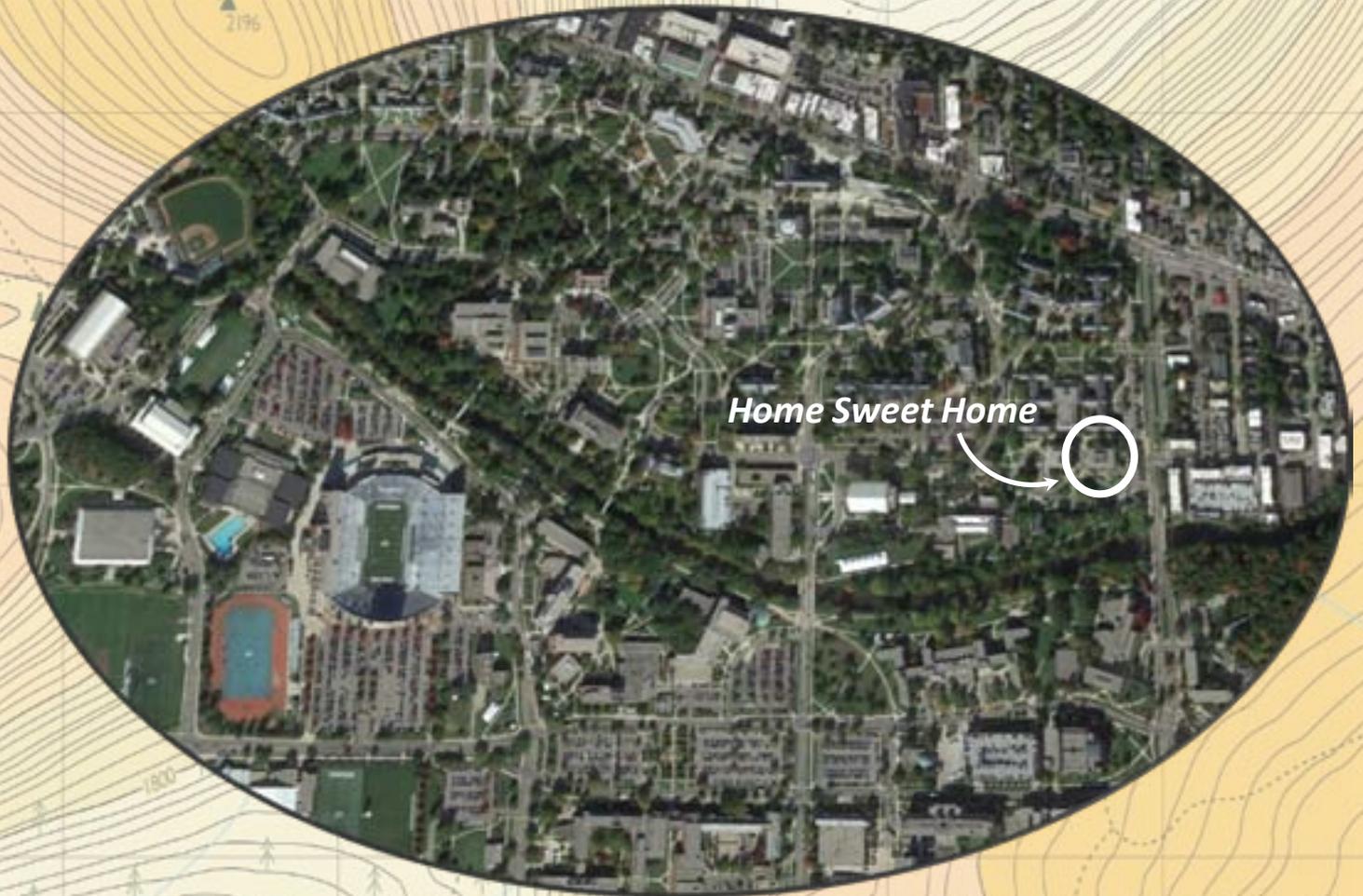


SPARTAN GEOGRAPHER



Home Sweet Home

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Geography,
Environment, and Spatial Sciences

Message from the Chair

Hello Friends of MSU Geography!

Yet another year has passed and it's time to celebrate in our annual newsletter. It continues to be a time of rapid change in the department, one that is pushing us in new and exciting directions. If you were in the building on any given day in the academic year you would notice a distinctive hustle and bustle in the hallways as folks zip around on their appointed rounds. Faculty are working hard to update their classes and teach them to a growing number of undergraduates who populate the hallways. The staff is doing the great job that they do to keep the ship afloat and the place organized. The graduate students come up for air (& light) from the basement while wondering if they have ever worked this hard. If it sounds pretty chaotic.... well, it is, and pretty stressful at times too. That said, what sets our Department apart from many is that the vibe around here is almost always really positive. People smile at each other in the hallways and laughter is a common sound. It's a good place to be, one that is increasingly recognized as such by the College of Social Sciences (where we live) and the university as a whole. This positive vibe is even having an impact on our graduate recruiting because we believe that, if we can get a recruit to visit us, the chances are really good that they will join us in the coming fall.

With that preamble, I invite you to have a look at the inside pages of this newsletter. You will see a representative sampling of the many great things that are ongoing in the unit. On the undergraduate front, for example, we are knocking on the door of 100 majors for the first time anyone can remember. This is more than double the number we had in 2012 and is a testament to our systematic efforts to better promote the Department across campus. A great example of such promotion was (again) the very successful presentation we



sponsored during Geography Awareness Week. Last year, if you recall, we hosted Dr. Roberta Bondar, the first female Canadian astronaut, who did a wonderful job. This year, we hosted Steven Lerner and Reuben Aaronson who presented their film *When the Well Runs Dry* to a packed house of about 600. The film was about growing water scarcity in Kansas, my home state, and was met with rave reviews. We also have reorganized our majors to include an emphasis in Environmental Geography, and have this year launched our new major in Economic Geography. Both of these majors are proving to be popular. Gary (Schnakenberg) has also done a wonderful job as our undergraduate advisor and deserves a lot of credit for a job well done.

Our faculty and graduate students continue to be very productive and highly visible. Lots of examples abound, and I certainly don't have room to list all here. A great example on the faculty side is that Randy Schaetzl did an awesome job organizing the *International Loessfest* that was held in Eau Claire, Wisconsin in the fall, and was attended by over 100 people from as far away as Australia. Believe it or not, prehistoric wind-blown dust is a popular thing. Amber Pearson's work on "blue spaces" garnered international attention, and Nathan Moore won a prestigious MSU Teacher/Scholar award. On the national level, Sharon Zhong was elected a Fellow of the American Meteorological Association (AMS); Emilio Moran was chosen by President Obama as a member of the National Science Board, which establishes the policies of the National Science Foundation. I could go on.....easily. I know because the collective body of work by our faculty – as in, everyone – has led us to be one of the best departments at MSU as far as the latest academic ranking metric is concerned. In fact, we are presently ranked **5th** of all geography departments nationwide in the prestigious Association of American Universities. How about that?

On the grad student front, PhD student Cristina Gauthier-Hernandez landed a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Student Fellowship., which will enable her to conduct her research on the impacts of reservoir construc-

tion and groundwater changes on safe drinking water in the rapidly growing city of Altamira, in the Brazilian Amazon. Dee Jordan was elected President of the Council of Graduate Students (COGS), which is the university-wide graduate governance body. Bringing a geographical perspective to graduate issues is not new for Dee, who has been involved with the Graduate School since she started her PhD program with us. On the physical side, Kelsey Nyland and Clayton Queen were literally armed for bear as they conducted research on Alaska's North Slope. Their work on the geomorphology of cryoplanation terraces in the wilderness required exacting measurements, but also a watchful eye out for the region's large and hungry grizzlies.

So, as you look things over keep in mind that the newsletter is a representative slice of life in the department. On a somber note, Dr. John Hunter recently passed. For those of you who knew Dr. Hunter, he was a giant in the field of medical geography and help put MSU GEO on the map. Note that we have a new (& awesome) Alumni Board and that our onGEO group continues to do really cool things that have important financial implications for the department. A few of our faculty are highlighted to provide a glimpse into their work and lives. A few of our alums also chipped in to give an update about what they've been doing. Special thanks to Judy Reginek who has done a fantastic job over the years organizing and publishing this newsletter. Judy has indicated that she plans to retire at the end of this academic year and she will be missed for a variety of reasons, not the least being that the bar for this newsletter is now very high. Thanks Judy!



► Randy tells everyone at the *International Loessfest* where to find deposits of wind-blown silt in northwestern Wisconsin. "Over there!"



Sarah Nicholls
Associate Professor

and since 2013 I have facilitated implementation of that plan. This project takes me all across the state every year; in 2016, this included speaking about the importance of tourism and outdoor recreation to groups in Traverse City, Kalkaska, Marshall and Marquette, and to the County Board of Commissioners in Antrim and Lenawee counties. In April, I presented elements of the MTSP at the Inaugural International Conference on Tourism and Leisure Studies in Honolulu, HI, and the National Bicycle Tourism Conference took me to St. Pete Beach, FL, in November.

In 2015-16 I very much appreciated my first sabbatical. Though the MTSP kept me in Michigan for some of the year, I was able to participate in a month-long Research Fellowship at the Institute for Environment and Climate Research at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. This allowed me to continue a now decade-long partnership with Dr. Bas Amelung working on the inter-relationships between climate variability and change, and tourism and outdoor recreation. During that visit Bas and I co-hosted a workshop for about a dozen European researchers on "Agent Based Modeling (ABM) Meets Tourism." Since then, we

have partnered with two of these new colleagues, from Portugal and Andorra, and other collaborators from MSU Extension and Purdue, to develop a project focusing on the potential of ABM to help us better understand tourism industry collaboration, cooperation and partnerships; we recently received a seed grant from the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development to fund this proposal. Also during my sabbatical I enjoyed spending some time with my parents in Kent and Cornwall, England.

I continue to Chair the All University Traffic and Transportation Committee and the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission. I also serve on the Michigan Trails Advisory Council, an appointment made by Governor Snyder in 2015. My GEO teaching alternates on an annual basis between two of my favorite courses, GEO 259 *Geography of Recreation and Tourism* and GEO 459 *Tourism in Regional Development*. When I'm not talking or teaching about travel, or traveling for work, I love to ... travel! As Saint Augustine observed, "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."



► Sarah engaging in a little agri-tourism at Dansville Farmer's Market.



Sharon Zhong
Professor

I joined the department in 2006, and last year marked my 10th anniversary of being a Spartan Geographer. It's been an exciting decade, surrounded by great colleagues and students and full of opportunities to pursue new ideas in both research and teaching. The focus of my group's research has been on understanding atmospheric processes at scales that directly affect human activities. This past year, we continued on studies to better understand atmospheric conditions conducive to large wildland fires and to the formation of multi-day temperature inversions, a culprit for heavy air pollutions in western valleys and basins. We also examined the teleconnections between the observed sea-surface temperature anomalies, characterized by well-known phenomena such as El Nino and Pacific Decadal Oscillation, and the trends and variability in wind resources, extreme precipitation, and frost damages across the United States. We ramped up a modeling study on the effects of common irrigation practices on regional climate of the United States. Last but not least, we continued to improve the smoke dispersion model we had developed in collaboration with researchers from Forest Service Northern Research Station (FSNRS) that are intended to be used by fire managers to make informed decisions on prescribed burns. On that note, exciting news in this past year was that our team, consisting of a dozen fire researchers from FSNRS and couple of universities, was awarded a big grant from the Department of Defense to conduct multi-scale analysis of wild-

fire combustion processes and fire-atmosphere interactions in open canopy forests using coupled laboratory, field and model-based approaches. As part of the project, we will use a suite of measurements to quantify how fuel characteristics and key meteorological factors interact to drive fire behavior during low intensity prescribed burns and the data collected will be used to improve the ability of current models to accurately predict fire behavior under a wide range of management scenarios.

I am extremely fortunate to work with a group of motivated and talented students and postdocs. In the spring, we said farewell to Dr. Lejiang Yu who took a senior scientist position at the Polar Research Center of China in Shanghai after completing a two-year highly productive postdoc appointment with us. Best of luck to you, Dr. Yu! We welcomed two new research assistants, Marshall Stageberg, who came to us after graduating with a B.S. in Meteorology at the St. Cloud

University in Minnesota, and Hannah Fromm, a junior in Geology whom I have yet to convince that meteorology is more fun because of its dynamic nature. Hannah is working on trying to understand the causes for the Fort McMurray Fire using weather data and models and Marshall is working on modeling fire-atmosphere interactions using super computer resources available here locally at MSU and nationally.

This past year, I reached a milestone of my career by being elected as Fellow of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). If becoming an AMS Fellow didn't make me feel any older, being honored with a named session at an AMS national conference last summer certainly served as yet another reminder. I had a great year, and I hope you did too. As always, I love to hear from you, so don't hesitate to shoot me an email and tell me all that is going on in your lives. Best wishes for a peaceful 2017.



► It was a great pleasure to have spent an evening with Canada's first woman astronaut, Dr. Roberta Bondar, during her visit to MSU as the keynote speaker for the Geography Awareness Week of 2016. L to R: Igor Vojnovic, Roberta Bondar, Sharon Zhong.



Leo Zulu

Associate Professor

As an Associate Professor of Geography coming to the discipline via a circuitous educational and professional route, I continued to ground my research within international development, policy and sustainable livelihoods. My background combines the social sciences (PhD in Human Geography from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and MA in GIS and International Development from Clark University, Worcester, MA), the natural sciences (BSc in Ecological Science with Honors in Forestry, University of Edinburgh, Scotland), and years of professional experience in social forestry and biodiversity conservation in Africa. My research falls broadly into nature-society interactions, health and the intersection of the two, focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa. Areas of interest include environmental governance and policy, community-based natural resources management, social forestry, solid biomass energy, extractive resources, agriculture, land use and change, climate change adaptation and governance, disparities in access to health services, and patterns in infectious diseases particularly HIV/AIDS. I use social methods and theory, geospatial tools, and natural sciences tools, and publish my work in diverse geography, development, environment, forestry, health and interdisciplinary journals.

In June 2016, I completed my two-year stint as Editor for the journal *African Geographical Review* (AGR) preceded by two years as Associate Editor. The AGR is edited by the Africa Specialty Group and published by the Taylor and Francis Group for the American Association of Geographers. I learned a great deal from this experience. I join the Africa Spe-

cialty Group and the AGR Editorial Board in gratefully acknowledging the support given by our department head, Dr. Alan Arbogast, during my editorial stint. I also particularly thank our graduate student Cadi Fung for her excellent work as the Editorial Assistant. This assistance illustrates MSU GEO's role as a champion of geographic scholarship on Africa. I have since gratefully retired into the Editorial Board of the AGR for the next four years.

I also engaged in productive national and international collaborations. Working with Cristina D'Alessandro (Center of Governance, University of Ottawa, Canada), I co-edited a two-volume special issue on contributions of geographers to scholarship on Africa's performance in the global development goals and prospects for the future, titled: *From the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Africa in the Post-2015 Development Agenda – A geographical perspective*. The issues will appear in print in February and May 2017. In addition, an edited book (Zulu and Alessandro) with Routledge is scheduled for publication in November 2017, titled *"Africa in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: A Geographical Perspective."* Collaboration with Dr. Yin (MSU Forestry) and Dr. Qi on a project (USAID funding) examining empirical linkages between devolved resources tenure and forest condition in Africa, Asia and Latin America culminated in a series of three co-authored articles in *Forest Economics and Policy*. Community forest management is central to REDD+ carbon projects, yet its performance remains mixed. I also worked (along with Dr. Ashton Shortridge and others) on the Subnational Estimates Working Group of the HIV Modeling Consortium funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and hosted at Imperial College, London, on a task to develop modeling tools for sub-national analysis and prediction of HIV/AIDS prevalence in developing countries for United Nations AIDS (UNAIDS). This resulted in a group publication (2016) in the journal AIDS: *Evaluation of geospatial methods to generate subnational HIV prevalence estimates for local level planning*. A paper I co-published with Eliza Johannes and Ezekiel Kalipeni in 2015 in the *African Geographical Review* was

recognized with the Best Paper of the Year Award: *Oil discovery in Turkana County, Kenya: a source of conflict or development?*

During the year, I continued working on two existing funded projects, and had a new project funded. The new, four-year project (2016-2019) is a collaboration among MSU (Zulu PI, Phil Grabowski Co-PI), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), University of Ghana, and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Malawi. Funded by the British Department for International Development (Euro 510,000 project total and \$183,248 for the MSU component), the project seeks to develop and test indicators for gender and youth inclusion in sustainable agriculture intensification interventions in Malawi and Ghana, under the program Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Research and Learning in Africa (SAIRLA).

One of the continuing projects, *Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi* (PERFORM), is a 5-year (2014-2019) forestry project funded by USAID (MSU collaborators Dr. David Skole and Dr. Pascal Nzokou, Forestry Department). It seeks to build Malawi's capacity in preparation for REDD+ projects and a low-carbon development pathway. I led development and drafting of a Malawi National Charcoal Strategy, working with a multi-sectoral task force and diverse stakeholders. With 97% of all households dependent on firewood and charcoal as the primary cooking energy, and 54% of urban households on charcoal, a holistic charcoal strategy that enhances sustainable production and use while promoting alternative energy sources and livelihoods, and minimizing environmental degradation, is essential. I also published a related newspaper article in one of Malawi's two major national papers (The Nation) in May 2016: "Malawi Needs Holistic and Sustainable Energy Solutions." I look forward to completion of the strategy by March 2017, and to implementation. Further, our MSU team recently won \$216,542 in new funding from USAID to bring two PhD and 2 MSc students from the Malawi Department of Forestry to pursue graduate education at

MSU in a specially designed program that limits residence time at MSU.



► An improved (half-orange brick kiln) being used for sustainable charcoal production by a private plantation company in Malawi. These are being promoted in the National Charcoal Strategy under development.

The final project, *Intersectoral Fellowships on Irrigated Agriculture and Human Health in Malawi*, examines tradeoffs between expanded irrigated agriculture and the burden of malaria through an interdisciplinary team of six postdoctoral fellows in biomedical, engineering, natural and social science from two universities and a government agency in Malawi. I serve as co-director with Dr. Edward Walker (PI, MSU Department of Entomology) on the five-year (2014-2019) NIH/Fogarty International Center (\$1.65 million) project. There are three other MSU collaborators and one from the University of Michigan.

On teaching and advising, advisee Ellis Adams graduated and secured a tenure-track faculty position as Assistant Professor in the Global Studies Institute at Georgia State University. We wish him all the success. I continue to advise more than a dozen graduate students as an advisory committee member or core advisor, on diverse research topics. During the year, I taught *Research Design in Geography* (GEO 886), *Seminar in Human Geography* (GEO 872), *Geography of Africa* (GEO 338) and an independent study. Previous courses include *Seminar in Human-Environment Geography, People and Environment, Africa Social Science Perspectives*, and introductory and advanced *Geographic Information Systems*. I mentored a student to write a paper and present at the MSU University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, and look forward to mentoring more undergraduate students.

My most fulfilling teaching experience has been taking students on an extended study-abroad and internship program to Malawi, and providing them a potentially life-altering experience. In summer 2016, I (with Dr. Anne Ferguson, MSU Anthropology) took the fourth cohort of students on this program, *Development and NGOs: Internships in Malawi*. The seven-week program gives students from diverse academic backgrounds the opportunity to intern with Malawian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to critique development processes through the lens of the NGO.



► MSU study abroad students with Malawian peers, June 2016.

In the tradition of a "world-grant" university, I continued engagement and international professional service with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat based in Bonn, Germany, and the Least Developed Countries' Experts Group (LEG), which dates back to my graduate student years. Activities with the UNFCCC/LEG include contributions to development of the technical guidebook for National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) for developing countries. As the resource person at the request of the UNFCCC and the UN Environmental Program (UNEP), I facilitated the Priority-setting Workshop for the Implementation of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI) for the Indian Ocean Sub-region (Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and the Seychelles) in Sri Lanka in October 2016. In these LAKI workshops, regional experts identify and prioritize (rank) knowledge-based climate-change adaptation needs and formulates strategies on how to fill them without conducting new research. I facilitated a similar workshop for the Southern Africa sub-region in Johannesburg, South Africa in November 2015. As an invited expert panelist, I also pre-

sented and led discussion sessions at the NAP Expo in July, 2016 in Bonn, Germany, on the theme of identifying vulnerable groups and communities in the context of adaptation and development planning and implementation. The NAP Expo has become an annual forum organized by the UNFCCC/LEG for experts, practitioners and developing-country representatives to exchange experiences, lessons and ideas on climate-change adaptation. I also look forward to facilitating a one-week Regional Training Workshop on Advancing National Adaptation Plans for Anglophone African Countries in February 2017, in Lilongwe, Malawi.

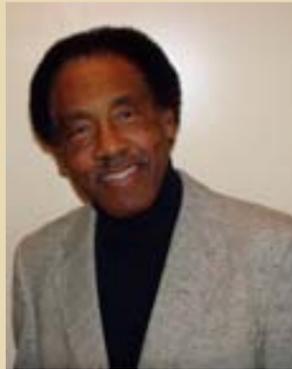


► LAKI workshop participants, Sri Lanka, October 2016.

I also look forward to serving on the NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) Program Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDR1) Advisory Panel for the next two years, starting April 2017. I hope to use the experience to help our graduate students to prepare for the DDR1 grant. I continue to promote international collaboration in research at MSU, including in my capacity as Co-Coordinator (with Dr. Anne Ferguson) of the MSU/Malawi Strategic Partnership. This is one of the most successful strategic partnerships at MSU in numbers of projects and total budget awards.

Socially, I enjoy family, travel, movies and riding my bicycle like a crazy person and in unsuitable weather conditions! Last summer, we were delighted to have my brother (a demographer) and his family join us from Nairobi on a one-week holiday in the Big Apple. We did all the touristy stuff and loved it. For a family scattered across the oceans, it was particularly important for the children (ours a high school junior and a junior at MSU) to reconnect after several years. The hero of the trip was a selfie stick!

2016 AAG Rose Award for Anti-Racism Research and Practice



Joe T. Darden
Professor

The AAG Rose Award for Anti-Racism Research and Practice was created in 2012 to honor Harold M. Rose, who was a pioneer in conducting research on the conditions faced by African Americans. The award honors geographers who have demonstrated a record of this type of research which has both advanced the discipline and

made an impact on anti-racist practice. Joe T. Darden is a Professor of Geography and a core member of the Canadian Studies Center at Michigan State University. He has received numerous awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship, the Distinguished Scholar of Ethnic Geography Award (AAG), and the AAG Enhancing Diversity Award. Dr. Darden has published more than 80 peer-reviewed articles, dozens of book chapters, and numerous authored and edited books.

Dr. Darden's research offers a broad perspective on the many racialized groups that live in North American cities, and the ways in which their spatial insertion in the city is related to poverty, health, housing, and access to civic participation.

Dr. Darden's work as a public advocate for anti-racism is extensive. He worked for the Chicago Board of Education, as a member of the State of Michigan Task Force on Minority Health Affairs, as a demographic consultant for the NAACP and the Detroit Police Force, as an expert witness in many legal defenses, and as a frequent media commentator, among many other roles.

Joe has made many important contributions to the discipline of Geography, including serving on numerous committees of the AAG, and especially as Chair of the Enhancing Diversity committee.

Joe Darden is a committed anti-racist whose research, teaching, and civic contributions mark him as someone dedicated to change. For these many reasons the AAG is pleased to recognize Joe T. Darden with the Harold Rose Award.

Appointment to National Science Board



Emilio Moran
Hannah Distinguished
Professor

Emilio Moran, a renowned social and environmental scientist and Michigan State University Hannah Distinguished Professor, has been appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the National Science Board of the National Science Foundation.

A pioneer in the field of environmental research, Moran will begin his six-year term after he is sworn in at the board's next meeting in early November.

"I am honored to have been nominated and appointed to the National Science Board," Moran said. "This is a group of eminent scientists and industry innovators who try to make sure that the investments made in science and technology at the National Science Foundation are directed at the best science and at the needs of the nation. Being part of such decisions is a great responsibility."

The 24-member board and the NSF director are jointly responsible for recommending and encouraging the pursuit of national policies for the promotion of research and education in science and engineering. The board also influences the research direction of the NSF and acts as an independent body of advisers to both the president and Congress on matters of policy.

Moran, who joined the MSU faculty in 2013, is a professor in the Department of Geography and a researcher in the Center for Global Change and Earth Observations and Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability.

"We are all extremely proud that Dr. Moran has been appointed to this position," said Rachel Croson, dean of the College of Social Science. "His unique research expertise, blending the social and the natural sciences, will contribute significantly to the National Science Foundation, and to our nation."

The author of 11 books and more than 200 journal articles, Moran was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 2010. His work combines the natural and social sciences to understand human-environment interactions.

"I hope that my long history of interdisciplinary research linking the natural and the social sciences will bring useful insights to the discussions of the complex science issues and problems that society faces that require a diverse range of disciplines," Moran said



Teacher-Scholar Award



Nathan Moore
Associate Professor

"Teacher-Scholar Awards are made to six members of the tenure system faculty from the ranks of assistant professor and associate professor who early in their careers have earned the respect of students and colleagues for their devotion to and skill in teaching. The essential purpose of the award is to provide recognition to

the best teachers who have served at MSU for seven years or less, taking into consideration that the most effective teachers will have their instruction intricately linked to and informed by their research and creative activities."

Moore is a committed teacher at both the undergraduate and graduate levels who routinely involves students in his research. He has taught a wide range of classes that includes conventional classroom settings at MSU, study-abroad experiences in Australia and small courses at Zhejiang University (ZJU) in China. Along with an ability to explicate complex topics simply, Moore practices an open door policy that students readily embrace, frequently meeting with him to talk about research possibilities or to ask for clarification of a complicated topic, knowing that Moore is committed to their scholarly development and learning, whatever their level of knowledge and need.

AAG Ron Abler Distinguished Service Honors



Julie Winkler
Professor

The Ron Abler Distinguished Service Honors is presented to Julie Winkler in recognition of her sustained and committed work to the AAG, the discipline of geography, her department, and her state and community. She has served as an officer in several national and international professional organizations; on the editorial boards of numerous high ranking journals (17 on the board of the Annals of the AAG); and has brought her insights to bear in guiding several departments through programmatic reviews. Her career has been marked by those things held as noteworthy by Ron Abler – a desire to sustain the breadth and vitality of geography, support of faculty in their careers, and a commitment to move the field in a direction that is marked by integrative approaches. She has done this exceptional service without sacrificing her contribution to research and teaching.

John M. Hunter (1928 - 2016)



We are sorry to report of the death of Dr. John Hunter at age 88 on December 15, 2016 following a long illness. John was a leading faculty member of the Geography Department from 1967 to 1995 when he retired as an MSU University Distinguished Professor. An avid

field researcher, John did most of his work in Africa specializing on the spatial relationships of environmental conditions and various diseases. In addition to many monographs, book chapters, reviews, research proposals, and agency reports, John authored or co-authored over 100 refereed journal articles. Following is part of the formal obituary from Arizona where he lived:

Professor Hunter was an influential figure in establishing the study of medical geography as a specialty within geography. He served as a captain in the Royal West African Frontier Force in Ghana from 1954 to 1957, then continued on as a lecturer at the University of Ghana, from 1957 to 1964. During that time, he developed his hypothesis of cyclical advance and retreat of riverine settlements due to onchocerciasis. His 1966 published paper had an effect on the World Health Organization (WHO) when they decided to develop a West African Savanna zone scheme to eliminate the black fly. While a professor at Michigan State University, he was asked by two WHO physician members, who had read the 1966 article, to serve as a consultant in Ghana resulting in a 1972, 353 page mission report. He continued as a short term WHO consultant from 1972 -1990.

John Melton Hunter was born in Windsor, Canada on January 1, 1928. His parents thereafter returned to the United Kingdom. John was educated at Bemrose School, Derby and went on to receive his PhD in geography from the University of Reading in 1954. During his time at the University of Ghana, he was planning officer and adviser for the preparation and enumeration of area maps and census reports for the 1960 Ghana Census. After returning to Great Britain, he taught at the University of Durham from 1964 to 1967 before beginning his tenure at Michigan State University.

Throughout his career at Michigan State University he received numerous honors, awards and appointments including the Distinguished Faculty award in 1982; an Honors Award from the Association of American Geographers 1983; Appointed to serve on the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Board of Science and Technology for International Development; Juba Valley Advisory Panel 1986-88; Appointed Member of WHO Commission on Health and Environment 1990-92; and University Distinguished Professor 1990. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, two children and three step children.

North to Alaska

This past summer graduate students Kelsey Nyland and Clayton Queen, and visiting scholar Jing Li ventured north to Alaska where they participated in an ongoing permafrost (perennially frozen ground) monitoring program on the Arctic North Slope. In addition, Kelsey and Clayton established several sites for a new geomorphic project in the alpine subarctic. Both projects are led by Professor Fritz Nelson, a co-PI on the NSF-funded Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) program and advisor to both Kelsey and Clayton.

The CALM project is an international global-change monitoring effort involving investigators from 15 countries and more than 200 permafrost observatories in the Arctic and Antarctic. The work performed by the MSU group this summer, along with collaborators from The George Washington University, University of Montana, and Northern Michigan University, constitutes the American contingency of the monitoring network. The field team visited sites near Nome (famous for the Alaskan gold rush), Barrow (the northernmost community in the US), and along the Dalton Highway, famous for its leading role in the Discovery Channel's show 'Ice Road Truckers.' At each site the team measured the depth the ground had thawed during the summer, collected ground and air temperatures, and precisely measured ground surface movement. These monitoring data are publically available online and have been used in a large number of Arctic climate change, permafrost, and infrastructure related modeling efforts (<https://www2.gwu.edu/~calm/>).

The other project, conducted in the alpine subarctic, focuses on a little studied, but striking geomorphic feature found throughout central and western Alaska – cryoplanation terraces. These step-like landforms ascend ridges and hillsides, creating an illusion of giant staircases. Although these impressive features are actively debated in the literature, until this past summer the processes hypothesized for their formation had not been explicitly tested in the field. Kelsey and Clayton hiked to three beautiful examples of cryoplanation terraces. They established sites to monitor and test the hypothesis that these landforms are created by large snow-banks present during the last glaciation, when the region was connected to the Bering land bridge, a direct link between North America and Asia. The three sites took them through the heart of Alaska, starting at the Canadian border, to Central Alaska north of Fairbanks, and out to the Seward Peninsula near Nome.

Always a land of extremes, this summer was one of the hottest and wettest on record for Arctic Alaska according to the NOAA, but the team persevered and had a very successful, data-rich, and fun field season that Kelsey and Clayton hope to repeat this coming summer.



Above: Graduate students Clayton Queen (left) and Kelsey Nyland (right) prepare to hike down from a cryoplanation terrace site where they monitor temperatures, performed general surveying of the features, and measured differences in the weathering of rocks across the surfaces.



Left: Visiting scholar, Jing Li, at a CALM near-surface permafrost monitoring site on the Alaskan North Slope, helps to collect data and maintain the site.



Right: Kelsey Nyland (left) and Clayton Queen (right) use DGPS equipment to collect highly precise measurements of ground surface subsidence at a CALM monitoring site on the Alaskan North Slope. Over an extended period the surface has been found to subside likely due to warming air temperatures.

Every spring semester of odd-numbered years Dr. Arbogast teaches a class entitled *Regional Geomorphology of North America*. This class is a survey of the physiographic provinces of the continent, including the Appalachian Mountains, Great Lakes region, Great Plains, and Rocky Mountains, to name a few. Since the second offering in 1999, he has taken the class, and whomever else wants to go (~15 total people), on a week-long trip to the central Great Plains at the end of the term (in May) to explore the landscapes of the region. This field trip is an eye-opening experience for the students because most have never traveled west of the Mississippi. For those who have, the trip is enlightening because few have been off the main interstate highways that bisect the region. The trip includes a number of stops to see such features as the Mississippi and Missouri River floodplains, thick loess outcrops, volcanic ash, sand dunes, and bedrock topography. Although most of the work is in Kansas (4 days), the group also spends time in Iowa and Nebraska. Beyond the fascinating geomorphology and wide-open spaces, the trip is interesting from a cultural perspective because the pace of life out there is somewhat different. The trips are a lot of fun and make lasting memories for everyone. Here are some representative photos from the field trip over the years.



Yep, that's a Kansas tornado in 2013. Awesome!



Above: Investigating buried soils along Wolf Creek, north-central Kansas in 2005.



Above: Breaking camp in Nebraska, 2003.



Below: At the Eustis Ash Pit in Nebraska, 2007.



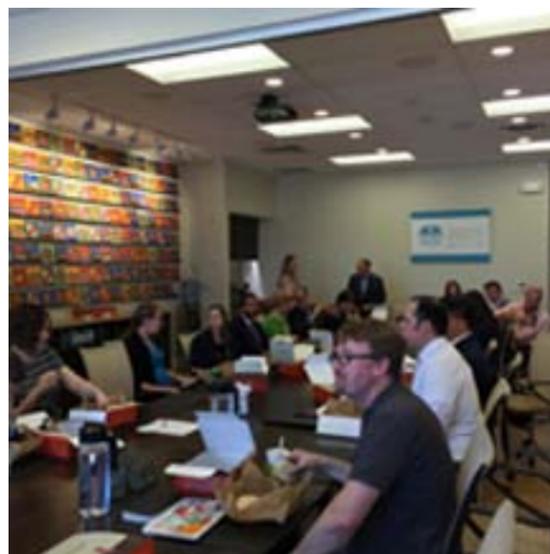
Above: Trevor Hobbs and local talent during Karaoke night at Al's Bar & Grill in beautiful downtown Wilson, Kansas, 2007.



Left: Dr. Lusch enthusiastically talking about NAD 27 at Meade's Ranch, Kansas, 2011.

Students Research Entrepreneurship

As part of funded work through the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation for Entrepreneurship three students traveled with Dr. Mack to Albuquerque, New Mexico to meet with Mayor Barry and parties involved with fostering entrepreneurship. The meetings took place at the mayor's office and the Albuquerque Community Foundation in April. The goal of the meetings was to increase participation in surveys that are being distributed to study spinoff activity, which is business activity generated by former employees of existing businesses, government, or educational institutions in the greater Albuquerque metropolitan area. Kevin Credit (Geography Ph.D. student), Grace Hough (undergraduate double major in Economics and Geography), and Matthew Suandi (undergraduate majors in Economics and Mathematics) are research assistants for this project and have helped design and distribute surveys, and collect secondary data about the vitality of the entrepreneurial environment.



onGEO Connection 2017

Greetings!

As some of you know, each year the staff of the Online Geography program, or onGEO, takes up a small part of the newsletter to update readers on what is happening in the program, and this year is no different. In 2016, just as in years past, we experienced exciting changes that we know will improve both our reach and our ability to educate students. No matter the subject of our annual newsletter piece, geography education is at the heart of what we do in onGEO and as teacher and poet Robert John Meehan once wrote, "The most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspectives." With the addition of Drs. Yi Shi and Grant Gunn to the onGEO team in September, we are without doubt enjoying new perspectives and greater collaboration. We hope you enjoy reading about these two talented, passionate geographers and educators in the paragraphs that follow.

Yi Shi

Associate Director of Professional Courses

Dr. Shi joined the onGEO staff on 29 August 2016. Prior to that he worked in the private sector as a GIS scientist and for the Institute of Water Research and Precision Agriculture Lab on the MSU campus. Dr. Shi is also an alumnus of MSU, earning his Ph.D. in Geography with a specialization in GIS in 2008. He has a wide range of research, teaching, and professional experiences in the realm of geospatial technologies and their applications. Over the years, he has developed numerous GIS applications for many clients, including all levels of government. Simply put, Dr. Shi loves geospatial technologies and the ways they are changing the world for the better. He is delighted to share his knowledge of geospatial technologies with students and colleagues and being instrumental in their educational journey.



Grant Gunn

Assistant Professor

Dr. Gunn joined the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences at MSU as Assistant Professor after working as a geospatial analyst at Agriculture and AgriFoods Canada. He received his Ph.D. degree in Geography from the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, researching the microwave remote sensing of snow-covered lake ice in Arctic environments. He is currently looking forward to continuing his research of the remote sensing of the Cryosphere, quantifying and monitoring snow and ice parameters both locally in Michigan and on a global scale. As a member of onGEO, he enjoys providing students a relatable perspective to the theory presented in GIS and remote sensing, showing the past, present and future uses of the ever-evolving technologies. Whether teaching students about politics, history, or land-cover change, Dr. Gunn always welcomes the opportunity to show students how the world can be viewed through a geospatial lens.



While busy bringing Drs. Shi and Gunn up to speed this fall, the onGEO group managed to accomplish a few other noteworthy things. We created a new landing page for our Professional Certificate in GIS. The design of the new site streamlines our information and encourages potential students to contact us with any questions they have and take the first steps in registering for our courses. Be sure to check it out at (professional.ongeo.msu.edu). We also hired a firm to help us optimize our onGEO website (ongeo.msu.edu) and re-focus our online marketing strategy, which we will be implementing this spring. In addition, Dr. Yi Shi eagerly translated our Professional Certificate brochure into Chinese and has begun to distribute it to Chinese students on campus -- many of whom would benefit from having GIS skills and training to complement their major programs. And last but not least, we managed to take a little time this fall to celebrate record high enrollments in our Professional Certificate courses. Not only are we thrilled to be growing so quickly, with the arrival of Drs. Shi and Gunn we feel that our staff is uniquely suited to expand onGEO in new and exciting ways for years to come.

Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG)

The Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG) group provides a forum for women in Geography and their supporters to come together for intellectual, professional, and personal support. In addition to organizing a series of breakfasts to connect students with visiting female geographers, members have taken part in a number of community outreach activities.

In its second year of existence, the SWIG group has picked up great momentum. SWIG members participated in Geography Awareness Week, staffing tables in Brody Hall and hosting a geocache contest over social media. They have also organized a weekly writing group, providing support and accountability to their peers in their writing endeavors. In addition, undergraduates can participate in the SWIG mentoring program, being paired with SWIG graduate and faculty mentors with similar geographic interests.

► Below: (L to R): Lisa-Marie Pierre; Cadi Fung; April Frake, co-president; Libbey Kutch; Nafiseh Haghtalab; Michelle Church; Victoria Breeze, co-president; Meg Reesor, Treasurer; Dr. Raechel White, Faculty Advisor.



The Michigan State University Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences Alumni Advisory Board was established in spring 2015 to support the GEO department and its students and to facilitate communication between our students and alumni. In January 2017, the nine-person Board approved the Charter & Bylaws, held elections for Board positions, established a presence on social media and developed an online survey to collect feedback from GEO Alumni and Friends. The Board is committed to establishing the means to connect our current students to our knowledgeable and passionate GEO alumni and friends, and to connect our alumni and friends with each other. To do so, we are asking you to participate in our Alumni and Friends Survey (https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1Zj8ECAKHsNjNVX). The 5-10-minute survey will collect your current contact information, and gauge your interest in a variety of potential activities that will allow you to interact with and support our Department.

Alumni Advisory Board Charter

The board is focused on the needs of students. The purposes of the GEO Alumni Advisory Board are to:

- Encourage and facilitate communication between alumni and students to better
 - o Connect students to professionals for mentorship/internship opportunities
 - o Establish closer contact between the department and its alumni
 - o Encourage career development networks and enhance student learning
- Grow the department endowment to directly benefit students
- Assist in the recruitment of students to the department and programs
- Serve as a sounding board for the Department
- Support the Department's initiatives to University Administrators

Search for MSU GEO Alumni and Friends on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12031026>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MSUGEOAlumni/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/msugeoalumni/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MSUGEOAlumni>

Learn more about the Board

http://geo.msu.edu/people_categories/alumni_advisory_board/

Contact the Board

MSUGEOAlumniAndFriends@gmail.com

2017 GEO Alumni Advisory Board Members

Michelle Lee (Chair). B.S. 1998. Senior Consultant at Resource Systems Group, Washington, D.C.

Melissa Faustich (Vice-Chair), B.S. 2005. Location Based Services Product Manager at General Motors, Detroit, MI

Steve Aldrich, Ph.D. 2009. Assistant Professor of Geography, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN

Alan Arbogast, Department Chair MSU Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences

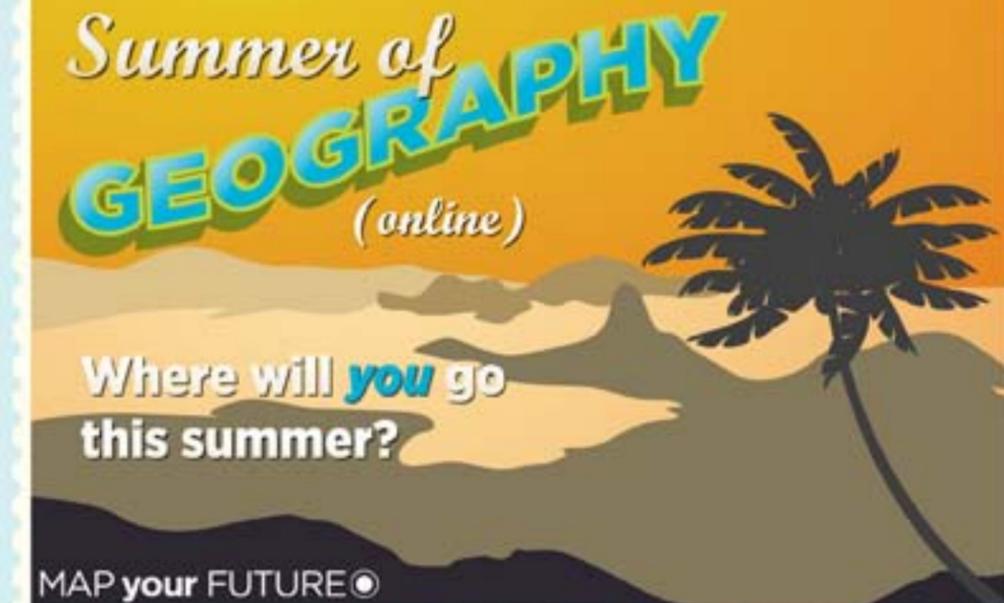
Josh Bocks, B.S. 2004, GIS Specilization Certificate 2004. Senior Transportation Planner at AECOM, Southfield, MI

Ruth Collard-Sotak, B.S. 1983. Trade Link Holdings, LCC, Chicago, IL

Sarah Hession, Ph.D. 2011. Senior Statistician, Center for Statistical Training and Consulting, MSU, East Lansing, MI

Beth Myers-Graham, M.S. 1996. Vice President, AECOM, Cincinnati, Ohio

Beth Weisenborn, M.S. 2001. onGEO Director of Online Courses, MSU, East Lansing, MI



All of these **online courses** are offered during both 2017 Summer Sessions

Classes begin May 15 and July 5

Enroll in these online courses just like any other, using Schedule Builder during your enrollment period.

- Experience the world's cultures in **GEO 151 (Human Geography)**
- Pack your umbrella and sunscreen for **GEO 203 (Intro to Meteorology)**
- Journey to the world's farthest reaches in **GEO 204 (World Regional Geography)**
- Climb a mountain, hike through forests, and relax on the beach in **GEO 206 (Physical Geography)**
- Map out your adventures in **GEO 221 and GEO 221 Lab (Introduction to Geographic Information)**
- Embark on a road trip across North America in **GEO 330 (Geography of the U.S. and Canada)**
- Explore connections among humans and their environments in **ISS 310 (People and the Environment)**
- Spend some time with your creative side in **GEO 326 (Cartographic Design)**

ENROLLING NOW!

For more information visit us online at onGEO.msu.edu or email us at onGEO@msu.edu

Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Student News



GEO CLUB



Geography Awareness Week

- ▶ Above: GEO Club members: Paige Gebhardt, Emily Keefe, and Breunte Brown.
- ▶ Below: Triple G members: B.J. Baule and Nick Ronnei handed out T-shirts, hats, pencils, wristbands, post-its and event posters.



GeoCamp 2016 (Right) was fantastic! Late in August the Department welcomed 16 new graduate students and headed north to Camp Wa Wa Sum, on the Au Sable River near Grayling. GeoCamp has been based out of this camp for several years, because it is a wonderful place to get to know about each other, and about Michigan. Almost everybody went tubing in the river, which is an amazing experience: clear, natural, and definitely cold!

Field trip elements included a visit to the Manistee National Forest where we talked about forest management issues with alumnus Trevor Hobbs and checked out some unique environments. We also met up with Professor Arbogast at Arcadia Dunes, one of the most impressive landscapes in our state. Professor Yansa led a field trip to Hartwick Pines and also to the Civilian Conservation Corps museum to cover more about the biogeography of Michigan and its human context. The weather was pure Michigan - mostly pretty good! - and the food was great. It is remarkable how much food gets eaten at GeoCamp! Many thanks to Professors Yansa and Shortridge, and to second-year graduate students Cristina Gauthier and Nick Ronnei, for leadership and key support on this trip!

Student News

GEO CAMP



2016



▶ L to R: Jiang Chang, Shiqi Tao, Zihan (Linda) Lin, Cheyenne Lei, Yingyue (Juno) Liu, Teng Zhang, Lonnie Barnes, Michael Bomber, B.J. Baule, Amanda Rzotkiewicz, Aaron Kamoske, Noelle Porter, Clayton Queen, Chase Kasmerchak, Kyle Redican, Sara Torres. Seated: Ashton Shortridge (Grad Director), Catherine Yansa (faculty).

2016 GEO GTU SPRING RECEPTION

Gamma Theta Upsilon Initiates



L to R: Specialist Dave Lusch and Assistant Professor Amber Pearson with GTU Initiates: Meg Reesor, Lydia Rill, Sharon Fighter, Kyle Devine, Toni Walkowiak, Kevin Credit, Victoria Breeze, Deanna Apps and Academic Advisor Gary Schnakenberg. Insert: Gary Schnakenberg with GTU Initiate Emma Shaw. Not pictured: Yankuic Galvan Miyoshi and Richard Wetzel.



Above: Geography Club VP Paige Gebhardt and President Hayley Keefer. Right: Triple G President Dee Jordan and SWIG Co-President Victoria Breeze.



Vladen Alaverdian, Geography graduating senior, represented the College of Social Science in the processional and recessional of the MSU Spring Semester 2016 Undergraduate Convocation.

Not pictured: Joshua Haga was named Geography's outstanding graduating senior and was recognized at the College of Social Science Commencement and honored by being announced first by major during the distribution of diplomas.



Crystal King is the first Geography undergraduate to receive a de Blij Scholarship.

Graduate Research Presentation Winners



L to R: PhD students Josh Vertalka (3rd place), April Frake (2nd Place), Kevin Credit (1st Place), and Associate Professor Nathan Moore.

Owen Gregg Global Climate Change Research Award



Award winner Lydia Rill with Professor Sharon Zhong.

Marjorie & Lawrence Sommers Graduate Fellowship for International Research and Travel



Award winner April Frake, Laurie Sommers (presenter), and award winner Mattie Bene.

Dr. Harold A. 'Duke' Winters Memorial Fellowship in Environmental Geography



Professor Randy Schaeztl with award winner Ross DiFalco

Undergraduate of the Year



Left: Assistant Professor Raechel White with award winner Paige Gebhardt. Right: Associate Professor Catherine Yansa accepting the graduate award on behalf of award winner Albert Fulton.

Graduate of the Year



These awards were established by the late Professor Harm de Blij in 2008 in honor of Dr. E. James Potchen, a special Friend of Geography.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES 2016

SPRING

Alverdian, Vladen BA Geography*
 Flynn, Daniel ^ BS Geography*
 Haga, Joshua BS Environmental Geography
 Jones, Faith ^ BA Human Geography
 Kim, Daniel BS Geography*
 Lowrie, Christopher ^^ BS Environmental Geograpy
 Martin, Eric BA Human Geography
 Obrecht, Alison ^^ BS GISci
 Sabin, Todd BA Human Geography

FALL

Cornish, James BS Environmental Geography
 Dame, Cullen BS GISci
 Gebhardt, Paige BA Human Geography
 Grech, Brett BS Economic Geography
 Mohammedsaari, Syireen Haziq BS GISci
 O'Grady, Barbara ^^ BA Human Geography
 O'Leary, Matthew BS GISci
 Shaw, Emma BA Human Geography

SUMMER

Wetzel, Richard BA Human Geography
 Yang, Suchen BA Geography*

* These are the last of our 'old' degrees.

^ Additional Major

^^ Second Degree

GRADUATE STUDENT DEGREES COMPLETED IN 2016

Adams, Ellis, PhD (Leo Zulu), "Decentralization, Institutions, and Access to Potable Water in Malawai's Urban and Peri-Urban Informal Settlements."

Apps, Deanna, MS (Lifeng Luo), "An Analysis of the Soil Moisture-Precipitation Relationship across the Continental United States."

Feng, Jia, PhD (Guo Chen), "Migrant Livelihood and Business in Urban China: The Case of Henancun and Recycling in Beijing."

Galvanmiyoshi, Yankuic, PhD (Robert Walker), "Linking Land Change and Commodity Chains in a Globalizing World: The Case of Mexico."

Johnson, Laura Bowen, PhD (Gary Schnakenberg), "Toward a Relational Agro-Food System: The Case of the Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture High Country Farm Tour."

Koh, Keumseok, PhD (Sue Grady), "Geographic Impacts of Federally Funded State-based Obesity Programs on Adult Obesity Prevalence in the United States."

Molen, Nicholas, MS (Arika Ligmann-Zielinska), "A Method for Employing Qualitative Data in the Development of Spatial Agent-Based Models."

O'Neil, Glenn, PhD (Ashton Shortridge), "The Future of Groundwater Resources in a Water-abundant Region: Modeling the Impacts of Climate Change and Measuring Social Indicators of Sustainability."

Rill, Lydia, MS (Jeffrey Andresen), "Climatology of Springtime Freeze Events in the Great Lakes Region and their Impact on Tart Cherry Yields in Historical and Projected Future Time Frames."

Smith, Nicole, MS (Joseph Messina), "Identifying the Best Local-scale Prediction Maps for Dynamic Landscape Patterns of Aquatic Habitats of Anopheline Larvae in Western Lowland Kenya."

Wu, Ruqun, PhD (Jiquan Chen), "The Influences of Green Building Design on Building Users."

Yang, Anni, MS (Joseph Messina), "A Cost-benefit Analysis of Tsetse Fly Control in Tanzania."



Brett Grech

BS 2016

My name is Brett Grech. I was originally an Economics major taking a sports geography course with Alan Arbogast. He informed me that the Geography department was starting a new major that would relate economics and geography. I really enjoyed the geography course I was taking and could see how economics and geography are strongly correlated. In my opinion, a flaw regarding economics is that much of the topic is based off assumptions and expecting everyone to act rationally. Economic Geography, on the other hand, takes into account cultural and spatial measures of an economy. I believed making the switch would make myself more attractive to potential employers and give myself a more diversified skillset. I am beginning an MBA program at Northwood University in addition to applying for the Marketing Research Masters Program at MSU next fall. I will be working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources this spring and am grateful for my time in the Geography Department at Michigan State University.



Grace Hough

I am a junior at MSU majoring in Economic Geography and Economics. My research focuses on the connection between economic development and entrepreneurship with the aim to look at poverty-alleviating capabilities of support for entrepreneurs. I have always loved economics, but wished that there was more attention paid to cultural and geographic factors. When Dr. Schnakenberg told me about the economic geography major I was hooked.

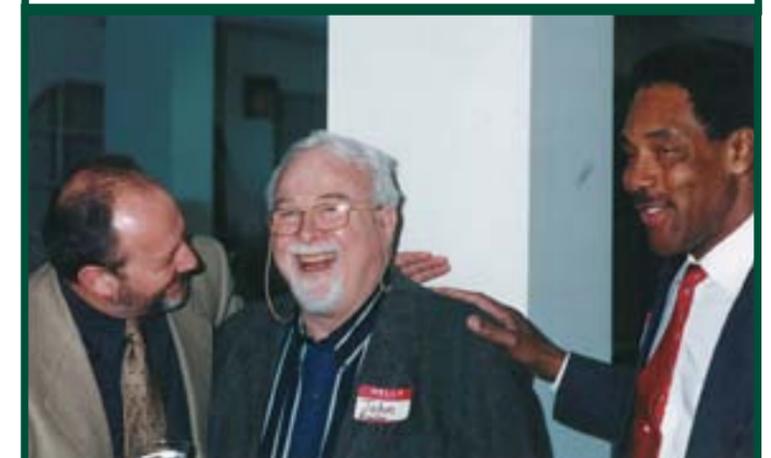
I have been working with Dr. Mack in the Geography department for almost two years now. Our work focuses on entrepreneurial ecosystems, regional environments that foster entrepreneurial activity, and more recently on innovative methods of financial support for entrepreneurs. This research is funded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman foundation, an organization dedicated to fostering economic

independence with a focus on entrepreneurship and education. Our work through this fund has taken me across the country. Thanks to funding from the department, I have been able to travel with Dr. Mack to Albuquerque, NM and Burlington, VT. Funding has also enabled me to travel to London to present our research at the Uddevalla Symposium. The Uddevalla Symposium is an international symposium focused on innovation and entrepreneurship. The feedback I received from presentations, as well as information from open sessions, was extremely helpful. Several professors and graduate students mentioned that this was an opportunity I was lucky to have, and that they wished they had had the same chance to develop public speaking skills when they were an undergrad.

More recently, Dr. Mack and I have started work on a paper looking at an innovative financing method in Vermont. Financing methods for entrepreneurs is something I have been interested in for years, beginning with my time in Istanbul where I was introduced to the concept of micro-lending. At MSU I became interested in regional variations of its success as a poverty alleviating tool, and began to branch out to entrepreneurship work. This paper is a sort of marriage of the two. After graduating from MSU I hope to pursue a PhD in public policy.



Good Memories!



► Dick Groop, John Hunter and Joe Darden ~1999.

Tim Carter
BA 1970, MA 1972

But I am not an Explorer*

But I am a geographer!

Since second grade, when in my autograph book with other classmates, I penned that my favorite subject is geography. Didn't have geography after elementary school until, as a sophomore at MSU, I enrolled in Geography 201 anticipating that I would have Harm de Blij as professor. Much to my chagrin, Harm left to Miami (FL) and was taught by Ian Matley, an exceptional instructor. Much to his surprise, dismay or other utterances, Duke Winters became my undergraduate advisor...and a fine one at that!

Upon graduation, I enrolled in graduate school where Bob Thomas was my mentor and major professor. We had met his first year at State when I had enrolled in his Middle America class. I excelled, or he was very generous, and we became lifelong friends until his death. He guided me through the labyrinth of graduate school until I decided to go out and teach the world of geography. Here the story became a fulfillment of my second grade boast.

My bride, Denise (BS, 1971, Clothing and Textiles) and I moved to Montgomery County, MD where I taught 7th and 8th grade geography for more than five years. Getting somewhat antsy, I wrote a letter of inquiry to the National Geographic Society. After a series of conversations and interviews, I was hired as a research compiler in the Cartographic Division, now NG Maps. Here I had many opportunities to practice my trade and was fortunate to have my name in print more than 100,000,000 times! This was a result of having author credit on numerous foldout maps in the magazine, the first being a political history of Africa in the February 1980 issue and ending with being assigned as the map content editor for the Historical Atlas of the United States published in 1988...my most rewarding professional accomplishment.

While at Geography, I had the opportunity to be introduced and know personally many geographers such as Arthur Robinson, Preston James, Don Meinig, Judy Olson, Cindy Brewer, Harm de Blij, Alice Rechlin, Kit and Cathy Salter to name a few. Many were MSU graduates or were staff that guided those who entered the hall of the MSU Geography Department.

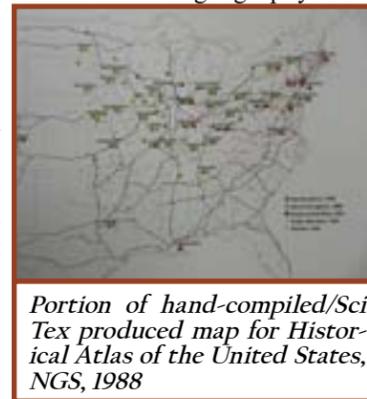
We had some wonderful experiences at Geographic. Many celebrities wanted to tour the Cartographic Division because of its reputation. Charlton Heston visited and towered over our short-walled cubicles as if he were truly parting the Red Sea. But one of the more memorable visits was by Haile Selassie, King of Ethiopia, the Lion of Judah. His highness was a diminutive man. All staff were gathered and instructed about proper etiquette when in the presence of royalty, especially to remain seated when he entered due to height. His majesty wanted to see how relief drawings were rendered on the map. He was taken into the office of one of the principle relief artists, an imposing figure, 6'4" and north of 250 pounds. The artist rose from his desk, waved, and said: "Hi ya King!" Hmmm...that wasn't going to happen again!

In 1990 I was recruited to manage Rand McNally's cartographic services in Lexington, KY. Here I was immersed in a new avenue, for me, in map-making—road maps. After a corporate shake-up I was hired as editorial director at HM Gousha in Comfort, TX—Rand's principal competitor. I was hired by John (Dick) Stephens, another MSU geographer. A corporate buyout ensued and our family left Texas to Madison, WI where I worked for Mapping Specialists as the editorial director. After 15 years I retired spending more than 30 years in the map publishing industry.

I lived the dream of my youth! - a practicing geographer/cartographer who experienced the evolution of the craft from pen and ink on velum on the third floor of the Nat Sci building to researching exotic subjects that only a true geographer could tell the story. I practiced the craft from hand lettering manuscripts to the advent of computer assisted production (SciTex), the introduction of GIS (ArcInfo, now ArcGIS) and desktop publishing (MacII). This culminated in witnessing total compilation and production on the desktop using massive digital databases at a fraction of the cost of our original digital attempts in the 1980s. Alas, the art in cARTography has morphed in handheld devices that would probably be blasphemous to the likes of Ortelius and Raisz.



Denise and Tim at Chateau de Chillon, Montreux, Switzerland



Portion of hand-compiled/SciTex produced map for Historical Atlas of the United States, NGS, 1988



Portion of hand-lettered manuscript for National Geographic World Atlas 5th edition.

Today my bride and I, after raising three children—one of whom followed his dad's career path and is a cartographic specialist for the FAA—continue to expand our own geographic knowledge by traveling. It's rather fun to encounter some of the errors I inadvertently spread because as the Little Prince found out, "(the geographer) does not leave his desk. But he receives the explorers in his study" ...a real profession!

* with apologies to The Little Prince. Ch XV, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 1943

Tim Carter
par4dad@gmail.com

Eugenio Arima PhD 2005

I was promoted to associate professor with tenure, effective September 2017!! In the Department of Geography and the Environment, The University of Texas at Austin

Eric Butvidas MS 2015

I am now working for Consumers Energy in Grand Rapids as a Technician I in the Electric Geospatial Management and Data Quality section. In addition, I am Instructor for the graduate course "GIS and Public Health" at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine, Division of Public Health.

Chris Connallan MS 2015

After I graduated from MSU, I moved to Baltimore, MD and began working for the Maryland Geological Survey, under the state Department of Natural Resources. At MGS I work in the coastal geology program, collecting and analyzing geophysical data off Maryland's Atlantic coast, and within the Chesapeake Bay.

I also teach at Towson University as an adjunct in both the Geology, and Geography departments, teaching intro geology and GIS courses. When I'm not working I typically go hiking in nearby parks (Maryland has mountains!), and enjoy ballgames at local minor league parks.

Meleia Egger MA 2007

I am still working for the Peace Corps and loving life in DC. I still see Antoinette and Bilal pretty regularly. Hope everyone is well!



Melissa Faustich BS 2005

I graduated in 2005 from MSU with a B.S. in Geography and several months later landed at General Motors/OnStar.

I've spent the past 11 years with the company in an interesting array of positions.

It began with an entry level position in the Information Technology organization loading and manipulating map data for OnStar and troubleshooting related customer complaints. I was able to translate that technical knowledge into a project management role on the development team that creates our GIS application. I ultimately transitioned out of IT and into a business role with the call center operations organization creating, measuring and eventually managing the processes and language used to deliver OnStar navigation to North American customers.

My most recent and current role is within product management where I manage all of General Motor's navigation products across the globe through the vehicle, mobile apps, the web and OnStar.

I want to thank the MSU Geography family for welcoming me into their midst 17 years ago. After wearing multiple hats as the mom, dairy farmer, 4-H leader, choir director, bus driver, EMT, Posse member, animal nutritionist, and temp worker, I settled into my longest stint with the Geography Department. When I was hired, there were ~16 faculty members and look at us now! We've done a lot together and probably one of the more memorable times would have been helping everyone part with precious memorabilia to downsize into smaller office spaces. Many have been hired since I started and we've all grown together into a powerhouse department. It's been a pleasure and honor working with all of you. I plan to start a new chapter in my life this summer by retiring from MSU and enjoying more time to travel with my husband, spoil my grandchildren, and ride my horse.



Judy Reginek

Owen Gregg BA 1964

I continue to support the Geography Department at MSU as much as I can. While I didn't have an opportunity to visit campus this past year, I did have some memorable interactions recently. On November 12th of last year, I had the opportunity to attend a keynote panel discussion at the Blue Ocean Film Festival in nearby St. Petersburg, Florida entitled, "Can a Film Change the World?" One of the panelists was none other than Jeff Orlowski, who visited MSU in late 2013, showing and discussing his film, "Chasing Ice." He was just wrapping-up his newest film, "Chasing Coral," and announced that it had just been accepted to be featured at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival. Quite an honor. As of this writing, the film received very favorable reviews, and was immediately picked up by Netflix. I talked with him briefly after the panel discussion, and he remembers MSU, and his dinner with our faculty, very fondly. He said he would be open to coming back to campus with "Chasing Coral," perhaps in 2018.

Another highlight since our last issue, was the meeting with our new Social Science Dean, Dr. Rachael Croson last week in Naples, Florida. I had an opportunity to discuss our Geography Department, and planted the seed of possibly hosting an environmentally-oriented film festival on campus (perhaps featuring Jeff's new film), sometime in the near future. She seemed interested in pursuing this idea.

I wanted to include a recent photo of my wife Kay and I. Even though she was a graduate of the University of Minnesota (Food Science and Nutrition), she has encouraged my support of the climate change initiative at MSU. I hope to visit campus sometime this year.



Audrey Joslin MS 2008

Greetings! It has been a while since I have contributed to the annual newsletter and I have a few updates that I am pleased to share. In the past year, I finished my dissertation, *Labor and Territory in Payments for Ecosystem Services in Ecuador's Andes*, and graduated with my PhD in Geography from Texas A&M University. After working as a lecturer for a semester with the Geography Department at Texas A&M, I joined Kansas State University with a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor. It seems that Kansas State shares some traditions with Michigan State, including a branch of St. George's Geographical Society. While I plan to continue research in the Andes, I am also enjoying getting to know the people and the grasslands of the Flint Hills and am looking forward to developing local projects in the near future.

Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani PhD 2013

2016 was a good year for me. I accepted a tenure-track position with the Urban and Regional Planning department at Michigan State University after being in a specialist/fixed term teaching position for three years with the same department. I couldn't be happier...Michigan and MSU has been my home for the past 11 years and hope to be here for many more.

David Kromm PhD 1966

Not much to report beyond that my wife and I drove Route 77 when we were 77 (we both turned 78 in September). Bobbie and I drove north from Manhattan to where US 77 once ended in Ortonville, MN (now terminates in Sioux City, Iowa) and south to the end in Brownsville, TX. Many neat towns and historical places along the way. We drove Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica when we were 66. We moved here 50 years ago last week (I defended my dissertation at MSU in December of 1966), and I have been going over 50 years of photographs in Kansas. Our youngest son was born here (another was born in Lansing, and the first when I was a young Army officer stationed in

Maryland). I plan to put together a family album "Photos of 50 years in Kansas".

Oh, Bobbie and I will be at the AAG meeting in Boston. It will be my first conference since retiring in 2002. There is a session remembering Steve White in which I was asked to participate. Steve and I collaborated on numerous articles dealing with the Ogallala between 1979 and 2003. All the research was sponsored, and much of it is being replicated in the next few years with a team from several regional universities (land grant schools in the various Ogallala states).

Susan E. McMahon MA 1978 Medical Geography (John M. Hunter, advisor)

Just finished my 30th year at Columbia University (1986-2016) and am actually still working (now in the School of Nursing). I left Michigan and MSU at the time of the automobile crisis of 1982 and relocated to NYC to take a job with Helen Keller International (a blindness prevention agency). In those early years I always thought I would be returning to Michigan but life happens and I created a career in grants management at the Columbia University Medical Center.

I love to remind people (mostly young ones) that I have no accounting or MBA degree (but rather Geography degrees) and that I have been able to learn and be resourceful in whatever tasks I have had to do because of the broad based liberal arts education I received at Syracuse (undergrad) and MSU.

Mike Michalek MS 2015

2016 was an extremely busy year for me. I completed my first year working for the Michigan DNR. In the beginning of the year I started managing ALL DNR surplus land sales throughout the department. The DNR as a whole started work on rewriting our department Land Ownership Tracking System (LOTS), in which I am the assistant product owner. In addition, I started working at Delta College as an adjunct instructor teaching *Physical Geography, Glaciers & Climate Change* and the *Geography of US & Canada*. On

a personal note, I married my wife Jenn in September and we finally purchased a house after almost a year of looking.

Derek Ottenbaker BS 2013

I'm currently a high school science teacher in Zeeland MI Academy Global.



Steven Schultze PhD 2015

I'm a tenure-track professor at the University of South Alabama. I've taught Physical Geography, Climatology, and Biogeography since arriving, and I also took students on a three week field class in May 2016 up from Alabama to Michigan. We made stops in Berrien Springs, Ludington, Sleeping Bear Dunes, the Old Mission Peninsula, Mackinac Island, Pictured Rocks, Tahquamenon Falls, Downtown Detroit, and even East Lansing. 2018's edition is already booked full. Currently I'm working on a number of projects ranging from advanced soccer analytics based on spatial statistical methods to an analysis of preconceptions of chronic disease across the U.S. Most interestingly (to me, at least) is my research on ultra-fine spatiotemporal mapping of microclimate influences on crop production. I've also taken a lead role in managing the South Alabama mesonet network of weather stations.

See you in Boston!

Steve

Dr. Rick Sambrook MS 1980, PhD 1992

I am serving in my 8th year as Department Head in Geography & Geology at Eastern Michigan University. Regarding department news, we initiated a new STEM major this fall in Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIST) and are preparing for the Strong Building to be renovated over the next two years. Our department has over 300 majors spread between and among fourteen degree programs. We have two tenure-track searches taking place this year - one for a hydro-geologist and one for expertise in surficial processes. The Geography program will host the East Lakes regional meeting on October 12th - 13th, 2017. I attended my first IGU meeting, in Beijing last August and will likely attend future gatherings. Stephanie Wilson Sambrook and I celebrated our 32nd anniversary on January 11th and the birth of our first grandson - Owen Ulysses - on September 12th, 2016 in Georgetown, Kentucky where our son Everett and his wife Emily reside. Everett works for Toyota. Our daughter Kirsten lives and works as a design engineer in Elkhart, Indiana.

Alan Waddilove MSGiSci 2003

In September, 2016 Alan Waddilove joined the IT department of the County of Ottawa, MI after returning to Michigan having lived the last eight years in Illinois.

Alan's current title is Business Analyst II, and he performs a variety of project management and database development tasks for Ottawa County.

Alan has a good relationship with the four currently GIS-focused employees at Ottawa County -- including MSU GEO grad and current director Shane Pavlak -- and enjoys reminiscing about his GIS days with his supervisor Aaron Boos (evil Ohio State Buckeye and former Ottawa County GIS director before Shane), and his co-worker Dave Cook, former GIS Analyst of Watertown, NY.

Alan's GIS days may be in the past, but hey, no one knows the future. In order to

feed his love of the outdoors and increase his need for interesting maps, Alan plans to have many hiking adventures in Michigan and other places with his two boys Liam (age 4) and Tommy (age 2) once they are old enough.

Lody Zwarenstejn BA 1969, MA 1971

After retiring from my daytime job (after 42 years in charge of local health planning in West Michigan) I am the Rotary District Chair for International Youth Exchange in Western Michigan, the eastern UP and Northern Ontario. It is very rewarding to live vicariously through the dozens of exchange students we host annually from abroad and then preparing our students for international travel and study.

It is wonderful to keep up on the real changes in the world since my days in the Department in the 1960's.

GEO staff have multiple talents!



► Above: Sharon Ruggles made this quilt for her grand niece. Future Geographer??

► Below: Tamsyn Mihalus, also a quilter, made these fabric wrapped clothesline coil bowls.



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:
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Geography Building
673 Auditorium Rd Rm 116
East Lansing MI 48824

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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

Established by Harm de Blij, this fund promotes the field of Geography to students.

Michael A. Graff Dissertation Completion Award

Established by Michael Graff to provide doctoral students with additional resources for travel, data collection, materials, supplies and equipment to complete research for dissertation projects.

✂

The de Blij Geography Scholars Endowment

Established in 2013 as a scholarship to be awarded to incoming freshmen who choose to major in Geography.

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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