



GEO NEWS

The newsletter of the IUPUI Geography Department
Spring 2000
Editor: Joyce Haibe

A Note from the Chair:

Another busy six months at IUPUI! Highlights include the first departmental bus trip to Southern Indiana, a well attended GIS day with workshops and poster presentations (and a strong representation of IUPUI alums), the completion of a successful search for a new faculty member specializing in Urban Geography (Owen Dwyer from University of Kentucky will be joining us in the Fall), and lots of activity by faculty and students alike.

I am particularly pleased to announce that this year we will be recognizing two outstanding graduating students at SLA's honor convocation: Heide Liessmann and Mychelline



Heide Liessmann

Fiadhiglas. Both have exceptional academic records and have made many and varied contributions to the department during their times as students.



Mychelline

Upon graduation, Heide will be returning to France and hopes to pursue her research on forestry and people. Mychelline is considering different options for graduate school.

Fiadhiglas

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to **Jeff Wilson** and **Rick Bein** for receiving full and partial research awards, respectively, from the SLA Summer Research Competition. Well done! Rick will be returning to Papua New Guinea while Jeff will focus on land cover dynamics in central Indiana.

Congratulations to **Emily Kempf**, **Heide Liessmann**, and **Matt Nolan** for being chosen for IUPUI's top 100 students. They will be honored at a dinner and awards ceremony at the Hyatt Regency on April 7. Heide and Emily are also nominated as outstanding women student leaders in recognition of Women's History Month.

T-Shirt Design Competition

Announcing the Geography Department's first ever design competition for an annual tee-shirt series.

As you know, last year we produced a tee-shirt for sale to benefit department programs. It was such a success that we have decided to make it a tradition, with different designs from students each year.

So, submit your designs now. The tee-shirt will be produced for the Fall semester. And there are great prizes to be awarded (o.k. so it's just a free tee shirt, but hey, it will be something to tell your children and grandchildren...I remember the year I won the tee-shirt contest for the Geography Department...) Any special requests in terms of style and/or color, please let us know.

Geography Club

The Geography Club is planning their annual rafting trip to the New River in Hico, West Virginia on May 19-21. There are still a few spots open if anyone is interested in signing up.

The Geography Club is also getting ready to hold elections for officers for the 2000-2001 academic year. If you are interested in becoming an officer and help to plan all the fun things the Club does, contact Matt Nolan (mnolan@iupui.edu).

Spring Activity (which of course involves food)

Saturday, April 29 is the date set for our spring activity for students, alumni, and faculty. We have decided to have a theme pitch-in and slide show, where Nadine Martin will be showing slides of her research and travels in Quebec. If there is time, we might also be treated to some pictures of Papua New Guinea or Spain. The pitch-in will take place here in Cavanaugh Hall room 508. The food theme will be North American cuisine so get out your recipe books and polish off those traditional family favorites. Call the Geography office (317-274-8877) or Tim Brothers (317-274-1101) for more information.

News of the Department Bus Trip

Students, alumni, and faculty gathered outside of Cavanaugh Hall on Sunday, November 21 to prepare for departure on the Department's first bus tour of geographic sights in and around Indiana. We journeyed down I-65 to Seymour and the Brownstown Hills. We circled the courthouse square in Salem and continued southward to Starlight and the Huber Winery. At Huber's, Ted Huber gave us a tour of the winery and press room. Some of us went on to the wine tasting but others of us visited the market and purchased some of the fall fruits



and vegetables available from the farm. The winery is situated in the Knobstone Escarpments which provided us with some spectacular views. After leaving Huber's, our



next stop was Corydon, the first state capitol of Indiana. There we split into two groups, one to visit the home of William Hendricks, Indiana's second elected governor and the other group toured the old capitol building. Coming back on State Road 37 allowed us to stop at Pioneer Mothers Memorial Forest as we crossed the Mitchell karst plain.

There were lots of sinkholes to be seen as we headed home around another courthouse square, this time in Bedford. We arrived back in Indianapolis safe and sound after a very pleasant and enjoyable day touring through southeastern Indiana. We hope to be able to have another trip next year; indeed we hope that it will become an annual event. Please watch for announcements and plan to join us on our next trip, searching for out-of-the way places in Indiana's varying countryside.

Student News

Our December graduates included **Mychelline Fiadhiglas**, **Heidi Herndon**, **Jennifer Woolson**, and **Mark Zehring**. Congratulations to them. Our tentative May graduates include **John Capes**, **David Gillie**, and **Heide Liessmann**. Good luck to them as they finish their college career and have to join the working world full-time.

Matt Nolan accompanied his father on a visit to Honduras for a week in February to provide optical care to the people there. Matt's father is an optometrist who travels to Honduras every year. The trip was very successful in that they saw over 4,500 patients in a 4-day period and performed 35 cataract surgeries from a mobile van.

Kenya was the destination of **Mike Smith** and his wife Brenda in January. They went with members of the Nazarene World Mission to help build a community and educational center. Currently school is being taught in the church building so the new educational center is a blessing for the missionaries who work there. The educational center is also going to be used to teach women how to bake bread over fire so that they can sell it in the market. Mike is ready to go back at any time. He thought Kenya was breathtaking and has the pictures and videos to prove it. Mike and Brenda plan to travel to Quito Ecuador in July for the same type of mission work.

News From Our Alumni

Kim Cronin is working here on campus for the School of Medicine doing database management and continuing medical education events coordination. She is

getting married on Aug. 26, 2000 to Jason Denny, an IUPUI police officer at IUPUI.

Terry (Tessa) Christie-Fauscette joined Intergraph Corporation as a GIS Systems Consultant for the Government Services Division in October 1997. She is now working for Intergraph's "Federal Systems" Department on site Intergraph/GIS support for Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. She was married last November in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

Allen Thompson and his wife (well, mostly his wife) gave birth to a darling girl in January. Allen thinks she may be a future geographer.

Monte O'Neal is planning on completing his Ph.D. from Purdue this May in agricultural systems management. He is interested in precision farming, making site-specific fertilizer prescriptions based on weather data and management records. He remembers the IUPUI campus with fondness and says that it is still his favorite campus.

Cliff Chapman participated in Birdathon '99 as a member of the DNR Challenge Team. The day started off with rain and ended with more rain but all in all, they had a great day. Even the rain and winds didn't diminish the team's enthusiasm as they scoured the state for birds. The local chapter finished second in the nation in 1999 Birdathon raising a record amount of money for Audubon projects.

Faculty Spotlight – Rick Bein

Rick Bein returned to the United States and IUPUI in August after three years as the director of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, Environmental Research & Management Center in Lae. He feels his experience in PNG was very fruitful and satisfying and he says he will remember those three years as the most creative time of his life. He believes his accomplishments have made a significant mark on PNG, some in small ways and others yet to be realized. While in Lae, Rick coordinated a biodiversity inventory for the Kamiali Wildlife Management Area, 340 square kilometer area of land belonging to the village of Lababia, 50 kilometers south of Lae. Thirteen scientists participated in the study which followed a transect from the open sea to the top of the mountain at 1300 meters elevation.



Continuing his interest in geographic education, he became involved with the Environmental Education Workshop for teachers.

This program was structured to provide primary school teachers with environmental education tools to take back to the village schools throughout Morobe

Province, PNG, where environmental awareness is most needed as these people are confronted with demands for their resources.

Rick is looking forward to traveling back to Papua New Guinea this summer, since he has received a Rotary International summer grant. He will leave shortly after classes end in May and will return in time to start the Fall semester. This fall Rick will be once again teaching his Soils class as well as two sections of G110: Introduction to Human Geography.



Faculty News

Tim Brothers spent spring break in Ecuador with a geographer from Eastern Illinois University at Charleston and a local geographer from Ecuador “just to hang out and look around.” He brought back lots of great stories and pictures. He traveled to Austin, Texas to the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) in January to present some of his research findings of the vegetation differences between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. And in May, he is taking his cultural biodiversity class on a tour of the southeastern United States for first-hand observation of human rearrangement of plant and animal patterns in North America, including modification of natural vegetation communities, introduction and spread of alien species, and the decline and extinction of native species.

Tom Fedor will be spending his summer teaching. He says he lives a very uneventful life. All of you who know Tom know that is not true, but we will take him at his word for this summer. He will however be taking a break from teaching in order to accompany the Geography Club on their annual rafting trip.

Nadine Martin's trip to Grand Cayman over Christmas became a field trip where she took some nice pictures of chemical weathering of limestone and coral reef formation. While laying on the beach, she reviewed the Strahler and Strahler textbook used in G107 for the John Wiley review project. She has been teaching, teaching, teaching and taught a new course this Spring, G305: Environmental Change: Nature and Impact. She will be teaching another brand new course in the Fall: G390: Human impacts on river systems, which will involve fieldwork and perhaps a component of service learning. During spring break, she took another field trip to the Everglades.



Catherine Souch is attempting to keep her head above water (figuratively!) although she has just received a new NSF grant (with Gabe Filippelli in

Geology) to continue her lake sediment work. She continues to make trips up to the Indiana Dunes, and now is working with a student to study mercury contamination of the wetland sediments there. She spent part of the winter break in Italy and is looking forward to another trip to Europe this summer and also to the Society of Wetland Scientist conference in Quebec City.

Jeff Wilson has been working on reorganizing the geospatial technology curriculum in the department. Existing courses have been renamed and renumbered to better reflect the content and level of instruction, and a new seminar course has been added. The long-term objectives are to develop a graduate certificate and undergraduate minor in Applied Geographic Information Science.

On the research front, Jeff has developed two new research projects that focus on land cover changes in Indiana. The first project will use historical aerial photography from 1941 and recently acquired high-resolution multispectral digital imagery to examine tree canopy dynamics in Marion County and their relationships to variables in the socioeconomic environment over the second half of the 20th century. Another project will look at broader scale land cover dynamics in central Indiana using satellite imagery. Jeff and Tim will also be returning to Hispaniola to conduct further fieldwork on their project that examines land cover dynamics along the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Bob Beck says he will be doing the same as usual; which means continuing to teach at DePauw as well as at IUPUI, teaching summer school, and visiting his family in Nebraska this summer.

Bill Giles went to spring training in Florida over spring break where he also continued his beach erosion studies at Ft. DeSoto Park and revisited the Everglades to look for alligators.

Mark Rockeymoore has a new job with 1st Books, the largest self-publishing book company on the web, located in Bloomington Indiana. He is providing quality assurance, which means he checks the books for errors before they are delivered to the printer. What a great job, reading books and getting paid for it. Check out their web site: <http://www.1stbooks.com/>

Courses for Summer and Fall

Summer sees our usual complement of 100-level classes both sessions, Geography of Europe, and Political Geography during Summer I, and Environmental Conservation and Geography of North America during Summer II.

This fall we will be offering a new topics course: G390: Human Modification of Rivers taught by Nadine Martin. It will look at how humans have modified



and controlled rivers, some of the consequences of damming our waterways, and what we can do to correct some of the major problems associated with channel modification. Rick Bein will be teaching G404: Geography of Soils and G123: Soil Survey, a five-week course which runs concurrently with G404. Tom Fedor will be teaching G331: Economic Geography, Tim Brothers will offer G307: Biogeography: Distribution of Life, and Bob Beck will be teaching G328: Rural Landscapes of North America. Our new Urban Geographer, Owen Dwyer, will be teaching one of our core classes, G309: Geographic Thought and one section of G110: Introduction to Human Geography.

Geography Educators Network of Indiana

The Geography Educators' Network of Indiana (GENI) will be sponsoring several programs this coming summer. June 19-30 will highlight an introductory level Summer Geography Institute for preservice and inservice educators in the Lafayette area. For two weeks, participants will hear various presenters discussing such topics as meteorology, geology, urban development, agriculture, historical cultures, and much more; the many topics discussed will incorporate current research, historical data, classroom methodology, assessment, national and state standards, and brainstorming for participant ideas. One highlight of the two-week Institute will be a two-day trip up to the Indiana Dunes State Park studying exotic species impacts on the state via Lake Michigan, various rivers and streams, and other mechanisms of species transportation. The Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant Program will lead the two-day study providing a lot of hands-on activities. Wendy Smith, Park Naturalist with the Indiana Dunes, will host the group and will incorporate the park and its various microclimates into the two-day study.

A second Summer Geography Institute sponsored by GENI will highlight urban issues and concerns, focusing around the Indianapolis metropolitan area. These field studies will include the town of Speedway, its development as a "company town", its location, its relationship to Indianapolis, and future plans for the city. A recurring theme for the

Urban Institute will focus on the immigrant impact on the city as Indianapolis developed, and on the current trends in cultural migration and impact. Dates for the Urban Institute are June 26-30 and everyone is welcome to attend.

A third Summer Geography Institute is the GIS Institute, incorporating a number of dynamic organizations in leadership roles: the IUPUI Geography Department, the IUPUI Electronic Library Team, the Polis Center, and Schneider Engineering Group. From June 26-30, participants will be involved with lots of hands-on activities introducing them to GIS databases (SAVI, Electronic Atlas,...) and to GIS software (ArcVoyager,...) and to GIS theory, history, and perspectives. The K-12 educator/participants will incorporate their new-found GIS knowledge into classroom-appropriate lesson plans, which will be available through the web in the fall. Each participant will leave the Institute with software, databases, ideas for future on-line access, and LOTS of resource contacts and resource materials.

In order to become involved in one of the Summer Geography Institutes, please, contact the GENI office at (317)274-8879 or geni@iupui.edu or the Geography Department at (317)274-8877 or geogdept@iupui.edu.

Whatever Happened To...?

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

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. We want to keep in touch! You can also find us on the Web at <http://www.iupui.edu/~geogdept/>