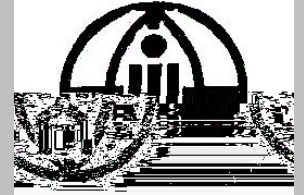




# Department of Geography

University of Central Arkansas



*The Newsletter of the Department of Geography*

**Vol. 2 No. 1 February 2005**

## **A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR.....**

**Greetings, geographers!!** I hope that the last twelve months have been good to you! The past year for us has been exceptionally busy, but we seem to have survived. Some of you have written to us while others have come to campus for visits. We appreciate your contact. We also appreciate your participation in GIS Day and other departmental activities!

The Department seems to be in a constant state of flux. This past year we hired a permanent chair, introduced two new GIS courses, and began the process of writing a new General Education course to be called Geography of World Regions. New courses on Asia and Russia are also in the works. Laptop computers have been added to some faculty offices and one of our classrooms (307) has become "smart" with electronic hardware to augment the wireless capacity we now have in Irby Hall.

Last fall we also placed an ad to hire a new GIS faculty member. That search led to 40 persons applying for the

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## More News

activities. We are excited about the future possibilities the the Center might bring to faculty and students.

**MIS Has New GIS Track.** During the past year or so, we have been working with the Department of Management Information Systems to create a GIS track for their students. After some negotiating and testing of courses, we have finally implemented the track. Students in MIS can now choose the GIS track, which includes taking a series of three courses in our department – Cartography, Introduction to GIS, and either GIS in Practice: Business and Social Science Applications or Geographic Information Analysis. We are also seeing many Public Administration, Environmental Science, Biology, and a scattering of other students enrolling in our GIS courses.

**The Mayflower Partnership.** A few months ago, Mayor Frank Pearce of the City of Mayflower approached UCA President, Lu Hardin, about forming a partnership between UCA and Mayflower. Since the initial contact, personnel in Academic Outreach and Extended Programs

**first course on-line in a few weeks. The second course, Geography 5315, Mapping Fundamentals for GIS, will be**

## More News

**Dr. Amadou Thiam** has been keeping the GIS Certificate Program alive by offering two courses per semester. He has been exceptionally busy preparing exercises for the certificate courses that will go on-line later this year. Within recent weeks Dr. Thiam received word that an article he submitted to *Transactions in GIS* will be published soon. He continues to be actively involved in grant writing and research that is focused on the African Sahel. This is Dr. Thiam's last semester with us. We wish him all the best as he moves on to greener pastures.

**Mr. Ian Bowles** has been teaching night courses for us for several semesters. Ian works at Pulaski Area GIS during the day, but comes to Conway one night per week to teach for us. We have appreciated his contribution to our program as he has taught Cartography and Principles of Geography. If anyone has suggestions on how to keep Ian out of automobile accidents, pass them on.

### Around the Office .....

**Mrs. Suzanne Rogers** tries very hard to keep the office in tiptop shape. But, it is a real challenge with a bunch of eccentric geographers stumbling through the office. Yet, she does a great job!! We hope she can tolerate us for a few more years. Our student worker, **Ashley McMinn**, helps keep Suzanne's blood pressure under control. We do have a great office staff that keeps the office working efficiently. Ashley is a psychology major, sociology minor from Linden, Texas. Her favorite activities, other than working for us, are watching *Judging Amy* and *The Apprentice*.

If you are interested in supporting the Department of Geography at UCA with a financial donation, please send it to:

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201 Donaghey Avenue  
301 Irby Hall  
Conway, AR 72035-5003

***Any donation is greatly appreciated. The money helps support our efforts in improving the quality of our program.***

The Department of Geography at UCA would like to hear from you. Please send us information about