

Hall. Brooks Green arrived in 1980 and became acting chair in 1988 and chair in 1989 and served until 1994 when the Department of Geography was consolidated with Political Science and Sociology. In 1993, the geography faculty moved to the newly constructed Irby Hall to suite 306. From 1994, the consolidated department has been led by Carl Redden (sociology), Lawson Veasey (public administration), both interim chairs, and Ronald Hy (public administration), who became chair in 1996. Hy left UCA in 2002, Don Whistler (political science) was appointed interim chair of the department, and the geography faculty moved to Irby 301. On July 1, 2003, the Department of Geography was separated from political science and Brooks Green was appointed interim chair. A search is now underway for a permanent chair.

The UCA Graduate Certificate in GIS...

The Graduate Certificate in GIS at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) is hosted by the Department of Geography. It is designed to meet the needs and busy schedules of full-time professionals. The GIS Certificate Program has been designed to help practicing professionals in any natural resource management or social science field to enhance their skills and improve the quality of their work. Students earn the Graduate Certificate in GIS by successfully completing five out of seven course modules. Earning the certificate also increases the chances of unemployed students to quickly find a job just after graduation (even before graduation, sometimes). Therefore, the GIS Certificate at UCA leads to rapid professional promotion, because GIS is among the most dynamic and lucrative job markets in the nation today.

The GIS Certificate at UCA is made flexible in order to adapt to the regular work schedule of expected candidates. The courses are organized as evening classes. Thus participants do not need to change their regular work schedule to enroll in GIS Certificate classes. So far, courses are offered one to two times a year. However, attempts are being made to schedule most courses in an eight-to-ten week-period and offer some courses more than one time a year.

Plans are underway to tentatively deliver the courses via the WWW starting in Fall 2004. WWW-registered students will be entitled to purchase the latest versions of *ArcView 8.x* and *ArcGIS* software at a significantly reduced price. These are the software applications that are used for most courses. With this new orientation, UCA takes the certificate program to the students' doorsteps and releases them from the heavy burden of commuting or traveling overseas. No matter where they live in the world, the enrolled participants will have a direct link with faculty at the Department of Geography to assist them in troubleshooting their applications. The Department of Geography is also planning to introduce an undergraduate certificate program in GIS. This new program is also planned to be

WWW-based. For more information, check the following link.

<http://www.uca.edu/divisions/academic/geography/certificate1.htm>

Dr. Amadou K. Thiam

The Changing Geography Department Curriculum...

central element of modern spatial information and analysis systems, "Geographic Information Systems"

other GIS training workshops the previous semester, this was far and away the most intensive and in-depth GIS workshop attended.

For two full days, we worked our way through the latest ArcGIS 8.3 edition. We were the only academics among the 16 participants, the majority coming from forestry and timber industries of the federal government. Bob did a great job of helping us along, but we each spent the entire time at our own computers running through the myriad of analysis tools this program offers. I was a bit intimidated when he said that ArcGIS 8.

Recently, several students have indicated an interest in getting the chapter active again. Being an honor society, not honorary, membership indicates a higher level of accomplishment and interest in the field of geography, and is an additional kudo to include on one's resume. Membership requirements include having completed at least three semesters of course work, at least three geography courses, maintaining a B average in geography course work, and being in the upper 35% of one's class.

If any students or alumni are interested in joining GTU, please contact me at JeffA@uca.edu for further information. There is a small initiation fee that includes lifetime membership.

Dr. Jeff Allender

Hi from Suzanne...

I'm back! I have worked for geography the twenty years I have been employed at UCA, but when the three departments were combined, I had to move to the political science office. I have been gone for about five years and have truly missed being located in geography and am so glad to be back home with the geographers. We are all excited to have the Geography Department again and move on to bigger and better things. A few things have changed in my life. One exciting change is that I am now the very proud grandmother (Mimi) of two precious girls, and the other change is the color of my hair. If you ever come to UCA's campus, be sure and come by the office and see us!

Mrs. Suzanne Rogers