New faculty sought

The Department of Geography is seeking to fill two tenure-track positions at the assistant professor level. One of these is in the area of economic geography and sustainable development; the other is in the area of sustainability and urban and environmental geography. The first position is part of IU’s multi-year commitment to hire 25 scholars with an interest in the Two-Thirds World (Global South). Both positions are part of a new research and teaching direction of the department, focusing on sustainable systems. The sustainable systems area of concentration includes the study of development, urban systems, transportation, and energy resources.

Faculty and students attend AAG meeting

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers was held in Denver this past March. Several faculty members and graduate students attended the meeting.

Professor Dan Knudsen presented a paper on landscape tourism, “Tourism and Theory: an Examination of Theoretical Frameworks for the Study of Tourism.” Knudsen asserts that tourism is not driven by tourists; relevant education and mediation are necessary in presenting cultural and natural landscapes to attract tourists. The chair of this session was doctoral student Michelle Metro-Roland, who also presented a paper on tourism, “The Impossibility of Unmediated Tourism: Pregnant Signs and Bustling Alleyways in Spokje, Macedonia.”

Paying attention to local phenomena, Professor Charles Greer presented a paper titled “Steps Toward Integrated Landscape Study: Example in Southern Indiana.” In

20th annual awards banquet held in April

The department’s 20th annual awards banquet was held on April 14 in the Federal Room of the Indiana Memorial Union. The first two recipients of the new Paul W. and Marie K. Baumann Endowed Scholarship Award were seniors Rob C. Jaynes and Melody J. Grewell, for 2004 and 2005, respectively. Additionally, Rob C. Jaynes and Melody J. Grewell were also the two recipients of the Outstanding Senior in Geography Award for the academic year. Rob C. Jaynes was also nominated for and accepted into Phi Beta Kappa.

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, taught by Professor Keating, the recipient was Stephen Eric Rahko, who is majoring in political science. The Thomas F. Barton award for G110 Human Geography, taught by Professor

Kelly Caylor joins department

Kelly Caylor joined the IU geography department faculty in fall 2005 and is teaching G107 Physical Systems of the Environment. Caylor hails from Tallahassee, Fla., the home of Florida State University. He earned a BA and a PhD in environmental sciences from the University of Virginia. He worked for the University of Virginia as a teaching assistant and as a laboratory instructor for several years. He then did post-doctoral work at Princeton University.

Caylor’s area of expertise is ecohydrology, an interdisciplinary field concerned with surface water and the relationship between rainfall amounts and the use of rainfall by vegetation. He has extensive ecohydrology field experience in semi-arid regions such as the Kalahari Desert. Some of his research projects in the Kalahari have been funded by NASA’s Earth Science Enterprise and NSF’s National Center for Earth Dynamics. He has presented papers at and participated in several seminars in the United States and South Africa. Additionally, he has published more than 20 research papers and book chapters.

Though admittedly not a geographer, Caylor feels comfortable in the geography department because of the field’s all-encompassing nature. His focus has always been on environmental science, which is also an inherently interdisciplinary field, crossing the boundaries of fields such as geography, biology, geology, and ecology, to name a few.
Department Chair Professor William Black is currently completing a research project on freight flows through Indiana for the Indiana Department of Transportation. He is also organizing an NSF conference on sustainable transportation for younger scholars. The New Scholars Conference on Sustainable Transportation will be held on the Bloomington campus in May 2006.

Professor Constance Brown specializes in hydrological processes in forested semi-arid ecosystems. Brown is interested in this particular type of ecosystem because processes of change are very evident in this sensitive ecosystem. Changes in water dynamics are manifested in the internal processes in semi-arid ecosystems, affecting vegetation growth. She is currently contributing to a project studying surface forcing in semi-forested areas, which leads to the formation of large cumulus clouds in monsoons.

Professor Dennis Conway is currently researching the motives behind return-migration patterns of young people in Trinidad and Tobago. His research focuses on Trinidadians who were born in Trinidad and Tobago, spent the majority of their childhoods and adolescences abroad in Europe and North America, and have now come back to the island. Conway’s preliminary findings show that people come back because of familial ties but do not plan on living in Trinidad permanently, because of their transnationally mobile and cosmopolitan cultural practices.

Professor Tom Evans continues work on social-ecological dynamics in study sites in the Midwestern United States and the Brazilian Amazon. This work is funded by the National Science Foundation program on biocomplexity and consists of an interdisciplinary team of colleagues from political science, psychology, economics, environmental science, and geography. Current project goals include a comparison of agent-based models of land-cover change, remotely sensed land-cover data spanning a 60 year time period, and comprehensive social survey data on land-management decisions.

Professor Charles Greer is currently on sabbatical, continuing research on conservation, preservation, and environmental philosophy. His current research emphasizes the concept of “nationscape,” — iconic national landscapes. With Yamir Gonzalez-Velez and Roman Zlotin, he is examining the historical development of the Copper Canyon region of Mexico. The region is a classic example of national landscape “otherness.” With Dan Knudsen, he is exploring the iconic landscape of the proposed national park Thy in Denmark. He also continues to conduct research on the Colorado front range.

Professor Sue Grimmond is currently involved in three studies examining human-environment interactions in urban areas. The Monroe County Rainfall Runoff project studies rainfall-runoff relations in urbanizing Monroe County and is sponsored by the Indiana Water Resources Research Center, the USGS, and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Philadelphia Cool Homes Program seeks to reduce the risk of heat-related health problems for low-income residents in Philadelphia through an array of activities, including treating houses to reduce the summer temperatures in homes. Finally, the Baltimore Ecosystem Study is a multidisciplinary project that seeks to understand metropolitan Baltimore as an ecological system. Grimmond has help from other members of the geography department, including Ryan Aylward, Ben Crawford, Danilo Dragoni, Jake Irvin, Nate Langwald, Angela Martin, Brian Offerle, Steve Scott, and Justin Wood.

Professor Phillip Keating is currently working on two projects based on flowers in the desert Southwestern United States. He spent six weeks over the summer working on a project in the Ecuadorian Andes Mountains doing floristic studies of biodiversity and investigating the environmental history of the region. His second project is a long-term project focused in Northern Ecuador. Keating is using remote sensing combined with floristic studies to study vulnerability to wild fires and to map burn severities. He also uses environmental history to determine how landforms and elevation relate to burn severities. This project follows a previous project in which Keating used remote sensing to map the burn severity in New Mexico following the Ponil Complex fire, which burned over 38,000 hectares of forest.

Professor Dan Knudsen is currently working on a project that compares cultural views of nature and how they affect tourism. He is working in conjunction with Charles Greer. Specifically, their project focuses on the Thy National Park in Denmark, an artificially rebuilt park site, and why it is viewed as a natural ecosystem rather than a reconstituted park. Knudsen plans to present this paper at the 2006 AAG meeting to be held in Chicago. Professor John Odland continues to conduct research on the geographical distribution of cicadas in the United States, and how they affect and are affected by human-modified environments. Two summers ago, Bloomington, like much of the rest of the...
eastern United States, was swarming with these insects as their 17-year cycle occurred in 2004. Additionally, Odland is preparing to go on sabbatical in the spring, when he plans to study inflation and housing prices in metropolitan areas of the United States. Odland had planned to use New Orleans as a case study, but since the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, he is now considering the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area as a site for his research.

Professor Sara Pryor studies atmospheric science and is currently involved in several different research projects. She recently participated in a meeting for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), presenting research that focused on developing high-resolution projections of near-surface wind speeds under various climate scenarios. This research is relevant to policy issues such as future energy supply because it seeks to determine whether the climate change currently being experienced will significantly impact the feasibility of renewable energy sources proposed to replace fossil fuel-based energy. Also, during the summer Pryor participated in the Biosphere Aerosol Cloud Climate Interactions project at the Riso National Laboratory in Denmark. This project focuses on improving understanding of atmospheric aerosols and their potential role in climate change. Data from this project was presented at the annual conference of the

American Association for Aerosol Research in Texas this October. This research also complements her ongoing research award from NSF, which focuses on researching the atmosphere-surface exchange of aerosols.

Professor Scott Robeson is on sabbatical this fall, working on projects funded by the National Science Foundation related to continental- and hemispheric-scale changes in air-temperature probability distributions for analyzing recent climatic change. Hemispheric-scale daily data sets are used to estimate time-varying percentiles and other parameters of air-temperature probability distributions that can detect recent climatic change in innovative ways. This research is detecting trends in air-temperature probability distributions and persistence at the hemispheric scale for the first time. Information regarding changes in air temperature has broad significance for determining the ecological, economic, and social dimensions of climate change.

Professor Hans Peter Schmid continues to lead the long-term project “Forest Atmosphere Exchange of CO2 Over a Mixed Deciduous Hardwood Ecosystem in the Midwest” with Professor Grimmond, Hong-Bing Su, and Danilo Dragoi. The project has been in operation since 1998 as part of the international AmeriFlux and Fluxnet activities to estimate forest-atmosphere exchange of heat, water, and CO2 by micrometeorological methods. He is also involved in a similar project at the University of Michigan Biological Station. “HaPe” also continues to serve as co-director, with Ron Hites, of the Institute for Research in Environmental Science, with activities in the IU Research and Teaching Preserve and the Commitment to Excellence Program in Environmental and Ecological Sciences.

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AAG meeting
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In addition, Professor John Odland presented a report on cicadas titled “Concentration of Periodical Cicadas in Human-Modified Environments.” This paper was based on his current NSF project. Graduate student Shannon Donnelly presented a paper on locally based research titled “The Role of Spatial Organization in the Persistence of Woodlots in Northern Indiana.” Covering a geographically broader area, Professor Scott Robeson presented a paper titled “Recent Changes in Interdiurnal, Interannual, and Persistent Air-Temperature Variability over North America.” Graduate student Bradley Lane presented a paper on transportation geography titled “Planes, Trains, and Autos in the 21st Century.”

Awards
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Knudsen, was given to Katie Marie Clemmer. Finally, the Thomas F. Barton award for G314 Urban Geography, taught by Professor Conway, was given to Kathleen Claussen.

T he recipient of the Norman J.G. Pounds Award was Nicholas Hartmann, for his outstanding performance in Professor Odland’s course G120 World Regional Geography. The Robert C. Kingsbury Award for cartography and geographic information science was presented to Charles Philip Szrom, for his excellent work in Associate Instructor Shannon Donnelly’s G237 Cartography and Geographic Information. Two Stephen S. Visher awards were given. The Stephen S. Visher Award for outstanding performance in G109 Weather and Climate, as taught by Professor Schmid, was Katie Bess Walters Martens. The Stephen S. Visher Outstanding Paper in Climatology Award was presented by Professor Robeson to Andrea lamners for her paper, “A Comparison of Division Temperatures vs. Station Temperatures in Indiana.”

Many awards were also given to graduate students. The recipient of the newly created A.I. Teaching Award was Benjamin Timms. Departmental Graduate Fellowship awards for outstanding graduate student research went to Benjamin Crawford and Bradley Lane. Chairman’s Graduate Student Recognition awards went to Benjamin Crawford, Cynthia Croissant, Shannon Donnelly, Leslie Ensor, Norma Froelich, Chris Gentry, Debashish Ghosh, Jim Hayes, Brian Johnson, Taka Kobayashi, Bradley Lane, Michelle Metro-Roland, Nori Sato, Anne Soper, Wenjie Sun, and Benjamin Timms. These recipients are active in research and maintain at least a 3.7 grade point average.

Jim Hayes received a Future Faculty Teaching Fellowship from the University Graduate School for the 2005–06 academic year. Michelle Metro-Roland received a Fulbright-Hayes Grant for doctoral dissertation research abroad and is now researching the intersection of national identity, landscape, and tourism in Budapest, Hungary, for the 2005–06 academic year.

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Bonnie L. Williams, BA’70, is group department manager for Beale Travel Service in Chicago. She has worked for tour operations and retail agencies and has visited 45 states, gone to 92 countries, and sailed on 27 cruises in 30 years. She especially enjoys escorting groups. “Geography was the nearest major to ‘travel’ that I could find,” she writes. Williams can be reached at bonniwill@yahoo.com.

As director of planning, design, and construction at San Jose State University, Alan C. Freeman, PhD’75, oversaw projects such as a $250 million, 1-million-square-foot student housing project. He also served as a board member and president of the Society for College and University Planning. Then, in 2002, his sister died. “She had always talked about what she wanted to do when she retired, but, unfortunately, she never had the opportunity to live those dreams,” Freeman writes. “Realizing how short and fragile life is and having no remaining immediate family, I decided to retire early.” In July 2003, he retired and moved to Lithuania, from where his father’s parents immigrated in the 1870s. While his flat was being constructed, he met the woman who would become his wife. Today, they live in Vilnius, the country’s capital, and travel extensively throughout Europe. He also writes articles about the Vilnius Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site. “The title of a recent movie reflects my situation,” Freeman writes. “Life is Beautiful.” Freeman can be reached at acf31548@hotmail.com.

Steve Jansen, MA’77, of Wilmette, Ill., has the whole world in his lesson plans. Jansen travels the country teaching geography for Whereabouts using an inflatable globe called the Earth Balloon. He can take up to 30 elementary or middle-school students inside the globe, which is 20 feet in diameter. His address is s.jansen@comcast.net.

Mark Ellis, MA’84, PhD’88, won a Guggenheim Fellowship. The Guggenheim Foundation offers fellowships to further the development of scholars and artists by assisting them to engage in research in any field of knowledge. The fellowships are awarded to men and women who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts.

Justin T. Schoof, BA’97, MS’99, PhD’04, left the department in March 2005 to take a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies at Florida State University. In January of 2006, Schoof will be joining the faculty of the University of Illinois, Carbondale.

“After six-and-a-half years as an undergraduate, three majors, two minors, and one much-loved degree in geography, I decided, a year after graduation, to … turn around and come right back!” writes Laura L. Buzolitz, BA’03. In fall 2005, she began the graduate certification program at the School of Education in Bloomington. She is in the Community of Teachers program and is concentrating on secondary social studies with a focus on geography, history, and government.

“It’s a very non-traditional, progressive program, with lots of open discussion and debate, which I love!” she writes. Between her stints as a student at IU, Buzolitz was a substitute teacher for the School City of Hobart in Hobart, Ind. In addition, as a volunteer teacher with Junior Achievement of Chicago, she taught Hobart third-graders the importance of economics, business, and free enterprise in their city through fun, hands-on activities. After completing the program at IU, Buzolitz in considering going overseas to teach English as a second/new language for a year or two.

Lt. Matthew A. Seavitte, BA’03, is in naval aviator flight training in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is stationed in Kingsville, Texas. In the spring, Seavitte will earn his “wings of gold” and will do his carrier qualifications on the John F. Kennedy. His mother, Janet, writes, “This was always Matthew’s dream, and few people are able to actually live their dreams. He is in heaven!” Seavitte can be reached at frank.seavitte@usa.net.
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