

North Carolina 2000 State Report
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The overall health of higher-education geography in North Carolina continues to mirror the state's economy – prosperity and growth. In 1998-1999, 71 full-time and 25 part-time professors taught 395 undergraduate sections and 77 graduate course sections with 13,803 undergraduates and 656 graduate student enrollments. Geography majors included 543 undergraduates, 120 masters and 26 PhD students. Most geography departments reported a healthy job market for their students in planning, GIS, cartography, and environmental sciences (especially water resources and pollution).

Geography continued to effectively lobby for new and replacement faculty positions. New faculty were hired at Appalachian State (Shannon Mann, GIS Lab Director and Jana Carp, adjunct), East Carolina U. (Ron Mitchelson, dept. head), UNC Charlotte (Heather Smith), UNC Greensboro (Elisabeth Nelson and Jim Nelson, GIS Lab Director), and UNC Wilmington (two: climatology and geomorphology), and UNC Chapel Hill (two new tenure-track positions).

The five geography graduate programs – ASU, ECU, UNC Chapel Hill (which offers the only PhD program), UNC Charlotte, and UNC Greensboro – remain highly productive. Other undergraduate geography programs include NC Central Univ., UNC Wilmington, and Western Carolina Univ. Geography faculty are also active at Barton College, Duke, Elon College, and Isothermal Community College.

Last year's report indicated concerns at both UNC, Pembroke and Western Carolina Univ. about possible declines through attrition or the outright elimination of programs. The news has been somewhat mixed. At UNC-P, the Geology and Geography Dept. was merged into the Dept. of Chemistry and Physics (effective August 1999), although Tom Ross indicates the restructuring was a friendly merger with no loss of faculty or resources. At WCU, requirements of graduating 20 majors every two years threatens small academic programs like geography (which has only two full-time faculty). According to Jeff Neff, phased retirements have also hurt geography although things have picked up with and increase in new majors and full enrollments in all courses.

Highlights of 1998-99 included Neal Lineback's (ASU) receipt of the *Geography in Media Award* from the National Council for Geographic Education. At ECU, Ron Mitchelson was appointed chair of the geography program (welcome back to the South, Ron!) while Deborah Dixon was named Book Review Editor of the *Annals of the AAG*. At UNC Chapel Hill the faculty have acquired several million dollars worth of research grants (Larry Band, Altha Cravey, Will Gesler, Aaron Moody, and Steve Walsh). Kudos also to the students at Chapel Hill who won best paper awards for the remote sensing, political geography, and GIS specialty groups at the AAG Honolulu meetings, and the *Merle Prunty Undergraduate Award* and the best MA student paper award at the SEDAAG Memphis meeting.

At UNC Charlotte, Wayne Walcott was named Associate Provost while Owen Furuseth stepped into Wayne's shoes as department chair. Owen also received the *Nations Bank Teaching Excellence Award* and the *SEDAAG Research Honors Award* – clearly, a man for all seasons! At UNC Pembroke, Thomas Ross received the *Adolph Dial Award* for

scholarly creative works. Finally, faculty have published over one hundred scholarly works and taught hundreds of geography course sections that provide the essential foundations upon which the continued intellectual growth of geography in North Carolina is based.