

## SEDAAG 2004 State Report

### KENTUCKY

The following institutions participated in the annual survey of the status of geography in Kentucky

Pikeville College  
Maysville Community & Technical College  
University of Louisville (UoL)  
University of Kentucky (UK)  
Northern Kentucky University (NKU)  
Morehead State University  
Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)  
Kentucky Christian College  
Western Kentucky University (WKU)

#### A. Geography degrees awarded:

Kentucky Christian College only teaches one geography course per year, taught by an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Social Sciences, and has no geography students currently.

	Pikeville	Maysville	UoL	UK	NKU	Morehead	EKU	WKU
No degree	X	X						
Undergraduate			X	X	X	X	X	X
Masters				X				X
Doctoral				X				

#### B. Geography courses and number of students

1. Number of geography courses/sections offered in the academic year 2003-2004

	Pikeville	Maysville	UoL	UK	NKU	Morehead	EKU	WKU
Undergraduate courses/sections	2	1	58	76	10	21/52	12/45	33/110
Graduate courses/sections				58	1			23

2. Number of students enrolled in all geography courses

	Pikeville	Maysville	UoL	UK	NKU	Morehead	EKU	WKU
Undergraduate courses/sections	40	15	1698	3473	1000	25	2228	3748
Graduate courses/sections			77	238				86

3. Number of geography majors

	Pikeville	Maysville	UoL	UK	NKU	Morehead	EKU	WKU
Undergraduate			63	89	14	25	35	175
Masters				16				26
PhD.				28				

4. Types of jobs into which geography graduates are placed.

All institutions reported that geography graduates have been successful in gaining employment in positions that utilize their geographic knowledge and skills, such as cartography, planning and development, GIS technical positions. Undergraduates typically find employment in local, regional and state government, consulting firms, secondary education, planning and development agencies, travel agencies and tourism-related management. Several graduates continue their studies in graduate school. GIS technical positions are still the most commonly cited area of employment by Kentucky colleges, which will be furthered by the new GIS laboratory and teaching facility in EKU opened in Fall 2004.

**C. Geography Faculty**

1. Number of geography faculty

	Pikeville	Maysville	UoL	UK	NKU	Morehead	EKU	WKU
Full time	1	0	10	16	4	9	7	15
Part time	0	1	0	2	4	3	4	7

2. New geography faculty

The University of Louisville has been able to hire several faculty in the 2003-04 academic year. Following the appointment of Dr. Carol Hanchette the previous year, Dr. Wei Song joined the Department of Geography in 2003. Dr. Song has expertise in transportation and economic geography, GIS, urban and regional studies. The University of Louisville expects to be hiring one new faculty member in 2005.

No new geography faculty joined the University of Kentucky, but the department is optimistic about prospects for hiring new faculty over the next 2 years.

Dr. Timothy Hare joined the faculty in Morehead State University, whose appointment is also associated with the Institute of Regional Analysis.

Dr. Donald Yew joined the faculty in Eastern Kentucky University, whose expertise is in physical geography and climatology. Dr. Andrew Schoolmaster joined the faculty in 2004, and is serving as the new Dean for the college of Arts and Sciences.

Dr Jun Yan joins the Western Kentucky University faculty this fall after receiving a Ph.D. in GIS from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Yan's professional interests range from the theoretical development of GIScience to applications of GIS technologies and spatial quantitative methods, particularly in urban and regional studies.

### 3. Major faculty accomplishments

The Department of Geography and the University of Louisville has had an outstanding level of grant-supported research; the grant support received by the faculty has increased from to \$1,000,000 in the past academic year. In the University of Kentucky, Dr. Wolfgang Natter was promoted to Professor in 2004 and the department welcomed Dr. Amy Mills, a postdoctoral researcher recently graduated from the University of Texas, whose interest is in cultural geography. In Western Kentucky University grant funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), along with internal support, secured an advanced Mesoscale Meteorological Model to enhance student and faculty research. In Eastern Kentucky University, Dr. David Zurick received the ECU Student Government Association's 'Distinguished Educational Leader Award'.

Of the many faculty publications, some that were particularly notable include "11 September and Its Aftermath: The Geopolitics of Terror," in which Dr. Stanley D. Brunn (UK) examines the changes in the geopolitical makeup of the world brought about by the destruction of the World Trade Center twin towers Sept. 11, 2001, and 'The Companion to Cultural Geography' co-authored by Dr. Richard Schein (UK). New faculty who recently departed the University of Kentucky include Matt McCourt, an assistant professor in Resource Geography and Land Use and Regional Planning at University of Maine and Kathleen O'Reilly, a visiting professor at the University of Illinois. Nine graduate students received grant support for their research in the University of Kentucky.

#### **D. State of geography**

Geography departments in Kentucky are continuing to experience a high demand for geo-technology, and many institutions experience considerable university-wide support for courses and support services in this area. The University of Louisville, ECU

and WKU have strong GIS programs and attract many students from other disciplines to these courses. GIS also continues to be an area of program expansion in many Kentucky schools. Undergraduate student numbers have declined somewhat, for example in the University of Kentucky and ECU, though most departments of geography report strong support from college deans and university administrations.

The challenge of finding resources to fund geography programs is ongoing in most institutions, with many reports of tighter departmental budgets. Northern Kentucky University, for example, has experienced delays in renovation and movement of GIS laboratories. NKU and UK have implemented some fees for students to obtain photocopied material or to participate on fieldtrips. For the most part, geography seems to be holding its own in the face of considerable reductions in state funding for higher education. Many institutions, for example UK, ECU and UoL, anticipate replacement of faculty who retire or leave and enjoy excellent relations with other departments and administrative bodies in their respective institutions.

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