



Department of Geography

University of Central Arkansas

The Newsletter of the Department of Geography

Vol. 4 No. 1

March 2007

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR.....

Geography at UCA continues to grow and gain strength. During the year, four significant events had, or will have, a dramatic impact on the department.

First, during the summer of 2006, Irby 302 was remodeled to contain two faculty offices and a technology center. Before the fall semester began, Dr. Pearson moved into 302 C – you should see his windows – and Mary Sue moved into 301 E. The area of 302 A has become the H. L. Minton Center for Geospatial Analysis and Research, less formally called the Minton Center. The Minton Center is equipped so that students and faculty can complete research and

More News

We Have a New Student Worker!

Ms. Kendra Patterson began to work for us in January. She claims Camden, Arkansas, as her home and she is a freshman. We have begged Kendra to become a geography major, but she remains undecided. Kendra is a pleasant young lady. We are fortunate to have her in the office working for us!

Geography Faculty Members Attend Conferences

The geography faculty members continue to remain active professionally by attending and presenting their research at a variety of conferences. These conferences include: Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers, ESRI, Southwest Social Science, Applied Geography, and the Association of American Geographers.

Geography Majors Graduate

The following students graduated in 2006:

Matthew D. Charton: BS in Geography and History, summa cum laude, Honors College and Department Honors

Curtis B. Hall: BS in Geography

Michael Harness: BS in Geography

Jamie Odom: BS in Geography

Desmond Heyliger IV: BS in Geography, magna cum laude, Department Honors

Cody A. Burnett: BS in Geography

Emerson Evans: BS in Geography

Lindsey Paxton: BA in Geography

Brandon Epps: BS in Geography

More News

Ms. Mary Sue Passé-Smith

Mary Sue continues to anchor the undergraduate geospatial technology courses in the department and manages the Social Science computer lab. She is also very active professionally by attending conferences and presenting papers. Her presentations at the ESRI Conference in San Diego have been published in electronic format. Mary Sue's research on tornadoes and related activity is cutting-edge. She will continue to be a force in that research for years to come.

Part-time Faculty Members

Because of the growth of the university and the corresponding need to teach more sections of Principles of Geography, we needed to hire three part-time faculty members during the fall 2005 semester. Mr. Tim Smithey began to teach for us last semester. We will keep him busy into the future. He teaches his course Monday nights. Ms. Joan Shofner is teaching one section of Principles at 8:00 a.m. MWF. Joan is a former UCA geography major who received her Master's Degree at Murray State University. Joan's daytime job is at Conway Regional Medical Center where she works for the CRMC Foundation. Ms. Dora Bradley taught another night section of Principles for us on Wednesdays last semester, but she is not back with us this semester.

We anticipate that Tim and Joan will return in the fall 2007 semester. We greatly appreciate the work these people are doing for us. Because of them, many more students are being exposed to geography.

The Department in Photos



Questioning
Geography. Dr. Green is in his 27th year at
UCA.



More Department Photos

It appears as if Dr. Allender is working, but the smile on his face sends a different message! Dr. Allender is in his 17th year at UCA.

Dr. Butt smiles as he writes an "F" on

Dr. Reynolds takes the time from his heavy work load to look up for this photo. He is in his 22nd year at UCA.

More Department Photos

Mary Sue is creating one of her GIS exercise masterpieces. She is in her 10th year at UCA

Dr. Brooks Pearson is talking to one of the numerous students enrolled in one of his online GIS courses. Note that he is working and talking on the phone at the same time. Dr. Pearson is completing his 2nd year at UCA.



This is the H. L. Minton Center for Geospatial Analysis and Research. Currently, two projects are underway in the Minton Center: 1) building a GIS for the city of Holland, Arkansas, and 2) completing some GIS work for the City of Mayflower, Arkansas. We employ two students in the Minton Center. Dr. Pearson is the director of the Center.