



GEO NEWS

The newsletter of the IUPUI Geography Department

Fall 2000

Editor: Joyce Haibe

A Note from the Chair:

Again it has been a busy few months for the Geography Department! I know I always seem to start off with that statement, but in the last six months we have hired a new faculty member (Owen Dwyer), created a new undergraduate scholarship, built a new lab (CA203), and developed a new graduate-level certificate in GIS-spatial analysis. More details on all of these activities are presented below. In addition, the Geography Club has lots of activities planned and this year a record number of Majors will graduate. If only IUPUI could solve its parking problems, all would be going very well!

Within the department we have talked quite a bit about the newsletter, what kinds of information we should include, and how it should be distributed (mail/email). One of the things we concluded is that we would like to focus more on our alumni. With that aim, please send us information about what you are and have been doing since you graduated from IUPUI, and also other suggestions of types of information you would like to see included in this newsletter.

Congratulations!!

Our newest graduates include **David Gillie** and **Heide Liessmann** in May, and **Bill Adams**, **Matt Nolan**, **Karissa Swenson** and **Cory Wilson** in August.

Kristen Uehlein received the James R. East Scholarship administered through the School of Liberal Arts. A recipient of this scholarship must be an alumnus of Boys and Girls Club of Indianapolis. Kristen is a former member of the LeGore Boys and Girls club on Indy's westside. When Dr. East retired in 1996, faculty, staff and friends endowed a scholarship to be offered through the School of Liberal Arts. Kristen is the first recipient of the James R. East Scholarship.

Faculty Spotlight – Owen Dwyer

This year we welcome a new faculty member, Owen Dwyer. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in August, 2000. He received his BS and MS from Pennsylvania State University. His teaching interests include urban cultural landscapes, American social movements and geographic education. Owen's dissertation was "Memorial



Owen and Susan Dwyer

Landscapes Dedicated to the Civil Rights Movement."

He, along with his wife Susan and one-year-old daughter Fiona, recently moved here from Cincinnati after buying a house in the Irvington area.

Owen will be teaching urban and cultural geography subjects, including G314: Urban Geography in Spring 2001. He also is teaching G309 Frontiers in Geographic Thought.

When Owen's not making brilliant contributions to the field of Human Geography, he's at home playing with Fiona.

Geography Awareness Week & GIS Day

Geography Awareness Week is November 13-17. This year's theme is "Here Today, Here Tomorrow: A Geographic Focus on Conservation." To celebrate, we have arranged for Roger Hedge from the Division of Nature Preserves, Department of Natural Resources to speak. He will be at IUPUI on Monday, November 13, at 1:00 p.m. in the University Library Lilly Auditorium, Lower Level. All are welcome and we hope to see many of you then. If you have any questions, please call the Geography office at (317)274-8877.

GIS Day is November 15, 2000. This year we are joining with the City/County GIS Team and plan to have a map gallery in the City-County Lobby all week long and the Statehouse North Atrium from 8:30-noon on November 15. The GIS Team is also planning on visiting a number of schools in the Indianapolis area. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of the activities during that week, contact Jennifer Weintraut at Jweintra@indygov.org or by phone at 327-5703. Last year they had 11 presenters who visited 8 schools in Marion County and reached over 1,000 children. This year the goal is to reach more children and more schools.

Geography Club

The new officers of the Geography Club are **Emily Kempf** and **Heather Nixon** as co-presidents; **Kelly Smith** is Secretary and **Derrick Jackson** is Treasurer.

In what is becoming an annual event, the club will go to Chicago on December 2nd for the day. This will be a

chance to do some "almost-last" minute Christmas shopping, take in a museum, wander around the city, or anything else that appeals to your sense of adventure. Cost of the trip will be around \$10.00 and the time of departure will be determined at a later date. The club will be using an IUPUI van to make the trip and there will be a sign-up sheet in the Geography office (CA 213) starting around mid-November. If you are interested in participating, call the geography department office at (317)274-8877 or e-mail geogdept@iupui.edu or Emily Kempf at eskempf@iupui.edu

The club has monthly meetings, usually on Fridays, so if anyone is interested in attending, please contact Emily, Heather (hlnixon@iupui.edu), or Kelly (kellysmi@iupui.edu) for details. Pizza and soft drinks are provided.

Next week club members will be participating in the IUPUI College Bowl competing for a chance to win \$500.00 scholarships for each participant.

In the spring, they will also be sponsoring a bus trip around Indiana and of course the annual rafting trip. Plans are in the works so if you have any suggestions, let one of the officers know.

New Geography Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of many of our Geography alumni, we will be awarding a \$500.00 scholarship annually to the most promising new geography major, as selected by Department faculty. The criteria will be 1) at least one year's residence at IUPUI, as either part- or full-time. 2) declared Geography major and completion of 9-18 credit hours in geography by the end of the spring semester in which the scholarship is given, and 3) a one page statement of purpose, including reasons for majoring in geography, anticipated course of study in the major, plans after finishing the undergraduate degree. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the Liberal Arts Honors Convocation in the spring. The deadline for submission is January 15. For further information contact Catherine Souch (csouch@iupui.edu) or the Geography Department.

New graduate level programs in GIS

This Fall, a graduate certificate in GIS to be offered through Geography at IUPUI was approved by the IU Trustees. To complete the certificate students are required to take five courses in GIS, remote sensing and/or computer cartography (15 credit hours in total). More details on the specific requirements, a tentative schedule of when courses will be offered, and GIS in general is presented at <http://www.iupui.edu/~geotech/>. Alternatively, contact Jeff Wilson (jeswilso@iupui.edu) for more details. A new MS in GIS, which will integrate a suite of core courses (many overlapping with the certificate), with an internship/practicum

and independent research experience is currently being developed.

Geographic Information Science Seminar

Jeff Wilson will be offering the new Seminar in Applied Geographic Information Science (G439/639) for the first time in Spring 2001. This course is designed to give students the opportunity to apply the theory and technical skills acquired in introductory and intermediate remote sensing and GIS courses to current research problems. While the specific research addressed in the course will change each time it is offered, the overall theme for this Spring will be land use and land cover dynamics in Central Indiana. Students will tackle such issues as the extent and effects of urban sprawl in Central Indiana from the mid-1980s to the present, changes in the tree canopy cover in Marion County over the last 50 years, and the effects of land cover dynamics on the Indianapolis urban heat island. For more info on the course, please visit the IUPUI Geography GIScience page at: <http://champion.iupui.edu/~geotech/> ... or contact Jeff directly.

New Lab Space for Geography

The Geography Department has a brand new lab under the over-sight of Nadine Martin, devoted to teaching involving the use of lab equipment (G108, Soils, Field Methods). All equipment is on the spot and accessible to students for use in their work. The new lab has three computers and two printers, a laser printer and a color inkjet, to be used by students to complete assignments and projects linked to these classes. The lab is in Cavanaugh Hall room 203. We will share the space with Anthropology. Please stop by and see the new lab if you are in the area.

Student News

Charles Kaser has returned to Indianapolis. He is an assistant Superintendent at his old golf course and is working part-time as a weather spotter at the airport.

Emily Kempf and **Kelly Smith** have been working on the Lilly ARBOR (Answers for Restoring the Bank of the River) Project planning and planting trees along the banks of the White River. Emily and Heide Liessmann started work on this project last January and it is finally coming to fruition. The project involves planting and monitoring the growth and development of trees and shrubs planted along eight and a half acres of the river-margin corridor



Kelly Smith and Emily Kempf at the tree planting on October 20.

along the White River immediately west of the IUPUI campus. The data produced by the project will help scientists across the nation restore riverbanks to their natural state.

Derrick Jackson will soon be on his way to spend nine months in the Ukraine. He will be studying at V.N. Karazin, Kharkiv National University, in Kharkiv Ukraine until June 2001. He will be taking courses in the Russian language while there. He is also interested in the Chernobyl nuclear plant and the events slated for December 15th when it is scheduled to go off line.

Heather Nixon visited five missions in Texas to study their origin, development, function and occupation. Her field work generated additional information which will enhance the GIS maps being produced for a researcher in Berkeley California.

News From Our Alumni

Sam Hulse '95, his wife Alma and son Matt moved to Chandler, Az. (a suburb of Phoenix) in September of '98. Sam has his own business as a personal fitness trainer and has a growing clientele in south Chandler. He was certified by a national fitness organization (ACE-American Council on Exercise) while still in North Carolina. He says he enjoys the heat and is quite fond of the desert, but 100+ degrees in April is a little much.

J. Dallas Dishman '92 is currently ABD in the USC Department of Geography. His dissertation explores the nexus of anti-gay violence in the City of West Hollywood, California and the role of place in the psychosocial aspects of the daily lives of gay men in and around West Hollywood. During the 1999-2000 year, Dallas was awarded a USC Presidential Fellows award as well as the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. He works 75% time for the Southern California Studies Center, an urban and regional "think tank," based at USC and is a Project Director for the center and oversees all in-house publications for the center. Since his arrival in LA, Dallas has become an avid rock-climber, a road cyclist, and a sailor. Dallas can be found on the web at <http://www-scf.usc.edu/~jdishman/>

Leslie Flanigan '95 has been working with a GIS firm that does digital conversion for utility companies and local governments. Her primary responsibilities have been programming and coordinating the training program. Leslie says she never imagined that a Liberal Arts degree in Geography would lead to a career as a programmer but she is starting a new job with an insurance company.

David Gillie '00 is teaching Spanish for IPS at Arlington High School. He also was the teacher consultant for the GIS Summer Institute sponsored by GENI, the Geography Department, Polis Center and University Library.

Heide Liessmann '00 spent part of her summer in Haiti and the Dominican Republic as a field assistant to Tim



*Heide Liessmann
in the cloud forest
near the Haitian
border*

Brothers while he was doing research on the vegetation differences along the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. She has returned to France, where she reports the weather was cold and rainy all summer.

Cory Wilson '00 is working for the city as a development manager in Metropolitan Development and is a member of the Indiana Pacers' Power Pack (the guys who do flips at the games, slam dunk the basketballs, and shoot tee-shirts at the crowd). He is enjoying

both of them greatly but still catches himself thinking that he should be doing homework. He plans to begin work on a planning certificate in the summer.

Dennis Eads '99 has been a TA at Florida Atlantic University (Boca Raton, FL) teaching world geography discussion labs. He plans on graduating in May, 2001 and to continue his postgraduate work or find a job that involves a lot of travel. He has been studying primarily human geography (urban, economic, population, cultural) and enjoys living in Florida, but misses the friendliness of the Midwest.

Jim Hayes '99 has been working on his Masters degree in geography at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, as well as assisting with research projects here at IUPUI for Dr. Jeff Wilson and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Jim's Masters thesis will focus on the changing species composition of a forest preserve near Terre Haute in the prairie-deciduous forest ecotone. Following his Masters work he plans to attend law school to study environmental law.

Derek Elliott '95 has been working with Citizens Gas & Coke Utility in the Engineering & Mapping department. He is responsible for updating the mapping system. In the near future, he will have more responsibility for the task of expanding and streamlining Citizen Gas' GIS so it can be used by more people around the company.

Sandi (Jones) Fuller '95 is working at home full time and enjoys the freedom of being able to take an occasional afternoon walk or bike ride, and she's glad she can be there when her kids need her.

Mychelline Fiadhiglas '00 after graduation moved to Chicago with her husband Jeff. She is taking classes in MS Access and Visual Basic at the local community college and hopes to volunteer for a conservation-minded organization like the Nature Conservancy.

Faculty News

Tim Brothers once again spent time this summer in the Dominican Republic and Haiti continuing his work on the

vegetation difference along the border between the DR and Haiti. He was joined by Heide Liessmann, recent Geography and Anthropology graduate, who acted as his field assistant.

Rick Bein had a very productive summer at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology where he was sponsored by a Rotary International teaching grant. He was also funded by an IUPUI Grant in Aid and a Liberal Arts Research Grant to provide ground truth satellite imagery for monitoring subsistence food gardens in the Kamiali Wildlife Management Area. He also co-authored three professional papers dealing with environmental issues in PNG.

Jeff Wilson spent his summer overseeing a plethora of grants, all of which related in some way to mapping and imaging of Marion County and the city of Indianapolis. He also is preparing for a new seminar course in the spring which is part of the new graduate certificate in Geographic Information Science.

Tom Fedor attended the Association of American Geographers combined East Lakes/West Lakes Division meeting at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio on October 20. He presented a paper "Geography, Technology and Capital Markets" as part of the Geography of High Technology session.

Nadine Martin attended a series of professional development seminars this fall. As a result, she is trying to include more active learning strategies in lectures and is planning to remodel G107 in depth. She is also reviewing the lab manual for G108 to bring it up to date.

Courses for Spring

We have an exciting line up for Spring. Tim Brothers is teaching a new topics class G390: Geography of the Caribbean. It looks to be an interesting and exciting class about an area of the world that is both intriguing and complex. Jeff Wilson will be teaching G439: Seminar in Geographic Information Science. If you are looking for a course to tie your GIS and Remote Sensing classes together, this is the one. Jeff will also teach Cartography and Graphics and the Introduction to GIS classes in the spring.

Catherine Souch will be teaching G303: Weather and Climate and Tom Fedor will offer G321: Geography of Europe; Bob Beck will present the ever popular G327: Geography of Indiana and Owen Dwyer is teaching G314: Urban Geography. Many of these courses are also offered for graduate credit. Contact the Geography office if you are interested in a graduate course.

We will also have two new part-timers teaching for us in the spring. Lynn (Stewart) Blake, '91 IUPUI

geography graduate, will be teaching two G110 classes. Jason Hickman, IU-Bloomington masters graduate, will teach the G110 class at Glendale Mall.

Geography Educators Network of Indiana

Hilary Steinhardt is GENI's newest office support staff. Hilary comes to GENI with lots of experience both in the post-secondary Geography arena via Ball State University and in the secondary classroom via Lawrence North High School. Hilary was added as office support staff so Kathy Kozenski could work part-time and spend more time with her family.

For Geography Awareness Week, GENI will have a workshop on Nov. 10 at IUPUI in Indianapolis highlighting possible GAW cultural conservation ideas. Contact the GENI office for information, (317)274-8879 or geni@iupui.edu

GENI has a number of activities planned for teachers in the coming months. Check out the new redesigned web page for upcoming events and contacts (<http://www.iupui.edu/~geni>).

Whatever Happened To...?

We have lost contact with several of our graduates. Does anyone know how to contact the following people? Jill Bowman Browne, Bryan Chandler, Benjamin Cox, Phyllis Delmonte, Julie Luther-Sullivan, Melinda Marsh, Brad Meeks, David Reifeis or Cynthia Sivard.

Please keep us informed about changes of address and let us know what you're doing now so that we can tell your story in a future newsletter. We would like to feature more information about our alums. Send us your mailing address, place of employment and/or graduate school, and your e-mail address or web page. Also we would be glad to include any photos you provide for us. You may send them digitally or we will scan them in and return the photos to you. We can also use slides. We want to keep in touch! We also are posting the newsletter on our web site and it is available for downloading with the use of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Acrobat Reader is a free program to download to your computer and there is a button on the Geography Department page to enable you to download the software. The advantage to using Acrobat Reader is that the graphics and photos will be in color. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via the web, let us know and we will notify you by e-mail when it is posted. Back issues of GeoNews are also available on the web. Just go to <http://www.iupui.edu/~geogdept/info.htm>