

Spring 1996

Geography Newsletter, Spring 1996

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY NEWSLETTER

Spring 1996

Issue No. 2

Editor: Dr. Philip W. Suckling, Professor and Head

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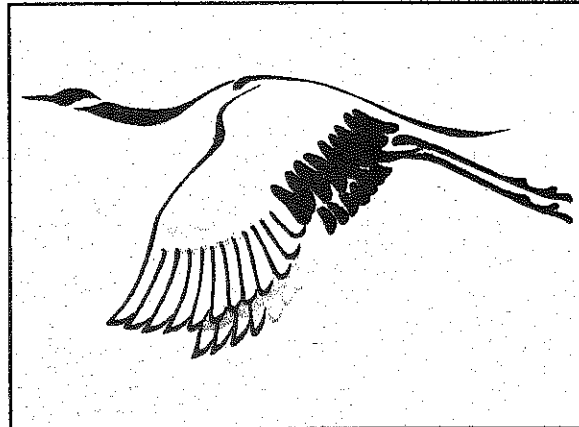
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New Geography Major With Environmental Emphasis

Beginning with the Fall 1996 semester, the Department will offer a new special emphasis major in addition to our current liberal arts and teaching majors. A Geography Major with Environmental Emphasis will require 40 credit hours of course work, compared to the 37 credit hours required in the general liberal arts and secondary-school teaching majors. The environmental program will have the same 13 credit hour geography core plus 3 credit hour statistics requirement that exists in the general major. However, the balance of the course work is more prescribed with 15 credit hours in a physical environment/techniques group, 6 credit hours in a human/environment interaction category and a 3 credit hour (1 course) advanced geography elective. Required courses in the new emphasis include Dr. May's Environmental Change course introduced in 1992, and a new course titled Environmental Geography, which is being developed by Dr. Dahms for implementation this fall.

Revisions for the Program Certificate in Cartography and GIS

With the arrival of Dr. McGregor as a specialist in geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing (see article on page 3), the Department is able to expand the availability of our technical courses. As a result, the Program Certificate in Cartography and GIS is being revised to reflect a greater concentration of courses specifically on these expanding geographic techniques.



Visiting Faculty Member Spring 1996: Dr. Tunde Agbola

During the current semester, we are pleased to be hosting a visiting faculty member: Dr. Samuel Babatunde Agbola. Dr. Agbola is a Professor at the Centre for Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. For the last few years, he has been actively involved in a joint project involving Iowa and Nigerian universities funded by the University Development Linkage Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development. UNI faculty members from geography and political science have been involved in this project including Dr. Thomas Fogarty of our department. Tom is mainly responsible for arranging for Tunde's visit.

Dr. Agbola is teaching two sections of the general education non-western cultures course on Africa as well as an advanced experimental geography course titled Urbanization in Developing Countries. Those of you planning to attend the annual spring banquet (see article on page 6) will have the opportunity to hear Tunde speak about his homeland.

New Faculty Members to Join the Department in the Fall of 1996

In last year's newsletter, it was noted that the Department had hired a new faculty member with specialization in geographic information systems (GIS). Due to an unfortunate personal situation, she had to withdraw her acceptance. Therefore, we reopened the GIS search this year. In addition, the Department obtained a new faculty line for a specialist in the area of geographic education. The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences is seeking three new faculty members with expertise in social science teacher education: assistant professors in each of geography and history, and a third senior-rank professor. A geographer is under serious consideration for the latter position. Therefore, faculty strength will rise from the current 8 members to either 10 or 11 by the Fall semester of 1996!

Dr. Stephen J. McGregor: Currently an Assistant Professor of Geography at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Dr. Stephen McGregor will join our faculty in the fall. He is a Major in the U.S. Army and will be retiring this spring after twenty years of military service. Steve's main teaching responsibility in our program will involve the introductory and advanced GIS courses. He will also introduce a new Remote Sensing of the Environment course in the spring of 1997. Having graduated in 1995 with a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. McGregor brings a wealth of technical and field experience as well as almost five years of college-level teaching experience to his new position. Steve has already established himself as

a productive scholar with several journal publications and scientific conference presentations to his credit. We already have him heavily involved (via e-mail) in planning the acquisition of computers and GIS software for the College's newest computer lab to be housed in Sabin 223.

Dr. Kay E. Weller: After serving for three years as an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Northern Colorado, Dr. Kay Weller will join our ranks in the fall as a specialist in the area of teacher education. Kay worked as a school teacher and in the retail trade for several years prior to obtaining two graduate degrees from Kansas State University: an M.A. (1990) in Geography and a Ph.D. (1993) in Curriculum and Instruction. Her teaching responsibilities will include the Teaching of the Social Studies methods course which is required of all secondary teacher education majors in the College, as well as introductory and advanced geography courses geared toward prospective teaching majors. Kay will advise geography and social science teaching majors and will undertake a prominent leadership position within the Geographic Alliance of Iowa, which is housed in our department. Dr. Weller has published several journal articles and presented many conference papers on education and cultural geography topics.



Edna L. Padovan Geography Endowment Fund

In December of 1994, Miss Edna L. Padovan of Centerville, Iowa executed a Memorandum of Understanding creating the Edna L. Padovan Geography Endowment Fund within the University of Northern Iowa Foundation. After her passing, income from this gift will be used in two separate funds: 60% for the Edna L. Padovan Geography Scholarship Fund sufficient to award up to six half-tuition scholarships per year (at least three of which are to be awarded to Geography-Teaching majors); and 40% for the Edna L. Padovan Geography Education Fund to be used to support teacher workshops, faculty outreach, lecture series, student field trips and travel, and other programs to enhance geographic education. Like many of us, Miss Padovan shares our concern about the geographic illiteracy among Iowans, especially our younger citizens. When fully implemented, the Department will endeavor to ensure that Miss Padovan's generous endowment is wisely used to further geographic literacy at UNI and throughout Iowa.

Thematic Atlas of Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa 1990-1994

A new atlas edited by Dr. Fryman is available from the departmental office. Titled *Thematic Atlas of Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa 1990-1994*, topics include a variety of population, economic, political and social issues. Copies are available for \$6.27 each, including printing costs, shipping and tax. Make checks payable to the Department of Geography, UNI.

Recent Geography Graduates

Fall '95: *Genevieve Burk* (B.A.)
Aimee Erne (B.A.)
Antony Thompson (B.A.)
 Summer '95: *Sa'ed Abu-Hijleh* (M.A.)
Todd Carter (B.A.)
 Spring '95: *Julie Ahrens* (B.A.)
Brent Allumbaugh (B.A.)
Joel Bennett (B.A.)
Rose Estes (M.A.)
Renee Genung (B.A.)
Ezana Habte-Gabr (M.A.)
Brian Plagge (B.A.)
Jason Storey (B.A.)
 Fall '94: *Shelley Manning* (B.A.)
Daniel Post (B.A.)
Jeffery Rossate (B.A.)
 Summer '94: *Michael Buhr* (B.A.)
 Spring 94: *Angela Barickman* (B.A.)
Bryan Blaha (M.A.)
Deanna Blaha (B.A.)
Eric Boysen (B.A.)
Trent Steffy (B.A.)

Janice M. Clark Memorial Scholarship

In 1978, the Janice M. Clark Memorial Scholarship 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. Recent winners of this \$400 award have been:

1995: no awardee

1994: Joel Bennett

1993: Shannon Reisinger

Current students interested in applying for this scholarship should obtain an application form from the departmental office immediately. Deadline is April 1.

Alumni Album

Sa'ed Abu-Hijleh (M.A. 1995) has returned to the West Bank and is now affiliated with the Palestinian transitional government's Ministry of Education.

Thabit Abu-Rass (M.A. 1992) is working on his Ph.D. degree at the University of Arizona, emphasizing political geography. Currently he is conducting field work in Israel. Last year, he received a Tucson Citizen Award for community services.

Brent Allumbaugh (B.A. 1995) is living in Ames, Iowa working as a substitute high school teacher while his wife completes her studies at Iowa State University.

Joel Bennett (B.A. 1995) is teaching a variety of social studies courses including geography and coaching several sports at Carroll High School in western Iowa.

Bryan Blaha (M.A. 1994) and *Dee Blaha* (B.A. 1994) live in the community of Ottertail, Minnesota where they are owner/operators of a car dealership.

Roger Eisentrager (B.A. 1992) worked for a pharmaceutical company in Kansas City upon graduation until returning to Iowa in 1994. He handles database management for McNerney-Heintz Incorporated, a company in Des Moines that specializes in clinical management systems.

Richard Harberts (B.A. 1992) lives in Hattiesburg, Mississippi where he is a GIS operator in the environmental section for the Mississippi Army Reserve National Guard at Camp Shelby. He and his wife hope to return to Iowa in the near future.

J. Mark Linda (B.A. 1974; M.A. 1978) has been working for the Black Hawk County Department of Health for several years in the field of environmental health.

Shelley Manning (B.A. 1994) is teaching high school geography in Ankeny, Iowa. She has recently been accepted into our M.A. program as a part-time student.

Shannon Reisinger (B.A. 1993) is a teacher at the Basics and Beyond Alternative High School, which is part of the Newton Campus of Des Moines Area Community College.

Jeff Sloan (B.A. 1985) has been located in Denver, Colorado since 1988 where he works as a GIS specialist with the U.S. Geological Survey's National Mapping Division. Jeff is also taking graduate courses at the University of Denver.

Kirk Stufflebeam (B.A. 1989; M.A. 1992) lives in Waterloo, where he is employed by GMAC. Kirk also works as an adjunct instructor for our Department teaching evening sections of either Physical or World Geography.

David Van Dee (B.A. 1983) has been a planner for the City of Waterloo for several years. He routinely participates in Dr. Austin's Planning course providing projects and acting on the judging panel for the students' final presentations.

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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E-mail: SUCKLING@UNI.EDU Fax: 319-273-7103

Outstanding Geography Alumnus Awards for 1995 and 1996

Last year, the Department established the *Outstanding Geography Alumnus Award* to be presented to a distinguished alumnus, as selected by the faculty.

At the Fifteenth Annual Geography Awards Banquet held on April 28, 1995, **Mr. Donald D. Peterson** was presented with the first of these annual awards. Don received his B.A. from our institution in 1965 with a major in junior high school education, and then completed the M.A. degree in geography in 1975. He has been a teacher at Marshalltown Senior High School for many years. A very active member of the Geographic Alliance of Iowa (GAI) since its inception in 1990, Don is a member of the GAI Steering Committee and one of our four original Teacher Consultants (TC's) trained at the National Geographic Society summer institute of 1991 held in Washington, DC. In 1994, Mr. Peterson was selected as the Iowa Secondary Social Studies Teacher of the Year and subsequently named one of only two national recipients of the 1995 Secondary Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award presented by the National Council for the Social Studies. In his comments upon receipt of the *Outstanding Geography Alumnus Award*, Don noted his debt of gratitude to the department and its professors for the geographic training he had received as a student, and the continuing years of contact and support he has enjoyed.

The Department is pleased to announce that the Second Annual *Outstanding Geography Alumnus Award* will be

presented at this year's banquet to **Mr. William E. Blake**. Bill is a 1963 graduate of our institution with a B.A. degree also in junior high school education. In 1969, he was the recipient of the first M.A. degree awarded in Geography at UNI. Stretching over many years, Bill has had a very distinguished career in education both as a classroom teacher and in administrative roles with the Waterloo school district. Throughout the years, he has maintained a strong relationship with UNI as indicated by his service as an adjunct instructor in geography, and more recently as field supervisor for UNI student teachers in Waterloo schools. Given his intention to retire this year, it is indeed appropriate for the Department to honor Bill as a very outstanding alumnus.

INVITATION

**Spring Awards Banquet:
Friday, April 19, 1996**

The Sixteenth Annual Geography Awards Banquet will be held on Friday, April 19, 1996 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Olde Broom Factory restaurant at 110 N. Main Street, Cedar Falls. The guest speaker will be Dr. Tunde Agbola of Ibadan, Nigeria. In addition to traditional student honors, the second annual *Outstanding Geography Alumnus Award* will be presented. All students, faculty, staff and alumni are strongly encouraged to attend this gala event. For further information, contact Sandra Heller at 319-273-2772.