

Department Hires Three New Faculty



Taehee Hwang, PhD, joined the Department as an assistant professor in summer 2014. His research asks, “How do coupled ecological and hydrological systems evolve and adjust to perturbations such as hydrologic extremes, long-term climate change, geomorphic settings, and human disturbances at multiple scales?” Taehee uses vegetation dynamics from remote sensing datasets

as a diagnostic to understand complex hydrology- ecosystem-geomorphology feedbacks within forested watershed systems by capturing dominant controls on water and energy partitioning. He has experience with wide ranges of remote sensing products, such as MODIS, Landsat, IKONOS, and LiDAR etc. He is currently interested in an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle-based platform for hyperspectral sensors to detect drought signals over deciduous forests.

His research, publication record, and academic background are quite interdisciplinary, bringing together knowledge and skills from ecology, hydrology, remote sensing, geomorphology, and GIS. Taehee has published over fifteen papers in the top research journals for hydrology, ecology, geomorphology,

and remote sensing, such as *Water Resources Research*, *Remote Sensing of Environment*, *Global Change Biology*, *Nature*, *Landscape Ecology*, and *Geomorphology*.

Taehee’s experiences are as intriguing as his research. He earned his Ph.D. in Geography from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2010 and remained at the university for a post-doc. He earned his Master’s degree in Ecology (2004) and Bachelor’s degree in Microbiology (2000) from Seoul National University, South Korea. In addition to his studies, he also is an army veteran of the South Korean Military Army (Sergeant) and was also a baseball player. He ruptured his ACL during a ball game. Now, he is a passionate Yankees fan.

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Ishan Ashutosh is a critical human geographer whose work encompasses the study of migration, the politics of race and ethnicity from an international and comparative perspective, and urban studies. His research examines the multiple and contested representations of South Asia through projects situated in migration and area studies. His first research project focuses on the transnational politics of South Asian diasporas in multiple urban centers in the United States, Canada, and Britain, while his second research project examines the constructions of South Asia in the social sciences as a site of knowledge production. Ishan has published his work in the journals *Citizenship Studies*, *Urban Geography*, *Geopolitics*, and *Diaspora*.



Prior to joining the department of Geography at Indiana University, Ishan was a lecturer at Northumbria University in Newcastle, UK, and a postdoctoral fellow at The Ohio State University. He grew up in Syracuse, New York, and received two of his degrees from nearby institutions. Ishan holds a PhD in Geography from Syracuse University, an MA in the Social Sciences from the University of Chicago, and a BA in History from the University at Buffalo. In his free time, he enjoys playing drums and looks forward to exploring the hiking trails of southern Indiana.

New Faculty, continued

ELIZABETH CULLEN DUNN is a geographer who has specialties in migration, the European Union and humanitarianism and studies the bureaucratic management of labor, displacement and food in post-socialist Eastern Europe. She holds positions as Associate Professor not only in the IU Department of Geography, but also at the Institute for European Studies and the Department of Global and International Studies in the School of Global and International Studies. She conducts her research in Poland and the Republic of Georgia. In her first book, *Privatizing Poland*, Dunn focused on workers in one of the first state-owned factories to be privatized after the fall of the Berlin Wall and asked how management techniques ranging from audit to quality control reshaped ideas about personhood among the firm's employees and helped create the necessary cultural underpinnings for a market economy. After 16 months of fieldwork in a settlement for people ethnically

cleansed during the 2008 Russo-Georgian War, Dunn is currently working on a book about how the bureaucratic practices of global humanitarianism prevent displaced people from socially reintegrating, and instead strand them in camps and keep them dependent on aid. She has also written numerous articles, book chapters and book reviews, and given many conference presentations related to postsocialist economic restructuring and its relationship to workers and issues regarding food production, consumption and safety in former socialist societies. Finally, Dunn has a wide range of teaching experience with both graduate and undergraduate students, having taught courses ranging from *World Regional Geography* to *Environment and Peoples* to *Theories of the State* as well as *Qualitative Methods*.

New Lecturer Cody Kirkpatrick

The Department of Geography welcomes Cody Kirkpatrick this fall as a lecturer. Cody is not new to Bloomington. He previously served as a visiting assistant professor on campus the last three years. During that time, his appointment was split between Geography and Geological Sciences and his new lectureship also reflects that split. Cody is a 2010 graduate of the University of Alabama Huntsville's Atmospheric Science department and spent two years as a post-doctoral fellow in the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education, and Training (COMET) at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) in Boulder, Colorado before coming to Bloomington in 2012. In addition to teaching introductory courses in weather and climate and atmospheric science, he teaches advanced courses in physical climatology, meteorology, forecasting and severe weather. He has also recently taught a course on natural disasters. In addition to his expertise in climate, atmospheric science and all things weather, Cody also is a specialist in pedagogy, class room technology and assessment. Cody also is the faculty sponsor of the IU Atmospheric Science Club. He also maintains an active research agenda that focuses on convective storm behavior the results of which have been published in the journal *Monthly Weather Review* and currently he is collaborating with Justin Maxwell on a project to study changes in drought timing and frequency in the US.

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Graduate Student Researches Water Management in Kenya



Paul McCord is a third-year PhD student focusing on smallholder decision making in water-stressed regions. Paul is currently working with Tom Evans in the Mount Kenya region to better understand the water management strategies employed and how these influence agricultural outcomes.

“This work has taken me to the Mount Kenya region in both the summer of 2012 and the summer of 2013,” Paul said. “These fieldwork campaigns have consisted of extensive surveying of farmers to understand how they use water and how they decide which crops to plant.” Survey responses have been analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. He continued, “Additionally, I tend to employ geographic information systems (GIS) techniques when possible, so this has been featured heavily in analysis.”

Paul currently has two papers submitted for publication that are both related to this work. One paper is on its final round of revisions and will soon be appearing in the journal *Land Use Science*. His current research, featuring collaborations with IU and Princeton University colleagues, is currently under review at *African Geographical Review*.

“The path to Geography was a somewhat indirect journey for me,” Paul said. Before coming to Indiana University, he received his Bachelor’s degree in Economics from Michigan State University (MSU) in 2005 and spent several years working. Over that time, Paul realized that working in the private sector wasn’t for him.

“I began looking into geographic information science, which had caught my attention while I was an undergraduate,” he explained. “This sparked an interest in me, and, shortly after, I was enrolling in MSU’s Geography program where I got started on my current path.” Paul returned to school received his Master’s degree in Geography from MSU in 2011 and moved to Bloomington.

“My research interests closely align with many of the IU Geography faculty. In particular, I have many commonalities with Tom Evans and Rinku Roy Chowdhury, both in theoretical approaches and methodologies,” he said. “I’ve taken a suite of courses that they have offered, ranging from GIS and spatial modeling to human dimensions of global environmental change. Additionally, given my interests in water systems, I have commonalities with Darren Ficklin, with whom I took a hydrology course in the spring of 2014.”

While he prepares for his qualifying exams, Paul said he’s looking forward the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), which is being held in Chicago in April 2015. There, he will be presenting some of his current work, as well as hosting a paper session to discuss advances in socio-hydrological research.

Visiting Assistant Professor James King



James King is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography. As a physical geographer, he explores the natural and anthropogenic processes that influence the linkages of nutrient cycles across temporal and spatial scales, atmospheric dynamics that govern the societal relevant natural hazards of mineral aerosol emissions and deposition, and the use of physically based models to predict earth and planetary landscape evolution.

He has taught courses on global environmental change and impacts, geostatistics, and water challenges in arid regions. With a new introductory course, he is developing curriculum using active learning to facilitate group-based learning of environmental issues. Taught in both the IU Collaborative Learning Studio and regular classrooms using tablet-based computers, the course is based around interactive in-class assignments utilizing software such as Google Earth, ESRI GIS databases, and web-based simulations.

His Ph.D. dissertation research at the University of Guelph, Canada examined the sheltering role of desert vegetation on wind erosion dynamics through a combination of a laboratory wind tunnel study, a field project in New Mexico, and an integrated modelling approach. He has also held a research position at the Desert Research Institute and a teaching position at York University.

He currently also works as a Visiting Senior Researcher at the University of Oxford on a project redesigning dust production models to improve global climate models by incorporating field-based measurements made on Makgadikgadi Pan, Botswana in 2011-2012, and in several of the dry river valleys including the Namib Sand Sea UNSECO site on the west coast of Namibia.



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Alumnus Michael Hunn

Michael Hunn, 46, is the General Manager of Midwest Studios, a niche company based in Indianapolis that specializes unique storytelling mediums, including interactive exhibits, digital visualization, physical models, and full-scale video production. Michael's professional career has taken many different turns and provided opportunities to work and live in Chicago, New York City and the Hamptons.

Prior to joining Midwest Studios, Michael earned a Bachelor of Arts degree Majoring in Geography from Indiana University Bloomington Campus. After graduation the Indianapolis native worked for prominent Bloomington and Indianapolis real estate developers and development companies.

Michael was then recruited to American Express to sell their card processing services in Chicago and Indiana and then promoted to American Expresses world headquarters in New York City. Michael, his wife Stephanie, and their newborn son Harrison moved to the Hamptons to buy and run several different businesses. After the birth of their daughter Shelby, Michael and Stephanie returned to Zionsville to raise their kids and enjoy Indiana's quality of life.

Michael considers his time at IU and especially his major in the Geography Department as his strong foundation to a diverse career. Michael's travels have taken him to Africa, Europe, Central America, South America and the Galapagos Islands. "My time and experience at IU has given me the foundation to tackle and be successful in anything I pursue". Michael's wife Stephanie played tennis for IU and they both enjoy returning to Bloomington to visit their coaches, professors and friends.



Chair's Letter

Friends,

It is now mid-semester and I am left wondering where the time went. On the up side, nothing says "Bloomington" like autumn. The cold snap we had last week has clothed the trees in shades of yellow orange and red and turned campus into a virtual riot of color. Unlike last fall when we were working feverishly to overhaul the undergraduate and graduate program and we were immersed in what would eventually

turn out to be five searches for new faculty, this fall has been one of quiet adjustment to the upheavals unleashed last year. We have made modest adjustments, tweaks really, to our degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate level and added a graduate-level certificate program in Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing to complement the undergraduate certificate we created last year. And we are

adding a few new classes to reflect the interests of our new faculty.

More importantly, the quiet has given us a little more space to do what it is that we do best – perform world changing research and provide the very best education to the next generation of global leaders. Best wishes for a calm, productive and beautiful fall season. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Dan