Former chair Bill Black retires

After 38 years of service to the Department of Geography at Indiana University, Professor William Black retired in June of 2007. Bill’s leadership in the field of transportation geography is universally recognized. Bill also has made invaluable contributions to the department as an outstanding teacher and has served in an exceptionally large number of administrative and service positions for national and international agencies, for the state of Indiana, and for Indiana University. He continues to be a leading figure nationally and internationally in research on transportation.

Although Bill’s career is “well-decorated,” lists of awards and positions held fall far short of describing his contributions to the analysis of transportation and to the Department of Geography. The interdisciplinary fields of transportation studies and transportation geography look far different today from the beginning of Bill’s research career, and the changes have been produced in large measure by Bill’s research activities. Although Bill’s retirement will end his formal commitments to classroom teaching and administration, he will continue an active research program, including investigations into the environmental impacts of transportation, indicators of sustainability, and regional flow modeling.

He plans to remain in Bloomington and we look forward to the continuing benefits of his advice and friendship.

Rebecca Barthelmie joins department

Joining the department as a senior professor in January 2008, Rebecca Barthelmie’s main focus at IU will be in the sustainability and atmospheric science programs.

Rebecca earned her undergraduate degree in environmental chemistry and was a researcher at the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia UK before obtaining a PhD in wind energy. A prestigious European Union Fellowship took her to Risoe National Laboratory in Denmark, where for 14 years she was a senior researcher specializing in wind resources and turbine-atmosphere interactions in large offshore wind farms. In 2006, she was appointed as the Ewart Farvis Chair of Energy Systems at the University of Edinburgh. Rebecca has coordinated many projects, including the Efficient Development of Offshore Windfarms Project for the European Union, and currently leads two large European projects on flow in wind farms. She also is on the editorial board of the journal Wind Energy.

She has been affiliated with the IU Department of Geography since 1995, primarily researching climate change impacts on renewable energy and atmospheric chemistry relating to atmospheric particles.

Search for two new faculty members under way

To help address the many holes created by the retirement of our senior faculty members, the department is actively searching for two geographers who teach and do research in the area of human-environment interaction.

One position, which is more focused on human geographic approaches, is “open rank,” meaning that we have invited applications from individuals with a wide range of experience. The other position is oriented towards physical geography and is an assistant professor position.
Geography faculty, student receive grants

Professor Tom Evans, along with collaborators at IU and other universities, received funding from the National Science Foundation for two research projects: “Dynamics of Reforestation in Coupled Social-Ecological Systems: Modeling Land-Use Decision Making and Policy Impacts” and “Decentralization, Local Institutions, and Environmental Change: A Cross-Sectional Time-Series of Forest Governance in Latin America.” Total funding for these grants totals more than $1 million.

The first project explores the effects of governmental decentralization on the forest conditions in Bolivia, Guatemala, and Peru. The research will provide policymakers with a deeper understanding of the factors that are conducive to sustainable resource governance, as well as an innovative set of methods to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of governance activities. Tom’s second NSF project will examine the dynamics of forest regrowth in Indiana and São Paulo, Brazil. Both states share a long history of settlement from the early 19th century that included rapid deforestation trajectories followed by rural-to-urban migration processes. The project will utilize GIS, satellite imagery, household surveys, interviews with non-governmental organizations and land trusts, and models of land cover change to explore why forests recovered in Indiana and São Paulo, and what future land cover changes may occur in the future.

Professor Sara Pryor and Justin Schoof, a PhD alumnus now at Southern Illinois University, received a new grant from NSF to examine historical and possible future changes in precipitation regimes over the contiguous United States.

The motivations behind the research are manifold, but include an assessment of the potential for increased flood risk as a result of climate change. Flood damage ranks as the top weather-related source of economic loss in the United States. Research into changes in precipitation over the historical period being conducted by Pryor and Schoo is already well under way. Preliminary results indicate that, over the Midwest during the 20th century, annual total precipitation and the number of days experiencing rain slightly increased, but the amount of rainfall on the heaviest rainfall days increased by an even greater percentage, which, coupled with other socioeconomic changes in the region, may indeed have increased the risk of flooding.

PhD student Todd Lindley, with help from faculty sponsor Professor Jim Biles, received support from NSF for his research on “Intercountry Adoption in the Philippines and the United States: Global Networks and Local Processes.”

This study will explore an important topic from a variety of theoretical vantage points to increase understanding about how the process of intercountry adoption operates at multiple geographical scales (global, local, and intermediary). The results of this study will help illuminate the complex contradictions of power at play in both the sending and receiving regions of this tenuous migration stream.

Tony Grubesic, in collaboration with colleagues at Ohio State University, received a grant from NSF for “Collaborative Research: Mitigating Disaster and Terrorism Impacts to Critical Infrastructure.” This research project will advance work in geographic information science and network modeling to help identify infrastructure risks and vulnerabilities within transportation, communication, and utility systems. Modeling techniques will be used to identify interdiction vulnerabilities and will inform planning efforts. Such efforts will result in a more robust and realistic description of risk, enabling a more comprehensive assessment of recovery and fortification options. The results of this research certainly will be of interest to governmental and private-sector agencies involved in planning for the continuity of critical infrastructures.

22nd annual awards banquet held in April

The department’s 22nd annual awards banquet was held in the Federal Room of the Indiana Memorial Union on April 12. This year’s recipient of the Paul W. and Marie K. Baumann Endowed Scholarship Award was Bradley Yuska. Jacqueline Gruber received the 2007 Outstanding Senior in Geography Award. Andrea Lammers was nominated for and accepted into Phi Beta Kappa. Several geography majors — Robert Barnell, Madeline Cole, Patricia Everman, Brett Gage, Jacqueline Gruber, and Andrea Hildebrand — were on the Dean’s List for fall 2006.

Several awards were made to undergraduates for outstanding academic performance in the department’s major courses. Three Thomas F. Barton awards were given. For G107 Physical Systems of the Environment (Caylor), the recipient was Michael Goedl. The Barton Award for G110 Human Geography, (associate instructor Ben Shultz), went to Mark Musselman. The award for G315 Urban Geography (Grubesic), was given to Brett Gage. Finally, the award for G315 Environmental Conservation (Greer), went to Melissa Barbercheck.

Again, this year, there were two recipients, Elise Boruvka and Jason Watson, of the Norman J.G. Pounds Award for outstanding performance in G120 World Regional Geography (Oliland).

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Department news
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The Stephen S. Visher Award for outstanding performance in G109 Weather and Climate (Brown), was Katy Kramer.

Many awards went to graduate students. The recipient of the A.I. Teaching Award was Bradley Lane. Departmental Graduate Fellowship awards for outstanding graduate student research went to Jill Rickly and Ben Shultz. Chair’s Graduate Student Recognition awards went to Shannon Donnelly, Norma Froelich, Jim Hayes, Brian Johnson, Taka Kobayashi, Bradley Lane, Todd Lindley, Elizabeth Mack, Michelle Metro-Roland, Sonny Ortega, Jill Rickly, Philip Roth, Ben Shultz, Nori Sato, Elizabeth Vidon, and Lei Xu. These recipients are active in research and maintain at least a 3.7 grade point average.

Department hosts Midwest climate change conference

The Department of Geography hosted a conference on “Climate Change and Variability in the Midwest” during October 2007 under funding provided by the Dean’s Office of the College of Arts and Sciences. The workshop was led by Sara Pryor and participants were drawn from universities and agencies across the region.

Faculty, students present at AAG meetings

The 2007 annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers was held in San Francisco in April. Several IU faculty and graduate students attended.

Professor Tom Evans was an organizer and chair of the “Perspectives on Geographic Complexity I: Incorporating Complexity in Models and Methods” session, as well as organizer of the “Perspectives on Geographic Complexity II: Complexity in Urban Interfaces” session. Professor Tony Grubesic was a chair and presenter for the “Spatial Analysis: Theory and Applications” session. His paper was titled “A Spatiotemporal View of Broadband Regions: Tracing Competition and Availability.” Professor Dan Knudsen was an organizer and presenter for the session “The Vernacular Becomes Symbolic, the Symbolic Becomes Nationscape.” His paper was titled “The Vernacular Becomes Symbolic, the Symbolic Becomes Nationscape: Hverring Estate, Viby Village, and the Garden of Denmark.” Professor Scott Robeson presented a paper titled “On the Spatial Scale and Intensity of Recent Thermal Anomalies” in the “Climate Change and Variation” session.

Several graduate students chaired or presented papers for several sessions. Shannon Donnelly presented a paper on “Legal Structure and Land Cover in Intentional Communities in the Midwestern United States” in the “Perspectives on Geographic Complexity I: Incorporating Complexity in Models and Methods” session. James Hayes presented a paper titled “Assessing Change in a Post-Fir Ponderosa Pine Landscape of North-Central New Mexico: Comparing Simple and Complex Measures of Landscape Configuration” in the session on “Landscape Ecology: Current Examples and Future Trends.” Bradley Lane chaired, organized, and presented in the session on “The Role of Alternative Transport Modes: Travel Patterns and Urban Form.” His paper was titled “Travel Behavior and Spatial Variation in the Introduction of Light Rail.” Christine Mathenge (continued on page 4)
Before 1970
In February 2006, Lloyd H. Steen, MA’50, was elected the pro tempore speaker of the National Silver Haired Congress’s House of Representatives. The organization is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan, grass-roots group of registered voters over the age of 60. Modeled after the U.S. Congress, the group offers education and discussion about legislative topics. Steen lives in Hendersonville, N.C.

“I retired from the U.S. Department of Energy in 2004 and am pursuing my interests in travel, photography, and family history,” writes Eric A. Schweitzer, BA’69. “One of my goals is to visit and photograph each of the parks and historic sites maintained by the National Park Service. As I complete my travels, I will post the best pictures on my web site, www.eschweitzer.net. Please visit the site and enjoy my travels with me. I am also using my IU geography degree as a National Map Corps volunteer for the U.S. Geological Survey.”

1970s
Steve Jansen, MA’77, writes, “I’m teaching geography to mostly [kindergarten through eighth-grade] children. We take a class at a time inside a 20-foot-diameter globe, set up in a school gym. I travel the country with this hand-painted giant globe, teaching about the relationship of the Earth’s biomes to climate and the distribution of human populations, and plate tectonics as the instrument of mountain building.” Jansen works for Whereabouts, headquartered in Highland Park, Ill. His wife, Marcia Sullivan, JD’75, is a partner at the law office of Katten Muchin Rosenman in Chicago. They live in Wilmette.

David E. Lynch, BA’78, MS’82, and Catherine (Guillemin), MPA’82, both work at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. For the past six years, David has been a research administrator, now with the office of sponsored projects. Catherine is a development administrator, working with benefactors and their gifts toward health care. The Lynches can be reached at guillemin@charter.net.

1980s
Richard Wright, MA’81, PhD’85, has been appointed the Orvil Dryfoos Professor of Geography and Public Affairs at Dartmouth College.

1990s
Joshua T. Brown, BA’90, is vice president of national accounts at Incentive Solutions Inc., an incentive marketing company in Atlanta. Previously, Brown worked at USMotivation for 18 years, where he was a sales executive serving clients in the pharmaceutical, insurance, and financial services industry.

Jeffrey M. Quinn, BA’92, is the senior manager of carrier cost management for Verizon Business. He writes, “I am working in an arcane little section of the industry that audits and manages the costs for ‘switched access.’ We spend our time reviewing ‘CABS’ invoices and the ‘tariffs.’ I have been in this part of the industry for 12 years now.” Quinn lives in Park Forest, Ill.

Aileen Buckley, MA’93, is a cartographic researcher at ESRI Inc. in Redlands, Calif. She develops geographic information systems maintained by the National Park Service.

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Did you know that IUB’s Geography and Map Library holds more than 360 dissertations and theses from the Department of Geography? Most of these are not available digitally. Many are in need of preservation because of continuous use by library patrons over the years. IU ScholarWorks may be the answer to this problem.

IU ScholarWorks is a digital repository for disseminating and preserving scholarly work created at Indiana University. Your research materials, accessible to scholars from around the globe, will be more easily discovered. Other researchers have found that depositing their research in a service like IU ScholarWorks increases citation impact.

This year, we will be creating a Scholarworks site for the geography department. This will be a place for depositing electronic copies of scholarly works, including some historical publications from the department.

For additional information, see https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/index.jsp. Please e-mail the Geography and Map Library at libgm@indiana.edu if you would like to find out more about digitizing your thesis or dissertation for inclusion in the department’s Scholarworks site. Your research will be maintained by the IU Libraries and the IU Digital Library Program.

Brent Smith, BA’91, PhD’01, is an assistant professor in the School of Business at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Richard Wolfel, PhD’01, has accepted an assistant professorship at West Point.

Nick Solga, BA’02, is an account manager at LaBov & Beyond Marketing Communications Inc. in Fort Wayne, Ind. Previously, he spent five years as a media supervisor and account executive at a Fort Wayne advertising agency.

Matthew A. Seavitte, BA’03, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, received his naval aviator wings in Corpus Christi, Texas, in June 2006. He was selected to fly the Harrier AV-8B jet and is stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, N.C.

After completing the Master of City Planning Program at Penn, Molly Kotlen, BA’04, is now with Fehr and Peers in San Francisco.

Peter Hossler, BA’00, MA’04, is a PhD student in the Department of Geography at the University of Georgia.

Zhigang Tang, PhD’06, is an economist with Toryo Wheaton Research.
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