

NORTH CAROLINA GEOGRAPHICAL Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 1

November, 1971

FROM THE
CHAIRMAN

ABOUT THE NCGS

Dear Professors and Teachers of Geography:

As chairman of the steering committee, I wish to extend to all of you an opportunity to become affiliated with the North Carolina Geographical Society.

This new society met for the first time during the Spring of 1971 in Southern Pines. We had more than fifty interested individuals present. Purposes of the organization include the promotion of geographic education of all levels, the promotion of job opportunities in the field of geography, and the acquisition of first-hand knowledge regarding the geography of North Carolina.

Committee meetings will be held soon to set forth more specifically the activities and goals of the organization. We hope to have an annual meeting in the spring, and we will notify you of the place and date.

We would appreciate your reaction to the establishment of this organization. Please write your reactions and comments to Dr. Alfred W. Stuart, Editor of the Newsletter. Please contact either Dr. Stuart or me if you wish to become affiliated with the NCGS.

Cordially yours,

Dr. Robert E. Cramer, Chairman
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The North Carolina Geographical Society was formed at a meeting of interested persons in Southern Pines in March, 1971. At that meeting a committee was selected to propose an organizational structure of the society. Further discussions will occur and some decisions may be made in Lexington, Ky., at the time of the annual convention of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers, November 21-23, 1971. Anyone interested in the NCGS is invited to attend. Time and place of the Lexington meeting will be announced. Results of the Lexington discussions will be communicated to those interested but unable to attend.

NEWS from GEOGRAPHERS and
GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENTS in North Carolina

Daniel Ford, Livingstone College, published a paper, "The Poultry Processing Industry in N. C.: Some Selected Geographical Aspects," in the Virginia Geographer, Fall-Winter, 1970.

Several recreational studies are under way at Appalachian State. One is about the southern mountain ski industry by Leland Nicholls.

The department at East Carolina is preparing a monograph on eastern North Carolina.

Professional activities of the UNC-Chapel Hill department include Barry Moriarty's direction of the Institute in Industrial Development. The institute is conducting a Basic Industrial Development Council. One of the speakers will be Dick Lonsdale, who this year took over the

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GEOGRAPHY IN NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGES

A principal reason for the formation of the NCGS is the conviction that, while geography is a viable and relevant subject, it is not properly represented in the academic programs of the state's various institutions. As a prelude to corrective efforts, it is necessary to assess the situation as it exists today. Toward this end a questionnaire was sent to all N.C. colleges listed in the 1970-71 Directory of College Geography of the U.S. Forty of the 46 listed schools responded, and results are tabulated in the table on Page 3. It is hoped that the information listed is of value to anyone interested in taking work in geography, especially teacher certification candidates.

Although a few institutions are unintentionally not represented, the sample probably gives a reasonably valid picture of the role of Geography in N.C. institutions of higher education. It is possible to draw several conclusions from the data:

(1) In at least six of the public senior institutions geography is a major subject area. At those six, more than 4,200 students were enrolled in courses in Fall 1971, and 365 undergraduates were majoring in geography. Another 85 students were working on graduate degrees or taking graduate courses in geography. These institutions show that students respond favorably when a full geography program is available. For example, the undergraduate major at UNCC was begun only in 1968, and yet by Fall 1971 there were 60 majors in Geography (not including the graduation of 17 majors in June).

(2) Geography is generally under-represented in all private institutions as well as in some public ones. Of the responding private institutions, only Elon and Atlantic Christian Colleges reported as much as a minor in geography. All the rest indicate offerings of only one or several service courses.

(3) The greatest area of under-representation is in the two-year colleges, public and private. Gaston College probably has the largest program in geography among the state's 15 public community colleges. The lack of geography is particularly important because of the growing trend for many students to do the first half of a baccalaureate program at a two-year college before transferring to a senior college. The result is that the student misses geography altogether or is exposed to it too late to have a realistic opportunity to take more than one or two courses.

Given the already formulated priorities of the senior institutions and, particularly, the general fiscal crisis faced by the private units, it will be difficult, at least over the short run, to correct the imbalance of geography offerings in the four-year colleges and universities. The major problem, and one possibly more amenable to solution, is the two-year college situation, especially the public community colleges. The under-developed status of geography in N.C. curricula, primary or secondary, college or university, public or private, is a self-feeding circle that must be broken at some point. An action program aimed at both the community college and the high school may be the place for the NCGS to begin its efforts.

As most of you know, the Commission on College Geography of the AAG recently published a thorough study of the status of geography in the two-year colleges. The NCGS could build upon that effort and coordinate with the AAG's Consulting Service that is now being formed. It appears that the AAG and its Consulting Service will take an active and continuing interest in the two-year college situation. In a similar vein, the High School Geography project has generated materials that are now available commercially and which offer a vehicle for improving the quality of geographic education at the secondary level.

North Carolina Geographical

Newsletter

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GEOGRAPHY IN NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGES, FALL 1971

A. SENIOR INSTITUTIONS

(1) Undergraduate major and graduate degrees

	Highest Degree offered in Geography	Summer Session	Enrollment in Geography		Grad.	
			Fall 71	Majors	Students	
Appalachian State University	M.A.	yes	383	41	3	
East Carolina University	M.A. & M.A.Ed.	yes	1435	110	22	
UNC-Charlotte	M.Ed.	yes	930	60	5	
UNC-Chapel Hill	Ph.d.	yes	1004	33	53	
UNC-Greensboro	B.A.	yes	272	6	0	
Western Carolina University	M.S. Ed.	yes	225	15	2	
			4249	365	85	

(2) Minor or Service Courses only

	Public or Private	Enrollment in Geography	
		Summer Session	Fall 71
Atlantic Christian College	Pr.	yes	115
Belmont Abbey College	Pr.	--	N.A.
Campbell College	Pr.	yes	180
Davidson College	Pr.	Usually	55
Duke University	Pr.	--	80
Elon College	Pr.	--	380
Fayetteville State University	Pub.	yes	100
Greensboro College	Pr.	yes	30
Guilford College	Pr.	yes	20
High Point College	Pr.	yes	137
Lenoir Rhyne College	Pr.	yes	150
Livingstone College	Pr.	yes	87
Meredith College	Pr.	--	90
Methodist College	Pr.	yes	50
N.C. State University	Pub.	no	124
Sacred Heart College	Pr.	no	35
Wake Forest University	Pr.	yes	34
Winston Salem State University	Pub.	--	N.A.

B. TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

(1) Public Community Colleges

Caldwell	yes	0
Davidson Co.	yes	36
Gaston	yes	102
Isothermal	yes	14

(2) Private Junior Colleges

Chowan	--	65
Lees-McRae	yes	30

Source: Questionnaire sent to all institutions reported as offering geography in the 1970-71 Directory of College Geography of the U.S.

MEETINGS

The Southeastern Division, AAG, will meet at the Phoenix Hotel, Lexington, Ky., November 21-24, 1971. Local arrangements are by the Department of Geography, University of Kentucky. Program chairman is Sid Jumper, University of Tennessee.

The National Council for Geographic Education is holding its national convention at the Atlanta Marriott Hotel, November 25-27, 1971. Sessions will be heavily oriented toward presentation of, involvement with, and discussion of learner materials for pre-collegiate and college students. Theme of the meeting will be "The Issues of our Time: A Community Perspective." Dean Rusk will deliver the banquet address on "Power and Peace." More information may be obtained from the NCGE offices, Room 1226, 111 West Washington St., Chicago, Ill. 60602.

NEWS from GEOGRAPHERS and
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chairmanship of the Department of Geography at the University of Nebraska.

Jim Clay and Doug Orr, co-editors, have about finished delivering manuscript and maps for UNC-Charlotte's Metrolina Atlas. The Atlas, to be published by UNC Press in April, 1972, will contain about 100 four-color plates accompanied by analytical text. It is a multi-disciplinary study of the twelve-county region surrounding Charlotte. The co-editors will be on a special atlas panel that will be part of the program at Lexington.

THE FUTURE

What would you like to see in the future issues of the NCGS Newsletter? Send news items or suggestions to the editor. The Newsletter, like the NCGS will be useful only to the extent that you make it so.

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