Department welcomes three new faculty members

James Biles
James Biles is a new member of the IU Department of Geography. He also holds a joint appointment with the International Studies Program. A native of Philadelphia, Biles earned his undergraduate degree in urban and environmental studies at Ohio University and his MA and PhD in economic geography at Michigan State University. During the past five years, he served as an assistant professor of geography at Western Michigan University.

Biles’s teaching and research focus primarily on economic development and policy analysis at regional and local scales in Middle America. His recent research explores the local impacts and unintended consequences of globalization, specifically changes in access to credit and banking services in southern Mexico as a result of increasing integration in financial services and the impacts of the globalization of retail trade, known as Walmartization, on the supply chains and procurement systems of food retailers and the livelihoods of small-scale agricultural producers. Biles also just concluded the third year of Globalization and Sustainable Development in Latin America, an NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates project based at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán in Mérida, Mexico, during the summer months.

At IU Biles looks forward to offering undergraduate and graduate classes on sustainability and economic development and collaborating with faculty and students across campus with interests in international development.

Tony Grubesic
Tony Grubesic joined the IU Department of Geography faculty in fall 2006 and is teaching urban geography. Grubesic hails from Medford, Ore., but has called the Midwest home for some time.

Faiz Rahman

Charles Greer to retire in December

Charles Greer will be retiring at the end of December 2006. Greer joined the IU Department of Geography faculty in 1978 after earlier teaching positions at the University of Texas at Austin and Oxford University in England. He received his graduate degrees in geography from the University of Washington in Seattle. Alumni will be most familiar with his courses in Environmental Conservation and the Geography of China. Greer was responsible for the department’s intensive writing course during most of his time here.

Greer’s research interests are in the theory of landscape studies; land-use practices and sustainable development in Mexico; human ecosystems and environmental attitudes and resources and modernization in China. Unknown to many is his interest in poetry. He has edited a collection of poems with Jenny Kander titled Say This of Horses: a Selection of Poems. It is to be published this year by the University of Iowa Press.

Greer intends to remain in Bloomington and continue his research and writing.

Distinguished Alumni Lecture series initiated

In the spring of 2006, the department established a Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series. The series will present two public lectures annually—one in the spring and one in the fall—featuring alumni of the department. Richard Wright, PhD ’85, was invited to be the guest in the first lecture, which was held in March. His lecture was titled “Geographies of Mixed Race America.” Wright also attended the department’s G501 Research Problems in Geography II class to talk with current graduates about his experiences since he left IU. Wright is a professor at Dartmouth College.
NSF New Scholars Conference at IUB

On May 15–16, 2006, a New Scholars Conference on Sustainable Transportation was held in the Indiana Memorial Union on the Bloomington campus. The conference was organized and chaired by Professor Bill Black with financial support from the National Science Foundation. The 25 participants in the conference were upper-level graduate students through non-tenured assistant professors from 10 different countries in North America, Asia, and Europe. Assisting Black with the chairing of sessions were professors Genevieve Giuliani (University of Southern California), Kingsley Haynes (George Mason University), and Martin Lee-Gosselin (University of Laval).

Paper topics ranged from ecological footprint analysis to alternative fueled vehicles. This is the last in a series of eight conferences on sustainable transport in North America and Europe funded by the National Science Foundation, the European Commission, and Transport Canada since 2002. Directors of the program were Peter Nijkamp (Free University of Amsterdam), Martin Lee-Gosselin (University of Laval in Canada), and Bill Black.

Pryor receives two NSF grants

Sara Pryor and Rebecca Barthelmie, along with researchers at NCAR and Washington State University, will undertake a project to examine particle formation events in the Ohio River Valley. This project is being funded by the Atmospheric Chemistry Program of the National Science Foundation. It is known that the formation of new particles (nucleation) modifies the particle size distribution, radiation budgets, cloud formation, and, hence, climate forcing. However, there are uncertainties regarding the mechanisms, frequency, and limits on particle nucleation. Hence, there is a need for continuous observations of aerosol particle size distributions in diverse locations, measurements of gaseous compounds participating in nucleation and growth, and determination of the chemical composition and other properties of these particles. Accordingly, this research focuses on the development of high concentrations of ultra-fine particles in a forest within the Ohio River Valley. These data will be analyzed to quantify the frequency and characteristics of nucleation events and high ultra-fine particle concentrations, including the chemical composition of the ultra-fine particles and the principal mechanisms and limitations on nucleation and growth. They will also assess whether current numerical models correctly predict the occurrence of nucleation and the subsequent particle growth. The measurements will be conducted in a forest in southern Indiana on an Ameriflux tower and on an additional tower located approximately 50 kilometers southeast of there.

Pryor and Barthelmie, in collaboration with G.S. Tuley of Iowa State University, will also undertake a project to evaluate downscaling techniques in climatology. The project is being funded by the Geography and Regional Science Program at the National Science Foundation. Although numerical models are becoming more accurate at modeling the climate system at large scales, it remains necessary to use downscaling tools to describe climate on spatial scales suitable for impact analyses. Changes in near-surface wind speeds have long been acknowledged as having particular importance for climate change impacts on society via their impact on, for example, thermal comfort, structural design, feasibility of harnessing renewable energy resources, agriculture, and forestry and soil erosion. However, tools have not yet been fully developed or evaluated that can be used to derive climatologies of near-surface wind speeds for historical, current, or future conditions at the spatial scales necessary for application in impact analyses. This project will develop and apply physical (dynamical) and statistical (empirical) downscaling tools to numerical model output to provide an assessment of the accuracy of various tools for downscaling wind climates, to generate projections of probability distributions of wind speeds for the contiguous United States and surrounding coastal waters, and to quantify uncertainties in those projections. The research couples closely with the North American Regional Climate Change Assessment Program and the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change process by utilizing climate model products generated within those programs. It is thus part of a larger endeavor designed to better understand and predict global and regional climates and to disseminate climate information to a range of users.

Faculty news

Professor Scott Robeson is serving as acting chairman during the fall semester of 2006. Professor Bill Black, the department’s current chair, is on sabbatical leave at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

It was announced at the Sixth International Conference for Urban Climate in Göteborg that Sue Grimmond has been selected to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Göteborg, Sweden. Grimmond is the chair of the International Association for Urban Climate, the organization that sponsored the conference.

Grimmond is currently on leave from the department. She is the professor/chair of the physical geography, environmental monitoring and modelling group, geography, King’s College London, University of London, England.

Rebecca Barthelmie has been named to the academic staff at the rank of professor in the Institute for Energy Systems at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Geography

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of Geography and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to iualumni@indiana.edu.

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College of Arts & Sciences
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Executive Director of Development & Alumni Programs……….David Ellies
IU Alumni Association
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Director of Alumni Programs……………………Nikki Bland
Editor for Constituent Periodicals……………………Julie Dales
Assistant Editor…………Abby Tonsing

THE COLLEGE
AAG meeting: Faculty, students present papers

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers was held in Chicago in March. Several faculty and graduate students attended the meeting. Professor William Black was the discussant for the Fleming Lecture in Transportation Geography session, as well as a panelist for the session on “Transport Geography: Assessing the Current State of the Subdiscipline.” Professor Dennis Conway was an organizer and chair of the “Alternative Caribbean Tourisms” session.

Several faculty members presented papers. Professor Kelly Caylor presented a paper titled “Co-organization of Ecological Pattern and Hydrological Dynamics in Water-limited Landscapes.” Professor Tom Evans presented a paper titled “Validation Approaches for Agent-based Models of Land Cover Change.” Professor Charles Greer and Daniel Knudsen presented a co-authored paper titled “Nationalpark Thy: Wilderness and the Danish Nationalscape,” based on their recent research in Denmark.

Several graduate students chaired a session, presented a paper, or were discussants for paper sessions. Shannon Donnelly presented a paper on “Legal Structure and Land Cover in Intentional Communities in the Midwest United States.” Yamir Gonzalez-Velez was the chair of the session on “Nature and Resources in Latin America.”

She also presented a paper titled “National Landscapes of Northern Mexico,” at the same session. James Hayes presented a paper titled “Effects of Landscape Structure on Spatial Variability of Forest Fire in Northeastern New Mexico.” Takatsugu Kobayashi presented a paper on “The Relationship Between Urban Form and Commuting Times Using Centrifugal and Directional Measures.”

Bradley Lane chaired the session on “Transit Design and Travel Patterns” and presented a paper with the title “An Analysis of Travel Patterns Around New Rail Stations in U.S. Cities” in the same session. Lane also received the “best MA thesis” award from the Transport Geography specialty group.

Todd Lindley presented a paper titled “Intercountry Adoption to the United States as a Migration Event.” Noriyuki Sato presented a paper titled “Climate Change Impacts on Winter-Road Maintenance: Historical Variations in the Joint Probability Distribution of Air Temperature and Precipitation.” Sato’s paper also won third place in the Climate Specialty Group’s Student Paper Competition.

Anne Soper was a discussant for the “Community Tourism III: Effects of Change on Tourism Product, Distribution, and the Cultural Experience” session. She also presented a paper titled “Cultural Heritage Tourism and its Representations of Mauritian Identity,” during the “Tourism and Identity” session. Wenjie Sun presented a paper titled “Proposing a GIS-based Integrated Approach to Explore LUCC Dynamics B the Case of Monroe County, Ind.”

New faculty

(continued from page 1)

home for the past 12 years. He earned a BA in political science from Willamette University, a BS in geography from the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, an MA in geography from the University of Akron, and a PhD in geography at Ohio State University. He also did postdoctoral work at OSU with the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis.

Most recently, he spent the last four years as a faculty member in geography at the University of Cincinnati.

Grubesic’s areas of expertise include technological hazards, location modeling, GIScience, urban systems, and regional development. His current work explores methodological approaches for evaluating infrastructure vulnerabilities in the areas of telecommunication, e-commerce, and transportation.

Faiz Rahman

Faiz Rahman is a native of Bangladesh, where he did his undergraduate studies. His MS and PhD degrees are from the University of Arizona. He was a visiting scholar at the French remote sensing agency CEMAGREF. After receiving his PhD, he worked as a GIS specialist with the CSARS Lab at California State University in Los Angeles and as a postdoctoral associate with the Grant Walton Remote Sensing Center at Rutgers University, New Jersey. In 2001 he was a faculty member at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. He will be leaving Texas Tech University, Lubbock, to come to IU in January.

Rahman’s area of expertise is hyperspectral remote sensing and its application in terrestrial carbon flux monitoring. He uses geospatial methods (GIS, remote sensing, geostatistics, etc.) in his research. He is a member of the North American Carbon Program, a federally funded multi-agency program for studying carbon balance of different ecosystems across the continent. His research has been funded by NASA, USDA, and DOE. He is a co-founder of SpecNet, a global network for spectral measurements of eco-physiological properties from the FluxNet sites. The main goal of this network is to relate vegetation spectral signatures with carbon fluxes of diverse ecosystems and to standardize and cross-validate the “spectral vs. flux” relationships across global biomes. Initial funding for this network came from NSF.

Visit us online at www.indiana.edu/~geog

In memoriam

Norman J. G. Pounds (1912–2006)

Norman Pounds, university professor emeritus of geography and history, died at Cambridge, England, on March 24, 2006. Pounds joined the faculty at Indiana University in 1950 and was chairman of the Department of Geography from 1962 until 1965. He was named university professor of geography at Indiana University in 1959; this was later changed to university professor of history and geography. A native of Bath, England, Pounds held degrees from Cambridge and the University of London.

Many of the alumni will remember his classes and his outstanding lectures that garnered him the “Brown Derby” teaching award and the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1969.

The Guardian noted in his obituary that when he found out he had leukemia at the age of 87, he exclaimed, “But I can’t die yet. I’ve got another book to write.” Pounds went on to write three more books that became part of the 30 books he wrote on the history and geology of Europe. Among his most well-known volumes are The Ruhr (1952); An Historical Geography of Europe (three volumes); Hearth and Home (1989); The Medieval Castle in England and Wales (1990); and A History of the English Parish (2000).

Pounds retired from IU in 1977, but he remained quite busy with his writing. He and his wife, Dorothy, moved to Cambridge following his retirement from IU.
Department’s 21st annual awards banquet held in April

The department’s 21st annual awards banquet was held on April 13 in the Federal Room of the Indiana Memorial Union. This year’s recipient of the Paul W. and Marie K. Baumann Endowed Scholarship Award was senior Ryan Aylward. Andrea Lammer was the recipient of the Outstanding Senior in Geography Award for the academic year. Melody J. Grewell was nominated for and accepted into Phi Beta Kappa.

Several awards were made to under-graduates 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 Kelly Caylor, the recipient was Andrew Blasnick Jr. The Thomas F. Barton award for G110 Human Geography, taught by Professor Daniel Knudsen, was given to Natalie A. Wanders. Finally, the Thomas F. Barton award for G315 Environmental Conservation, taught by Professor Charles Green, was given to Jillian Rickly.

There were two recipients, Tristin A. Allen and Amanda C. Burton, of the Norman J.G. Pounds Award for outstanding performance in Professor John Odland’s G120 World Regional Geography course.

The Robert C. Kingsbury Award for cartography and geographic information science was presented to Douglas G. Turnerseed, for his excellent work in associate instructor Todd Lindley’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 Constance Brown, was Scott E. Raichelson. The Stephen S. Visher Outstanding Paper in Climatology Award was presented by Professor Sara Pryor to Catherine Callahan for her paper, “Indoor Ozone Pollution and Subsequent Health Effects.”

Many awards were also given to graduate students. The recipient of the A.I. Teaching Award was Todd Lindley. Departmental Graduate Fellowship awards for outstanding graduate student research went to Valerie Anderson and Brian Johnson. Chairman’s Graduate Student Recognition awards went to Valerie Anderson, Shannon Donnelly, Norma Froelich, Debashish Ghosh, Jim Hayes, Brian Johnson, Bradley Lane, Todd Lindley, Nori Sato, Anne Soper, and Wenjie Sun. These recipients are active in research and maintain at least a 3.7 grade point average.

Congratulations to 2005–06 graduates

Graduates, MA/MS/PhD

Freda Barsan, MS
Leslie Ensor, MS
Brian Johnson, MA
Nian Liu, MA
Joseph Rodman, MA
Anne Soper, PhD
Zhigang Tang, PhD
Altnai Yespembetova, MA

Graduates, December 2005

Ryan Johnson
Emerson La Joie
Blane Minnich
Travis Newell
Jillian Rickly

Graduates, May 2006

Ryan Aylward
Christian Beck
Danielle Comito
Melody Grewell
Jeffery Quinn
Jacob Irvin
Rob Jaynes
Tyler Putt
Caitlin Roth
Paul Smith
Adam Souder
Mindi Wisker
Emily Beard Christman, BA’84, of Chesapeake, Va., was promoted to captain in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps. She is commanding officer of the NOAA ship Thomas Jefferson.

In October 2005, Louis DeVosrey, MA’54, professor emeritus at the University of Georgia, Athens, was installed as a Fellow of the Society for the History of Discoveries at the organization’s annual meeting in colonial Williamsburg, Va.

“After [more than] 30 years in health care administration, I’ve done a complete career change,” writes Daniel J. Dolezal, BA’67, Cert’83, MPAA’84, of Winamac, Ind. He is executive director of the Pulaski County Community Development Commission and can be reached at djd@pwrtc.com.

Christopher R. Freeman, BA’80, is a licensed land surveyor in Texas, working as a project manager overseeing multi-million-dollar surveying and mapping projects, mostly for the Department of Transportation. He is also a part-time instructor at North Lake College, teaching surveying courses. He lives in Garland, Texas.

Joseph S. Morris, BA’85, is a consultant in McLean, Va.

“After 40 years of teaching, I’m still crazy about teaching,” writes Joseph A. Naumann Jr., MAT’66, of Florissant, Mo.

“I retired from teaching high school after 34 years in 2000. I am in my sixth year as adjunct senior lecturer in geography at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, and my second year as coordinator of assessment and data collection (half time) in the Education Department of Fontbonne University.”

Nick Solga, BA’02, received a Future 40 Award during a ceremony at the Embassy Centre in Fort Wayne, Ind. Each year, the Fort Wayne Business Journal presents the award to 40 area business leaders to honor civic involvement, commitment to business growth, and professional excellence. Solga works for an advertising firm, Marketshare + Inc., where he oversees all client media planning and buying as head of the media department. He also serves as an account executive for the firm. He lives in Fort Wayne.

Duane J. Schau, BA’89, of Bloomington, Ind., is vice president and chief information officer for the IU Alumni Association. His wife, Natalia (Browar), BA’89, is an academic adviser at IU’s Health Professions and PreLaw Center. Their son, Adam, Cert/BA’05, is a paralegal for Carmel & Carmel, a real-estate legal firm in Washington, D.C. Their daughter, Kristina, is a freshman at Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

48TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING PARADE
FRIDAY, OCT. 27, 5:30 P.M.
East Third Street and Indiana Avenue
Watch the pageantry of “Glory Days” of IU travel west down Third Street and north on Indiana Avenue to the Sample Gates. Sponsored by the SAA.

PEP RALLY
FRIDAY, OCT. 27, 6:30 P.M., Sample Gates
After the parade, rock the Sample Gates with Coach Hoeppner, the IU football players, the IU Marching Hundred, the IU cheerleaders, the RedSteppers, and fireworks! Sponsored by the Student Athletic Board.

THE WALK
SATURDAY, OCT. 28, TBA*
 Begins on Woodlawn Drive at 17th Street
Come walk the walk and cheer the cheer for your Indiana Hoosiers football team! The team’s bus drops off the players and coaches on Woodlawn Drive, and the entire team walks to the stairs on the west side of Assembly Hall, where they are greeted by the IU Marching Hundred, the IU cheerleaders, and fans.

19TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING LUNCH
SATURDAY, OCT. 28, TBA*, Mellencamp Pavilion
Kick off your game day with performances by the Singing Hoosiers, the IU Alumni Band, and the IU cheerleaders! Meet the Homecoming king and queen candidates and hear from IU President Adam W. Herbert and other IU administrators. Look for the IUAA table, sign up for a discounted membership, and pick up your free gift. IU merchandise will be available for purchase. Sponsored by the IU Alumni Association, the IU Foundation, Hoosiers for Higher Education, and the IU Varsity Club.

IU VS. MICHIGAN STATE
SATURDAY, OCT. 28, TBA*, Memorial Stadium
Cheer the Hoosiers on to victory as they take on the Spartans in a Big Ten showdown! For tickets, call 866-IUSPORTS or (812) 855-4006.

For the complete Homecoming schedule of events, lunch order form, or credit-card ticket orders, call the IUAA at (800) 824-3044 or (812) 855-IUAA, or visit our Web site at www.alumni.indiana.edu/bloomington/homecoming.

*Check local media for game time. The Homecoming Lunch and The Walk will begin two hours prior to kickoff.
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Publication carrying this form: Geography Alumni Newsletter

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