

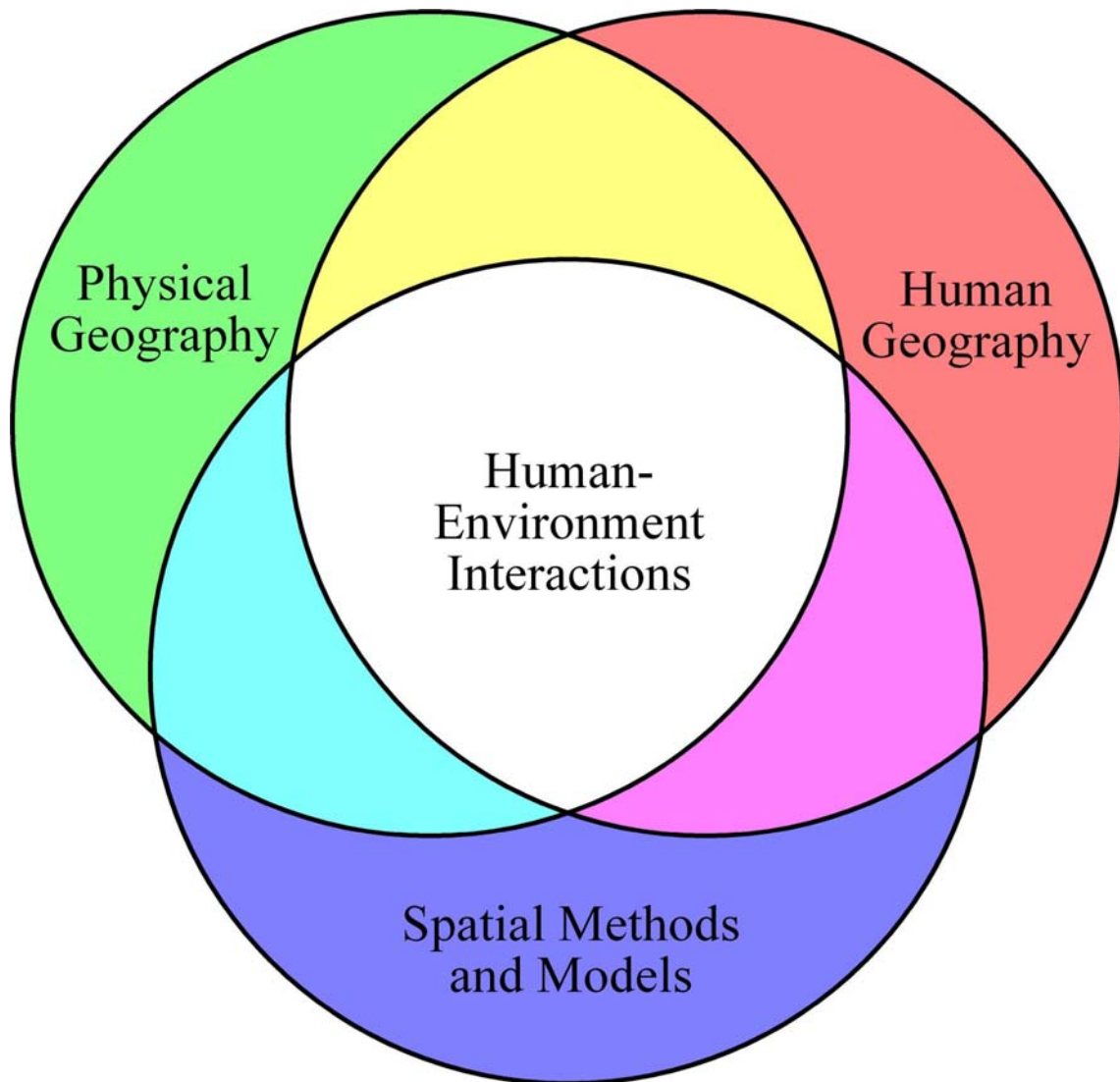


SPARTAN GEOGRAPHER

Department of Geography

College of Social Science

Michigan State University



A conceptual diagram of how the discipline of Geography is envisioned at MSU. Faculty and students can be placed into segments of the diagram and the result is an aid in hiring and recruitment.



Message from the Chair

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Hello to all MSU Geography Alumni and Friends! 2007 proved to be an exciting and significant year for MSU Geography. I am pleased to report that most of the news was “good” and that the Department continues to thrive.

We added three new tenure-track faculty last spring. **Guo Chen** completed her PhD at Penn State. She has research and teaching interests in urban geography, particularly the economic and social structure of Chinese cities. **Andrew Finley** (75% Forestry) is a PhD from Minnesota specializing in spatial models of forest change at the landscape scale. **Kirk Goldsberry** earned his PhD at UC-Santa Barbara. He is a cartographer specializing in internet mapping of traffic patterns. Please see their bios on page 10.

We have also added several other new staff members in various capacities. After Marilyn Bria’s retirement last summer, we welcomed **Claudia Brown** as her replacement. Claudia has budget management and supervisory duties as well as providing secretarial support for a number of faculty. She comes from positions with the Zoology Department at Miami University (Ohio) and the Ingham County Intermediate School District. Her husband, Tom Hanf, has a Master’s degree in Geography from Miami. **Adrienne Domas** joins us as a Visiting Instructor, teaching ISS and GIS courses. She holds a Master’s degree from Santa Barbara. **Juliegh Bookout** (MA 2006) has become a second Coordinator for our Geography course offerings over the internet.

I am pleased to report that four faculty were successfully promoted in 2007. **Jiaguo Qi** was promoted to Full Professor; and **Joe Messina, Ashton Shortridge, and Cynthia Simmons** were all tenured and promoted to Associate Professor. Congratulations!

I regret to report the passing of Professor **Lawrence Sommers**, longtime faculty member and Department Chair.

Larry died August 3, 2007 of respiratory

complications at 88 years

of age. Larry joined the

Department in 1949 and

received his PhD from

Wisconsin in 1950. He was promoted to Full

Professor and became the first Chair of

Geography in 1955. He held that position

until 1979. In later years, he served in the

Office of the Provost and accepted Emeritus

status in 1989, forty years after his first

appointment. Larry’s research evolved from

the Norwegian fishing industry and related

policies to innovative explorations of human

social and economic marginality in his last

decade. His involvement with the discipline

at large was enormous; his mark was left at

the AAG, AGS, WRSA, AAAS, NCGE,

Sigma XI, the Explorers Club and more. In

later years, he was particularly active in

applied geography and was a founding

member of the Applied Geography

Conference. He also served as U.S.

representative to the IGU. Larry’s sustained

research and writing produced hundreds of

papers, chapters and books including the

editorship of the innovative Atlas of Michigan

(1977). After retirement, he became

increasingly active in Phi Kappa Phi National

Honor Society, for which he served as

national president. At Michigan State, he was

the driving force behind the new Faculty

Emeriti Association which provides a

meaningful role for retired faculty. He

created a graduate fellowship supporting

international travel for Michigan State

University geography graduate students,

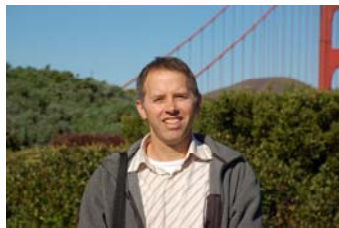
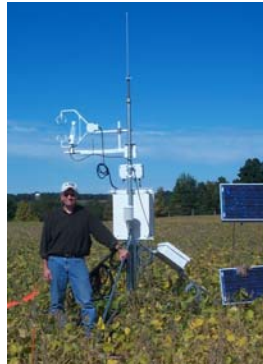
something very dear to Larry’s heart. He is

greatly missed.





Jeff Andresen was recently appointed as a member of the Michigan Climate Action Council. The group was established through an Executive Order from Governor Granholm and is directed by the Governor through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The mission of the council is the development of a statewide plan for the State of Michigan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.



Alan Arbogast again led a group of students on a field excursion to the wilds of central Kansas to study

geomorphology and sample the local culture of beautiful downtown Wilson, Kansas. Some may question Alan's choice of scenic attractiveness but the participating students still seem to enjoy the trip.



David Campbell has been immersed in climate change and land use change in East Africa. Savanna ecosystems will be one of the most negatively impacted ecosystems by

climate change. Large extents are expected to reach 'tipping points' of dramatic changes in physical conditions, functions, and services causing large impacts on society. A team of department members are examining the

effects of climate change on socioeconomic and ecosystems in East Africa in a new award from NSF (\$1.46 million). This research builds on findings from over 10 years of research on land use and climate change in East Africa, including the LUCID Project (Land Use Change Impacts and Dynamics - www.lucideastafrica.org) funded by the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Environment Program, and CLIP (Climate Land Interactions Project - www.clip.msu.edu) funded by NSF. This project, EACLIPSE, is being conducted in collaboration with Ohio University (MSU geography PhD grads **Edna Wangui** and **Tom Smucker**), Virginia Tech (Dong-Yun Kim), the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, and the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. MSU scientists on EACLIPSE include: Geography Dept: **Jeff Andresen, David Campbell, Sarah Hession, Dave Lusch, Nathan Moore, and Jiaguo Qi**; Anthropology/CASID - Rob Glew; Telecommunications - **Jennifer Olson** (also an MSU grad). Related publications include: Ge, J., J. Qi, B. Lofgren, N. Moore, N. Torbick, J. Olson, 2007. Impacts of Land Use/Cover Classification Accuracy on Regional Climate Simulations. *Journal of Geophysical Research* 112 (D5), D05107. Olson, J., G. Alagarwamy, J. Andresen, D. Campbell, J. Ge, M. Huebner, B. Lofgren, D. Lusch, N. Moore, B. Pijanowski, J. Qi, N. Torbick, J. Wang, 2007. Integrating diverse methods to understand climate-land interactions at multiple spatial and temporal scales. *GeoForum* doi:10.1016/j.geoforum.2007.03.011 (in press, available online). Smucker, T., D. Campbell, J. Olson, and E. Wangui, 2007. Contemporary Challenges of Participatory Field Research for Land Use Change



Analyses: Examples from Kenya. *Field Methods* 19: 384-406.



The past year was a busy one internationally for **Ken Corey**. He presented seven papers reporting on his joint research with MSU Urban and Regional Planning Professor, Mark I. Wilson. These

presentations necessitated three journeys to Asia including Beijing, Shenyang and Busan, and three trips to Europe including Rome, Leuven, Belgium and Tallinn, Estonia. The presentations are as follows: *Urban and Regional Technology Planning*, Geography of the Information Society: New Books and Directions International Workshop, International Geographical Union Commission on the Geography of the Information Society, Societa' Geografica Italiana, Home of Geography, Rome. *Regional and Urban Planning in the Global Knowledge Economy and Network Society: A New Model for the Practice of Intelligent Development*, International Conference on New Concepts and Approaches for Urban and Regional Policy and Planning?" Leuven, Belgium. *A Model for Global Economic Practices at the Regional and Urban Scale*, Second Global Conference on Economic Geography, Beijing, China (with Mark I. Wilson). *Intelligent Development for the Future City: Policy Choices for Busan*, u-City & Prospects for Future Cities Seminar, BEXCO (Busan Exhibition and Convention Center), Busan, Korea (with Mark I. Wilson). *Theory to Practice: Implementing Intelligent Development Through Translational Research*. Korean Association of Regional Information Society Seminar, Kyungsoong University, Busan, Korea (with Mark I.

Wilson). *Digital Maturity: E-Business and E-Commerce Revisited*. Annual Meeting of Digital Communities 2007, International Geographical Union Commission on Information Society and MSU E-Space Project, Tallinn, Estonia. *Intelligent Development for the Future City: Policy Choices for Shenyang*. Shenyang International Forum on Urban Innovation Capacity Building and Academic Forum on Policies Encouraging Urban Science and Technology Innovation, Shenyang, China (with Mark I. Wilson).



Harm de Blij reports:

“Among the highlights of 2007 was my trip to Central and South America in January, from the

astonishing buildup of Panama City (I counted more than 100 high rises under construction) to the changing social geography in Ecuador and Peru. In Ecuador I managed to time my flight from Guayaquil to Quito to coincide with the arrival of Ahmadinejad and Chavez at the Quito airport, which produced little to write home about unless one has an abiding interest in the disintegrating interior of an aging Boeing 727.

In Peru you could not miss the energetic presence of numerous Chinese businessmen in almost every Miraflores hotel. In Chile the Islamic imprint was surprising, from street garb to prominent mosque. This, as the Oldsmobile ad used to proclaim, is not your father's "Latin" America. An invitation from the Netherlands to speak before Leiden University's Crayenborgh Seminar in April also produced some memorable moments and gave me a chance to try my rusty Dutch on



this discerning audience. I also addressed an investors' group in Amsterdam, arguing that the dollar was headed for a significant decline and getting some counterpoints from experts who must now be reconsidering their rationales. I was back in the Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal in November to visit the impressive Delta Works in Zeeland, get a better sense of the devolutionary picture in Belgium, and learn about the amazing impact on infrastructure of Portugal's EU membership. Coming back to the USA by sea, I had the chance to see that impact even in the remote and formerly isolated Azores, now modernizing at breakneck speed with four-lane highways and pricey high-rise condominiums proving that globalization has arrived even here. Domestically, my summer appointment as Scholar in Residence at The Chautauqua Institution in New York gave me an opportunity to sample the Institution's matchless diversity of programs, from symphony concerts to poetry readings and from intimate chamber-music concerts to lectures attended by as many as 5000. The village, on a scenic lake in westernmost New York State, is a beehive of political debate, cultural activity, education and entertainment and I always wonder why it isn't better known. This appointment certainly was a welcome break from the rough-and-tumble of the public lecture circuit. I was unable to attend the AAG Meeting in April because of my trip to the Netherlands, but made presentations at the NCGE (Oklahoma City), WVCSS (Charleston), and FSG (Jacksonville). By coincidence, five books appeared with a 2007 copyright: *Wartime Encounter*, a revision of the earlier edition (Hudson River Publishing), *Survey of Subsaharan Africa*, with senior author Roy Cole, a graduate of MSU Geography (Oxford University Press), *The World Today*, with co-

author P. O. Muller and in its third edition (Wiley), *Why Geography Matters*, the paperback version of the 2005 edition with slight revisions (Oxford University Press), and *Human Geography*, co-authored with Erin Fouberg and Alec Murphy (Wiley). A new book, *The Power of Place: Geography, Destiny, and Globalization*, will be published by Oxford University Press in 2008. It argues that the world is not as flat as some writers see it. I'm grateful and honored to continue to be a member of one of the leading Departments of Geography in the United States.



Kyle Evered was back in Turkey doing work with poppy farmers in the country's lakes region in July and August 2007. In addition to talking about poppy cultivation, he initiated a survey-based project among farmers that examined rural perspectives on both potential EU membership and the Turkish state. In the fall, he presented preliminary findings from this work at one of CASID's noon lectures. In the summer of 2008, he anticipates returning to Turkey for follow-up research in the area, and he will also spend one month in Washington, DC at the National Archives and the Library of Congress researching histories of poppy production and eradication, thanks to support from a Kennan Institute grant.



Sue Grady received an award from the Intramural Research Grant Program at MSU for work on "Geographic Analysis of Infant Mortality in Michigan."



Jay R. Harman

reports: "I began the first of two years of half-time teaching during the fall semester, '07, as I transitioned toward full retirement in 2009. Although I

remain involved in the content of the virtual version of GEO 330 (U.S. and Canada), after having taught that course nearly every year since joining the Department in 1968, I no longer will be responsible for its lecture version. I continue to teach Environmental Ethics and Research Design as in the past, however, and look forward to continuing to do so as long as I think can bring something worthwhile to those courses and the Department continues to need my talents, such as they are. I have been using the released time resulting from my reduced teaching schedule to work on a manuscript. Since reconfiguring my scholarly specialties around the field of environmental ethics some time ago, my scholarly writing has no longer been "data driven," that is, about things, but, rather, about ideas, much as philosophers would write. Such an approach to scholarship has been slow and tedious for me, compared to the plant geography and climatology I used to write, but more rewarding. Each time I drafted what ultimately became a journal

article, I'd begin by reflecting on a principle or point I wanted to make and then fashion the manuscript around some contemporary issue to make the piece seem current and attractive to a journal editor. For me, the value of the resulting product was in the hidden ethical argument I was making, while the editor may have thought that s/he was getting a piece to advance discussion of a current controversy. But such an approach left me with a residue of ethical principles or arguments I wanted to articulate that I never could somehow shoehorn into suitable manuscripts, and I am using the time I now have resulting from my reduced teaching load to fashion them all into one omnibus package. Very briefly, the central argument of the manuscript is this: Public discourse in America today is marked by increasing amounts of spin, exaggeration, hyperbole, and fallacy that is undermining our collective respect for the virtue of truthfulness, which, in turn, calls into question our basic trustworthiness as a people. One consequence of reduced trustworthiness, in turn, is an erosion of trust, a linchpin of civil society, and the costs to us all of damaged collective trust are largely unrecognized and substantial. I don't know what will become of this manuscript when it is finished. At most, it might become a book. At least, it will serve as a record of some of my dearest hopes and fears as an American. Geography it ain't, but, well, as someone near the end of his career, I think I am entitled to say something a bit off-topic. Finally, on the personal side, my wife and I installed a wind turbine, PV solar panels, and a solar water heater on the homestead over the past year, all in an attempt to reduce our carbon footprint. These were not inexpensive moves, but we feel strongly that, absent coordinated government leadership in the environmental area, those of



Faculty News

us who can afford to do something on our own have an ethical obligation to do so. Our girls, now 10 and 9, are well, I am well, and I hope you are, too. Drop an e-mail when you can."



David Lusch, Senior Research Specialist, has been selected to receive one of four MSU Distinguished Academic Staff Awards. The Distinguished Academic Staff Award recognizes the outstanding achievements of those

professionals who serve the University in advising, curriculum development, outreach, extension, research, and teaching. Distinguished Academic Staff Awards are made to members of the academic staff who are appointed as Academic Specialists or Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) Academic Staff. These awards provide University-wide recognition and reward to outstanding individuals with careers demonstrating long-term excellence and exceptional contributions to Michigan State University. Dave celebrated his 29th year of service to MSU in September, 2007.

Joe Messina was the recipient of the Junior Faculty Meritorious Research Award presented by the MSU Chapter of Sigma Xi Honor Society. Joe's work in epidemiology and environment in Kenya has been funded by the National Institute of Health for over one million dollars.



Judy Olson received the Earle J. Fennel Award from the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping for lifelong contributions to mapping education. She will receive the award in Spokane, Washington in March, 2008.



Jianguo Qi was named Project Scientist for NASA-MAIRS (Monsoon Asia Integrated Region Studies) to coordinate research projects and programs that address regional issues of coupled human and climate systems. The goal of the MAIRS program is to significantly advance the understanding of the interactions between the human-natural components of the overall environment in the monsoon Asian region and implications for the global climate system in order to support strategies for sustainable development.



Robert Walker continued with his research program addressing loss of the Amazonian rainforest, publishing his results in a wide range of journals, including the Annals of the Association of American Geographers, The Journal of Regional Science, Environmental Conservation, Development and Change, and Geophysical Research Letters. In partnership with his Co-PIs, Dr. John Browder (Virginia Polytechnic



Institute and State University) and MSU alumnus, Dr. **Eugenio Arima** (Hobart and William Smith Colleges), he completed a survey of Amazonian slaughterhouses with federal certification, under the NSF-funded project, Globalization, Deforestation, and the Livestock Sector in the Brazilian Amazon. Bob also participated in a number of invited seminars, including a symposium at Yale University addressing the extension of roads into the Amazon basin. He gave follow-up interviews that were aired on National Public Radio and the BBC. Finally, Bob was appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, and to the Scientific Steering Committee of the Large-Scale Biosphere Atmosphere Experiment in Amazônia, or LBA.



Antoinette WinklerPrins was named to the Editorial Board of the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. She continues her 2007-2008

sabbatical leave while working on a geography textbook, *The World Today* with **Harm de Blij** and Peter Muller.



Sharon Zhong began her second term as an editor for *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*. Published monthly by the American Meteorological Society, JAMC covers applied

research related to meteorology and climatology, including weather modification, satellite and radar meteorology, boundary layer processes, air pollution meteorology,

agricultural and forest meteorology, and the use of climate information in decision making, impact assessments, seasonal climate forecast applications and verification, climate risk and vulnerability, and climate as it relates to the environment and society. She has recently been appointed to the President's Advisory Committee on University Relations (PACUR) at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). PACUR helps maintain good communication and relationships between the Corporation and its members. The PACUR acts as an advisory committee to the President, proposing agenda items for members' meetings and proposing activities and programs for UCAR to undertake.



Leo Zulu taught GEO 425 - Problems in GIScience while he continued to pursue his research interests in human-

environment interactions focusing on decentralized environmental governance in Malawi and Africa as a whole. He studies the role of geospatial technologies in helping to understand African environmental challenges and contribute to potential solutions. He also continued research interests in the use of geospatial technologies in medical geography in understanding and predicting the spatiotemporal patterns of HIV prevalence for the continent of Africa. He presented papers on these themes at the Association of American Geographers meeting in San Francisco and at Western Michigan University. An article that he co-authored in this area with Dr. Ezekiel Kalipeni of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was accepted for publication in the



Professional Geographer – “Using GIS to Model and Forecast HIV/AIDS Rates in Africa, 1986-2010.” Leo spent a 6-month administrative sojourn to Malawi over the summer and fall of 2007. During this visit he taught an introductory course on GIS and Remote Sensing at Bunda College, a constituent of the University of Malawi, as part of an exchange program to kick-start a collaborative arrangement between MSU and the University of Malawi that is expected to culminate into a formal Memorandum of Understanding in spring 2008. This initiative is under the auspices of the African Studies Center. During this time, Leo also conducted preliminary field research for a planned grant proposal on water and sanitation in Malawi and clinics in collaboration with Professors Anne Ferguson (Anthropology and Director of Center for Gender in Global Context), Tracy Dobson (Fisheries & Wildlife), and Joan Rose (Fisheries & Wildlife) and a counterpart from the University of Malawi. Information and data were collected on technical aspects of the provision and monitoring of water quality and sanitation for rural and peri-urban health clinics and broader governance issues surrounding access, supply and use of safe water.

Robert N. Thomas was one of ten recipients to receive the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Distinguished Alumni Award. A graduate of the university in 1950, Bob returned to IUP in 1960 where he taught and conducted research until 1969. While at IUP he received his Ph.D. in geography from Penn State in 1968. In 1965-66, Bob took leave from the university to serve as an urban planning advisor in Guatemala for The Agency for International Development. In 1970, Professor Thomas joined the MSU geography faculty where he served until

retirement in 1993. During his tenure at MSU, Bob conducted residence research in Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile. He has also participated in Study Abroad programs in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Panama. Presently, Bob maintains an office in the department where he continues to teach on occasion and conduct research. He also gives lectures on cruise ships and may be contacted via email at thomasr7@msu.edu, or phone 517-353-1668.

Dorothy and Bob Thomas continue to support The GTU Geography Development Fund. They agreed to match faculty contributions up to \$1,000. Presently the fund's principle is over \$50,000 which during the past year earned interest over \$2,000. The interest is used to supply grants that assist department students attend the AAG meeting where they presented their research findings. Contributions to the fund should be directed to GTU Geo Dev Fund and forwarded to Judy Reginek, Secretary to The Chair.



Bob Thomas receiving his award from IUP President, Tony Atwater



Guo Chen

Before completing my Ph.D. degree at Penn State University in August, I spent most of the winter and summer in China, between Nanjing, Shanghai, Beijing, and Tibet. In January 2007, I co-edited and published (with a colleague from USC) on poverty in the U.S. in a special issue of a highly popular planning journal in China, *Urban Planning International*. I also organized a session titled “poverty in context” at the Second Global Conference on Economic Geography in Beijing in July. The session drew contributions from U.S., Chinese, and Vietnamese researchers. In December, I was invited to present a poster at the Mapping Inequality Atlas Conference, UC Santa Cruz. After getting married in November, my husband (also a former Penn State Geographer) and I are in the process of settling down in East Lansing. I enjoy a variety of things in my spare time such as travel, photography, swimming, cooking, and painting. Upon completing several manuscripts on poverty, inequality and housing in China, I am actively planning for the fall geo seminar focusing on China and globalization, which will feature discussions based on the latest written- and visual-materials about the country. My agenda also includes building a website for visualizing past work on poverty in Chinese cities, and starting a project on comparative urban structure analysis.



Kirk Goldsberry

I am very excited about my first year in the Geography department. I completed my dissertation at the University of California, Santa Barbara in August, and joined the faculty that same month. My graduate research focused on cartography, visualization, and geographic information science. My dissertation explored real-time traffic maps. As part of my research I created a prototype real-time traffic map for Los Angeles. As traffic burdens continue to plague our largest cities, and as we increasingly access the internet in more diverse settings, I believe that traffic maps will become among the world’s most commonly used maps, influencing millions of drivers every day. For this reason, it is imperative that these maps are informed by cartographic principles and empirical research. My dissertation targeted critical traffic map design issues including symbolization, cartographic classification, generalization, and graphic data formats. Now that I am at MSU, I look forward to extending my research agenda to include cartography, visualization, and other topics. I also look forward to contributing to our department’s cartographic curriculum by offering both undergraduate and graduate cartography courses. My courses emphasize the roles of emerging graphics technologies, and the Internet in contemporary cartography. Outside of work I enjoy traveling, music, and the Boston Red Sox.





Andrew O. Finley

I joined the MSU community this past August, 2007, as an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Geography and Department of



Forestry. Before coming to MSU, I received my Ph.D. in Natural Resources Science and Management from the Department of Forest Resources and M.S. in Statistics from the School of Statistics at the University of Minnesota in January, 2007. My degree work focused on developing multi-source forest inventory strategies; forest resource mapping, assessment, and management; modeling forest inventory data with complex dependence structures; and developing open source statistical and geospatial analysis software. At MSU I will pursue my research interests in the fields of natural resource inventory, Bayesian statistics, spatial statistics, and statistical computing. In terms of application areas, my work focuses on spatio-temporal modeling of important economic and ecological forest attributes, indices of biodiversity, and ecological systems. I look forward to opportunities to contribute to Geography's reputation and to leverage my trans-college appointment to build interesting and innovative research projects that guide our conservation of natural resources.

Graduate Student Degrees Completed 2007

Scott Drzyzga, Ph.D. (Ashton Shortridge), "Mapping and Modeling Lake Algonquin in Northern Michigan and Western Ontario with Imperfect Data and Models of Uncertainty."

Meleia Egger, MA (Antoinette WinklerPrins), "Cultivating Social Capital: Community Gardens in Lansing, Michigan."

Mark Finn, MA (Joseph Messina), "Health Care Demand in Michigan: An Examination of the Michigan Certificate of Need Acute Care Bed Need Methodology."

Jianjun Ge, Ph.D. (Jiaguo Qi), "Improving Regional Climate Modeling in East Africa Using Various Remote Sensing Products."

Galina Guentchev, Ph.D. (Julie Winkler), "Changes in Atmospheric Circulation over Europe and the Relationship to Temperature Extremes in Bulgaria."

Michael Hyslop, MA (Richard Groop), "A Comparison of User Performance on Color and Grayscale Continuous-Tone Maps."

Kin Ma, Ph.D. (Jiaguo Qi), "Geospatial Analysis of Michigan's Lower Peninsula Land Use and Land Cover Products (1998-2001)."

Eraldo Matricardi, Ph.D. (David Skole), "Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Forest Degradation by Selective Logging and Forest Fire in the Brazilian Amazon."

Nathan Torbick, Ph.D. (Jiaguo Qi), "Assessing Wetland Invasive Plant Infestation Using Geospatial Technologies."



George Dynnik (BS, 1980) writes: “I recently received an issue of the *Spartan Geographer* for the first time, and wanted to say hello. I have been out of touch with the Geography department for quite some time. I graduated from MSU with a BS in Geography in 1980, and then went on to work in the IT field. Since then, I have been employed as a computer programmer, programmer/analyst, and systems analyst in banking, manufacturing, government, and payroll/personnel services industries. I am currently an Oracle developer with Automatic Data Processing in Ann Arbor. I was glad to hear about the new Geography building. I visit the campus every so often, and on my next visit will definitely stop by and see it. Even though my terminal degree is an MBA, I am still keen on Geography and am thinking about expanding my skill set by studying GIS, which I understand to be a growing field. When I was at MSU, I did take Remote Sensing and Airphoto Interpretation as well as the required Field Techniques, but I think that GIS was in its infancy at that time. At any rate, I concentrated on Physical Geography and also took a couple of advanced courses in Climatology as well as North America, Western Europe and the Soviet Union. Regretfully, I never got to work in a geographic field but can't complain about my existing career. Perhaps if I study GIS, that may change.”

Gordon Bennett (PhD, 1968) reports: Jeff Patton and I have just published a new book, *A Geography of the Carolinas* with Parkway Press (2008). Contributors also include Fraser Hart, John Hidore, John Winberry, Melinda Meade, Ole Gade, Greg Carbone, Bob Janiskee, Roy Stine, and Roger Winsor. In 2006, Jeff and I published our fourth edition of *The United States and*

Canada: A Systematic Approach with Sheffield Publishing Co.

Leroy Barnett (PhD, 1979) reports: About every decade, "National Geographic Magazine" publishes a map showing on a decennial basis the migration of the U.S. center of population across the country. This mathematical spot started on the Eastern Seaboard in 1790 and is now near mid-Missouri. I had always wondered what similar calculations would show for Michigan's wandering center of population, and to find out I recently plotted the results of such research. My findings can be seen in the journal "Turning the Horizon" (volume 6, number 1, December 2007). I was also curious to identify Michigan's various centers of gravity. Using today's powerful computers, this quest rather precisely located 1) the center of the Upper Peninsula land mass, 2) center of the Lower Peninsula land mass, 3) center of Michigan's total land mass, 4) center of Michigan's total land and water area, plus 5) the center of each Great Lake adjacent to our state. These findings also appear in the issue of "Turning the Horizon" cited above.

Mohsin Mansory (PhD, 1984) writes: After getting my PhD from MSU in 1984, I started working as an Assistant Professor of Cartography at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. From 1992 to 1993, I was delegated to work as MWL Bureau Director in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands. In 1993, I moved to Jeddah, where I began working at King Abdulaziz University (KAU) – the second largest university in the Kingdom with about 60,000 students. From 1994 to 1999, I worked as Consultant to the Saudi Minister of Higher Education, serving as member and Project Manager of the General



Committee of the Atlas of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and as Supervisor of the same project in the Jeddah Cartographic Center resulting in the publication of the Atlas of KSA in 1999. In 2000, I was appointed Vice Dean of Graduate Studies & Scientific Research at KAU's Faculty of Arts & Humanities. Since 2003, I have been working as Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities – the largest of KAU's colleges with about 25,000 regular and external students and 450 professors and teaching staff members. In addition, I have also been serving as Secretary General of the Commission of Deans of Faculties of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences of the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) States. At present, I am working with the Ministry of Higher Education on revising and updating the Atlas of KSA, expected to be published next year.

Bryon Middlekauff (PhD, 1987) reports: I am co-teaching a field course to the Four Corners Region of the US to examine the physical geography and environmental issues there in May. The class will combine students and faculty from Keene State College, NH, the University of Wolverhampton, UK, and Plymouth State University, NH.

Charlie Rader (PhD, 1995) and wife **Nancy** still live in River Falls, Wisconsin. Charlie continues to teach courses in Analytical Cartography, GIS, and Human Geography at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls. He has served as chair of the department for the past eight years and is currently coordinating the International Traveling Classroom Program. He will spend spring semester in Europe teaching 33 UWRF students as they travel through six countries. Nancy works for the State of

Minnesota as GIS Data Specialist with the Department of Administration - Land Management Information Center. Other than work, house projects, travel, and canoeing occupy the remaining time. Velcro, the schnauzer-mutt, divides his time between sleeping, walks, and eating.

Tom Wilczek (BS, 1983) possesses a Juris Doctorate degree from the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2001). He is a member of the State Bars of both Nevada and Nebraska and is admitted to practice before the United States Courts of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He also has a Master of Science in Environmental Science degree from the University of Colorado (1990) and Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from Michigan State University. He has more than 20 years of experience in environmental law, management, engineering, water resources, eminent domain, and real estate matters. He supported numerous environmental and mission-critical programs for the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Defense, and regional and local governments throughout the American West including management of select Federal environmental characterization and remediation programs at the Nevada Test Site, Nellis Air Force Base, and the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. He is an accomplished lecturer, educator, and co-author of numerous publications. Mr. Wilczek is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Jesuit-founded Regis University. He is currently serving a three-year term on the Board of Directors for Girls & Boys Town of Nevada, the Nevada affiliate of Father Flanagan's Original Boy's Town in Omaha, Nebraska. Tom resides with his wife and two children in Genoa, Nevada's earliest settlement and



National Historic District, located at the base of the Eastern Sierra.

Eugenio Arima (PhD, 2005) is now a tenure-track faculty member at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. He is quite happy to be so close to the Finger Lakes area of the state.

David Hawley (BA, 1977) received the 2007 Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award at West Shore Community College in Scottville, Michigan. He has been teaching Geography at the college since 1985. He also serves as a Commissioner for the City of Ludington and as Chairperson of the Pentwater Area Chamber of Commerce.

Overseas Study

The Department sponsored four overseas study programs in summer, 2007. **Alan Arbogast** again took Athletic Department students to Sydney, Australia; **Assefa Mehretu** hosted a large contingent of students in Rome, Italy; **Sarah Nicholls** and former Chair **Rene Hinojosa** toured students throughout the Dominican Republic; and **Antoinette WinklerPrins** led a contingent through the wilds of the Amazon Basin around Manaus, Brazil. A full slate of overseas opportunities is planned for 2008.



WinklerPrins and students in Brazil

GTU Initiation and Awards Reception

This past year we tried a new format and venue for the annual GTU initiation and awards ceremony. We met in the atrium of the Radiology Building for light refreshments and a “stand-up” reception rather than the traditional “sit-down” dinner. Fifteen students (an all-time high) were inducted into GTU: **Lindsay Campbell, Ryan Cook, Stephanie Dudewicz, Joseph Frost, Andrew Gaul, Bree Harrison,**

Katherine Koehler, Amanda Lick, Jane Pritchard, Steven Rykse, Jonathan Selbig, Clark Switalski, Jenni van Ravensway, Briana Walker, and Sarah Wright. The annual student awards were as follows: the John M. Hunter award, **Thomas Springsteen**; the Dan Jacobson award, **Samuel Englander**; the James E. Potchen Award for undergraduate and graduate students of the year, **Heather Aschoff** and **Marcellus Caldas.**



Marcellus Caldas was recently published in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers and has accepted a tenure-track in Geography at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

Stephen Aldrich completed field work in Brazil this past summer with support for an NSF dissertation fellowship. He also published results from his Master's thesis in the journal, Economic Geography. He taught GEO 335, Latin America for the Department this past fall term.



Ivan Ramirez, PhD student, worked at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado last summer.

Bridget Protas, PhD student, is working as a Project Manager in Epidemiology on a NIH-funded project entitled "Effects of Organochlorines on Male Infertility."



Noel Rivera has received an Academic Achievement Graduate Assistantship from the Graduate school at MSU to support graduate study in Geography.

Bilal Butt received his PhD in December, 2007 and was awarded a three-year NSF

Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. He will investigate ecological processes and livestock grazing around the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya under the direction of Professor Matt Turner at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Bilal also taught GEO 338, Africa for the Department in fall term.

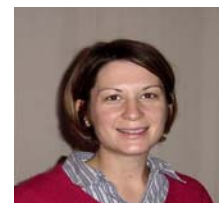


Geography on the Internet

MSU's Geography courses on the internet were a success again in 2007. We offered four courses (GEO 204, World Regional; GEO 206, Physical; GEO 330, U.S. and Canada; and ISS 310, People and Environment) to nearly 1,400 students in summer and fall terms in 2007. Student ratings were very positive and we believe that quality and educational value is equivalent to on-campus traditional courses. We will add another course, GEO 324, Remote Sensing of the Environment, this spring and planning is underway for development of GEO 221, Introduction to Geographic Information, for summer, 2009. The program continues under the watchful eye and hard work of VU Coordinators, **Beth Weisenborn** (MA, 2001) and **Juliegh Bookout** (MA, 2006)



Weisenborn



Bookout



The Geography Department conducted its second Geocamp field experience for incoming graduate students August 15-18, 2007 at the MSU's Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners. It involved four faculty members (**Antoinette WinklerPrins, Alan Arbogast, Jeff Andresen, and Bruce Pigozzi**) and a graduate assistant (**Kristy Stanley**). We used feedback from last year's initial experience to adjust this year's camp. For example, last year the majority felt that the camp was too long and that the facilities were below average. This year, we changed both. Seventeen new students participated in a series of field activities including: (1) departmental orientation; (2) a geo-caching exercise with GPS units; (3) a trip to Van

Buren State Park to explore the Lake Michigan dunes and the general physical geography of Michigan; (4) field trips to vineyards and wineries to learn about Michigan's niche economies and microclimates; and (5) a visit to downtown Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo Museum to consider the economic development implications of the 'Kalamazoo Promise.' In general, the students reacted very positively to the camp. They unanimously agreed that they enjoyed the experience and they recommended we continue it in future years. We believe that the camp has fostered a very positive 'culture' with the graduate students and we anticipate that this will help with retention and completion rates of our diverse graduate student body.



Geocamp students at KBS



Lake Michigan Dunes



Climate Group Visits Poland

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Students and professors from MSU's Geography Department joined colleagues from Poland, Germany, Ukraine and Hungary for a workshop in Poznan, Poland this past October. The workshop was part of an NSF planning grant that incorporates time-space dynamics such as international trade into climate change impact assessment. An important aspect of the pilot grant is to offer students an opportunity to observe and participate in an international collaborative effort. Ten graduate students were able to attend: four from the MSU's Geography and Agricultural Departments, three from the University of Humbolt-Berlin, one each from the University of Silesia and the University of Poznan and one from Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine. The days were filled with workshop activities, including a visit to the Agricultural University of Poznan and a trip to the Pamiatkowo Farms where the group was able to visit and work with Polish fruit growers. In addition to developing a foundation for submitting a proposal to NSF, a manuscript was written and is being submitted to Climatic Change outlining a framework for climate change impact assessments of international market systems that involve long-term investments.



MSU Faculty, students and other workshop participants



Brovaria Hotel



Poznan Square



East Lakes Meeting

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The Department hosted the 2007 East Lakes Division Meetings of the Association of American Geographers on the MSU campus in October. With nearly 150 registrants, this proved to be one of the largest ELDAAG meetings in recent history. Nearly 60 papers and posters were presented at well-attended sessions. The luncheon speaker was noted New York artist, **Julie Mehretu** (daughter of MSU Geography Professor **Assefa Mehretu**), talking about the interaction of art and geography in her paintings. The meeting ran smoothly thanks to the hard work of the organizing committee: **Bruce Pigozzi, Sharon Zhong, Ashton Shortridge, and Catherine Yansa**. Also thanks to student helpers that ran the registration booth over the 2 days: **Stephen Aldrich, Annalie Campos, Courtney Gallaher, Michael Linacre, Joseph Martin, Marian Mitchell, Jay Newberry, Ivan Ramirez, Crosby Savage, Dante Vergara, Beverly Walters, Jessica Winans, Minting Ye, Nathan Zukas**.



Julie Mehretu (2nd from left) family, friends and faculty



Julie Mehretu



Richard Thomas (History), **Joe Darden** (Geography), and **Curtis Stokes** (James Madison College) display the recently-published, "The State of Black Michigan: 1967-2007," a book of research and essays covering 40 years of racial, social, and economic conditions in Michigan.



Thanks to all of you 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 below.

John M. Hunter Award

Established in 1995 for outstanding geography students who demonstrate academic potential and dedication to the field of geography.

Ian Matley Memorial Fund

Established to bring guest speakers to campus to enrich the geographic education of students and faculty.

Marjory and Lawrence Sommers Geography Graduate Fellowship for International Research and Travel

A graduate fellowship to be awarded yearly for Masters or PhD students to support international research and travel.

GTU/Geography Endowment Fund

Established in 1999 by Robert and Dorothy Thomas to fund geography-related student activities.

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.

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.



Please contact us

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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 update your contact information on the MSU Alumni page at: www.msualum.com to help us keep in touch.

Department of Geography
116 Geography Building
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1117

Editors: Richard Groop groop@msu.edu
Judy Reginek reginek@msu.edu

Spartan Geographer
Department of Geography
Michigan State University
116 Geography Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1117