



*University of Nebraska-Kearney
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UNK-Geography Newsletter Fall 2018

Welcome to the sixth 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 remains steady, and GIScience continues to attract students from a number of disciplines (Criminology, Biology, and Exercise Science, for instance) across campus.

The department is continuing a rich tradition of student-centered learning with an emphasis on research. Many of our students are involved in research activities and several have received awards at various conferences. This past spring five students—Ava Coughlin, Jordyn Goodman, Connor Gosnell, Emma Neil, and Natasha Winfield—presented at UNK's Student Research Day.

This year three students received the Excellence in Geography award presented by Gamma Theta Upsilon. They are Luis Apodaca, Claire Christer, and Emma Neil. UNK tennis player Emma Neil, who is a research assistant for Dr. Jason Combs, earned Google Cloud Academic All-America Division II first-team honors. Emma graduated with a 4.00 cumulative GPA as a social science 7-12 education major—only one other UNK tennis player has ever earned All-America honors. Emma also has the most wins in UNK history and recently earned the 2018 MIAA Sportsmanship Award and UNK's Dr. Tom Kropp Dedication Award, one of the highest honors a Loper student athlete can achieve.

Also, this past year four students were awarded geography scholarships—Luis Apodaca, Claire Christner, Rene Ingersoll, and Natasha Winfield. The scholarships are the result of alumni and friends of the department financially supporting students.

Finally, it is important to highlight our recent graduates. This past year we had four students graduate—Shane Fife, Ryan May, Delaney Schultz, and David Urban.

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.

Jason Combs
Professor and Chair
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Geography Faculty

John Bauer

Professor
Ph.D. 2006 University of Kansas

Vijay Boken

Professor
Ph.D. 1999 University of Manitoba

Paul Burger

Professor
Ed.D. 1997 Oklahoma State University

Jason Combs

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

Jeremy Dillon

Professor
Ph.D. 2002 University of Kansas

Nate Eidem

Adjunct Lecturer
Ph.D. 2012 Oregon State University

Matt Engel

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



Geography students during a field trip to Funk, Nebraska to view a gas engine/tractor collection owned by Rod and Chris Epping.

Recent Peer-Reviewed Publications by Geography Faculty

Burger, Paul, and Cooper, Kimberley. 2017. A GIS-Based Market Location Study of a Veterinary Clinic in South Carolina. In *Location Intelligence Research and Applications*. Murray Rice and Tony Hernandez, editors. Kent, Ohio: Applied Geography Conference. ISBN: 978-0991197514.

Chloupek, Brett, Burger, Paul, Combs, H. Jason, Pauley, Nicole, and Fletcher Sheridan. 2016. *If You Build It Will They Come? Using GIScience to Estimate Retirement Community Demand and Evaluate Potential Locations in Salt Lake City, Utah*. *Illinois Geographer* 58(2): 1-18.

Combs, H. Jason and Harders, Kenneth. 2017. *Pioneer Life on Glass: The Balcom-Green Collection*. Emporia State University, Center for Great Plains Studies: Emporia, Kansas.

Combs, H. Jason. 2017. David Rankin: America's Greatest Farmer. *Great Plains Quarterly* 37(3): 183-213.

Other Scholarly Works by Geography Faculty and Students

Sogar, Christina, Campbell, Julie, Wulf-Ludden, Timbre, Maughan, Suzanne, Van Laningham, Jody, and Paul Burger.

Perceived needs and service use among youth offenders preparing for reentry to rural and urban communities in Nebraska.

UNK: Research Services Council– Fall 2016-2017: \$12,639. (Funded for 2nd Year).

Hanson, P.R., Young, A.R., Larsen, A.K., Howard, L.M., Dillon, J.S., 2017. Surficial Geology of the Fairmont 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.

Young, A.R., Hanson, P.R., Larsen, A.K., Howard, L.M., Dillon, J.S., 2017. Surficial Geology of the Exeter 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.

Jeremy Dillon, Paul Hanson (UNL), and Susanne Stolze (Colorado School of Mines), *The Geologic History of Glacial Lake Kearney and the Platte River-Wood River Divide in South-Central Nebraska, USA.* UNK RSC Collaborative Research Grant: \$4,985.00.



In the spring semester, Dr. Jeremy Dillon hosted a public event at the World Theater in downtown Kearney for the Thompson Scholars Learning Community.

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 2017, Gary and Margaret Kraisinger discussed their 2015 award-winning book titled *The Western Cattle Trail 1874-1897* (another book project titled *The Shawnee-Arbuckle Trail, 1867-1870, the Predecessor to the Chisholm Trail to Abilene, Kansas* was also discussed).



Gary and Margaret Kraisinger at the 2017 GAW presentation.

Recent UNK Faculty and Student Presentations at Professional Conferences

John T. Bauer. "Mapping Nebraska's Settlement Frontiers" Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts.

John T. Bauer. "Navigating Without Road Maps: The Early Business of Automobile Route Guide Publishing in the United States" Paper presented at the 2017 International Cartographic Conference, Washington D.C.

John T. Bauer. "Origins of Nebraska's Frontier Settlers" Paper presented at the 2017 Great Plains Symposium, Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska.

John T. Bauer. "1,733 Miles from Where? Kearney, Nebraska's 1733 Identity." Nebraska State Historical Society Brown Bag Lecture Series, Kearney, Nebraska.

Boken, Vijay. 2018. Selected technologies for water conservation and sustainability. Science, Technology, and Innovation in Water Management, New Delhi, 2018.

Ava Coughlin, Analysis of Cancer Survivor's Accessibility of Exclusively Tailored Exercise Programs in Nebraska, Todd Bartee, Kate Heelan, and Paul Burger, Advisors. 2018 UNK Student Research Day.

Jeremy S. Dillon, Ashley K. Larsen, and Susann Stolze. "Late Pleistocene Pollen and Plant Macrofossils from the Platte River Valley, South-Central Nebraska." Poster presented at the 2017 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Jeremy S. Dillon, Ryan May, Dylan Nichol, and David Urban. "The Possible Effects of Mobilized Eolian Sand on Soil Formation in Peoria Loess, South-Central Nebraska, USA" Paper presented at the 2018 Nebraska Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, Lincoln, NE, April 2018.

Jordyn Goodman, Stalin and the Forced Migration of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Jason Combs, Advisor. 2018 UNK Student Research Day.

Connor Gosnell, Locating a Community Garden Using GIScience in Omaha's Food Desert, Paul Burger, Advisor. 2018 UNK Student Research Day.

Emma Neil, History of Nebraska's Death Penalty, Jason Combs, Advisor. 2018 UNK Student Research Day.

Natasha Winfield, Spatial Examination of Nebraska's Pioneer and Heritage Farms, Jason Combs, Advisor. 2018 UNK Student Research Day.

Wright, M., McCartney, S., Burger P., Tornberg, R., Soppela, J., and N. Bickford. 2017. *Using GIS for Habitat Comparisons: A Case Study with Northern Goshawks*. NASA Nebraska Space Grant: Nebraska Academy of Sciences. Lincoln, Nebraska.

Alumni Updates

My arrival at the UNK Geography department in the fall of 2003 came after a year in the Biology Department. I was considering switching as the coursework and experience in the Biology Department was not quite what I wanted. I was immediately impressed by the personal attention and interest my advisor and other faculty took in helping me pursue my goals and interests. While I certainly found most all of the Geography coursework interesting, I began

to develop a special interest in GIS, which was taught by Dr. Paul Burger. The experiences and relationships built within these courses really laid a solid foundation for my work in GIS today and Dr. Burger in particular had a tremendous impact on my career path. In spring 2006, I graduated from UNK with a BS in Geography Environmental Emphasis and Minor in Biology, and had a full time job waiting with the Upper Big Blue NRD in York, NE upon graduation.

I spent just over two years working with the NRD and then in the fall of 2008, I took an opportunity to be GIS Analyst for the City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. I am still employed with the city and live in Scottsbluff with my young family. I find my work in GIS very rewarding and I am grateful to have a career that I enjoy so much. There is no doubt that the academic experience during my time in the UNK Geography Department prepared me very well for my career.

Jon Reiter

2006

Geography & GIScience

I live in my hometown Marysville, Kansas and am married with two kids, Oran who is two years old and Piper who is just three months. I work for Cropmetrics remotely and wear lots of hats. I help farmers know when, how much, and where to water using the best precision irrigation technology available. I also provide other precision agriculture services to growers such as prescriptions and data management. This also ties into other responsibilities I have at Cropmetrics where I am our Salesforce administrator. Salesforce is a CRM (Customer Relationship Management). There is a lot to learn and endless possibilities with what Salesforce can do to help companies streamline business

processes, for example training, customer service, order processing, lead management, and billing to name just a few. Salesforce ties into much of the data management skills I learned going through UNK's GIS program. The precision agriculture data management is very GIS oriented, working with yield data, imagery, cost benefit analysis, and soil data.

Nic Stoll

2013

Geography & GIScience

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 Jason Combs at 308 865-8605 or combshj@unk.edu.