

**2003-2004     *Annual Report on the Status of Geography in North Carolina***

The status of Geography across the state of North Carolina appears to be quite strong. Virtually every department across the state reported increasing enrollments. The number of undergraduate students enrolled in geography courses rose by nearly 3000, a 20% increase over the previous year's reported enrollment. Graduate student enrollment rose by 229, a 27% increase. As there was only an increase of 29 undergraduate majors and 4 graduate students reported in Geography across the state, most of this increase appears to be a result of students in non-geography programs augmenting their undergraduate and graduate education with geography coursework. To meet the increased demand there were 5 more full-time geography faculty than the year before. In addition, several new lines were authorized across the state and should be filled for the start of the 2005 academic year.

The rise in statistics and an upturn in the state budget have created a sense of optimism. Many departments reported increased support by their University or College administration for research and teaching endeavors. UNC Pembroke reports that they are hoping to establish a department of geography in AY 2005-2006, East Carolina has created 3 new laboratory facilities and has instituted a new certificate program in Atmospheric Science, UNC Chapel Hill's department is now back into newly renovated Saunders Hall, UNC Greensboro is constructing new research laboratory facilities, initiated a new post-baccalaureate certificate program in Urban Economic Development and has 13 students in their inaugural doctoral class, and UNC Wilmington has added a new certificate program in GIS. One disappointing note was the decision of Winston Salem State to discontinue its undergraduate minor in Geography.

North Carolina welcomed the following faculty in 2003-04: Erin Saffell at ECU, Selima Sultana and Rick Bunch at UNC-Greensboro, Scott Davis at Appalachian State, Ron Kalafsky and Jiyeong Lee at UNC Charlotte, and Banu P. Gökariksel at UNC Chapel Hill.

Honors and Awards, Neal Lineback at Appalachian State had a very busy year he received the AAG's inaugural Travelocity Award for Geographic Education. Neal attempted to retire, but was called back to service as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Frank Ainsley at UNC Wilmington received the UNC Board of Governor's Teaching Excellence Award and was named "Educator of the Year" by the North Carolina Geography Society, Scott Curtis at ECU was named a NASA Fellow, and of course Steve Walsh has served as the President of SEDAAG. Finally UNC Charlotte hosted the very successful SEDAAG annual meeting in November.

Undergraduate and graduate employment was reported as remaining robust and several programs noted high demand for their students as interns in both the public and private sector. Faculty participation at professional conferences and in the leadership of professional organizations continued to be strong as was the level of publications and

grant success. Overall 2003-2004 appears to have been a year of solid growth for the discipline and a highly successful year for many faculty and students across the state.