Welcome to the inaugural newsletter from the geography department at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. We are pleased to share department highlights and updates with alumni, emeriti faculty, and friends of the program.

The department currently has five full-time tenure track faculty and two adjunct instructors. The number of majors has remained steady for the past few years, twenty-five to thirty including all geography majors. In addition to majoring in geography, GIScience continues to be an area that attracts students from across campus.

The department is continuing a rich tradition of student-centered learning with a research focus. Many of our students are involved in research activities and several have received awards at UNK’s Student Research Day. Recent winning student posters include: Nic Stoll, *Just What the Doctor Ordered: The Role of GIScience in the Market Area Analysis of an Omaha Health Care Clinic*, Advisor: Paul Burger; Jared Krejci, *Geographical Diffusion of Improvised Explosive Devices in Afghanistan*, Advisor: Jason Combs; and Allison Claar and Austin White, *Tree-Ring Analysis of Recent Climate Versus Land Use Changes*, Advisor: Jeremy Dillon.

If anyone has news or updates for a future newsletter or is interested in the program, do not hesitate to contact the department at (308) 865-8355.

H. Jason Combs
Associate Professor and Chair
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Geography major Kaitlyn Taylor at UNK’s Student Research Day-2013
In recent years the physical science lab has added equipment including a ductless fume hood, reciprocal soil shakers, and microscopes. Above: Student research in Dr. Dillon’s soils class in the lab.

Geography Faculty
John Bauer
Associate Professor
Ph.D. 2006 University of Kansas

Vijay Boken
Associate Professor
Ph.D. 1999 University of Manitoba

Paul Burger
Professor
Ed.D. 1997 Oklahoma State University

Jason Combs
Associate Professor and Chair
Ph.D. 2000 University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jeremy Dillon
Associate Professor
Ph.D. 2001 University of Kansas

Nate Eidem
Adjunct Lecturer
Ph.D. 2011 Oregon State University

Matt Engel
Adjunct Lecturer
Ph.D. 2007 University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Recent Publications and Scholarly Works by Geography Faculty

- **Dillon, J.S.,** Hanson, P.R., and Howard, L.M., 2012, Surficial Geology of the Hartington 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, Nebraska:1:24,000 Scale Geologic Map published by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey.
Alumni Highlights
After graduation, Matt Buchanan spent 2.5 years with Mo-Kan Regional Planning in St. Joe, Missouri and is now in KU’s urban planning graduate program.

**Matt Buchanan**
**BS Geography 2009**

Kaine McClelland has been a Transportation Planner at Nebraska Department of Roads since May of 2006. Duties include developing subarea traffic models for NDOR staff in conjunction with the development of state highway projects in both rural and urban areas, and updating and maintaining NDOR Statewide Traffic Model using U.S. Census data, including the delineation of TAZ’s for 89 non-MPO Nebraska counties and the production of population growth factors. Other duties include reviewing comprehensive plans and traffic assignment networks associated with NDOR’s Comprehensive Plan Assistance Program and providing land use, traffic forecast information and thematic maps for NDOR’s Long Range Transportation Plan.

**Kaine McClelland**
**BS Geography 2004**

Jake McGlade has served as the Market Research and Site Analyst for Cameron General Contractors (CGC) since June, 2012. Prior to joining CGC, Jake was at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) working on a Master of Arts degree with a concentration in Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIS). Jake’s graduate thesis focused on the application of GIS to marketing, location analysis, and site selection. He is responsible for locating and closing on new sites for Resort Lifestyle Communities. Jake continues to develop new techniques in the senior housing industry to target new market growth opportunities, target geographic marketing campaigns, evaluate socio-economic patterns of current and interested customers, and locate sites that pose the greatest opportunity for product longevity. Jake developed a customized, web-based software application that ranks areas within cities and uses aerial imagery, statistical methods and business models to aid his geo-demographic market research. He works with brokers across the U.S. finding suitable parcels that meet CGC’s placement criteria.

**Jake McGlade**
**BS Geography 2010**

Allison Sambol recently joined Kiewit Corporation in their Environmental Department as an Environmental Scientist. Job functions include hazardous incident reports, waste vendor review, environmental compliance and internal training development, with the intent to distribute information, assist, and train the environmental staff throughout all the Kiewit Companies.

**Allison Sambol**
**BS Geography 2004**

- UNK Alumnus Matt Buchanan accepting an award at the National Rural Transportation Peer Learning conference where the Mo-Kan regional council received the Excellence in Regional Transportation Award.
UNK Faculty and Student Presentations at the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Regional Division of the Association of American Geographers—Omaha, Nebraska, October 2013

1733 Miles from Where? Kearney, Nebraska’s 1733 Identity
John Bauer

The Geography of Junk
Jason Combs & Paul Burger

Engineer Cantonment: At the Intersection of Geography, Geology, History, and Art
Jeremy Dillon

A GIScience Market Area Analysis and Socio-Demographic Profile of Omaha Health Care Clinic Customers
Nic Stoll

Geography Emeriti Faculty and Retirement Date
Steele Becker 2007
Gordon Bennett 2006
M. Stanley Dart 2007
Bob Lind 2003
Marvin Stone 2000

Geography Awareness Week
National Geography Awareness week was created in 1987 to highlight geographic awareness and literacy among students and the general public. As part of its observance, UNK Geography hosts a scholar or practitioner to highlight the application of geography or geographic information.

In 2012, Dr. Robert Watrel from South Dakota State University presented The 2012 Presidential Election in Geographical, Historical, and Political Perspective for Geography Awareness Week.

This year UNK is hosting two scholars for GAW. Dr. Don Maness from Arkansas State University will present America at War: Geopolitical Strategies of the Civil War on October 27th and Dr. John Kostelnick from Illinois State University will present Mapping the Crisis: Challenges for Visualizing Hazards on November 18th.

Geography Student Fund
The department has an endowed scholarship fund to support students majoring in geography. If interested in contributing to the scholarship fund please contact Anne McConkey, Director of Development, at 308 698-5282 or amcconkey@nufoundation.org or Val Vierk, Department Support Staff, at 308 865-8355 or vierkv@unk.edu.

Mark your calendars now . . . UNK’s Geography Department is set to host the 2015 Great Plains-Rocky Mountain regional meeting of the Association of American Geographers!