

**Kentucky State Report, SEDAAG Steering Committee Meeting
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In an attempt to gauge the state of Geography in Kentucky, surveys were sent to 8 State Universities, 16 private colleges, and 14 members of the State's community and technical college system. As might be expected, Geography's presence at this range of institutions varies dramatically, from no presence to a doctoral program. As might be expected, statistical enumerations of those myriad programs (and non programs) are hard, if not impossible, to come by in any consistent fashion.

There are no bona fide Geography departments among the State's private colleges. Geography courses (usually one or two a year) generally are taught under departmental auspices of some ancillary social and behavioral science, and women seem to predominate over men in student numbers, perhaps because of the role of geography in State elementary and secondary social studies certification requirements.

The same pattern generally prevails within the Community College System, the notable exception being Lexington Community College (LCC). Under the leadership of Val Norman LCC last year offered 5 different geography courses in 51 sections and reached 1530 students. LCC boasts 3 full time geographers and 2 part time instructors and would seem to rival many four-year institutions in its undergraduate commitment to the discipline.

Geography's strongest presence in Kentucky is in the State Universities. Among that group, survey responses ranged from "about the same as last year" to extensive lists of notable departmental achievements and, in one case, threats to continued program existence. Points to note with regard to the State Universities, in summary, include:

- Undergraduate student enrollments in the Geography and Geology Department at Western Kentucky University totaled 3,782 (1,955 of which were women); graduate student enrollments totaled 90 (38 of which were women). The department has 147 u/g majors (m/f ratio: 64/83) and 14 master's degree students (10/4), many of whom are active in professional meetings. Their graduates are placed mostly as hydrogeologists/resource management personnel, with city and regional planning ranking second. The Department is hiring one new faculty member for next year. The Department ranks at the top in comparison with its 15 most successful benchmark institutions. Their biggest concern is a decrease in faculty numbers (4 positions lost in 3 years). Christopher Groves received the University's outstanding research award.

- The University of Kentucky continues to expand, in part through successful internal competition for institutional investment through the State/University partnership known as the Research Challenge Trust Fund. Three new faculty members were added this year (Jonathan Phillips, Adrian Smith, Anna Secor). One of those hires (Phillips) represents a decision to develop Physical Geography (through an Earth Surface Systems focus) in the program. Toward that end, a search is currently underway for another physical geographer (for Fall 2001), and the department will be hiring again in that area for Fall 2002. John Pickles received the University Research Professor Award.
- The University of Louisville's Department of Geography and Geosciences enrolled over 1,000 undergraduates last year. The Department has 61 majors (29/32), who are generally employed after graduation in both the public and private sector, especially in GIS positions. Two new faculty members were added in 1999-2000 (Keith Mountain and Darren Scott). The Department increasingly finds itself at the center of burgeoning University appreciation of and need for GIS expertise, as well as the particular theoretical and empirical foci of geographical scholarship *per se*. Jafar Hadizadeh won a Metroversity Instructional Award for his Societies and Environments curriculum proposal.
- Morehead State's Department of Geography, Government, and History offers 32 u/g courses/year and has 14 majors (9/5). They have one new faculty member (Jason Holcomb) and two open searches currently. The Department's biggest concern *vis a vis* its Geography component is the present Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education review prompted by too few undergraduate degrees awarded (according to present Council guidelines).
- Eastern Kentucky University's Department of Geography and Planning apparently has a new chair (Bruce E. Davis).