Greetings to the Geography family; I am the new Head of the department. It is an honor to take over as the fourth Head of the UNI Department of Geography. This program has a great legacy and a great future. I started on August 1, 2006 after arriving in Cedar Falls one month earlier. It’s been a busy, but fun year. My specialty is geomorphology. I got my start in this field at Indiana State University where I got my undergraduate and master’s degrees. I left Indiana, my home state, in 1994 for College Station, TX to work on a Ph.D. at Texas A&M University. Following that, I took a faculty position at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. I stayed at ECU for eight years before accepting the Head position at UNI. I first got interested in geomorphology through caving and did most of my research in Indiana on cave and karst development. More recently I’d have to describe myself as an aeolian geomorphologist as I’ve spent most of the past decade looking at wind-blown sediments from deserts, coastal dunes, and agricultural fields.

On a personal note, my family and I have had a great time moving to Cedar Falls. My wife, Kristin, and I both grew up in Indiana so it’s been great getting back to the Midwest. Kristin works in the Cedar Falls school system teaching 5th grade. We have two children. Paul is in first grade and loves all the sledding opportunities (a rarity in coastal NC). Will is just 1 so I don’t think he even realized we moved.

Since I’m new and don’t know many of the department’s Alumni, please feel free to introduce yourself to me. I’ve included some contact options below. Or, if you happen to be in town, stop in and see our new building. I’d love to know more about you. We’ve also just put up a new webpage where you can update your alumni contact information. I look forward to continuing the great legacy of UNI Geography and I know great graduates like you are an important part of our continued success.

Patrick Pease
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I had an active and enjoyable 2nd year at UNI and I report that one of the unadvertised upsides to being the new junior faculty member was only accruing three boxes worth of items to pack during the move from Sabin Hall to the new ITTC Building. Despite my relatively easy move, I still had a whirlwind start to the year with a two-week vacation to Chile with my wife in May, followed by leading an unrelated Carver Graduate Institute in early June, which consisted of a two-week geospatial technology workshop for 17 faculty members across our campus. Both experiences were outstanding and have shaped some of the work that I am currently undertaking. This includes crafting a Fulbright-Hays Group Project proposal to Chile for summer 2008 and writing a NSF Course Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement grant proposal to fund curriculum development that incorporates geospatial technology into urban geography courses. I’m still working on research related to my previous work at Arizona State University that involves analyzing Latino population dynamics in metropolitan Phoenix and examining Asian ethnic banking in greater Vancouver and the San Francisco Bay Area. I’ve begun some preliminary research exploring the effect of Latino entrepreneurship on declining Iowa central business districts and hope to directly engage this topic in the
next year. I very much enjoy teaching, especially trying to figure out if my students view me as more of an “insider” or an “outsider” (I grew up in Colorado but my parents are third generation Iowans from the Marshalltown area where my grandfather and aunt/uncle still live; my mother is a UNI alumnus). I find that Iowa is a great place to involve students in first-hand geography fieldwork and I have taken students on field excursions to Waterloo, Dike, Iowa City, and Marshalltown.

Immediately after classes ended in May, 2006, I headed west to Ogallala, Nebraska to work on the Clary Ranch Paleoindian sites with Matt Hill and Dave Rapson from Iowa State University. We have been working in the Ash Hollow drainage since 2001 on two of four Paleoindian sites. In 2005 and 2006 Matt and Dave and their crew excavated portions of three hearth areas. They found bone beads and bone needles, which are very rare in Paleoindian sites. I had the distinct pleasure of finding a projectile point in place in the wall of a backhoe trench that was excavated for me to study the alluvial deposits very near the excavations. After stepping down as Interim Head on July 31, 2006, I headed west to eastern Colorado, western Kansas, and west-central Nebraska to work with my long-time archaeology friend Steven Holen on multiple small projects. We also discussed future proposals to tackle some projects that we have been working on for more than 20 years together. After returning to Cedar Falls briefly, I headed to Montana for the biennial American Quaternary Association meeting in Bozeman. The highlight of this meeting was a pre-meeting, two-day field trip through Yellowstone National Park. The field trip was more interdisciplinary than I had imagined, and the weather was perfect. It was the perfect antidote for 13 months as Interim Head.

The most interesting event over the past year has been the departmental ‘move’ from Sabin to ITTC (old East Gym). It has necessitated the disposal of about 50 percent of books, files etc. in order to fit in the new facilities. It is also strange to be lecturing on the same floor (basketball court) where I once did aerobics! Travels over the past year have been enjoyable but somewhat limited to a conference (Chicago) and to summer travel to the New England States and Montréal, Canada.

My teaching routine has remained fairly constant with World Geography and Map Interpretation being offered each semester, while courses in Thematic Cartography, Aerial Photo Interpretation and Population are offered roughly each year. Recent research efforts have been in the realm of how higher education is geographically structured. Specifically I have focused on the movement of differential costs/tuition on the geographic patterns of student migration.

Jane Gillen has worked in the Geography Department at UNI since 1993 as administrative assistant for the Geographic Alliance of Iowa. In January 2006, she was also hired for the newly established GeoTREE Center in a similar position. Working with grants provides a variety of responsibilities that makes her work interesting. She is married and has two sons currently in middle school.
The past year I have continued to teach World Geography, Geography of Sport, and African American Geography. The African American Geography class has been generating a community project for the African American Museum. Class members gathered and identified all those people who lived in Waterloo’s Smokey Row from 1912-1944. That data is being sorted by blocks and by family surnames. We are trying to figure out how long a family remained in Smokey Row and if they were African American. At the end of the semester (when the weather is more favorable) we will have a field trip to Smokey Row. We hope to have someone cater a meal for the class on that day. Last summer the Geographic Alliance of Iowa hosted two workshops and has planned another two for this summer. One workshop will focus on literacy and the other is to Costa Rica. The workshop to Costa Rica is one of our “family friendly” workshops designed to take teachers to areas they teach in World Geography or US Geography classes and allow them to bring a spouse or other family member. I applied for the Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad for curriculum development in Bangladesh. Should that be funded we are planning a workshop on Bangladesh for early spring semester. The most significant thing I have done this year is the National Geographic Society meeting in Washington DC for Alliance Coordinators. There I lobbied for funding for the Geography is Fundamental Bill. We were fortunate and managed to have appointments with all of Iowa’s Senators and Representatives except one. Now we must wait to see the results of that work. :-) Kay

Ramanathan Sugumaran

This past year has been very busy for me—always. The NASA funded GeoTREE Center began in January 2006 and we’ve been busy conducting research and running workshops. In addition to GeoTREE, I’m Director of Iowa View and the NASA-Iowa Space Grant Consortium – UNI Base Program. I was also re-elected to the Iowa Geographical Information Council board. I’ve also been traveling a lot; I’ve given 10 presentations at national and international conferences. I still teach the remote sensing courses and the advanced GIS class. I’ve also seen a lot of interest in my GPS course from students looking to expand their experiences with geospatial technology. I’ve been able to support several students through the grant projects I’m involved with and one, Nathan Green, received the UNI 2006 Outstanding Masters Thesis Award.

There has also been plenty of excitement in my home life. My wife, Vanitha, joined John Deere this year as an IT Analyst. She enjoys the company very much. My son, SriRam, is busy with many activities. This year we built our first Pinewood Derby car for Boy Scouts. This was my first time building a car and I thought it was very fast. Next year we are going to win!

Tim Strauss

I will be Associate Director of the new three-year program in transportation safety recently received the Midwest Transportation Consortium (MTC). UNI has been a member of the MTC, through the Geography Department, since 1999, and several graduate students and projects have been funded by this program. Through the new grant, UNI
will be collaborating with Iowa State and the University of Iowa on projects related to the MTC’s new theme, “Improving Transportation Safety through Improvements in Information Management Systems.”

Last fall, Tim worked on a Professional Development Assignment on the clustering characteristics of motor vehicle crashes in Iowa. This research will be extended over the next year through a research grant from the Midwest Transportation Consortium and the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Tim is in his third year as Chief Reader for the College Board’s Advanced Placement Human Geography program. In this program, high school students take a college-level class in human geography and, at the end of the year, take an exam for possible college credit and/or advanced placement. In 2001, about 3,000 students took the exam. Last June, Tim oversaw the scoring of over 21,000 human geography exams.

Tim is teaching courses in transportation, business location analysis, and human geography.

Since last spring, TF has continued his work on the long-run geopolitical constraints on Russia and on the formal properties of various types of democratic systems. He recently spent three weeks in India between semesters. After ten years, he expects to retire from the Advisory Board of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture this semester. Later this month he is scheduled to give a seminar at Iowa State University on changes in the organization of agriculture in India.

titled “Africa, Tropical Timber, Turf and Trade: Geographic Perspectives on Ghana’s Timber Industry in the Colonial & Postcolonial Eras.” I participated as a Fellow in the Carver Graduate Institute on Geospatial Technologies last summer. Also, I spent part of the summer in Ghana to update my research data.

Bonnie Sines

I have been in the department for some time and continue to teach introductory World Geography and Regional Geography of Iowa classes. On occasion I have participated in focus groups and reviewed textbook chapters for publishers. Currently, my research has concentrated on historical and geographical events in Iowa and some areas of Iowa maps. I have clearly stated that geography is my vocation but I find enjoyment in working with behavior problems in pets.....my avocation. On weekends I might be found helping someone with ‘puppy problems’ or I might be trying to teach manners to my golden retriever, Anya or Sammy, the shelter.

Many vacation times will find me visiting my family in Charleston, South Carolina. The beach, historical places,
and natural areas are things that make this destination a great place to enjoy. My volunteer activities include working with IRIS (a group that reads local news to the print-challenged) and PET PALS (using pets for therapy and recreation in hospitals and care centers).

Don Peterson

Within the last year of my so-called retired life, I have continued my position as adjunct instructor for the University of Northern Iowa in Human Geography. This past year, to even things out, I decided to go the same distance the other way from Marshalltown and teach Regional Geography at Drake University. Last summer I also was assigned the responsibility of being a table leader for the AP Human Geography essay evaluations at Clemson. What the table leader does is make sure that the readers assigned to their group are scoring the essays consistently and fairly. Every now and then I also do presentations for the College Board. I either help new Human Geography teachers establish their course or experienced Human Geography teachers to improve their course. So much for retirement.

Dennis Dahms

Dennis Dahms has been trying to refill his research pipeline after a couple of good publication years. He is currently working on Quaternary-related projects with three of the department's graduate students: (1) Joan Grey is discovering the wonders of a Late Pleistocene till unit near Iowa Falls; (2) Tyler Johnson is busy analyzing cores from two Wyoming lakes for evidence of changing paleoecological conditions there over the last 15,000 years; and (3) Ryan Lafrenz is finishing his work on the sediment fill sequence of some ice-wedge casts near Cedar Falls.

Dennis still spends most of his personal summer research time in the Yellowstone region of Wyoming looking for evidence of past climate changes and old Pleistocene till units. He will be on sabbatical this fall looking for exposures of the earliest Midwestern glacial deposits in rock quarries all over southern Iowa and northern Missouri. If you know of any old, out-of-the-way quarries that show old tills with paleo-

sols, let him know. He'll buy the first round.

Janette McCulley

I have been at UNI 18 years, three of them as Departmental Secretary in Geography. I can honestly say the last three years have flown by especially during the departmental move from Sabin to the Innovative Teaching and Technology Center.

One of the best parts of my job is meeting students and we're always glad to hear from alums. So if you do stop by the department, make sure you say "hi".
Our New Home

The Department of Geography had been housed in Sabin Hall since 1969. In May 2006, with construction still on-going, we moved to the newly renovated Innovative Teaching and Technology Center (ITTC). Most of you will remember the ITTC as the East Gym or Women's Gym. Renovations to the building began in 2004 with the vision of creating a building where information technology and teaching could be integrated in modern classrooms and laboratories. Upon re-dedication of the building in November, 2007, the result was a state-of-the-art building with a progressive architectural style. The ITTC building is now home to Geography, Computer Science, laboratories for Anthropology, and Information Technology Services.

The building looks very different today, but from its very beginning, the ITTC was a landmark of progressive educational thinking. The Innovative Teaching and Technology Center, originally built in 1903, began its existence as an innovative center for health science and fitness. By all measures the facility was state-of-the-art at the time of its first dedication. Further demonstrating the forward thinking associated with the building, the university's original gymnasium was designed to equitably serve both men and women; a novel concept at the time. Following the construction of the West Gym, the East Gym was established as a facility solely for women's physical health and athletics. It was during its time as a women's venue that the state-of-the-art pool addition was built, reportedly the first college pool west of the Mississippi River.

The current incarnation of the building is to be a model, technologically-advanced instructional facility. With an eye toward campus history, and remembering that this is one of the oldest buildings on campus, the winning architectural design saved and incorporated much of the original building design. Although the outside of the building is virtually unchanged, the interior underwent massive renovation. The upper gymnasium space was divided into two floors. The Geography department is now on the second floor (third story), and we have the original upper gym floor exposed in our corridors. Computer Science is upstairs on the newly installed floor and has the original post-and-beam ceiling. The architectural concept was to juxtapose new, modern elements with original building structures. In our department the result are exposed structural ceilings and glass-walled rooms setting over a 100-year old wood gym floor. “Looking forward while remembering our history” is a good catch phrase to describe the design. The attached pool building was also renovated and is an integral part of the structure. The pool itself was filled and fitted with classrooms, student lounge space, and open-air meeting rooms. This area was very well preserved as most of the original art deco style of the addition is still visible.

If you find yourself on campus we highly recommend you stop in and take a look at the new department facilities. Not only will you be impressed by how different the department looks, but you'll be amazed at the changes to the old East Gym.
Tim Menge

When I first came to UNI I thought that I would become a teacher. I never thought I would change my mind and switch my major. I started to take geography courses for my social science teaching endorsement. After a while I decided that teaching was not for me and that I had a keen interest in Geography. I began taking several GIS and other technical courses. In one of my classes, my professor, Dr. Strauss, told me of internship opportunities in Washington DC. I decided to apply for the internships through an organization known as "the Washington Center for Academic Affairs" or TWC. After a few months and weeks I was turned down for some positions. I was pretty bummed out until one day I received an email from the office of Waste Water Management in The EPA. I ended up going to DC with one of the best internships that TWC offers. I enjoyed the city so much I hated to leave. At the EPA, not only was I able to use my GIS skills but I got to see first hand how the bureaucracy works. I implemented my GIS skills by making Native American Waste Water funding maps throughout the country highlighting different years that certain tribes received funding from the EPA. My skills and experiences at UNI helped obtain this opportunity of a lifetime. It was not for UNI's geography program I would have not been given this opportunity. I also loved my internship because I enjoy politics; I was able to meet many politicians from both parties including Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, Sen. Ben Cardin of VA, and Sen. Byrd of W. VA. I was able to attend meet the press with Tim Russert and Barrack Obama. I also got to see how a glorious city functions. My internship opportunity made me realize that I did not what to stop my education with a BA but to continue my education with pursing a master's degree in geography of planning/development. I will more than likely go to Western Illinois for this degree. I will be going to Africa in the summer and Thailand during Christmas. When I retire as a planner I want to teach or volunteer at a community college teaching a world geography class. A lot of people ask me what you do with geography major. I simply reply anything you want. Than I go into detail explaining, all the categories and geography has a relation with.

Lynn Rutz

The Great Outdoors traditionally lures citizens simply because "it's there." But more and more young people are heading to places like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center because "it's the right thing to do."

I am serving as an intern with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), recently arriving from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to assist training specialists with developing, updating, enhancing and testing of GIS and GPS course materials.

As needs outpace budgets on America's public lands, the efforts of SCA volunteers have become essential. Some 45,000 young people have volunteered through SCA since 1957, and National Park Service Director Fran Minella recently stated "we can't do without SCA." I am serving at the National Conservation Training Center in order to make a meaningful contribution to its environment.

Helping federal employees learn GIS and GPS reinforces my educational skills and introduces a new cultural experience for me of interacting with wildlife biologists and conservationists. I hope to gain a greater understanding of the refuge system, meet people with a variety of experiences, and become more confident in utilizing GIS and GPS.

SCA members learn a 'conservation ethic' through their hands-on service, and it benefits both the land and the individual. The experience leads many of them to become lifelong stewards of the land, and 60% of SCA interns go on to successful careers in many areas of conservation.

The Student Conservation Association is dedicated to encouraging a new generation of conservation leaders, advancing the land ethic, and helping to conserve our nation's natural and cultural
resources. The organization places nearly 3,000 high school, college and graduate student members in the field each year, and they provide more than 1.5 million hours of conservation service in national parks, forests and other public lands.

For more information on SCA programs you can contact Kevin Hamilton at 603-543-17000, extension 185, or at khamilton@thesca.org or visit the website: www.thSCA.org.

John Jones

I am currently a senior in the Geography Department and I am working towards earning a degree in Geography with a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Cartography. Originally, I come from Des Moines, IA but I spent five years in Texas while stationed in the US Army. I then came to UNI in the fall of 2004. Since then, I have taken on many responsibilities and become an integral leadership figure in our program. Currently I am serving as the Geography Club President and have been central to reinvigorating the organization. We are currently looking for funding opportunities and service projects. I am also a Geography Department Ambassador, I serve as an official representative during various types of events. Also I am the geography student representative for the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences computer committee, a group which oversees a sizable budget and controls the purchasing of all computer-related equipment for the college.

During the 2006-2007 school year, I was awarded the Edna L. Padovan scholarship, an endowed scholarship help by the Department of Geography. During the summer of 2006, I interned at the Black Hawk County Environmental Health Department. During my time there, I worked on various GIS projects which helped gain real world experience in a professional environment. Other duties of the internship included: working with GPS, water testing, community assessment and performed job shadowing with other individuals in the Health Department. My interests lie with GIS, GPS, human geography and human-environment interaction to help improve quality of life. I am graduating in the summer of 2007. After graduation I plan to move to Columbus, OH where I will pursue a career in GIS and begin taking classes to work towards a master's degree.

Bryan Westphal

Being a geography student at The University of Northern Iowa has really helped me develop into the person that I am today. I am very fortunate to have all the new technology and great facilities for extending my education. Working with the latest computer hardware and software makes it very easy for me to do extremely well in the classroom. I am also fortunate to be a Student Athlete on the Baseball team here at UNI. It is a privilege to be a Division 1 athlete and excel on the field and in the classroom. Being a Student Athlete, there are many time constraints that come about during our season. It is nice to know that I have great professors that will work just as hard as I do outside the classroom. Missing classes can be tough, but the professors go the extra mile to help me succeed. The Geographic Information Systems program that I am going through has also given me the opportunity to excel outside of the classroom. I was recently hired for an internship this summer in Fort Myers, Florida. I will be working with the Lee County Park and Recreation division as their GIS Intern. This job experience, along with the great education at UNI, will give me the upper hand in the job market after graduation.
GeoTREE was established in January 2006 as a research and service Center funded by NASA at the University of Northern Iowa. It is an interdisciplinary center, housed within the Department of Geography, and unique in transferring geospatial technologies to federal, state, local and tribal (FSLT) agencies. The purpose of the GeoTREE Center is multifaceted with three major components: education and training, research and development, and extension and outreach in geospatial data and technologies. Several of the latest geospatial technologies and techniques used to solve real world FSLT problems include LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging), Satellite and Air-borne data: Multi and Hyperspectral Data, Expert System and Spatial Decision Support Systems (SDSS), Statistical Modeling, Internet Mapping and Modeling. GeoTREE blazed the trail, and was first to hire a Post Doc at UNI which has opened the door for others.

In the last few years, the center has conducted several workshops on topics including LiDAR, Geodatabase, Remote Sensing, Global Positioning System (GPS), GIS, color infrared interpretation, Internet mapping and customizing ArcGIS-Python scripting. More than 100 participants have attended these training sessions. GeoTREE is currently collaborating with several local, state and federal agencies on various research topics. Some of the on-going research areas include the following applications:

- Site suitability analysis: confined animal feeding operations (DNR)(Black Hawk County)
- Water quality monitoring using remote sensing data (Iowa DNR)
- Air quality monitoring using satellite data (NOAA)

Several on-line tutorial, tools and quiz modules have also been developed to assist FSLT agencies.

- Tree species identification using RS data, LiDAR and GIS (NRCS, U.S. Fish & Wildlife)
- Transportation: the intelligent winter maintenance SDSS (Iowa DOT)
- Public Health: West Nile virus habitat analysis, risk model (Iowa Public Health & Black Hawk County)
- Wetland: mapping and monitoring using RS and GIS data (NRCS, Iowa DNR)
- Agroterrorism (NASA & Homeland Security)

In December, Nathan Green, GeoTREE Research Associate, was awarded 2nd place in UNI’s Outstanding Master Thesis Award. His thesis was entitled “Monitoring Spatial and Temporal Water Quality Changes in Iowa Lakes Using Airborne Hyperspectral Imagery.” Matt Voss, GeoTREE graduate student was awarded prestigious NASA summer internship at the Ames Center in California.

For further information, please contact us at sugu@uni.edu, or visit us on-line at www.geotree@uni.edu. GeoTREE office phone: 319/273-3713 or 319/273-3816 and Fax 319/273-7103.
Geography Graduate Program

The Department of Geography has a top-notch graduate program. We currently have 16 graduate students working on a wide range of research and outreach projects. One strong indication of the quality of our graduate program is exemplified by recent awards our students have received. In just the past three years we have had five students win first or second place awards for outstanding research from the UNI Gradu-

Micha Destival is working on a paper about Sports Geography and is expected to graduate in 2008, his advisor has been Kay Weller after his graduation from the University of Northwest Missouri State with a degree in geography.

Michael Graham expects to graduate either May or August of 2008 with his thesis related to migration issues in Iowa. He previously graduated from the University of Wales in 2003 with a degree in Geography and International Politics.

Joan Gray continues to work on her thesis on possible exposure of the Sheldon Creek till near Iowa Falls. She completes her required course work this semester. We expect to see her in the sediment lab a lot next fall. Dr. Dennis Dahms is her Graduate Adviser.

Tyler Johnson is working on lake cores from two lakes in Wyoming, Louis Lake and Fiddler Lake. He is studying the sedimentological and mineralogical properties of these varved lake deposits to reconstruct climate. He is working under the supervision of Dr. Dennis Dahms.

Ryan LaFrenz has completed all of his course work and is currently working full-time as a GIS coordinator in Jones County. He continues to work on writing his thesis on the properties of sediments in ice-wedge casts near Cedar Falls. His advisor is Dr. Dennis Dahms.

Scott Larson recently had a paper accepted to URISA’s GIS 2007 Public Health Conference scheduled May 20-23, 2007 in New Orleans, Louisiana. His paper entitled “Predicting Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Mosquito Vectors for West Nile Virus” discusses mosquito habitats to aid in predicting West Nile Virus (WNV) outbreaks in Iowa. He is working with Dr. Sugumaran in GeoTREE Center.

Aaron Moehlis currently is Dr. Kay Weller’s graduate advisor. Aaron is working on his thesis so he will graduate in May of 2008. He received his B.A. in education from UNI in 2005.

Nick Phillips has submitted his Masters Thesis “An e-Learning Approach to Remote Sensing” and will be defending later this month. In April, Nick will be presenting his paper at the AAG Annual meeting in San Francisco. He is working with Dr. Sugumaran in the GeoTREE Center. He will graduate in May of 2007.
Charles Pinney received his B.S. in geography from Appalachian State University in 2004 and his current interest for research has been the transportation issues in Iowa. With the help of his advisor, Jim Strauss, Charles plans to graduate in December of 2007.

Shellie Proctor graduated last year from UNI with her B.A. in Geography, she is currently undecided in her research interests but expects to graduate in May of 2008.

Alexander Savelyev “Sasha” is new to the STORM Project for spring semester 2007, and hails from Russia. He attended Saint-Petersburg University where he majored in Cartography. He is working with Dr. Sugumaran and will investigate heat loss from buildings using thermal imageries. He is funded by STORM project.

David Suchan is writing his thesis on water quality in the Upper Iowa River Basin under the supervision of Dr. Dave May. After some hair-raising field experiences in ice-cold water in early November that involved an inflatable kayak that capsized, David is now happy to be working at a computer. He expects to complete his thesis by the end of summer 2007.

Ryan Takatsuka expects to graduate in August of 2007 but currently is working on a paper for student housing here at UNI.

Christina Vaughan is a student of Dr. Kay Weller who is currently working on her thesis dealing with black migration to Waterloo, Iowa. She plans to graduate in December of 2007. She is a graduate of UNI and received her B.A. in History and Anthropology in 1999.

Matt Voss will be traveling to Paris in April to present at the Urban Remote Sensing Joint Event April 11-13. His research involved using high-resolution hyperspectral aerial data and LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) elevation data to identify tree species on the UNI campus. His full paper was peer-reviewed and will be published in the conference proceeding. He is currently working with Dr. Sugumaran at the GeoTREE center for his thesis and will be graduating this spring semester.

Andrea White has completed all of her coursework and is working on a thesis in the area of transportation with Dr. Tim Strauss. She recently landed a full-time job with the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments as a Transportation Planner.
Visiting Speakers
Our fall semester colloquium series brought in a number of interesting speakers, including Gerald Rushton, a medical geographer and GIS modeler from UI, Tony Prato, an expert in environmental economics from University of Missouri-Columbia, Phyllis Baker, UNI’s director of Women’s and Gender Studies, and Xavier Escandell, and immigration expert from UNI’s Sociology program. We also had Thomas Cova, a GIS and Hazards specialist at University of Utah visit this spring. Visiting speakers are public events; if you would like to get notifications for upcoming speakers or other events, just contact Patrick Pease and we’ll add you to our list.

Geography Ambassadors
We’ve started a new program this year called Geography Ambassadors and it has been a great success. Our first ambassadors are John Jones (’08 exp) and Brian Westphal (’08 exp). They have been volunteering their time to represent the department during official activities. They’ve been a great help during such diverse activities as new student recruitment, open houses, and the rededication of the ITTC building. The service and commitment these individuals have made it a testament to the high quality of students our program attracts.

Sugu Wins!
Dr. Ramanathan Sugumaran won the UNI 2006-2007 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Teaching Award. Sugu’s tireless commitment to graduate teaching, advising, and research was long overdue for this kind of recognition. Congratulations!

Geography in the Public Schools
On March first, all Geographic Alliance Coordinators, including our own Kay Weller, made a trip to "the Hill" in Washington DC. The purpose was to visit the offices of Senators and Representatives. Kay and the other coordinators were asking support and sponsorship of the Teaching Geography Is Fundamental bill introduced in February, 2007. Kay visited all of Iowa’s elected officials except Representative Braley, who was unavailable. This bill focuses on funding for geography in the public schools. Geography is the only field recognized as a core discipline but not funded under No Child Left Behind. The reception was, in general, quite positive and Kay is hopeful that the bill has a good chance of succeeding. If you would like to know more, feel free to contact Kay Weller and we also encourage you to voice your support of Geography in public schools, by contacting your representative.

On behalf of the Department of Geography, we extend our sympathy to the family of Dr. Robert E. Clark. Dr. Clark died August 27, 2006 in his home of Sedro-Woolley, Washington. He was born on August 17, 1934, in Edmond, Oklahoma. He attended the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University and earned a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Clark joined University of Northern Iowa in 1965 and contributed to the founding of the Department of Geography in 1969. He retired in 1999 after 34 years of service to the department and the university. Dr. Clark also established the Janice M. Clark Memorial Scholarship which provides scholarship support to Geography students demonstrating excellence in rural studies and rural planning. The scholarship allowed Dr. Clark, even after his retirement, to continue his lifelong commitment to helping students.
Annual Geography Banquet

Our 2006 Awards Banquet was a great success again; thanks to all who attended. The dinner was held at The Broom Factory and everyone had a great time. As always we had a number of awards and honors to give out. The NCGE Award for Excellence of Scholarship went to Adam Ramthun. Kevin Blanshan (BA ’79, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments) was awarded the UNI Geography Outstanding Alumnus Award. As a testament to the quality of our students, our Geography Honor list was lengthy, including Jesse Brass, Alan Hoelscher, John Jones, Troy Kress, Adam Lee, Tim Menge, Shellie Proctor, Derek Rieckmann, Nathaniel Rottinghaus, Lynn Rutz, Taylor Sinclair, Elizabeth Swanberg, Justin Thomas, and Moa Westman. Five students, Lynn Rutz, Brian Will, Micah Destival, Lake Klaassen, Charles Robertson, and Shellie Proctor, earned program Certificates in Cartography and GIS.

A New Endowment

The Department of Geography, together with the Department of Religion and Philosophy, at University of Northern Iowa, is the recipient of an endowment established by Dr. Jonathan Lu. The endowment was established for the study, promotion and enhancement of Bible Geography and Geography of Holy Lands. The endowment will be used for a variety of projects and events designed to make connections between the university and the Iowa community. A key event will be an annual speaker series intended to initiate a dialog between academic and theological groups.

Dr. Lu became a faculty member of the Department of Geography at UNI in 1974 and served at the head of the department from 1987 to 1991. He left UNI in 1991 to become the president of the Holy Light Theological Seminary in Taiwan. Dr. Lu was also a founding member of the Bible Geography specialty group of the Association of American Geographers and has remained involved in the group’s activities since its inception. In 2005 Dr. Lu, along with co-editors William Dando (Indiana State University) and Caroline Dando, published a book on the topic of Bible Geography titled, “Geography of the Holy Land: Perspectives”. For additional information about the endowment or associated activities, contact Dr. Patrick Pease, head of the Department of Geography at patrick.pease@uni.edu or at 319-273-2772.

Giving Back

Giving to the department is a great way to help current students as they work toward their degrees. The Department of Geography has a discretionary account within the UNI Foundation which we use to fund special field trips, student travel, guest speakers, our annual spring student banquet, and many other student-related activities. The UNI Foundation can also set up special accounts dedicated to particular goals such as scholarships. If you are interested in giving to the Department of Geography, please contact either Dr. Patrick Pease (319-273-2772, patrick.pease@uni.edu) or the UNI Foundation (800-782-9522, UNI.Foundation@uni.edu, http://www.uni-foundation.org/).
The Geography Department invites you to write in about your recent accomplishments. We would love to hear about what you are up to. Please send your alumni news items to:

Dr. Patrick Pease
Department of Geography
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-0406

[Email: Patrick.Pease@uni.edu]
[Fax to: 319-273-7103]

Timothy Kirchoff (B.A. 2000) continued his education with a Master’s degree at the University of Vermont. Tim is currently working for microDATA GIS, in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. The company primarily deals with development of GIS applications for Enhance 9-1-1 maps and software for use by counties and states as a mapping application at 9-1-1 call centers. Tim is the supervisor of the Service Bureau Group which handles county projects which require regular service and updates.

Sue Rummery (B.A. 1999) is currently living in Champaign, IL. She is the manager of the regional FedEx ground distribution center. Sue started her relationship with FedEx as a driver and provided use with a compelling narrative about the virtues of a geographic education and an ability to “read” the landscape.

Tim Bennett (B.A. 1988) sent us a long note, which we enjoyed very much. Tim was a resident of Waterloo until 1992 when he left to continued his education at University of Nebraska where he received a Masters of Public Administration. While living in Omaha, Tim worked for the City in their Public Works/Design-Engineering Department. Following that, he moved to Minneapolis/St. Paul where he worked for the city of Shakopee. In 1999 Tim became the City Planner in Mason City, Iowa and stayed there until April of 2002. His newest move finds him in Vadnais Heights, Minnesota where he is currently working as the City Planning and Community Development Director.

Tami Huegal (B.A. 2001, M.A. 2004) is currently in her fourth year of teaching at Forest City High School in Iowa. She has been teaching Spanish I & II exclusively, but finally got the chance to teach a Geography II class last spring! She also got married to Lee McInroy in April 2006 and they honeymooned in Scotland.

Mary Meador (B.A. 1997) is currently a Senior Statistician at Customer Loyalty Marketing at the Best Buy corporate office in Richfield, MN. She completed her MS in Urban and Regional Planning in 1999 and her MBA in 2003, both from the University of Iowa.

James Quinn (B.A. 2000) is the GIS Analyst based at the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), an interdisciplinary social science research institute at Columbia University in New York City. James works primarily on a funded research project relating the built environment to physical activity and obesity; the project is in collaboration with faculty in the Mailman School of Public Health. Quinn’s research interests focus on the applications of GIS and remote sensing in spatially integrated social sciences, specifically human-environment interactions on land-use change, physical activity, and health risk.
Cedar Falls is a city in Black Hawk County, Iowa, United States. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 39,260. It is home to the University of Northern Iowa, a public university. Cedar Falls was founded in 1845 by William Sturgis. It was originally named Sturgis Falls, for the first family who settled the site and continued to live in the city for years. The city was called Sturgis Falls until it was merged with Cedar City (another city on the other side of the Cedar River), creating Cedar Cedar Falls High School has a phenomenal robotics team that has hosted Chinese teams and has received a multitude of awards. If an individual wishes to peruse further on a track despite it not being provided at the school, they are able to go to UNI an duel enroll. Many teachers obviously care as well as staff members such as counselors. While these are all favorable aspects, there are many negative ones as well. Cedar Falls High School is a 10th Grade-12th Grade Public School located in Cedar Falls, Iowa within the Cedar Falls Comm School District District. It has 1131 students in grades 10th Grade-12th Grade with a student-teacher ratio of 14 to 1. Cedar Falls High School spends $13,140 per student. Sperling's School Score is a 8 out of 10. QUICK FACTS. Address: 1015 Division Street Cedar Falls, IA 50613 See Map of School View Nearby Homes. School District: Cedar Falls Comm School District District Phone Number: (319) 553-2500. HIGHLIGHTS. - 81 Teachers - $10,149 for Education Expenditures - $6,