GEOGRAPHY

in the
University of California
(Berkeley and Los Angeles)

1868-1941

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An essay commemorating the Los Angeles bicentennial, the centennial of the founding of the California Branch State Normal School (fore-runner of the University of California, Los Angeles), and the annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers, held in Los Angeles, 19–22 April 1981.

by

Gary S. Dunbar
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The University of California, which now consists of nine campuses with a student population of 135,000, has had a long and respectable history of instruction in Geography. Geographers are found on all but two campuses—the exceptions being San Francisco, which is a medical center and not a general campus, and San Diego—and doctorates in Geography can be earned on five campuses. As with university systems in other states, much of the growth has come since World War II, but Geography was well represented on the two largest campuses, Berkeley and Los Angeles, long before the War. This paper is a brief sketch of the growth of Geography in the University from its inception down to the beginning of American participation in World War II. The rather arbitrary terminal date was chosen, not to avoid offending the sensibilities of those who have lived and worked in the recent past, but because the great postwar expansion would have overwhelmed the essay and turned it into a collection of names and dates with not much room for anything else.

The University of California was founded in Oakland in 1868 and moved to its present Berkeley campus five years later. The geographer Daniel Coit Gilman was the second president, from 1872 to 1875, and Geology was well represented in the person of Joseph Le Conte. The early catalogues mentioned courses in physical geography and even in Greek and Roman geography, but there were no full-time specialists in the field.
The first separate Department of Geography in a major university in the United States was created in the University of California in 1898 when the distinguished but aged scientist George Davidson was named Professor of Geography. The Department was created with the special purpose of serving the newly organized College of Commerce. Davidson’s fifty-year career with the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey had ended somewhat abruptly in 1895. He had served as a member of the Board of Regents of the University, 1877–1884, and had been an Honorary Professor of Geodesy and Astronomy since 1870. It is not clear why a Department of Geography was created in 1898, but the precedent of European commercial schools was cited, and it is possible that the model of the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, where the teaching of Geography was initiated in 1893, was in the minds of those who established Berkeley’s College of Commerce. In keeping with the stated intention of the organizers of the new College to stimulate Pacific trade, Davidson offered a two-semester course on “The Currents and Climatology of the Pacific Ocean,” a very general course that ranged far beyond physical geography and far beyond the Pacific borderlands.

Although Davidson had been engaged in geographical work throughout his professional career, he nevertheless made a great effort to find out what academic geography consisted of at the end of the 19th century and to organize his department accordingly. He studied the structure of geography at Oxford and Cambridge and corresponded with Ferdinand von Richthofen of the University of Berlin, who had worked in California with the Whitney Survey in the 1860s. Surveying the literature of geography, Davidson found little agreement on procedures and few organizing principles. To correct geography’s alleged deficiency in scientific rigor, he urged that the subject be expanded to include the principles and practice of geodesy.

The original prospectus of the College of Commerce stated that it would be desirable that students “be required or encouraged to spend one or more years in some foreign country, in order to become thoroughly familiar with its commercial and industrial conditions.” A Travelling Fellowship in Geography was established in 1900 with the aid of Hearst money, and at least one appointment was made (to a recent graduate of the College of Commerce to spend one year in the Philippines), but I can find no evidence that the fellowship program was continued.

A second appointment to the Department of Geography came in 1901 when Lincoln Hutchinson was made Instructor in Commercial Geography, but many of his courses were taught in the departments of history and economics. More important was the appointment of Ruliff Holway as Assistant Professor of Physical Geography in 1904. In March 1904 Davidson prepared a “shopping list” of desirable appointments to be made in the Department of Geography, but only the first of these needs was met:
Want.
Instructor in Physical Geography.
Instructor of the Geography, Productions & Com-
merce of the Pacific Coast States and British
Columbia.
Instructor in Navigation and Geographic Exploration.
Instructor in the History of Geography.

It is interesting to speculate about how the Depart-
ment might have developed if Davidson’s plans had
been adopted. If he had been twenty years younger
and in good health, Berkeley might have had the first
truly modern Department of Geography in the United
States. Eye trouble forced Davidson’s retirement in
1905, but he continued to teach for two more years
as an emeritus professor at a reduced salary.

Ruliff Holway had been a high school principal in
Modesto and San José in the 1880s before becoming a
science teacher in the State Normal School, San José
(1888–1902). After finishing his degrees at Stanford
(B.A., 1903) and Berkeley (M.A., 1904), he received an
appointment as Assistant Professor of Physical Geog-
raphy in the University of California. He had been
converted from chemistry to geography by William
Morris Davis in a summer course at Harvard. Holway
became chairman of Berkeley’s small Department of
Geography and held that post until his retirement in
1923. He was promoted to Professor in 1919. Although
his own research output was modest, Holway built up
a reputable program in the teaching of geography,
especially in the area of physical geography. He initi-
ated summer field courses in 1907 and started the
California Physical Geography Club in 1905 to stimu-
late interest in physical geography, not only in the
University but statewide. There were 14 Master’s de-
grees awarded in geography in Holway’s period, the
first of them in 1908. So far as I can tell, there was
no prohibition against doctoral work in geography
(or in any other department that wanted to offer it).
Holway may simply have been reluctant to take on
doctoral students. It is interesting to note that one of
the last M.A.s of the Holway period, John Wesley
Coulter, was the only one who eventually got a Ph.D.
in Geography (Chicago 1926). Coulter was not so
much interested in physical geography as he was in
what he termed “social geography,” attributing this
to the influence of Frederick Teggart, who had founded
Berkeley’s Department of Social Institutions in 1919.
Coulter took several courses from Teggart that had a
high geographical content. Teggart was known to
Isaiah Bowman and the American Geographical Soci-
ety because of his work in the cartobibliography of
Latin America, beginning in 1920. This compilation
eventually grew into the 4-volume AGS publication,
A Catalogue of Maps of Hispanic America (1933).
Teggart was keen to see Geography strengthened at
Berkeley after Holway’s retirement, but when Carl
Sauer arrived in 1923 his personality was a little too
strong for Teggart’s taste. When Teggart described
Sauer’s somewhat debonair debut on the Berkeley campus in a
lengthy letter to Bowman, the latter replied tersely,
went to Sauer, who was then a full professor at Michigan at age 33.

In April 1923, in a letter to President David Barrows of the University of California, Sauer sketched his plan for the development of the Berkeley department:

I hope that it may be possible to develop in central California an intensive field course for the training of students in geography, such as we have found valuable in our summer work in Kentucky and Tennessee.

A symmetrical organization of geography, I think, should look toward a staff with a minimum nucleus of three permanent men, one for regional (human) geography, one for commercial geography (economic geography in the narrower sense), and one for physical geography and cartography (including climatology but hardly the physiographic phase of dynamic geology). The first phase I should expect to cover permanently myself. For the others the only feasible plan appears to discover and to train unusual young men, who would complete their education elsewhere, so as to avoid the bad effects of ‘in-breeding.’ I have no hesitation in saying that John Leightly promises to be one of these men of unusual capacity, and I should heartily recommend his appointment as an Associate. ... The work in commercial geography we should divide among the staff under my direction until a man is trained.

John Leightly was, indeed, a man of unusual capacity—as he is still today. After serving as an Associate
(a peculiar University of California title given to a full-time instructor who has not yet finished the Ph.D.), Leighly was appointed Instructor upon completion of his degree in 1927, and he has been a stalwart in the department ever since. Partly because of his Teutonic background and manner, Sauer appointed three Germans—Oskar Schmieder, Wolfgang Panzer, and Gottfried Pfeifer—to teaching positions in the Department in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Sauer's predilection for German visitors did not extend to their insular cousins; as he said to Bowman in 1931, "The chipper little [English] schoolmasters, who from time to time demonstrate their teaching cleverness in this country, are out." In their manner and outlook, Leighly and the two additions in the 1930s, John Kesseli and Jan Broek, were closely allied to Sauer. The result was a small staff of unusual homogeneity, which bore the stamp of the Master to such a degree that one can speak of the "Berkeley School" or "Sauer School." Such a designation would not have been appropriate for any other American department of geography.

UCLA developed very differently from Berkeley. It began as the California Branch State Normal School, whose mother institution was the Normal School at San José, which had been founded in 1857. The Branch School was legislated into existence in 1881 and opened its doors to 61 students on 29 August 1882. The faculty initially consisted of three persons, including Jacques Redway, who taught the courses in science, including physical geography. Although Redway apparently did not teach again after leaving Los Angeles in 1884, he managed to be involved in a number of geographical enterprises throughout the rest of his long life. He was stimulated by the example of James Monteith to write school geographies; he edited the short-lived Goldthwaite's Geographical Magazine for a few years in the 1890s; and he maintained a geographical laboratory (for the study of atmospheric dust, among other things) in his home in Mount Vernon, New York, in his later years.

Although several people were impressed, at least temporarily, into the teaching of geography in the Normal School in the early years, the first important appointment was that of James Chamberlain in 1895. Chamberlain was hired in January 1895 to teach on a half-time basis at $50 a month, but in June he was given a full-time appointment at $900 a year. At first, geography was included, with many other subjects, in the Normal, or General, Department, but when academic departments were created in 1911, the Department of Geography was among the initial creations. (Note: Although the minute book of the Board of Trustees recorded the adoption of a scheme of departmentalization [Geography, English, Mathematics, etc.] on 18 May 1911, the catalogues do not mention departments until 1915.)

Especially noteworthy were the appointments of Ruth Baugh in 1912 and Myrta McClellan in 1913. When the Normal School became the Southern Branch of the University of California in 1919, all of the old
faculty members were retained, but those who did not have a doctorate were given the rank of Instructor (e.g., McClellan) or Assistant Professor (Chamberlain). This "demotion" was apparently a little too ignominious for a senior person like Chamberlain, for he left the Southern Branch in 1920, was taken on as a temporary instructor at Chicago, served a year as President of the Normal School in Silver City, New Mexico, and then retired to write school geographies.

Both Chamberlain and McClellan had University of Chicago degrees, so it was not surprising that the latter, when she was left in charge of the small department after Chamberlain's departure, looked to Rollin Salisbury for guidance. Derwent Whittlesey had made a good impression on McClellan when he taught at UCLA in the summer of 1921, so she naturally thought of him the next year when there was a possibility of getting a Ph.D. geographer to guide the fortunes of the Los Angeles department. Whittlesey could not be persuaded to leave Chicago at that time, however.

In 1922, when Miss McClellan was seconded to the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the spring term, she wrote to Salisbury to seek a replacement. Chicago could not provide a ready substitute, but Isaiah Bowman suggested the name of George McBride, a 45-year-old former missionary to Latin America who had finished his Ph.D. at Yale in 1921 and had been employed at the American Geographical Society since 1917. McBride was hired to replace McClellan for two months in the spring of 1922 (total salary $600). McBride made an excellent impression on Ernest Carroll Moore, the Director of the Southern Branch, during their brief initial meeting. As Moore said to Miss McClellan,

Dr. McBride is here and I have a very good impression of him. I have not had more than ten minutes opportunity to make his acquaintance but he looks and acts like a genuine person, modest, quiet, clear-cut, with a Kansas visage and a past experience of the world.

Four days later, Moore was prepared to offer McBride a regular appointment. Because of the expected expansion in numbers of students in the Fall of 1922, Moore was ready to create two positions in Geography—one for an assistant professor and one for a full professor. Moore wanted to offer McBride an assistant professorship but feared that he could not be persuaded to accept that rank and salary. Miss McClellan hoped that Moore would offer McBride an associate professorship and then try to get Derwent Whittlesey or Carl Sauer to take the professorship. Finally, McBride was persuaded to stay on at the rank of Lecturer, and he was made an associate professor and chairman the following year (1923). The other expected position—the full professorship—did not materialize. When McBride was asked to submit proposals for new courses in June 1922, he suggested two course titles that were vetoed by Moore. In a letter to Miss McClellan on 30 June 1922, Moore said:
In going over the new courses in Geography, we discovered a course in the Geography of Mexico and another course in the Historical Geography of Latin America. It seems to us that the course in the Geography of Mexico is rather too intensive a course for our kind of work. It is better suited to a postgraduate department than to a college. We have taken the liberty of eliminating the course in Historical Geography of Latin America and of changing Geography 56D into a course in the Geography of Latin America.

This sort of administrative interference would not have been tolerated—or even attempted—at Berkeley, but one must remember that UCLA was still essentially a junior college and that the higher administration was involved in nearly every action, down to the smallest expenditures. Administrators played a rôle in the selection of faculty at UCLA even in the 1930s. In 1936, for example, Robert Sproul, President of the University, hired Robert Glendinning as Assistant Professor of Geography without consulting the department.

McBride remained the senior professor in the department until his retirement in 1946. In 1925, Clifford Zierer, who had just finished his Ph.D. at Chicago, was hired to teach economic geography. Burton Varney, who had taught at Berkeley before taking his Ph.D. at Clark (1925) and had served as assistant editor of the Monthly Weather Review, was added to the staff in 1927 to teach climatology. Ford Carpenter was a part-time Lecturer in Meteorology in the Department of Geography for a decade beginning in 1919. Jonathan Garst taught for two years, 1927–1929, as an Associate. Two instructors of the 1930s were Hallock Raup and Kazuo Kawai, the latter offering a course on the Geography of Asia on a joint appointment in the departments of Geography and History. Joseph Spencer began his long tenure on the UCLA faculty in 1940.

Ruth Baugh, who had taught intermittently in the Berkeley and Los Angeles departments since 1912, was finally given a regular tenure-track appointment at UCLA in 1929 after finishing her Ph.D. at Clark University. Thus, in the 1930s, UCLA was unusual among major American universities in having two women (McClellan and Baugh) in its geography department. This circumstance was due entirely to the normal school background of UCLA and did not represent a particularly enlightened view on the part of the faculty or administration. Berkeley remained a male bastion throughout the Sauer era.

Also unlike Berkeley, UCLA did not automatically assume a rôle in graduate education. Beginning as a two-year feeder school for the mother campus, UCLA inevitably expanded because of its location in the great southern metropolis and soon developed challenges to Berkeley’s monopolistic position. A Geography major was established at UCLA in 1925. In 1931 the depression gave the southern upstarts an excuse to agitate for separate graduate programs, and Geography was one of the first departments to be allowed to admit
graduate students in 1933. Actually, some students had been admitted to postgraduate status in 1932, with the assumption that they would later transfer to Berkeley. At first only Master’s programs were authorized, but a few departments were allowed to initiate doctoral work in 1936. The UCLA geographers tried as early as 1937 to get a Ph.D. program, but the department was not allowed to accept doctoral students until September 1947.

Another striking difference between Berkeley and Los Angeles was the fact that at UCLA Geology and Meteorology grew out of Geography. This situation again reflects the normal school origins of UCLA. It is quite different from the usual pattern in American universities, where Geology was usually well established in the late 19th century and often inaugurated the first courses in Geography.

In 1941, on the eve of the American entry into World War II, the Berkeley department had 4 faculty members and about 15 graduate students, whereas UCLA’s numbers were 6 and 14, respectively. The postwar years naturally saw great expansion. The current numbers are: Berkeley, 13 faculty members and 72 graduate students; UCLA, 25 faculty members and 75 graduate students. The characters of the two departments are rather different, and some of the differences derive from events that were set in train in the early 1920s, if not earlier.

A Note on Sources

For Berkeley, my chief sources were the University Archives and the Bancroft Library, particularly the Davidson and Sauer collections. For Los Angeles, the main sources were the University Archives and the files of the Department of Geography. Other manuscript materials used in the compilation of this paper were found at the University of Chicago, the American Geographical Society, Harvard University, and Clark University. Brief departmental histories were published in The Centennial Record of the University of California (1967), by James Parsons (Berkeley) and Joseph Spencer (Los Angeles). Parsons’ sketch was recently reprinted in the March 1980 Newsletter of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers. Spencer’s essay was a condensed version of a longer unpublished paper, “A Historical Chronology of the Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles, 1882–1960” (later updated to 1972), which was an emended extension of Ruth Baugh’s unpublished paper, “The Beginnings of Geography in the University of California” (1951). Miss Baugh’s paper is mostly about UCLA, but she added a little material on Berkeley as well. The Parsons, Spencer, and Baugh essays were based on published materials, such as catalogues, and they apparently did not make much use of manuscript or unpublished sources. They obviously drew upon their long and intimate experience with the two depart-
ments. One can also profitably consult the papers by John Leighly and Joseph Spencer in the March 1979 issue of the Annals of the Association of American Geographers.

Personalities Mentioned in the Paper

David Barrows (1873–1954)
Ruth Baugh (1889–1973)
Isaiah Bowman (1878–1950)
Jan Broek (1904–1974)
John Buwalda (1886–1954)
Ford Carpenter (1868–1947)
James Chamberlain (1869–1943)
John Coulter (1893–1967)
George Davidson (1825–1911)
William Davis (1850–1934)
Harold Fairbanks (1860–1952)
Jonathan Garst (1893–1973)
Daniel Gilman (1831–1908)
Robert Glendinning (1905–)
Ruliff Holway (1857–1927)
Lincoln Hutchinson (1866–1940)
Kazuo Kawai (1904–1963)
John Kesseli (1895–1980)
Joseph Le Conte (1823–1901)
John Leighly (1895–)
George McBride (1876–1971)
Myrta McClellan (1875–1963)
James Monteith (1831–1890)
Ernest Moore (1871–1955)
Wolfgang Panzer (1896–)
Gottfried Pfeifer (1901–)
Hallock Raup (1901–)
Jacques Redway (1849–1942)
William Reed (1884–1932)
Ferdinand von Richthofen (1833–1905)
Rollin Salisbury (1858–1922)
Carl Sauer (1889–1975)
Oskar Schmieder (1891–1980)
Joseph Spencer (1907–)
Robert Sproul (1891–1975)
Frederick Tegart (1870–1946)
Burton Varney (1883–1943)
Derwent Whittlesey (1890–1956)
Clifford Zierer (1898–1976)
Chapter 10
Geography in the University of California
(Berkeley and Los Angeles), 1868-1941

This paper was published by the author as a 18-page pamphlet in 1981 and was printed by DeVoss & Company of Marina del Rey, California. It is reprinted here with some updating and without the "Note on Sources" and "Personalities Mentioned in the Paper," which occurred at the end.

The University of California, which now consists of nine campuses with a student population of 163,000 (1993), has had a long and respectable history of instruction in Geography. Geographers are found on every campus, with the exception of San Francisco, which is a medical center and not a general campus, and doctorates in Geography can be earned on five campuses. As with university systems in other states, much of the growth has come since World War II, but Geography was well represented on the two largest campuses, Berkeley and Los Angeles, long before the War. This paper is a brief sketch of the growth of Geography in the University from its inception down to the beginning of American participation in World War II. The rather arbitrary terminal date was chosen, not to avoid offending the sensibilities of those who have lived and worked in the recent past, but because the great postwar expansion would have overwhelmed the essay and turned it into a collection of names and dates with not much room for anything else.

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Although Davidson had been engaged in geographical work throughout his professional career, he nevertheless made a great effort to find out what academic geography consisted of at the end of the 19th century and to organize his department accordingly. He studied the structure of Geography at Oxford and Cambridge and corresponded with Ferdinand von Richthofen of the University of Berlin, who had worked in California with the Whitney Survey in the 1860s. Surveying the literature of Geography, Davidson found little agreement on procedures and few organizing principles. To correct Geography's alleged deficiency in scientific rigor, he urged that the subject be expanded to include the principles and practice of geodesy.

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spend a year in the Philippines), but I can find no evidence that the fellowship program was continued.

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Want.

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Instructor in the Geography, Productions & Commerce of the Pacific Coast States and British Columbia.
Instructor in Navigation & Geographic Exploration.
Instructor in the History of Geography.

It is interesting to speculate about how the Department might have developed if Davidson's plans had been adopted. If he had been twenty years younger and in good health, Berkeley might have had the first truly modern Department of Geography in the United States. Eye trouble forced Davidson's retirement in 1905, but he continued to teach for two more years as an emeritus professor at a reduced salary.

Ruliff Holway had been a high school principal in Modesto and San José in the 1880s before becoming a science teacher in the State Normal School, San José (1888-1902). After finishing his degrees at Stanford (B.A., 1903) and Berkeley (M.A., 1904), he received an appointment as Assistant Professor of Physical Geography in the University of California. He had been converted from chemistry to geography by William Morris Davis in a summer course at Harvard. Holway became chairman of Berkeley's small Department of Geography and held that post until his retirement in 1923. He was promoted to Professor in 1919. Although his own research output was modest, Holway built up a reputable program in the teaching of geography, especially in the area of physical geography. He initiated summer field courses in 1907 and started the California Physical Geography Club in 1905 to stimulate interest in physical geography, not only in the University but statewide. There were 14 Master's degrees awarded in geography in Holway's period, the first of them in 1908. So far as I can tell, there was no prohibition against doctoral work in geography (or in any other department that wanted to offer it). Holway may simply have been reluctant to take on doctoral students. It is interesting to note that one of the last M.A.s of the Holway period, John Wesley Coulter, was the only one who eventually got a Ph.D. in Geography (Chicago 1926). Coulter was not so much interested in physical geography as he was in what he termed "social geography," attributing this to the influence of Frederick Teggart, who had founded Berkeley's Department of Social Institutions in 1919. Coulter took several courses from Teggart that had a high geographical content. Teggart was known to Isaiah Bowman and the American Geographical Society because of his work in the cartobibliography of Latin America, beginning in 1920. This compilation eventually grew into the 4-volume AGS publication, A Catalogue of Maps of Hispanic America (1933). Teggart was keen to see Geography strengthened at Berkeley after Holway's retirement, but when Carl Sauer arrived in 1923 his personality was a little too strong for Teggart's taste. When Teggart described Sauer's bumptious debut on the Berkeley campus in a lengthy letter to Bowman, the latter replied tersely, "The Sauer episode could have been forecast with mathematical accuracy."

In his first years in Berkeley Sauer was the only professor in the Department of Geography, but he was ably supported by two graduate assistants. Holway had usually been assisted by an Instructor and, after World War I, by one or more graduate assistants. Harold Fairbanks (Berkeley Ph.D. in Geology 1896) led the summer field course in Geography in 1908, taught in the Department in 1917, and later taught in two summer sessions at UCLA (1931 and 1933). William Reed was an Instructor from 1911 to 1915; John Buwalda (Berkeley Ph.D. in Geology 1915) was an Instructor in Geography, 1915-1917; and Burton Varney was an Instructor from 1917 to 1923.

Holway had always been anxious to add an instructor or assistant professor in geography who was trained in one of the eastern or midwestern departments, and he began corresponding with Rollin Salisbury as early as 1911 about possibilities from among the University of Chicago graduate students. On Salisbury's recommenda-
tion Carl Sauer (Chicago Ph.D. 1915), then an assistant professor in the University of Michigan, was offered an assistant professorship at Berkeley in 1917 at an annual salary of $2000. Sauer declined, but he kept in touch with Holway during his meteoric rise at Michigan, so when Holway retired in 1923, Sauer's name naturally figured in the speculation about a possible successor. Isaiah Bowman was apparently Berkeley's first choice, but he was not available, and so the job went to Sauer, who was then a full professor at Michigan at age 33.

In April 1923, in a letter to President David Barrows of the University of California, Sauer sketched his plan for the development of the Berkeley department:

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John Leighly was, indeed, a man of unusual capacity. He maintained an active rôle in the department for more than sixty years, until his death in 1986 at age 90. After serving as an Associate (a peculiar University of California title given to a full-time instructor who has not yet finished the Ph.D.), Leighly was appointed Instructor upon completion of his degree in 1927. Partly because of his Teutonic background and manner, Sauer appointed three Germans — Oskar Schmieder, Wolfgang Panzer, and Gottfried Pfeifer — to teaching positions in the Department in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Sauer's predilection for German visitors did not extend to their insular cousins; as he said to Bowman in 1931, "The chigger little [English] schoolmasters, who from time to time demonstrate their teaching cleverness in this country, are out." In their manner and outlook, Leighly and the two additions in the 1930s, John Kesseli and Jan Broek, were closely allied to Sauer. The result was a small staff of unusual homogeneity, which bore the stamp of the Master to such a degree that one can speak of the "Berkeley School" or "Sauer School." Such a designation would not have been appropriate for any other American department of geography.

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when academic departments were created in 1911, the Department of Geography was among the initial creations. Although the minute book of the Board of Trustees recorded the adoption of a scheme of departmentalization on 18 May 1911, the catalogues did not mention departments until 1915.

Especially noteworthy were the appointments of Ruth Baugh in 1912 and Myrta McClellan in 1913. When the Normal School became the Southern Branch of the University of California in 1919, all of the faculty members were retained, but those who did not have a doctorate were given the rank of Instructor (e.g., McClellan) or Assistant Professor (Chamberlain). This “demotion” was apparently a little too ignominious for a senior person like Chamberlain, for he left the Southern Branch in 1920, was taken on as a temporary instructor at the University of Chicago, served a year as President of the Normal School in Silver City, New Mexico, and then retired to write school geographies.

Both Chamberlain and McClellan had bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago, so it was not surprising that the latter, when she was left in charge of the small department after Chamberlain’s departure, looked to Rollin Salisbury for guidance. Derwent Whittlesey had made a good impression on McClellan when he taught at UCLA in the summer of 1921, so she naturally thought of him the next year when there was a possibility of getting a Ph.D. geographer to guide the fortunes of the Los Angeles department. Whittlesey could not be persuaded to leave Chicago at that time, however.

In 1922, when Miss McClellan was seconded to the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the spring term, she wrote to Salisbury to seek a replacement. Chicago could not provide a ready substitute, but Isaiah Bowman suggested the name of George McBride, a 45-year-old former missionary to Latin America who had finished his Ph.D. at Yale in 1921 and had been employed at the American Geographical Society since 1917. McBride was hired to replace McClellan for two months in the spring of 1922 (total salary $600). McBride made an excellent impression on Ernest Carroll Moore, the Director of the Southern Branch, during their brief initial meeting. As Moore said to Miss McClellan,

Dr. McBride is here and I have a very good impression of him. I have not had more than ten minutes opportunity to make his acquaintance but he looks and acts like a genuine person, modest, quiet, clear-cut, with a Kansas visage and a past experience of the world.

Four days later, Moore was prepared to offer McBride a regular appointment. Because of the expected expansion in numbers of students in the autumn of 1922, Moore was ready to create two positions in Geography — one for an assistant professor and one for a full professor. Moore wanted to offer McBride an assistant professorship but feared that he could not be persuaded to accept that rank and salary. Miss McClellan hoped that Moore would offer McBride an associate professorship and then try to get Derwent Whittlesey or Carl Sauer to take the professorship. Finally, McBride was persuaded to stay on at the rank of Lecturer, and he was made an associate professor and chairman the following year (1923). The other expected position — the full professorship — did not materialize. When McBride was asked to submit proposals for new courses in June 1922, he suggested two course titles that were vetoed by Moore. In a letter to Miss McClellan on 30 June 1922, Moore said:

In going over the new courses in Geography, we discovered a course in the Geography of Mexico and another course in the Historical Geography of Latin America. It seems to us that the course in the Geography of Mexico is rather too intensive a course for our kind of work. It is better suited to a postgraduate department than to a college. We have taken the liberty of eliminating the course in the Historical Geography of Latin America.

This sort of administrative interference would not have been tolerated — or even attempted — at Berkeley, but one must remember that the Southern Branch was still essentially a junior college and that the higher administration was involved in nearly every action, down to the smallest expenditures. Administrators played a rôle in the selection of faculty at UCLA even in the 1930s. In 1936,
for example, Robert Sproul, President of the University, hired Robert Glendenning as Assistant Professor of Geography without consulting the department.

McBride remained the senior professor in the department until his retirement in 1946. In 1925, Clifford Zierer, who had just finished his Ph.D. at Chicago, was hired to teach economic geography. Burton Varney, who had taught at Berkeley before taking his Ph.D. at Clark University (1925) and had served as assistant editor of the *Monthly Weather Review*, was added to the staff in 1927 to teach climatology. Ford Carpenter was a part-time Lecturer in Meteorology in the Department of Geography for a decade beginning in 1919. Jonathan Garst taught for two years, 1927-1929, as an Associate. Two instructors of the 1930s were Hallock Raup and Kazuo Kawai, the latter offering a course on the Geography of Asia on a joint appointment in the departments of Geography and History. Joseph Spencer began his long tenure on the UCLA faculty in 1940.

Ruth Baugh, who had taught intermittently in the Berkeley and Los Angeles departments since 1912, was finally given a regular tenure-track appointment at UCLA in 1929 after finishing her Ph.D. at Clark University. Thus, in the 1930s, UCLA was unusual among major American universities in having two women (McClellan and Baugh) in its geography department. This circumstance was due entirely to the normal school background of UCLA and did not represent a particularly enlightened view on the part of the faculty or administration. Berkeley remained a male bastion throughout the Sauer era.

Also unlike Berkeley, UCLA did not automatically assume a rôle in graduate education. Beginning as a two-year feeder school for the mother campus, UCLA inevitably expanded because of its location in the great southern metropolis and soon developed challenges to Berkeley's monopolistic position. A Geography major was established at UCLA in 1925. In 1931 the depression gave the southern upstarts an excuse to agitate for separate graduate programs, and Geography was one of the first departments to be allowed to admit graduate students in 1933. Actually, some students had been admitted to graduate status in 1932, with the assumption that they would later transfer to Berkeley. At first only Master's programs were authorized, but a few departments were allowed to initiate doctoral work in 1936. The UCLA geographers tried as early as 1937 to get a Ph.D. program, but the department was not allowed to accept doctoral students until September 1947.

Another striking difference between Berkeley and Los Angeles was the fact that at UCLA Geology and Meteorology grew out of Geography. This situation again reflects the normal school origins of UCLA and is quite different from the usual pattern in American universities, where Geology was usually well established in the late 19th century and often inaugurated the first courses in Geography.

In 1941, on the eve of the American entry into World War II, the Berkeley department had 4 faculty members and about 15 graduate students, whereas UCLA's numbers were 6 and 14 respectively. The postwar years naturally saw great expansion. The current [1995] numbers are: Berkeley, 14 faculty members and 61 graduate students; UCLA, 18 faculty members and 77 graduate students. The characters of the two departments are quite different, and some of the differences derive from events that were set in train in the early 1920s, if not earlier.