

SPARTAN GEOGRAPHER



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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Geography

Message from the Chair



Hello Geographers!

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2013 newsletter. Our Department has seen many changes in the past year as we continue to evolve and collectively grapple with the many issues facing modern academia. Given the crazy fiscal realities 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 continuously 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 Department 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 rock steady leadership during a 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, graduate 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 contact with our alums. 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, creative, and team oriented faculty that collectively mentors a very productive group of graduate students. The following pages outline the accomplishments of our cohort in the past year. These deeds collectively 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 F. Arbogast, Chair

Why are these 2 men smiling?



Answer: The one on the left, Dick Groop, is glad his stint as chair is almost over. The one on the right, Alan Arbogast, has no clue what he's in for.

Faculty Focus

Harm DeBlij Hannah Professor



The highlight of the year was a late-summer, extended visit to South Korea as a member of a U.S. delegation of educators, an intensive itinerary organized by Joe Stoltman 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, boisterous democracy prevails; media have complete freedom and no one is afraid of Falung Gong. Education at all levels is pursued with vigor, educators are actually admired. South Korea has the world's largest percentage of university 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 theatrical 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 a dose of optimism re globalization, South Korea is the place.

An earlier visit to Indonesia was not so encouraging. Muslim fanaticism seems to be infecting society in ways that contradict Indonesia's reputation for multicultural accommodation, and more effective 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 spectacular modernization and territorial enlargement through reclamation continue.

It was a pleasure to once again present the E. James Potchen Awards in Geography to three brilliant students during our Department's annual ceremony in April.

A newly subtitled version of *Why Geography Matters* appeared in August and the World Bank invited me to make my case at its Washington, DC headquarters in September 2012. In October I presented the keynote address at the NCGE Annual Meeting in San Marcos, Texas, and in early November NPR carried a half-hour interview on Geography's prospects, recorded in New Orleans and edited in Los Angeles for later spots on *Marketplace*. A review essay on the new Atlas of the Great Plains edited by Stephen J. Lavin et.al. appeared in the Fall 2012 issue of *Great Plains Research*. The Fourth Edition of *Physical Geography: the Global Environment* (Oxford University Press) appeared in late December.

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



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

Sue Grady Associate Professor



In 2011, the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University received a "Building Interdisciplinary 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 Sue was one of five BIRCWH Scholars at MSU. Her research evaluated the regionalized system of perinatal hospital care in Michigan, focusing on hospital admission and triage referral patterns of high-risk mothers and infants. Her findings are currently being published and used by the Michigan Department of Community Health's Infant Mortality Task Force to target hospitals and communities for interventions to reduce overall infant mortality and racial disparities in infant mortality in Michigan. Dr. Grady and colleagues published two articles in the *Special 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

research and other collaborative projects are informing Dr. Grady's ongoing research on health disparities, particularly racial, ethnic and geographic disparities in infant mortality, funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Center on Minority Health Disparities.

Dr. Grady is chairing the planning committee for the XVth International Symposium on Medical/Health Geography that will be hosted by the Department of Geography at MSU, July 7-12, 2013. The symposium is a bi-annual meeting of approximately 250 medical and health geographers from around the world, historically rotating between universities in the United States, Canada and European countries. It was last held in the United States in 2005 and will not return until 2021, so the Geography Department is very happy to be this year's host. The symposium schedule consists of plenary speakers on Monday morning, followed by paper/posters sessions throughout the week. On Tuesday, a special luncheon will acknowledge the work of Dr. John Hunter, MSU Emeritus faculty whose medical geography research in sub-Saharan Africa has left an enormous impact on the field. Wednesday's field trip will be led by Dr. Alan Arbogast, who will take the participants to Van Buren State Park on Lake Michigan to tour the largest body of freshwater coastal dunes in the world. Thursday and Friday will include another plenary speaker and paper/poster sessions. The symposium is being sponsored by the Office of the Vice President of Research, Osteopathic Medicine, the College of Social Science and International Studies and Programs at MSU and the Association of American Geographers. Dr. Grady and Dr. Richard Groop also received an award from the National Science Foundation to fund 15 medical and health geography faculty and students to the symposium. These scholars

will attend from countries in sub-Saharan Africa (Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria and Senegal), the Middle East (Pakistan, Tunisia), Southeast Asia (India), the Western Pacific Region (Malaysia) and South America (Brazil). For more information on the 2013 International Symposium on Medical/Health Geography, please visit our website at www.geo.msu.edu/-imgs.

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Eva Kassens-Noor
 Adjunct Assistant Professor



The 2012 London Olympics will have thousands of tourists and visitors, but Eva Kassens-Noor, 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 how other mega events, like the FIFA World Cup and the world fairs, affect urban developments. Aside from her research on Olympic host cities, Kassens-Noor teaches three classes at MSU in the School of Planning, Design and Construction.

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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. Dr. Moran was recruited from Indiana University where he served as a Distinguished Professor and James H. Rudy Professor of Anthropology. He joined the Department as a Visiting Hannah Professor and will also work in the Center of Global Change and Earth Observation.

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Ashton 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 early February, after a very long flight, we found ourselves in the city of Hangzhou!

Hangzhou is in eastern China, about 100 miles southwest of Shanghai. It is a large (upwards of 4 million people) and wealthy city in the most prosperous part of the country. It is growing rapidly: 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 were going up in every direction. New business openings in Hangzhou are often celebrated with large fireworks displays, and most mornings looked 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 Mao's China! This complex 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 precariously situated 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 (feeding thousands at once!) on campus, sometimes in restaurants in the neighborhood. Chinese food differs tremendously from place to place around the country: Hangzhou cuisine tends to be mildly spiced (locals call it "sweet") 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!



Our girls home-schooled, as getting into an overcrowded Chinese school, let alone navigating the language barrier, was impossible. We used e-readers to limit the amount of textbooks we hauled with us, and the kids were responsible for keeping up with their classmates back in East Lansing. They developed great time management skills and were able to drop right back in when we returned in May. More challenging was meeting local kids: college-prep schooling is incredibly demanding in China, with long hours, including evening school, six days a week. Still, they made a few good friends.

Taking the family to China was a fantastic adventure. We enjoyed walking along the canals and around West Lake, which is Hang-

zhou's major tourist attraction, visiting tea plantations and of course there were cultural challenges, but those were more than made up for by the tremendous learning experience, the friendships we made, and the chance to share perspectives in and out of the classroom. MSU President Lou Anna Simon often talks about the world grant university perspective, one that I think this experience embodied.

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Robert Walker
 Professor



Bob Walker has continued with his research passion for the Amazon Basin. He 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 his 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 (Contentious Land Change in the South of Pará). Walker also finished up a National Science Foundation project with former student,

Eugenio Arima, now on the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin. The Arima-Walker collaboration investigated how forest fragmentation emerges as a social process, and has led to a forthcoming publication in one of the leading ecology journals, *Ecological Applications* (Walker et al. 2013). Walker reports success for another of his recent PhDs, Peter Richards, who is employed as a Post-Doc at Brown University, and recently brought out a paper in *Global Environmental Change* (Richards et al. 2012). During his sabbatical, Walker vented his Amazonian wanderlust with trips to the left bank of the river, kids in tow, to visit some of the oldest archeological sites in the Americas, as well as some of the region's most beautiful waterfalls. With Eugenio Arima, he traveled the mangrove coasts east of the Amazon Delta, in search of the scarlet ibis, visiting remote and hard-to-get-to Canela Island which was supposed to have the largest colony of the birds in South America. Walker and Arima discovered that the colony had collapsed, and hope to obtain funds from the National Geographical Society (NGS) to return and find out why. This coastline is a macrotidal environment, with Spring tides exceeding 7 meters, mangrove trees up to 30 meters, and fishermen who make Anthony Quinn look like a member of the Glee cast. If NGS provides them with funds, Walker and Arima will rent a boat, and make this wild coastline their home next summer.

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 annual meeting in Tampa, Florida. Julie's priorities as AAG President will be to work to enhance Geography's participation in interdisciplinary problem solving by communicating its already strong contributions through innovative knowledge environments and other social media, strengthening linkages between the AAG and other disciplinary professional societies, and promoting AAG journals as outlets for synthetic research encompassing the physical and social sciences. She will also encourage discourse on redefining and balancing our professional activities in a manner that allows geographers to compete for the resources necessary to address large scientific questions that demand multi-investigator efforts, novel 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 on international market systems, using perennial crops as a model system. The team had 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 technical 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.glista.msu.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 impacts, 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 Zhong and MSU alumnus Claudia Walters 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 Partnership 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. One of them, the MSU USAID Higher Education partnership program between US and African Universities (including Lincoln University, PA) has played a central role in partnership building and search for additional funding opportunities. Partnership activities have included

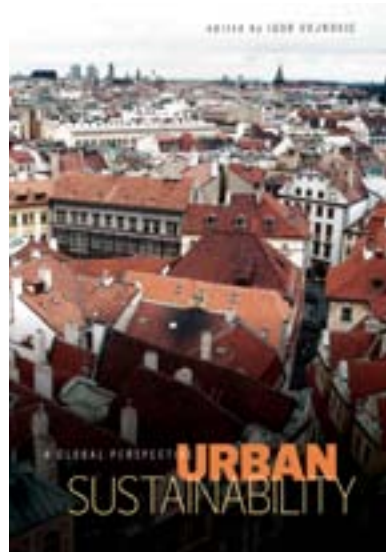
organizing three research planning meetings at MSU since 2008. The latest (November 2012) week-long meeting involved eight faculty and two top administrators from Malawi, two from Lincoln University and over 40 MSU faculty developing project ideas for targeted NSF and NIH funding. Leo was Co-PI on one of the resulting collaborative proposals linking irrigation/food security, water and health (malaria), 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 several 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: Gender and Development — NGO Internships in Malawi. This 'extreme study abroad' program is a collaborative deep-emersion program among the College of Social Science, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Center for Gender in Global Context (main organizer). It gives MSU students (including two from the University of Michigan in 2012) the opportunity to carry a full semester of coursework (10 credits) that includes an Integrated Studies in Social Sciences Course (Social Science Perspectives on Africa) compressed into four weeks at one of the partner universities (LUANAR), followed by six weeks of international internship experience (6 credits) in Malawi working with a non-governmental organization (NGO). The program is meant to give students from various disciplines the opportunity to observe and critique broad-ranging development processes at work through their internships. The course gives them the background knowledge

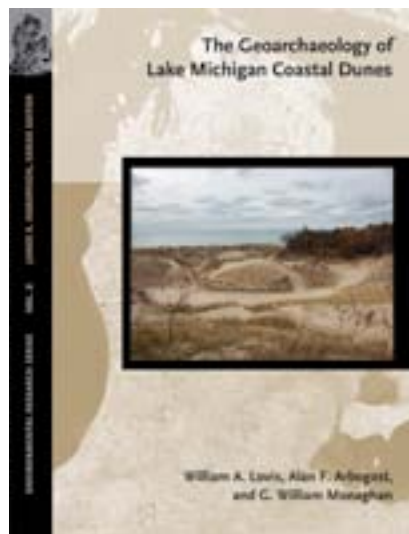
and context to inform the internship experience. Leo teaches the course for three weeks, integrating several Malawian guest lecturers to customize content to the Malawian context, then hands the students over to Dr. Anne Ferguson for a week of field trips and student placement in NGOs, and then a Malawian co-coordinator supervises the students during the internships. This program gives students a potentially life altering experience. Because of its intensity, it has attracted the most serious and brightest students. Surprisingly, no male student has dared to join it, yet!

Both the strategic partnership and study abroad programs have been used as models on campus. During 2012, Leo and Dr. Anne Ferguson were invited to make presentations of both programs to the Provost and a group of MSU Alumni which advises the university on strategic directions, and to an international strategic partnership building session of MSU's LEAD and Administrator (LEAD) Seminar Series for deans, chairs, directors and executive managers. In early March 2013, the Acting Provost will lead a team of some 8 deans and associate deans and program/center heads in a 15-member team to see MSU research activities in Malawi and cement the partnership.

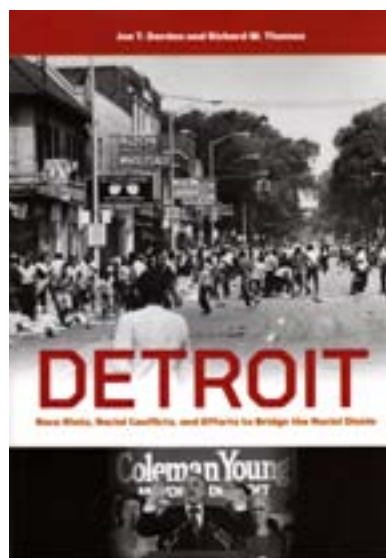
On the research front, the *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries* awarded the "Best Article of the Year" to Leo and co-authors Imelda K. Moise and Ezekiel Kalipeni for their publication "Analyzing Geographical Access to HIV Sentinel Clinics in Relation to Other Health Clinics in Zambia."



► 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 pave the way 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.



► This study draws on a wealth of research and multidisciplinary insights to explore the conditions necessary to safeguard ancient human settlements in Lake Michigan coastal dunes. A variety of contemporary and innovative techniques, including numerous dating methods and approaches, were employed to determine when and for how long sand dunes were active and when and for how long archaeological sites were occupied. Knowledge of dune processes and settlement patterns not only affects archaeological interpretations, but it is also consummately important to land planners responsible for managing heritage archaeological sites in the Lake Michigan coastal zone.



► After answering the questions of where and why the riot occurred, this book pays special attention to the post-1967 social, economic and political development in the city and the increasing inequality between Detroit and its suburbs. The book expands upon the much explored black-white divide to address the influx of other populations in Detroit such as Latinos (Mexicans), Middle Easterners, and Asians. The main focus of the book is the role of place of residence, spatial mobility and spatial inequality as key factors in determining equal access to quality housing, quality education, employment and other amenities in the Detroit Metropolitan Area. The book concludes with a spatial mobility alternative for improving the lives of residents of the city.

Emeriti

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 "wait 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 15 and 14, otherwise occupy much of his time and commitment.



► From the Archives: Renato Cerdena '95, Michael Rip '91, Sonia Arbona '91, Professor John Hunter, Cathleen McAnneny '95, Tarek Joseph '96, Michael Emch '98



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 gotten used 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 program, developing and teaching new courses, and securing external funding. During the spring of 2012 I continued my teaching obligation at MSU filling in for Dr. Kirk Goldsberry by covering lectures for GEO 426 Thematic Cartography. Concurrently, I successfully completed my written and oral comps 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), taught two courses at Aquinas College (World Regional Geography and Human Geography) and served as a Vir-

tual 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 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 Fulbright, 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*.



Williams Castro

Overall I think I had a very productive year. I had a great 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 American 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 Enhancement 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 in East Africa) project funded by USAID to assess the impact of climate on maize production in Zambia.



► Above: Daniel inspecting his sweet potato experiment plot in Namulonge, Uganda



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 Fortran programming language, and learned how to use GrADS. All of these are needed in order to understand and process weather and climate data. I feel as though I am better prepared when applying to jobs, and having these skills has opened up new job opportunities for me.



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 socioeconomic status and overall economic and investment conditions in select Detroit neighborhoods. This is a new direction for me in my established area of interest, 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 human and nonhuman 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 time next year I plan to have a more interesting blurb 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-DDRI 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 fringe of large cities. Hundreds of recycling related enclaves (Henancun, a.k.a. Henan enclaves) can be found in Beijing dominated by rural migrants from Henan province. My dissertation project is trying to understand the developing 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 not being with my wife and children every day, I have been focusing on defining the scope of my dissertation research under the guidance of Dr. Catherine Yansa. My dissertation will focus upon vegetation and climate change over the course of the late Holocene in the eastern Great Lakes region as revealed through a comparative analysis of (1) pollen preserved in lacustrine sediments, (2) tree-ring chronologies, and (3) late 18th- and early 19th-century land survey records of pre-settlement vegetation in western and central New York State. I am keen to understand the historic and prehistoric relationship between regional vegetation and climate, particularly the climatic impact of Lakes Erie and Ontario on the biogeography of hemlock-northern hardwood forest communities. These drought-sensitive forests are currently under threat both from predicted increases in regional temperatures (and subsequent decreases in annual snowfall and increased soil aridity) and an introduced parasitic insect, the hemlock wooly adelgid (*Adeles tsugae*). As the spring 2013 semester wears on, I am preparing for summer fieldwork back in New York that involves coring one of my lacustrine study sites (Zurich Bog) and sampling eastern hemlocks for tree-ring analysis. In addition, I will be consulting the archives of the Ontario County Historical Society in Canandaigua, New York as I compile a computerized database of tree species recorded during the land surveys of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase in west-central New York State during the late 1700s. I will begin familiarizing myself with these invaluable documents over Spring Break in early March 2013. It looks like it's going to be a busy, exhilarating, and productive year!



Jacob Hemingway

I am an MsGIS student so the lack of thesis requirement has made my research background a little thin. I am currently writing a paper on GIS Applications in Planetary Research which should be completed soon. I will also be returning this summer to work as an archeologist with the National Park Service. If the NPS budget permits, I look forward to returning to Yosemite and applying my GIS skills to analyze trade routes throughout the park. Other than that I am just keeping my nose to the grindstone.



Jordan Howell

Last year I made further progress towards finishing my PhD in the Geography Department, continuing on as a US EPA "Science To Achieve Results Graduate Fellow" as well as a Graduate Fellow at MSU's own Residential College in the Arts and Humanities. In spring of 2012 I taught the department's course on Critical Geopolitics and co-taught a new course called "Alcohol, Drugs, and Society" with my advisor Dr. Kyle Evered as part of the ISS program. Off-campus, I conducted

fieldwork for my dissertation in Portland, Maine and Maui, Hawaii. I published an article in the journal *Technology in Society* and have a few more under review in geography, science and technology journals, and environmental history journals. I also co-organized a multi-session panel on recycling at the AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. Outside of academia I was certified as a teaching professional with the US Pro Tennis Registry.



Laura Johnson

Since beginning graduate work at MSU, I've refined, in some ways altered, my research interests and long-term goals. My coursework has been complemented by summer pre-dissertation work which helped me identify what I really want to do, largely by way of ruling out what I did not want to do. And my academic studies have been enhanced by volunteering with urban agriculture programs on Lansing's Eastside, which also helped to inform my research topic. I've found a good fit with an advisor, Dr. Sarah Nicholls, and have (almost!) finalized my committee and program of study. The journey thus far has demanded much thought and reflection, and I feel that I've grown as a student, researcher and person.



Alison Keener

As the culmination of my graduate degree quickly approaches, I reflect on the past year, in which I've gained valuable teaching experience and progressed on my Master's thesis research. Teaching the physical geography lab under the guidance of Dr. Schaeztl and instructing the Physical Geog-

raphy online class have both been tremendous learning opportunities for which I am very grateful. Additionally, the thought-provoking process of developing my Master's thesis research has been aided by the expertise of Dr. Yansa who has taught me the methodologies in pollen analysis, among other things. Finally, this year will wrap up with two exciting travel opportunities. First to the annual AAG meeting in Los Angeles where I will present my research on using diatom-inferred phosphorus levels to interpret the influence of freshwater wetlands on lake water quality. Second, I look forward to wrapping up my academic experience on a high note, as a part of Dr. Arbogast's bi-annual field trip to the Great Plains to study regional geomorphology.



Bobby Kopack

An important part of graduate education in Geography is applying for external funding to support our research. This forces us to envision and frame our projects in a fashion that is coherent to ourselves and to those reviewing the application. With the help of my advisor Kyle Evered, student colleagues, and faculty mentors, 2012 was a great year for me as a geography Masters student at Michigan State. In June I left for Kazakhstan with grant monies from the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX). For three months I researched Soviet memorial landscapes, former military complexes, and industrial geographies. Upon returning to MSU in the fall, I began studying Turkish with a Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship. The additional foreign language training will allow me to expand my research in Post-Soviet geographies to include important geo-political, cultural, and economic transformations occurring in

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 and at the graduate level I taught a course on the Applied Research Methods in Planning. I thoroughly enjoyed the semester, preparing the classes and interacting with students. During the Fall semester, I successfully defended my Dissertation Proposal and completed most of my analyses. 2012 gave me valuable experience and helped me attain another milestone in my Doctoral Degree. It's not all work and no play, in the summer I took a trip with my family to Eastern Europe for a couple of weeks and that made all the effort I put in toward my degree worthwhile!



Dan Kowalski

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 Great Plains 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.



Libbey Kutch

During this past year Libbey has been involved in numerous interesting projects, including generating maps to study infant mortality in Michigan and evaluate population vulnerability in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Libbey 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, Libbey is also the coordinator of the XVth International Medical Geography Symposium (IMGS) that the Department of Geography will be hosting in July 2013; in addition, she serves on the symposium's scientific review committee. Libbey is preparing for her PhD comprehensive exams, that she will take Fall Semester 2013.



Shaun Langley

Courtney, Sam, and I have moved to DeKalb, IL as Courtney began her new job at Northern Illinois University. Sam goes to school every day at NIU's Child Development Lab. He continues to grow too quickly and gets more awesome every day. I continue to work towards completion of my dissertation with the aim of defending it in May, 2013.



Siam Lawawirojwong

I have completed my research (Soft Supervised Self-Organizing Mapping (3SOM) 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 soon 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, including 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 MSU's School 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.



Cody Lown

The past year has been full of memorable experiences, beginning with my transition from an undergraduate student at the University of Kansas to a graduate student here at Michigan State. Since coming to MSU, I have narrowed my research interests from general urban and transportation geography, and have begun preliminary work on my thesis, working closely with my advisor, Professor Igor Vojnovic. My research is focusing on historical transportation investment in Chicago, and how that shaped the built landscape. Other than my research interests and graduate work, I am a teaching assistant. Last semester, I was the lab instructor, and assistant for GEO 221: Intro to Geographic Information. This semester, I am the instructor for the same course, which is offered online. I have enjoyed my MSU graduate experience thus far, and look forward to updating again next year.



Mike Luehmann

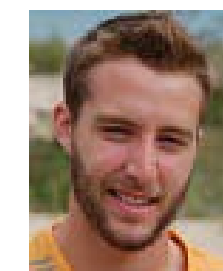
2012 was a fun and exciting year for me, as a second year PhD student, studying physical geography at MSU. I was granted a Graduate Office Research Fellowship (GOF), from the Geography Department, for summer 2012 field work, and was able to get out of the sun-suppressed, basement of the geography building and out into the colorful and attractive 'field' to do some land-looking and collect preliminary data for my dissertation project. Using the GOF 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 a few of the other 'physioids' 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 statistical computing 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 coercing a massive 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 challenge, knowledge, adventure, and reward. Starting graduate school a year and a half ago, I was oblivious to the nature

of academia and its pressures and delight. Despite not knowing exactly what I wanted to research for my master's thesis I was welcomed 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 "Examining 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 who 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 was and still is my passion and that the juice has been worth the squeeze.



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 extended the 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.



Bradley Miller

2012 was a year of formulating research ideas and fantastic teaching opportunities for me. In the process of

preparing for my 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 quintessential 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



Over the past year I have broadened my academic focus (as odd as that sounds). During my

Master's program I developed my quantitative skills, and my research focused on more hydro/technical issues of GIScience, 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 to attend 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 does 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 Science has been greatly expanded while

attending Michigan State. In particular, I feel more confident in my ability to perform 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 inter-

action 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 that I've learned in graduate school. Overall, I feel that my time has been well spent and I am looking forward to next year.



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 MSU Geography alum Eraldo Matricaldi (PhD 2008), presently of the University of Brasilia.



Gary Schnackenberg

PhD candidate Gary Schnackenberg has initiated an outreach program to high school students and teachers to raise the profile of geography as a course of study and career path in general, and of MSU geography in particular. He has attended one 'Career Day' in southeast Michigan, and has been in contact with science and social studies teachers in several districts in order to both identify top students who might have interests that intersect well with geography and to gain insight into teacher professional development ideas, especially regarding geospatial technologies, that might expand the department's visibility among practicing educators. Gary is also currently writing his dissertation on "Globalization's impacts on smallholder farmers in rural Jamaica."



Steve Schultze

Steve has been very active in the last year. After teaching GEO203V, Meteorology, in the online courses in the summer, 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 a soon-to-be published massive 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 AAG meeting in New York with the help of department funding and presented a poster titled "Downscaling TRMM precipitation estimate imagery using NDVI at a site in Western Kenya." In March, 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've been 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 Schaetzl of the Geography Department and Dr. David Rothstein of Forestry studying development of sandy soils. The other was with three researchers from the Czech Republic and involved the excavation of treethrow 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 analyzed the data. In January, I gave a QUIDDERS presentation within the department about my findings, linking the orientations of spits and dunes to broader eolian 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, desperately wanting to go back to the UP.



Tanita Suepa

Last year, I worked intensively on my research to develop effective methods to study phenological characteristics in Southeast Asia (SEA) by using satellite time-series data (MODIS). This research explores ecosystem dynamics in SEA through land surface phenology, the relationship between phenology and climate data, and environmental impacts (Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide) in agricultural areas. Last year, I investigated, and adjusted appropriate parameters for a phenological model to obtain accurate outputs and processed environmental model to assess environmental impact in this region. These results are integrated to understand ecosystem dynamics and environmental consequences

in SEA. In addition, I had a great opportunity to present my research in international phenology conference, "Phenology 2012 Conference", at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, on 10-13 September 2012. This conference brought together experts from around the world in all sub-fields of phenology and related disciplines. Attending this conference was an excellent opportunity to enrich my education, as well as my personal experience to enhance my professional growth.



Ying Tang

After finishing my master's degree in geography focusing on remote sensing and GIS, I continued for a PhD studying climatology. If life is about connecting dots, I can see how my undergraduate study in Environmental Science, master's in remote sensing have influenced my research interest. My current research focuses are Fire-Atmosphere Interaction 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 knowledge in remote sensing to climate modeling and use that to address environmental issues.



Josh Vertalka

This past year has represented a personal and professional 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 Geographics* for research on the 1918 influenza pandemic, conducting research on the Olympics and FIFA World Cup, and writing several research proposals for my recent ideas about disease surveillance. This summer I hope to end up with employment as a Geographer 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!



Minting Ye

I am working towards my PhD degree and focused on writing my dissertation. I also worked as a Research Assistant in the Global Urban Studies Program at MSU. Last summer, I worked as an online exam coordinator. I participated in two professional conferences in 2012, presenting my research "Exploring the Physical and Social Transformation of Hong Kong from 1986 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, Governance, and Fiscal Policy Interdependence: 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 on-site observation. At the end of the year, I was awarded the Dissertation Completion Fellowship for Spring 2013.



► Above: GTU Initiates: Molly Roseland, Dylan Olin, Todd Lassen, Alison Keener, Cadi, Fung, Jeremy Barnum, Charlene Arney. Not pictured: Marlon Phillips



► Left: Faculty members Bruce Pigozzi and Arika Ligmann-Zielinska presented GTU initiates their cords. Pictured with Alison Keener (MS grad student) and Ellen White (undergrad advisor).



► Above: Newest Geographer Sam with his parents Shaun Langley and Courtney Gallaher.
► Left: Judy Olson MC'd the event. Here awarding Cadi Fung the grand finale door prize.



► Left: Judy surprised Dick with a roast and toast to acknowledge his 13 years as chair of the department



Award Winners



► Left: Paul Stano - Cultural Geographer of the Year



► Right: Molly Roseland - Undergrad of the Year
Not pictured: Christine De Salvo Sarikas - Undergrad of the Year



► Left: Harm de Blij congratulating Mark DeVisser - Graduate of the year. Dr. de Blij is the contributor of the E. James Potchen Awards which funds the Grad and Undergrad Awards.



► Above: Alan Arbogast and Grad Research Paper Competition Winners. Glenn O'Neil (1st), Nick Perdue (3rd), Courtney Gallaher (2nd)



► Above: Laurie Somers presenting the Marjorie and Lawrence Sommers Fellowship for International Research and Travel to Gary Schnakenberg and Ritaumaria De Jesus Pereira.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES 2012

Spring 2012 Geography BA
Samuel Nyquist
Lisa Dershowitz
Paul Stano
Jordan Crawford
Kelsey Krupp

GISci BS
Jules Patry

Geography Minor
Taylor Dallaire
Andrew Baglini
Liya Ismail

Additional Major
Jessica Hasler

GISci Minor
Kyle Herreman
Taylor Dallaire
Brittany Herremans

Geography BS
Shelley Jeltama
Brittany Herremans
Chadwick Kerr
Alexander Nelson
Molly Roseland
Christine Sarikas

Fall 2012 Geography BA
Jordan Crawford
Brittany Herremans

GISci BS
Ryan Schaner
Mitchell Heathman
Jules Patry
Clinton Adams

Geography BS
Chadwick Kerr
Alexander Nelson

Geography Minor
Andrew Baglini
Abigail Hastings
Margaret Osorio

GISci BS
Jules Patry

Geography Minor
Taylor Dallaire
Andrew Baglini
Liya Ismail

GISci Minor
Samuel Nyquist
Kyle Herreman
Matthew Roberts
Eric Phillips
Patrick Crawford
Marlon Phillips
Jeremy Barnum
Taylor Dallaire
Jessica Watkins

GISci Minor
Taylor Dallaire
Brittany Herremans

Summer 2012 Geography BA
Chelsea Clark
Kyle Herreman

Geography BS
Brittany Herremans
Chadwick Kerr

GRADUATE STUDENT DEGREES COMPLETED IN 2012

Chang, Chih-Cheng, MS-GIS (Ashton Shortridge)

Cinderich, Adam, MS (Sharon Zhong), "The Evaluation of NARCCAP Regional Climate Models Using the North American Regional Reanalysis."

Delamater, Paul, PhD (Joseph Messina), "Access to Hospitals in a Regulated-Health Care System: Implications for Utilization."

Gallaher, Courtney, PhD (Antoinette WinklerPrins), "Livelihoods, Food Security, and Environmental Risk: Sack Gardening in the Kibera Slums of Nairobi, Kenya."

Nikolic, Jovanka, MS (Sharon Zhong), "An observational and numerical case study of the northerly low-level jet over the Great Plains of the United States."

Perdue, Nicholas, MS (Kirk Goldsberry), "Cartographic Analysis of Populations in Chicago."

Pereira, Ritaumaria, PhD (Cynthia Simmons), "Connecting Global to Local: Social and Environmental Implications for the Evolving Cattle Production Chains in Amazonia."

Ramirez, Ivan, PhD (Sue Grady), "Cholera in a time of El Niño and Vulnerability in Piura, Peru: A Climate Affairs Approach."

Richards, Peter, PhD (Robert Walker), "Indirect Land Use Change and the Future of the Amazon."

Wernette, Phillipe, MS (Alan Arbogast), "Coastline Change at Four Sites in Lower Michigan."

GEOCAMP 2012



► L to R: Jason Matney, Jeanette Eckert, Dave Lusch, Jason Piwarski, Mike Michalek, Josh Vertalka, Steve Schultze, Albert Fulton, Jacob Hemingway, Cody Lown, Tom Veldman, Ashton Shortridge (advisor), Ben Silvernail, Fatima Barry, Nick Molen



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 as I moved 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 on a farm and received 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 am truly enjoying 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 should 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).



► Left to Right: Steve Aldrich, Harrison Aldrich (21 Months), Rosalie Aldrich. December 2012.

Eugenio Arima (PhD 2005)

Greetings from Austin, TX! This is my second year in the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of Texas at Austin. My family and I are adapting well to this culturally rich and diverse city. We are also getting used to the dry landscape and hot climate. Sometimes we do miss the beauty of the deciduous forests of MI and the abundance of water. Last October 2012, I returned to MSU for a quick visit for the first time after graduating in 2005. I was surprised by how much the campus has changed for the better: new buildings (the new museum would make a great remote sensing topic on light reflection, scattering), different traffic routes, more pedestrian/bike friendly lanes, and more trees. I was really pleased to meet and chat, albeit briefly, with Profs. Harman, Arbogast, and Shortridge. I still maintain a strong collaboration (and friendship) with Cynthia Simmons and Bob Walker, with whom I have been traveling to Brazil every summer to conduct field work in the Amazon. This summer will be no different, here we go again.

Heather Aschoff (BA 2007)

I am currently the Volunteer Coordinator for Milwaukee Public

Schools, organizing volunteers and volunteer programs in just over 160 schools. The work is challenging but rewarding and I feel good contributing to the community where I grew up. I find myself drawing on the community organizing skills I unknowingly developed while in leadership roles with the humble Geography Club. Previous to this position, I was the Outreach Coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee. Here I utilized some geographic thinking to more efficiently match up "Big Brothers" and "Big Sisters" with children waiting for a mentor and to conduct volunteer recruitment based on demographics and geography.

Victor Bato (MS 2006)

I went back to the Philippines after obtaining my Geography degree from MSU. I received a job offer from the Soils and Agro-Ecosystems Division of my old college. I am currently an Assistant Professor (tenured) at the University of the Philippines Los Banos (<http://www.uplb.edu.ph>). It never dawned on me, back then, that I would end up as a teacher at a university. Anyway, I suspect that one of the main reasons why they gave me this job was because of my degree from Michigan State. I love Geography because it gives me a different perspective on the many fields of science. As they say, Geographers can study anything on this planet. Currently I am teaching Soil Science 1 (basic Soil Science), Soil Science 130 (Soil Physics), and Soil Science 160 (GIS, RS, and Land Use). Now I need a PhD to move-up the professorial ladder.

D. Gordon Bennett (MA 1965 & PhD 1968)

I am in my first year of retirement from UNC Greensboro after 45 years of full-time teaching/research/administration (Head from 1995 - 2003), following one year each

at the Univ. of New Orleans and Arkansas State Univ. I am in my first year of a three-year half time position as Professor at UNCG. I am in the process of proofing 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 James 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/remediation of polluted waterways. The scope of my work involves fluvial geomorphology, soil geomorphology, and GIS. During the past year I have traveled throughout the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic for various projects. The majority of the past year was spent in Marshall, MI working on the Kalamazoo River oil spill. Most of my time in the field was spent collecting sediment and water samples/temperature, describing sediment core profiles and conducting bathymetry surveys. When not in the field, I spent my time using GIS to make maps for the various project sites. Many of these maps were created using data collected in the field on survey-grade GPS units. Besides making maps, I also helped write reports detailing our field methods and the results of our sampling efforts.

Brad Blumer (MS 2008)

Brad Blumer began a new job in May, 2012 at the Milwaukee County Land Information Office as GIS Specialist. At nearly a million residents in 19 municipalities, Milwaukee county and the



surrounding metropolitan area is the largest population base in Wisconsin. The office is responsible for monitoring all land record, transportation, aerial and planimetric changes within the county. His primary role consists of data and project analysis, GIS website development, data distribution and stakeholder support. He is also happy to report the publication of "The OSL chronology of eolian sand deposition in a perched dune field along the northwestern shore of Lower Michigan" in the May 2012 issue of *Quaternary Research*. He would like to thank his fellow authors, Alan Arbogast and Steven Forman for making the paper 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 Devon, who began a new career in Quality Assurance at MillerCoors. They have moved to Wauwatosa and are eager to start their lives together in the Milwaukee area.

Sissi Bruch (PhD 2006)

After moving to the Pacific Northwest 3 years ago, small town life is delightful and I find myself immersed in Tribal affairs, city politics, park master planning, organic gardening and pickleball. I'm still working for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe as their senior planner and enjoying the culture, the work, and most of all the people who despite many hardships, manage to laugh a lot and enjoy life. After going through my first elections, my hat is off to anyone putting themselves out to campaign. I hated the process, but love the job. Professional planning taught me practical applications, academia taught me theory, and city politics is teaching me to see my profession in a totally different light – just one small cog in a very diverse wheel. So, if my life wasn't busy enough, I topped it off with volunteer park

planning in the adjacent city, year round gardening in this weather, and even won the pickleball championship in the area. What a great silly sport – that I can still beat my 20+ year old sons, makes this a great sport for us aging baby boomers. Come visit!

Marcelus Caldas (PhD 2008)

I was taking my time thinking about the year of 2012 and trying to remember all the things that I had accomplished on this year. The first thing that came to my mind was "Wow! Today I am completing five years at K-State." I stopped a little bit to think about this landmark and I have no doubts that it was a good choice. The department has so many nice people and I made a lot of friends, inside and outside the department, which helped me to accomplish so many things. For instance, for the third year in a row I was able to take students to Brazil in my Study Abroad "Development, Environment and Non-Fiction Writing in Two Brazilian Ecosystems: The Amazon and the Pantanal Wetland." This is stimulating but I realized that I had accomplished other good things. I was selected as the K-State International Educator of 2012 and I was awarded a National Science Foundation grant in the value of \$511,000. I have no doubts that the year of 2012 was a good year that made me gratified by my work in the department but the accomplishments that made me more proud occurred outside my professional life: the graduation of my daughter (Amanda) in Political Science, and to see my older son (Gabe) playing in the Manhattan Varsity Football Team.

Adam Cinderich (MA 2012)

I am now in my second year of the PhD program within the Department of Geography at Kent State University. My dissertation, under the advisement of Dr. Andrew Curtis, focuses on the recovery

of Joplin, Missouri following the May 22nd, 2011 tornado outbreak through the utilization of spatial video units. I am now working as the Lab Manager/Research Assistant within our department's new GIS | Health and Hazards Lab. In addition to field work in Joplin, MO, our research team has also traveled to Colorado Springs, CO to collect spatial video data as part of an on-going project to monitor the recovery efforts after the 2012 Waldo Canyon Wildfire. I am also starting my second year as an Online Geography Instructor and Subject Matter Expert for Colorado Community Colleges Online where I teach World Regional and Human Geography courses.

Chelsea Clark (BA 2012)

I graduated with a degree in Geography, and meant to go into Education at MSU. After student teaching I decided that wasn't what I wanted to do. I traveled to Australia for a year working for engineers, recruiting for them. When I came home I recruited for Ford, and am now doing Sales for Chrysler's Diagnostic Tools in Auburn Hills. My company, Security Inspection is owned by two MSU alum's and they hung a Sparty flag next to my desk.



Scott Crozier (MA 1999)

Salutations fellow Spartans! As a quick recap, I initially moved to Portland, OR after graduation where I worked

as a GIS Analyst for a few years, primarily for the City of Hillsboro. While I certainly loved the West Coast vibe, my heart eventually pulled me back East to the Washington, DC area where I've been providing GIS support for the United States Border Patrol over the last ten years. I'm proud to say that

during the last decade we've built a team that's a geospatial leader for the Department of Homeland Security and federal government as a whole (well, at least in my opinion). The work has been fast-paced and demanding but I can honestly say I've never worked a dull day in my time here. My primary focus of late has been the implementation of an enterprise mapping application (eGIS) that currently serves the 60,000 employees of Customs and Border Protection. While my duties have shifted from geospatial analytics to more of a coordination 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!



Jacqueline (Winter) Drake (BA 2004)

Since graduation I have worked at Zion National Park for eight years as a park ranger in the division of interpretation. Most of this time has been spent presenting educational programs to visitors of all ages. Several years ago I went back

to school and earned a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. Since then, I have been working predominately with children doing both outreach in local schools and on-site environmental education. Zion National Park is a geologic wonderland which has allowed me to develop and present programs about geology, geomorphology, weather, physical geography and many other subjects of interest. I love this job! Even more wonderful is my family. I am married with two adorable children- a daughter who is 2 1/2 and a brand new baby boy who is just two months old.

Scott Drzyzga (PhD 2007)

Greetings from Curaçao via Shippenburg University, where I work as an associate professor of Geography & Earth Science. I am, as I write this, sitting in the Hato airport at Curaçao with 2 colleagues and 21 students and waiting for our return flight. We offer here an upper-level field course in geology and oceanography and a lower-level course about globalization in the Caribbean. We've achieved success and developed new relationships every time so far. At home (at Ship), I'm trying to do much more with much less (as I'm sure many of you are) and still using the GNSS, GIS, and maps to handle geographic problems (and teaching students to do the same). My research partners and I are wrapping up our NSF Coupled Natural-Human Systems project regarding urban growth and water supply issues in the Baltimore metro area. Also, with some new partners and geophysics equipment, I've extended my work about Glacial Lake Algonquin into the Munising, MI, area. New manuscripts are forthcoming. I really enjoy being able to work in both the human and physical realms; I owe much to my peers and mentors at MSU Geography for that ability. I'd love to hear from you. You can find me easily on the web or @Map-Science.

Mary T. Dooley (PhD 1975)

Minnesota State University Professor Emerita Mary T. Dooley, the first woman to earn a PhD in Geography at Michigan 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.

Meleia 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 Volunteer Group Liaison. That is a wordy 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. Again, 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. Peace Corps Week commemorates the date President John F. Kennedy signed the executive order to establish the Peace Corps-March 1, 1961. I am sure MSU will have some big events for this so stay tuned! In my personal life, I have a really fun new 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 WinklerPrins attended. I was honored and it was so good to see her albeit briefly. I hope you are all well and staying warm this MI winter!



Melissa Faustich (BS 2005)

I have been working for 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 Research Analyst. We conducted 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 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 workload of manipulating map data, utilizing ArcGIS software, into various forms of routing destinations 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 was a Business Performance 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 triage 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 Defense and Intelligence 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 the lead for a template 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 living in Southern California. Redlands is at the base of the San Bernardino Mountains and just west of the Mojave Desert which both 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 as wind consultants, starting with first characterizing the wind climate from region to region to help prospective developers get an idea of the potential energy load the wind in their development site may contain. If a developer decides they are serious about developing a project area, 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 on site data. When siting met towers for a project, it is important to 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 complex and simple topography, we would recommend placing at least one met tower in each location so that we can assess the impact that the terrain is causing on the wind.

Colleen Garrity (MA 1999)

I've been a faculty member in the SUNY-Geneseo Geography Department since 2003, where I teach courses in Physical Geography, Meteorology, Climatology, and GIS. I work on research in the realm of climate and GIS, and I also supervise a variety of student research projects using GIS. My service activities center largely on campus sustainability efforts. As part of the Sustainability Commission, I work on a team developing a campus 'energy garden' for small-scale renewable energy experimentation and I participated in the UN Global Compact conference as part of last year's Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Finger Lakes region of western New York is a beautiful place to live, despite the occasional blasts of Arctic air that settle in during the winter. The small burg of Lakeville has been my

home for nearly a decade, where I live with my basset hound, Owen.



Darren Grafius (BA 2005)

I graduated from MSU back in December 2005. After graduating I went on to study mountain treelines and climate change at the University of Iowa under Dr. George Malanson, earning my PhD in Geography in May 2012 and publishing two papers out of my research. I then moved to the United Kingdom to be with my partner and am currently looking to establish a career there. I often think back fondly of the MSU Geography department, and continue to feel like my time there did a lot to prepare me and equip me with valuable skills and knowledge. Hope all is going well on your side of the pond!

Owen Gregg (BA 1964)

Great memories, coupled with a great education, have helped provide a full life. I was a geography major from the first time I set foot on campus, right until graduation. I drew some maps for Dr. Brunnschweiler's books and had many classes with Drs. Sommers, de Blij, Boaz, and Vinge. One week after graduation in 1964, I married Judy Willi (BA Education) and we moved to New York. I contemplated continuing at MSU for a Masters degree and also weighed some teaching offers. Instead, I decided to pursue a career in sales with an offer from a French perfume house with an office in New York. They sent us to Grasse, France to study the art of perfumery, as well as learn fragrance and flavor basic materials extraction techniques. After four months, I started selling fragrance and flavor materials along the East Coast. I didn't completely abandon my geography training, as I drew some

maps for the New York Times and the New York Journal of Commerce in the mid-1960s. We moved to Chicago in 1968 and then to Minneapolis in 1978, all the while moving up the sales management ladder. Judy and I divorced in 1981. We have two wonderful children, Peter and Julie. One of our grandchildren, Josh, a great student, is very serious about attending MSU even though he's only in the 7th grade. I married Kay Thompson in 1983 who graduated from the University of Minnesota in Food Science and Nutrition in 1974. We have a fabulous life together with a great deal of traveling, especially enjoying trips to South and Central America including Peru, Costa Rica, and Panama. I officially retired in 2005 but continued consulting in the flavor industry until the end of 2011. Our current residence is in Clearwater, Florida but we maintain a home on Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota. I felt that I owed something back to the institution that provided me not only a first-rate education but started me off on a life path that provided me with a broad perspective of the world. It is with this thought in mind that I decided to fund an Endowment for Global Climate Change Research through the Department of Geography. As we have experienced hurricanes Katrina, Irene, and Sandy in recent times, we can all appreciate the human and property devastation most likely caused by rising global temperatures and sea levels. Perhaps, through efforts initiated at MSU, we can understand more fully the cause and effect factors on increased carbon emissions. It is sincerely an honor to be an alumni of MSU and especially the Department of Geography.



Kristy (Stanley) Gruley (MS 2008)

I am currently in the second (and final) year of a faculty fellowship at UW-Platteville. During my time here, I taught the senior capstone seminar for geography majors, 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 Planet Earth (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 science. 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 Jackson County, Wisconsin, and how pedogenesis in this region is affected by it. I am also looking at how carbon storage in this landscape is affected by the geomorphic history of the region. If you're interested, you can read more about it at <http://www.facebook.com/1/2AQFWG107AQGn-rvgOpb7NGPnt2EQn-m5YeuK7E3QinJdycw/https%3A%2F%2Fmyweb.space.wisc.edu%2Fgruley%2Fweb%2FKristysite%2F>. On a personal note, I married Joel Gruley this August in Madison, WI. Joel is currently teaching several sections of Earth Science at Madison College. He recently developed a Regional Geography course - the first geography course to be offered at Madison College - which he will be teaching this Spring semester. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he volunteers as a Mentor for international students. His current mentee is a journalism student from Pakistan.

Garrett Hammer (BA 2003)

It is hard to believe that nearly nine years have passed since I completed my undergraduate studies in East Lansing. 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. Arbogast. Dr. Arbogast 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. I went on to work with a number of incredibly knowledgeable and passionate professors in the Geography Department, including Drs. WinklerPrins, Moy, Thomas, and Schaeztl. Dr. Schaeztl's Geography of Michigan course and the week-long summer field experience that followed are among my favorite and most memorable courses taken during my undergraduate years. I never had the opportunity to study abroad but the week I spent traversing 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! I am certain that thousands of other students share the same fond memories of their studies in the Geography Department as I do and I hope today's students are participating 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 Geographic 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 4 times from Accounting, Teaching, History, and finally, Geography. I took Dr. Alan Arbogast's Physical 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 this time 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 well as pursuing a PhD 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 Orleans to provide GIS support to clean up the oil spill, and my current assignment allows me to travel to Hawaii every four months for 2 weeks to provide GIS support to the Army. The geography program at Michigan State has provided me opportunities that have taken my career to places I could not have imagined. If you need to contact me please feel free to send me an email at davidharris77@yahoo.com or you can look for me on Facebook by searching for the email address I provided.

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 VIP operations 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 of Science in Geographic Information Science in June of 2006, I was hired in 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 public health 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 with our epidemiology staff, oversee electronic messaging in and out of the system, troubleshoot any issues with the system, and continue to provide GIS support as needed.

Geoff Hatchard (BS 2000)

I've been working for the U.S. Census Bureau for 3 years now, following 6.5 years at the National Geographic Society. All this time, I've utilized the geographic education I received at Michigan State

(and also at Penn State - where I went for grad school). In my current job, I analyze population data for projects like the 'Patterns of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Population Change' report (<http://www.census.gov/population/metro/data/c2010sr-01patterns.html>). I also create maps and other graphic visualizations of data for various agency projects. One of the most important things that I've found is that you must always think critically about the best way to ask questions of the information you work with. How you visualize data strongly influences what you can learn from it. I've found that knowing that the outcome of an analysis can be directly affected by how you approach data in the first place is a very important part of the process of studying geography. Overall, the most important thing that my Michigan State education (and specifically time spent in the Department of Geography) taught me is to search for narratives that haven't been explored by others. There's always more to learn out there - you just need to look between the lines and find that areas that haven't been explored as much as others!

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. My wife became the 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 an insurance company before I retired. Currently I do a little financial consulting part time and

I also write fiction books. If you're curious, my writing web site is www.denniskhausker.com. Mostly I use epic fantasy for my genre.

Sarah Hession (PhD 2011)

Sarah is a Senior Statistician at the Center for Statistical Training and Consulting at MSU. CSTAT is a professional service and research unit that supports research and provides training and consulting in statistics for faculty, staff, and graduate students. At CSTAT, Sarah frequently collaborates with faculty and other researchers at MSU on research and grant development in a number of disciplines, including Geography, while pursuing her research interests in climate change and sustainability. Gaining a Ph.D. in Geography at MSU (2011) prepared her well to work with diverse teams and to apply statistics to solve a variety of research problems.

Wild Bill Holden

Thanks for including me. I've traveled the world for over 40 years, and am ready to go again, possibly back to Panama or Africa.

Jennifer Holmstadt (MS 2008)

I work for Tetra Tech as a soil Geomorphologist. I act as a technical consultant for companies that have environmental liabilities like contaminated soils or sediments. Our team uses Geomorphology to determine the spatial and vertical extent of contamination, and to design efficient sampling and remediation plans. Our current project involves using Geomorphology to assess oil pipeline integrity along slopes and streams.



Christina Hupy (PhD 2005)

Christina has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire since 2007. She went up for tenure in fall of 2012 and has been successful through the college level thus far. At UW-Eau Claire, Christina teaches three different GIS courses and has worked with colleagues to develop a Geospatial certificate program within the department. Christina also continues to teach biogeography related field-courses. In 2010, she led students on a field trip to Honduras to gather data for a GIS-based habitat model for boa constrictors. In 2013, Christina and her husband, Joe Hupy, led a group of 8 students on a field trip to Ecuador and 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 is 21 months old and Katya just turned 5.



► Above: Joe, Katya & Christina Hupy.

David Jones (PhD 1975)

Julie Hidegkuti Jones (MA 1969)

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 year's highlight was a fabulous Road Scholar tour on the Trans Siberian railroad from Beijing to Moscow. Email is: dave.julie.jones@gmail.com

The editors wish to correct an error in previous editions: Dave Jones (reported as an MA graduate) actually received his PhD in 1975. Our apologies for the inaccuracy.

Shelley Jeltema (BS Geography and Earth Science 2012)

After graduating in May 2012, I had a great opportunity to go back to work for IBM and start my PhD program in Atmospheric Sciences/Environmental Engineering at Michigan Tech. The goal will be to work with some of the Smarter Planet projects and work with the new line of Watson computers. The ability to experience all the different things whilst at MSU really has helped prepare me for what should be a very exciting career working with a company I really enjoy working for; although it is not the teaching career I had expected. I guess teaching will be my retirement career.

Tarek A. Joseph (PhD 1996)

I continue in my 15th year as a faculty member in the Department of Geography at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan. At HFCC I serve as chair of the department and teach courses in cultural, world regional and environmental geography. Enrollments are strong in both on-campus and on-line courses. Last year, my wife Christine and I welcomed our second son, Samir, into the world and together with our first son, Elias, we continue to enjoy life in Ann Arbor.

Audrey Joslin (MS 2008)

I recently returned to Texas A&M University after spending several months abroad in Ecuador collecting data for my PhD dissertation focusing on labor within a "payments for ecosystem services" program in the Andes. I recently found out that the DDRI GSS 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 into the semester, I find that my students are great and I am really enjoying teaching. I am looking towards graduating within a year or so.

Jess 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 biome in the city limits. Here we raise alpacas and cultivate high density permaculture gardens that feed our family and our community. The farm is operated off of a 4800w photovoltaic system making us an urban sustainable farm. The fiber from the alpacas is used in our fiber art studio, also a 30' yurt, where we make wearable art in the form of hats, mittens, flip flops and even toys. We host a variety of eco-agritourism programs including fiber and felting workshops, farm stay vacation experiences, community gardens, and farm tours. We sell our products and our produce locally. In 2011, I completed a PhD in sustainability education and focused my dissertation on the transformative path inherent

in education and how this path enlivens the pursuit of a sustainable existence. I also recently contributed a chapter in a published textbook with environmentalist and author Chris Maser titled, "Decision Making for a Sustainable Environment: A Systemic Approach" (2013, CRC Press). I am currently in the process of a post-doc endeavor exploring how cultivating a self-sufficient life emerges on the landscape. With an emphasis on urban sustainable farming and Eco-agritourism, this forthcoming work evaluates original theories of doctoral research and continues the discourse with two additional years of data, experience, and reflection. Practical applications arising from this inquiry include the design and development of Felt Earth Farm South located in the Caribbean. This continued exploration into transformative sustainability rests on two emerging inquiries calling for a reexamination of how we organize our lives and how we relate to Earth herself. Felt Earth Farm South is expected to provide an additional food system and potentially contribute to the already established micro-local food economy at Felt Earth Farm, here, in Vermont. I anticipate a late spring date for the release of this post-doc work and will utilize the efficiency of e-publishing. Please check our website at feltearthfarm.com for updates. In between family and 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 jsedimensions.org. Since completing my MA in geography (2006) at MSU, I have continually returned to the ability to explore the landscape of sustainability using the lens of 'where' and 'why' as an essential tool in cultivating a life sustainable. Geography, I believe, empowers living as learning.



Dave Lusch (PhD 1982)

On December 11, 2012, Dr. David Lusch, Distinguished Senior Research Specialist in the Depart-

ment of Geography at MSU, was invited by Dan Wyant, Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, to serve a two-year term on the newly established Water Use Advisory Council as a representative of academia. The Water Use Advisory Council was empanelled to evaluate and make recommendations on water use throughout the state in response to Governor Rick Snyder's special message on Energy and the Environment in November 2012. With Lakes Michigan and Huron at record-low levels once again and water use for agriculture, residential and business use increasing during last summer's drought conditions, addressing and resolving water issues is critical to Michigan and its legal water-use responsibilities established in the Great Lakes Compact. Council members were selected to involve top water-use stakeholders throughout Michigan, including representatives of environmental, conservation, business, utilities and recreation groups, as well as local government, Tribal and academic interests. The new council continues the legacy of the 2003 and 2006 Water Conservation Advisory Councils, which planned and implemented the state's award-winning water withdrawal assessment process. The Water Use Advisory Council will assist in the refinement of the assessment process and advise the DEQ on key issues related to Michigan's Water Use program, such as implementation issues, water availability, data collection and evaluation, decision-making tools, conflict resolution during droughts and water conservation goals.

Dr. Lusch is a 34-year veteran staff member of the Department of Geography who is perhaps best known to students as the instructor of GEO 324, Remote Sensing of the Environment, and GEO 424, Advanced Remote Sensing. Dave has also held a research appointment in the Institute of Water Research at MSU since 1991. Outside the University, Dave is very well known for his applied research and outreach education about Michigan's surface-water and groundwater resources and how communities can protect them. Dr. Lusch was a key outreach specialist for the W.K. Kellogg-funded Groundwater Education in Michigan (GEM) Project at the Institute of Water Research from 1991 – 1996. For the past 16 years, Dave has been a co-PI, along with colleagues at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, on the Source Water Assessment Program (1998 - 2003), the Statewide Groundwater Mapping Project (2003 - 2005), and the recently concluded Water Resources Partnership (2008 – 2012). Collectively, MDEQ has invested more than \$5.5 million in these award winning efforts that Dr. Lusch has helped to direct and manage. The Groundwater Inventory and Mapping Project received the MDEQ Excellence Award from Director Chester in September, 2005. The Michigan Interactive Groundwater for Wellhead Protection Team (a component of the Water Resources Partnership) received the 2009 Annual Director's Recognition Award from the MDEQ.

In the winter of 2008- 2009, Dr. Lusch presented workshops about Michigan's New Water Withdrawal Assessment Process in eight locations around the state to more than 270 stakeholders and interested citizens. In the summer of 2009, partnering with the Michigan Environmental Council on a project funded by the C.S. Mott Foundation, Dave presented

his day-long seminar on Michigan's New Water Withdrawal Assessment Process for Planning and Watershed Management to about 100 people at seven locations throughout Michigan. Dr. Lusch authored the Groundwater and Karst chapter in the 2009 book Michigan Geography and Geology, edited by Randy Schaetzl, Joe Darden and Danita Brandt (Pearson Custom Publishing, Boston, MA). Dave also was the initial designer of the very successful Michigan Sea Grant Extension CoastWatch Great Lakes temperature mapping system that will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year (www.coastwatch.msu.edu).

Lindsay and Brian Maki (BS 2005)

Lindsay graduated in 2005 with a BS in Geography (along with the specialization in Geographic Information Processing). During her last two years at MSU she worked as a student GIS assistant for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources helping to map the State's forests. She worked for a short time with a company that developed spatial intelligence software before getting her current position as a GIS Specialist with the consulting firm CDM Smith. She applied for a senior transportation planner position at CDM Smith - way out of her league - but the job description listed GIS as a skill so she thought, why not? She got a call about the position because she stressed her GIS knowledge and experience and was hired because of her passion for geography during her interview. Her then-boss said, "If you are THAT excited about geography then we HAVE to hire you, just because you are passionate and we want people like that here." She has been working for CDM Smith for just over seven years and provides GIS support for both planning and engineering

projects relating to transportation in over twelve states. Lindsay met her husband, Brian Maki, in Dr. Arbogast's physical geography lab. They were married in 2008 and have an almost-two year old son. Brian graduated in 2005 with a BS in Geography after transferring to MSU as a sophomore from Bay De Noc Community College in Escanaba, Michigan where he earned his associates degree in Computer Aided Design. While in Escanaba he worked as a student with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources developing the process for mapping the State's forest land. The MDNR moved the project to Lansing and he was offered a raise to move to Lansing to continue working on the project as a student. He decided to continue his education and get his degree from MSU so he could get a full-time job with the MDNR when he graduated. Brian still works for the MDNR and is now a GIS Specialist and the project manager for IFMAP (Integrated Forest Monitoring Assessment and Prescription inventory system) that maps the 4 million acres of MDNR owned land.

Erica Mann

Erica Mann is an MSU Varsity Track & Field Alumni, graduating with a Bachelor's in Arts. She now works for a technology company in their marketing department. In addition to her work she models, serves on the Board of Directors for the MSU Young Alumni 'S' Club and is involved with Athletes in Action. She also participates in many community outreaches and tutors. She plans to grow her marketing career and continue with modeling.



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 16,000 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 Brazilian Cerrado had been left behind by 2010. Our previous research results indicate that there will be only 22.4% of the undisturbed savannah by 2060 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 missing Michigan weather at all. I hope to host MSU students in Brazil very shortly.

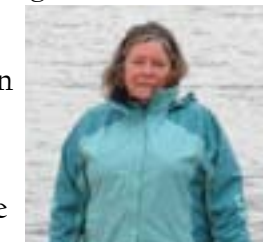


Cathleen McAnneny (PhD 1995)

Currently I am a professor of Geography at the University of Maine Farmington (UMF) and coordinator of the Maine Geographic Alliance (MGA). UMF is Maine's public liberal arts college and hosts the only stand-alone geography major 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 alums, Doug Richardson, Executive Director of the AAG and Bryon Middlekauff, Professor of Geography at Plymouth State University.



Paul McCord (MA 2011)

After graduating with my MS from MSU's 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 sensitivity

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 hundred household surveys will be administered. Among other activities since becoming a Hoosier, I've 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. Go Green!!

Nick Meyers (BS 2006)

I am teaching at Marlette 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

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-215 corridor – a key entry point to the city. The paper was eventually presented to city leaders, who incorporated many of the plan's proposals. After developing and implementing a new master's program in urban planning at CSUSB in the early 1990s, Mulvihill was named the IES-APA's 1992 Planning Educator of the Year. While the master's program fell victim to a mid-1990s economic downturn and the lack of funding, Mulvihill's devotion to the development of urban planning education persisted. Over the years, he has developed and taught CSUSB's general education capstone course in urban environment, and he established the certificate program in urban planning. "This program has provided students with planning interests a lead into their first job," Mulvihill said.

Alex Nelson (BA 2012)

Like a lot of kids I graduated high school with, I went to college because that was the next step, not because I was sure of what I wanted to study. I took classes that sounded interesting, but the one that changed my perspective was my first introductory course in geography. That class opened a lot of doors for me. Long story short, I graduated with a geography degree and an environmental studies minor that I get the opportunity to apply every day. Now I'm an aerial imagery researcher for a national company and I thoroughly enjoy

what I do. I use maps and coordinates to see how the dynamic nature of our planet has shaped how we have thrived upon it, and it really is a lot of fun!

Jessica Nelson (BA 2006)

My career since MSU has been nothing short of an adventure. My education, passion for the outdoors, and geospatial skills landed me a "dream job" as a GIS Specialist and Environmental Monitor for a private consulting firm called JZ Environmental Consultants, Inc. (JZ). JZ is located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and is contracted solely by a large transmission construction company that builds and maintains the electric grid in the mid-western portion of the U.S. My position includes utilizing GIS daily to map out access routes along with all possible environmental issues that could arise during construction activities. 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 use the 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 left college with 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 served as Secondary Education Director for the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation - creating curriculum for Grades 6 through 12 on agriculture, food and the environment. From Maryland, we moved to Pennsylvania and I was lucky enough to teach Geography, GIS and Environmental Science full time (tenure-track) at the Community College of Philadelphia. Upon moving to Massachusetts, I returned to school for my doctorate in Agriculture, Food and Environment at Tufts University, where I 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 program in Geography with fellow MSU alum, Amy Lobben (1999) at the University of Oregon. I am currently working in the Spatial and Map Cognition Research Lab at UO on projects including the development of accessible mapping applications, symbol standardization, and behavioral experimentation of spatial perceptions. In my own research, I am interested in cyber infrastructure, social media interactions, accessibility to technology, and issues of volunteered geographic information (VGI). The geography department at MSU provided me with the intellectual, professional, and personal foundation I needed

to pursue a PhD and I would like to thank the entire department for the support during my time in East Lansing.

Matt and Shannon Powers

I am in my 12th year of teaching at Maple Valley Schools (Vermontville and Nashville). I have taught a self-contained classroom in 5th grade for 8 years, 6th grade for 2 years and 4th grade for the last 2 years. In the 4th grade curriculum, we study Michigan History and Government. I make an earnest effort to discuss how the unique geographical features impacted Michigan's history and development: The Great Lakes, glaciation, the Erie Canal, the Fruit Ridge, etc. Recently, we looked at maps of Michigan. We were discussing the Lumber Boom. Certain cities, like Saginaw and Muskegon, grew immensely during that time. The simple reason was the flow of the rivers. The lumberjacks sent the logs to the rivers and they were processed near the mouths of the rivers. Geography has always made sense to me and I encourage my students to take a new look at their surroundings and try to make sense of things. You are more than welcome to stop by my classroom and see my students and myself. We always enjoy guests.

Sterling Raetz (MS 2011)



After defending my thesis and graduating from MSU, I received my commission from the US Army

and went on active duty as a Second Lieutenant. Over the following year, I completed the Infantry Officer Basic Course, US Army Ranger School, and US Army Airborne School. I was assigned to 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It is with this unit that I am currently deployed to Kunar Province, Afghanistan as the intelligence officer for a Security Forces Advise and Assist Team responsible for training two districts of Afghan Uniformed Police. I couldn't ask for a better job as I am also able to review and evaluate my thesis, which focused on the same area in which I work.

Tiffany Rossi (MA 2004)

As an immigrant to Finland in 2003, I faced a job market flooded with highly educated native Finnish geographers. The career path I chose instead, as an English-language copywriter, has very little to do with geography. That said, I learned everything I need to be a good copywriter at the MSU Department of Geography. What I do is help companies tell the world who they are, what they do, and what they sell. I write brochures, websites, emails, and much more. I have some pretty tough profs to thank for demanding good writing skills (Drs. Arbogast and Harman may now take a bow). A passion for research, and the confidence to delve into unfamiliar territories of knowledge are also important. Plus bulls**t detection skills are a must – because companies try to throw a lot of marketing fluff at people, and it's my job to make sense of it all. Many of these skills I learned from my profs, my peers, my teaching experience, and the various research seminars at the Department of Geography. So a belated thank you to all that were a part of it. Look me up on Facebook for more adventures in Finland. / Tiffany Rossi (MA 2004) copy-

writer, mother of two (soon-to-be three), permanently residing in Espoo, Finland.

Ryan Shadbolt (PhD 2009)

After completion of my PhD program in 2009, I spent the next two years at MSU as a Research Associate. I worked with Dr. Zhong and U.S. Forest Service meteorologists on a project where we developed and tested numerical models for prediction of smoke transport and emissions from low-intensity wildfires. During the 2010-11 academic year I taught Regional and Physical Geography courses at Oakland Community College. The 2011-12 year found me at Central Michigan University as a Lecturer, where I taught Physical Geography and Weather and Climate courses. My wife, Kerry, and I married in July 2012. Our wedding was in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and we honeymooned through Badlands, Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Glacier, and Theodore Roosevelt National Parks. During this past fall semester, I taught Physical Geography and North America Regional Geography at Saginaw Valley State University and published a research paper in *Climate Research*. At the time of this writing (January 2013) I have returned to Central Michigan University. I am very excited about potentially teaching Synoptic Meteorology courses for the first time in the upcoming academic year. Beyond academia, my band Delicious Bass occupies some of my spare time as we share our blend of rock, folk, and blues music throughout the Lansing area.

Corey Steimel (BA 2009)

I graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Geography. My focus, as well as my passion, throughout my undergraduate course work was in the physical sciences. I was no stranger to trouncing through river flood plains, measuring parabolic dune angles in relation to shore line,

and identifying rock samples. As much as I loved the opportunity to be in the outdoors, getting my hands dirty with Earth Sciences, I appreciate 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 status 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 geovisual 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 DHS-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 minor in GIS. A year after graduating, I landed a job as a GIS Specialist with AECOM, an environmental consulting company. I am working on the Kalamazoo River oil spill cleanup project in Marshall, MI. This 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 our Trimble Yuma 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.

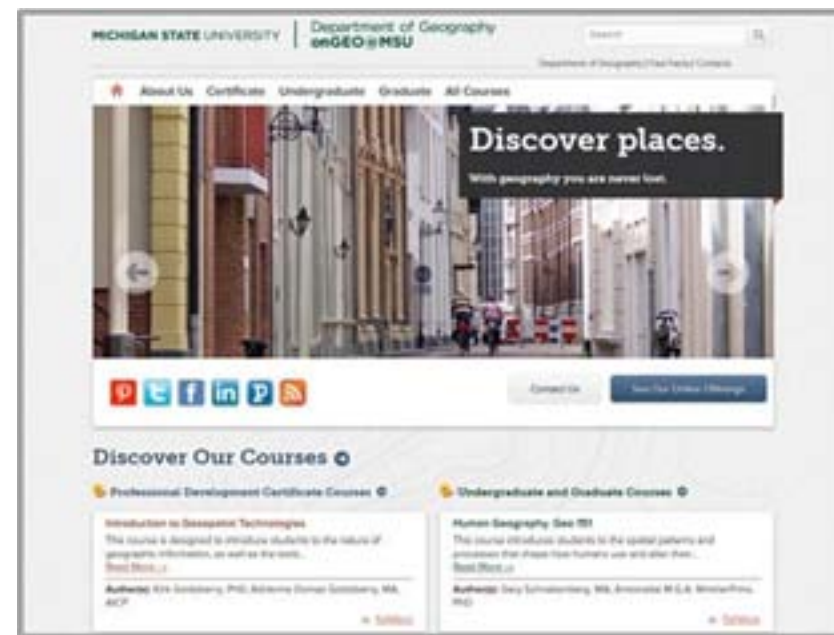


onGeo Connection: Online Geography education @ MSU

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 strategy¹. 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!)

¹Allen, I. Elaine and Jeff Seaman. 2011. "Going the Distance: Online Education in the United States 2011." The Sloan Consortium. http://sloanconsortium.org/publications/survey/going_distance_2011

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 is working with Dr. Deborah McCullough (Department of Entomology) to create Forest Pest Risk maps by modeling GIS datasets to determine areas that are most threatened by forest diseases and pests.
- 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 an ArcGIS Online application that allows users to 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 Boothj@msu.edu or visit us online @ www.rsgis.msu.edu



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:
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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.



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City/State/Zip _____

Please specify: Alumnus/Degree/Yr _____

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\$ _____ Geographic Literacy Fund

\$ _____ Ian Matley Memorial Fund

\$ _____ GTU/Geography Endowment Fund

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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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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