John Fraser Hart Retires

At the conclusion of the 2014-15 academic year, Professor Hart will leave the classroom and conclude a spectacular academic career. As far as we know, Fraser is the only World War II veteran still teaching full time at the University of Minnesota—a record that alone is hard to beat.

He was born in 1924 in the Shenandoah Valley city of Staunton, VA, a town with just over 10,000 when he was a lad, and completed his early schooling in Worsham in central Virginia. He earned his A.B. degree in Classics at Emory University (1943–at age 19), and then served in the U.S. Navy (1943-46), eventually retiring from the U.S. Naval Reserve as Lieutenant Commander.

After the war, Fraser moved to Northwestern University for graduate study in Geography, earning his M.A. (1949) and Ph.D. (1950). Reviewing this record by today’s standards, it is truly astonishing what Fraser had accomplished by the age of 26.

An Exceptional Record. He taught at the University of Georgia (1949-55) and Indiana University (1955-67) before moving to the University of Minnesota in 1967. This year Fraser completes 58 years of service on our faculty, during which time he’s taught more than 50,000 students, far more than any other faculty member in the history of our department. His record of published scholarship is so extensive it makes me wonder: Does this guy ever sleep?

Fraser’s teaching and scholarly record of 15 books and hundreds of articles is matched by his exceptional record of service to the Association of American Geographers, which includes Executive Officer of the AAG (1965-66), Editor of the Annals of the AAG (1970-75), Vice President of the AAG (1978-79) then President (1979-80). He served on the AAG Council representing the West Lakes Division (1976-78), and on the U.S. National Committee for the International Geographical Union (1970-76). Over the years, Fraser has been a special presence in the Southeastern Division of the AAG, and a proud supporter of the annual South Dakota State Geography Convention.

Last fall, the Minnesota Daily (10 Nov 2014) published a profile of Fraser and his career, in recognition of Veterans Day: “WWII Vet Leads an Old-Fashioned Classroom.” Among the things recounted was that he still uses a Kodak Carousel projector, which continues to fascinate students.
**John Fraser Hart** continued from p. 1

(as does a dial telephone). The Daily story was followed by coverage on KARE-TV, the Twin Cities local Fox News outlet, and an October 1st segment in a CNN story about “America’s Oldest Workers” [http://money.cnn.com/gallery/retirement/2014/10/01/americas-oldest-workers/index.html].

**What’s Next?** Although Fraser could have decided to retire long ago, he told press interviewers that he simply loved his job too much to retire until now. “I’ve learned a lot,” he explained, “and in the classroom I have a chance to share with students. Besides, each year, I think I keep getting a little bit better at what I’m doing.”

Fraser’s valedictory-titled “Old Haunts Revisited” was the featured program for the Department Coffee Hour on the 17th of April’s Fraser Hart Celebration. Later in 2015, Fraser and his wife Meredith will move to Madison, WI, where their daughter Anne lives with her family. Summers at their cabin in Door County, WI, remain in their plans.

Our Department Chair Abdi Samatar suggested that any gifts to the department in honor of Fraser’s many contributions over his career should be directed to the (new) Geography, Environment and Society Annual Fund. He plans to direct Hart tribute gifts to be invested in undergraduate student fieldwork in North America. (See the back page of the newsletter for instructions on how to direct your gift.)

John S. Adams

[Ed. note: The Minnesota Daily mentioned Prof. Hart in an 4/20/15 article on “aging staff.” The lead sentence: “John Fraser Hart has had a lot of fun in his 91 years.”]

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**Making a Difference during an Active Retirement**

Excerpts from an Annual Report by Emeritus Professor Joseph E. Schwartzberg

The principal event of my year was the legal establishment on 23 December 2014 of The Workable World Trust. The main thrust of the Trust will be to disseminate and promote support for the scores of proposals in my book, *Transforming the United Nations: Designs for a Workable World*, published in 2012 by the United Nations University Press. The Trust is financed through my life’s savings, which should enable it to carry out its ambitious agenda. That agenda includes paying for translations of the book into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. We anticipate publication in inexpensive e-editions. The original English edition should also soon be re-issued as an e-edition by the Brookings Institution Press.

Other initiatives include preparation of DVDs keyed to individual chapters of the book; helping to fund relevant academic conferences; providing matching grants for other initiatives; and gifting copies of the book to influential thinkers and activists. Even before the formal launching of the Trust, complimentary copies of the book were presented to missions of all 193 U.N. member nations, another 75 or so to members of the U.S. Senate and House Foreign Relations Committees, and 21 copies to women currently or previously holding high positions within the U.N. system.

I’ve also been presenting lectures in academic, religiously based and other public venues, including talks at Harvard’s Kennedy School, UMass-Boston campus, George Washington U., American U., Bryn Mawr College, St. Cloud State University (MN) and the U of MN. European presentations included the Centre for Global Governance Studies at the University of Leuven in Belgium and the London School of Economics, both of which had large and cosmopolitan audiences, many of whom are destined for positions of leadership in their respective homelands. Presentations were also made to the Minnesota Committee on Foreign Relations, to several chapters of the United Nations Association, and to an elite Minneapolis high school class.

Our stop in New York enabled visits to the U.N. missions of India, Brazil, Germany, Switzerland and Liechtenstein to discuss my U.N. reform proposals. It was heartening to note that diplomats with whom I spoke knew of my work and that the first three had already exchanged views in respect to my recommendations for transforming the Security Council. Ban Ki-Moon has also perused my work and directed one of his aides to write me a lengthy appreciative letter. Following the meetings in The Hague, we were hosted by the European Parliament for one afternoon in Brussels.

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**Brown Day Lecture 2015**

Sarah Elwood, Professor of Geography at the University of Washington, was the 2015 Brown Day speaker.

Professor Elwood received her PhD from the Geography Department at UMN in 2000. She currently is the co-director of the Relational Poverty Network, and is conducting comparative research on middle-class poverty politics in mixed income residential neighborhoods in Buenos Aires and Seattle.

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**The Department Welcomes New Staff Members**

Cathy Dzuik took over Jodi Larson’s position following Jodi’s retirement in 2014. Cathy began working part-time in August 2006 on the Duluth campus, in the Geology Department. Needing full-time employment, she applied for and was hired in Chemical Engineering in August 2008.

In February 2011, she moved back to the Twin Cities and joined the Institute of Linguistics. She began her position in Geography in August 2014. Prior to beginning her career at the University of Minnesota, Cathy worked at Edina Public Schools as a human resources secretary.

Sara Braun is a Minnesota native who assumed Bonnie Williams’ position following Bonnie’s retirement in 2014. She received her B.A. in Secondary Education from Concordia University in St. Paul, and has worked at the University of Minnesota for ten years.

Sara’s previous position at the University was in the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC) where she worked with graduate students from six different colleges.
The University. In September 2014, President Eric Kaler presented a new University strategic plan to the University Board of Regents, which subsequently endorsed the plan. [See the document at bit.ly/1HE1g1r] The president described the plan as “a road map for reinvigorating the University of Minnesota. It’s about setting a new direction, recommitting to excellence and stretching our goals. … The result—our new Grand Challenges agenda … is intended to improve lives, solve problems, own a global perspective, renew our curriculum, touch our local communities in new ways, boost energy and creativity among our faculty and students, and to re-envision the work of the American land-grant research university.” He and Provost Karen Hanson then asked colleges and departments to respond with their plans for implementation in planning, staffing and budgeting during the coming years.

The College. In March 2015 CLA Dean John Coleman, who joined the University last summer from the Political Science Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, issued his outlook for CLA titled: “Building the College of Liberal Arts Roadmap.” The 70-page CLA Roadmap is aligned with the University’s Twin Cities Campus Strategic Plan, laying out detailed goals and objectives for CLA and the units within the College, identifying obstacles and plans for reducing or eliminating them in all areas of teaching and research, and especially in areas of community engagement. [See the document at bit.ly/1DingemT]

The Department. Each year, the College requires departments to submit their budget requests, including the department’s thinking about the kinds of faculty and staff positions it hopes to fill in coming years, either to replace persons retiring, to add new members in needed teaching and research specialties, or to add one or more faculty members as components of “cluster hires” in cooperation with other CLA units.

Faculty and graduate student research programs generally fall into one of eight research clusters: (1) culture, place and flows; (2) environmental change; (3) geographies of the information society; (4) geo-visualization; (5) globalization and uneven development; (6) governance, citizenship, and justice; (7) metropolis and world; and (8) nature and society.

In light of these emphases, recent Department discussions outlined the following options for future faculty staffing: • two hires in geographic information science, with emphasis in population geography and/or health/medical geography; • two hires in resource geographies, with emphasis in food, energy, or social movements; • one hire in economic-urban geography with emphasis on inequality, governance, social movements, communities, and North America; and • one hire in urban geography in areas of governance, citizenship, inequality, labor/migration, identity, or the Global South-Latin America or Africa.

Current Curriculum. Course offerings by the Department have evolved over the years partly in response to student demand, partly in response to faculty composition and expertise, and partly in response to University and College initiatives like those summarized above. The Department changed its name some time ago to reflect new agendas and emphases. Undergraduate programs administered by the Department include (1) the Geography B.A. and B.S.; (2) a Geography minor; (3) a minor in Geographic Information Science; (4) the Urban Studies B.A. and B.S.; (5) an Urban Studies minor; (6) the University’s Biology, Society & Environment (BSE) B.A. program—a highly popular major for undergraduate students aiming at post-graduate work in medicine and the health sciences; and (7) a minor in Public Health.

Meanwhile, post-graduate programs administered by the department include the M.A. and Ph.D. programs in Geography, and the M.G.I.S program. When the Department’s array of responsibilities is compared with the University and College roadmaps, it’s clear that there is a close match between what is expected and what is being done.

New Faculty Appointments

Ying Song will join the GES faculty in fall 2015 from The Ohio State University, where she has been completing her Ph.D. degree and a dissertation titled “Towards a Greener Time Geography: The Expected Environmental Cost of Space-Time Prisms.” Her teaching and research specialties include Geographic Information Science, time geography, spatio-temporal modeling and analysis, and transportation geography. Song completed her B.S. in GIS at Wuhan University in China, and her M.S. in Geography at the University of Utah. At Utah and at Ohio State she has been working with Harvey J. Miller. She will be teaching Principles of GIS in the fall and East Asia in spring 2016.

Kathryn Grace will join the faculty in spring 2016 from the Department of Geography at the University of Utah, where she has been assistant professor of geography since 2008. She earned her B.A. in theoretical mathematics from the University of California-Berkeley, an M.S. in public health (biostatistics) from Tulane University, an M.A. in statistics from the University of California-Santa Barbara, and a Ph.D. in geography from UC-Santa Barbara. Her teaching program is yet to be determined.
Dan Griffin just returned from the highlands of Guatemala, where he was an instructor at a week-long international field course on dendrochronology (The Central American Dendroecological Fieldweek). This is part of the research he began as a postdoc (in his year away from GES) and plans to continue for the foreseeable future.

He reports that it was an amazing opportunity for experiential learning and relationship building with new colleagues and old friends from Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Canada, and the U.S.

There were four instructors (including Dan) and 18 students, about half from Central America and half from North America. One of our best B.S. students from GES (Talia Anderson) participated as a student, the youngest at the course, and she impressed everyone with her positive attitude, excellent aptitude, and outstanding Spanish language skills.

U-Spatial is the umbrella infrastructure for spatial science and creative activities across the University of Minnesota system. Although the University has a rich history of dealing with spatial technologies, U-Spatial arose from the collective realization that the University spatial community needed to better collaborate across disciplines. Building on long-standing but informal ties, a core group of faculty and staff launched U-Spatial in 2011, as a network to support spatial research activities in fields ranging from conservation biology to nursing and hydrology. Centralizing spatial science support provides operational efficiency by helping to reduce redundancies.

U-Spatial is funded by $2.5 million over 2012-2017, two-thirds of which comes from the Office of Vice President for Research through its Infrastructure Investment Initiative (I3), with the remaining third contributed by seven colleges, three large research centers, and three central administrative bodies including the University Libraries and the Office of Information Technology.

U-Spatial provides support via four cores: (1) Central Core services include technical assistance, training, resource coordination, and development of the spatial science community; (2) Imaging Core infrastructure focuses on data and analysis of aerial and satellite imagery of the earth; (3) Data Core services include data archiving and discovery and development of shared computing infrastructure; and (4) Analysis Core infrastructure centers on spatiotemporal modeling, geodesign, and mapping.

In the HEGIS lab, we conduct research, education, and outreach centered on advancing Geographic Information Science (GISc) approaches to understanding human, natural, and human-environment systems. We have a number of ongoing collaborative projects in addition to many individual projects. We do work on the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA), particularly modeling ecosystem services and urbanization. In collaboration with researchers in rural sociology and agronomy, we are assessing the environmental and institutional ramifications and possibilities of sustainable agriculture in the northern United States. We also work on problems in linking human-environment education and spatial thinking in K-12 and post-secondary education, looking at how web mapping can be used in classroom settings.

The lab’s largest projects center on data. In collaboration with the Minnesota Population Center, Institute on the Environment, and University Libraries, we are conducting research that integrates the social science of population and the natural science of the environment in global change research. The first focus of this work is population and land use at the global scale; the second is spatio-temporally harmonizing census data in rapidly developing areas, via NIH-funded projects on Latin America and Eurasia. Third is Terra Populus, an ambitious project to create population-environment data that are both locally accurate and global in coverage. A final focus is on issues of spatiotemporal data more generally, such as developing harmonized school attendance boundaries in the United States.
...a Growing Tradition

National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS)

Now entering its 15th year, the National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS) continues to be an important source of U.S. demographic and spatial data for students and researchers. Managed by the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota, NHGIS provides free, online access to contemporary and historical US census and GIS data. The ever-growing data collection now contains 351 billion data points of aggregate census data and 959 shapefiles. In 2014 the project delivered over 31,000 data extracts totaling 5.6 terabytes in size.

We have made significant improvements to NHGIS over the last four years. In 2011, we added 2010 Census data and released a redesigned website that allows users to request multiple years and geographic units in a single extract. In 2012, we began releasing American Community Survey data and added a unique new data product: NHGIS time-series tables, which link together comparable statistics from multiple census years in one downloadable bundle. With multiple releases of new tables in subsequent years, we now supply over 3,500 time series organized into 214 tables.

Since the NHGIS project began in 2001, it has received about $6.8 million in grants from NSF and NIH, and is scheduled to continue until 2018. With this funding, we will:

- add new demographic and health data;
- construct point shapefiles depicting the locations of county subdivisions from 1930 to the present and incorporated places from 1790 to the present;
- update our historical boundary files, re-aligning them for compatibility with current, improved Census Bureau standards;
- generate spatially standardized time series, using advanced interpolation techniques to estimate historical data for 2010 census areas where boundaries have changed; and
- improve our IT infrastructure, migrating all data into industry-standard databases, implementing an application programming interface (API) to support direct access to NHGIS data from external applications, and adding several new features to our user interface.

Faculty, students, and alumni of the Department of Geography, Environment and Society play major roles on the project. John Adams, Bob McMaster, Mark Lindberg, Steven Ruggles and others were co-PIs on earlier grants. Steve Manson is Principal Investigator for two grants currently supporting the project. John Adams consults on the future direction of NHGIS. Alumni Kevin Horne (M.G.I.S. 2008), Jonathan Schroeder (M.A. 2004, Ph.D. 2009), and David Van Riper (M.A. 2003) have collectively worked on the project for over 25 person-years. NHGIS has also employed and continues to employ a number of GES undergrads and grad students and MGIS students.

For more information on NHGIS or to get data, please visit http://www.nhgis.org.

Terra Populus: A Global Population/Environment Data Network

The National Research Council and many other scientific and policy bodies have called for more richly detailed data to support the research and informed decisions necessary to meet the challenges of rapid social and environmental change. There is particular interest in “big data”, or research based on datasets that are vastly larger than those traditionally used in most fields, and which in turn entail new forms of processing and analysis. For all the excitement about big data, however, scholars wanting to untangle human-environment interactions face a dearth of spatially detailed multi-decadal data. While some relevant data are available, such as climate observations or online opinions about global warming, there is surprisingly little detailed information about many social and natural features for most of the globe before the year 2000.

In response to these research needs, geographers working with other researchers at the Minnesota Population Center have garnered $18 million in external funding over the past four years, to advance the big data of human-environment research through the National Spatiotemporal Population Research Infrastructure (NSPRI), Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), and Terra Populus (TerraPop). These projects create “gold standard” research data. They also exemplify big data: TerraPop is currently in the prototype stage, but will be the largest curated source for global human-environment data; NSPRI is the largest population-environment dataset that exists on the United States, at 265 billion data points; and IPUMS is the largest population database in the world, with records on over a half-billion individuals described by 270 billion data points. These projects share data, approaches, and underlying research questions (e.g., TerraPop uses IPUMS data, NSPRI uses TerraPop methods). We identify, acquire, and develop various data sources ranging from historic handwritten census forms to current satellite observations of the earth. We research new ways to standardize these data and make them comparable across space and through time.

We then preserve these data and make them internet-accessible so they are readily used by thousands of scholars and many other students, policy makers, and members of the public. We work with over one hundred national statistical agencies and other organizations around the world on the science of large, complex spatiotemporal datasets.

Steven Manson
Faculty Highlights

RECENT FACULTY ACTIVITY

Nikhil Anand. Titles of Nikhil’s recent publications describe his research focus on public infrastructure—especially the politics and economics of building and maintaining water utilities in India: “The Hydraulic City”; “Leaky States: Water Audits, Ignorance and the Politics of Infrastructure”; and “Multiplicity: Water Rules and the Making of Connections in Mumbai.” Last year he began a new project, The Promise of Infrastructure, with two colleagues. Supported by a grant from the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, they conducted a weeklong seminar in Santa Fe drawing together leading scholars aiming to producing an edited volume. In another initiative with a colleague, he is participating in a project that theorizes the material practices of measurement in political life. It has yielded a collection of essays that he and his colleague are working to publish.

Bruce Braun. While on sabbatical in 2014 Bruce began a new research program in North Dakota on the social, political and ecological dimensions of the oil boom, working with graduate students and colleagues from Ohio State and Queen Mary University in the U.K. With Kate Derickson, Bruce developed and taught a new seminar on “the Event of the Anthropocene,” using the occasion to survey the emerging literature in the field, and to begin to understand the challenge that the Anthropocene poses to existing scholarship in human geography and beyond. The course enrolled eleven students from various fields plus faculty members from Anthropology and History. [Ed. note: The Anthropocene is a term used since its coining by Paul Crutzen and Eugene Stoermer in 2000 to denote the present era during which many geologically significant conditions and processes are being profoundly altered by human activities.]

Kate Derickson. Kate’s research investigates political economy and difference through ongoing investigations with communications of color in the American Southeast. Those engagements take the form of traditional empirical research, along with collaborations that are informed by a conception of “resourcefulness” as an ethical practice of scholarly research, established in a series of her publications. Based on those collaborations she has been increasingly interested in exploring environmental governance as a crucial dimension of the racial state. To explore this idea, she has continued collaborative, research-oriented relationships with communities in West Atlanta and the Gullah/Geechee Nation. The concept of resourcefulness was the basis for successful seed grant applications to the Mellon Foundation and the International Social Science Council. She is also part of a team seeking support for investigating resource sovereignty among the Gullah/Geechee and other communities including the Maori, Rastafarians in South Africa, Scottish crofters, and landless peasant movements in Bangladesh and Brazil.

Vinay Gidwani. With the help of two Research Assistants in Delhi and one in Hyderabad, Vinay’s fieldwork for his multi-year project, “The Afterlives of Waste,” is drawing to a close. An inability to undertake extended periods of fieldwork has been a source of frustration, but his monograph should see the light of day at the end of 2015. Vinay was also invited to deliver the Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers’ plenary address at the August 2014 RGS-IBG Meeting in London, UK. A paper based on that address will appear in Transactions of the IBG.

On the non-academic front, Vinay authored a 10,000-word chapter on privatization of municipal solid waste management in India for the State of Waste Report, to be published in 2015 by the Delhi-based research & advocacy group, Chintan Environmental Research and Action, with which he has been actively associated since 2007. Vinay had a busy travel year, delivering no fewer than ten colloquia and lectures in the U.S., Canada and the U.K.

Dan Griffin. Dan joined the Minnesota faculty in fall 2014. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Arizona and then completed a post-doctoral year at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). At Woods Hole he developed a new network of research collaborators, added an international component to his research portfolio, and developed new quantitative and computer programming skills. His paper about the ongoing California drought garnered wide attention from two-dozen media outlets including The Guardian, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Science, Scientific American, National Geographic, and others. Media requests for comment on other drought studies continue. He also spent time in the highlands of Guatemala as an instructor at an international field course on dendrochronology (The Central American Dendroecological Fieldweek), which was part of the research he started at WHOI and plans to continue for the foreseeable future. He reports that it was an amazing opportunity for experiential learning and relationship building with new colleagues and old friends from Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Canada, and the U.S.

Kurt Kipfmueller. Kurt’s current research examines changes in forest ecosystems and climate. He’s investigating fire in northern Minnesota, patterns of Ojibwe burning, and the impacts of decadal-scale climate variability on natural resources in southern Oregon. The work is supported by the National Park Service and the NSF. Kurt is also working with Dan Griffin on drought patterns in Minnesota at long timescales. Work on lightning fires is generating attention and excitement from the fire community, as some of the first of its kind to test human-fire hypotheses.

Katherine Klink. One recent project undertaken with colleagues from other departments looked at the impacts of temperature and precipitation variability in the Northern Great Plains and Canada on the productivity of spring barley and oats. Another project stems from Kathy’s participation in a National Climate Assessment workshop some years ago. Workshop colleagues are focused on monitoring and understanding changes in extremes in extra-tropical storms, winds, and waves.

Mark Lindberg. Mark’s responsibilities as Director of the Cartographic Laboratory include administration and production; development, teaching, and service. In his annual report of activity he notes that, like last year, he had no students working in the lab; therefore the volume of lab work was down. During the past year about 20 of his maps appeared, or will appear,
in print. Most of the mapping projects during the year were relatively small, although two resulted in coauthored publications—both with John Fraser Hart. The first is a paper titled “Kilofarms in the Agricultural Heartland,” which appeared in the April 2014 issue of the Geographical Review. (A kilofarm is 1,000 acres or more.) The second is a paper titled “Agricultural Changes and the Depopulation of Nonmetropolitan Minnesota,” which appeared in the Spring 2014 issue of the CURA Reporter. The bulk of Mark’s development time last year was spent preparing for the technological changes occurring in GIS and cartography. It will now take a couple of years to integrate these materials into the courses that he teaches. Changes include “retooling,” which means work with JavaScript, rethinking map design for mobile devices, and some initial work with tiny computing devices and sensors (the stuff of the Internet of Things). This is the second time during the past 30 years that Mark went through such a retooling. The first was when he integrated cartography with GIS.

Steven M. Manson. Steve examines complex human-environment systems via GLIS and other approaches. In modeling human-environment systems he continues to examine the role of eco-social feedback in U.S. agriculture, with articles published or in press in a range of venues (e.g., Agriculture and Human Values, Journal of Soil and Water Conservation and Environmental Modeling and Software). Steve and Dave O’Sullivan (UC-Berkeley) completed their paper on theory and interdisciplinarity in geography (“Do Physicists have Geography Envy?”). Working with his Teaching Assistants, they continue to chip away at the intersection of research and teaching by looking at Web mapping in the classroom (for Journal of Geography). On the Big Data front, Steve works with a range of partners developing hybrid datasets for human and environmental research, funded over the last four years by almost $20 million from NIH and NSF. For Steve, they represent a “labor of love” in the sense that they require a lot of effort and support many students and staff, but yield few publications for their size. The chief products are data and websites used by tens of thousands of researchers, students, policy makers, and members of the public. This year also saw continued implementation of U-Spatial, the U of M Spatial Sciences and Systems Infrastructure, a $2.5million project to develop shared infrastructure for spatial science and systems on campus. In January 2015 Francis Harvey handed off the reins to Steve, who hopes he can build on Francis’s great start.

Lorena Muñoz. Lorena’s current research activity is well described by the titles of her recent papers: “Sidewalks of Emotional Labor: Nostalgia and Immigrant Latina/o Food Vendors in Los Angeles,” and “Entangled Sidewalks: Queer Latina Street Vendors in Los Angeles.” She was planning a book based on her research on street vendors in Los Angeles, but has decided to rethink the book manuscript and publish stand-alone articles, as this strategy will provide more timely output and publication of her research. Additional papers and book chapters include Agency, Choice and Restrictions in Producing Latina/o Street Vending Landscapes in Los Angeles,” and “Queering el Barrio: Latina Street Vendors in Los Angeles” to be published in Queer Cultural Transmovimientos: Critical Perspectives on the LGBTQ Latina/o Chicana Immigrant Experience. Edited by Eddy F. Alvarez and Ellie D. Hernandez.

Arun Saldana. Recent research focuses on a manuscript titled “Deleuze after Space,” which he plans to submit for publication later in 2015. He also is working on a collection, Capitalism and the Earth, co-edited with Nigel Clark and Kathryn Yusoff, with 14 chapters by leading cultural and nature/society theorists. Provocative titles of other works underway include: “Dancing Outside the City: Fractions of Bodies in Goa” for a book straddling geography, cultural theory and art; The Acoustic City; “Mechanosphere: Man, Earth, Capital”; “Deleuze and the Non/Human”; and “Fidelity to Marx: Communism and Poststructuralism after 2011.” Much recent work, he reports, went into proposing a new book series at Ashgate, Rewriting the Earth + Cultural Geographies, with fellow cultural geographer Paul Kingsbury from Simon Fraser University, and his other new responsibility as book review editor of Cultural Geographies, a journal central to geography’s sub-discipline. Altogether these publications and editorial services mean Arun is trying to position himself as “something of a conduit for interdisciplinary conversations taking place between cultural theory and continental philosophy, especially Deleuze studies, on the one side, and cultural and environmental geography on the other.” On the level of empirical research, he received an Imagine Award for 2014-15 for his project, “Spices and the Invention of Capitalism: An Environmental History,” which continues his research on European colonialism in the Indian Ocean.

Abdi Samatar. Abdi continues his service as chair of the department while pursuing an active research program. He continues serving as a resource person on Somalia and Ethiopia for the Norwegian Government, and for many news services and other organizations. He was interviewed by numerous national and international media outlets, such as the BBC, Al Jazeera TV, Minnesota Public Radio, Radio France International, The New York Times, and other radio stations & newspapers about American involvement in the conflict in the Horn of Africa, and on terrorism. He also completed three years of service as the Vice President, President, and Past President of the African Studies Association, and was elected a member of the African Academy of Sciences. On the research front, he completed drafting a book manuscript that is now in the publisher’s hands for review. Abdi also continues to be an informal advisor for a large number of Somali undergraduates at the University and in several local community colleges. There are about 650 Somali undergraduates at the University of Minnesota.

Scott St. George. Scott’s recent research activity continues to focus on mapping how climate information recorded by tree rings varies across the Northern Hemisphere. This effort includes an extensive review of the Northern Hemisphere tree-ring network, describing how forest growth is influenced by climate and ecology at very large spatial scales. Because of Scott’s well-known work on global-scale dendroclimatology, he was invited to write a piece for PAGES Magazine, produced by the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program. Finally, he and Max Torbenson (who completed his M.A. degree in our department) published an article in The Holocene on 3-4,000 year-old trees recovered from Lake Winnipeg in central Canada, arguing that these stumps cannot be interpreted as evidence of past droughts. That conclusion is important, because Lake Winnipeg is the receiving basin for most river systems in the northern Great Plains including northern and western Minnesota, so the state of the lake reflects changes in water supplies shared by more than 5.5 million people. This year, the National Science Foundation sponsored a 3-year, multi-institution project studying the Upper Missouri River system. Scott spent 10 days in Montana conducting the first round of fieldwork, while colleagues at North Dakota State University received funding from the Minnesota Historical Society to conduct an archeological survey of 19th-century buildings in western Minnesota. Scott was also lead investigator on a proposal submitted to NSF’s Paleo Perspectives on Climate Change, aimed generally at ‘planetary-scale dendroclimatology’, with a decision expected early in 2016.

Rod Squires. Rod continues his investigations into the history of land surveys in Minnesota and their links with contemporary public policy debates, land use disputes and Indian claims. One recent study looked at the land surveys of 19th-century surveyor George H. Cannon. Another focused on the definition of the 4th Principal Meridian in Minnesota, while other studies reviewed the public land survey lines in Carver County.
Here is a sampling of the kind of work our graduate students are pursuing:

**Lalit Batra (Ph.D. Student)** I’m currently doing fieldwork in India. I’m asking: What does it take for an Indian city to keep its wastewater moving? My research probes this question by examining the relationship between i) the technical and organizational dimensions of Delhi’s sewage system; and, ii) the everyday lives of sanitation workers belonging to the formerly untouchable caste of Valmikis who unlog, repair, and maintain Delhi’s sewers.

My year-long (2014-15) fieldwork is supported by two grants: (1) Thomas W. Simons Dissertation Research Fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies, Chicago, and (2) Global Spotlight MA, Professional and Doctoral Award, GPS Alliance, University of Minnesota. I have also been awarded the Interdisciplinary Dissertation Fellowship (IDF) by the University of Minnesota for 2015-16. The IDF starts from Fall 2015.

**Jay Bowman (Ph.D. Student)** My work focuses on informal garbage markets in developing countries, looking closely at the role of municipal and national governments in their regulation. This summer I stayed with Kwame Adovor Tsikudo, another Ph.D. student in our department, in his home in Accra, Ghana. We used our time together to work with the Agbogbloshie Scrap Dealers Association, a union of workers and small proprietors working in the city’s largest scrap yard. We plan to publish a series of policy documents and pamphlets aimed at influencing the national legislature as they consider a draft environmental protections bill. I hope to graduate with my Ph.D. in 2016.

**Sian Butcher (Ph.D. Student)** My dissertation is titled: “Infrastructures of debt and property in the post-apartheid suburb: remaking race, class and space in Johannesburg.” My research is interested in the contingent financializations of housing in the aftermath of the sub-prime crash. Drawing on fieldwork in Johannesburg’s financial quarters and desegregating southern suburbs, I track the emergence of South Africa’s ‘affordable’ mortgage market and its socio-spatial implications. My research and writing has been funded by the Global Spotlight Dissertation Research Grant (2012-13), an ICGC-UWC Mellon Fellowship (2013-14), and a U of M Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (2014-15).

**Megan Buchanan (Ph.D. Student)** My research objective: In the deciduous forests across the U.S. Central Hardwood Forest Region, oak regeneration is declining despite an abundance of mature oak trees in the canopies of these forests. My research aims to elucidate the factors that are contributing to the oak regeneration decline, by identifying how oak regeneration is influenced by historical land use legacies, soil site conditions, forest disturbances, climate, and interactions between these factors.

My doctoral research has been supported through several grants and fellowships: an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant; a Department of Geography, Environment, and Society Summer Research Grant; a U of M Graduate School Thesis Research Travel Grant; a U of M Graduate School Louise T. Dodsall Fellowship; a U of M Graduate School Carolyn Crosby Fellowship; a U of M College of Liberal Arts Graduate Research Partnership Program Grant; an AAG Biogeography Specialty Group Student Grant; and a U of M Graduate School Fellowship.

I have collected field data from 11 sites within the Wisconsin Driftless Area located in the southwestern portion of the state.

**Jeff DeGrave (Ph.D. Student)** My Basic Research Question: Participatory mapping’s ability to empower its users has come under severe criticism since its emergence as a potential tool of empowerment for marginalized populations. Residents of the mountain village community of Rio Negro, Honduras, employed participatory mapping to prioritize locations of need for access to electricity through hydro-microturbines. The purpose of this project is to assess the long-term impacts of how participatory mapping reinforced existing conditions of marginalization and empowerment through the distribution of microturbines.

How my work is / will be supported: I am defending my dissertation in two months so my research is no longer supported. However, I was awarded a research grant from the University’s Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences. My field work location is Rio Negro, Honduras.

**Ding Fei** won the AAG’s China Specialty Group Best Paper Award for 2015. The award was to be presented to her at the AAG Conference in Chicago in April. Her paper is titled: “China-Africa Cooperation in High-Tech Sectors: Comparative Labor Experiences.”

**Jessica Finlay (Ph.D. Student)** Geography is rarely connected to gerontology, yet offers novel and robust approaches to better understand local socio-spatial and environmental factors affecting older adult health and wellbeing. Through an interdisciplinary mixed-methods approach, my dissertation research focuses on older adults (aged 60 and over) living across the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The study investigates the interplay of neighborhood- and individual-level factors affecting the physical, mental and social health and wellbeing of older residents. This research is supported by grants, scholarships, and fellowships, including the Joseph-Kordell Scholarship and an Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship.

**Joseph Getzoff (Ph.D. Student)** My work focuses on the history of Israeli environmental development and how it intertwines with Bedouin-Arab dispossession in the Negev/Naqab desert. This involves questions on environmentalism in Zionist thought and how nationalist ideology renders the desert a space for intense development. I have been applying for funding to start fieldwork in the fall of 2015.

**Laura Matson (Ph.D. Student)** I am a third-year student in the Geography, Environment and Society Ph.D. program. I began the program as a joint degree student, simultaneously pursuing my J.D. at the U of M Law School. I completed the J.D. in May 2014, passed the July 2014 Minnesota Bar Exam, and returned in the fall as a full-time Ph.D. student. I am currently a Teaching Assistant working on funding applications and fine tuning my research proposal, which focuses on Indigenous land claims in international courts.

**Benjamin McDaniel (Ph.D. student)** I’m teaching at a local community college and working on a dissertation focused on state and local finance in Minnesota. The “Minnesota Miracle” hasn’t quite turned out the way the legislature and Governor Anderson had hoped, but it has created a complex political and financial relationship between metro-area cities, and metro-area cities and the state. Probably the most interesting facts I’ve found in the financial data so far are the remarkable ambivalence the state has had about the tax structure over the last 40 years, how closely the growth of municipal property tax policies in the metro-area correlates with generally stagnant or declining real wages, and how much property tax reform has been a mainstay conversation in state fiscal politics, despite successive legislatures and governors passing little substantive tax reform. During the last recession, at least, the property tax reform bills with the greatest potential to enact substantive reform seem to be the ones that didn’t and never were going to pass. Fascinating stuff!

**Bryan Runck (Ph.D. Student)** My main research questions are: What impact do genetic gains in biofuel crops have on their adoption rates and range expansion? What are the ecosystem service outcomes from biofuel cropland use change? How can boundary institutions function to increase ecosystem service delivery from agricultural landscapes? I will be applying for research funding from the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. The location of my fieldwork will be in the Midwest United States and maybe Malaysia.

**Uday Thapa (Ph.D. Student)** I’m a 1st year Ph.D. student. My central research questions (though not finalized yet): How is the climate affecting the high altitude forests? How can we understand the paleo-climate of the high Himalayas using relationships between climate and various dimensions of trees? My research support is not yet confirmed. My field location will be the high Himalayas in Nepal.
OUR RECENT M.A. AND PH.D. GRADUATES

Six of our graduate students received Master of Arts (M.A.) degrees in 2015: Kai Bosworth, Julia Corwin, Ding Fei, Jessica Finlay, Benjamin Johnson, and Megan Snow. Johnson is pursuing other interests while the others continue Ph.D. studies.

Six other students received their Ph.D.s in 2013: Ian Bialostosky is teaching at Century College. Chris Crawford has a NASA Post-Doctoral Fellowship at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. Elizabeth Fairly does contract work for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency in Springfield, VA. Jennifer Kutting serves as Communications Director for the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Heath in Chicago. Jerry Shannon is visiting assistant professor of geography at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. Omar Tesdell is assistant professor of geography at Birzeit University (West Bank/Palestine), and is spending the 2014-15 academic year with a Abu-Lughod Post-doctoral Fellowship at Columbia University in New York.

Six students received their M.A.s in 2014. Grace Li moved to Cornell University as a Ph.D. student in Atmospheric Sciences. Alexander Adover, Joe Getzoff, and Maleenia Mohabar Nauertz are pursuing other interests.

Renata Blumberg received her Ph.D. in 2014 and is assistant professor in Food Systems at Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ. Lena Moore (Ph.D. 2014) is a John D. Montgomery Post-Doctoral Fellow at Soka University in Orange County, CA, and will begin a tenure-track position at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA, starting July 2015, as Assistant Professor of International Relations. Catherine Chang accepted a tenure-track position at Macalester College. Meanwhile, Ursula Lang completed her Ph.D. program and is seeking a position for fall 2015.

Master of Geographic Information Science

The MGIS program prepares pre-career and mid-career students for an expanding range of careers in urban planning, environmental protection, meteorology, consumer marketing, academia, public health, community development, and much more. MGIS enrollments number about 46, with 19 graduates in 2013 and 13 in 2014.

MGIS STUDENT SUCCESSES

A sample of job titles of current MGIS students and recent graduates include: Andy Walz, Technology Director, Wilderness Inquiry; Tobias Fimpel, GIS Specialist, University Services, University of Minnesota; Andres Nelson, GIS Analyst, Loram Maintenance of Way; Devon Piernot, GIS and Information Technology Specialist, Real Estate Office, University of Minnesota; Steven Schmidt, Project Manager, Wells Concrete; Jeff Renhart, GIS Coordinator at the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, Minnesota Dept of Natural Resources; and Matt Rantal, Geological Information Specialist, Minnesota Geological Survey.

The MGIS program website carries extensive information about the program and the activities of our graduates: http://mgis.umn.edu/news/

Media Coverage. Of special note this year is the University’s Solar Dream Team, composed of MGIS students who won first place in the ESRI Climate Resilience App Challenge. There were about 300 submissions from all over the country—and not only from students, so theirs was an impressive win. See the details at: http://solar.maps.umn.edu/team.php

The U of M team received quite a bit of local media coverage as well, including a story in the StarTribune: www.startribune.com/business/268636802.html

NEW ENDOWMENT FUNDS

In cooperation with the University of Minnesota Foundation, we’ve created two new endowment funds to support the MGIS Program. The MGIS Endowed Fellowship Fund (#20728) was established by a founding group of faculty donors to build a lasting source of support for MGIS students. Once the fund is fully endowed at $25,000, our program can begin to make annual student fellowship awards every year in perpetuity. Our goal is to develop an endowment dedicated to support MGIS students (e.g., stipends, travel, conferences, invited lectures, and other program enhancements).

The new Master of Geographic Information Science Annual Fund (#20525) provides funding for the MGIS program to meet emerging opportunities for students. Uses may include supporting costs associated with professional development, such as travel to conferences or competitions. See: http://www.mgis.umn.edu/gift

Dr. Susanna McMaster, Co-Director of the MGIS Program (mcmas002@umn.edu)

Undergraduate Programs

The Department of Geography, Environment & Society (GES) administers two geography majors (B.A., B.S.), the Biology, Society & Environment major (BSE), and three minor programs: in Geography, in GIS, and in Public Health. Our undergraduate advisor, Jeanette Simmonds, keeps track of all this activity, while Paula Pentel manages the Urban Studies Program.

In the spring of 2015, there were 500 students majoring in BES; 84 geography majors (37 B.A., 47 B.S.); 21 students with minors in Geography or GIS; and 271 with Public Health minors. With the 95 Urban Studies students, the department manages major and minor programs for 964 undergraduates, one of the largest cohorts in the College of Liberal Arts.

Undergraduate minor programs (Public Health, Geography, G.I.S.) administered by the Department link the advising office with other majors in CLA as well as with the other colleges on campus—Biological Sciences; Forestry, Agriculture & Natural Resources; Nursing; Education & Human Development; Science & Engineering; and several others. Cooperating with other departments and colleges on the Twin Cities campus serves the Department well in many ways. Examples of undergraduate student activity and achievement include:

Talia Anderson. A Geography major, Talia received a Talle Family Scholarship for 2015-16. She has an excellent record of academic achievement and research involvement and in the words of Professor Dan Griffin, one of her sponsors, has demonstrated “clear potential to be a ‘doer’ and an ‘agent of change’.” Talia is one of only ten Talle Scholarship recipients from across the College of Liberal Arts. The purpose of the Talle Scholarship is to inspire, reward, and support academic excellence by awarding full tuition scholarships to exceptional students during their senior year in CLA.

Maria Lee. A Geography major, Maria was named a Uddal Scholar for 2015-16. She is one of 50 students nationwide to receive this prestigious scholarship. Uddal Scholarships honor exceptional students who
Undergraduate Programs (continued)

are committed to careers related to the environment, tribal public policy or Native American health care. Udall Scholars receive tuition support and participate in Udall Foundation-sponsored leadership and networking activities. An honors Geography major in her junior year, she also received a SEEDs of Change Award. SEED awards recognize leaders both in the classroom and the community who demonstrate a significant commitment to equity, diversity, and social justice. Maria completed a Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) project in summer 2014 titled “Language Uses and Needs in Outdoor Recreation” and also worked for the U.S. Forest Service on the Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventure partnership. She will spend Spring 2015 in Tanzania with the School for Field Studies program “Wildlife Management Studies in Tanzania.” Maria is actively involved in the Community Engagement Scholars Program and she was the recipient of the Selmer Birkelo scholarships in 2013 and 2014 for pursuit of her B.A. in Geography. After graduation she plans to complete a graduate degree in public policy and resource management, and she hopes to work in education and interpretive programming in State or National Parks or protected areas.

Alyssa Rockwell. A BSE major, Alyssa was selected to represent the University of Minnesota as our exchange scholar through the Iceland Scholarship Exchange program. This award provides full tuition and living expenses for a year of study at the University of Reykjavik in any area of interest. She completed all degree requirements for her BSE major and will be able to participate in graduation ceremonies in Spring 2015, although her degree will be awarded following her scholarship year in Iceland. Alyssa has been a BSE Peer Advisor since Spring 2014.

Michael Southwell. A Geography and Spanish/Portuguese double major and our very own Geography Peer Advisor, Michael was awarded the prestigious Foreign Language & Advanced Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for the 2014-15 academic year. The FLAS Fellowship supports his advanced study of the Portuguese language and further study of Southern Africa. He has worked as a Peer Advisor in our Undergraduate Advising Office since the spring of his freshman year, and is graduating in Spring 2015.
In Memoriam
C. Gregory Knight (1941-2015)
Greg died on January 1, 2015 from pancreatic cancer. Greg was a member of the Penn State geography faculty for more than 40 years, retiring as emeritus professor of geography in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, effective June 29, 2014. He came to Penn State in 1971 as an assistant professor of geography, having received his graduate degrees in geography from the University of Minnesota (M.A. 1965, Ph.D. 1970) and a brief appointment at the University of Kansas.

Greg’s research interests were in climate change, water resources, resource management, global environmental change, and sustainable development. He conducted field research extensively in Bulgaria and Africa. He is best known for his research on the human use of the environment, including books on ecology and change in Tanzania, climate change in Bulgaria, and methods for regional assessment of climate change impacts.

He was head of Penn State’s geography department from 1982 to 1989. During his service as department head, the GeoGraphics Laboratory was developed. Its successors, the GeoVISTA and Gould Centers, are among the leading GIS/cartography centers in the country. At Penn State, Greg served as chair of the University Faculty Senate, as Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education, as associate director of the Earth Systems Science Center and head of the Center for Integrated Regional Assessment, an NSF-sponsored center of excellence on climate change impacts. For several years, he served as the AAG as editor of the AAG’s Resource Publications in Geography. Greg is survived by Marieta Staneva, his wife and geography colleague, and two children.

Douglas J. Caruso (1946-2015)
Doug died suddenly on January 26, 2015 at Windsor Regional Hospital, following a massive stroke. Doug was a graduate of the University of British Columbia, and pursued doctoral work in the U of MN Geography Department in the late 1960s and early 1970s before moving to Canada, where he worked for 38 years as an urban planner in the Planning Department of the City of Windsor, the last year as Director of Planning. Doug was past president of the Ontario Planning Association, and a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and the American Planning Association. Throughout his career, Doug taught urban planning at the University of Windsor and Wayne State University.

After retiring, Doug and his wife, Ana Maria de la Cueva, completed three volunteer assignments in the Philippines through CSEO/SACO. He is survived by Anita and their children, Jennifer (m. Graeme Stout) of Minneapolis, and Christine (m. Derek Koenig) of Toronto.

Kenneth E. Rosing (1939-2007)
Ken died in October 2007 after a long siege with Alzheimer’s disease. He spent many years as a professor at Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam and was a world-renowned expert in the field of location science. In 2003 a volume of papers in location science was published to honor Ken’s distinguished career during which he made contributions across the board to the many problem settings that characterize the field. (Annals of Operations Research 123 (2003)). Ken received his bachelor’s degree in geography at the University of Minnesota in 1962 and completed several years of graduate work in the department before training to the doctorate at King’s College London, producing along the way the world’s first computer-based atlas in the 1960s. He authored several books on the economics of oil production and distribution and then turned his attention to creating and solving models in the field of location science.

News from Alumni and Friends
John S. Adams (Ph.D. 1966) Spent much of the past three years helping run the University of Minnesota Retirees Association, with service interrupted by occasional car trips with Judith to different parts of the U.S. and Canada visiting friends and relatives who no longer travel, and checking in with former students and colleagues. Our recent trek in February and March 2015 took us to the West Coast and Southwest and included a visit with Jianyi Liu who is teaching in Bozeman, MT, and with Margaret Rasmussen, who is enjoying retirement in Winston, OR. (adams004@umn.edu)

Heike Alberts (Ph.D. 2003) Things are going well on my end here at UW-Oshkosh. I am up for promotion this year, but otherwise things are rather depressing in Wisconsin at the moment. Everybody is trying to work out what Governor Scott Walker’s funding cuts and other changes to the university system may mean for us. My job is not at risk, but if the teaching load indeed goes up to a 4/4, it may be time to look for another job. (Heike attached reports from her recent travels to Namibia and Cape Town.) (alberts@uwosh.edu)

Trevor Barnes (M.A. 1980, Ph.D. 1983); Joan Seidl (M.A. 1981) We were in Santa Monica for the academic year 2013-14, while I was on sabatical at UCLA. We had a wonderful time especially hanging out with Eric Sheppard and Helga Leitner at their lovely house in Encino. Between the beach and the wineries I even managed some work. I was elected Fellow of the British Academy in July, and I was fortunate enough to be in London for the induction ceremony. It was conducted with impeccable British understatement despite the stately setting of an 18th-century mansion, and a stone’s throw away from Buckingham Palace. My mum enjoyed it. (tbarnes@geog.ubc.ca)

Kenneth (“Kenny”) Blumenfeld (B.S. 2001, M.A. 2005, Ph.D. 2008) In 2013 I joined Hennepin County Emergency Management as the Hazardous Weather Research Lead. I also have been advising the design and implementation of the Hennepin-West Mesonet monitoring network, and provide real-time analyses and forecasts during extreme weather events. In October 2014, University of St. Thomas professor Alec Johnson and I completed our documentary film, “The Story of Winter: Minnesota’s Most Iconic Season,” and screened it at the Parkway Theater in Minneapolis. (blume013@umn.edu)

Ed.: Kenny was guest speaker for the 2015 University of Minnesota Alumni Association’s
annual celebration at the McNamara Center on the 17th of April. Kenny was billed as a “hazardous weather expert and story teller.... His larger-than-life personality and energetic style make chatting about the weather worthy of cocktail parties.”

Earlier, Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) meteorologist Paul Huttner and MPR Morning Edition host Cathy Wurzer discussed with Kenny the increase in tornados, and whether urban residents should expect more tornados in the near future. Kenny replied that a significant tornado hits the Twin Cities every 10 to 15 years. “So I would expect something fairly significant at some point in the future,” he said. (24 May 2011)

Rob Britton (B.A. 1973, M.A. 1976, Ph.D. 1978) is settling into life just outside the beltway in suburban Washington. He’s now an adjunct professor in the business school at Georgetown University teaching specialized marketing electives, and continues to guest lecture at 25+ business schools worldwide. His aviation consulting business cruises along, with a nice variety of clients, a few big firms and a lot of start-ups. And he likes to think he’s still a geographer when he ventures to new places; in 2014 to Doha, Jakarta, Bradford, Gothenburg, Genoa, Düsseldorf and Stuttgart. (rob.britton@airlearn.net)

Padraig Carmody (Ph.D. 1998) For the last few years I have been working on a project with Jim Murphy of Clark University on the impacts on new ICTs (information & communications technologies) on small businesses in Africa. This is coming out in the RGS–IBG book series as “Africa’s Information Revolution: Technical Regimes and Production Networks in South Africa and Tanzania” in April of this year. Since finishing that I have been continuing to do some fieldwork on the BRICS in Africa and also some work on large-scale land acquisitions (grabbing) in Uganda. I also serve as Editor-in-Chief of Geoforum: co-director, Trinity College Dublin/University College Dublin Masters in Development Practice; and faculty member in human geography at Trinity College Dublin. (carmodyp@tcd.ie)

Yuet-ping Chung (Ph.D. 1972) As a retired geographer, I have become a metaphysician, focusing on the I Ching. I had two publications on the subject of I Ching (2008, 2015). It is comforting to be able to finally conclude on the truth of I Ching laws after struggling in doubt for so many years. Currently I am studying how the energy of local geography affects the life of celebrities, mainly national leaders and billionaires. Here are updates on my contemporaries in the department. Norman Ng, after retiring from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, is having fun having daily dinners with his son and grandchildren. He has a proud daughter practicing medicine on the East Coast. I accidentally met Shu Yu-Li and his wife at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2013, both of us visiting the campus. He had retired from the government planning office in Ottawa, Canada.

William J. Craig (M.A. 1972; Ph.D. 1980) I retired from the U of M in July 2014 after 64 years of Maroon and Gold. I started as freshman in 1960 and was rewarded with a NCAA football championship, but I’ve finally given up on a repeat. I still have a desk at CURA and am working on a history of that center, founded in 1968 by John Borchart and Fred Lukermann. I joined CURA in 1970. During my career I served three different outside constituencies as president: Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA–local government), National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC–state government) and University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (NCGIS–academia). I’m proud to say each has given me its highest honor: URISA’s GIS Hall of Fame (2009), NSGIC’s Lifetime Service (2014), and UCGIS Fellow (2011). Starting with Charleston last fall, I plan to spend part of my retirement years attending conferences of all three organizations when they meet in interesting places.

On the side I am filtering through 100+ years of family photographs. Boxes of photos came to me last year when my sister died. Many have notes on the back, including one of my grandmother graduating from the U of M in 1903; I never knew! Her father was a Civil War veteran, having served as a drummer boy in Sherman’s March to the Sea. I’m scanning and annotating the most compelling of these photos to help my grandkids know and appreciate their forbearers. (wcraig@umn.edu)

Janel M. Curry (M.A. 1981; Ph.D. 1985) New edited book titled, Reading Hong Kong, Reading Ourselves (Gateway 2014), which is a book on cross-cultural encounters through different disciplinary lenses. It arose out of my Fulbright in Hong Kong. Otherwise, I remain busy as a provost at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, and working on a major research project on women in leadership.

Jack Flynn (M.A. 1974; Ph.D. 1992) More than 40 years after beginning teaching and after 35 years at St. Catherine University, I am retiring from teaching in May 2015. Currently, I am Professor of Geography and the former chair of the Department of History, Geography, and Political Science at St. Kate’s. It has been a pleasure in recent years to teach courses on American Landscapes; The City in World History; St. Paul-Minneapolis and the Upper Midwest; National Parks and Environmental Conservation History; and Historical Geography of the American Southwest; as well as my regular courses: Human (Cultural) Geography and Global

Search for Justice: The Immigrant Experience. Favorite quote: “Fortunately, the time has long passed when people liked to regard the United States as some kind of melting pot, taking men and women from every part of the world and converting them into standardized, homogenized Americans. We are, I think, much more mature and wise today. Just as we welcome a world of diversity, so we glory in an America of diversity—from America all the richer for the many different and distinctive strands of which it is woven.” Hubert H. Humphreys. (jjflynn@stkate.edu)

Gary Hanson (B.A. 1971) I’ll be retiring as senior pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Woodbury, MN, this June. My career has spanned 37 years as an ordained minister, having served churches in Minnesota, Maryland, and Wisconsin. With weekends suddenly becoming available, my wife and I look forward to additional travel in the coming years, no doubt with trusty maps by our side, ignoring the latest technology of GPS. Ironically, our son, Craig, a recent 4th-generation U of M grad, is currently working as a GIS Specialist in Williston, ND, updating spatial databases and producing maps as needed. Looking forward to another Ralph Brown Day and I hope many alums will come. (gary@trinitywoodbury.org)

Marilyn Hyde (M.A. 1976) I live in coastal Watsonville, California, and teach English as a Second Language to agricultural workers from Central America. My 39-year memory of the Twin Cities includes TAing for different professors; trudging across the bridge for early morning section classes on the East Bank; playing volleyball and softball on the department teams; sharing tickets and enthusiasm for Gophers’ games; wonderful department spirit and camaraderie; and most important, studying and learning.

Jim Landwehr (B.A. 1985) I’m now living in Waukesha, Wisconsin and am happy to announce that my book Dirty Shirt: A Boundary Waters Memoir (Providence Village, TX: eLecto Publishing, 2014) has been released and is available for purchase. This book is the culmination of four years of hard work and details trips I took to the area with brothers and friends in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and then 25 years later with our kids. I live and work in Waukesha, WI, with my wife Donna, and our two children, Sarah and Ben. I work as a Geographic Information Systems Analyst for the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use, and enjoy writing creative non-fiction, fiction, and poetry. (jimlandwehr@att.net)

Nicholas Leach (B.A. Urban Studies 2014) I am in grad school completing my MURP degree at the University of Colorado Denver. The school is right in the middle of downtown and has an urban vibe to it. One great thing is that the College of
Architecture and Planning's building has 24-hour access to all 8 floors (computer labs, study areas, and studio spaces)! Being mentally and physically prepared, as well as doing research on not only the program, but the place it is located, will help any student with picking a perfect environment to continue their education. One thing to think about is: do I want to make my professional connections in this city (or wherever) and at this university (or college)?

Grad school is very different from undergraduate programs. The University of Minnesota-Twin Cities prepared me for graduate school with three important things: I felt strong beginning my program because I had obtained a strong professional level of communication, the skill of thinking critically, and the ability to think about or assess issues from many different angles. (nicholas.leach@ucdenver.edu)

**Jian-Yi Liu** (Ph.D. 1992) I'm associate professor of Geography at Montana State University. My research interests focus on urban and economic geography with a regional specialty in East Asia and China. My experiences in East Asia, especially in China, have formulated my research on the geographical study of the East Asian urban system and spatial economic phenomena. Recent work emphasizes the changing spatial structure and functional transformation of China's cities and regional economy. I'm expanding my research interests to the Northern Rocky Mountain area, including population, land-use change as well as town and regional economic development. Each summer I take students for fieldwork in China, where my wife Zheng Zheng works in television and cinema as an actor and producer. (liu@montana.edu)

**Deborah G. Martin** (M.A. 1994; Ph.D. 1999) I am (still, happily) at Clark University's Graduate School of Geography. I teach urban courses and some research skills (qualitative, design). My research is currently split into two major themes: the "Human-Environment Regional Observatory" (HERO) program at Clark, which engages undergraduates in research, and me exploring urban forestry policies; and I have a new (NSF-supported) project examining housing community land trusts in the Twin Cities (!) investigating legal geographies and place identities (still).

Family is good. Dan is a banker (!) now, working for Capital One 360. Actually it is quite interesting; the person who hired him was president of a bank in St. Cloud that was brought by ING direct, which was bought by Capital One. He travels for work a fair amount. Naomi is 11 and in her last year of elementary school (gr. 6), and Isaac, 7, is in grade 2 (and has a hard time sitting still, sigh). I'm thrilled to hear that Sarah Elwood is the Brown Day speaker this year. Great choice! (demartin@clark.edu)

**Patrick Mendis** (Ph.D. 1989) Patrick is serving as a distinguished scholar and senior expert for the Confucian Institute at George Mason University (GMU). He was a distinguished senior fellow and affiliate professor of public and international affairs at George Mason's School of Public, Government and International Affairs as well as an adjunct professor of geography and geo-information science at GMU. He recently authored another book, Peaceful War: How the Chinese Dream and the American Destiny Create a Pacific New World Order (University Press of America, 2014). Last year he taught advanced Sino-American diplomacy seminars at Tongji University (in Shanghai) and Nanjing University, and lectured at Fudan, Guangdong, Hong Kong, Peking, Renmin, Sichuan, Sun Yat-sen, Tsinghua, and other universities in China. This year, Patrick is a distinguished visiting scholar of economic diplomacy at Wuhan University and a visiting professor of international politics at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou. He is a commissioner of the United States National Commission for UNESCO at the U.S. Department of State, an appointment by the Obama administration. (patrickmendis@post.harvard.edu)

**Emily Murai** (Ph.D. 2011) I really enjoyed the department's last newsletter and look forward to reading the next edition. It's great to get updates from the Geography Department alumni, especially since I rarely attend geography conferences anymore, and don't run in geography circles very often these days. Since the last newsletter, a few things have changed: I'm still a Lecturer at UC Santa Cruz and still love it. I work with diverse groups of students—first-generation college kids, multi-lingual speakers, recent immigrants—and greatly enjoy being part of (and hopefully positively influencing in some way) their undergraduate experience. I'm in the Writing Program (think first-year seminars and composition courses and the like), so it's a far cry from Geography; but it is quite stimulating in its own way, and I try to teach on geography-related themes as much as possible.

The bigger news is that my partner and I were recently married and welcomed the arrival of our daughter, Mariana Murai Gudanets this past August. Becoming parents has brought us unimaginable joy—she is currently delighting us to no end with her coos, toothless smiles and giggles. I was able to stay at home with her for one term on maternity leave, and am now delicately balancing work with being a mom. It is not easy, but I enjoy being able to play both roles. I am, however, already looking forward to summer vacation! If any geography alums are ever out West, please feel free to contact me. We would love visitors, especially those who can fill us in on all the latest and greatest from the Twin Cities. And if anyone needs any enticements to come out West, the beach and boardwalk are only a short walk away! Plus, there's no snow! (emurai1@uccs.edu)

**Kefa M. Otiso** (Ph.D. 2000) Kefa is associate professor of geography at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, where he teaches in the areas of urban and economic development, 3rd-world development, immigration, and GIS applications. In 2013, he published Culture and Customs of Tanzania (Greenwood Press, 2013) for the Culture and Customs of Africa series. He also co-authored Population Geography, 10th Edition (Kendall Hunt Publishing, Dubuque, IA, 2013). (kmotiso@bgsu.edu)

**Judith Otto** (Ph.D. 2008) Judy was promoted in 2014 to Associate Professor of Geography, Framingham (Massachusetts) State University in 2014. She is currently serving as Coordinator of the Environmental Science major—an interdisciplinary collaboration between Geography, Biology, and other science departments. (jotto@framingham.edu)

**Deborah Pile** (Geography grad student in the early 1970s—Jack Flynn wrote on behalf of his wife) will soon retire after nearly 40 years working for the State of Minnesota (Pollution Control Agency, State Planning Agency; Commerce Department). For the last 10 years, she has headed the Energy Environmental Review and Analysis group, which researches environmental impacts of pipeline, power line, wind farm and power plant projects, and works with communities, companies, other agencies and individuals to plan siting of energy facilities in order to avoid, minimize, and mitigate negative impacts. In retirement, we look forward to more time for travel, reading, exploring a wide range of interests, and enjoying our poodles.
Philip W. Porter (Emeritus Professor) (from his Christmas letter 2014)
The year had two peaks and one valley, the latter being the one that appears in the 23rd Psalm, but more on that later. The first peak was in early July, which included my 86th birthday (9th). Much of the Scandinavian clan arrived; at one point we were 17 around the dinner table. The second peak was in the latter half of August to celebrate Pat’s 90th birthday (the 28th). The valley part began in October. On October 3rd Pat fell while looking up a word in the dictionary and broke her right hip. She was operated on the next day, released from Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) two days later and returned to Kendal for physical therapy. After 11 days she was back in the apartment doing well. Then on November 11th Pat, my dear, sweet wife of sixty-four years, had a stroke. Pat is gradually improving but it will be a long process. So on that mixed note of joy and sadness we wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and all good things for the New Year.

Yvette L. Pye (M.A. 2000; Ph.D. 2006)
I continue my work as an Associate Professor at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota in the Doctor of Leadership Program, where I’ve had the honor of supervising 12 completed dissertations so far. My memoir, Going from the Projects to Ph.D.: Transcending My Geography (Xlibris, 2012), is updated and will be re-issued in April. The Pye Foundation for Education and Literacy seeking to combat illiteracy in poor areas locally and abroad is up and running. My educational consulting, DreamBigInstitute.com, keeps me quite busy speaking and working with educators toward closing the Achievement and Opportunities Gaps. The family is also doing really well; Eric Jr. recently earned his Master’s in Project Management and Maurice graduates from high school this year. I have not been traveling much since studying in Italy but looking forward to my next adventure. Cheers. (ypye@smumn.edu)

Anthony T. Rozycski (B.A. 1967; J.D. 1970; M.A. 1977) Check Tony Rozycski on Facebook, with several university professor Facebook friends including two graduates of U of MN Geography Department and several from U of MN Law School. Several of my books are in public libraries, including the University of Minnesota Catalog system under my name and/or sole proprietorship Black River Publishing, Roseville MN. “AstroGeoBio” is the working title of a book I’ve been working on 30+ years about Astronomy, Geography and many related subjects including my life/biography, many books, movies and even comic book characters for a bit of levity. It includes or mentions many U of M teachers from various Colleges and Departments, and knowledgeable speakers, e.g., John Borchert, Karlis Kaufmanis, Clyde Tombaugh who discovered Pluto, and Yi-Fu Tuan. I’ve been working on it so long can’t recall offhand who else is in there. It began as a history of astronomy and is now up to modern space exploration—85 short chapters. Enjoyed “The Theory of Everything” 2014 movie. I’m also about halfway through Professor Joe Schwartzberg’s excellent book proposing changes in the United Nations that we discussed at the Brown Day Banquet last year. (arozyccki@aol.com)

Terry Simmons (Ph.D., 1979; J.D. UC-Berkeley)
Terry divides his time between Vancouver, Reno, and Seattle. His Reno law office is closed. He will host a seminar on “The Future of Cultural Geography,” held in honor of the late Philip L. Wagner, at the Canadian Association of Geographers in June 2015. Terry is writing an innovative book about a trans-boundary, sub-national hydroelectric dam controversy, and the process of complex natural resource negotiations and dispute resolution. Also, Terry is a member of the U.C. Berkeley Canadian Studies Advisory Board, a board member of the British Columbia Forest History Association of British Columbia, and the Treasurer of the Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy Society of North America. (terry@environment-lawyer.com)

Theano S. Terkenli (Ph.D. 1996) Theano is professor and founding member of the first Department of Geography in Greece, at the University of the Aegean (1994-today), and is faculty member and representative of the Department of Geography at the Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Tourism Planning, Administration and Policy of the University of the Aegean (1999-today). Her research and teaching specialties include Cultural Geography, Landscape Geography, and Critical Perspectives in Tourism. Her recent books include Connections, Mobilities, Urban Prospects and Environmental Threats: the Mediterranean in Transition, which she edited with Annick Dougedroit and Louis F. Cassar (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, forthcoming in 2015); What is Geography, by Alastair Bonnett—she is editor of the Greek translation titled Geography: an Introduction (Athens: Kritiki, 2010); and Human Geography: Humans, Society and Space, edited with T. Losifidis and I. Chorianopoulos (Athens: Kritiki, 2007). (terkenli@aegean.gr)

Karen Smoyer Tomic (Ph.D. 1997) I’ve recently joined Envision Pharma Group as U.S. Strategic Director–Market Access. My work with large data sets during my Ph.D. program has been instrumental in my career from academia (Associate Professor of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Alberta) to industry, about 6 years ago. I’m currently remarried to Francesco D’Antona and live in Maryland. I have 2 daughters (12 and 10) and 3 stepsons (22, 20, and 16). (ketomic@gmail.com)

Eliahu (Eli) Stern (Ph.D. 1976) I’m a professor of geography & planning in the Department of Geography and Environmental Development at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Shiva, Israel. Last year was hectic as usual. In addition to serving as the secretary of the IGU Applied Geography Commission, I was nominated by the Ministry of Education to be Chairman of Israel’s World Heritage Committee for UNESCO, thus representing Israel in the World Heritage Conventions and managing preservation activities in Israel itself. This very demanding position comes in addition to my regular academic work, international travel, and family life. We expanded the family this year with two new granddaughters, having now six grandsons and granddaughters. I completed my travel along the Silk Road’, organized an international conference on geography and planning in Tel Aviv and helped organize another one in Washington D.C. on GIS and spatial modeling. Best regards! Eli (elistern@bgu.ac.il)

Gene Stevelberg (M.A. 1970; ABD 1973) I retired almost three years ago from international secondary school teaching, but have continued with two adjunct university positions, and consulting for the International Baccalaureate Organization which entails some travel in the IB’s Africa, Europe, Middle East Region (remember how “region” is defined…???)—so I’ve never been busier. The latest addition to the family is our fourth grandchild (third grand-daughter, now 18 months+). I’ve been in contact ever since Graduate School with Roger Selya and Roger Prestwich, and have renewed contacts recently with Les Maki and Peter Ennals. If you come this way, let me know! (stevelberge@gmail.com)

Elvin Wylly (M.A. 1992; Ph.D. 1995) It’s been twenty years since I left Minnesota, and yet my geographical imagination is ever more animated by the extraordinary energies of that time and place: Fred Lukermann, John Adams, Judith Martin, Bob McMaster, Eric Sheppard, Abdi Samatar, Roger Miller, Helga Leitner ... and, of course, many brilliant student colleagues. I continue to work on the faculty at the University of British Columbia, where I’m chair of a small Urban Studies Program with students so much smarter than I! Recent research mischief is documented in “Where is an Author?” City 19(1) 5-43; “Automated (Post)Positivism,” Urban Geography 35(5) 669-690; and “The New Quantitative Revolution,” Dialogues in Human Geography 4(1) 26-38. (elvin.wylly@geog.ubc.ca)
Philanthropic Support Makes a Difference

Generous gifts from GES alumni, faculty and friends have established a number of endowed funds that support undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships and field research, and provide awards for published scholarship by graduate students.

For example, summer graduate fellowships provide modest support for travel to research sites where students gather data, refine research plans, and prepare grant proposals to external funders like the National Science Foundation. Our master’s and doctoral students have been highly successful in competing for external grants, thanks in large measure to the summer support your gifts make possible.

Undergraduate scholarships help our students defray the cost of tuition and rising fees. As important, they can provide students freedom to focus on academics and explore field work, research, or internships while ensuring recipients have a more solid financial footing upon graduation.

At this time of high costs and constrained revenues supporting higher education, the earnings from our philanthropic funds are vital in helping the department achieve its mission. In 2014, earnings from our funds provided $64,436 for the Department to use, and in 2015 the spendable amount is estimated to reach about $67,500. The amount available to the department each year is less than the earnings that year, so the funds continue to grow.

We thank all of our generous benefactors (listed at right), and invite your continued support of the department, its programs, and its students.

This year there are 3 new funds supporting programs in GES:

#8424: The Fred and Barbara Lukermann Scholarship provides financial support to undergraduate CLA students, with a preference for those majoring in Geography.

#20728: The Master of Geographic Information Science Fellowship Fund, which was established by a founding group of faculty donors, and will build a lasting source of support for MGIS students. Once the fund is fully endowed at $25,000, it will begin making annual fellowship awards (offering stipends, travel, conferences, invited lectures, and more) every year in perpetuity.

#20525: The Master of Geographic Information Science Annual Fund allows the MGIS program to meet emerging opportunities for students. This may include supporting costs associated with professional development, such as travel to conferences or competitions.

Our students – graduate and undergraduate – are grateful for your generosity and your financial support. Thank you!

Many thanks to Glen Powell, Steve Manson, David Van Riper, Cathy Dzuik, Sara Braun, Shannon Wolkerstorfer, and others within the Department who submitted content for this edition of The Minnesota Geographer.

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