specimens. Christina continues to conduct and publish research in biogeography. She published a single-author manuscript in Physical Geography in 2012 on ecotone mapping. Christina and Joe have two kids, Annika in 21 months old and Katya just turned 3.

David Jones (PhD 1975)
Julie and I have been fully retired for several years now and enjoy an active lifestyle in Reston, VA, where both our children (and four grandchildren) also live. (Both daughter and son are also geographers so we must have done something either right or wrong!) We particularly enjoy traveling and last years high light was a fabulous RTW Scholar tour on the Trans Siberian railroad from Beijing to Moscow. Email is: dave.julie.jones@gmail.com

Audrey Jostin (MS 2008)
I recently returned to Texas A&M University after spending several months abroad in Ecuador collecting data for my PhD dissertation on carbon sequestration. A payments for ecosystem services program in the Andes. I recently finished out the PhD. A proposal I submitted last October was recommended for an award, so my plan is to return in Ecuador for a few more months of fieldwork starting in May. In the meantime, I am teaching my first lecture class as the primary instructor. It is an introductory course in world regional geography called The Global Village. With only a couple of weeks before I fly out, that my students are great and I am really enjoying teaching. I am looking towards graduating within a year or so.

Jessa LaPorte (Kidder) (MA 2006)
I am sending this update from Montpelier, Vermont where I own and operate Felt Earth Farm. Together with my partner, Margi, and our two sons Isaac, age 5, and Pax, age 18 months we live off the grid in a 30’ yurt nestled on ten gorgeous acres of temperate deciduous forest. Our living space is a home where we raise alpacas and cultivate high density permaculture gardens that feed our family and our community. The farm is operated off of a 480W photovoltaic system making 4800w photovoltaic system making fists rest on two emerging inquiries: calling for a reexamination of how we organize our lives and how we relate to Earth herself. Felt Earth Farm is expected to provide an additional food system and potentially contribute to the already established local economy at Felt Earth Farm, here, in Vermont. I anticipate a late spring date for the release of this post. We appreciate your interest and we will utilize the efficiency of e-publishing. Please check our website at feltearthfarm.com for updates. In between family farming, I manage to keep up with the rapidly changing geography of American sustainability and global trends in returning to simple, self-sufficient ways of living. I am on the advisory board of the Journal of Sustainability Education and encourage folks to check out jsedi-mensions.org. Since completing my MA in geography (2006) at MSU, I have continued to return to the ability to explore the landscape of sustainability using the lens of ‘ where and why’ as an essential tool in cultivating a life sustaining Geography. I believe, empowers living as learning.
Eraldo Matricardi (MA 2003, PhD 2007)

Ongoing stuff: Since the day I was offered the opportunity to work at the University of Brasilia, I have been teaching and conducting several research projects in the Brazilian Amazon and Savannah.

The good news is that Amazon deforestation in 2012 (4,656 km2) has now fallen by 83% compared to 2004 (27,772 km2). This slashed and burned forested area in 2012 is equivalent to 3.2% of Michigan land area. In addition to that deforestation, there is an average increase of 6,000 km2 of degraded forest every year since 2007. On the other hand, the Brazilian Savannah (also called Cerrado, encompassing more than 2 million km2 in Brazil) has been cut down at a very high annual deforestation rate. Only 49% of Braziliann Cerrado had been left behind by 2010. Our previous research results indicate that there will be only 22.4% of the undisturbed savannah by 2050 assuming “business as usual” scenario. All of these researches are based on remotely sensed data, spatial data analysis, geoprocessing, and GIS. Thanks to MSU Geography, I am looking forward to visiting Michigan State University again. But, honestly, I am not going to MSU unless I have all hope to host MSU students in Brazil very shortly.

Cathleen McNammy (PhD 1995)

Currently I am a professor of Geography at the University of Maine Farmington (UMF) and coordinator of the Maine Geographical Association (MEGA) UMF is Maine’s public liberal arts college and hosts the only stand-alone geography program in the state. I teach a variety of courses that allow me to blend my interests in environment and health. Through the MGA, I work with teachers from across the state and region to enhance geography education pre K-12.

Over the last couple of years my professional interests have taken me to Iceland in advance of a May-term field course this year and England to the International Medical Geography Symposium. I am of course planning to attend the IMGS in East Lansing in July.

UMF was host to the New England St. Lawrence Valley (AAG division) meeting in October. We welcomed colleagues from across the region to our campus including MSU alumni, Doug Richardson, Executive Director of the AAG and Bryon Diddel, Eugene, Oregon. I am the current Professor of Geography at Plymouth State University.

Paul McCord (MA 2013)

After graduating with my MS from MSU Department of Geography in 2011, I worked for a year with Dr. Messina, my master’s adviser, on several research projects producing two publications. In the Fall of 2012 I began a PhD program at Indiana University’s Department of Geography. I have been able to continue working in Kenya, where I’m now studying water management and water use strategies of smallholder farmers near Mount Kenya. This includes studying the effectiveness of farmers to drought and their corresponding adaptive strategies. I will be making my second visit to the field site during the summer of 2013 where several smallholder surveys will be administered. Among other activities since becoming a Hoosier, I recently co-founded a methods course designed to expose graduate students in the social sciences to multiple quantitative and qualitative approaches. While I consider myself a pseudo-Hoosier at the moment, I’ll always be a Spartan Geographer at heart.

Nick Meyers (BS 2006)

I am teaching at Mariette Jr/Sr High in the thumb.

James Mulvihill (PhD 1976)

Jim Mulvihill, professor emeritus in geography at Cal State San Bernardino, has received the 2012 Distinguished Leadership Award from the California chapter of the American Planning Association. The award, which comes on the heels of his Distinguished Service Award honor from APA’s Inland Empire Section, makes Mulvihill eligible to receive the association’s national service award to be announced next April. “I’m thrilled to receive the award,” said Mulvihill. “It’s very satisfying to be recognized by colleagues in public and private sector planning.” He is a certified urban planner, of which only 60 percent pass the required test. Mulvihill joined the Inland Empire Section of the APA in 1981, which was the same year he began teaching at Cal State San Bernardino. It was a time, he recalls, when few academic programs at the college addressed
Alumni News

Urban issues. Mulvihill then began working to strengthen the presence of urban planning courses in the college curriculum. He also joined the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce, where he promoted development that took advantage of the great mountain views and landscape around the college. In 1984, he assembled a working paper that, he believed, would encourage better development in the area around Cal State San Bernardino. His aim was to visually enhance the campus and the I-15 corridor—a key entry point to the city. The paper was eventually presented to city leaders, who incorporated many of the paper’s ideas into their new administration and planning activities.

New master’s program. Mulvihill said, "I established the master’s program in urban planning at CSUSB in the early 1990s. By doing so, I accomplished my goal of developing a well-rounded educational experience that could provide students with planning skills that could aid in urban economic development. Using GIS, I analyze soil types, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, waterways, archeological sites, and other sensitive resources. This information helps me determine access routes and ensure that construction activities have minimal disturbance and meet federal environmental obligations. In addition, I help clients perform results of my analysis to pull the appropriate permits with departments such as the DNR, DEQ and DOT. Once construction begins I serve as an on-site monitor overseeing and implementing the environmental plan. My educational experiences (both in and out of the classroom) at MSU play out daily in my career. Every aspect of my job requires knowledge of soil types, vegetation systems, and fluvial processes. GIS allows me to tie all of this information together and deliver a solid product that hundreds of people depend on. Thanks to the passionate and dedicated faculty at MSU Geography, I developed a set of skills that afforded me a very specialized job exactly where I wanted to be.

Jamie Picardy (MA 2001)

Since graduating MSU GEO in 2001, I have worked as an Environmental Planner for the Florida Department of Transportation. After Florida, I worked as a Senior Environmental Education Director for the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation. At USDA, Grades 6 through 12 on agriculture, food and the environment. From Maryland, I moved to Pennsylvania. I was lucky enough to teach Geography, GIS and Environmental Science full time (co-teacher track) at the Community College of Philadelphia. Upon moving to Massachusetts, I returned to school to get my doctorate in Agriculture, Food and Resource Management at Harvard University. While I worked in urban planning, I was mainly focused on how to work in food systems planning and modeling. Upon program completion, I hope to return to academic teaching and community research/outreach. Thank you MSU GEO and Biosystems Engineering for starting me on this path!

Nick Perdue (MS 2012)

2012 was certainly an eventful year. In February at the AAG annual meeting in New York I won the cartography specialty group (CSG) paper competition. In May I defended my thesis, packed up my Honda, and drove across the country to begin a PhD in Urban Geography and Symbolic Cognition Lab at UO on various research seminars at the University of Oregon. I am currently working in the Spatial and Map Cognition Research Lab at OU on projects including the development of accessible mapping applications, symbol standards, and the behavioral experimentation of spatial perceptions. In my own research, I am interested in cyberinfrastructures, social media interactions, accessibility to technology, and issues of volunteered geographic information. I am now a faculty member at the University of Maryland, College Park with a small corner of my time as we share our blend of rock, folk, and blues music throughout the Lansing area. I was recently able to prove this with a poster presentation that I gave at the Symposium on Environmental Science and Technology in Europe. I am currently working on several projects related to urban planning and development. One of the major themes of my research is the role of geographic information systems (GIS) in decision making at the local level. I have had the opportunity to work with a variety of organizations and businesses that have been interested in using GIS to improve their decision making processes. I am currently working on a project with the City of Lansing that involves the development of a comprehensive GIS database of the city’s utilities. This database will be used to support decision making in a variety of areas such as flood mitigation, public safety, and public works.

Tiffany Rossi (MA 2004)

As an immigrant to Finland in 2003, I faced a job market flooded with highly educated native Finnish geomorphologists. The career path I chose instead, as an English-language copywriter, was a little to do with geography. That said, I learned everything I need to be a good copywriter at the US Department of Geography. What I do is help companies tell the world who they are, what they do, and what they sell. I write blog posts, websites, emails, and much more. I have some pretty tough prods to thank for teaching me good writing skills (Drs. Arbogast and Harman may now take a bow). A passion for research, and the confidence to deliver high school essays, is one of the many skills I learned while I was at MSU Geography. As an immigrant to Finland, I have a unique perspective on how to write meaningful content for different audiences. I have also been able to delve into unfamiliar territories and gain valuable experience in different industries. The simple reason was the flow of ideas that could arise during conversation. GIS allows me to visualize these ideas and explore them in detail. My educational background in Geography, GIS, and Environmental Science has been instrumental in helping me to develop these skills.

Corey Steimel (BA 2009)

I graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Geography in 2009. My focus, as well as my degree, was in synthetic meteorology. Throughout my undergraduate career, I wrote a few papers that I hoped would be published in the scientific community. I did not make much progress in those areas, but I did make some progress in my education. I am currently at the University of North Dakota, where I am pursuing a master’s degree in atmospheric science. I am also working at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as a research scientist. My research focuses on the development of new atmospheric models, including the development of models that can be run on supercomputers. My ultimate goal is to develop models that can be used to predict the weather and climate on a global scale. I am currently working on models that can be run on supercomputers, including models that can be run on supercomputers, including models that can be used to predict the weather and climate on a global scale. My ultimate goal is to develop models that can be used to predict the weather and climate on a global scale. I am currently working on models that can be run on supercomputers, including models that can be used to predict the weather and climate on a global scale. My ultimate goal is to develop models that can be used to predict the weather and climate on a global scale.

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and identifying rock samples. As much as I loved the opportunity to be in the outdoors, getting my hands dirty with Earth Sciences, I appreciated all the work that I was able to do in the lab with Geographic Information Systems (GIS). My experience with GIS at Michigan State allowed me to get a foot into the technology sector of our economy. I started off working as a Technical Support Engineer for Golden Software, a software company that produces mapping, graphing, and digitizing software. While working for Golden Software I was able to gain valuable experience alpha and beta testing software and have now found myself as the Team Lead of the Quality Assurance Department at TrainingPeaks, a company that produces software to assist endurance athletes and coaches to track, analyze, and plan training data. My current job still affords me the opportunity to ‘get out into the field’ to collect GPS, heart rate, and power data using various Garmin, Timex, and even mobile devices. There’s nothing like strolling into work only to find you have an assignment to go on a trail run in the Rocky Mountains to collect data.

Josh Stevens (MS 2011)

The last year has been a very busy and exciting time for me. In the Spring of 2012 I attained candidacy within the PhD program at Penn State. In August of 2012 I was awarded an NSF IGERT fellowship in Big Data Social Science. This has given me a great opportunity to expand my research on real-time animation and change representation within highly coordinated geospatial interfaces. In other big news, my beautiful wife Nicole and I got married in September. After a brief honeymoon, I presented some research I’ve done on the design of mobile map symbols for emergency management at the annual meeting of the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS). I am currently working with Alan MacEachren in Penn State’s GeoVISTA Center on a number of related projects. We’ve recently launched the public version of a PHP-sponsored tool we built for sharing and categorizing map symbols on the web (http://www.symbolstore.org). I’ve also just finished a paper with Kirk Goldsberry and Ashton Shortridge that will be submitted soon, covering the work on traffic map design I did while at MSU. This summer I will be a visiting graduate researcher at the University of Zurich and I am really looking forward to what 2013 has in store.

Nick Swartz (BS 2010)

I graduated from MSU in 2010 with a major in Geography and a minor in GIS. A year after graduating, I landed a job as a GIS Specialist with AF/COM, an environmental consulting company. I am working on the Kalamazoo River oil spill cleanup project in Marshall, MI. The spill occurred in July 2010 when a pipeline burst, dropping almost a million gallons of oil into the river system. My main role on the project is using ArcGIS software to produce figures related to the spill, such as soil sample locations or submerged oil areas. I also prepare Trimbile Tuna GPS units for field data collection and process the resultant GPS data. I feel my time in my MSU Geography classes gave me the skills necessary to succeed on this very challenging, yet rewarding project.

It was only last year that the first onGEO Connection piece ran in the annual Spartan Geographer, and in it we celebrated our launch into the world of social media. A Facebook presence (http://www.facebook.com/groups/onGEO), Twitter handle (@onGEOatMSU), and Pinterest boards (http://pinterest.com/ongeoatmsu/) filled with beautiful maps, geographic images, and useful teaching resources were the things we boasted about. We had become hip, joined the masses, and well, so what? While social media helped us connect with our students, peers, and alumni, sharing and discussing the discipline we are so passionate about, we also knew that Online Geography was about to embark on something even bigger. We would soon have something to market through those media outlets - something that could transform the face of our online program and articulate our calling to educate: professional development certificates.

Our Online Geography courses have long been thought of as some of the highest quality online courses in the College of Social Science and perhaps even the whole University. The Department of Geography, unlike many other academic departments at MSU, employs both a staff dedicated to developing, maintaining, and administering those courses and a faculty who commit themselves to contributing knowledge and content that can be effectively taught and learned in an online environment. Backed by Department Chairs (both past and present) who supported their efforts, these individuals have worked tirelessly over the years developing onGEO courses that could not only benefit MSU students, but anyone looking to advance their training and education. So after years of consideration, development began in the fall of 2012 on what would be the four modules that compose the Department of Geography’s fully online Geospatial Tools & Technologies professional development certificate. The first two courses will launch March 11, 2013.

This certificate is the first of what we hope will be several certificates designed for a diverse group of people, including: 1) professionals who are currently working in the field and pursuing training opportunities, 2) professionals looking to advance or revamp their current career, 3) teachers pursuing continuing-education credits, and 4) international students seeking an educational experience and certification from an American university. As noted in the certificate’s prospectus, the rate of growth of online learning has continued to outpace the overall growth in higher education, with nearly two thirds of chief academic officers agreeing that online education is critical to their long term strategy. The Department of Geography has experienced similar growth in its online classes and, likewise, Geography Department faculty and staff feel that continued success in the area of online learning is paramount. Expanding the current Online Geography offerings to include non-credit, continuing education certificates could not only enhance the program, but also ensure its continued success.

Want to learn more about the Department’s undergraduate, graduate, and new certificate courses? Then check out onGEO’s newly redesigned website at ongeo.msu.edu. In the words of our own Dr. Arbogast, “It is one snazzy piece of work.” You may recognize some similarities in design when the Department’s new website is revealed. (Shh! This is still in the works.)
Remote Sensing & GIS Research and Outreach Services (RS&GIS)

As the applied service group within the Department of Geography, the mission of RS&GIS is to provide innovative, high quality geospatial technology services to our clients, both on and off campus. Over the past year RS&GIS staff worked on a variety of exciting projects providing geospatial support to numerous students, faculty and staff.

- RS&GIS has been working with Dr. Catherine Lindell (Department of Zoology) to analyze lands surrounding fruit crops in an effort to limit the potential damage done by birds. Over 300 study blocks around the United States are being used to build a landscape model for risk prediction.
- In concert with the Kellogg Biological Station (KBS), RS&GIS is compiling and orthorectifying a library of historic aerial photographs covering the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) area at KBS. To create a broader impact for the LTER community, researchers will be able to connect to the imagery services through RS&GIS using Google Earth or other mapping clients.
- Partnering with the School of Social Work, RS&GIS has developed GIS curricula for a graduate level course, including hands on ArcGIS labs. These labs will introduce students to the power of mapping demographic data.
- RS&GIS has been researching the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for gathering rapid turn-around imagery. GIS & Remote Sensing Analyst, Robert Goodwin recently attended flight training in South Carolina and is currently pursuing authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration to fly UAS for research collaborators.
- Software developers at RS&GIS have been working closely with the Michigan Fitness Foundation to develop and ArcGIS Online application that allows users efficiently find, visualize, and share useful information about food, nutrition and physical activity resources in their communities (http://map2healthyliving.org).

For more information on these and other projects please contact us at Boojhp@msu.edu or visit us online @ www.rsgis.msu.edu

Contributions

THANK YOU!

To all who contributed to the various Geography Department funds and scholarships. We are making continued efforts to increase our departmental contributions to enhance our programs and benefit students. Please consider donating to one of the Geography Department funds listed:

Please specify desired fund and make checks payable to Michigan State University

Mail to:
Department of Geography
Geography Building
673 Auditorium Rd Rm 116
East Lansing, MI 48824

You may make a credit card donation on-line at: http://www.geo.msu.edu/giving.html

- Geography at MSU Fund
  Established in 2001 to promote the MSU Department of Geography, including related advertising, fundraising, travel, and similar expenses.

- Geographic Field Experience Fund
  Established in 2001 to fund student field experiences, including field trips, primary data collection, course related field experience, and transportation and lodging expenses.

- Geographic Literacy Fund
  Sponsored by Harm de Blij, this fund promotes the field of Geography to students.

- Ian Matley Memorial Fund
  Established to bring guest speakers to campus to enrich the geographic education of students and faculty.

- GTU/Geography Endowment Fund
  Established in 1999 by Robert and Dorothy Thomas to fund geography related student activities.

- E. James Potchen Awards in Geography for Graduate and Undergraduate Students
  Established in 2008 by Harm de Blij to fund yearly cash awards for outstanding graduate and undergraduate students based on GPA, progress towards degrees, and other quality indicators such as field work and research.

- Harold A. “Duke” Winters Scholarship
  To support graduate study in Geography at MSU.

- Jay R. Harman Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography
  To support undergraduate study in Geography at MSU.

- Marjorie & Lawrence Sommers Geography Graduate Fellowship for International Research & Travel
  A graduate fellowship to be awarded yearly for Masters or PhD students to support international research and travel.

- Owen Gregg Endowment for Global Climate Change Research
  Established in 2012 to support global climate change science research in the Department of Geography.

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- Owen Gregg Endowment-Global Climate Chg

Contributions
Please contact us

We hope you find this newsletter informative and interesting. One way you can help keep it that way is to send us news about yourself. Share news about your career, family, or other things with your fellow alumni. Send an e-mail or letter and we will insert it into the next issue of the newsletter. Thanks for helping make the newsletter even better.

We also encourage you to keep in touch and provide your contact information. We have been working very hard to update and correct our e-mail and mailing lists. Please notify us whenever you have a change of mailing or e-mail address. This and past newsletters can be viewed on-line at our website, http://www.geo.msu.edu/aboutus/newsletters.html

Please join our Facebook page at:  http://www.facebook.com/MSUGeography?fref=ts

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