Greetings from the Chair
by Scott Freundschuh

Hello from the great white north! Winter has arrived in Duluth, blanketing our landscape with sub-zero H₂O (a.k.a., snow). I’ve already had my new Titanium Völk’s on the slopes! This is certainly a nice change from recent winters when “good” snow wasn’t on the ground until January. Just another casualty of global warming, I guess.

It has been a busy year so far in the Department. We added another faculty member to our department. Adam Pine joined us this fall from Rutgers University, and is teaching courses in urban and regional geography and planning. Pat Farrell returned from her sabbatical and was busy teaching courses in soils and in weather and climate. Olaf Kulhke was reviewed for promotion and tenure, and received a very favorable nod from the department. We will know by the end of spring 2008 the result of that review process. Seven of our alumni visited the department during National Geography Awareness Week. They gave presentations to geography, ES and URS majors about their career paths, and offered a wealth of sage advice about what’s important to focus on as students pursue their bachelor degrees at UMD. As you can see, we have not been idle.

Our programs continue to grow, with our numbers of majors reaching all time highs. This past year, our number of majors in geography reached 70, and in environmental studies (ES) they reached 157. This is phenomenal growth considering that 6 years ago we had only 23 geography majors and 95 ES majors! We are working on growing the urban regional studies (URS) program, which once had over 50 majors, but has declined significantly over the past 10 years. With a bit of attention and effort, that number should rise as well.

Faculty members in the department remain active in both teaching and research—a good sign of a healthy department. The following faculty bios share a bit about the courses that each of us teaches, and about our areas of research interest.

Sutapa Chattopadhyay, Assistant Professor teaches courses in economic geography, geographies of development, and in South Asia. Her research interests focus on the discourses of household dynamics in India, exploring various factors such as development, gender, space, scale and immigration. (schattop@d.umn.edu)

Pat Farrell, Associate Professor teaches courses in physical geography, weather and climate, environmental conservation, the geography of soils and in Latin America. Her research interests are in soils and archeology. (pfarrell@d.umn.edu)

Scott Freundschuh, Associate Professor and Chair teaches courses in the Geographic Information Sciences (GIScience) program. He is the director of the ES program, as well as director of the URS program and the Center for Community and Regional Research. He conducts research in GIScience and spatial cognition. (sfreunds@d.umn.edu)

Susan Hartley, Instructor teaches a variety of courses in geography and environmental studies, including human in our environmental studies program. It looks like Andy will remain a fixture in the ES program at UMD for some time to come. (aklemer@d.umn.edu)

Larry Knopp, Professor is currently Associate Dean of the graduate school. He teaches courses in geographic thought, political geography and gender, space and culture. His research continues in the geographic aspects of gender, sexuality, race, class and “nation”. (lkopp@d.umn.edu)

Olaf Kulhke, Assistant Professor teaches courses in human geography, urban ecology, field techniques and in the GISciences program. Olaf’s research interests reside in spatial expressions of nationalism in Germany, as well as the meaning of the organization of spaces created by the Freemasons. (okuhlke@d.umn.edu)

Gordon Levine, Professor Emeritus is happily retired and is enjoying his travels to China, to the Southwestern region of the United States, and spending oodles of time with his three grandchildren. (glevine@d.umn.edu)

Mike Mageau, Assistant Professor teaches in the ES program, and is the director of the Center for Sustainable Community Development. His research interests include various renewable energy technologies, economic feasibility and community implementation. He teaches ecological economics, ecosystems as well as the introductory ES course and the ES senior seminar. (mmageau@d.umn.edu)

Adam Pine, Assistant Professor teaches courses in the Urban and Regional Studies program, which include introduction to urban and regional studies, urban geography, geography and planning, world regional geography, and the geography of US and Canada. (apine@d.umn.edu)
Faculty in the Geography Department continued

Stacey Stark, Director of the Geographic Information Sciences Laboratory is working on a variety of funded GIS projects, including Wind Resource Mapping for the North Shore; an Accessibility Study for Region 25 Pharmacies; and Identification of Historic Water Features for Mn/Model, the Mn/DOT Archaeological Site Prediction Model. Stacey also teaches courses in the GISciences program. (slstark@d.umn.edu)

Geographers in Print: Recent Publications


Geography Awareness Week

Most people have a very outdated image of geography. Recently, a non-geography member of the National Academy of Sciences suggestively asked, “since we now either know where everything is or have the technical capability of finding out where things are, then why do we need geography?”

This query reflects a common misconception — that geography is just the study of “what” is “where;” that is, that geography consists of the “lakes, bays, highest mountains, and largest cities” type of knowledge. Such may have been the case 60 years and more ago. But geography has changed from a “declarative” (or fact finding) discipline to an intellectual one dedicated to exploring spatial science.

Over the past 60 years, geography has developed a set of explicitly spatial theories of location, distribution, interaction, and processes and has invented a unique set of methods of spatial analysis and innovative multi-modal representational forms. The discipline uses place-based reasoning to solve a variety of problems relating to human-environment relations. The result is that today we find geographers doing many “unexpected” things.

This year the Department of Geography’s theme for Geography Awareness Week (GAW) was I didn’t know geographers did that! Each day of GAW, the department highlighted for the campus a modern-day geographer, including how geography is used everyday in their career. For example, one day we showcased the work of Dr. Sonia Arbona, who is an epidemiologist that creates predictive models of HIV/AIDS transmission areas for major metropolitan areas. Her work is an excellent example of the work being done in Medical Geography. Medical geography examines the geographic distribution of disease and provision of health services. Using geographic information systems, this work helps to plan for future medical needs in various regions based on demographic data such as age, lifestyle and current health statistics. For example, medical facilities in Northern Minnesota are using this type of analysis to predict the health care needs on the Iron Range in 2025, nearly 20 years from now.

The geography department also focused on careers. We hosted a forum on careers in which 7 of our current UMD geography alumni talked about their current jobs and about their career paths. They offered advice on what our current students can do to better prepare themselves for “life after graduation.”

Department of Geography

University of Minnesota Duluth

Tongxin Zhu, Associate Professor teaches courses in physical geography, hydrology and the environmental applications of GIS. His research interests are primarily in hydrology and surface and sub-surface erosion. (tzhu@d.umn.edu)

by Scott Freundschuh
A sabbatical is one of the most precious privileges granted an academic. The “sabbatical year” was a year during which land was fallow, observed every seven years by the ancient Jews. In contemporary academic life, a sabbatical is a paid leave granted for travel, research and rest, available to faculty every seven years. Just as a fallow field is not simply resting, a professor on sabbatical is not simply idle. I cannot tell you how many times people asked me if I was enjoying my “year off” and I would explain that, although I was not teaching, a lot was happening in this fallow field. Of rest, travel and research, I did all three and my sabbatical was a very rewarding one.

The driving force behind my getting into academia was a love for teaching. In order to rekindle the inspiration that brought me to teaching in the first place, I participated in a year long seminar/retreat series called the Courage to Teach, administered by Hamline University. The program is based on Parker Palmer’s book of the same title. I met with a core group of teachers, from elementary to university, for five weekend-long retreats throughout the year. This was a truly enlightening and renewing experience.

My research focus in soils and archaeology brought me closer to home than the Maya region where most of my work has been. I worked on two field projects in western Minnesota and North Dakota, examining soils and sediments in the Red River Valley, looking for signs of deeply buried archaeological sites. A second soil/archaeology project that I worked on this year is sponsored by a grant from the Center for Transportation Studies. In this project, Stacey Stark of the GIS lab at UMD, Sue Mulholland of the Duluth Archaeology Center, and I are incorporating past hydrology into a GIS Archaeological predictive model for the state of Minnesota. The most critical data set for the model proved to be the SSURGO soils data and our final product is about to be delivered.

Perhaps the most exciting part of my sabbatical was spending three months in Asia. On my way to Sri Lanka, I traveled through Micronesia (the islands of Yap and Palau), Japan, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and the Maldives. It was truly a life-changing and deep learning experience. In Sri Lanka, I spent four weeks working with a team of three Sri Lankan geographers and a colleague from the University of Otago in New Zealand. After four weeks of deliberating and visiting villages and sites in the country, we decided upon a research study that compares two villages: one that has used the traditional “tank” system of irrigation for rice paddy and one that is part of an enormous development scheme called the Mahaweli Project, that includes an extensive system of dams and reservoirs to irrigate rice paddies in the dry zone. We are currently writing a joint proposal and seeking funding for an extended research venture.

Finally, I took a three week camping road trip with “dog as my co-pilot” to see the geologic and edaphic wonders of the American southwest, “must-sees” for a physical geographer. I visited the Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Ship Rock, the site of Glacial Lake Missoula, Mikoshika State Park, Sunset Crater and Humphreys Peak. I was genuinely moved by these places and look forward to spending more time there in the future. [Note: the photo is of me with one of the many friends I made in Vietnam.]
Students had a Great Time in Field Techniques in 2007

In April and September, the GEOG 5612 Field Techniques course again went on their mandatory field trip to Ely. For the last three years, I have been taking the course to a small resort at Bear Island Lake, where we typically stay for four or five days. In 2005 and 2006, the course did a lot of exploring of the natural environments around Ely, and learned such valuable techniques as water quality testing, stream profiling, water clarity testing with Secchi disks, and soil analysis.

For 2007, the course was redesigned to focus on student-centered projects. Course participants designed their own research projects to conduct in Ely, and the fieldtrip served to gather data for their projects. Overall, five projects were designed and carried through that examined such topics as the economic and environmental impact of proposed mining projects at Birch Lake near Babbitt, the wildfire preparedness of the town of Ely, the seasonality of its tourist economy, and the wilderness tourism in the area and the sustainability of lake shore residential development at Burntside Lake.

The student’s have been extremely dedicated to their projects, from field observations and data collection in Ely, to the analysis of their results. This year, the data collected in Ely resulted in excellent papers that will be edited by a group of student volunteers, who will work with the original student authors to get their papers in shape for submitting them for publication in the Geographical Bulletin, or in possible book entitled Northland Geographies: Nature, Culture and Society in Ely, MN. Thanks to all the students for their hard work, and the fun weeks in Ely!!!

Congratulations to our Graduates in 2006 - 2007

Sarah Arlt, Geography and Environmental Studies
Brian Bossmann, Geography
Jeffrey Carlson, Geography
William Daly, Environmental Studies
Sean Dobie, Environmental Studies
Samantha Dwinnell, Environmental Studies
Lee Engel, Environmental Studies
Jeremy Gaiser, Environmental Studies
Adam Griebie, Environmental Studies
Jessica Harding, Environmental Studies
Paul Holtan, Environmental Studies
Paul Hood, Geography
Laura Irving, Environmental Studies
Nathan Johnson, Environmental Studies
Daniel Kemper, Environmental Studies
Casey Kichak, Environmental Studies
Kyle Knutson, Urban and Regional Studies
Noah Kroening, Environmental Studies
Nicholas Logelin, Environmental Studies
Amanda Paulson, Environmental Studies
Todd Pierson, Urban and Regional Studies
Joshua Pust, Geography
Catherine Rackliffe, Geography
Alicia Ramirez, Geography
Michelle Ransom, Geography
Christopher Sandgren, Geography
Ryan Schunk, Environmental Studies
Andy Scribbins, Geography
Evan Siocum, Geography and Environmental Studies
Luke Stewart, Environmental Studies
William Suoja, Environmental Studies
Jonathan Tupper, Environmental Studies
Melissa Wenker, Environmental Studies
Heather Wilson, Environmental Studies
Michael Yrjo, Environmental Studies

Welcome New Majors in 2007

Daniel Aho, Urban and Regional Studies
Alyssa Aline, Environmental Studies
Janna Anderson, Environmental Studies
Jeffrey Anderson, Environmental Studies
Kelly Berg, Environmental Studies
Joel Bischoff, Geography
Kyle Bowles, Geography and Urban and Regional Studies
Michael Burg, Environmental Studies
Sean Burns, Environmental Studies
Keith Butler, Geography
Emily Carlson, Geography
Kaylie Carlson, Environmental Studies
Zachary Cusick, Environmental Studies
Rachel Dahl, Geography
Tyler Dahleheimer, Geography
Christopher Deetz, Geography
Erika Dumbreck, Environmental Studies
Jonathan Ebnet, Environmental Studies
Emily Ender, Geography
Levi Ender, Environmental Studies
Drew Faherty, Environmental Studies
Matthew Farleo, Environmental Studies
Kaitlin Ferdelman, Environmental Studies
Samantha Follis, Geography
Jonathan Franklin, Environmental Studies
Tyler Freeman, Geography
Ryan Halpern, Geography and Urban and Regional Studies
Erik Haugen, Geography
Justin Gramenz, Environmental Studies
Zachary Granata, Environmental Studies
Alexander Hard, Urban and Regional Studies
Lucas Harju, Urban and Regional Studies
Brian Heaton, Environmental Studies
Joy Hepokoski, Environmental Studies
Neil Hess, Environmental Studies
Brian Hildahl, Environmental Studies
Benjamin Hines, Environmental Studies
Jessie Horning, Environmental Studies
Ryan Huggett, Environmental Studies
Jodi Jabas, Environmental Studies
Jeffrey Kapala, Urban and Regional Studies
Cheryl Kaplan, Environmental Studies
Ben Kissinger, Environmental Studies
Brittany Kubricky, Environmental Studies
Chad Lefevere, Environmental Studies
Amanda Lowe, Environmental Studies
Andrew Lundgren, Geography and Environmental Studies
Kenneth Maciej, Environmental Studies
Dylan McGaheran, Urban and Regional Studies
Andrew Mertens, Environmental Studies
Jonathon Morales, Environmental Studies
Cassandra Nagle, Environmental Studies
Alexander Nelson, Environmental Studies
Benjamin Nicklay, Environmental Studies
Eric Norton, Environmental Studies
James Peterson, Environmental Studies
Baylor Radtke, Environmental Studies
Elizabeth Radunz, Environmental Studies
Nicole Rath, Environmental Studies
Simone Skrabka, Environmental Studies
Brandon Smith, Environmental Studies
Hilari Sorensen, Environmental Studies
Nicholas Swanson, Urban and Regional Studies
Jakob Thiry, Environmental Studies
Nicole Vander Heiden, Geography
Matthew Walczak, Urban and Regional Studies
Jessica Welch, Environmental Studies
Scott Wishart, Environmental Studies
**Awards and Scholarships**

*James Matthew McLees* was the 2007 recipient of the Matti Kaups Scholarship Award. Jim will graduate in the spring 2008 with a BA in geography and a minor in environmental studies. Having interned with the Minnesota USDA Farm Service Agency last summer, Jim will return to the USDA this coming summer under the supervision of Jeff Bloomquist (UMD alum). Jim hopes to gain more practical experience in GIS at the USDA, and then continue on with graduate school in GIScience.

*Eva Douma* was the 2007 recipient of the Emma Goldman Scholarship. This scholarship was established at UMD in 2006, and Eva is the first ever recipient. Eva will also graduate in the spring of 2008 with a BA in geography and a minor in environmental studies.

---

**Alumni News:**

*Bruce R. Anderson* (1979 graduate in Geography): For the last 20 years I have been employed with St. Louis Co. as a Land Survey Technician II. I'm married and have one daughter, who is currently a Junior at Eveleth-Gilbert High School.

*Halvard A. Berg* (1967 graduate in geography and political science): M.A. in Geography from Kansas State University, I worked for 34 years with a Norwegian Shipping Company. I retired early (in 2004), and began a consulting company that offers services to transportation and logistics companies.

*Bernard Cousineau* (1961 graduate in geography): I was a geography teacher from 1961 to 1998 (Grades 9 to 13), teaching in Hermantown from 1961 to 1967. My wife Barbara is a retired school-teacher. We have a cabin on Rainy Lake, which is accessible by road and we spend a fair amount of time there both winter and summer.

*Ellen Hale* (1964 graduate in geography): After UMD, I went on to do graduate work in geography at Northwestern University, taught for 5 years at Johnson High School in St. Paul, earned a 2nd Masters degree in Library Science from the Twin Cities campus, after which I moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin to have the majority of my career at Lombardi Junior High. Now I've retired, moved to Rochester, MN where I'm enjoying 3 grandchildren and taking 2 or 3 trips abroad every year. My geographic satisfaction has brought me a lifetime of satisfaction.

*Robert O. Harder* (1966 graduate in geography and political science): I capped a long retailing career as a vice president of Montgomery Ward & Co., Chicago. Since then he has been involved in real estate investment and management and is pursuing a writing career. My wife Dee Dee and I live in Chicago and have a summer cabin on Big Sandy Lake in Minnesota.

*Suzanne Harnish* (1993 graduate in geography): After living in Jamaica for four years, I returned to Duluth to get my paralegal certificate from Lake Superior College. I love my new career, in an organization that provides free legal services to indigent people in St. Louis & Carlton counties.

*Maura J. Hawkins* (1980 graduate in geography): After UMD, I went on to graduate school at Western Illinois University graduating in 1985. I then worked for the State of Massachusetts as an environmental scientist in air pollution control. I worked my way up through the State system until 1991 when I left to join an environmental engineering firm. In 1995, I started my own environmental consulting firm and have been developing that company since. In school I was often worried about being a “generalist”, but it turns out that having a global view of things and a systems approach is a valuable viewpoint. Geography is where it’s at.

*Stephanie Kessler* (1992 graduate in geography): My husband and I have two children, a boy William 5 and a girl Sarah 3. I am the chair of the Itasca County Water Plan Implementation Committee & President of my lake association. So I get to use my geography education all the time - its great!

*Brian Kough* (1988 graduate in geography): I'm married and living in Tampa, FL (Valrico, FL actually). It's an interesting twin city with St. Petersburg and has a fascinating sub tropical climate complete with regular hurricanes in the summer months and mild winters. The physical and economic geography is pretty unique too. I recently completed my masters of arts degree in business and used some of my old cartographic and geographic skills. I'm currently a Marine Officer stationed at MacDill Air Force Base working at U.S. Central Command.

*Lori Wilson* (1995 graduate in geography): I have worked for the Prince William County, Virginia Office of Information Technology, GIS Division as a Geographic Information System Analyst for 17 years now. Many things have changed since handmade maps in the early 1980’s to the high tech computers of today and great software.

*Addie (Mercer) Zannes* (1999 graduate in geography): After completing a Masters degree in GIS from the University of New South Wales in Sydney in 2001, I began work as a GIS Analyst for the state department of transportation. In 2005 I was married and my husband and I moved north to Brisbane in Queensland. Now I am a GIS Analyst for the state Fire and Rescue Service. I credit my first spark of interest in GIS to Scott
How can Alumni support UMD Geography?

by Scott Freundschuh

You Make Us Great
UMD geography has a strong reputation as one of the best undergraduate geography programs in the Midwest. Your tax-deductible gift provides our students with encouragement and financial support. It gives our faculty the resources to increase our knowledge of geography. It helps to maintain a distinguished reputation for the department.

What Your Gift Can Do
Your generous support for the Department of Geography is more critical than ever. It helps us to recognize the very best students in our programs by providing scholarships. It also provides critical funding to our programs at a time of decreasing funding from the state. Your support enables us to attract the very best students at UMD.

Choose a Fund
To continue to recognize our very best students, and to support our academic programs, we need your support. We have several funds that may interest you:

**NEW IN 2007** The Carlson/Amys Family Scholarship was established in 2007. It is a scholarship that encourages incoming freshman with aspirations in geography, environmental studies, urban and regional studies, or in business, to attend UMD. This scholarship rotates every other year between the College of Liberal Arts and the Labovitz School of Business and Economics. In 2008-2009, this one-year scholarship will be awarded to an incoming geography, environmental studies or urban and regional studies major. We are grateful to Jeff and Roberta Carlson (Jeff is geography alum, 2007!!) and the Amys families for their incredible generosity and support of the Geography Department.

* The Matti Kaups Scholarship is an academic scholarship given annually to the geography major, who is entering his/her senior year, and who has the strongest academic record in Geography;
* The Emma Goldman Scholarship is given annually to the female student whose achievements embody the feminist ethics, values and accomplishments of Emma Goldman;
* The Geography General Fund supports the special needs of the department that directly supports student learning and achievement. The department is working to develop this fund for class field trip expenses.

To explore options for giving to Geography at UMD, please contact Scott Freundschuh at sfreunds@d.umn.edu or (218) 726-6226, or contact our Development Officer Maryann Soleim (msoleim@d.umn.edu) toll free 1-866-726-7110, or go online at www.d.umn.edu/development/waystogive.html.

We Want to Hear from You!
To keep our current mailing list for future issues of the Department of Geography’s Newsletter, we would appreciate your completing the following:

Name________________________________________Year of Graduation_________

Mailing Address_________________________________________________________

City________________________State__________Zip________________________

Email Address__________________________________________________________

News about you that we may print in the next newsletter?

_______________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________

Thank you for your support!
Please return this form to Geography Department Alumni, University of Minnesota Duluth, 329 Cina Hall, 1123 University Drive, Duluth, MN 55812, or email your news to geog@d.umn.edu.