

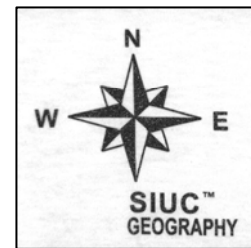
# Geography & Environmental Resources

## Newsletter

Fall 2005

### Hello SIU Geographers,

Our department is in the midst of wonderful growth and innovation, as we welcome two new faculty members this year, and one additional position will be filled in the coming months. Julie Weinert joins us from Ohio State University, specializing in globalization and ecotourism. Justin Schoof, from the University of Indiana, is currently a Post-Doc at Florida State, and will join us in January 2006. A new position in Environmental Modeling/GIS will be filled for Fall 2006. Our classroom renovation project is successfully completed, due in part to donations from our alumni and friends. Because of the high quality academic work of our undergraduate and graduate students, we are thrilled to have several new student awards, also based on funding from alumni and friends. We thank you all for your generous support!



Keep in mind that we want to maintain and build ties between alumni and our current students. Here are a few ideas: If you know an excellent high school senior, tell them about SIUC's great geography program, or if you're acquainted with a top-notch undergraduate student—encourage them to apply to our Master's Program. Or if you can provide an internship opportunity to our students, please let me know. Likewise, if your company has a relevant job posting, please inform us, so that our graduating students may apply. There are many opportunities for linkages between our Department of Geography and Environmental Resources and our alumni and friends. We hope to build on each of these opportunities. Thanks for all your current support. We look forward to another exciting year.

Best wishes, *Leslie A. Duram, Chair*

### Faculty News

#### Doc Horsley Retirement

After 38 years of dedicated service to SIUC, Doc Horsley retired in May, 2005. Luckily, he was willing to hang around and teach one more class this Fall! Doc is an AMS Meteorologist, member of the National Weather Association, the American Association of Weather Observers, the International Weather Watchers Association, and the Gospel Music Association. We know he will stay active and we hope to see him around campus in the future. Best of luck, Doc!



**Wendy Bigler:** ([wbigler@siu.edu](mailto:wbigler@siu.edu)) I've certainly enjoyed my first year in the Department of Geography and Environmental Resources. Creating courses, meeting students, working with graduate students, and pursuing river research have been the highlights of the year. I've been working with my TAs to re-design the lab portion to our general physical geography class, now called Environmental Geography. Among the new labs, the most popular involve students exploring their environment using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and microclimate instruments (possible through the CoLA and the Core Curriculum). I am currently implementing a new core curriculum course that Leslie and I designed last year, Geography 100 "Environmental Conservation." Designed as an introduction to our department and environmental geography, the course has drawn together a bright, diverse set of students. Links between my teaching and research abound—I use examples of historical ecology from my work on the Gila River in Arizona as well as my nascent work on the rivers of Southern Illinois. I am eagerly mining the historical land surveys for river-related data in both regions, and am delighted by the time depth recorded in Illinois. Year one has also marked a transition to a new community, and this change has been very positive. Through my colleague Bruce, I joined the Carbondale Breakfast Rotary

Club (part of an international service organization) and have enjoyed meeting like-minded professionals and participating in community projects. Carbondale and the region have much to offer the geographer!

**Leslie A. Duram:** ([duram@siu.edu](mailto:duram@siu.edu)) It's been a busy year. I am enjoying my new role as Chair (ha ha, I can say that now that I've survived the first year!). I'm still having fun teaching my "Geography and Organic Farming" Seminar and the "Re-

search Methods" class. I am, as always, so very pleased at the level of dedication, imagination, and brightness of our students. The other big news is my book *Good Growing: Why Organic Farming Works* (2005) is getting good reviews in many national (*Chronicle of Higher Education*) and international (*The Ecologist*) journals. It's nice to know that people are actually reading my book, after I put so much time and energy into researching and writing it! And, yes, it's on amazon.com (my son was so impressed). My kids are 8 and 3, so they have lots of activities to keep us running. And, literally, I'm trying to do more running in addition to my swimming work-outs—exercise is another time commitment, but a necessity for reducing stress. Please keep in touch, all you geographers!



**Ben Dziegielewski:** ([benedykt@siu.edu](mailto:benedykt@siu.edu)) This year my responsibilities at the Department have increased somewhat since I had to take back the position of Editor-in-Chief of *Water International* while I am continuing to serve as Executive Director of the International Water Resources Association. In support of these functions I will be traveling to New Delhi in India at the end of November (on Thanksgiving Break) to attend the IWRA's XIIth World Congress

on Water Resources. I also teach "Hydrology in Environmental Planning" and "Water Resources Seminar." In the Spring 2006, I will teach a research methods seminar and a course on environmental impact statements. My biggest challenge for this semester is to complete a research report for a USGS grant "Development of Water Use Benchmarks for Thermoelectric Power Generation in the United States." For this, I am spending a lot of time estimating stochastic production frontier models from the power plant data. With all this, I am hoping to get some breathing room and maybe some help from graduate students during the next semester.

**Bruce Hooper:** (bhooper@siu.edu) During 2005, I have been working on research into performance indicators of river basin organizations. This is on a Universities Council on Water Resources - 2005 Water Studies Fellowship with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Institute for Water Resources, Alexandria, VA. The project will produce a report on river basin organization (RBO) performance indicators, in line with the Corps' corporate objectives on regional scale water governance and ecosystem restoration, and a practical manual for evaluating RBO's performance, suited for further development as a web-based evaluation tool; and briefings to promote the use of the manual with Corps staff at IWR, with UCOWR, UNESCO and the World Bank.

**Chris Lant:** (clant@siu.edu) In the last year, I've not only been able to pass on the Chair to Dr. Duram, but even take a sabbatical this fall semester. I've got some wonderful researching and writing projects to be working on. "Virtual Watershed: Agricultural Landscape Evolution in an Adaptive Management Framework" funded by the NSF Biocomplexity in the Environment program is making good progress and I'm enjoying working with Masters and Ph.D. students and helping them write up their work into really good research papers for the *Annals*, *Landscape Ecology*, *Ecological Economics* and other quality venues. I edit the Universities Council on Water Resources journal and we are addressing issues such as Economics Water Allocation, U.S. Flood Policy a Decade after the 1993 Mississippi Flood, Water Resources and Homeland Security, and other topics. The tragedy in New Orleans brings these issues to the fore even more than ongoing droughts in the Midwest and West. Back at home, my daughters Hannah (13) and Helen (9) are growing like weeds.

**Tonny Oyana:** (tjoyana@siu.edu) Last year was a very fruitful and successful year for the research work that I'm pursuing. I presented papers to four premier international conferences in my field, including International GIScience 2004 Conference, GISUK 2005 Topology and Spatial Databases, Geostatistical Analysis of Health Disparities Conference, and the Intl 2005 Conference on GeoComputation. Not to forget the wonderful seven-day retreat at the Early Career Geography Faculty Summer Training, at the University of Colorado at Boulder through National Science Foundation funding. These days I enjoy long walks (but the humidity in Carbondale this summer was not in my favor). My wife Damalie is completing her Masters of Science in Computer Science at SIU, my son Owen is now in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and my beautiful daughter Phoebe is in Toddler Class. My family enjoys traveling and whenever we are going somewhere everybody is pretty excited about the trip.

**Justin Schoof:** (Post-Doctoral Fellow at Florida State University). He will join us in January 2006.

**Wanxiao Sun:** (wsun@siu.edu) My research focuses on developing new techniques for digital image classification and data fusion. I am also very interested in the application of remote sensing and GIS technologies in environmental studies. My research work has appeared in peer-reviewed journals such as *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing*, *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*, and *Geocarto International*. I have a great family. We are proud of our two sons. Jiajia is a high school sophomore and Sunny is 11 months old.

**Julie Weinert:** (jweinert@siu.edu) I am a new faculty member this year. I came from Ohio State in Columbus with my husband Kyle and my cats Fezzik and Holly. We survived a long ride in a rented truck through traffic jams, yowling cats, and hail storms. I was very happy when we finally arrived in Carbondale! I have been to the farmers' market nearly every weekend, have traveled a bit through the Shawnee National Forest, and spent a lot of time unpacking. Everyone I've met in the department and in the neighborhood have been very friendly and helpful. I am teaching World Regional Geography and the Geography of Globalization this semester and will teach World Regional Geography, Regional Geography of the US, and Environmental Disaster Planning next semester. For my research I study ecotourism in Ecuador. I hope to work with students interested in feminist geography, qualitative methods, tourism, and Latin America.

## Important Staff Members

**Jennie Absher:** This fall marks my fifteenth year at SIUC and secretary in the Geography department. I enjoy working with our faculty, staff and students. On-line graduate applications and electronic submission of theses and dissertations have been introduced by the graduate school. All these changes keep my work interesting. This past May my mother passed away. She was 93 years old. In June my 54 year old cousin lost his battle with cancer. Yes, it has been a very upsetting year for me. However, this coming January my daughter and her husband will welcome another baby boy into our family. Their first child, Tristan, is anxious for his baby brother to arrive. I am busy making a quilt for my new grandson. Grandchildren are great! You can spoil them and then send them home! Working in my flower gardens and being President of the Herrin Gardner's Club take up most of my time. When not out in the garden, I enjoy reading.

**Olise Mandat:** Each year since David Sharpe hired me and through Chris Lant's tenure as Chair, we have asked for the improvement of our classrooms. Finally, someone heard Leslie's voice and included us in the Chancellor's Classroom Initiative. It is so exciting to see classrooms that can accommodate the graphic teaching methods that our faculty use. Sometimes it was pretty hectic splitting my effort between the second and fourth floors, but I enjoyed working with the carpenters, electricians, and Instructional Support staff. The definition of the typical secretary or office staff has dramatically changed. While still carrying the same responsibilities as in the past, we are now expected to be able to design and implement web pages, use all sorts of software, and manage equipment that becomes more and more sophisticated. It sure keeps us busy learning new things.



## Student Awards

The Annual Geography Welcome Reception and Master's Student Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, September 1, 2005. The Dave Arey Thesis Award is given each year to an outstanding Master's student in Environmental Management. This award was established to honor our former colleague *Dave Arey*, who was very influential in regional environmental issues. The award recognizes creative problem solving in the natural resources and environmental field. This year, the \$500 award was given to *Michael Schultz* for his thesis, "Using Cloud to Ground Lightning as an Indicator of Debris Flow and Flash Flood Producing Storms in a Post Wildfire Environment." Mike is a GIS Specialist for CDM in Chicago.

Last year, CDM (formerly Planning and Management Consultants, Ltd.) established an award for outstanding graduate students in their second year of Master's Study. *Dr. Jack Langowski* presented the 2005 CDM Water Resources Award to *Matthew Nelson* for his work on flood plain management in Texas.

At the Excellence in Geography reception held Tuesday, March 1, 2005, several more outstanding students were recognized. The Geography Scholastic Achievement Junior Award was presented to *Stanley J. Ezell* and the Geography Scholastic Achievement Senior Award was presented to *Nora G. Meyer*. This scholarship award is funded through the generous gifts of our alums. Thank you!

At last spring's reception, 19 students were initiated into *Gamma Theta Upsilon*, an international honor society in Geography. Their membership was earned through superior scholarship. Undergraduate and graduate students accepted into the honor society are: *Shauna Bloom, William C. Bollinger, Andrew Cesena, David DeGroot, Nathan Eidem, Gregory Gurbal, Archana Pande Lamichhane, Aaron T. Leese, Jack Millar, Matthew Millar, David Pestka, Valerie Rasp, Kristen Lee Rhodes, Matthew Richey, J.B. Ruhl, Mykola Shcherbaniuk, Wayne Sira, Marian Kaufman Tetzlaff, and Terri Thomas.*

The Priscilla Anne Moulton Memorial Fund was established to recognize an outstanding senior as well as outstanding juniors, sophomores, and freshmen. The 2005 awards were given to *Benjamin Miller, Wayne A. Sira, Jr., Jack W. Millar, and Matthew C. Millar.*

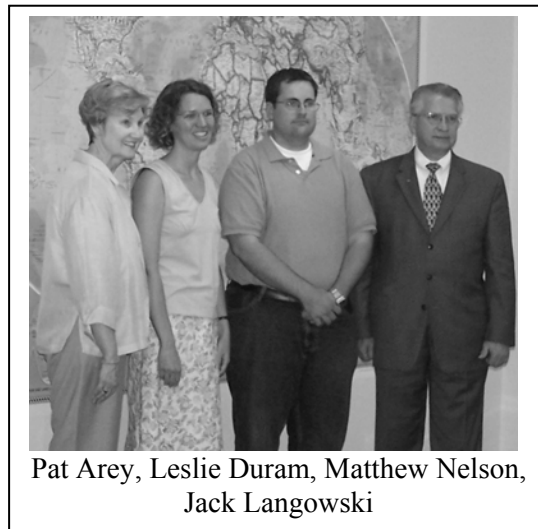
## Gifts to the Department of Geography and Environmental Resources

Thank you for your generous contributions to our Department of Geography and Environmental Resources. Because of donations, we are able to recognize our outstanding students through academic awards. These important awards have increased substantially in recent years because of your donations that allow us to setup new endowments. We are now able to offer the following awards and scholarships: Geography Scholastic Achievement Fund, Priscilla Anne Moulton Memorial Award, David G. Arey Memorial Endowment Fund, CDM Scholarship Fund, and the David & Carol Christensen Endowed Award Fund. In addition, the Geography & Environmental Resources Development Fund was established last fall to support our classroom upgrades, recruitment efforts, travel funding, and funding for students' thesis research.

**Honor Roll July 2004 to June 2005:** *Ann & Mark Aler, Patricia Arey, Charles & Mary Asselmeier, Karl & Kimberly Banach, Jeffery Boers & Kristy Preheim, Bonnie Kranzer & John Boland, Harold Bookhout, Robert Botten, Jeffrey & Katherine Bradshaw, CDM – John Langowski, Jr., Robert Bristow & Lee Ann Casey, Geary & Mary Britton-Simmons, Katharin & Phillip Brown, Tara & Todd Cagnoni, Doris & Cecil Camp, David Christensen, Donald & Diane Clements, Matthew Clements, Malcolm & Marlene Comeaux, Carlton Cuffman, Patrick & Barbara Cullinane, William Daley, Ron & Beverley Dalton, Jeffrey & Susan DeWitt, John Dieffenbach & Carolyn Bryce, Myron & Marjorie Dillow, Patrick & Heather Dunlavey, Jason Edwards, David & Mary Favero, Steven & Shelly Fleisher, Polita Flemming, David & DeLaine Fletcher, Philip & Elizabeth Florio, Robert & Jane Garrison, Ralph & Bernice Goldinger, Carol & John Hall, Sally & Robert Harper, Billy & Judy Hudgens, Roland & Carole Huffman, Janet Hutzel, George Johnson, Judith & Richard Johnson, Bryan & Wendy Kautz, Nancy Kete, Leanna & William Kilpatrick, Robert & Linda Klingensmith, Donald & Patricia Langa, Thomas Langston, Bruce & Kay Lantrip, Lois & Dennis Latta, Timothy Loftus, James Lorelli, Willson & Beatrice Marsh, Patrick Massey, Amy & Randall McCauley, Gena & Craig McCullough, John McMahon, Steve & Andrea McMaster, Suzan & Vernon Meentemeyer, David & Judith Meyer, Gary Meyer, Caryle Michel, Edward Munro & Elena Milburn, John & Wendy Miller, JoBeth Mullens, John Neff, Jr. & Anne Kaiser, Ronald & Sandra Nelson, James & Jane Newton, Benjamin Niedbalski, Eva-Marie Opitz, Jerre & Nancy Pfaff, Restoration Sciences, Llc – Bruce Lantrip, Daniel & Dianna Reusch, Gerald Reynolds, Dan Rodrigo, Wesley Roehl, Curtis & Elizabeth Roseman, Dennis & Lorraine Ryczek, Roger & Sarah Schenk, Richard W. & JoEllen Schlereth, David & Anne Sharpe, Joseph Sinkiawic, Jeffrey & Jean Siudzinski, Beverly & Thomas Staniszewski, Dennis Turay, Floyd & Roberta Waggoner, Patricia & Robert Wengrow, Michael & Harriet Wichowski, Gary & Suzanne Wilson, and Leonard & Peggy Wilson.*

Thank you for your support! This is truly an exciting time for Geography & Environmental Resources at SIUC. Please consider donating to our Department of Geography and Environmental Resources. Checks should be made payable to "SIU Foundation—Geography & Environmental Resources Development Fund."

If you would like more information on establishing a new fund or a named endowment, please contact Jill Gobert, Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts, at [jgobert@siu.edu](mailto:jgobert@siu.edu) or 618-453-4563.



Pat Arey, Leslie Duram, Matthew Nelson,  
Jack Langowski

**Classroom Improvements Complete!** The past year has brought many changes to the three main Geography classrooms. Donations from Alumni and Friends helped make this renovation possible. We also received a Chancellor's Grant for technological classroom upgrades. All three of these Faner Hall Geography rooms received new furniture, new window coverings, and ceiling-mounted projectors. Each classroom received a multimedia podium that includes internet access, VCR, SMART podium, and a digital document camera (an updated version of the old overhead transparency projector). New computer desks were installed in the Spatial and Environmental Analysis Laboratory (SEAL). The addition of this technology now enables our instructors to teach in this century! But most importantly, these classroom upgrades help our students by providing them with an improved educational setting and giving them hands-on experience with current technology that will improve their employment opportunities.



**News from Alumni.** Go to our website at [www.geography.siu.edu](http://www.geography.siu.edu) to read some of the news and success stories of our graduates: *Michael Baron*, Associate Planner, El Dorado County, California; *David Beccue*, Manager, Rock Cut State Park; *Kathy (Gobert)* and *Phil Brown*, Resource Manager, Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota; *Malcolm Comeaux*, Retired, Arizona State University; *William Campbell*, Head of Applied Information Sciences Branch, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland; *Valeri DeCastris*, Illinois EPA, Rockford, Illinois; *David DeGroot*, Planner, Winnebago County, Illinois; *John Dornbach*, Retired, NASA, Houston, Texas; *Kelli Larson*, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography & International Institute for Sustainability, Arizona State University; *Karl Kiefer*, Invocon, Houston, Texas; *Steve McMaster*, Water Resources Planner III, Nebraska Dept of Natural Resources; *Tricia Peterson*, Coordinator, Food for the Hungry International, Bolivia; *Stephen Santner* and *Karl Schreiter* created Gateway Geospatial, Belleville, Illinois.

**Geography Awareness Week.** This year's nationwide campaign to celebrate geography and conservation has the theme, Migration: The Human Journey. National Geographic provides opportunities to encourage children and adults to explore and honor their diverse heritages through various geographical activities. GIS Day ([www.gisday.com](http://www.gisday.com)) is a grassroots event, users and vendors of geographic information systems showcase real-world applications of this technology to schools, businesses, and the general public.

Geography Awareness Week---November 13-19, 2005
GIS Day-----November 16, 2005
AAG Annual Meeting, Chicago-----March 7-11, 2006



**Geography and Environmental Resources**  
 Faner Hall Room 4520 – Mail Code 4514  
 Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
 1000 Faner Drive  
 Carbondale, IL 62901