

North Carolina Geographical Society Newsletter -- October 1990

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**Minutes of the
North Carolina
Geographical Society
Twentieth Annual Meeting,
9/23/89**

The meeting was called to order in Saunders Hall on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill at 9:40 AM by President Bob Reiman. Thanks were extended to Doug and Olga Eyre for hosting the activities of the previous evening. Thirty-one people were in attendance.

1. The North Carolina Geographic Alliance report was given by Doug Wilms. The summer institute was held at Appalachian State University. Forty social studies teachers participated. Eight two-day workshops, one in each of the eight education districts of the state, have been held. The alliance did not get funding through the state legislature, but Superintendent of the State Department of Public Instruction Bobby Etheridge is arranging funding through his department. This funding hopefully will be for three years. The 1990 summer institute will be held on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The National Geographic Society, which has helped fund the alliances in the past, is hopeful that each state alliance will become part of the regular educational funding within each state. Each participating teacher in the summer institutes must give at least two workshops in his or her own school system.

2. John Florin presented the idea that the society should publish a journal. Ole Gade spoke in support of the idea. He thought that North Carolina,

which is a state with over six million people, should have a place where short papers about the state could be published. Upon a suggestion that the society should find out what other states are doing in this area, Dr. Gade passed around copies of state geographical journals from Virginia, Ohio, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Florida. There was some question whether the contents of the present NCGS Newsletter should be included in such a journal. There was, however, a consensus that the journal should be limited to material about North Carolina.

John Florin asked Dr. Gade if he would gather together an editorial board together. It was decided that the present North Carolina Studies Committee should form such a board.

Gordon Bennett moved that \$200 be allocated to provide for the planning of a North Carolina Geographical Journal. The motion passed.

4. Old Business: There was no meeting of the NCGS Steering committee this past year. It was decided that there should be such a meeting in connection with the North Carolina council for Social Studies in February or March.

5. Next Year's Meeting Site: The organization agreed that the 1990 meeting will be held in Charlotte. Tink Moore agreed to arrange for the meeting. There was a suggestion that Bob Saveland arrange for the 1991 meeting in New Bern. Jeff Neff offered to arrange for the meeting at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee in 1992.

6. New Business: Dan Stillwell sug-

gested that the NCGS study the idea of fostering a North Carolina State Geographer, such as is found in Virginia. He also mentioned that Colorado has a geographic proficiency component as part of the admissions standards for the state university system. If the students have not had geography in high school, they are required to have a regional geography course in college. Similar procedures are used in a few other states. Doug Wilms suggested that any curriculum changes be done in increments. For the present the tenth grade should have a choice of world cultures, world history, or world geography. Then, a later step would be to institute a requirement for world regional geography. The Steering Committee will work on strategies concerning this problem.

Bill Imperatore asked to be relieved of his responsibility for the NCGS Newsletter. There was a general feeling that the state representative to the Southeastern Division of the AAG should also serve as the editor. Frank Ainsley, the current SEDAAG state representative, agreed to edit the newsletter.

7. Finance Report: Harlow Head reported that the treasury currently has a balance of \$1,185.45. Gordon Bennett asked about the status of student dues. It was pointed out that the original By-Laws called for student dues of \$1.00. Subsequent changes in the regular membership dues have not affected the amount of the student dues. Neal Lineback moved that the student dues be 50% percent of the amount for regular members. The motion was approved.

8. John Florin described the activities for the rest of the day, lunch at the Hillsborough Inn and a tour of Occoaneechee archaeological site. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Officers for the 1989-90 year:

- President: John W. Florin, UNC-CH
- Vice President: Tyrel G. Moore, UNC-C
- Secretary-Treasurer Harlow A. Head, Atlantic Christian College
- At-Large Members of the Steering Committee:
 - Jeffrey C. Patten, UNC-G
 - William Buckler, ECU
- Minutes submitted by Harlow Head

**ATTEND THE
SEDAAG MEETING
IN COLUMBIA
NOVEMBER 18-20**



N.C. Geographic Alliance

The North Carolina Geographic Alliance continues to grow in membership. The first Alliance Newsletter was mailed to over 2,000 teachers, administrators, curriculum coordinators, legislators, and geographers. The Alliance now has close to 2,500 members.

Financial support to underwrite the Alliance's instructional activities, continues to come from the National Geographic Society and the North Carolina General Assembly.

A very successful commuter institute was held on the campus of UNC-Charlotte from June 17 to July 3, 1990. Two oneweek summer institutes are being put together for 1991-- one for primary (K-3) teachers to be held at UNC-Wilmington from June 16 to June 22, and another at Appalachian State University during the last week of June, 1991.



**NEWS FROM THE
DEPARTMENTS**

**University of North Carolina
at Charlotte**

The Department of Geography and Earth Sciences was presented a gift in excess of \$250,000, to be used primarily for the development and operation of a program in Geographic Information Systems. In conjunction with this incentive, the department hosted a special lecture series on GIS during the Spring 1990 semester. The following speakers were included in the series: Dr. David Cowan -University of South Carolina; Dr. David Hastings-U.S. Department of com-

merce; Tim Johnson-North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis; Dr. Erik Mollo-Christensen-NASA; and Dr. David Mark-National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis. Finally, the department expects to hire a GIS faculty member this year, to assist in the development of our GIS program.

The 1988-89 Taylor Geography Award was presented to Sondra Cox and Justin Flint for their outstanding academic performance. These awards are made possible by David R. Taylor of Charlotte in honor of his late father, a British railroad engine designer and amateur geographer for whom the awards are named. They are intended to encourage interest and excellence in academic geography. Three awards are offered annually; one for an outstanding undergraduate geography major and one each for the winners of essay contests open to UNCC undergraduate and graduate students respectively.

The department has recently acquired equipment to establish a synoptic meteorology laboratory, connected to a satellite dish that receives transmitted data through Zephyr Weather Services, we receive "now time" weather charts from National Weather Service on an ALDEN facsimile recorder; raw weather data that is processed by a GIS called McIDAS; GEOS imagery, both visible and infrared; and Domestic Plus data. Availability of this technology permits students to analyze weather systems with data that is as current and complete as most forecast offices.

The department is offering a series of publications on Transportation dealing mainly with transportation policy issues and analyses. A complete list of publications and ordering information may be obtained from Dr. David Hartgen, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223 (Telephone:704-547-4308).

Dr. Gerald Pyle completed a book, The Geography of AIDS, (co-authored by Gary Shannon) to be published by Guilford Press. He will be presenting a paper at the IGU commission on Health and Development meeting in Lille,

France in April entitled "Some Aspects of Infant Mortality in North Carolina."

Dr. John Bender recently returned from an NSF sponsored sea-floor sampling cruise along the East Pacific Rise.

Tyrel Moore and Walt Martin have joined the department in tenure-track appointments. Both have been with the department for several years in non-tenure positions.

The department offered the third annual program in applied community research July 29-August 3, 1990. Sponsored jointly by the University and the American Chambers of Commerce Researchers Association, the program ex Topics covered in the program's two sessions include applied population analysis, feasibility studies, industrial targeting and economic base analysis. The program was directed by Al Stuart. Other geographers involved were Jim Clay, Sallie Ives, Walt Martin and Wayne Walcott.

The North Carolina Geographic Alliance, in coordination with the National Geographic Society, held the third Summer Geography Institute June 17 to July 3 at UNC-C. It differed from previous institutes by being held in a commuter format and being oriented toward an urban focus. This emphasis was intended to better serve Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Region Six teachers. Several of the UNCC faculty including Jerry Pyle, Owen Furuseth, Walt Martin, Don Steila, Jerry Ingalls, Jim Clay and Al Stuart joined the Alliance Staff to provide instruction. Tyrel Moore was in charge of local arrangements and co-directed the Institute with Doug Wilms.

The 13th annual Applied Geography Conference meets in Charlotte October 24-27, 1990. Sessions include such topics as GIS, business geography, environmental analysis, planning, and regional development.

In addition to the summer Geography Institute and the Applied Geography conference, the Department will also host the North Carolina Geographical Society's Annual meeting.

UNC-C Geography Faculty:

Jim Clay
Owen Furuseth

David Hartgen
Gerald Ingalls
Sallie Ives
Dennis Lord
Walter Martin
Tyrel (Tink) Moore
Nelson Nunnally
Gerald Pyle
Norman Schul
Jeff Simpson
Paul Smith
Don Steila
Al Stuart
Wayne Walcott, Chair
Wei-Ning Xiang

Western Carolina University

Western Carolina University is celebrating its Centennial during 1989-1990 and all schools and departments have sponsored various activities and events. Geosciences co-sponsored (with Natural Resources Management) a GIS Mapping Demonstration in its \$100,000 lab facility. The Geology Museum was also "reopened" to the public following a major renovation of Stillwell Science Building, long-time home of the Geosciences program. These events occurred during the School of Arts and Sciences Mid-Year Symposium on February 15, 1990.

Jeff Neff has been working with local schools for the advancement of geographic education. Presentations to 7th and 8th grades on two different occasions focused on such diverse topics as desertification in Africa and Settlement and Migration in pre-Revolutionary North Carolina. He also acted as moderator/emcee for two school "Geography Bee's" in 1989 and 1990, the National Geographic Society's geography promotion competition. Presentations to teachers for in-service training and at the state social studies conferences also contributed to teacher education in geography.

Dr. Neff has continued to teach World Regional Geography to seniors at Smoky Mountain High School. Enrollment reached 35 during Fall Semester, 1989, the third year of the program,

representing a doubling of enrollment since the program began in 1987.

Gary White has been busy incorporating computer applications into remote sensing, cartography, and geomorphology. In addition, in 1989, he received a University Instructional Improvement Grant to purchase SPOT satellite imagery on computer tape. Dr. White has quickly become the GIS-competent staff member of the geography program.

Ralph Triplette continues to direct the planning component of the geography curriculum (B.S. in Geography/Planning) and coordinate the Cooperative Education Program for geography majors. He is also actively upgrading his GIS skills and has been gradually incorporating computer applications into several of his courses.

Current Geography Majors = 12
Enrollments 1989-90 academic year:

Total, Fall 388

Total, Spring 300

WCU Geography Faculty:

Jeff Neff

Ralph Triplette

Gary White

Pembroke State University

Geography at Pembroke experienced record enrollments of more than 425 in both the fall and spring semesters. The Department has developed "academic concentrations" in geography (24 s.h.) and geology (26 s.h.). These may be used as "second majors" by any PSU student.

Bob Reiman joined the department after many years at ASU. Ted Wetherly and Jill Fite join Tom Lloyd and Matt Rooney as part-time faculty.

Tom Ross has worked with the PSU Office of Economic Development (OED) on several projects, including the Rural Leaders Program. He also received OED funding to conduct a water quality survey in 13 counties of the southeastern part of the state.

PSU Geography Faculty:

Elizabeth Kuo

Bob Reiman

Tom Ross, Chair

Saania Lahanoui

Matt Rooney

East Carolina University

The Department of Geography and Planning's per faculty enrollment continues to place it among the highest three or four units on campus while its research and grant productivity has continued to increase. The department now averages two substantive publications per faculty. Over \$100,000 in grants were secured during the year.

The department was pleased to announce that Dr. Jonathan Phillips was the recipient of the conference of Southern Graduate Schools' 1990 Annual Achievement Award for New Scholars. He was presented the award at the Annual Meeting of the CSGS in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in February. Dr. Phillips was also awarded one of the university's Off Campus Scholarly Assignment awards for 100% research release-time for the spring semester. He published twelve major articles in the 1989 calendar year and already has more than 50 publications.

The department also announced that Ms. Randi Horner, winner of last year's Merle Prunty Undergraduate Scholarship Award from SEDAAG, was awarded the Gamma Theta Upsilon's Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student. She is now pursuing the M.A. degree in our department.

Dr. Jonathan Bascom (Ph.D., Iowa) joined the faculty in the fall of 1989 with a specialty in Third World Economic Development and Africa, and Dr. Dennis Nullet, (Ph. D., Hawaii), a climatologist, will join us in the fall of 1990.

ECU Geography Faculty:

Simon Baker
Jonathan Bascom
Ennis Chestang
Niel Gunderson
Palmyra Leahy
Dennis Nullet
Jon Phillips
Phil Shea
Scott Wade
Doug Wilms
Leo Zonn, Chair

ECU Planning Faculty:
Wes Hankins
Richard Stephenson
Mulata Wubneh

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

UNC-Greensboro welcomed two new faculty members to the geography program in the Fall of 1989. Keith Debbage (Ph.D. Georgia) teaches courses related to transportation and tertiary economic development. Michael Lewis (Ph.D. Oklahoma) teaches physical geography and environmental conservation; his research interests include the effects of natural resource policies on land use, and the role of natural disturbances in shaping physical landscapes.

The department continues to expand its scientific equipment facilities, adding ARC-INFO, three new PC wordstations, and an HP wide-carriage plotter to its computer cartographic and GIS laboratory. The lab receives heavy useage from students working on projects and class assignments in Jeff Patton's cartographic and remote sensing courses. A Contel satellite receiving system, including a Gibson satellite receiving dish and NOAA antennae are now functioning in the department. All NOAA weather maps, charts, and weather reports are received. The GEOS weather satellites can also be monitored.

Jack Hidore oversaw acquisition and installation of the equipment as part of the department's new weather center and is utilizing these new data sources in his natural hazards and climatology courses.

Department faculty are active in several new lines of research and scholarly activity. John Rees, Department Head, recently travelled to Seoul, Korea to chair the first "Korean-U.S. Seminar on Science and Technology Policy". The National Science Foundation provided \$31,410 to begin the series of seminars intended to stimulate an exchange of ideas on positive applications of science and technology to economic development. Gordon Bennett is currently on research leave to investigate "The Im-

fact of Elderly Immigration on Private and Public Economic Development Efforts in Rural Areas of the South Atlantic Coast." The project is funded by a \$54,942 grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce. Jack Hidore is on a research leave to study watershed responses to storm events in the upper Midwest. Michael Lewis spent the summer studying "Windfall disturbance and gap dynamics in a Piedmont uplands forest." Keith Debagge was awarded a new faculty grant from the UNCG Research Council to study visitor characteristics and travel patterns in relation to the North Carolina Zoological Park. Jeff Patton is carrying on with the department's tradition of extended summer field trips. This summer Jeff is supervising a group of twenty students on a trip through the northern United States and Canada. The group will examine the physical geography and prevailing natural resource patterns of those regions.

During the past year, the Geography Department has involved a full slate of visiting scholars in forums and lectures sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences. Allen Scott, a geographer from UCLA, visited the campus April 2-4 to speak on uneven regional development and lead a seminar entitled "Technopoles and Regional Development" during the 1990 Liberal Arts Forum on Inequalities. Geographers Brian Berry (University of Texas at Dallas) and Peter Hall (University of California at Berkeley) visited the campus to participate in the College's Harriet Elliot Series. The series theme this year was economic policy issues for the Southern future.

UNC-G Geography Faculty:

John Rees, Chair
 Jack Hidore
 Gordon Bennett
 Keith Debagge
 Michael Lewis
 Jeff Patton
 James Stephens
 Erich Bordne

Appalachian State University

With 60 undergraduate majors and 17 graduate students, geography is alive and well at ASU. One graduate student, Jennifer DeHart, is to be congratulated on winning the SEDAAG Top Student Paper Award. Another student, Warren Anderson, received a National Geographic Society Internship.

Appalachian State's team of eight graduate and undergraduate students won the North Carolina "World Geography Bowl" and will represent the state at the regional competition to be held at the SEDAAG Meeting in Columbia.

ASU Geography Faculty:

Garry Cooper
 Ole Gade
 Bill Imperatore
 Neal Lineback, Chair
 Mike Mayfield
 Art Rex
 Dan Stillwell
 Roger Winsor
 Jennifer DeHart

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The biggest news coming from geography at UNC-CH during the past year was the establishment of two endowment gifts totalling \$700,000 from Dr. Voit Gilmore (Ph. D.). These magnificent gifts will add enormously to the capacity of the department to carry out its teaching and research missions. Appalled at the levels of geographic illiteracy, Dr. Gilmore considers his gifts "a modest way to reverse that trend and to improve geographic education."

Forty-three years after completing his undergraduate degree at Chapel Hill, Dr. Gilmore, a successful businessman and world traveler, decided to return to UNC to seek a Ph. D. in Geography, which he successfully completed in 1987. In his dissertation preface, he set forth his study goals. "My quest for doctoral attainment has not been title-

seeking. It has been a later-life search for fuller knowledge of my world and a deeper appreciation of its values, especially its fascinating rivers." Geography was an exciting vehicle for his rewarding journey. In turn, the field of geography has been enriched by the shared spirit and generous support of this remarkable American and world citizen.

UNC-CH Geography Faculty:

Steve Birdsall
Clyde Browning
Art Dodd
Doug Eyre
John Florin, Chair
Will Gesler
Art Hawley
Richard Kopec
Melinda Meade
Barry Moriarty
Peter Robinson
Steve Walsh
Karl Zimmerer

**University of North Carolina
at Wilmington**

Geography at UNC-W continues to maintain an active role on campus. With about 20 majors, the Geography Club has joined forces with the International Students to facilitate more "global" emphasis in academic functions and in social events such as a world gourmet covered dish dinner.

The faculty, in addition to teaching about 20 different courses per year, have been active in research and service. Frank Ainsley is the national Secretary-Treasurer of the Pioneer America Society, which means that its administrative headquarters is at UNC-W. Dr. Ainsley has completed during the past year three textbooks for Silver Burdett & Ginn. They are Virginia History and Geography, for Virginia's fourth grade classes; Comparing Regions, a national fourth grade text; and World Geography, a national seventh grade text.

Rudi Kiefer was recently awarded tenure, and he published an article on

carbon dioxide in soils in the May, 1990, Professional Geographer.

The Department will be the sponsor and host for the North Carolina Geographic Alliance's Summer Geography Institute for 40 primary (K-3) teachers from around the state. Frank Ainsley will be co-director of the Institute along with Doug Wilms. Keynote Speaker for the Institute's banquet will be UNC-W's new chancellor, Jim Leutze, of PBS's "GlobeWatch" fame.

The future of geography and global studies at UNC-Wilmington is looking brighter all the time!

UNC-W Geography Faculty:

Frank Ainsley
Rudi Kiefer
Duncan Randall
Michael Spyrou

**Report to the
SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS
on the Status of Geography in
North Carolina**

November 19, 1989

Submitted by:
W. Frank Ainsley
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Wilmington, N.C. 28403

Introduction

With a population of 6.5 million, the state of North Carolina is home to many kinds of educational institutions and private or public agencies and organizations which are closely linked to the discipline of geography. This report is based on the results of a questionnaire sent to 26 educational institutions in the state, and on conversations with geographers around North Carolina, and on general observations made by the state representative during various interactions with public school teachers and the Social Studies component in the Department of Public Instruction.

Twenty-six questionnaires were mailed to all of the institutions of higher education in North Carolina which indicated that at least one geography course was currently being taught. Sixteen questionnaires were completed and returned.

Geography in North Carolina's Universities and Colleges

In the large state universities with larger departments (from 6 to 19 faculty members), the enrollments in all geography classes remain at high levels (from 800 students per year to over 4,000). These institutions— UNC—Charlotte, East Carolina, UNC—Chapel Hill, UNC—Greensboro, and Appalachian State— have naturally generated much of the published academic research and funded grant proposals in the state. The number of undergraduate geography majors at these schools ranges from about 15 to over 35. Graduate programs remain strong at UNC—Chapel Hill (43 students), East Carolina (40–50 students), UNC—Charlotte (29 students), and Appalachian State (18 students).

In the medium-sized state universities, such as UNC—Wilmington, Western Carolina, and Pembroke State, enrollments in all geography courses are about 700, and the number of undergraduate majors is in the range of 10 to 15. Many non-majors are enrolled in the geography courses, which continue to be desired by other academic departments. Geography is healthy and growing at these institutions and two to four faculty members have been able to accomplish an impressive amount of research and service to the discipline.

Several smaller schools responded to the questionnaire, including Elon, Meredith, N.C. A & T, Lenoir—Rhyne, and N.C. Wesleyan. These schools have only one full or part-time geographer, and their feeling is sometimes one of isolation or distance from the mainstream of the discipline. These smaller four-year schools offer 2 to 5 service courses per year with total enrollments of 80 to about 300 per year.

Like the smaller four-year schools, there are several community colleges which offer some geography service courses. Three of these responded to the questionnaire—Isothermal, Central Piedmont, and Coastal Carolina. With only one faculty member each, Coastal Carolina and Isothermal offer 3 courses per year with total enrollments of 40 to 50. Central Piedmont has two full-time faculty members who teach 2 courses per year (Physical and World Regional) with an impressive yearly enrollment of 500 to 600.

The feeling among most of North Carolina's academic geographers is that our lower-level courses in physical geography, human geography, and regional geography are well-integrated into Basic Studies at their respective institutions and that we gain a great deal of exposure and high enrollments through offering these "service" courses. Other feelings stated were that there is a general recognition among the population of the state about the need for "trained geographers" in the community, and that more emphasis is being placed on environmental issues, geography's role in planning, and G.I.S. education.

Geography in Non-Academic Fields

In the non-academic fields, there are a number of geographers working in various governmental planning agencies or with private businesses and industries in the state. They usually are connected to the mainstream of geography only through the ties that they have with their alma mater. Sometimes one of our "planner-geographers" or "business-geographers" will show up at a state meeting, but there is little contact with this group on a regular basis. These geographers out there in the "real world" are good resource people and possible sources of employment for many of our increasing number of "applied geography" majors.

The North Carolina Geographic Alliance

One of the comments received stated that geography is "in surprisingly good shape" and that "geography is well in place in the public school curriculum." Much of the credit for this rise in the visibility of geography as a discipline must go to the work of the North Carolina Geographic Alliance. For the past two years the Alliance has been generously funded by grants from the National Geographic Society (\$ 50,000 per year), and by matching monies appropriated by the North Carolina General Assembly (also \$50,000 per year). Citicorp provided the Alliance with another \$12,000 grant which was used to purchase desktop publishing equipment. The plan is to use this equipment to produce a statewide Geographic Alliance Newsletter.

During the summers of 1988 and 1989, the N.C. Geographic Alliance held two 2-week Summer Geography Institutes at East Carolina and Appalachian respectively. About 40 teachers attended each of these institutes and in turn were expected to present two 1-day workshops in their home school districts during the year following the institute. In addition, over 200 teachers around the state participated in a series of two-day geography workshops presented in each of North Carolina's eight educational regions. Many of the state's professional geographers served as area specialists at these institutes and workshops, and everyone involved is having a direct and positive impact on the quality of geography instruction in North Carolina.

Summary

Overall, the outlook for geography in North Carolina is very promising, with an active and growing organization of people at all levels of education who are committed to ending geographic illiteracy among our population. The general feeling in North Carolina is that geography is on the rise, both in institutions of higher education, and in the public schools system. Enrollments in geography classes at most universities and colleges is at an all-time high. Interest is also great among public school teachers at all levels, and the public school systems are asking for and utilizing geographic materials and workshops which are provided by professional geographers from the state's universities and colleges. For the past several years, professional geographers have presented an average of 10 to 12 different geography workshops at the North Carolina State Social Studies Convention. One of the really strong points about geography in North Carolina is our excellent organization in which liaison geographers work closely with the Social Studies Coordinators in each of the state's eight regional education districts.