Welcome to the second annual fall 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 and minors has remained steady for the past few years. 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: Zach Davidson, College Student Debt by Region in the United States, 2014 UNK Student Research Day and Nic Stoll, Just What the Doctor Ordered: The Role of GIScience in the Market Area Analysis of an

Omaha Health Care Clinic, 2013 UNK Student Research Day. Additionally, geography major Xiaojun (Summer) Liu was accepted into the prestigious Mortar Board honor society last year and geography major Tayler McPeak received the 2013-2014 geography scholarship. Finally, the department also hosted a GIS workshop for the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society last spring.

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
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Recent Peer-Reviewed Publications and Other Scholarly Works by Geography Faculty

- **Dillon, J.S.,** Hanson, P.R., and Howard, L.M. 2013. Surficial Geology of the Fordyce 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, Nebraska: 1:24,000 scale Geologic Map published by UNL in cooperation with the USGS.
Alumni Highlights
I am working for Servi-Tech as an Ag Specialist, primarily with soil moisture monitors. Much of this deals with the installation, maintenance, extraction of monitoring devices and creating recommendations for irrigation. I evaluate data from profilers and make recommendations to producers based on the data. The data is in graph form and from that irrigation rates are determined. I will soon be doing grid sampling, variable rate mapping, and soil moisture and texture mapping as well.

**Steven Burback**  
BS Geography & GIScience 2012

My official title is "Survey Aid Technician" at the Kearney County NRCS. I help assemble and maintain applications and contracts for farmers involved with various environmental conservation programs--mainly EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), AWEP (Agricultural Water Enhancement Program), and CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program). I use ArcMap to create "Conservation Plan Maps" and "Soil Maps" for new contracts in each of these programs, which depict the items and practices in the contract. Other duties include updating pivot and wetland inventory maps, determining highly erodible and non-highly erodible land, assisting with prescribed burns and cultural resource excavations.

**Helen (Breuer) Potter**  
BS Geography 2011

Dr. Paul Burger with geography major Ashley Larsen at the 2014 UNK Student Research Day.

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 2013, UNK hosted two scholars for GAW. Dr. Don Maness from Arkansas State University presented *America at War: Geopolitical Strategies of the Civil War* and Dr. John Kostelnick from Illinois State University presented *Mapping the Crisis: Challenges for Visualizing Hazards*.

This fall Dr. Christina Dando from the University of Nebraska-Omaha will present *Ways of Knowing: Exploring the History of Geography Outside of Academia*.

The department also hosted Dr. Mark Boslough from Sandia National Laboratories and the University of New Mexico in April of 2014. Dr. Boslough presented research on the Chelyabinsk, Russia meteorite impact of 2013.
Recent UNK Faculty & Student Presentations at Professional Conferences

Mapping the 1870s Nebraska Frontier
Missouri Valley History Conference
John Bauer

Groundwater Sustainability Crisis for a Mega City
Peri-Urban Conference
Vijay Boken

The Geography of Junk
Great Plains Rocky Mountain Meeting of the AAG
Jason Combs & Paul Burger

A Late Holocene terrace-fan Complex on the Western Margin of the Middle Missouri River Valley
Geological Society of America
Jeremy Dillon

Up in Smoke: Colorado’s Marijuana Legalization and Recent Voting Trends
UNK Student Research Day
Stephanie Ayers

College Student Debt by Region in the US
UNK Student Research Day
Zach Davidson

Using GIScience and Gravity Modeling to Predict UNK’s Freshmen Class
UNK Student Research Day
Ashley Larsen

The Spatial Distribution of Earthquakes in China from 1920 to 2013
UNK Student Research Day
Ru Weng

Keystone XL Pipeline: Economic Boom or Environmental Bust?
UNK Student Research Day
Shelby Rowan, Christine Laughlin, Zach Waller, and Connor Dudley

Spatial Distribution of Water Availability for a Few Highly Populated Countries
UNK Student Research Day
Chase Svoboda, Alex Obermier, Hugo de Carvalho Richardo

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

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 Great Plains-Rocky Mountain regional meeting of the Association of American Geographers in the fall of 2015!

Geography major Zach Davidson at UNK’s Student Research Day-2014