

# GEOGRAM

Department of Geography, Ohio University

College of Arts and Sciences

Issue 21, July 2009



*Department of Geography Faculty*

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## Department Faculty

**Timothy Anderson**, Ph.D., Texas A&M U., 1994, associate professor and chair

**Geoffrey L. Buckley**, Ph.D., U. of Maryland, 1997, associate professor

**James M. Dyer**, Ph.D., The U. of Georgia, 1992, associate professor

**Ryan L. Fogt**, Ph.D., The Ohio State U., 2007, assistant professor

**Brad D. Jokisch**, Ph.D., Clark U., 1998, associate professor and graduate chair

**Yeong-Hyun Kim**, Ph.D., Syracuse U., 1998, associate professor

**James K. Lein**, Ph.D., Kent State U., 1986, professor

**Margaret Pearce**, Ph.D., Clark U., 1998, assistant professor

**Harold Perkins**, Ph.D., U. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2006, assistant professor

**Dorothy Sack**, Ph.D., The U. of Utah, 1988, professor and undergraduate chair

**Gaurav Sinha**, Ph.D., U. at Buffalo-SUNY, 2007, assistant professor

**Thomas Smucker**, Ph.D., Michigan State U., 2004, assistant professor

**Elizabeth Edna Wangui**, Ph.D., Michigan State U., 2004, assistant professor

**Daniel Weiner**, Ph.D., Clark U., 1986, professor

**Risa Whitson**, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State U., 2004, assistant professor

## From the chair

### Timothy Anderson



Welcome to the 2009 edition of the *Department of Geography's Geogram*! Let me take this opportunity to send out a special welcome to all of our alumni, friends, and benefactors wherever this year's newsletter may find you.

I have just completed my third year as chair of the Department, and I would like to thank my faculty colleagues for all of their support during my tenure as chair. I also want to thank Margaret Delaney, our administrative coordinator, for her patience, hard work, and dedication on behalf of the Department. My research interests continue to focus on the historical settlement geography of the United States, especially the settlement processes involved in interior frontier regions during the 19th century. Over the past year I have continued my research on the settlement of Pennsylvania-Germans and Upland Southerners in Ohio. I teach our Introduction to Human Geography course twice per year, as well as U.S. Historical Geography, Religious Space and Place, and the graduate seminar in Historical Geography.

2009 finds the Department of Geography healthy, vibrant, and growing. Indeed, we can look back upon 2008 as one of the most successful years in the Department's history with regard to teaching and scholarship. Although the downturn in Ohio's economy has presented significant fiscal challenges during the past year (e.g., significant budget cuts for all academic units in the University) the Department continues to perform very well with respect to our core missions of teaching and research. Allow me to outline just a few of the most significant developments and accomplishments during the past year.

First, we are excited to welcome Dr. Ryan Fogt as a new tenure-track faculty member

who will join us this fall (2009–2010). Ryan is a climatologist who received his Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences from The Ohio State University in 2007. Since 2007, he has been a National Research Council postdoctoral research fellow at the NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. His research focuses on climate change and ENSO teleconnection variations linked to the Southern Annual Mode (SAM). Ryan will assume directorship of Scalia Lab and teach both undergraduate and graduate courses in our meteorology track, including Meteorology, Climatology, and Dynamic Meteorology.

We are also pleased to welcome Dr. Daniel Weiner to the Department. Dan received his Ph.D. from Clark University in 1986 and comes to us most recently from West Virginia University, where he was a professor of geography and director of International Programs. Dr. Weiner was appointed the executive director of the



Center for International Studies in fall 2008 and has a joint appointment as a professor in the Department of Geography. His research focuses on political ecology, development issues, and GIS and society with a regional emphasis on Africa. With professors Edna Wangui and Tom Smucker, the addition of Dr. Weiner to our faculty reinforces a long-standing research focus on rural Africa. We are delighted to welcome these two outstanding new faculty members.

Noted longtime professor Lynden Williams took full retirement this year. We thank him for over 30 years of service to the Department. Our other faculty members on early retirement—Nancy Bain, Hugh Bloemer, Ron Isaac, and Ted Bernard—continue to teach two courses per year during one quarter.



Second, 2008 was one of the most successful years in the history of the Department with regard to research and teaching. Several faculty members published articles in nationally- and internationally-recognized journals, six received significant grants from outside funding sources, and two faculty members published book manuscripts. The Department continues to enjoy a reputation for very high quality teaching. This reputation was reinforced with the awarding of the College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award to Associate Professor Jim Dyer. Our graduate students also excelled this year, presenting several papers and posters at regional and national conferences and garnering national awards for these presentations. At the undergraduate level, we maintain a robust number of undergraduate geography majors and have the second largest number of geography majors in the state (ca. 150–160). This success can be attributed to excellent teaching, mentoring, and a flexible curriculum that is responsive to changing technologies and developments in the discipline. Our undergraduate majors continue to garner nationally-competitive awards, such as the Goldwater, Hollings, and Udall scholarships, and this is a source of great pride to the Department.

In conclusion, I want to once again thank all of our alumni and benefactors. Your generous gifts and support significantly enhance our teaching, research, and service activities. These gifts support a variety of student-centered activities, such as internships, graduate student recruitment activities, and the departmental scholarships that we award to our best and brightest students. The annually awarded scholarships which are funded solely by gifts and endowments are as follows:



The Regina L. Bloemer Scholarship in Geography (undergraduate)  
 The Olive Emler Ross Scholarship in Geography (undergraduate)  
 The Hubert and Constance Wilhelm Geography Scholarship (undergraduate)  
 The Robe Scholarship in Geography and Geology (undergraduate; alternate years)  
 The David Keirns Award for Outstanding Public Service (undergraduate meteorology)  
 The Isaac Sindiga Memorial Scholarship (graduate)



We also award several Outstanding Graduating Senior awards and an Outstanding Teaching Assistant award on an annual basis that are funded by Foundation funds. We, of course, would welcome your support. If you would like to contribute to any of these scholarship funds or the Department's general Foundation fund, please visit our Web site for instructions on giving to the Department ([www.ohio.edu/geography/give.html](http://www.ohio.edu/geography/give.html)).

Keep us updated with respect to your address, e-mail, and place of employment by contacting either me ([anderst1@ohio.edu](mailto:anderst1@ohio.edu)) or Margaret ([delaneym@ohio.edu](mailto:delaneym@ohio.edu)). And please do keep in touch—we always love to hear from you to hear how you are doing.

*Tim Anderson*

### Margaret Delaney



*Hello everyone and welcome to the July 2009 edition of the Geogram!*

First things first—thank you alumni for your contributions to this newsletter! After all, it's a publication for you. What a great way to provide updates to the Department, each other, and . . . to inspire current, incoming, and prospective students! Last year, many of you expressed how pleased you were to see the *Geogram* come back to life after being out of circulation for four years. The Department was excited to receive alumni updates that covered two full pages. This year, we are thrilled that even more of you sent updates, which as a whole take up twice the amount of space. Again, thank you, and keep those updates coming!

It's been a very active year in the Department. Now, it seems almost eerily quiet with most of our students away to various areas of the world visiting family, working, or doing research, and recent graduates taking a break before moving on to master's/Ph.D. programs or jobs. I congratulate them on their successes this past year. Faculty are either still here bothering me (just kidding!), away working on research projects, or spending quality time with family. I look forward to working with newest faculty member Dr. Ryan Fogt who will begin fall quarter as assistant professor of our popular meteorology program as well as director of Scalia Lab. *Welcome Ryan!*

Congratulations to Dr. Lynden (Lyn) Williams on his full retirement. I already miss him popping into my office to share a story or two. Now, I envision him kayaking on Snake River. *Enjoy retirement Lyn!*

I would like to thank Brian Wiitanen our undergraduate Urban Planning major and departmental work study student for all the work he has done for our faculty and staff during the past four years! This summer, Brian is interning with the Department of State in the Office of Geography and Global

Issues. Brian will be in Washington, DC from June through August. I'm looking forward to his return during fall and winter quarters.

In last June's edition of the *Geogram*, I mentioned that I was looking forward to the next big project—working with the Department chair and faculty to develop a new Web site ([www.ohio.edu/geography/](http://www.ohio.edu/geography/)). I am very pleased to announce the site officially launched February 19, 2009. With lots of faculty input, I designed and created the site using Adobe CS3 (Acrobat, Dreamweaver, Flash, Illustrator, Photoshop) with publications created in Adobe InDesign. Please take a moment to visit the site and send us your feedback ([delaneym@ohio.edu](mailto:delaneym@ohio.edu)). Our goal is to provide you with the information you seek.

I have had the pleasure of working for the Department since December 31, 2007 (That day was actually my first vacation day, too—Happy New Year!). I was hired as the administrative associate and only staff member supporting 13 dynamic full-time faculty, one adjunct faculty, two part-time instructors, five early retirees, and up to 25 talented graduate students! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the most supportive 'boss' (I don't think he likes it when I refer to him as my boss.) with whom I have worked—Department Chair Tim Anderson as well as the rest of the faculty who graciously wrote letters of support or verbally expressed their support for upgrade of my position to administrative coordinator this year. With this transition, I took on new duties to the position—the design, development, and maintenance of the Department Web site, planning and facilitating special events (e.g., Geofest), and design, coordination, layout, and distribution of this publication, *Geogram*.

In closing, I encourage you to let us know what is happening in your geography world (pun intended) and we will include a paragraph or two on our Web site as well as in the *Geogram*. Write us an e-mail, [delaneym@ohio.edu](mailto:delaneym@ohio.edu) or [anderst1@ohio.edu](mailto:anderst1@ohio.edu), or note, Department of Geography, Clippinger Labs 122, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701. Please include your graduation year and degree received.

I hope you enjoy reading the *Geogram*!

*(With me in the above photograph is one of my three children, my lovely daughter Danielle.)*

All the best,  
*Margaret*

### Geoff Buckley



I have been with the Department of Geography for nearly eleven years now. I teach courses in environmental geography and resource conservation with a focus on the U.S. On the research front, I study energy and environmental justice issues in Appalachia. I am also part of a research team that seeks to understand how urban areas function as ecosystems. Most of this group's research to date has focused on Baltimore, Maryland.

Grants from the National Science Foundation and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service support both my research and the work of students. A forthcoming book, *America's Forest Legacy: A Century of Saving Trees in the Old Line State*, is due out in early 2010 (*Center for American Places*). A co-edited volume (with Michele Morrone), *Appalachian Justice*, is now under contract with Ohio University Press. Recent articles have appeared in *The Geographical Review* (with James Wells, M.A., 2006) and *Energy Policy*. Two more articles are currently in press—one in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* (with Chris Boone) and the other in *The Geographical Bulletin* (with Chris Boone and Cyndy Merse, MSES, 2005).

The Long-term Social and Ecological Research Lab in Morton Hall 425 is downright crowded these days. Michelle Chevalier recently completed her MSES thesis on the recent closure (due to arsenic contamination) and reopening of Swann Park in Baltimore and Andrew Giguere defended his thesis on the social and ecological impacts of constructing the “highway to nowhere” through Baltimore's Harlem Park neighborhood. I am particularly proud to announce that Andrew recently received a four-year scholarship to attend University of Toronto where he will earn a Ph.D. in

geography. Meanwhile, new students Michael Battaglia, Michelle Corrigan, and Erin Pierce are all beginning to conduct research in support of the Baltimore project. Mike will be studying the viability of street-tree planting in East Baltimore; Michelle will examine the growth and popularity of community gardening in Athens, Ohio and Baltimore; and Erin will explore the historical roots of “green planning” in Baltimore County. Undergraduate Taryn Longberry has been helping me learn more than I thought I'd ever want to know about asphalt as a paving surface in American cities.

My career in soccer and basketball continues to reach new heights. The key is finding people older and slower to play against. I have had less success keeping up with my three highly active and mobile children (ages 11, 9, and 4). It is only with the help of my wife, Alexandra, and our now full-grown 100-pound retriever, Holly, that I am able to corral these three speedsters on a nightly basis.

### Jim Dyer



Over the past year I've been working on a couple of projects dealing with “forest dynamics” in deciduous forests. One examines the shift in composition occurring in our eastern forests. Historically dominated by oaks, we are now witnessing a shift to maple dominance. Along with colleagues in Kentucky and Ohio, I have been exploring other causes (besides the frequently-cited fire suppression) to explain this transition, including climate change, land use change, and changing dynamics of key species such as the American chestnut, white-tailed deer, and the passenger pigeon.

Along with former alumna Nicole Stump, I am involved in another ongoing project, in which we will be setting up permanent

plots in hemlock forests of eastern Ohio. Our goal is to first establish baseline conditions of the stands, then document changes that will take place with the inevitable (and lamentable) arrival of the hemlock woolly adelgid. This exotic pest is causing widespread hemlock mortality in much of the eastern U.S.

In addition to this field study, I am also working on a project utilizing GIS to model soil moisture demand and moisture stress in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The resulting “water balance map” will be used to predict present-day vegetation patterns, with the ultimate goal of exploring potential responses of vegetation to climate change.

### Brad Jokisch



Since last year's *Geogram* I traveled to Panama, to work with graduate student Erik Myers who wrote his thesis on the emergence of Boquete, Panama as a retirement destination for North Americans. Panama is so different than the Andes or really anywhere else in Latin America. The environmental and landscape transformations that North American immigrants have made are amazing and somewhat depressing. I also traveled to Nicaragua for the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers. I will have the opportunity to travel to Brazil for the XXVIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, and then on to Ecuador to do some research on return migrants and landscape change. I am still working with a colleague at The Ohio State University on demographic change among Shuar, a lowland indigenous group in Ecuador, and several publications are in the works. On campus, I am still active in Latin American Studies and Environmental Studies. I remain the geography graduate chair (for now), which means I work a lot with the graduate students and I teach

the research and writing course. (*We have a good group of graduate students!*) In addition to Erik Myers, I am proud to be advisor to Jill Klimpel who is researching Brazilian immigration to Columbus, and Meg Bullamore whose thesis focuses on Appalachian community responses to the arrival of Latin American immigrants. The “new destinations” of Latin American immigrants means that Latin American and immigrant research is closer to home than ever. *Stay tuned for big changes in the coming year!*

### Yeong-Hyun Kim



Happily, this is my tenth year teaching geography at OU. When asked by a student what has been the high point of my tenure at OU thus far, I said the Bobcats basketball team winning the 2005 MAC title. It was definitely, by far, the best. Just imagine how excited I will be if they get to the Sweet 16 at the NCAA tournament. Basketball aside, my teaching and research interests are primarily in urban geography and economic geography, although they spill over into other areas, including development studies, diasporic studies, and Asian studies. Early in 2008, my co-authored book, *Cities and Economies*, was published by Routledge and an interview article on the book was published in *Perspectives* last winter, with particular focus on economic problems and opportunities in Ohio cities.

One of my ongoing research projects focuses on diasporic homecomings of ethnic Koreans from Northeast China (formerly known as Manchuria) to South Korea. I have just been awarded my second National Geographic research grant to examine how the recent return migration of ethnic Koreans to South Korea has impacted their home community in Northeast China. I plan to conduct field research at Yanbian in the China-

North Korea-Russia border region this summer. Another ongoing research project is looking at the socioeconomic marginalization of Southeast Asian migrant workers in Seoul. I have interviewed a number of Indonesian and Filipino factory workers in the outskirts of Seoul to investigate how social exclusion is experienced by Southeast Asians in this large Korean metropolis that dreams of becoming a global, cosmopolitan city. So, my summer will be spent in Asia interviewing lots of return migrants and migrant workers.

### James Lein



*It's been busy as usual!* Since last *Geogram*, I was elected vice president of the Eastern Great Lakes Region (EGLR) of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) and remain very active in geospatial analysis, outreach, and research. With respect to research, I was invited to deliver a paper in December at University of London College of Laws which was fun and gave me a chance to do some Christmas shopping in the big city. The paper was a product of my previous collaborations on environmental compliance monitoring and remote sensing. In October, I signed a contract with Springer to complete a book on environmental remote sensing and was happy to be awarded a Faculty Leave to work on this project for most of next year. This Spring, I presented papers at the ASPRS Conference in Baltimore and the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Meeting in Las Vegas and ran into several OU Geography alumni at both venues! Lastly, I am happy that two grant projects I am working on with a consortium headed by University of Cincinnati received funding and I should soon be busy learning about environmental sensor networks, hyperspectral fusion, and geo-spatial ground sensors. . . *life is good!*

On the teaching front, I continue to teach remote sensing as well as environmental planning and analysis courses. I also had the rare opportunity to conduct a seminar where we looked at the topic of future research, prediction, and the geography of tomorrow. So, now as year 22 approaches, I spend my time doing planning and environmental analysis, remote sensing, and working with the BEST graduate students EVER!

Lastly, if any of you recall those advising weeks long ago when I had my children sleeping quietly on a blanket on my floor: Adriana is off to Macalester College in St. Paul to study International Relations and play basketball for the NCAA III Scotts and little 6'2" Elena is completing her freshman year at Athens High School and is currently the middle hitter on the #4 ranked volleyball team in the Ohio Valley Region of U.S.A. Volleyball.

### Margaret Pearce



*Bo zhoo ni kanec, Greetings friends,* After extensive research and travel the previous year, 2008 was devoted to creating and publishing the outcome of those travels, a historical map of Samuel de Champlain's journeys through Canada between 1603–1616, with my collaborator Michael Hermann of the Canadian-American Center at University of Maine. The map is in recognition of the 400th anniversary of Champlain's presence and influence in Canada and the United States. If you're interested in Champlain or historical geography and maps, I welcome you to visit the project at [www.umaine.edu/canam/cartography/Champlain.html](http://www.umaine.edu/canam/cartography/Champlain.html). The OU Cartographic Center has also been busy producing many maps for OU Press and other publications with the assistance of students Sarah Maley and Katelyn Belleville. Over the summer, while not working on or promoting

## Faculty news

the Champlain map, I hiked and camped in the Green Mountains east of Burlington, Vermont. The Long Trail was magnificently empty of hikers, as in this photo descending from Mount Mansfield on a sunny day. *Iw, that's it!*

### Harold Perkins



*Greetings fellow geographers!* The 2008–09 academic year was busy for me. The 15th Annual Critical Geography Conference at Ohio University was by all accounts a success. Dr. Paul Robbins from the Department of Geography and Regional Development at University of Arizona was our keynote speaker. Over 110 people attended his talk and the welcome reception that followed. Conference attendance was bigger here at OU than it has ever been at any of the other major institutions that have hosted it in the past. Over 75 people presented their research on a wide range of highly relevant social, political, and economic issues. Thanks to Department Chair Dr. Tim Anderson and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Howard Dewald for their generous support of the conference.

Despite conference coordination I was able to get other things accomplished, too. I am happy to report two new manuscripts were accepted for publication. The first is “*Getting beyond the plastinated political economy of ‘late modern cannibalism’*” that is forthcoming as an ‘Intervention’ at antipode: a radical journal of geography. The second is “*Turning feral spaces into trendy places: A coffee house in every park?*” that is forthcoming at Environment and Planning A. I currently have several other completed manuscripts under review.

I also presented my research findings at several venues. They include the Ohio University Foundation Board of Trustees summer meeting in Pittsburgh, PA;

the Third International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences at Monash University Centre at Prato (in Tuscany), Italy; 93rd Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting at Milwaukee, WI; Miami University Department of Geography Colloquium Series; and the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers at Las Vegas, NV.

I look forward to writing this summer and pursuing new research related to the political economy of the human body.

### Dorothy Sack



*Greetings!* I hope this edition of the *Geogram* finds you all happy and well. I am currently enjoying my work on several different research and writing projects. Research on ancient Lake Bonneville in Utah is in a particularly exciting phase as colleagues and I are identifying and dating previously unreported lake-level oscillations that appear to coincide with climate-change evidence from other parts of the Northern Hemisphere. In the textbook realm, I am the proud co-author of *Physical Geography*, which appeared in April of 2008, and I am now collaborating with two co-authors on a more elemental physical geography textbook that will be entitled *Fundamentals of Physical Geography*. I am also beginning my duties as a co-editor of the comprehensive, multi-volume *Treatise on Geomorphology*. Most of my contributions on that project will be in the volume related to the history of geomorphology.

I was pleased to be able to do some international travel in 2008, spending two weeks in Germany in August and 10 days in England in November. The White Cliffs of Dover in England and the German Alps were particular highlights as were various art museums along the way.

I continue to enjoy working with graduate and undergraduate students at OU. It was my great pleasure to advise three master’s students through to completion of their theses last year—Mike Gregorio, Scott Dunfee, and Mike Ferian. Mike G. worked on a fluvial geomorphology project identifying and analyzing the changes that occurred in the Hocking River downstream from Athens as a result of the 1970’s channelization through town. Scott Dunfee studied the long-term extension of off-road vehicle trails at a Utah study site. Mike F. analyzed Great Lakes lake-effect snowfall changes through time. All three have secured professional positions related to their education.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish our colleague, Dr. Lyn Williams, and his wife, Josephina, a happy full retirement and to welcome to our Department new atmospheric science assistant professor Dr. Ryan Fogt who will begin here in the fall.

### Gaurav Sinha



*Namaste!* Despite 2008 being my first year as faculty, I feel right at home already thanks to my wonderful colleagues! I moved here from Boston where I was working for a reputed firm specializing in economic analysis of environmental policies. I earned my doctorate in geography in 2008 from University at Buffalo, SUNY in Buffalo, NY. I specialize in Geographic Information Science (GISc) and Systems. My specific research interest is cognitively motivated geospatial ontology design. In other words, I seek to understand how people cognize geographic information and how to impart those cognitive capacities to geographic information systems. Because of my background in geological sciences, I focus on cognitive representation of topographic landforms in geographic databases. I am

also closely involved with other geography faculty working on leveraging participatory GIS and mapping capabilities at Ohio University to promote development and environmental studies. The courses I teach focus on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and spatial analysis. I teach an introductory course on GIS and mapping which leads to advanced courses on GIS principles and geographic information analysis. I will also teach a course on GIS application development and a graduate seminar on GIScience next year. I have not had much spare time this year, but if possible I enjoy watching movies and reading and I certainly will explore the local area with my wife this summer!

### Thomas Smucker



I continue to do research and teach in the areas of nature-society and development geography. In the last year, I revised the Senior Seminar course and introduced a new course on the Geography of Hunger and Food Security. The new course was prompted by growing interest among OU students, a renewed focus on food and hunger issues in Hazards and Development Geography, and international concern about backsliding on the Millennium Development commitments to reducing hunger and extreme poverty. The course was offered for the first time in winter quarter (2008–09). Students in the course contributed vigorously to online discussion forums and had the opportunity to interact with international food and hunger experts and development practitioners through in class videoconferencing.

My work in International Studies evolved this year as I took on a new position as assistant director for research in OU's Center for African Studies. This new role has allowed me to work more closely with African Studies faculty and students on

new research initiatives and international linkages.

I spent summer 2008 in field sites in Kenya and Tanzania engaged in new research exploring geographies of vulnerability to drought and the implications for climate change adaptation in East African drylands. In the next two years of the project, we will work with EACLIPSE team members in Kenya, Tanzania, and the U.S. to integrate the findings from the climate, ecology, and livelihoods components of the project and work toward a deeper interdisciplinary understanding of the human-environment dynamics of climate change adaptation.

### Edna Wangui



I teach courses that cover a range of environment-development issues with a focus on the developing world. These include Global Issues in Environmental Geography, Globalization and the Developing World, Geography of Africa, and a graduate seminar with a regional focus on Africa. I have recently developed a new addition to the Department's curriculum: Gender, Environment, and Development. I continue to be active in African Studies, International Development Studies, and Environmental Studies here at OU.

My research continues to focus on human-environment interaction in East Africa. My past work on gender divisions of labor in East African pastoralism informs more recent work on collective action, the proliferation of rural civil society, and the implications for women's roles in constructing pastoralist livelihoods in the aftermath of land subdivision. A major concern moving forward is to evaluate how this research can better inform national policy and local civil society activities in Kenya and Tanzania. At the international

level, I have recently been invited to serve on the Pastoralist Development and Biodiversity Steering Committee of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. In this capacity, I am developing a toolkit on best practices in pastoralist development with a group of experts from around the world.

### Risa Whitson



I am an assistant professor with a joint appointment in Women's and Gender Studies and Geography. I joined the Department in 2004 and since that time have been teaching Introduction to Human Geography, Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, Social Geographies, Global Feminisms, and a graduate seminar in Gender and Development. This year, I also introduced a new course to the Department curriculum, Qualitative Research Methods in Geography, which was a great pleasure to teach. I also continue to advise students in Latin American Studies and International Development Studies.

My research interests focus on the intersection of gender, place, and work in the context of Argentina. I am particularly interested in non-traditional forms of work, especially informal work. I am continuing my research on informal garbage scavenging in Argentina, examining the way that place and gender politics have played a role in the passage of new legislation concerning this activity as well as the cooperativization of garbage scavengers. The topics of waste and disposal are increasingly recognized as important to geographers and I co-organized four sessions on this theme at the 2009 Annual AAG Meeting.

When I'm not at work, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Woody, and my daughter, Aviva, who is now 1½ years old.

## Early retiree news

H. “Hugh” L. Bloemer



Early retirement is still the good life. It is an ideal format to end a long career in academia. One does not have the daily stress of a full-time faculty member and, yet, one does not feel totally divorced from it either. I have one more year of this arrangement before I take my last globe down. Mountain glacier retreat and global warming is still a serious research interest for me. I am not on Al Gore’s bandwagon but rather look at the issues from a much broader point of view. A great deal of more work needs to be done and fewer armchair scientists should proclaim themselves as experts.

I attended the Tenth International Symposium on High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography sponsored by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development–ICIMOD in Kathmandu, Nepal last September. It was fascinating to hear the different perspectives on the topic of global warming from an array of scientists from various disciplines. The symposium was followed by a ten day trekking excursion from Lukla towards the Mt. Everest base camp. Trekking in the Himalayan Mountains is a very different experience than hiking to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro. It is difficult but most rewarding when one gets to see the top of Mt. Everest in the distance after trekking for three days over muddy and slippery paths that are shared with yak, the only beast of burden on the trails besides humans. It is a different world out there. Our next meeting is scheduled for 2010 in New Zealand and I am looking forward to another great experience. I thank my lucky stars that I became a geographer and not the engineer for which I seemed to be destined when I started studying at University of Cincinnati in 1962. It has been a great journey.

*Hubertus (Hugh) Ludwig*

## Field report: East African drylands

Field report: Wangui and Smucker investigate human-environment dynamics of climate change adaptation in East African drylands



As investigators on the East Africa Climate, People, Livestock, and Savanna Ecosystems (EACLIPSE) project, Drs. Wangui and Smucker are examining the impacts of climate change on pastoralist grazing patterns and livelihood strategies in East Africa. Funded by a grant from NSF’s Biocomplexity in the Environment program, their research involves

extensive collaboration with U.S., Kenyan, and Tanzanian scientists to develop interdisciplinary understanding of the dynamics of climate change adaptation in East Africa’s extensive arid and semi-arid areas. In 2008, Wangui and Smucker designed field methods and carried out research in two dryland districts, Simanjiro (Tanzania) and Loitokitok (Kenya). Dr. Wangui’s field research examined the role of collective responses to environmental change in light of major shifts in gender divisions of labor identified in previous research. Smucker’s work highlights changing access to ‘wetlands in drylands’ and the implications for growing intra-community

differentiation in drought coping strategies. Fieldwork to date has entailed a household survey, participatory mapping exercises, and extensive qualitative research. Their engagement with the Kenyan and Tanzanian scientific communities are facilitated by their visiting appointments at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and a new institutional



linkage with the Department of Geography at Kenyatta University.

For more information about the EACLIPSE project visit: [www.eclipse.msu.edu/](http://www.eclipse.msu.edu/)

The Ohio University Department of Geography would like to thank the following donors for their continuing support and generosity over the past year:

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Mr. Jeffrey T. Lowry  
Ms. Janet S. Luallen  
Mr. Richard A. Lutz  
Mr. Antone James Mathys  
Mr. John Charles Maximuk  
Mr. Brian A. McNamara  
Mellon Bank N.A. (HQ)  
Mr. Glenn A. Misko

Mr. Joseph P. Moore  
Ms. Jennifer A. Moore Myers  
Mr. Daniel E. Olson  
Mrs. Carin L. Painter  
Mr. William C. Phillips  
Dr. Dale A. Quattrochi  
Ms. Jennifer Nicole Rich  
Mr. Glenn McGarry Richter  
Mr. Anthony Scalia  
Dr. Joseph R. Sligo  
State Farm Insurance Company  
Mr. David Lee Wagner  
Lt. Col. Edward M. Walters  
Mr. John B. Wetterau  
Mrs. Mary Widener  
Dr. Lynden S. Williams  
Dr. Daniel L. Wise  
Ms. Ruth E. Wood

## **Congratulations! Geofest 2009 awards and honors**

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**The Regina L. Bloemer Scholarship in Geography**  
Brandon Rudd

**The Olive Emler Ross Scholarship in Geography**  
Charles Cook  
Sara Flecher  
Aubrey Patterson  
Kaitlyn Warner

**The Hubert and Constance Wilhelm  
Geography Scholarship**  
Julie Mann

**Outstanding Graduating Senior**  
Leanne Cozad, Environmental Geography  
Samantha Lilienthal, Geography  
Taryn Longberry, Environmental Geography  
Kyle May, Urban Planning  
Travis Moore, Environmental Prelaw  
Chad Toussant, Environmental Geography  
Jeffrey Waters, Meteorology

**Outstanding Graduate Scalia Scholar**  
Travis Swiger

**Outstanding Undergraduate Scalia Scholar**  
Jeffrey Waters

**The David Keirns Public Service Award  
in Meteorology**  
Christopher Redmond  
Darren Snively

**Outstanding Winter Forecaster**  
Darren Snively

**First Year Graduate Student, Outstanding Contribution to Teaching**  
Amy Albright

**Outstanding Teaching Assistant**  
Erik Myers



# Undergraduate and graduate students

## Graduate students

We now have about 23 graduate students in our program and we have been fortunate to attract students from numerous colleges and universities in Ohio and across the country. In the past year eight graduate students completed theses and four more are nearing completion. Numerous students attended the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Las Vegas with four presenting papers. Three students presented at the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) Meeting in Missoula, Montana. Kenny Ling won first place in the animated map competition! His animated map can be watched at the NACIS Web site ([www.dev.nacis.org](http://www.dev.nacis.org)). Erik Myers completed field work in Panama and presented a paper at the Ohio Latin American Conference (OLAC) hosted by Ohio University.

The Department of Geography Graduate Committee was pleased to award our first “Isaac Sindiga Memorial Fund for Geography” scholarships to Aaron Malone and Marina Islas. Sindiga earned his master’s degree from our Department in 1981. The scholarship was established by an anonymous donor and is to fund a “research agenda that requires field research which incurs travel expenses.” Aaron’s thesis is titled “Globalization in an ‘Ordinary City’: A view from Muncie, Indiana” and Marina’s thesis is titled “Understanding Gender Relations and Community-Driven Development in Ciudad Sandino, Nicaragua.” We are very grateful to the donor for this opportunity to help graduate students conduct field work. *Congratulations Marina and Aaron!*

First-year graduate student Amy Albright was recognized by the Department with the Outstanding Contribution to Teaching award and second-year graduate student Erik Myers received an Outstanding Teaching Assistant award from the College.

Elbie Bentley was awarded a National Geographic Cartography Internship! This is a highly competitive and prestigious award. Elbie was also accepted into the Ph.D. program at University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Andrew Giguere received a 4-year scholarship from the University of Toronto to pursue his Ph.D.

After three years as chair of the graduate program, I have decided to step down as

chair. My imminent fatherhood (August!) and other obligations make this a good time to pass the reins to Associate Professor Dr. Geoffrey Buckley who will do an outstanding job. I am proud of our graduate program; the students continue to excel, write great theses, and provide invaluable teaching assistance for our undergraduate program.

You can learn more about our graduate program and follow any new developments at the Department Web site ([www.ohio.edu/geography](http://www.ohio.edu/geography)).

*Brad Jokisch, graduate committee chair*

## Undergraduate students

The undergraduate program at Ohio University remains strong with about 150 majors distributed among our six major tracks—geography, environmental geography, meteorology, urban planning, environmental prelaw, and geographic information science (including cartography). More incoming first-year students than ever plan to enter OU this fall with a declared major in a geography track, and many more transfer into geography once they discover the major by taking one of our introductory courses to help fulfill a college or University requirement. Besides excellent teaching, the geography faculty continues to be committed to excellent advising, a quality for which we are known across campus.

In addition to healthy enrollments, we have many impressive students. Every year the

department gives Hubert and Constance Wilhelm, Regina Bloemer, and Olive Emler Ross awards for academic excellence to returning students, as well as outstanding scholar awards to deserving graduating seniors. Despite the economic downturn, this spring we were able to present 13 departmental academic awards, thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends of OU Geography who made contributions earmarked for these uses. Two of our undergraduate students received nationally competitive awards, a Udall and a Hollings. Other students received prestigious internships including the National Weather Service. Our spring graduates are pursuing a variety of graduate school and employment opportunities. One of our outstanding meteorology majors is receiving his commission with the U.S. Air Force where he will work as a meteorologist.

The department works hard to keep all of our students informed of employment, internship, and award opportunities. Many of the employment and internship positions we hear about are forwarded to us by our alumni. This is a very valuable source of information, and we greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending these announcements to us. Thank you, and please keep them coming!

Friends and former students of the Department of Geography play key roles in ensuring our continued success. We greatly appreciate your support.

*Dorothy Sack, undergraduate committee chair*

### 2008–09 Graduate Theses Awarded

**Scott Dunfee:** “Evolution of ORV Trails in the Little Sahara Recreation Area, Utah, 1952–1997” *Advisor: Dorothy Sack, Ph.D.*

**Michael Ferian:** “The Effect of Global Temperature Increase of Lake-Effect Snowfall Downwind of Lake Erie” *Advisor: Dorothy Sack, Ph.D.*

**Hock Shen Ling:** “Negotiating Malaysian Chinese Ethnic and National Identity Across Borders” *Advisor: Yeong-Hyun Kim, Ph.D.*

**Ana Mojica Bonilla:** “Multiple Scenario Interface for Visualizing Urban Structures: The Cases of the Salvadoran Cities of San Salvador and Santa Tecla” *Advisor: Margaret W. Pearce, Ph.D.*

**Elbie Bentley:** “A Narrative Atlas of the Gunnison-Beckwith Survey for the Pacific Railroad” *Advisor: Margaret W. Pearce, Ph.D.*

**Andrew Giguere:** “‘...and never the twain shall meet:’ Baltimore’s east-west expressway and the construction of the ‘Highway to Nowhere’” *Advisor: Geoffrey Buckley, Ph.D.*

**Erik Myers:** “What Becomes of Boquete: Transformation, Tension, and the Consequences of Residential Tourism in Panama” *Advisor: Brad Jokisch, Ph.D.*

**Josiah Nyangau:** “Decentralization and Health Care Inequality: A Geographical Approach to the Study of HIV/AIDS Mitigation in Kenya” *Advisor: Elizabeth Edna Wangui, Ph.D.*

# Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Honor Society

## Highlights of Gamma Theta Upsilon Geographic Honor Society (Theta Iota Chapter at OU) activities for the 2008–2009:

Our officers set up information tables in University Baker Center on campus to increase awareness of GTU Theta Iota. The officers also gave brief informational presentations in classes throughout the Department to bolster awareness of GTU. Officers then held a well-organized informational meeting for everyone who was interested, and checked eligibility for applicants. Two weeks later the officers held a fantastic induction ceremony, with zero waste catering from University Dining Services. GTU Theta Iota inducted 13 new members this year. They are: Emily Bacha, Jillian Bolino, Brandon Bowser, Leanne Cozad, Andrew Ford, Brandon Garman, Nicole Grams, Mason King, Hank Lilienthal, Samantha Lilienthal, Lauren Maransky, Lisa Moore, Scott Prueter, Dina Rouff, Geoff Watson. Membership requirements include: 2.7 overall GPA, 3.0 geography GPA, and at least eight hours of geography at OU.

At the end of winter quarter, GTU Theta Iota officers and members teamed up with all the geography professors teaching lower-level survey courses and hosted a tutoring session during finals week. The GTU Theta Iota members did all the coordination, however. The Department generously kicked in pizza and refreshments, and for 2½ hours members tutored over 40 students in a wide range of lower level geography courses. The event was such a success it was held again at the end of May of this year.

After spring break, GTU Theta Iota decided to start meeting every month at a favorite local restaurant in order to get to know each other even better. It was a nice change of pace as all the members really liked getting together over good food outside of a classroom building! I am confident that this monthly get-together is building a strong network of people that they will know and reference for the rest of their lives.

Earlier in spring quarter, GTU Theta Iota held a grilled cheese sale on one of the busy streets in town, a common way to raise funds at our school. GTU Theta Iota borrowed a pedal-for-electricity bike from another student organization that plays



music and attracts a crowd. The grilled cheese sale raised around \$150 for our organization.

GTU Theta Iota held a Mom's Weekend Social in May at one member's home. The social was planned on a weekend when moms come to visit their sons and daughters at OU. It was a success in bringing the group even closer together and helping to spread the word about GTU and geography more generally as a discipline to all those parents!

GTU Theta Iota has established new officer positions for next year because the group is rapidly gaining in popularity and members. Membership elected to add two event coordinators and one recruitment person to the list of officers. Everyone who is running for an officer's position for 2009–10 is teaming together to help organize the last of this year's events (mentioned above), before elections are held. Having them organize these events is a way for each

nominee to prove their dedication and competence to the organization before being elected into office. Elections will be held the last week of May.

As faculty advisor, I must say that I am very much impressed with this year's officers and members. Our officers and members have worked very hard on top of many other academic and extracurricular commitments/accomplishments. For example, President Becky Clark has been instrumental in founding our local campus chapter of the Sierra Club and tries to get both Sierra Club and GTU Theta Iota members working together on important issues on and around campus. The officers have raised the importance and visibility of GTU Theta Iota and geography more generally within our campus community. *I applaud them in their successful efforts and look forward to working with new officers in coming years!*

*Harold Perkins, GTU advisor*

# Scalia Laboratory for Atmospheric Analysis



The Meteorology program at Ohio University is one of the largest programs in the Department of Geography and its students have achieved an unprecedented level of success over the last few years. This is in large part due to Scalia Laboratory for Atmospheric Analysis, Ohio University's weather lab. Scalia Lab continues to be a major resource for local weather data collection and analysis as well as forecast products. Under the direction of Director Dr. Ronald Isaac and Associate Director Travis Swiger, Scalia Lab affords students the opportunity to gain real forecasting experience while providing a valuable service to the people of Southeast Ohio. In the past year, the Lab has continued to upload data to its Web site, [www.scalialab.com](http://www.scalialab.com), as historical local weather data is being put into electronic form. In addition, we are constantly trying to improve our products. We have not only fully repaired the lightning detection system but also added more detailed information to the page thanks to the work of OU Senior Christopher Redmond. The Pretty Run "frost hollow" weather station is operational once again and its conditions are uploaded hourly. We are also working with the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model that we are running in order to verify its forecasting capabilities so that it can serve as effective local forecasting for both our forecasters and the public. This

fall the Department of Geography and Scalia Lab will welcome to OU Dr. Ryan Fogt as new meteorologist and Scalia Lab director.

The success of the program can also be attributed to the creation of the Meteorology Club in 2005. Club founder Chris Vickers, who currently serves as a broadcast meteorologist for WTOL-TV in Toledo, worked diligently to increase student awareness of the program and to incorporate fun yet educational events and experiences. This approach continues today under 2008-09 President Jeff Waters. Some events and initiatives over the past year include the following: attending the 13th Annual Severe Weather Symposium at The Ohio State University as well as storm spotter training classes; assisting with hosting Climatologist Dr. Jason Box for an Earth Week lecture; working with Ohio University officials to get the University "StormReady"; and applying to get the club recognized as a student chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). Members also attended the 2009 Meeting of the AMS in Phoenix which exposed students to a professional atmosphere and afforded them possible career advancement opportunities.

The meteorology program continues to gain attention on the national level due to its hard-working students. The prestigious NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship has been awarded to an Ohio University meteorology student for the fifth consecutive year! The Hollings is a two-year scholarship that includes a paid internship with a NOAA between the first and second years. The most recent recipient is Sophomore Nicole Grams who received the award in April 2009. Former recipients include Jon Harvey (2005-07), Nick Engerer (2006-08), Jeff Waters (2007-09), and Darren Snively (2008-10). In addition, Nicole has received an internship with the National Weather Service (NWS) in Charleston, WV this coming summer through the federal Student Career Experience Program. Successful meteorologists will also pursue military tracks as Senior Dan Miller, an Air Force ROTC student, will be commissioned as a weather officer after graduation. The Department will send another meteorologist off to one of the nation's best meteorology graduate schools as Jeff Waters will continue his studies at Pennsylvania State University this coming fall. *We wish Dan, Jeff, and all of our graduating seniors the best of luck!*

*Travis Swiger, graduate student and associate director, Scalia Lab*

## Labs in the Department of Geography



“Remote sensing has become a vital tool in the study of environmental change and our state-of-the-art lab is a gateway to this important and exciting technology,” says Professor James K. Lein. The Department of Geography’s remote sensing lab is located in Morton Hall.



“We are as busy as ever in the Cartographic Center! This summer we began a collaboration with the Newark Earthworks Center of Ohio University-Newark for cartographic design research on the Newark Earthworks and Hopewell Road. On the map production front already in 2009, we have delivered 15 maps for books with four in progress this summer,” says Cartographic Center Director and Assistant Professor Margaret W. Pearce.



“The Department of Geography’s state-of-the-art GIS lab in Clippinger Laboratories recently underwent a substantial renovation including the installation of new computers and updated software. I would like to thank IT Support Specialist Tim Grubb for all his work to get the lab ready prior to the start of second summer session,” says Department Chair and Associate Professor Timothy G. Anderson. The computer upgrade was made possible through receipt of technology funds from the College of Arts and Sciences.

## What's happening with alumni

### **Mark Gill, BS '72**

I am the chief of staff to the president at Colorado State University (CSU). In this capacity, I am the senior staff assistant responsible for a broad range of support for the office, including oversight of all operations and ensuring effective implementation of initiatives on behalf of the interim president. I retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Colonel in 1998 after 26 years of active duty. During my career, I spent 17 years on flight status, worked under Colin Powell while serving at the Pentagon, and worked on the White House staff as deputy director responsible for presidential trip security and contingency planning. I also lead CSU's Public Safety Team and am chairman of the ROTC Advisory Board for CSU. I joined the University in 2002.

### **Gary Haynes, MA '74**

I am an instructor of geography at OU Chillicothe and Lancaster campuses offering introductory courses in human, physical, and environmental areas. During the past year, I was selected to represent the Chillicothe campus as a faculty participant in the Athens campus directed Kanawha Environmental Education Project. This project's goal is to enhance environmental literacy of undergraduates by revising course content to include environmental themes. Additionally, I have voluntarily become the point person in developing an environmental land lab at a 250 acre farm that was donated to the University. My family and I continue to make improvements to our house and farm and make a point to take one good geography-type vacation each summer—the mountains, the coast, cultural enrichment, and all of the above. My e-mail address is haynes@ohio.edu.

### **Frederick Siekkinen, MSES '74**

I have been employed by the Department of Environmental Protection, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since 1986. I started out as a solid waste specialist and was promoted to an environmental protection specialist in 1992. I currently hold that position within the Bureau of Investigations, which is the investigative section of the Department. Working on the civil side of the law, our section supports the various programs of the Department through investigations, conducting training, acquiring samples, conducting interviews, and surveillances. On the criminal side, I support the

Environmental Crimes Section of the Office of Attorney General in a capacity very much like a crime scene specialist. I also conduct training and lecture at the Northeast Environmental Enforcement Project on crime scene documentation and response. I have also acquired a background in responding to clandestine labs and acquiring evidence for environmental prosecutions.

### **Dhawatchai Tangsanga, MS '74**

I attended OU from 1972–74 in a newly established Department (branched out of School of Architecture) called Regional Planning—a two-year multi-disciplinary program leading to a master's degree. Head of the department was Charles Leach. Another lecturer was William Hoyt. There were 12–14 students in the program. No new students in the second year so the Department was discontinued and only one class graduated.

After graduation, I returned to Thailand and started working in the public sector at the Ministry of Industry where I spent nearly my entire working life. At the ministry I was mainly responsible for international relations and played a role in Thailand's bilateral and multi-lateral trade and investment agreements including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Free Trade Area (AFTA). I retired from public service as an inspector general and became head of the National Productivity Institute from 2001–2005.

In 2004, I had the pleasure of visiting OU in commemoration of its 200th Anniversary. It was truly a memorable experience. Sadly, none of the staff at Admin Department or Alumni Office knew anything about the existence of the Regional Planning program.

Regrettably, I have lost contact with my professors and all my classmates. Any help from alumni office or any alumni to revisit the memory of the Regional Planning Department or to renew contacts

amongst its graduating class shall be most appreciated.

### **John R. DeMuth, BS '75**

I recently "retired" as deputy director at the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission via an early retirement incentive program. To date, my satisfying 32-year career has focused on aspects of community, regional, and environmental planning at three employers: Cuyahoga County Regional Planning Commission, Madison–Madison International, and Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. I intend to reactivate my career after some summer time off. My wife, Marilyn, and I have three children and five grandchildren. I recently visited the OU campus for an eye-opening tour (the first in almost twenty years) with my youngest son who is considering attendance next year. I continue to maintain that the four years I spent at OU were filled with THE BEST OF TIMES!

### **Deborah Phillips King, BS '75**

I continue to teach at The University of Akron Department of Geography and Planning. Courses include cartography, maps and map reading, and field research methods. We are always looking for good graduate students! My husband, Tom, is the community development director in Hudson, Ohio where we live and our three children are all in college. I'm happy to report that one is a Bobcat in Athens!

### **Vince Mazeika, MA '84**

Since graduation, I've been employed with Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water where I apply geography skills on a daily basis—the watershed concept.

Yet some of the most fulfilling work I've done has been teaching Geography 121 (Human Geography) at the Lancaster campus. (The Department faculty on main campus provided many fine examples to emulate.)

Last August, I made a three-week trip into the Baltic states. Partly a search for long

forgotten relatives and partly driven by intense curiosity for this little known (to Americans) and less understood corner of northeast Europe. Surprises abounded: a near pristine and accessible Baltic Sea coast; very well developed tourism information centers; and a fierce pride in unique languages and cultural history. My next visit will be a cycling tour—the region's glacial legacy-left landscapes similar to northern Wisconsin and Minnesota studded with lakes and wetlands. I very much look forward to teaching another class of Geography 121 this coming winter quarter and will incorporate some “Baltic elements” in the class.

### **Bob Seebald, BS '85**

I graduate in June 2009 from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces with a MS in National Defense Resource Management. I am the associate deputy director of the International Affairs Office at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency where I have worked for the past 24 years.

### **Margaret Seebald, BS '85**

In May 2009, I graduated with honors from Frederick (Maryland) Community College's School of Nursing as a registered nurse.

Our daughter Laura is a freshman at Ohio University majoring in Political Science. Margaret and Bob reside in Middletown, Maryland.

### **Tony Lafferty, MA '86**

Living and working in Northern California. I have been with ESRI for the past 12 years. Active in the running community—“ran” into Jonathon Bernard at the Miwok 100k Ultra Race near San Francisco. Busy, preparing for my one shot at running Western States 100-mile Endurance Race scheduled for June 2010.

### **Tom Harner, BS '88**

I have been the GIS coordinator at the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) in Dayton, Ohio since 1999. Using GIS in a planning

context has been a very rewarding and challenging experience. Prior to joining MVRPC, I also worked for Clermont County, Ohio as GIS manager and Woolpert where I first started using GIS.

I am an adjunct faculty member at Sinclair Community College in Dayton teaching an introductory GIS class in the Geography Department.

Married with three children, teaching is sometimes a welcome break.

### **Gregory Marinic, BS '91**

*(I was one of the first student design coordinators of the Geogram! It's great to see the publication is still in production nearly 20 years later.)*

I am professor of architecture at CUNY, New York City College of Technology and visiting assistant professor of Interior Architecture at Pratt Institute in New York City where I teach undergraduate advanced architectural design studios and undergraduate/graduate thesis in interior design. I frequently participate as a guest jury critic at Pratt Institute and Fordham University. I am co-founder and director of the d3 Gallery in Brooklyn, an organization that promotes innovative transdisciplinary approaches in art, architecture, urbanism, and design. I am co-principal in the New York City-based architectural practice Studio Marinic Nguyen.

My design portfolio includes multiple winning competition entries for affordable housing in Manhattan, a competition finalist entry for a high-rise residential tower in Dubai, and a competition finalist proposal for a skyscraper in Chicago. Additional large-scale projects include a campus master plan and residence hall for George Washington University, a terminal expansion for Manchester International Airport, a proposal for the jetBlue Airways Terminal at JFK Airport, and a residential tower and boutique hotel in Las Vegas.

I received my Master of Architecture from University of Maryland where I graduated with honors and was awarded the School of Architecture Thesis Citation. My thesis proposed a new international airport for Ljubljana, Slovenia through exploration of regional and modernist themes in aviation architecture. I am a recipient of both the Leonard Dressel Scholarship and Jack Kerxton Internship & Scholarship. While attending Ohio University, I studied under the guidance of Dr. Nancy Bain.

### **J. Randall Engwert, BS '95**

I received a Juris Doctor from University of Toledo, College of Law in 1999 and went on to work as an assistant attorney general in the Ohio Attorney General's Office Environmental Enforcement Section where I represented the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Division of Air Pollution Control. I entered private practice in 2004 and am now a Partner with Anspach Meeks Ellenberger LLP in its Toledo, Ohio office. While my career has strayed from its environmental roots, I continue to apply the practical problem solving skills I learned in the Department of Geography at OU in my representation of clients ranging from individuals to large corporations.

### **Ken Curry, MA '96**

I married fellow Ohio U alum Lynn Zanski and we now celebrate each day with three wonderful children—Milah, Maeve, and Bennett. Besides the obvious of keeping busy with family life, I have a GIS company with two partners. We provide GIS services and products to government and private sector clients with a focus on rural GIS implementation and Web mapping applications. I still find time to traverse the northwoods in Canada trekking by canoe and backpack into the shield region in search of solitude and simple living for at least a week! Lynn and I don't travel as much with the kids, but we look forward to returning to Athens and the many other places we traveled as the kids get older.

### **Kristina (Michelson) Tridico, BS '96**

I practice mergers and acquisitions law at Ice Miller LLP in Indianapolis, Indiana, and am a partner in the Business Group. I am chair of Ice Miller's sustainability and climate change practice focusing on renewable energy, carbon trade, and green development matters. My husband, Andy, and I welcomed our second Bobcat, Gus,

## What's happening with alumni

in 2008 and he has a proud big sister, Anna Sophia.

### **Cary Sanders, BS '97**

I work as a senior cartographer doing GIS work at Wiser Company in Murfreesboro, Tennessee and am married with one 13-month-old son, Noah.

### **Jeffrey McKee, BS '98**

I have worked for Abbott Nutrition, Abbott Laboratories since October 2002. In March 2009, I was promoted to scientist within the Technical Services, Product Research & Development Group and am now a project leader for formulation development within this team.

### **Kristen Allore, BS '99**

I graduated from OU in 1999 with a BS in Environmental Geography with the Certificate in Environmental Studies. I currently am the program director at New Pond Farm in West Redding, CT, a non-profit Environmental Education Center and working farm.

### **Jeff Leonhard, BS '99**

I am the district manager for Pictometry International Corporation. I manage the government sales in Indiana and Illinois for our Geospatial products including geo-referenced oblique aerial imagery and lidar. Pictometry is the world leader in Intelligent Oblique Aerial Photography. I currently reside in Indianapolis, Indiana.

### **Trevor Walsh, BS '99**

After spending many years in non-formal Science Education, I am now working as an educational sales consultant for Nystrom Social Studies—one of the largest providers of maps and globes to schools in the country. I currently reside in Oregon, Ohio and work with over 1,400 schools in 28 counties in Ohio. My wife and I are also expecting our first child in November.

### **Jim Maczko, MA '01**

I became the warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service (NWS) in Jackson, Kentucky in late April 2009 after spending June 2007–April 2009 as a senior forecaster at the NWS in Louisville, Kentucky. I am responsible for managing inter-agency communications, public education programs, and weather safety awareness campaigns. I am currently working closely with the Kentucky State Emergency Management Agency to

designate 32 Kentucky State Parks as StormReady. I can be reached anytime at James.Maczko@noaa.gov.

### **Kelly Cornell, BS '03**

I graduated from OU in 2003 with a BS in Environmental Geography. After graduation I attended George Washington University in Washington, DC and received my MA in geography with emphasis on Urban/Environmental Geography. I am currently working as a Transportation Planner for Arlington County, Virginia and also teach Geography at Marymount University.

### **Abigail Porter Ertel, MA '03**

#### **Patrick Ertel, MA '05**

After Athens, Abby and Patrick have found themselves traveling and completing natural resource protection projects in New Brunswick, North Carolina and now northern Michigan.

Both Abby and Patrick are involved with regional not-for-profit environmental organizations. Abby serves as an AmeriCorps member with the HeadWaters Land Conservancy (HWLC). Her position is geared towards working with private landowners to promote conservation through permanent land protection agreements. Throughout the process, Abby completes baseline assessments, monitoring visits and evaluations of private lands for potential conservation. It is her goal to complete ten baseline assessment visits during the 2009 field season. This work is in conjunction with HWLC's Au Sable River Watershed Program and Pigeon River Habitat Initiative and will be a major stepping stone in the organization's effort to permanently protect 6000 acres of land within the Pigeon River Country State Forest by 2012 and 10 miles of river frontage on one of Michigan's most prestigious trout streams, the Au Sable, by 2011.

Working for Huron Pines, Patrick spends his days managing multiple projects geared towards improving the region's natural

resources. Coordinating these large-scale projects includes: writing grant proposals and fundraising, organizing partners, budgeting, designing conceptual plans, preparing permit applications, presenting restoration options to the public, guiding field crews, working with contractors, and updating stakeholders. As he prepares for his fourth year with Huron Pines, Patrick is currently launching watershed-wide restoration projects that aim to reduce non-point source sediment and thermal pollution of small groundwater-fed tributaries, improve passage for native coldwater fish species, and remove small dams that interrupt the natural flow of stream resources.

Abby and Patrick live in an old farmhouse south of Grayling, Michigan with their two dogs. While Abby trains for her next marathon or tends to their 38 chickens, Patrick tries to outwit the weather and sandy soils in their organic garden.

### **Timothy Price, MA '04**

After a short stint teaching GIS and other geography-related classes at Indiana University–Southeast, I moved to the Cincinnati area when a former student during my TA times at OU offered me a position with his newly-formed company. I've now been with that company, GIS Dynamics of West Chester, Ohio, for over four years and have since found myself doing things with my career that I would have never imagined.

In fact, GIS has taken me to far-off regions of the world, including trips to Nigeria, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Working alongside United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in Kinshasa, DRC, one of my recent projects involved implementing an enterprise GIS system to produce Topographic Line Maps (TLM50) of various regions using satellite imagery. Other African projects included assisting Nigerian government officials to realize the benefits GIS has to offer not only regional governments, but also communities and businesses as well.

Soon, I hope to return to Africa to continue working with the people whose only hope is to bring a better life to their country.

### **Scott F. Snider, MA '04**

I am in my fifth year with the Knox County Map Department in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. The last two of which I have served as GIS supervisor. As supervisor I am in charge of a two-person staff and oversee daily operations of the Department. I also perform all GIS analyses for the county and prepare custom maps for other county entities as well as the general public. I received my GIS certification from the GIS Certification Institute in the fall of 2008, which is based on a combination of professional experience, education, and contribution to the profession. I have also been elected as the vice chair of the Ohio Chapter of URSIA and serve as the president of the Howard Township Zoning Commission. I also got married in March of this year.

### **Eva Montgomery, BS '05**

After leaving Athens, I spent two years as a weather observer at Cleveland Hopkins Airport and one year at Port Columbus Airport. While working at both airports I began graduate school at The Ohio State University. I graduated in December 2007 with a Master in Atmospheric Sciences. Three months later, I was offered a position with Gamesa Energy U.S.A. as a wind resource engineer. For the last year and a half, I have been researching new sites for future wind farms as well as performing wind resource studies. My responsibilities also include designing layouts for Wind Farms across the U.S.

### **Jennifer Rich, BS '05**

I am currently working for The Nature Conservancy in Virginia as the state's volunteer coordinator. I manage over 700 active volunteers and supervise stewardship projects such as trail maintenance, invasive species removal, and seagrass restoration. I also participate on the prescribed burn team. If you are in Virginia and interested

in volunteering, don't hesitate to contact me at [jrich@tnc.org](mailto:jrich@tnc.org).

### **Jessica Meyer, BS '06**

After graduation, I worked for Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center at Cuyahoga Valley National Park as a field instructor intern teaching environmental education to mostly children ages 4–14. Currently, I am in the Peace Corps Masters International program as part of my Master in Rural Development from University of Alaska–Fairbanks. I have been in the Republic of Macedonia since the end of September 2008 and my service will go through fall of 2010. My thesis will be about solid waste management (garbage, recycling, and composting) in rural areas and will include a lot of GIS. I hope to graduate in Spring 2011 and eventually go on to pursue my doctorate in geography.

### **Sagar R. Mysorekar, MA '06**

I started working for the Nature Conservancy in 2005 when I joined as GIS intern at the Arkansas Field Office (ARFO). I was then offered the GIS specialist position at ARFO where I primarily worked to develop ArcSDE, ArcGIS Server and ArcIMS systems, and provide IT support for the Arkansas Chapter.

I joined Great Lakes project team in mid-September 2008 as a GIS manager in Chicago. I am currently working on mapping and analyzing aquatic invasive species from the Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio region and am actively involved in database development, spatial analysis, and Web GIS development to support various Great Lakes conservation projects. My wife, Manasi, is completing her Master of Landscape Architecture from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. You can reach me at [smysorekar@gmail.com](mailto:smysorekar@gmail.com).

### **Michael Gregorio, MA '08**

I have moved to Washington, D.C. and am a geographer working for the U.S. Census Bureau in the Public Information Office, Media Relations Branch. I create maps for

the upcoming 2010 Decennial Census and population profiles for natural disasters.

I presented my thesis, “Effects of Channelization at Athens, Ohio, on the Downstream Planform of the Hocking River” at the 2009 Association of American Geographers Meeting in Las Vegas along with Dr. Dorothy Sack.

### **Dan Laubenthal, BS '08**

Following graduation, I relocated to Chicago and have been working at Sargent & Lundy—an engineering firm specializing in consulting, engineering, design, and analysis for electric power generation and power delivery projects worldwide. My position is in permitting and licensing and I enjoy the opportunity to work on everything from wind turbine farms to nuclear power plant applications.

### **Kenny Ling, MA '08**

I recently started working at ESRI in Redlands, California, joining other OU Geography grads—KT Koerner (BA, 07?) and Chris Tartoni (MA, 08). I work as a cartographic product engineer in the Mapping Center team ([mappingcenter.esri.com/](http://mappingcenter.esri.com/)), helping with the development and delivery of cartographic techniques, especially with online mapping. In the few months I have been at ESRI, I have already had the chance to design numerous online mapping tools with the ArcGIS Javascript API. I love what I do and hope to see more OU folks over here!

### **Sam Pepple, BS '08**

After graduating in June 2008 and subsequently enjoying the summer riding my bicycle with two great friends from Athens to the Pacific Ocean (bikists.blogspot.com), I began an internship at the National Geographic Society in the Cartographic Division. Upon completion of the internship in December I was given a job as a production cartographer. I am currently working with Chief Cartographer Allen Carroll on the Thematic Section of the 9th Edition of the World Atlas, which should go to press late summer of 2010. Although I can't realistically take the summer off again for a long bike ride, I do plan on taking a few weeks to either do a tour around Lake Michigan with my dad, or venture south to Colombia with some friends from Athens.



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