

Spring 1999

## Geography Newsletter, Spring 1999

University of Northern Iowa. Department of Geography.

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*Geography Newsletter*. 13.

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**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

# **DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY NEWSLETTER**

**Spring 1999**

**Issue No. 5**

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

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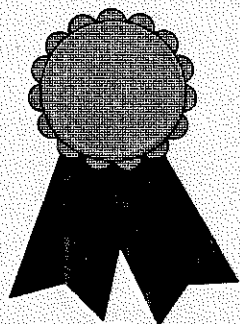
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## Faculty News

*Murray Austin* continues to spend his summers in Scotland. During the academic year, he remains responsible for a wide range of advanced human geography courses. With the hiring of our new economic geographer, Murray will be able to offer his urban, planning and Europe courses on a more routine basis, while continuing to teach the senior seminar and graduate program core courses. Murray recently published a paper, co-authored with former public policy student Mukesh Kumar, titled "Sovereignty in the Global Economy: An Evolving Geopolitical Concept" which appeared in the journal *Geography Research Forum*.

*Jeremy Brigham* is a Visiting Assistant Professor for the current 1998-1999 academic year. After a two decade career in the ministry, Jeremy completed his Ph.D. at the University of Iowa in 1998. Jeremy's teaching duties have included introductory human and world geography, plus the advanced political geography course, while Tom Fogarty is in Russia.

*Roy Chung* has been keeping busy with ballroom dancing, travel and other personal activities during his semesters "off" while undergoing phased retirement. He is not scheduled to teach during the 1999 calendar year, but will teach his very last semester during Spring 2000. Roy will retire with the distinction of having taught at UNI during six different decades, beginning in the 1950s!



*Bob Clark* continues to teach multiple sections of the introductory human geography course, as well as advanced courses involving cultural geography and the regional geography of Iowa. On a personal note, Bob enjoys his small acreage near Aplington, where he has several pure bred dogs including a half dozen rare Sussex Spaniels.

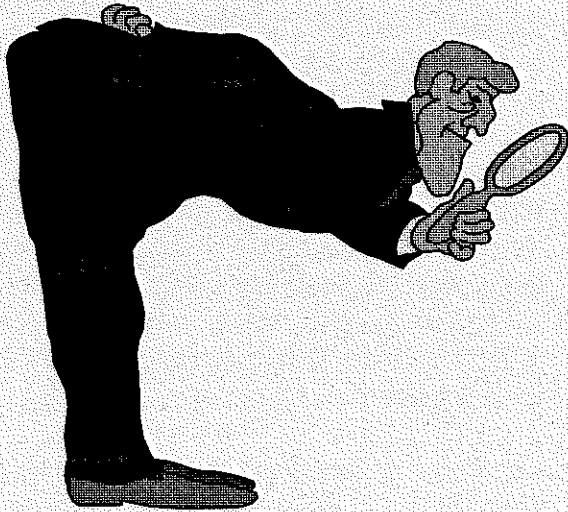
*Dennis Dahms* has a very active field-based research program primarily involving research in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. He recently published an article in *Quaternary International* titled "Soil Taxonomy and Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction: A Critical Commentary" co-authored with Vance Holliday of the University of Wisconsin. In late May, he will be taking students to Wyoming for our 970:190g Field Studies course (see article on p. 5).

*Mike Emch* joined our faculty last August as our new specialist in GIS and remote sensing (see article on p. 4). Mike will be doing consulting work in Bangladesh this coming summer and has several other research projects in the works, including participation in a large federally-funded severe storm project with the Department of Earth Science. Mike recently had a paper accepted for publication in *Social Science and Medicine* titled "Diarrheal Disease Risk in Matlab, Bangladesh".

*Thomas Fogarty* spent Spring 1998 on professional development leave and then was fortunate to be selected to participate in a faculty exchange program at the Russian Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg for the Spring 1999 semester. Tom continues a very active research program involving federal constitutions and other political geography issues involving India, Russia and Nigeria.

*Fred Fryman* published a paper last spring, co-authored with Bonnie Sines, titled "Anatomy of the Introductory Cartography Course Revisited" in *Cartographic Perspectives*. He also continues his population geography research work involving student migration in higher education.

*Dave May* maintains a very active research agenda involving rivers and floods with field work in northeastern Iowa and east-central Nebraska. This work has resulted in a series of published monographs and reports, and he plans to submit several papers to journals in the near future. Dave continues to serve as graduate coordinator for our growing M.A. program and also routinely teaches our senior seminar course.



*Bonnie Sines* has served as a part-time adjunct instructor for the department for several years, primarily teaching the required Maps and Map Interpretation course. Last December, she completed her M.A. degree in geography. This semester she is serving as a full-time instructor teaching the introductory world geography courses as well as Maps.

*Kirk Stufflebeam* teaches evening classes for the department as a part-time adjunct instructor. Kirk taught the physical geography course last semester and is teaching world geography this spring. Kirk, who is a 1992 graduate of our M.A. program, lives in Waterloo where his full-time job is with GMAC.

*Phil Suckling* is in his eighth year as Department Head. Last Fall, he taught a new course on Canada which was cross-listed as 900:035 Canadian Studies and 970:141 Regional Geography: Canada. Phil also rotates the following courses on his teaching schedule: world geography, climatology, and natural hazards and disasters. Currently, he is conducting research on the spatial and temporal changes in the Koeppen climate C-D climate boundary in the central U.S. In terms of service, Phil's position as one of the more senior department Heads on campus has led to new appointments on several university-level committees!

*Kay Weller* continues her service duties as coordinator for the Geographic Alliance of Iowa and advisor to the interdisciplinary social science teaching major. She recently published a co-authored paper titled "Colorado's Geography Standards: An Analysis of Preservice Teacher Preparation" in the *Journal of Geography*. In addition to conducting research involving geographic education topics, Kay continues her cultural and historical studies of Nicodemus, an all-black town located in western Kansas. This summer, Kay will be very busy coordinating two advanced workshops for the GAI, as well as taking a group of high school teachers to Nigeria.





### **Dr. Michael E. Emch Appointed as GIS/Remote Sensing Faculty Member**

Last August, Dr. Michael E. Emch joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor with responsibilities for our growing GIS and remote sensing curriculum. We have been fortunate to add substantial new equipment and computer software in these technical fields over recent years. This semester, we were able to purchase annual site licenses for high-end software provided by ESRI (ArcInfo and related GIS products) and ERDAS (Imagine software for remote sensing). Mike also serves as chair of the departmental computer committee, maintains the departmental web site, and serves as UNI's representative on the Iowa Geographic Information Council.

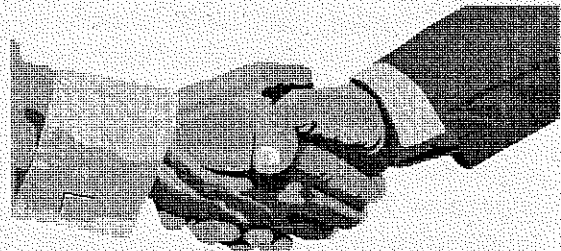
Dr. Emch's credentials include a B.A. in biology (1987) from Alfred University in New York, M.A. in geography (1992) from Miami University of Ohio, and Ph.D. in geography (1998) from Michigan State University. He has conducted a considerable amount of GIS-related field work in Bangladesh involving medical geography applications (for his Ph.D. dissertation), transportation applications, natural hazard mitigation, and other environmental issues. Much of this work has been funded by USAID and other federal agencies. Prior to his move to UNI, Mike held a one-year position as Lecturer and GIS Lab Head for the Department of Geography at the University of Connecticut.

Mike's wife, Sheryl Welte-Emch, has a Ph.D. in educational psychology and is teaching as an adjunct professor in the Department of Psychology this semester. Mike and Sheryl became parents of their first child, Sadie last October.

### **New Economic Geography Faculty Member Appointed for 1999-2000**

The Department is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of our search for a new economic geographer to join our faculty for the 1999-2000 academic year. Dr. Tim R. Strauss has accepted our offer for a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor. Tim's impressive credentials include the following degrees: B.S. (1987) in economics and geography from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, M.S. (1989) in geography from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Ph.D. (1994) in geography from the University of Washington. During his graduate studies, Tim was a visiting scholar for a semester at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. After graduation, Tim worked for the Wisconsin State Department of Transportation before moving in early 1997 to the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) at Iowa State University as a research associate. For the last two years, CTRE has been funding transportation scholar graduate assistantship positions in our department. With Tim's addition to our faculty, we anticipate even stronger ties with this ISU research center.

Dr. Strauss' teaching duties will include introductory human geography, economic geography, location analysis for business, and new courses in the field of transportation geography and planning.



## Summer 1999 Field Studies Course in the Wind River Mountains, Wyoming

During the period May 24-June 13, 1999, the Department will offer its 970:190g Field Studies in Geography course. This year, the course will have a physical geography theme under the direction of Dr. Dennis Dahms. For the first week of the course, students will conduct day-long classes and assignments in Cedar Falls to get acquainted with a vast array of newly acquired field equipment. Then, the group will leave Cedar Falls on May 29 to relocate to the Wind River Mountains near Lander, Wyoming. Using the University of Missouri's geology field camp facility as a base camp, students will undertake a variety of field projects in this portion of the Rocky Mountains before returning to Iowa by June 13.

Current students as well as other potential non-traditional students are encouraged to register. For additional information, contact Dr. Dahms at his office (319-273-6845) or e-mail him at [dennis.dahms@uni.edu](mailto:dennis.dahms@uni.edu).

## Recent Geography Graduates

Spring '98: *Michael Graalfs*  
*Andrew Hupp*  
*Kyle Kepler*  
*Chris Klohs*

Summer '98: *Cynthia Hite*  
*Stephanie Knight*  
*Jennifer Sink*

Fall '98: *Jeremy Decker*  
*Lynn Klobberdanz*  
*Randy Pilkington (M.A.)*  
*Jennifer Rover*  
*Aric Schroeder*  
*Bonnie Sines (M.A.)*  
*Darrin Youngblut*

## Alumni Album

For future issues of the Newsletter, please send your alumni news items to:

*Ms. Sandra Heller, Secretary*  
*Department of Geography*  
*University of Northern Iowa*  
*Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0406.*

E-mail: [sandra.heller@uni.edu](mailto:sandra.heller@uni.edu) Fax: 319-273-7103

*Micah (Dodson) Cutler* (B.A. 1996) graduated in 1998 with an M.A. from the University of South Carolina. She is now employed with NewCom Companies in Ankeny as a GIS specialist.

*Brock Emmert* (B.A. 1996) completed an M.A. in geography in 1998 at Kansas State University. He is now a watershed project specialist for the Kansas Water Office in Manhattan, Kansas.

*Ezana Habte-Gabr* (M.A. 1995) lives in Bogota, Columbia where he teaches geography in high school and English part-time at the college-level.

*Joshua Hagen* (B.A. 1997) recently completed his M.A. in geography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is now in their doctoral program.

*Jeff Knapp* (M.A. 1983) is a geography Ph.D. candidate at the University of Minnesota.

*Jeff Lamphier* (B.A. 1993) is employed as a cartographer for the aeronautical charting division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration just outside of Washington, D.C.

*Dan Olson* (B.A. 1988) is a community planner for the City of St. Charles, Illinois.

*James Thele* (B.A. 1969) is the real property manager for the City Planning Department in Omaha, Nebraska.

## Outstanding Geography Alumnus Award for 1999

Four 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, J. Mark Linda (B.A. 1974; M.A. 1978) in 1997, and John G. Lavender Jr. (M.A. 1972) in 1998.

The Department is pleased to announce that the Fifth Annual *Outstanding Geography Alumnus Award* will be presented at this year's 19th Annual Geography Awards Banquet to **Ardith K. Hansel**. Dr. Hansel is a 1970 graduate of UNI in elementary education and a 1976 graduate of our geography M.A. program. Subsequently, she obtained a Ph.D. degree in geography from the University of Illinois in 1980. Dr. Hansel has worked with the Illinois State Geological Survey since 1979 located in Champaign, Illinois. Currently, she holds the position of Senior Geologist and Acting Quaternary Section Head. Ardith conducts research involving Quaternary stratigraphy and sedimentology, glacial geomorphology, the late Quaternary evolution of the Great Lakes region, late glacial and postglacial history of the Lake Michigan lobe, and lake-level fluctuations in the Lake Michigan basin. She has published over 30 professional articles involving her research efforts.

Ardith will be in attendance at this year's banquet in order to accept her award and make a few remarks highlighting the importance of her geography training as it has related to her career.



# INVITATION

## Spring Awards Banquet: Friday, April 30, 1999

The Nineteenth Annual Geography Awards Banquet will be held during the evening of Friday, April 30, 1999 at Celebrations, 3555 University Avenue, Waterloo. In addition to our traditional student honors, the fifth 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 is again providing 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](mailto:sandra.heller@uni.edu)]

