CHAPTER 20

A SHORT HISTORY OF FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY’S DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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INTRODUCTION. The institution, known today as Florida State University (FSU), dates back to 1851 when the State Legislature proposed the construction of a “seminary,” west of the Suwannee River. In 1854 the residents of Tallahassee offered land and money to build what came to be called Seminary West, on the west side of the city center where FSU is presently located. The first class was enrolled in 1857 and consisted of both men and women, but instruction was divided into male and female “departments.” Following the Civil War the institution degenerated into primarily elementary and secondary schools. The small higher education division mainly produced teachers. It was during the “Seminary West” period that the first reference to geography can be found. There are many gaps in the library’s collection of early catalogs but in the earliest available, that of 1887–1888, geography was being taught in the high school. Two courses were listed: Descriptive Geography and Physical Geography. In 1901, the State Legislature authorized that West Florida Seminary’s name be changed to Florida State College and by 1905, when still a coeducational institution, it had 308 students of whom 152 were enrolled in college-level work. The 1903–1904 catalog identified Physical Geography as being taught at both the high school and college levels. The college-level course was taught in the Science Division, using Physical Geography by William Morris Davis. No instructor was named. In the History Department there was a course in “Political Economy” which included sections on production and trade.

In 1905, the State Legislature reorganized the State’s higher education. Florida State College was designated the state’s White women’s higher education institution, and the then University of the State of Florida in Gainesville became its White men’s institution. Florida was the last Southern state to establish a separate college for women, inelegantly named the Florida Female College. The college considered liberal studies its primary focus, with teacher training as a secondary focus. It is believed that geography, not taught by people trained in the discipline, continued to be offered in what by then was called the School of History and Political Science. By 1909 pressure to change the name of the institution became so intense that the State Legislature authorized it to be henceforth called Florida State College for Women. At the same time it authorized the University of the State of Florida to be renamed the University of Florida.

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THE FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN PERIOD. Geography first appeared in the 1925–1926 catalog of the Florida State College for Women, having been taught in the 1924–1925 academic year. That was the year that the Department of History and Geography was created. Four courses in Geography were listed in the catalog: World Regional, Economic, and Physical Geography, and an interdisciplinary course called Geography and World History. The department also offered one course in geology. No geographer was identified in the catalog, so it is assumed that the courses were taught by historians.

The first geographer, Martha Stolfs, was hired as an assistant professor of Geography the following year (1925–1926). Little can be found about her (Table 1a and 1b). It has been established she had a Master’s degree, but it is unknown from where. She received her Bachelor’s degree in 1921 from Iowa State Teachers College. She was the only one in the Department of History and Geography who was identified as being a geographer. It is presumed that she taught all four of the courses mentioned in the catalog. Ms. Stolfs’s tenure at the college was short, only three years.

Henry Floyd Becker arrived in 1928, and taught at the institution for the remainder of his career. Becker received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the Department of Geography at the University of Chicago, then one of the most distinguished departments in the nation. While at Chicago he completed a field project on the Guanacaste Peninsula of Costa Rica. He maintained that on being hired, College officials assured him that the project could be substituted for a Ph.D. However, subsequently he came to believe that the administration had misled him, and he felt that his lack of a doctoral degree adversely affected the standing of the Department within the institution.

Becker brought with him a highly professional approach to both instruction and research. By his arrival the number of courses in Geography had expanded to include the Geography of Europe, Physiography, and Advanced Physiography. Becker’s interests were in the intersection of humans and the physical environment, and until he was permitted to develop courses in the areas of his interest, he usually taught the Physical Geography courses.

New geography courses were added to the curriculum in most years from 1928 until World War II. In 1929 Historical Geography, Economic Resources, North America, Southern Lands, Asia, and Field Geography were added. Since Becker had a special interest in resource use and field techniques, it is assumed that he proposed these additions. By 1930 Latin America was added to the regional offerings as well as Africa and Australia. In that year Geology was granted departmental status, but geography continued with history. Gladys Fawley and Margaret Taylor became new members of the department. The following year “Special Methods of the Teaching of Geography” entered the curriculum.

In 1934 Becker, assisted by Fawley and Taylor, was instrumental in developing a graduate program in geography. New courses were then added. They included Conservation of Natural Resources, Climatology, Cartography, and Political Geography. At the end of 1934 Taylor resigned, and was replaced in the following year by Mary Alice Eaton. Still, there were only three who taught geography, and by that year the total number of courses had risen to 20. In 1937 Eaton resigned and was replaced the following year by Delmar A. Bugelli, who remained until he went into the military service in 1941. The Department, during the war years, emphasized cartographic instruction, since it was believed that skills in map making would benefit the war effort. Several graduates went to Washington to work for government agencies engaged in map making. Following the war Louise Miller, Sara Larson, and Margaret Smith had one-year appointments.

At the conclusion of World War II Becker began to intensify his research on Florida, particularly resource use within the state. In 1945 he introduced a course he titled Resource Use in Florida, and in the academic year 1946–1947, with the assistance of Harry Brubaker, who arrived with a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, he established a research component within the Department of History and Geography that he named The Florida Resource Analysis Center. This center began to issue reports related to the exploitation of Florida’s resources that were made available to the various state agencies and the State Legislature. The Center greatly raised the visibility of geography within the College. Furthermore, under the direction of Becker, much of the data collection, fieldwork, and writing were done by students providing them a valuable practical educational experience.

Becker evidently had great admiration for the University of Chicago, his alma mater. He was instrumental in the hiring of seven geographers whose terminal degrees were from Chicago and three others who had received degrees from it before they earned their terminal degree. Most were women who had earned Master's degrees and several had begun work on their Ph.Ds. A few had already published articles related to geographical instruction in The Journal of Geography.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY: THE FIRST 25 YEARS. In 1946 the University of Florida was overwhelmed by male applicants returning from World War II. As a consequence a branch of the university had to be opened in Tallahassee, staffed with faculty from the Florida State College for Women. The next year the Legislature decided to make both institutions coeducational, and Florida State College for Women was renamed Florida State University, absorbing the University of Florida Tallahassee branch. Geography was granted departmental status in 1946–1947, even before the name change, and Becker became the head. In that year Brubaker and Moulton were recruited. There followed four years of rapid growth; three people were hired for the 1947/1948 academic year (Chase, Runney and Leathers), two for the next (Christiansen and Gulick), three in 1949/1950 (Kostbade, McMurry, and Brueckheimer) and two in 1950/51 (Boynton and Vanderhill). Several only stayed a year or two (Moulton, Runney, Gulick and Brueckheimer). However, there was a dramatic net gain in the size of the faculty,
from three in 1946/1947 to nine in 1950/1951. It should be pointed out that all these additions were men. In fact, the department became a male preserve until 1973, when Karen Walby, a recent Ph.D. from Ohio State University, was hired. Since then only two other women have joined the faculty, Janet Kodras, who arrived in 1981 with a Ph.D. from Ohio State University, and remains a member of the department, and Marilyn Ruiz, who came in 1994 with a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, but left six years later.

The majority of hires had received their doctoral degrees. In addition, of the 11 hires, seven had received or were working on degrees from the University of Michigan’s Department of Geography. Six, Brubaker, Kostbade, Rumney, McMurry, Brueckheimer, and Vanderhill, earned Ph.Ds, some after they were hired. Chase, who before joining the Office of Strategic Services during World War II, briefly taught at Syracuse University, arrived at FSU with a Michigan Master’s degree. He, however, had completed his course work for the Ph.D. However, he never wrote a dissertation. A man of diverse academic interests, while remaining in the department, for years he headed the university’s social science interdisciplinary program.

By the end of the 1940s, with eight faculty members, approximately 40 undergraduate majors, 40 courses listed in the catalog, and an extension program for social science teachers, the department believed that the time had arrived to reinvigorate the Master’s degree. In the following year the administration approved a twotrack program; Geographical Education and Public Service. Geography was still widely taught in Florida’s public schools, and with a Master’s degree in the discipline, and the requisite education courses, a graduate could obtain a teaching position. The public service track was an obvious choice for the department to undertake given the fact that FSU was located in the State’s capital, and Henry Becker, who was still the head, had become deeply involved in resource analysis through the center he earlier established for the analysis of the state’s natural resources and environment. In fact, by then he had become somewhat of a celebrity throughout the state following the 1946 release of his book Florida Wealth or Waste. Published by the State Department of Education, it identified some of the state’s environmental problems. A second edition of the book appeared in 1957. Eventually the book was turned into a documentary film that received wide distribution throughout the state. During the 1950s Becker, together with some of his faculty, jointly published several atlases of Florida. The Florida Reference Atlas in particular was widely used by state government agencies.

During the 1950s Becker continued as head while Brubaker, Chase, Christiansen, McMurry, Boynton, and Vanderhill did most of the teaching. Boynton had received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Duke, but after several years with the Department of Sociology shifted to Geography where he mainly taught extension courses in “Community Resources” in towns from Marianna to Perry. Teaching loads were far heavier in those days than later. Professors taught as many as five courses a term, were expected to grade correspondence courses, and were encouraged to do research and publish as well. Facilities were Spartan. Following World War II the department was housed in a former faculty residence on Jefferson Street. Among the students and faculty it acquired the unofficial name “Brubaker House.” Later the department shared space with History and later Geology in various buildings, and for much of the 1960s it was situated in the basement of Dodd Hall. Space was minimal and several of the faculty had to share offices. For those who had begun to teach during the 1940s Dodd Hall had one amenity that was appreciated, window air conditioning.

The 1960s saw considerable change in the department. In 1960, many years with the university, Christiansen moved on to Southern Illinois University, Carbondale and McMurry to Willfrid Laurier University in Canada. Becker retired in the spring of 1964, and Brueckheimer replaced him. Brueckheimer had a brief tenure on the faculty in the late 1940s following receipt of a Master’s degree from the University of Chicago. He left for the University of Michigan, from which he received his Ph.D. in 1954. After a short stay at Southern State College in Magnolia, Arkansas, he became Chair of the newly established Department of Geography at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Brueckheimer evidently left a highly favorable impression on those he left behind in Tallahassee, because when Henry Becker retired in 1964 they invited him to become chairman. While Chair, Brueckheimer established a close relationship with the staff at the Tall Timbers Research Station north of Tallahassee. The station, which continues to operate, manages a number of large hunting plantations in the area. Following his resignation as chair he wrote two long reports on hunting plantations in North Florida and South Georgia.

Florida State University and the University of Florida both became coeducational in 1947, but the former remained firmly in the shadow of the latter for many years. University of Florida graduates dominated the State Legislature, and made certain that their alma mater received a disproportionate share of the State’s allocation for higher education. The strategy of FSU administrators was to identify programs that were felt to have the greatest potential to gain national recognition, and to pour resources into them. Chemistry, Physics, Statistics, Music, Biology, and several other disciplines were the recipients of special support. Geography, however, was not among them. It also should be added that the university’s athletic program was on the rise. FSU’s administrators were acutely conscious of the popularity of intercollegiate sports among Floridians. Most Floridians supported the University of Florida’s football team. Correctly believing that legislators would be more generous to the university if it could attain the national recognition of Gainesville’s team, and students would be more willing to enroll in the university, an intense effort was made to build a winning team. Eventually the effort paid off.

Despite the fact that Geography was not one of the favored areas of study heavily supported by the university, Brueckheimer was able to recruit new members of the department. During his tenure as department chairman (1964 to 1971), he was
given authorization to recruit 13 new members. Several were hired as temporaries. Others quickly moved on to other universities or to other careers. Rashid Malik returned to his native Pakistan and then came back, eventually securing a position at Florida A & M University. Tom Gergel went back to upstate New York, where he grew up, and spent the remainder of his career at the State College of New York at Oneonta. Roland Wood, after six years, left to become a cartographer for the World Bank in New York. Bill Rabiega, who arrived in the fall of 1970, was on the faculty for five academic years, but left for Portland State University. Morton Winsberg, Edward Fernald, and Donald Patton remained at the university until their retirement. Winsberg and Fernald entered the staff as untended assistant professors, but Don Patton joined as a full professor.

Don Patton, who already was a well-known geographer when he arrived, remained until he retired 20 years later. Immediately prior to joining the department he was director of a large federal grant to improve the nation’s high school Geography instruction. An honors graduate of Harvard’s Department of Geography, prior to his appointment as administrator of the head of the High School Geography Project, he had been a professor at the University of Maryland. During World War II he served in Europe with the Office of Strategic Services. During his tenure at Florida State University, between January 1972 and December 1977, he edited The Professional Geographer. His primary research and teaching interest was resource use, particularly water, and for many years he taught a course in this area that not only was popular among Geography students but those of Urban and Regional Planning as well. Perhaps his most well-known research effort while at FSU was his contribution to the publication of the Florida Water Atlas, of which he was one of the senior editors.

Edward Fernald joined the department in the fall of 1967. Fernald had received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degree from the department in the 1950s, and after teaching high school for a number of years attended Michigan State University, where he received his Ph.D. His research emphasis was land-use planning, and his doctoral dissertation was a study of the impact that construction of the Cross Florida Barge Canal would have on land use along its path. Shortly after he became a member of the department he resurrected the then-moribund Florida Resource Analysis Center and renamed it the Florida Resource and Environmental Analysis Center (FREAC). Through vigorous networking with legislators for funds, he not only reopened the center, but he was able to make it a permanent and financially independent entity of the university that continues to operate today, employing a number of professional staff. Since its reestablishment a number of the Department of Geography’s students, while working there, have gained valuable experience in cartography, research, and writing. The administration recognized Fernald’s value in obtaining funding from the Legislature, and during the 1970s he joined the administration, where he remained until his retirement in 1999. Nonetheless, while an administrator, he continued to hold a courtesy appointment in the department, and regularly taught a course in the teaching of Geography. The aforementioned Florida Water Atlas was one of the Center’s most distinguished publications, but it also has published three editions of the Atlas of Florida. Fernald was also instrumental in securing a large endowment from the National Geographic Society to fund the Florida Geographical Alliance. For a time he was also able to obtain funding from the Homer Hoyt Institute for several graduate students. Homer Hoyt became both rich and famous as a planer identifying the location of future shopping centers. At his death the university acquired his papers, which are housed in the library archives.

Burke Vanderhill arrived from the University of Michigan one year after Bruckheimer’s first period at Florida State University, following brief periods teaching at Michigan State University and Eastern Michigan University. When Bruckheimer returned, Vanderhill became his “right hand man.” While Bruckheimer was off campus for prolonged periods, as he was for a year when he was the first director of the London Study Center, Vanderhill was acting chair. Most summers Vanderhill was in the field, frequently in Canada and Alaska, where he did extensive research on farming along the continent’s northern agricultural frontier. This research resulted in several publications. For 16 years Vanderhill was the department’s graduate coordinator. For many years he also acted as Treasurer of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers. He retired in 1995. Winsberg, the first University of Florida Ph.D. in Geography, came to the department after teaching at East Carolina University and Ohio University. He was hired primarily for his expertise in Latin America. This interest continued throughout his career, and continues in his retirement. While he never gave up his regional interest in Latin America, and continued to teach the Geography of Latin America at FSU until his retirement, as well as in Finland and Ireland where he was a Fulbright lecturer, and in New Zealand as a guest lecturer, his research increasingly focused on issues relating to Florida, particularly racial and ethnic segregation. He was the major contributor to the three editions of the Atlas of Florida, and later published a book on the state’s historic places (Florida History Through its Places) and one on the State’s climate (Florida Weather). For seven years, mostly during Patton’s editorship, he was book review editor for The Professional Geographer. Although retired, he continues to teach one course each year, and was editor of the Florida Geographer from 1996 until 2003.

The first 25 years of departmental history was one of a constant struggle for resources, a struggle that was not as successful as many other departments within the university, even some within the Social Sciences. Much of the problem was beyond the capabilities of the department’s faculty to solve. National perception of Geography as a higher educational discipline was not, and even today is not, high. In fact, during the first 25 years of FSU’s departmental history several major Geography departments in important U.S. universities were closed. Certainly, administrators at Florida State University were aware of this. Part of the explanation, however,
resided with the department itself. Although members of the department were involved in research, and several had established significant publication records, the department placed major emphasis on its role as an educational service to other departments and colleges within the university. Its service to the College of Education was enormous, and until the requirement was dropped, a large share of Introductory Geography course enrollment consisted of students pursuing a degree in elementary education. In several years during the 1950s the share of lower undergraduate full-time equivalents (FTEs) of the departmental total surpassed 80%, but by the 1970s it had fallen substantially. It might be added that almost all classes were taught by professors, who were expected to teach as many as five courses a term, in a wide variety of subjects. Enrollments in these classes were usually very large. Research and publication were undertaken in what free time was left. One missed opportunity for improved recognition within the university was when the department turned down the offer from the Dean to organize an urban and regional planning component. The Dean then created a separate planning department whose mission was to produce Master’s and Ph.D. graduates.

Buuckheimer stepped down as chair in 1971. He had spent that academic year in London, where he directed the first year of the London Study Center. In the spring of that year he and his family had been involved in a serious traffic accident while driving in Spain, which required a long period of recovery. The period when Buuckheimer was chair was one when the number of Bachelors’ degrees produced in the department increased dramatically. In fact, the number of Bachelors’ produced in 1970–1971 (28) was not exceeded until the academic year 1987–1988. It also could be characterized as a period of harmony within the faculty. There was a student/faculty bowling team, the geography club (Argonauts) was very active, with frequent field trips, and faculty members often fraternized with each other and with those from other departments after work. Especially strong rapport developed with the Anthropology Department. Perhaps the most significant event of the Buuckheimer period was when, in 1970, the department moved from the basement of Dodd Hall to the newly constructed Bellamy Building, what was then, and continues to be the largest classroom building on campus. Bellamy Building was built to consolidate the Social Science Departments, although Psychology was so large it had its own separate building. Geography and Urban and Regional Planning shared the third floor, where both remain today. The move also was accompanied by the purchase of new office furniture, and a considerable amount of equipment helpful for instruction. It also should be noted that in 1972 the university established a separate College of Social Sciences, and all but Psychology, Anthropology, and History chose to join. The offices of the Dean were housed in Bellamy Building.

1972 TO THE PRESENT. The change in chairmanship in 1972 brought about an abrupt transition in the department. Harold McConnell, the new chair, came from Northern Illinois University. Educated at the University of Iowa, then famous for its positivist approach to geographical research, McConnell was the first member of the department who had a highly sophisticated knowledge of quantitative methods, although Bill Rabiega, who arrived two years earlier, had some background in quantitative methods. Before arrival, McConnell was one of three authors of a frequently cited article on quantitative geography published in the 1967 volume of the Annals of the Association of American Geographers (“Certain Aspects of the Expansion of Quantitative Methodology in American Geography”). He was among the first in the discipline to use multivariate analysis in his research. McConnell immediately introduced Bachelor’s degree course requirements in statistics. The computer language FORTRAN, taught in the Computer Science Department, was recommended. During his five-year term as chair most of those who were recruited were well versed in statistical techniques (Louvrie, Dyerson, Baker, Walby, and Kahambara), but except for Baker, none stayed very long.

Baker, who in 1972 had earned a Master’s degree in the department, began to teach at FSU in 1974, and remains a member of the faculty. He earned his Ph.D. from University of Colorado, where he studied under Gilbert White and others who were specialists in hazards research. His education required a sophisticated knowledge of both statistics and survey techniques. In fact, he was the first of the new arrivals to establish a research relationship with a member of the FSU faculty outside of the department. In his case, for a number of years he worked closely with a member of the Department of Psychology. Baker quickly became recognized as the department’s most skilled user of survey techniques. In addition, his knowledge of hazard perception, particularly how people react to an approaching hurricane, continues to be in great demand. He was one of the founders of the annual National Hurricane Conference, and continues to be deeply involved in its organization. He has been a member of the National Research Council’s Committee on Disasters, regularly being called upon to investigate disaster events, both in the United States and abroad.

The department graduated a steady but small stream of Master’s students throughout the 1970s. Several efforts were made during that decade to increase the number of graduate students. In the academic year 1974–1975 a cooperative doctoral program agreement was reached between the Departments of Geography at the University of Florida, Florida State University, and Florida Atlantic University. Various members of FSU’s and Florida Atlantic’s departments were given doctoral status by the University of Florida. Participation in the program required prior admission to the University of Florida program, and two semesters of work there. Other courses could be taken at either or both of the other universities. Unfortunately few chose to enter the program and it eventually ceased to function for lack of interest. Florida State University’s department began a junior college teaching program, but it also expired for lack of interest. Another program, funded with a three-year National Science Foundation startup grant, entitled Spatial Analysis of Land Use, was introduced to make the Master’s program more attractive. This
program was challenged by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, which felt that Geography was infringing upon its instruction. The dean of the college put the issue to a committee. Despite the use of outside consultants who with the two faculties proposed various models of how the two departments could resolve their differences, (including merger), the committee never reached an agreement. Eventually the program died from lack of student interest. During the 1960s and 1970s the number of Geography graduate students steadily increased, but the growth barely kept pace with the growth in the total graduate population of the university. In fact, Geography's share of the university's graduate FTEs was higher in the 1950s than at any other time.

The frustrated efforts during the McConnell period to promote graduate education in the department have continued until today (2004). Master's output has averaged approximately five per year, and when compared to the University Master's output its share has decreased over time. Throughout the years the administration has sent mixed signals on university objectives, some years suggesting that departments emphasize lower and sometimes higher, undergraduate enrollment, but most frequently graduate enrollment. The department has continued to make a disproportionate effort toward undergraduate education, particularly lower division courses, whose share of the University's FTEs briefly surpassed 2% during the 1970s, and then again through the 1990s. The department's share of upper undergraduate FTEs has always been much lower than its share of the University's lower undergraduate FTEs. Overall, the department's share of the University's total FTEs has remained stable, oscillating around 1%. An examination of the share of the three levels of instruction among the total for the department reveals that lower undergraduate FTEs fluctuated between 50 and 60%, upper undergraduate between 30 and 40%, and graduate between 5 and 10%. There is already some indication that during the first decade of this century a trend is emerging in which the share of graduate FTEs will rise and that of lower undergraduates will decline.

McConnell's style of leadership was a dramatic departure from that of Brueckheimer. Although his chairmanship was short, immediately upon his arrival it became clear that he wanted to stamp the Iowa School's positivist paradigm of Geography upon the department. This was not easy, because at the time of his arrival there was only one person in the department (Rabiega) who was educated in the quantitative techniques necessary to utilize the paradigm. In addition, McConnell experienced difficulty in retaining his hires. All were well educated in statistical techniques, utilized by those who adopted the positivist paradigm. Consequently, they were in much demand by departments throughout the nation that were, like Florida State, adopting the new paradigm of positivism. Also, in the early 1970s the State was going through one of its periodic recessions and rumors from the university administration were that there was a possibility that the contracts of untenured professors would not be renewed. This never transpired, but Louviere and Rabiega left, in part because of that possibility. Louviere first went to the University of Wyoming, and then he switched to marketing, occupying positions in marketing firms as well as university marketing departments in Australia, Canada, and the United States. Rabiega, as previously mentioned, moved to Portland State University. Walby, hired on a yearly contract, because she was having a baby, did not request a renewal. Later she worked in Tallahassee as an economist in various state agencies and for Tax Watch, a lobbying group. Dyerson stayed seven years, and while he was in the department did a great deal to develop an interface between the department and the mainframe computer that had recently been installed on campus. This was before personal computers were widely available. He was lured by a very attractive salary to work in Saudi Arabia, but later returned to the United States and his last position before he retired was in the Computer Science Department at Utah State University. Kahambaara, who entered the United States as a Ugandan refugee, has become a statistician for the government of the Republic of South Africa.

McConnell enjoyed practical jokes, particularly involving Louviere, but to some their humor was questionable. His practical jokes, and a love of argument on any subject, including Geography, kept the department in constant turmoil for much of the time he was chair, and even afterwards. His personality may have had rough edges, but he did lead a paradigmatic shift in a department that had become deeply entrenched in the older, descriptive paradigm. He was a heavy smoker and developed severe lung problems which eventually lead to his retirement in the spring of 1995. He died in 1996.

Patrick O'Sullivan replaced McConnell in the fall of 1977, coming from Northwestern University where he had held a joint appointment in Geography and the Transportation Center. His departure from Northwestern was a "push" rather than a "pull" since Geography at Northwestern was being phased out. O'Sullivan was educated at the London School of Economics (B.Sc. Economics, and Ph.D.) and the University of Wisconsin (M.S.). He briefly taught at the Department of Civic Design in Liverpool and in the Geography Department in Bristol. In 1970 he accepted a position at Northwestern but returned in 1974 to his homeland to serve as an economist in the British civil service. After two years he returned to Northwestern. He arrived at FSU when the transition from a traditional Department of Geography that was primarily teaching oriented to one that was modern and research oriented was still in progress, and hostilities between the two views continued to exist. Consequently, one of his first tasks was to affect a rapprochement between the two sides, which he was able to accomplish both smoothly and quickly.

O'Sullivan led the department for 16 years, two years less than Henry Becker, who served the longest. During his tenure, the state went through a prolonged period of economic recession that severely impacted the university budget. Nonetheless, during his 16-year term he was able to recruit seven new faculty, most replacements for people who retired or left. When he arrived the department had ten members, when he stepped down as chair it had eleven. Zeller, a recent Ph.D. from Ohio State University, his first recruit, arrived in the fall of 1980. Janet Kodras, also
an Ohio State University graduate, arrived two years later. Ohio State University's Department of Geography by the 1970s had become one of the nation's most distinguished, and while there both Zeller and Kodras had been educated in the most advanced positivist/quantitative methodologies. Zeller remained on the faculty for seven years and then went to work for the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles. Kodras continues with the department.

Janet Kodras in all probability has done more to shape the current department than any other member with the exception of several departmental chairs. Immediately upon her arrival, she began an intense research agenda that until recently has never slackened, primarily emphasizing poverty in general and hunger specifically. In addition, she has poured enormous energy into her teaching, and not only has earned accolades from her students, but has won several college and university teaching awards. She also became deeply involved in committee work for the national office of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). Through her service to the AAG and her research she, more than any other member of the department, has achieved national recognition within the discipline. She has published articles in several of the discipline's most prestigious journals and co-edited a book on social policy in the United States.

Her service to the University and the department has been equally important. Besides her acknowledged dedication to teaching, she was the driving force behind the introduction of the departmental Ph.D. program. In the early 1990s Geography had become the only department within the College of Social Sciences not to have a Ph.D. program. The Dean encouraged the department to seek one, and Kodras accepted the responsibility to make it reach fruition. She apportioned out many sections of the proposal, but she alone did much of the writing and all of the editing. While this procedure was in progress The Board of Regents of the State University System mandated a review of all Departments of Geography within the system. This review was undertaken by three nationally recognized geographers; Billie Lee Turner, Susan Cutter, and Duane Marble. The final report recognized Florida State University's Department of Geography as outstanding, and unsolicited by the department, it stated that it was a worthy candidate for a Ph.D. program. In 1997, shortly after the Regent's review, an article appeared in The Professional Geographer attempting to quantify the relationship between a department's publication record and the size of its faculty (Productivity Profiles of Ph.D.-Granting Geography Departments in the United States: 1980–1994). FSU's department, which during the article's study period had only a Master's program, was identified as having one of the best records of book publications, relative to the size of its faculty, of any department in the United States. It also ranked high in article output. It might be added that the department's outstanding position in the publication of books compared to its size owes much to O'Sullivan, who, while holding down the chair and teaching three courses per term published six books, one entitled *Geographical Economics* published by Penguin, the others related to war and peace and geopolitics.

During O'Sullivan's tenure, in addition to achieving national recognition in publications, the department's teaching commitment remained strong. This was accomplished almost in its entirety by the faculty, since it was before the period when the use of adjuncts to teach became so common, and few Master's students were deemed qualified to do so. Most senior faculty and the chair voluntarily continued to teach three classes a semester. When the number of Bachelor's degrees that were being produced at the beginning of his administration are compared with those at the end there also was a huge increase. Between the academic year 1972–1973 and 1974–1975 there were 68 Bachelor's awarded by the department while between 1991–1992 and 1993–1994 the number had increased to 113. The University's output of Bachelor's degrees also had grown, but Geography's compared to the University's, was growing slightly more rapidly. The department's Master's output, however, experienced a modest decline, both in absolute terms and relative to the University's output.

Throughout most of the O'Sullivan period, the department identified its particular interests as being in (1) human geography, (2) environmental problems and resource management, and (3) cartography/geographical information systems. The latter area was significantly benefited by the laboratory of the Florida Resource and Environmental Analysis Center (FREAC) being located on the second floor of Bellamy Building. It was well funded through grants and contracts given directly to it from various state agencies, and consequently could acquire the most advanced automated cartographic equipment and the newest software. A number of Geography students worked for the laboratory and went on to find permanent positions in GIS labs in county, city, and state government. One today is a cartographer for the National Geographic Society.

Of all the hires that were made during the O'Sullivan period only Kodras remains. George Hepner moved on after five years to become chair in the Department of Geography at the University of Utah. Mark Ellis had earned sufficient recognition from his research while in the department to be recruited by the University of California in Los Angeles, and since has moved from there to join the department at the University of Washington. Robert Walker, who actually received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Regional Science and had lower degrees in Environmental Engineering, acquired through fellowships in Puerto Rico an expertise in land use within tropical rainforests, particularly in Brazil. He left to join the department at Michigan State University. Fred Shelley found a more attractive position at Southwestern Texas State University in San Marcos and Bill Soilecik joined the faculty at Montclair State University in New Jersey. Soilecik has since moved on to teach at Hunter College in New York.

During the 1993–1994 academic year, O'Sullivan announced his intention to step down as department chair. It seemed an appropriate time, since he had held the
position for 16 years and in the following academic year the department would initiate the new Ph.D. program. The search that followed led to the recruitment of Barney Warf, who then was Professor of Geography at Kent State University, in Ohio. With a Ph.D. from the University of Washington and research interests in the political economy of regional development, producer services, and telecommunications, he could lead the effort to build a modern doctoral program and make a major contribution to one of the two designated departmental emphases, Political Geography. Furthermore, although quite young, he had an enormous publication record, including a co-authored book published in 1995 (Industrial Location: Principles and Policies). In fact, among many on the faculty one of his major attractions was the diversity of his intellectual interests since he had published on a wide variety of topics, not only economic and social, but also philosophical and methodological.

By the time Warf arrived the research interest of most of the department’s faculty had become more contemporary in its geographical approach. Winsberg was the only one left from the Brueckheimer period, Fernald long before having left the department, to head the university’s Institute of Science and Public Analysis, but remained as a courtesy appointee. Even Winsberg had by then accepted positivist methodology in some of his research. Nonetheless, it was still a department in which intellectual tensions existed, although they differed somewhat from those that were present when McConnell and O’Sullivan began their terms as chair.

Perhaps the most serious tension was between those who wished the department to move toward a more utilitarian approach to education (or better termed “training”) and those who believed that it should continue to emphasize Geography as an academic discipline (education). The former group was for the introduction or increase in the number of courses in geographical information systems (GIS), remote sensing, resource analysis, and environmental perception for hazard research. The latter group was eager to augment the number of courses in Political, Social and Human Geography, including specialized courses in Globalization, Women’s Issues, and others that increasingly were being examined through a social theoretical perspective. This tension was not confined to Florida State University’s department, but was taking place in many departments throughout the nation.

Warf believed that the tension between the two groups could be resolved by expanding the faculty sufficiently so that both viewpoints could be well represented. Unfortunately, despite promises from the administration that there would be strong financial support for the new Ph.D. program, it never allocated to the department the funds that were promised. From the beginning of Warf’s chairmanship, the State Legislature reduced funding for Florida’s universities, and until recently denied the universities the opportunity to raise tuition. There was a general decline in funding throughout the university, and Geography appears to have been more adversely affected than many others. When Warf arrived the department had 10 fully employed members (Fernald had a courtesy appointment and Vanderhill by then was half-time) and in 2003–2004 there were 11. Nonetheless, since Warf became the chair the department has expanded its GIS laboratory significantly. It also shares the service of a computer technician with the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

During Warf’s tenure, which continues through to the present (2004), McConnell and Winsberg retired, and Walker, Ellis, Ruiz, Shelley, and Solecki left. They were replaced by Jonathan Leib, whose interests have been in elections and redistricting, and for three years was editor of the Journal of Geography; Phillip Steinberg with interest in cultural and political issues in attachment to place, as well as political economy and social history of the world’s oceans; Jason Hackworth, Urban and Economic Geography, gentrification and social theory; Dan Klooster, Human-Environment Relations, Land-Use Change, Conservation and Development, all with a special regional interest in Latin America; Dan Jacobson GIS; Basil Savitsky, Remote Sensing and Environmental Politics; and James Elsner, Climatology and Weather with a special interest in the hurricane as an environmental hazard. Both Savitsky and Elsner had Ph.D.s in disciplines other than Geography. Savitsky received his degree from the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourist Management at Clemson University and Elsner in Meteorology from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Elsner in 1999 co-authored a well-reviewed book on hurricanes (Hurricanes of the North Atlantic: Climate and Society). Hackworth resigned in 2002 to assume a position at the University of Toronto, and Jacobson went to teach at the University of Calgary. Jacobson was replaced by Xiaojun Yang who came from the University of West Florida.


In 2001–2002 the department had 43 undergraduate majors, 110 in its Environmental Studies program, and 37 in its graduate programs. The number of students receiving Bachelor’s degrees jumped sharply in the academic year 1999–2000, and remained high through 2002–2003. The rapid growth resulted from the establishment of the interdisciplinary program in Environmental Studies. This degree program, shepherded through the long and laborious process of university approval by Solecki, who left the year it was finally approved, has proven highly attractive to undergraduate students. Since the basic curriculum requires three Geography courses, but a number of others can be used as electives, the department’s class enrollment has increased significantly. The Environmental Studies major has been the major explanation for the large increase in the department’s Bachelor’s degrees,
both absolutely and relative to the total for the university. It also should be noted that the department has produced two Ph.D.s, both of whom have found employment in higher education, one at Western Michigan University, the other at Louisiana State University.

During the 1990s the department's share of the university's lower undergraduate FTEs also grew, while that of upper undergraduates remained essentially flat. The lower undergraduate increase was made possible through a much larger use of both adjuncts and graduate students. With the advent of the Ph.D. program in 1995 it was expected of most of these students that they would teach introductory courses. Several have been employed as instructors in upper undergraduate courses. Despite the introduction of the Ph.D. program Geography's share of university graduate FTEs has only shown a small increase. Although the number of Geography graduate students has increased substantially, in the last ten years the university administration has placed particular emphasis on increasing graduate enrollment throughout the university. It can be said that Geography's growth in FTEs has been about the same as that of the university as a whole, and from 1999–2000 has been growing slightly faster.

To predict the future of the Department of Geography is impossible. Too much depends upon variables that today are unknown. Disciplines have their cycles of popularity, and departments have their cycles of national visibility. More importantly, economic cycles can bring periods of academic prosperity and impoverishment to a university. Presently the success of the Environmental Studies program has enhanced the department's visibility. To maintain this program, its Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D. programs and its service to other departments in the university the department needs a larger faculty with a greater range of intellectual interests.

NOTE

1The following people made valuable contributions to this history: Jay Baker, William Brueckheimer, Harrison Chase, Edward Fernald, Janet Kodras, Patrick O'Sullivan, Donald Patton, Burke Vanderhill, and Barney Warf.

INTRODUCTION. Appointed by the earl of England's North American cartographer, who had already achieved William Gerard De Brahm (1718–1773) facilitate navigation, and promote the colonies, De Brahm would become the

Only vaguely charted and super overlords the vast colonial territories the victorious British. This fact is em\naccompanying a report from the Bos\ntheir opinions concerning the disposi\noverseas territories.2 On that map describing and Distinguishing the Bt\nGreat Continent According to the De\nary 1763 . . . , by Emanuel Bowen, G\ntorted image of the new Royal Colo\nserious distortions found on this and\nmade even the most rudimentary pl\nexacerbated by the almost total lack\n
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