

Indiana State University

2006 - 2007 Academic Annual Report

Department of Geography, Geology, Anthropology

Vision Statement

[View/Modify Vision](#)

Below is your vision statement from previous years. Please take this opportunity to review it and if necessary update it.

We are the program of choice for undergraduate and graduate students interested in careers that link environment and society. The Department of Geography, Geology and Anthropology offers an interdisciplinary environmental education that emphasizes critical thinking and hands-on experiences.

Year in Review

Accomplishments

As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's accomplishments for the 2006-2007 year that will contribute to this effort? [Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.]

1) GGA is undergoing administrative reorganization as we propose to divide the Department. Geology and Anthropology wish to join the Department of Ecology and Organismal Biology and form the proposed Department of Environmental and Ecological Sciences while Geography is proposing to create a stand-alone Department of Geography. 2) NSF LSAMP Indiana, Phase II funding is now available for ISU students through the work of Dr. Jennifer Latimer. Dr. Latimer worked with partnering universities across Indiana on the NSF Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation grant (a STEM-related grant/contract award). ISU is a subcontracting agency with Purdue University as the lead institution. PI - J. Maynard, Co-PI - J. Latimer, \$235,642; funding is available beginning May 1, 2007 - April 30, 2012.

Research and Scholarship

What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of research and scholarship that is focused primarily on contributions to practice and discipline-based scholarship? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?

The faculty in GGA continue to seek out, attract, and be awarded research and scholarly projects that are discipline-based and cross-discipline in nature. Grant submissions and funding, along with publication of research works are prevalent among our Assistant Professors accomplishments. Book publications, book contracts, and journal-series contracts help illustrate how active and successful our Associate Professors are in their disciplines while scholarship contributions from our Full Professors serve as excellent role models for younger faculty as they maintain their active and impressive publication and grant/contract accomplishments in our department. We are also proud to point out that our emeriti faculty remain productive (W. Dando: publications and active in national geographers organization (AAG); Mausel: publications, grant activity and hosting a national remote sensing workshop; and Oliver: book published and under contract for another geography book) It is

very satisfying to be part of a department where research and scholarship are very important to the individual faculty member, the cohorts of faculty who are working together on scholarly activities, and the number of faculty involving undergraduate and graduate students in their research. We do particularly well in attracting funding for our research and scholarly projects. And, of utmost importance to many faculty members is that we have well-trained undergraduate and graduate students to assist with our research efforts. Two primary areas for improvement related to research include: (1) identifying on-going sources of funding to help support student involvement in research; especially field-related research (oceanographic research cruises (travel to San Diego, CA and Venice, Italy), dendrochronology-related field work (desert southwest U.S., river floodplain research (New Zealand and Iceland) and "storm-chasing" (Great Plains states throughout the U. S.)). (2) finding appropriate and sufficient space to meet the laboratory (dirty, clean, and more traditional office spaces) and the data sample archiving needs of our successful researchers. The opportunities to expand our effectiveness as researchers are there, but we are frustrated by the reduction in space available to us to meet our current needs and foreseeable growing needs.

Grants, Contracts & Off Campus Professional Service

What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of grants, contracts, and off campus professional service? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?

We continue our excellence and are accomplished in the areas of grants, contracts, and off campus professional service. We have faculty establishing themselves in basic research endeavors and even more faculty pursuing community engagement and experiential learning opportunities for our (undergraduate and graduate) students. We plan to increase our pursuits of community engagement and experiential learning opportunities for our (undergraduate and graduate) students.

Teaching

We would like to highlight innovative approaches to teaching. Has your department developed any pedagogies or practices you'd like to share with us? Please describe briefly.

Although we do have faculty experimenting with the use of 3-D visualization technology, the project is not far enough along to have generated any results to date. We look forward to Dr. Beilfuss' work (along with K. Janz and E. Kinley) with the VizRoom technology and will share that with the campus next year.

Course Scheduling/Enrollment Management

How is the department making sure that students are able to get the classes they need to graduate in a timely manner?

Each discipline in GGA has prepared a 4 year plan for teaching that assists with advising and scheduling classes to maximize degree completion in a timely manner. We are seeing an increase in transfer students so we are reviewing the obstacles that these students are facing and will rework our plan to better accommodate these students.

Outreach

What are the outreach opportunities for your discipline? (non-traditional modes of delivery and timing, etc)

We do offer courses through the Correctional Education Program and plan to continue that practice (and expand if possible). As for non-traditional modes of delivery and timing, we continue to expand GGA offerings of distance education courses (GEOG 115 and 213 have been available for several

years) to include GEOG 130: World Regional Geography during fall '06 and GEOG 110: Intro to Human Geography this summer. Two other web-based courses in preparation are GEOG 423: Geography of the Middle East and GEOG 431: Urban Geography.

Assessment

Please share your stated student learning outcomes.

Major code Outcome Methodology 2174 Understanding complex content knowledge and recognition that a Ph.D. is a research degree Recruitment of the best students; Course work and 2174 Sharing knowledge to a diverse ISU academic and non-academic community, and Terre Haute society Presentations in departments and to campus groups; 2174 Stimulation and enhancement of personalized learning in a community of learners 2174 Development of life-long learning desires and skills Recruitment of special students with proper attitude 2174 Exchange of knowledge, participation in discussion/action involving critical societal issues, and recognition that a Ph.D. from ISU must publish or be involved in tasks that enhance society Review of the literature of the field, enrollment 2174 Recognition that we are in an information age, that geo-technology will play a role in society's problem solving, and that there are meaningful careers in geo-technical specializations Recruitment of the best and most farsighted graduate students 0221 Exposure to state-of-the-art geographic material Recruitment of good graduate students, entrance in 0221 Appreciation of technology in problem solving and knowledge of geotechnical career opportunities in an information age Recruitment of Masters' students with open minds; 0221 An applied field experience, applied laboratory instruction, and/or internship experience to illustrate the application of geographic methods and tasks to resolve society's problems; appreciation of discipline's contribution to problem solving 0221 Non-decisive critical thinking Recruitment of the best qualified students and course work 0221 Creative problem-solving skills Selection of thesis topic; Course work to support 0221 Encouragement of teamwork and professional growth Course work that stresses teamwork in research tasks 2180 Content knowledge on cultural and physical anthropology and archaeology principles Recruitment of good students; Retention of good student 2180 Respect for diversity of thought and culture Assessment of attitude and course work (seen on page 2180 Analytical and critical thinking 2180 Recognition of the need for personal involvement, applied field experience, and dig work in anthropology Introduction to data gathering classes; Critical analysis 2180 Appreciation of technology applied to anthropology problem solving Introduction to what links all programs together in 2180 Continues and meaningful assessment and providing rewards for success Entry interviews by advisor; Employment in department 2124 Solid foundation in the core themes of geography Recruitment of good students, good advising, and mentorship 2124 Ability to collect, manipulate, and present spatial data Requirement of basic University classes in statistics 2124 Proficiency in one or more geo-spatial application/technique (GIS, remote sensing, computer graphics, computer cartography, etc.) 2124 Understanding of the disciplines perspectives and position in the world of knowledge, i.e., geographic methodologies Requirement of basic course work to secure a broad 2124 Understanding the dynamic interactions that occur within our cultural and physical environment; recognition of human's role in changing the face of the earth. Recruitment of good students and creation of a professional 2124 Assessing contentiously what is done, determining what must be done, and rewarding success Student/advisor meetings and interviews, course work 2123 Exceptional geologic content knowledge Recruitment of good students, good advising, and mentorship 2123 Excellence in analytical and critical thinking skills Requiring basic University classes in statistics/mentorship 2123 Development of life-long learning skills 2123 Experience applied field work and internship involvement Reconnaissance field trips in classes; departmental 2123 Knowledge of technology applications and careers in an information age Introduction to our department and in all basic classes 2123 Contentious meaningful assessment and rewards provided for success Entry interviews by advisor; Class work and professional 2175 Instilling and generating content knowledge Recruitment of good graduate students; Retention of 2175 Sharing geologic knowledge to a diverse

ISU community Attendance and participation in professional and n 2175 Meaningful personalized learning 2175 Development of life-long learning skills Introduction to publishing and grant seeking depa 2175 Exchange of knowledge or insights between the department and society Review of the literature in the discipline; Develo 2175 Knowledge of technology and technological innovations; insights into the applications of technology to geologic problems; and recognition of careers in technology within an information age Introduction to our department and means to synthe 2177 Program banked during the Fall Semester 2001.

Strategic Initiatives

Fundraising Activities

What steps have you taken to support fundraising activities in your department? How can your efforts be supported?

We have sent mailings to alumni, thank you notes for donations, and supported student-initiated fundraising by assisting with advertising, providing material resources (when appropriate) from existing supplies, and participating (attending the bake sale, rock and gem sale, t-shirt sale, book sale,) as much as possible.

Quality

Quality

Please provide 1-2 suggestions to increase the ability of your department or the University to meet the criteria above.

(1) identify on-going sources of funding to help support student involvement in research; especially field-related research. (2) find appropriate and sufficient space to meet the laboratory and the data sample archiving needs of our faculty and students. The opportunities to expand our effectiveness as researchers are there, but we are frustrated by the reduction in space available to us to meet our current needs and foreseeable growing needs.