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**Faculty News**

*Murray Austin* is on professional development leave this semester. Based in Scotland, he is busy doing research on "Local Governance and Global Economic Change: The Case of Scotland". He has or will make conference presentations during his PDL in Israel, England, Ireland and Portugal, before returning to UNI in September.

*Roy Chung* began phased retirement last Fall, during which he is scheduled to teach World Geography during Fall semesters, with no teaching assignment during the Spring semesters. Roy’s last teaching semester will be Fall 1999.

*Bob Clark* continues to carry the main teaching responsibility for the introductory Human Geography course, while rotating his advanced courses on Cultural, Historical and Regional Geography of Iowa. The latter has a record 28 students enrolled this semester.

*Dennis Dahms* spent last Fall semester on a professional development leave, during which he conducted research in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. The project was titled "Glacial Landform Analyses Using Cosmogenic Radionuclides". He also has an NSF funded project and has been awarded a research fellowship for summer 1998 to undertake related work. In June 1999, Dennis will teach our 970:190 Field Studies course, which will include a field camp in Wyoming.

*Thomas Fogarty* is also on professional development leave this semester. His project is titled "Decisive Majorities in the Liberal Constitution". Tom spent most of January conducting field work in India. Next year, he will participate in a faculty exchange program by teaching at the Russian Pedagogical University for the Spring 1999 semester.

For the first time in many years, *Fred Fryman* taught Population Geography last semester, adding this course to his repertoire that includes Air Photo Interpretation and Thematic Cartography. Fred continues to play a major role in our introductory World Geography course with over 400 students this semester. He also continues his migration research.

*Dave May* has expanded his research program on rivers and floods to include field work in northeastern Iowa, in addition to his long-term studies in east-central Nebraska. Dave continues to teach our Senior Seminar course and serves as Graduate Coordinator for our rapidly growing M.A. program.

Administrative duties occupy much of *Phil Suckling’s* time as he is in his seventh year as Department Head. Phil taught World Geography to over 400 students last semester and recently published a paper on his solar radiation spatial coherence work. This summer, he will take advantage of a travel grant from the Canadian Embassy as he prepares for a new Canadian Studies course to be taught for the first time during Fall 1998.
Kay Weller assumed the role of coordinator for the Geographic Alliance of Iowa last May. In addition to conducting research involving geographic education topics, Kay is continuing her cultural geography studies involving all-black towns in western Kansas. In the summer, Kay will once again coordinate the GAI Summer Institute for Iowa teachers, to be held this year at Coe College in Cedar Rapids.

Searches for New Faculty Members

The Department is currently conducting searches for two new faculty members. One position will replace our GIS faculty member, who resigned in December. The second position represents a new faculty line for an economic geographer. If these searches are successful, our faculty number will rise to 11 for the Fall semester, by far the highest in the history of the program.

Janice M. Clark Memorial Scholarship

Applications from current undergraduate majors are being solicited for the Janice M. Clark Memorial Scholarship, which was established in memory of the wife of faculty member Dr. Robert E. Clark. The scholarship is awarded to majors who demonstrate excellence in the geography of rural areas, rural planning, or land use analysis. Students who are interested in applying for this year’s scholarship should obtain an application form from the departmental office. Application deadline is April 1.

Department Renovations and Equipment Purchases

The University has changed its budgetary practices considerably in the last two years, by "decentralizing" the process. This has resulted in much more monetary flexibility within the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and a substantial increase in available equipment funds. As a result and with the considerable support of the Dean, Geography has acquired new equipment including a petrographic microscope for soils, a trailer-mounted soil coring machine, global positioning systems field equipment, and other items for physical geography labs. In addition, we have refurbished the cartography lab (Sabin 23), which now doubles as a classroom for advanced courses, and we are also adding a multi-media computerized instruction system to this room. We recently ordered new furniture for the graduate students' research lab (Sabin 21) and our main classroom (Sabin 7). We also are able to continually upgrade our GIS and other computer capabilities.
New Graduate Students Since Summer '97

Ten new graduate students have joined the Department's graduate program since last summer. Total graduate enrollment currently consists of 15 students (11 full-time, 4 part-time). The new students who have enrolled since the last Newsletter are:

Mark Alexander (B.A. in Individual Studies, University of Northern Iowa, 1997) began his M.A. studies in geography during the summer 1997 semester. Mark has a strong background in information technology and interests in applying this background within physical geography. He is currently a research assistant in the Department.

Tim Beermann (B.A., University of Northern Iowa, 1997) also started his M.A. studies during the Summer 1997 semester after graduating from our Geography Major with Environmental Emphasis. Tim is teaching physical geography labs and has interests in transportation geography and GIS applications.

John Creighton (B.A., University of Northern Iowa, 1997) started the M.A. program in Fall 1997. John's interests are primarily in the human/economic geography area.

Greg Halverson (B.A., University of Northern Iowa, 1997) also began his M.A. studies last summer. A former president of our GTU chapter and Geography Club, Greg has strong interests in GIS and is applying his expertise in a part-time position with the Institute for Decision Making in UNI's College of Business.

Mike Regan (B.A., St. Cloud State University, 1996) entered the M.A. program in the Fall of 1997 with interests in physical geography. Mike is also teaching physical geography labs for the Department.

Rhonda Shaw (B.S.E., Northeast Missouri State University, 1982) started part-time M.A. studies last summer with a focus on geographic education. Rhonda is a full-time teacher at South Tama County Middle School in Toledo, IA.

Chris Simenson (B.A., University of Illinois at Chicago 1973) started M.A. studies on a part-time basis this January 1998, with an emphasis on economic geography. Chris has worked for John Deere for many years.

Alan Summers (B.S., Iowa State University, 1995) joined our program in August 1997. Currently a research assistant in the Department, Alan has interests in historical and cultural geography.

Mike Voss (B.S., University of Wisconsin - River Falls, 1996) entered our program Fall 1997, with interests in physical geography. He is also a teaching assistant for our physical geography labs.

Scott Zlotnik (B.S. in Urban Forestry, University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, 1992) began part-time studies in our program last Fall. Scott works as a forest technician for the City of Waterloo. In the M.A. program, his studies will focus on environmental/physical geography.
Alumni Album

Brent Allumbaugh (B.A. 1995) is doing substitute teaching in Ames while his wife completes graduate school at Iowa State University.

Mike Applegarth (M.A. 1997) entered the Ph.D. program in the Department of Geography at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ beginning with the Fall 1997 semester after completing his M.A. thesis at UNI last summer. Mike will be focusing his ASU studies on physical geography, while holding a prestigious University-wide fellowship and scholarship.

Brent Heinen (B.A. 1997) works for Space Imaging, EOSAT in Denver, Colorado. Brent is a graduate of our Environmental Emphasis and is utilizing his considerable GIS technical skills in his new career.

Steve Long (B.A. 1998) works for the city government in Iowa City in the Department of Planning and Community Development. Steve moved to this position about four years ago after working for a number of years in Chicago.

Sara Mace (B.A. 1997) is enrolled in the M.A. program in geography at the University of Alabama, where she is a lab instructor for their introductory physical geography course.

Steve Megivern (B.A. 1979) lives in Ankeny, IA where he is employed with Geotechnical Services, Inc. as Senior Geotechnical Engineer.

Brad Neumann (B.A. 1988) works in Iowa City, where he is Coordinator of Solid Waste Planning for the Johnson County Council of Governments.

Jason Storey (B.A. 1995) is a GIS Technician for Cooperative Services, Inc. located in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is also teaching GIS Map Production on a part-time basis for the local community college.

In future issues of the Newsletter, we will continue to include information about UNI's geography alumni. Please send your news items to:

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Department of Geography
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Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0406.
E-mail: suckling@uni.edu Fax: 319-273-7103

Recent Geography B.A. Graduates

Spring '97: Tim Beermann
Jennifer Graham
Joshua Hagen
Greg Halverson
Brett Kainz
Sara Mace
Melissa Miller
Carrie Schlichtmann
Kiann Van Denover

Summer '97: Brent Heinen

Mary Meador

Fall '97: Lisa Garlich
Matthew Wiese

Recent Geography M.A. Graduate

Michael Applegarth graduated during the Summer 1997 semester after completing a thesis titled "Soil Catenas of Calcareous Tills, Whiskey Basin, Wyoming". Dennis Dahms was his thesis advisor.
Outstanding Geography Alumnus Award for 1998

Three years ago, the faculty established the Outstanding Geography Alumnus Award to be presented annually to a distinguished alumnus. Previous awards have gone to: Don Peterson (B.A. 1965; M.A. 1975) in 1995, Bill Blake (B.A. 1963; M.A. 1969) in 1996 and J. Mark Linda (B.A. 1974; M.A. 1978) in 1997.

The Department is pleased to announce that the Fourth Annual Outstanding Geography Alumnus Award will be presented at this year’s 18th Annual Geography Awards Banquet to John G. Lavender Jr. Mr. Lavender is a 1972 graduate of our M.A. program. Subsequently, he worked for the City of Waterloo as Associate Director of Research and Planning for the Human Rights Commission (1972-73), Assistant City Planning Director (1973-76) and Municipal Geographer for the Engineering Department (1976-79). In 1979, he moved to the Minneapolis area where he joined Supervalu Inc. as a Market Analyst. He currently holds the position of Senior Market Analyst. John has conducted market analyses for his firm throughout the United States and also in Canada, Australia and Saudi Arabia.

John and his family currently live in Eden Prairie, MN on the southwest edge of the Minneapolis metropolitan region. John will be in attendance at this year’s banquet to accept his award and make a few remarks highlighting the importance of his geography training as it relates to his career.

INVITATION

Spring Awards Banquet:
Friday, April 17, 1998

The Eighteenth Annual Geography Awards Banquet will be held during the evening of Friday, April 17, 1998 at Celebrations, 3555 University Avenue, Waterloo. In addition to our traditional student honors, the fourth annual Outstanding Geography Alumnus Award will be presented. All students, faculty, staff and alumni are strongly encouraged to attend this gala event. This year, Gamma Theta Upsilon/Geography Club will provide a $5 subsidy towards the cost of the dinner for current geography students. For further information about the banquet, contact Sandra Heller in the department office at 319-273-2772. [e-mail to: sandra.heller@uni.edu]