



Department of Geography, Government, and History

Morehead State University, Kentucky

On the web at

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Greetings from the Chair

When I became Department Chair four years ago, I considered myself fortunate to be surrounded by talented, capable, energetic faculty whose top priority was students and who had an exciting vision for the future of the department. A series of retirements and career moves had created a very "young" department that contained only three tenured faculty. Six of those faculty (including myself) have since been tenured and promoted and we have succeeded in shaping the department to our vision, academic goals, and ideals. I am still fortunate to be surrounded by such a talented group, and this year it includes two new professors. Verdie Craig joins the Geography faculty after a year of fixed term service, and Christopher Diaz replaces Latin Americanist Linda Stevenson, who took a job in Pennsylvania. We are also fortunate to have Dr. Timothy Holder as a visiting Assistant Professor of History. Read more about new faculty on page 3.

With a new Dean of the Caudill College of Humanities, the department has been able to add an additional minor program – Legal Studies – which serves as an ideal minor for the Pre-Law program. In addition, we support the International Studies and the Women's Studies Minors, and are currently developing a new Minor in Appalachian Studies. We have also begun work on a collaborative Master's of Public History degree program which we hope to have in place by next fall. These curricular options enhance the marketability of our students as they enter the work force and give those entering graduate or professional programs a broader academic experience.

Like the rest of the country, Kentucky is laboring under budget problems that have made doing our job harder. Because higher education must continually do more to meet the needs of its students, we must do more with less money. Despite that, with strategic planning and the Dean's assistance, GGH has kept pace with the University's technology initiatives. We now have a wonderful multi-media classroom in Rader 112 and another in Rader 104. Faculty and students have access to several multi-media carts that can be wheeled from room-to-room. With help from the Provost we acquired some wonderful new maps for the walls of the classrooms. Just think how much easier those map quizzes will be now! If you would like to contribute to the department, or to MSU through its foundation, a form is provided in this issue.

We sincerely hope you enjoy this first GGH Newsletter! We plan to make it a semi-annual publication available by mail, e-mail, and at our website. This edition contains news about current faculty and students, but for future editions – we need your help. Please take a few moments drop us a note so we can include YOU and your classmates in future editions. Let us know what you are doing and include a photo if you like. We'd love to hear from you. Come visit us. E-mail us. Call us.

--Yvonne Baldwin



Welcome to the Department of Geography, Government, and History

Our theme is "Time, Place, and Power," and we offer students exciting programs of study that enable them to better understand the social, political, economic, and geographic world they inhabit. Located in the department are the following degree programs:

Geography Major and Minor Government Major and Minor History Major and Minor
Area of Concentration in Social Studies (for 8-12 teacher certification)
Paralegal Studies Major Legal Studies Minor

The Pre-Law program is also housed in this department; however it is not a degree program. Students who plan to attend law school choose an academic major like Government or History, or any other field in which they have an interest. Some Pre-Law students take the Legal Studies Minor. The department also supports the Master of Arts in Teaching in Social Studies, and the M.A. in Secondary Education, Social Studies, although it does not offer an M.A. in any of the disciplines housed in the unit.

Our website provides information on our faculty, our degree programs, and our courses, and offers links to various types of career information. We welcome your email inquiries and would be happy to talk with you about our programs. The office phone is (606) 783-2655. We are located in Rader 350, and office hours are 8 to 4:30 daily.

Morehead State Geographical Society



Newly elected MSGS officers. Back row, from left: Tori Koch, Treasurer; Adam Bear, Secretary; and Hobart Meek, Publicity Director. Front row, from left: Lisa Brinley, Vice President; Jason Holcomb, Faculty Advisor; and Michael Webb, President.

Hello, we are the newly formed Morehead State Geographical Society. Our group hopes to enhance our academic experience here at Morehead State University by promoting interest in geography, offering social activities, and pursuing academic activities related to geography. Through these efforts, the society seeks to enhance the visibility of geography as a discipline at Morehead State University.

On Oct. 20th, we had our first group meeting in the form of a house warming party for Dr. Jason Holcomb. We grilled out, discussed future plans and hopes for the club and laid the ground work for future activities that will attract more members and support for MSGS.

All majors and anyone interested in geography are welcome to join MSGS. It will be a great opportunity to enhance your academic career while providing social activities that both entertain and educate.



Social Studies Education

Our new HIS 451/651 is up and running. Paired with HIS 499D/699D, this course aims to help our department's education majors master all of the more salient social studies core content. HIS 451/651 meets two nights a week for the first eight weeks of the fall semester. Ten undergraduates and five MAT students currently are braving the un-chartered waters. A seminar format is employed, so we get to use the big executive tables and swanky chairs in RA 102.

I am also happy to report that four GGH professors have applied for Professors-in-the Schools grants for the 2003-2004 academic year. Lindsey Back applied to collaborate with Melanie Young at Bath County HS; fellow political scientist Greg Goldey wishes to work with Michelle Gabbard at the Bath County MS. As for our historians, Tim Holder has applied to teach with Mark Justin Moore at Fleming County HS, while Jeff Dennis hopes to serve again alongside Dave Gibson at Magoffin County HS.

GGH has nine student teachers in social studies this semester, (I believe that leads all secondary disciplines). Placements include Ashland, Maysville, Flemingsburg, Mt. Sterling, Greenup, Owingsville, Olive Hill, and West Liberty. So far, all seem pleased with their cooperating teacher and classroom of the professional semester.

Here are updates for five recent social studies graduates: **Justin Moore** is now teaching the social studies survey at Fleming County HS. A freshman course common in Kentucky, it includes six weeks each of geography, civics, and economics. Last year, Justin was deep in the land of the midnight sun; he tells us that the Aleutian school district he worked in was larger than the state of Ohio.

Kevin Letcher currently is in his second year of placement at Mt. Sterling. He teaches psychology and world civilization, and serves as golf coach for Montgomery County HS. Kevin is very popular and well respected among students and colleagues.

Last September, fellow 2002 graduate, **Jennifer Bowling**, became the proud mother of a baby boy. After staying home for a year, she now is teaching social studies at Breathitt County High School, near her home in Jackson.

2003 alum **Michelle Gabbard** has a position teaching eighth-grade government in Owingsville. Last season's Social Studies Student of the Year, Michelle's exemplary work ethic and caring demeanor should prove of great benefit to her students. Fellow prize-winner, **Amy Fox**, recently accepted a position at Northmount HS, just north of Dayton, Ohio. Amy was very highly sought after by several school districts. Next issue: Jennifer Smallwood, Jonathan (Aaron) Baldwin, Eddy Bushelman, Kristin Kauffman, and Joanne Blair.

--Jeff Dennis

Left: Muddy and tired after a long day in the field, members of Dr. Gary O'Dell's speleology class pose at the entrance of a cave in southeastern Kentucky.

New Faces



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GGH and the Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy (IRAPP) have added several new faculty during the last three years. All bring considerable talent and exciting research programs to our department.

Afolabi A. Adedibu (GGH), a visiting Professor in Geography from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Nigeria, is an MSU alum from the class of 1973. Afolabi, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida in 1977, specializes in urban and regional planning and was Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences at LAUTECH prior to his Kentucky visit. He enjoys playing squash and various other sporting activities. Afolabi is soliciting donations of textbooks, new or used, that can be used in the schools in his native Nigeria.

Hollie R. Barcus (IRAPP), Assistant Professor of Geography, received her doctorate in geography from Kansas State University in 2001 and joined the Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy at Morehead State University the same year. Dr. Barcus teaches courses in the Department of Geography, Government, and History including Fundamentals of Geography and Economic Geography. In IRAPP, she teaches Computer Techniques in Regional Analysis and a Seminar titled Population and Development Issues in Appalachia. She has also taught World Regional Geography and Advanced Geographic Information Systems at Kansas State. Her research interests include migration and population change in rural areas, GIS, and rural housing. Her work has been published in *Applied Geographic Studies* and *Housing Policy Debate*.

Royal Berglee (GGH) is currently an Assistant Professor of Geography at Morehead State University. Originally from the high plains of northeastern Montana, he received undergraduate and masters degrees from the University of North Dakota. Before receiving his undergraduate degree he worked in the oil industry. He received his doctorate in geography from Indiana State University with interests in industrial development and political geography. Dr. Berglee has also taught at Central Michigan University at Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, and Little Hoop Community College at Fort Totten, North Dakota.

Zachary Bortolot (IRAPP) joined MSU in August as an Assistant Professor of Geography. Zachary received an Sc.B. in geology from Brown University, an M.Sc. in forestry from the University of British Columbia, and is in the process of completing his Ph.D. in forestry at Virginia Tech. He is currently involved in three types of research: developing a technique for rapidly determining the leaf chemistry of plants, designing computer vision techniques for automatically interpreting air photos, and creating a stand alone GIS/image processing system for using air photos and satellite images to determine how much carbon dioxide trees in populated areas remove from the atmosphere. This semester, Zachary is teaching a section of physical geography and a course on computer techniques that are useful in regional analysis.

Verdie Craig (GGH), who previously taught courses for the department as Instructor of Geography, was recently hired as Assistant Professor of Geography. A Kentucky native, she received her B.A. from the University of Kentucky in education and then taught third grade in Hoboken, New Jersey before attending Rutgers University for her masters and doctoral work. During her graduate career at Rutgers, she served as founding coordinator of the Community Health & Environmental Coalition of New Brunswick, New Jersey. Verdie's dissertation is on tobacco grower livelihoods in Kentucky, and she plans to study rural food security next. Her research interests include participatory rural development, Mexico, Appalachia, natural resource-based economies, and local food systems. Her passions include writing poetry, motorcycles, three dogs and a cat, and a handsome fellow named Ted.

Jeff Dennis (GGH), came to MSU in August 2001. An Assistant Professor of History, he serves our department as coordinator for secondary social studies education. Jeff completed B.A. and M.A. degrees at Andrews University during the 1980s. Thereafter, he taught three years at a private academy in Centerville, Ohio. During the 1990s, Jeff undertook another M.A. and then the Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame. His dissertation studies how the southern elite of the American Revolution personally interacted with and were influenced by Native Americans. During graduate school, Jeff taught community college near his hometown of Dowagiac, Michigan. Beyond social studies, he enjoys hiking, jogging, piano, science, and mathematics.

Christopher Diaz (GGH), Assistant Professor of Government, earned his B.A. in government at the University of Texas at Austin in 1993, and his Ph.D. in political science at Texas A&M University in 2001. He came to Morehead State from Prairie View A&M University, where he was an Assistant Professor of Political Science. As a student of comparative politics, his research interests currently center around how legislative politics in Latin America has changed with the growth of democracy in the region, with a particular emphasis on how democratization has affected parties in legislatures as well as legislative campaigns and elections. To this end, he has conducted field research in the congresses of both Mexico and Costa Rica.

Dr. Timothy S. Hare (IRAPP), visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, earned an M.A. in economic anthropology at the the University of Iowa and a Ph.D. in anthropology at the University at Albany. Hare has directed several archaeological

New Faces continued

projects in Mexico aimed at reconstructing the transformation of political and economic systems in ancient Aztec and Maya societies. He has most recently co-directed archaeological investigations at the ancient city of Mayapan in Mexico. In addition, he is developing software tools to facilitate the quantitative analysis and comparison of multivariate spatial distributions. His current research interests include political economy, health care, epidemiology, quantitative geography, and social landscapes. Professor Hare's prior work has appeared in *Latin American Antiquity* and *Anthropos*. Hare lives in Morehead with his wife and three children.

Jason Holcomb (GGH), Assistant Professor of Geography, came to MSU in 2000 from Kansas State University, where he completed his Ph.D. and M.A. Jason began his college career as a journalism major at the University of Kansas, but graduated with a B.A. in geography. In addition to introductory courses, his teaching interests are currently focused on land use, cultural geography, and the United States and Canada. His research has included urban to rural migration in Texas, Mexico-U.S. migration, and land use issues, with a regional focus on the western United States. Outside of the classroom Jason enjoys traveling, playing basketball, learning the guitar, and harvesting wheat. His dream destinations are Spain, Argentina, and Mongolia.

Christine McMichael (IRAPP), Assistant Professor of Geography, is a candidate in the Joint Doctoral Program in Geography between San Diego State University and the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her dissertation examines the impacts of fire on streamflow dynamics in semi-arid shrublands using a combination of remote sensing and hydrologic modeling. Funding support for her dissertation research was provided by NASA, NSF, and Phi Beta Kappa. Her current research interests include using remote sensing and environmental modeling to investigate the impacts of human and natural disturbances on ecosystem and watershed processes. She has presented papers at a variety of regional and national conferences and has published papers in the *International Journal of Remote Sensing*. She teaches both IRAPP and geography courses including Seminar in Regional Analysis, Physical Geography and Remote Sensing. Christine resides in Morehead with her husband, Casey.

Gary O'Dell (GGH) joined the department as Assistant Professor of Geography in 2001 and received his Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Kentucky in 2003, where he was formerly a part-time instructor. A long-term Kentucky resident, Gary was employed by the Division of Water, Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection for eleven years before coming to Morehead. His research interests include rural development, particularly as concerns water supply issues; historical geography focusing upon the early Kentucky industries of nitrate mining and gunpowder manufacture; and a primary research agenda concerning karst landscapes and the development of cavern systems. Gary has developed a close research relationship with Carter Caves State Park which is providing a number of GGH students with opportunities to pursue independent studies at the park, and has recently helped establish a student cave exploration club at MSU, for which he serves as faculty advisor.

GGH students intern in Washington DC

Three students from GGH recently took advantage of Governor Patton's \$3,000 incentive for interning through the Washington Center.

Steve Bartley is currently a senior at MSU majoring in government and minoring in business administration. Steve is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha and other honor societies and is active in civic activities. He interned in the spring of 2003 with the United Nations Association, a nonprofit organization promoting the activities of the United Nations. The Association constantly keeps the U.S. government and American citizens informed and involved with the UN on important world issues. Steve was a Program Assistant who was responsible for contributing to activity planning, reporting on events such as Congressional hearings and academic presentations related to the UN. He published an article in the organization's newsletter--the UN Vision. After graduation Steve hopes to return to Washington to become a fellow for a year with the Population Institute and then attend graduate school or law school.

Tashena Nobrega is currently a senior at MSU majoring in government, Spanish and philosophy. She is involved in Theta Alpha Phi, various honor organizations, the Newman Center, and a growing campus chapter of Amnesty International. She interned in the summer of 2003 with Youth Ventures which empowers young people to create and launch their own enterprises and thus encourage the youth to take greater responsibility for their lives and communities. As an intern Tashena was responsible for developing a panel to critique presentations from young people who wish to join Youth Venture. She assisted prospective teams in refining their entrepreneurial ideas, budgets, and presentations, while at the same time she was the facilitator during panel presentations. She plans to pursue a career in international human rights law and teach at the college level.

Hollie Rayburn is currently a senior at MSU majoring in government and sociology. She is a member of the Women's Information Network, Kentucky Commission on Women and Pi Sigma Alpha. She interned with Choice USA which is a nonprofit organization working on reproductive rights issues with a focus on youth during their high school and college years. The organization believes that legal reproductive health services must be available to everyone. As intern, Hollie had responsibilities for research and dissemination of information. Hollie plans to attend graduate school or study law.

*Hey alumni! Get in touch!
We would love to find out
what you have been doing!*

Faculty notes

Michael Hail

Mike Hail will be presenting a paper titled "From Internal Improvements to Earmarks: A Comparative Analysis of Intergovernmental Policymaking and State Economic Development Policy," to a State Policy panel at the upcoming Southern Political Science Association meeting. This summer, he completed a grant peer review for HUD's Office of University Partnerships. During 2003-04, Mike is serving as *Journal of Politics* peer reviewer for manuscripts on intergovernmental relations and federalism. He is also working on a chapter for a methodology book entitled "The History of the Methodological Uses of Power in Political Science and the Conceptual Application of Power in the Study of Federalism." Hail was just elected chairman of the MSU University service committee, and is staying busy administering and writing lots of grants.

William Green

This past summer, William Green taught courses in German Culture and European Politics in the Kentucky Institute for International Studies Bregenz, Austria program. While he was in Europe, he also taught GOVT 330: Parliamentary Democracies online from Bregenz, Paris, London, and Cologne. This fall, he has worked to promote and develop Canadian studies at MSU and throughout the state. Approval of the International Studies Minor Canadian Studies Emphasis curriculum proposal allows MSU students to take courses on Canada from Canadian Studies Online Program (CSOP) from MSU, EKV, WKU, UK, and Georgetown College faculty. Green's fourth Canadian Studies Program Enhancement Grant for \$6,000 will support the development of Summer 2004 courses by CSOP faculty and the recruitment of Kentucky faculty to teach Canadian Studies online courses. For the eighth time, he chaired the annual meeting of the Kentucky Canadian Studies Roundtable which this year was held at the University of Kentucky and attended by 30 Kentucky faculty, graduate students, and Canadian Parliament interns. At his initiative, three MSU students – Sarah Boike, Kamilia Lawson, and Crystal Pryor – will be applying to participate in the Canadian Parliament Internship Program in the Summer 2004. Later this year, he will add two essays on the political question doctrine and on *Clinton v. Jones* (the case that led to the most recent presidential impeachment and trial) to the four on Chief Justice Fred Vinson, executive orders, *FCC v. Pacifica Foundation*, and *New York v. Ferber* which he has already written for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Civil Liberties in America*.

Congratulations to Tom Kiffmeyer, who was just awarded tenure!

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Phi Alpha Theta

History's honorary society, Phi Alpha Theta, is open to **any** student with an overall GPA of 3.0 who has completed at least 12 hours of history with a minimum 3.1 GPA in these courses. A one-time initiation fee of \$50.00 includes a year of *The Historian*, the society's journal. Though this is an academic organization that promotes quality work within the discipline, MSU's Rho Eta chapter also fosters fellowship and provides student support while it encourages students in their scholarly pursuits.

Through "movie nights," field trips, student-centered conferences, and guest speakers, PAT attempts to expand upon the classroom experience. Last year, for example, a group traveled to a seminar at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort on the history of political cartoons and their place in the nation's political dialog. They then toured the Center's display of original political cartoon sketches published by the Louisville *Courier-Journal* in the mid-to-late 20th century. PAT has sponsored debates on national issues, hosted the Kentucky Regional History Conference last April, and visited state historic sites. Several field trips are planned, including a visit to Cincinnati's Museum Center that houses that city's historical society, and a possible summer 2004 trip to Chicago. The society and GGH brought Ken Williams to campus, editor of the Kentucky Historical Society's *Register*.

We are small but quite active. Interested students should contact Dr. Tom Kiffmeyer, 309 Rader Hall, (606) 783-5162.

Alumni notes

...hey, what are YOU doing?

Tom Doty, a history major who graduated in May 2003, has just published an article in Issue 35 (Winter) of the mass market magazine, *Films of the Golden Age*. Tom's article examines the film **BIG HOUSE, USA**, in which he makes a case for its worthiness as a classic of the crime genre and also points out that the film was the first depiction of a sociopathic personality. The film also showcases an early role for coalminer turned actor Charles Bronson and includes a rare sympathetic role by Lon Chaney Jr., who is usually only recalled as a horror film actor. According to Tom, **BIG HOUSE** also gives a little insight into the investigatory techniques of the F.B.I. and offers an upfront depiction of their methods in utilizing informants. The magazine is published quarterly and is available through such outlets as Borders, JoBeths, and Barnes & Noble booksellers. The magazine can also be ordered online at www.filmsofthegoldenage.com.

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