



GEO NEWS

The newsletter of the IUPUI Geography Department
Spring 2001
Editor: Joyce Haibe

A Note from the Chair:

I am very pleased to announce an almost record number of students will be graduating this academic year. Our December graduates are Lucy Able, David Edmundson, Chuck Kaser, Heather Nixon, and Carl Trendelman. Our May and August graduates include Todd Beck, John Capes, Emily Martin Kempf, Jennifer McMillan, and Steven Schrader. I would like to congratulate each of these students and to wish them all the very best in their future endeavors. My only request - keep in touch!

Within the department much of the last year has been dedicated to the development of new programs in Geographic Information Science (GIS). The first result, a graduate level certificate in GIS, will be implemented this Fall. The certificate provides a set of integrated courses focused on the fundamental characteristics of spatial data and the technologies at the core of GIS (geographic information systems, remote sensing, and the global positioning system). Emphasis is placed on the integration of these technologies and with hands-on experience with their application. The program is explicitly designed to serve the needs of part-time students working in, or interested in working in, the field of GIS and related technologies. More details can be found at the website: www.iupui.edu/~geotech. Interested applicants, please contact the department.

An important note: Joyce Haibe was the recipient (again!) of the SLA outstanding secretary award. A very well deserved recognition for the outstanding job she does for the department.

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to **Emily Martin Kempf** for winning the outstanding graduating senior award this year. Emily plans to go on to graduate school but first will teach the G108 lab class for us this summer. Emily was also recognized as one of IUPUI's top 100 students. The top 100 students were honored at a banquet at the Westin Hotel on April 6.

New Geography Scholarship

As many of you know, we have a new Geography Scholarship thanks to the generosity of many of our alumni. Our first recipient is **Nathan Faris**. He is an excellent student and we were very happy to be able to honor him with the scholarship. Nate chose Geography as his major because



Emily Martin and Nathan Faris receiving their awards from Catherine Souch

it was the only program that he felt was diverse enough to cover all his interests in some way. He hopes to attend graduate school with a focus on GIS.

Faculty Spotlight

This spring we welcomed back two part-time instructors to teach Intro to Human Geography. **Jason Hickman**, a graduate of Indiana University's Masters programs taught a G110 course at Glendale. Our very own **Lynn Blake** (Stewart '91) returned for a short time to Indianapolis and taught G110. Lynn has also been working at Polis on a new atlas *Charting Congregational Cultures: an atlas of religion in Indianapolis*. It is being prepared for publication by IU Press and will explore the geographical and historical roots of religion in Indianapolis and looks in depth at three areas of Indianapolis: Greenwood, Irvington, and Martindale/Brightwood. She has also been working on "Common Questions" a series of web pages designed to help community service providers to solve problems using the SAVI-interactive website.

Spring Fling

The results are in! We will be having a picnic for students, alums, faculty and their families. All Friends of Geography are welcome. The date: **Saturday, May 5**. The time: **3:00-6:00 p.m.** The place: **Garfield Park**. Garfield Park is on Indy's south side, (just off I-65's Raymond St. exit). This year we have made arrangements to rent a shelter house so weather will not be a factor, although this is Indiana and it could snow. **Directions to the shelter house:** From I65 go west on Raymond. Go through the traffic light at Shelby and at the next light (Pleasant Run) turn left. Turn left again at the drive directly across the street from Fire Station #29. You will then go over a small hump-backed bridge. Shelter House #3 is the one on the corner with a small playground right next to it. (Sorry but the editor is not a geographer and is hopeless at drawing maps). If you can't come for the whole time, we are planning on eating around 4:30 p.m. The department will provide a volleyball and net; if you have other items (i.e. softball and bat, soccer ball, decks of cards, etc.) please bring them. Tim Brothers is once again issuing his croquet challenge. If you have a croquet set and are willing to bring it, please do and meet Tim's challenge. The department will provide: hamburgers/sausages/veggie burgers, buns, soft drinks, condiments, paper plates, cups, utensils, and napkins. Bring a side dish to share (salad, casserole, dessert, appetizers). Please RSVP to Joyce or Nadine (geogdept@iupui.edu/317-274-8877 or nacmart@iupui.edu/317-274-8867). Joyce will provide a grill for cooking.

If you know of other alumni or friends of geography who might like to join us, please feel free to invite them. There are a number of alumni for whom we do not have e-mail addresses and are at a loss as to how to let them know, so spread the word.

Geography Club

The Geography Club will be making its annual white water rafting trip to the New River in West Virginia on May 18-20. If you are interested, contact Emily Martin Kempf (eskempf@iupui.edu) or the Geography Department (geogdept@iupui.edu or 274-8877). The cost will be \$31.00 and the group will car-pool to the site and camp on Friday and Saturday nights. Rafting will be on Saturday, on Sunday we will return home. If alumni from nearby areas would like to go rafting with current students of the Department, contact either Emily or Joyce. There is a sign-up sheet in the Geography office.

See Cuba While You Can't

Cuba, the "Pearl of the Antilles," is off limits to most Americans by U.S. law. However, Tim Brothers hopes to offer a new field course to Cuba for the first time during the coming winter break (Dec.-Jan. 2001-2002). This course, to be titled "Environmental Geography of Cuba," will focus on the natural environments of Cuba and their alteration by human activity. It will be offered at the junior/senior level, with a prerequisite of G107 (introductory physical geography).



The ancient Spanish fortress El Morro, seen from Old Havana

This will be an intensive course, comprising one week of preparation at IUPUI before Christmas, then a two-week trip to Cuba leaving just after Christmas. Students will get credit for the course during spring semester, though they will return at about the start of the semester and so will not miss other spring classes.

In Cuba, the course will include several half-day lectures at the University of Havana, two major field trips (one three days long and the other four days) via (air-conditioned!) bus, and both guided tours and free time in Havana itself. The course is being offered in conjunction with the University of Havana Department of Geography. Lectures and tour commentary will be given in Spanish by Havana geography professors, with translation (by Tim Brothers; ¿cómo no?), so Spanish is not a prerequisite. But if you have some Spanish and want to use it, no better place than Cuba, where the world's most expressive Spanish is spoken faster than you thought possible.

The logistics of the trip are still being finalized (Tim was in Cuba in March to lay down the field routes with Cuban colleagues), but they will all be provided at what looks to be a very reasonable price by a tour agency located at the University of Havana, which specializes in arranging foreign university field classes. Lodging will be at mid-range hotels and transportation and about half of the meals will be included. Students will be free to choose where to eat when we are in Havana.

Space is limited to fifteen students, because of bus size in Cuba. Don't miss this opportunity



Tobacco drying in Cuba's Vuelta Abajo region, source of the best Cuban cigars

to see Cuba before the U.S. embargo is lifted and U.S. tourists descend *en masse!* Cuba is a beautiful place; Old Havana and Trinidad (where we will also stay) are UNESCO world heritage cities, which means they are the patrimony of all humankind. The Havana geographers are experts and wonderful people. Cubans are ultra-friendly toward Americans. And you will never find a safer, cleaner, or healthier place to travel.

For more information, contact Tim Brothers: e mail: tbrother@iupui.edu or (317)274-1101.

Book Contributions

Last fall, Linda Haas of the Sociology Department put out a call for books. The Key School moved into a new building and the high school portion of the media center's library had lots of empty shelves and very few books to fill them. The Geography Department donated a number of books at that time. We just learned that the school received over 500 books donated to their library thanks to Linda Haas and the faculty and staff of IUPUI. If you have any books you would like to get rid of or know of a school or library that needs donations, please let us know. We will happily help make arrangements

Student News

Kelly Smith received an IUPUI Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) grant to compare pre-settlement vegetation from 1820 in Hamilton County to its present vegetation. She will accomplish this by transcribing original survey notes from 1820 and create a map using that information.

Indra Bogdanovics, a native of Australia, is pursuing her interest in aviation here at IUPUI. She is building up her flight time with ATA ExecuJet and hopes to become a commercial airline pilot.

Jennifer McMillan recorded a number of firsts during her spring break this year. She traveled to the Bahamas and Key West. It was the first time she had been out of the country, first time on an island, and first time on a cruise ship. She is planning on staying in the central Indiana area after graduation and is actively pursuing opportunities that relate to her undergraduate training.

Lisa Bales has been working at the Soil & Water Conservation District. This summer she will be traveling to Ecuador and the Galapagos as part of a field course being offered through Eastern Illinois University at Charleston.

Kristen Uehlein received the James R. East Scholarship award from Dr. James East at the recent SLA Honors Convocation. Kristen, an alumnus of the LeGore Boys and Girls club on Indy's west side, was the first recipient of the James R. East Scholarship



Kristen Uehlein receiving her scholarship award from James East.

David Painter will be spending the summer working at the Target warehouse. He is interested in GIS and plans on continuing to increase his skills.

Derrick Jackson is still studying in the Ukraine and will be speaking Russian like a native by the time he returns to the United States.

Robert Blacketer, one of our newest majors will be visiting South Dakota to see Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse

Memorial.

News From Our Alumni

This August, **Lisa Kennedy** ('92) will begin a tenure-track position in the Dept. of Geography, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University ("Virginia Tech"). The university has about 26,000 students and is located in Blacksburg, VA, a small town about an hour south of Roanoke and situated in a high valley (2000 ft) between the Blue Ridge and southern Appalachians. Lisa will be teaching introductory courses in Physical Geography, and an array of upper level courses in Biogeography and Quaternary Paleocology. Currently she is completing her PhD at University of Tennessee on "Fire-Vegetation Dynamics in Highland Pine Forests of the Dominican Republic: An Investigation at Multiple Time Scales". Her work has been supported by a NSF doctoral dissertation grant.

Heather Nixon ('00) has moved to Tucson, Arizona in preparation for her job with Veridian, an information and security firm which does GIS and Remote Sensing work for the Department of Defense, intelligence agencies; federal, state and local governments; and commercial entities.

Sylas Chemnjor ('83) is residing in Kenya and is working to establish a Liberal Arts Private University. To this end, he asks for used book donations. If you have books to donate, contact the department for details. Any learning material and/or equipment would be appreciated.

Cory Wilson ('00) put his geography degree to good use on his vacation to Europe. He visited Brussels, Luxembourg, and Amsterdam. He thinks Luxembourg is probably one of the most beautiful cities in the world. He says "The whole time I was there I walked around with my chin scraping the ground in awe." Cory is the Development Project Manager in the Department of Metropolitan Development Permits Division. The job has introduced him to a lot of different areas of planning/development and he has developed an interest in historic preservation planning. He is also on the redevelopment committee for the Comprehensive Plan for Marion County.

Heide Liessmann ('00) moved back to France. She is thinking of beginning graduate school in France but in the meantime she has been visiting lots of interesting places. In March, she and her husband went to Chile and Puerto Rico. In February, ignoring the never-ending rain, often accompanied by strong winds, they visited a troglodyte village in France. There are many left in the region; they are carved in limestone and some were still inhabited in the 1950s. Today they are often used as garages, barns, etc. and some of the larger ones have been converted into mushroom farms. She thinks the people who built them were pretty smart: you don't have the wind down there and you have only one face of the house exposed to the rain!!!! Heide is hoping to work on a teaching seminar in Haiti this summer interpreting from English to French.



Dennis Eads ('99) will finish work on his master's degree at Florida Atlantic University. He plans to work for a year before he enrolls for his Ph.D.

Bill Adams ('00) who started work at the Department of Natural Resources Division of Water is currently working at Indy Parks.

Ken Spencer ('98) is currently pursuing a degree in Anthropology and will spend the summer interpreting archaeology and history to the public while working on the second Archaeology Field School here on Indianapolis' near-Westside. Students will learn to do public archaeology right here in our own community. This year they will be digging a circa 1880's site that was home to both a German-American butcher shop and an African-American boarding house that sat right alongside each other here on the IUPUI campus. This summer the university will continue a major renovation project in the four blocks bordered by West, Michigan, Blackford, and New York Streets, an area that is now home to the new Law School building at the northwest corner of New York and West Streets. The construction of new buildings and landscaping in this area informally known as the "SuperBlock" will destroy many of the archaeological deposits in this area, so this year's field school will conduct its excavations here prior to late-Summer and Fall construction. For more information about this site and the Archeology field school, see the webpage at <http://www.iupui.edu/~anthpm/fs2001.html>

Matt Nolan, ('00) is working for Hamilton County Auditors office dealing with tax parcels and working with GIS. He plans on getting married later this summer.

David Winter ('95) is working as an independent product and service broker. He markets hard-to find products and services which help set up people to run their own home businesses. Check out his web site at: <http://www.1to1webservice.com/>

Angie Cummings ('95) is still in Orlando. Last year she taught math at Dr. Phillips HS, and this year she has a permanent position teaching math at Liberty Middle School.

Faculty News

Anyone who has spent any time around the Department lately knows that **Nadine Martin** will be getting married in July. Her fiancé is Kevin Sandler, a film studies professor currently teaching at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The ceremony will take place in an old movie theater in Ann Arbor, a most fitting place for their nuptials, given their mutual interest in film. I know everyone receiving this newsletter wishes both of them the greatest of happiness.

Tim Brothers spent part of March in Cuba to lay the groundwork for the new field course he hopes to offer soon. His interest in the Caribbean continues to increase and development of courses utilizing his expertise make the study of Caribbean cultures and physical geography one of the department's strengths.

Bob Beck and his wife Cheryl have bought a new house in Greencastle and will spend the summer painting and fixing up their new digs.

Owen Dwyer presented a paper and **Rick Bein** a poster (co-authored with Jeff Wilson) at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in New York City. **Owen** has also received a grant to help him begin the groundwork on an extended project on the memorial landscapes of the Civil Rights

Movement. He will extend his research on how we remember and commemorate history by traveling to selected cities of the South to including Selma, Alabama, Greensboro, North Carolina, and Orangeburg, South Carolina.

Rick Bein has submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation to use remote sensing to monitor shifting cultivation in subsistence food gardens in a wildlife management area of Papua New Guinea. He spent last summer field checking satellite images. The new proposal will allow Rick to develop a transect from closed rainforest canopy to shifting cultivation plots and correlating remote sensed imagery to ground cover. He will also develop remote sensing signatures and link them to surface reflectivity in closed forest canopy. The grant will include the purchase of a computer for use by local NGOs to allow them to link with IUPUI and monitor land use and access satellite images.

Catherine Souch received the Outstanding Contributions Toward the Promotion of Geographic Education Award presented by GENI at the Indiana Council for the Social Studies at their annual conference in March.

Bill Giles made his annual trek to Florida to get his first fix of baseball during spring training. Anyone looking for Bill this summer need only go to the ball park. Of course, his summer trips will include as many baseball games in as many ball fields as he can fit into his schedule.

Jeff Wilson has been continuing his research on remote sensing of land cover change and human impacts on the environment. In collaboration with the IUPUI Center for Urban Policy and Environment, he has developed land cover maps from satellite imagery that show urban growth and other land cover dynamics in central Indiana since the mid 1980's. This summer he will be focusing on analysis and publication of the results of this study. In a related research effort, Jeff is studying changes in the tree canopy cover in Marion County, Indiana over the last half century using historical aerial photography and modern high-resolution imagery acquired by airborne sensors.

Courses for Summer and Fall

As usual we have an exciting lineup for the Summer and Fall semesters. In addition to our usual offering of Physical and Human Intro courses, in Summer I Bob Beck will be teaching *G326: Geography of North America*. In Summer II, Tim Brothers will teach *G310 Human Impact on the Environment* and Tom Fedor will teach the popular *G390: Geography of Wine*. In the fall Nadine Martin will once again teach *G305: Environmental Change: Nature and Impact* and Tim Brothers will present *G307: Biogeography: Distribution of Life*. Majors will want to sign up for *G309: Frontiers in Geographic Thought* taught by Owen Dwyer, teachers will find *G327: Geography of Indiana* useful for certification in Geography and Tom Fedor will again teach *G331: Economic Geography*. Rick Bein will offer the newly renamed *G421: Environments of Tropical Lands*. The techniques classes on the schedule are *G336: Intro to Remote Sensing* and *G438: Advanced*

Geographic Information Systems. Both of the techniques courses are also offered at the graduate level and can be used to meet the requirements of the new Geographic Information Sciences certificate. Check out the web site <http://www.iupui.edu/~geotech> for more information.

Geography Educators Network of Indiana

GENI has some great institutes and workshops planned for this summer. July 9-13 will have the second **GIS Institute** for Indiana educators. GIS technology will be explored in the mornings while afternoons will be spent producing web-accessible, hands-on material appropriate for K-12 classrooms and students. The Institute will be limited to 10 participants. **Exploring and Teaching...Indiana and the Underground Railroad** will be held from July 22-27. This intensive, six-day study tour will explore the Underground Railroad from Indiana's Ohio River to Windsor, Ontario. Up to 30 educators will explore some of Indiana's Underground Railroad sites, research many of the historic documents related to the Underground Railroad, and publish a variety of activities in relation to the Underground Railroad. The Indianapolis Urban Geography Team will once again host a one-week institute **Indianapolis: Views from a New and Exciting Perspective** on June 18-22. Educators from throughout the state are welcome; Indianapolis area host educators are available for those living too far to commute daily. Contact the GENI office at (317)274-8879 or visit the GENI web page (<http://www.iupui.edu/~geni>) for more information about the GIS Institute or the Underground Railroad tour. Contact Jill Bowman at (317)842-8039 or jbowmanin@earthlink.net if you are interested in more information about the Urban institute.

Whatever Happened To...?

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

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 your photos or slides and return them to you. 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, a free program to download to your computer. There is a button on the Geography Department page to enable you to download the software. Back issues of GeoNews are also available on the web. Just go to <http://www.iupui.edu/~geogdept/info.htm>
