

## From the Chair:

It is already halfway through the Fall semester and time seems to be passing quickly. It is time to register, so see me to lift a registration hold. I will be teaching *Weather and Climate* (Geog 230) again over J-term, and we have just added a section of *Seminar* (Geog 480) for those of you who can't wait until next year. The rest of the courses are standard Spring semester fare, with the exception of *Global Migrations* (Geog 231), which is back on the books after a few years absence.

The 2007 (10<sup>th</sup> annual!)  $\mu \alpha \pi$  (mu-alpha-pi, or *map*) party was held Oct. 19 at Bob Werner's house. It was a time for current students, alumni, and faculty of geography to mingle, share food and beverage, and discuss similar interests in all things geographic. If you were there, it was good to see you; if not, I look forward to seeing you next time!

In this newsletter are a few important informational items. The first regards changes to the GIS major; please see me if you have questions during this time of transition to the new standards. The second item is the launch of **Tommie Maps**. This web-based map service will be accessible later this month from our Geography web site.

Our department remains dynamic and engaged. If we can be of service to you in your education, career choices or profession, please let us know.

Geographically yours, David Kelley, Chair



## Inside This Issue

- 1 From the Chair  
What is Geography?  
*Tommie Maps* is coming!
- 2 What's Happening in Geography? News Update  
Who's Who in the Department
- 3 Faculty Activities  
Center for Applied GIS  
Conference News  
Alumni News  
Jobs/Internships
- 4 2008 Geography Courses  
Contacts

## What is Geography?

Our approach to research and education in Geography is best expressed in our department's **new** Mission Statement:

*The mission of the Geography Department is to provide both the highest quality liberal arts education and applied, career-oriented preparation. Our students learn to integrate concepts from the broad discipline of geography and gain the depth of expertise in specific technical areas to prepare them competitively for professional life and/or graduate school. We value the application of theory and research to real-world problems that affect the common good. Student research is encouraged and enhanced by faculty who actively engage their discipline. Our faculty offer students opportunities for internships, service learning experiences, faculty/student collaborative research partnerships, and presentations of their original research at professional conferences. The Geography Department at the University of St. Thomas is a community wherein faculty and students collaborate to produce well-informed and morally responsible professionals.*



### ***Tommie Maps* is coming!**

Each semester, the Geography Department hires qualified students to work on real-world projects requested from internal (students and faculty) and external (neighborhood groups, state agencies, or other special interests) customers. In particular, marketing and business students are keen to utilize the demographic mapping resources we can provide. It is a goal of ours to make the request process and scheduling smooth in order to meet the ever-increasing mapping expectations of our clients. Any mapping and analysis requests should be made using the *Map Request Form* (posted on our geography web site).

But suppose you want to create your own custom maps yet lack the data or software to do so? Your one-stop solution: ***Tommie Maps***! This web-based map service will allow anyone with a web browser to design their own map by selecting data from a menu (e.g. airphotos, county boundaries, roads, rivers, parks, etc.). Additional data can be listed on the menu as requested by users. You can access this new feature from the geography web site.

Please let us know how we can assist with YOUR map project!

## What's Happening in Geography?

### News Update

Geography's GIS major and minor were added in 2004 and since that time, the Geography department has added new courses and staff. Recently, this major has been revised to better meet the needs of our students. Essentially, these changes include the deletion of a regional geography requirement for the major, the addition of new courses to fulfill the methods requirements, and a change to our computer programming requirement. Because we are deleting a requirement for a regional geography course for the major concentration in GIS, the number of required courses for this major is reduced from 12 courses to 11.

The most significant change is that the *QMCS 230 Software Design Using the JAVA Language* is dropped as a required course and replaced with a different programming course more suitable. Since 2004, Geography faculty have increased their expertise in GIS customization and we have added a GIS lab manager who has experience in programming and writing scripts in the computer language that our specialized software uses. Consequently, we will be adding a new course, *Geog 4XX* (number to be determined) *GIS Customization and Programming*, a course specializing in writing program code for GIS customization. This change should prove to be immediately useful to our majors and attractive to potential employers.

Additionally, we have added Geog 478 (Experiential Learning) and Geog 494 (Research) as courses that fulfill one of the method requirements for the GIS concentration (students can take one, but not both, for credit). Other regional GIS programs have this provision and our students benefit greatly from the skills they acquire through such guided-learning experiences.

**Global Migrations** (Geog 231) is back as a Spring Course, taught by Dr. **Bob Werner**. This course looks at causes of migration today: post-colonial environmental exploitation, ecological degradation, and resource scarcity in the developing world that create political and economic instability; declining populations in the developed world; the globalization of human trafficking; and the resulting population movements from east to west and south to north. Students study both international and internal migration, forced and voluntary, and examine some of the largest-scale migrations: the Chinese, Indians, Jews, Japanese, Germans, and Italians. The course examines not only the people and conditions that cause migration but also the lands to which migrants travel and their impacts on those receiving countries

**Sustainable New Zealand: Politics, Policy and Ecology** is a new J-term Study Abroad course that Dr. **Paul Lorah** will be co-leading January 2 - 26, 2008 with Dr. Steven Hoffman (Political Science).

## Who's Who in the Department

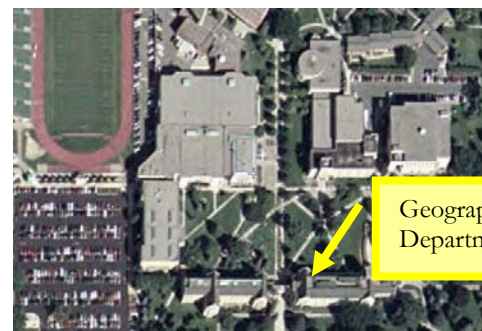
**Chair: David Kelley**, Ph.D. (Soil Science and Water Resource Science) University of Minnesota, 1998. David teaches Computer Skills in Geography, Physical Geography, Remote Sensing, and Weather and Climate. His primary research interests include the areas of environmental analysis, landscape evolution, and environmental management. He is particularly interested in working with students and other researchers to explore hydrologic and topographic surface processes related to environmental quality, and in the application of geographic information science for land assessment and management.

**Paul Lorah**, Ph.D. (Geography) Indiana University, 1996. Paul teaches Human Geography, Geographical Analysis, Humans and the Environment, and Seminar in Geography. Paul's research focuses on sustainable development and the links between environmental amenities and economic security. He also has served as a consultant to the Oregon Natural Resources Council, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Great Plains Restoration Council.

**Robert Werner**, Ph.D. (Geography) University of Minnesota, 1990. Bob teaches World Geography and select regional courses. Dr. Werner's traditional interests are in GIS, but he now is pursuing regional studies and topics in pedagogy. His regional interests have been in Latin America and East Asia, but he is now pursuing an experiential knowledge base for Africa. In pedagogy, he has research interests in Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL), which is any teaching that puts a problem or issue first, then structures other teaching around pursuit of answers to the problem.

**Catherine Hansen**, M.A. (Geography) Minnesota State University, Mankato, 1998. Catherine teaches Applied GIS and Geography for Business and Planning, and manages the Center for Applied GIScience (GIS lab).

**Jan Slaats**, M.A., DipGIS (Geography) University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, 1997. Jan has been employed as the GIS Manager for the Midwest Resource Office of The Nature Conservancy. He is a long-term adjunct and has been teaching GIS spring semesters at St. Thomas since 2002.



## Faculty Activities

**Dr. Robert Werner** has been the Director of UST's Bush Foundation Program grant since 2002, an effort directed at all UST undergraduate education through inquiry-based instruction and faculty/student collaboration. He will continue in this role until the end of the grant period in 2008. Bob and his wife Pat visited Southern Africa last summer, principally in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, though managed to briefly visit four other countries too. Bob is teaching an Africa course now and plans to take students to South Africa over J-term of 2008. He also hopes to get two books on Bolivia published next year.

**Dr. Paul Lorah** continues to serve on the Board of the Minnesota Nature Conservancy and chairs the Conservancy's Conservation Committee. This semester he is teaching Conservation Geography for the first time and is working on class projects including site location analysis for solar power facilities, modeling fragmentation in Minnesota's forests, estimating the economic value of Minnesota ecosystem services and studying potential sites for prairie preserves.

**Catherine Hansen**, and students Allison Siewert, Joseph Rolfzen, and Jim Moen (three GIS Lab Assistants) have been busy on the weekends using GPS to capture geographic features along the Three Rivers Park District's Regional Bike Trails. We plan to analyze the location of benches to the density of elderly within the trail's reach. All three students are now candidates for an internship at the district. Additionally, the lab assistants and the Applied GIS course have been working on routing Store-To-Door clientele and creating service areas using ArcGIS Network Analyst. Store to Door is a not for profit grocery and prescription delivery service in St Paul.

**Dr. David Kelley** continues to monitor the ecosystem health in Minnehaha Creek and the Willow River in Hudson, WI. Out of room to write more, so stop and ask...

## Center for Applied GIScience

The Geography Department maintains a state-of-the-art mapping laboratory in the far west corner of the fourth floor in JRC. Twenty Dell OptiPlex workstations running the popular ArcGIS software from ESRI, in combination with the collaborative faculty effort to use the techno-resource effectively, give students the professional edge in preparation for career work or graduate schools. The Center for Applied GIScience is used from introductory courses all the way to applied senior seminars, and for spatial research for a variety of disciplines.

If you have a map project and would like our help, we'd be happy to assist. Just fill out the [Mapping Request Form](#) (available on the Geography website) and send it to us.

## CONFERENCE NEWS

The 3rd annual Midwestern Undergraduate Geography Symposium (MUGS) conference was held April 14, 2007, at Macalester College and 15 students and faculty from UST's geography department attended.

Our GIS manager Catherine Hansen and geography graduate Kaleb Stromberg attended the 7th Annual ESRI Education User Conference, June 16-19 in San Diego, California. They presented two papers at this conference for educators:

*"The Importance of Inquiry-Based GIS Education"*, a presentation that examined the role of inquiry-based education and how an applied GIS course in a geography program is the perfect place for such pedagogy.

*"Implications of an Urban Residential College Campus"*, which examined what influence UST and the presence of off-campus students have on crime, housing values, rental units versus owner-occupied houses, and neighborhood diversity.

David Kelley, along with adjuncts Catherine Hansen and Jan Slaats, attended the 17th MN GIS/LIS Consortium Annual Conference and Workshops, October 10-12, 2007, in Rochester, MN. Dr. Kelley presented a paper on his work monitoring the human impacts on a local watershed, titled: *"Select Biotic and Abiotic Indices for Assessing Ecosystem Health in the Willow River, WI"*.

Students are welcome to attend these or other professional conferences, either as a presenter or a participant. Department funds are available for fees, transportation, and lodging. Conference announcements are usually posted in the GIS lab well in advance – just see a faculty member for details.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Adam Berland '05** successfully defended his Master's thesis in Geography at the U of M in October and is continuing on in their doctoral program. **Drew Moore '06** (currently enrolled in the M.S. GIS program at MSU/Mankato) recently won the graduate student competition and \$1,000 at the 2007 MN GIS/LIS annual conference held in Rochester, MN, Oct. 11-12, 2007. His presentation was based on work he started at UST as a geography undergraduate. **Nathan Tift '05** was recently hired by Rowekamp Associates in Bloomington, MN, as a GIS consultant. Nathan has also started his own online mapping company, DriftMap ([www.driftmap.com](http://www.driftmap.com)), where he sells custom lake maps and other GIS services.

## JOBS/INTERNSHIPS

We periodically get job, internship, and scholarship announcements sent to us. If the item is time-sensitive, we email them out to our majors – so make sure we have a current email address for you! Otherwise, we post announcements on the bulletin board in the hallway next to the lab.

Department of Geography  
JRC 432  
University of St. Thomas  
2115 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105  
Phone: 651-962-5569

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## 2008 GEOGRAPHY COURSES

J-Term: Geog 230 Weather and Climate

Spring:

Geog 111	Human Geography
Geog 112	Landscapes: Physical Systems
Geog 113	World Geography
Geog 221	Computer Skills in Geography
Geog 231	Global Migrations
Geog 321	Geographic Information Systems
Geog 330	Geography for Business and Planning
Geog 480	Seminar

## CONTACTS

### Geography Department

JRC 432 University of St. Thomas  
2115 Summit Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55105

### David Kelley, Chair.

651-962-5569 [dwkelley@stthomas.edu](mailto:dwkelley@stthomas.edu)

### Catherine Hansen, GIS Lab Manager.

651-962-5969 [clhansen@stthomas.edu](mailto:clhansen@stthomas.edu)

Visit us on our website at:

[www.stthomas.edu/geography](http://www.stthomas.edu/geography)

### Center for Applied GIScience:

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