PART II. DEPARTMENTAL HISTORIES

CHAPTER 10

A BRIEF MEMOIR OF THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY IN ATLANTA

Sanford H. Bederman

To write about an academic department in a public commuter university requires one not only to consider personalities and curricula, but also students, college and university administrators, and interactions with other scholars throughout the region and country. The history of the Department of Geography at Georgia State University is replete with positive accomplishments, in spite of chronic budget constraints, limitations in size, and level of degree offerings. Its past also is studded with disappointments. Many problems were generated within the department, but a long period of acrimony with the Dean of Arts and Sciences' Office accounted for virtually no growth for well over a decade in the 1970s and 1980s.

Even during the period of no growth, geography as a discipline was strong. Courses in world regional and physical geography held important places in the core curriculum of several colleges, students who graduated with majors generally had little difficulty in being accepted in prestigious graduate programs, and faculty members were rather prolific in writing books and publishing their research in academic geography journals. The ultimate disappointment was that there was never support for its quest to offer the Ph.D. degree.

THE EARLY YEARS, 1949–1967. Academic geography in Atlanta has its roots in the old Atlanta Division of the University of Georgia. Merle C. Prunty, then Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of Georgia, decided in 1949 that his discipline should have a presence in Atlanta. At this time, the Atlanta Division offered its courses in an almost derelict parking garage (now Kell Hall) only a short block from Five Points in central Atlanta. His first hire was Reese Walker, a student of John Kesseli at the University of California, Berkeley. A year later (on the recommendation of Wilbur Zelinsky), Harley J. Walker, an M.A. graduate of Berkeley was added to the geography staff. Jess Walker, a marine pilot in World War II, was a student of Carl Sauer and John Leighly. The two Walkers taught together during the years 1950 and 1951, but because Reese Walker was a navy officer and a specialist in photo interpretation he was recalled into service during the Korean War. He was replaced by Donald Netzer, who had recently completed...

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his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois. Netzer was named chair of the newly created tiny department.

When Netzer departed in 1956, Jess Walker was left in charge. Walker was a very amiable and able administrator, and he had excellent rapport with both the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the college librarian. In addition to basic geography courses, Walker introduced classes in anthropology, and, after spending two years (1955–1957) working on his doctorate at Louisiana State University, he returned to Atlanta where, in addition to his normal duties, he began offering geology courses. A remarkable scholar and teacher, Jess Walker taught all three disciplines with ease.

During his ten years at the Atlanta Division (later Georgia State College of Business Administration), Jess Walker was very active in developing the geography holdings in the college library, especially professional journals. When Sanford Bederman arrived in 1959, he was astounded to discover that the tiny college library contained excellent holdings of the standard geographical journals, the complete run of the journals of the Royal Geographical Society (dating back to the 1830s), and quite remarkably the complete set of Petermann’s Geographische Mitteilungen (which began publication in the 1850s). The library in 1959 also possessed the very early volumes published in England by the Hakluyt Society. Few small institutions in the American South, or anywhere else for that matter, could claim such riches.4

In 1955, The Atlanta Division’s name was changed to Georgia State College of Business Administration, and the geography offerings were enhanced with the hiring of several new geographers, the best known of whom was Campbell Pennington, a cultural geographer who was completing his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. By 1959, both Walker and Pennington had departed Atlanta, but, before he left, Walker was responsible for hiring geographer Sanford Bederman and geologist Chester Smith. For the next year, Bederman and Smith taught all the courses in geography, anthropology, and geology. Smith served as chair of the newly named Department of Geography, Geology, and Anthropology until 1968, when the Department was split into three separate units. Students actually benefited during the years when a combined department existed. It was common for geography majors to minor in anthropology or geology. Interestingly, the department was allowed considerable latitude in curriculum development, and one very capable anthropology student who was destined for a career in archaeology was actually permitted to take ceramic courses in the Art Department to satisfy his laboratory science requirement.

During the 1960’s, hires were made in all three disciplines, so Bederman was allowed to develop the geography offerings without having to expend his energy on anthropology, which he taught often in his early years in Atlanta. One of the very first things he did was to make the pilgrimage to the University of Georgia to pay a courtesy call on Merle C. Prunty, Jr., the leading geographer in the state. Prunty told Bederman that he would do everything he could to help the Atlanta department grow, and he proved true to his word. His attitude was that geography should be
taught everywhere. Shortly afterwards, geography was allowed to offer a formal
major at the newly named Georgia State College. Needless to say, virtually all at-
tention was given to the classroom, so little research and publication can be noted for
those early years.

Because the institution is located in the heart of Atlanta's downtown, it catered
to those working in nearby businesses and offices. Thus, a large number of classes
for generally older students were held at night, a tradition that continues to exist
today. Of course, local teachers, as well as those in health related fields, could only
take their courses at night, so special attention was given to their needs.7 Only in the
past decade has the commuter nature of the institution changed. Following the 1996
Atlanta Olympic Games, Georgia State University acquired its first dormitories.

A number of geographers taught at Georgia State College in the decade of the
1960s. Katsuichi Hoshi8 (a Japanese national), Gary Meyer,9 Frank Himmler,10
Nancy Brannen,11 and Rayfred Stevens, along with Bederman, taught all of the re-
quise courses. At that time, only Stevens held the Ph.D. degree. In addition to the
standard introductory human and physical courses, classes were also offered in
urban, economic, and historical geography. Regional courses on Anglo-America,
Latin America,12 Europe, and Africa were available for students. Bederman on
more than one occasion taught the cartography course. Nancy Brannen had an
undergraduate degree in mathematics, and was easily able to create a course in
quantitative applications to spatial problems. Even though it was offering only a BA
degree, the fledgeling department humorously considered itself to be on the cutting
edge.

This was, of course, during a time when personal computers did not exist, pro-
grams on the university computer often demanded more punch cards than anyone
could carry, everyone was using army surplus furniture, horse blankets served as
window shades, all departmental communications were printed with purple chemi-
cals, and faculty members felt reasonably happy with new adding machines, a box
of pencils, and enough Leroy lettering sets to equip the cartography laboratory.

GEOGRAPHY COMES OF AGE, 1968–1982. Growth was inexorable during the
1960s, and it was clear that the administration of three distinct disciplines under one
umbrella was not working very well, and conditions had to change. Naturally, a
major problem was equitably distributing budgeted funds, which proved impos-
sible, and therefore no one was happy with how money was spent. Nonetheless,
through careful planning by Bederman in geography, Smith in geology, and Lewis
Larson13 (an anthropologist/archaeologist who had been hired away from the
Georgia Institute of Technology), the State Board of Regents gave approval for the
department to split into three separate units. Beginning in 1967, the Department of
Geography began a new stage in its short history.

Sanford Bederman, after returning from a year in Nigeria and Cameroon while
on a National Science Foundation Grant, served as acting chair of the department in
1967–1968. At that time, an acting dean (a Princeton-educated historian) was in place, and because he appreciated the discipline of geography Bederman found the year to be a pleasant and congenial experience. His first task, however, was to search for a new full-time chair. After active recruiting, the position was accepted by Malcolm A. Murray, who had obtained his Ph.D. at Syracuse University in 1955, and had taught for many years at Miami University of Ohio. Murray, an authority on medical geography, had recently returned from Nigeria while on a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and was beginning to develop a strong interest in computer mapping. In 1958–1959, Murray had taught at the University of Southampton in England while on a Fulbright Scholar grant.

Murray began his duties in the fall quarter of 1968. This was a critical time because a new, permanent dean of Arts and Sciences was named, a new College of Urban Life was created, and, shortly after that, the College of Education was created. All of these events were to have considerable impact on the Department of Geography. The institution's name was changed in 1969 to Georgia State University, a significant event because it provided a psychological charge for a faculty that wished to create a graduate level program, with hopes that eventually it would be given permission to offer the Ph.D. degree.

Murray's most immediate concern was to assemble a research-oriented faculty, all of whom would hold the Ph.D. degree. In that geography had close ties to the new College of Urban Life, pressure was placed to recruit an urban geographer. A similar request from the College of Education asked that a specialist in geographic education be hired. Murray insisted that a specialty in cartography be developed in the department, and that priority should be given to hiring a cultural/historical geographer to balance Sanford Bederman's interests. Further, it was absolutely essential that an M.A./M.A.T. degree quickly be approved.

In short order, Truman Hartshorn (an urban geographer), Richard Pillsbury (a cultural/historical geographer), and Gerald Holder (a physical geographer) joined the faculty in the fall of 1969. They were followed in spring 1970 by cartographer Borden Dent and John Ball (a Latin Americanist with a specialty in geographic education), who came two terms later. With the arrival in 1971 of G.E. Alan Dever (medical/statistical applications) and Donald Kolberg (physical), both of whom held Ph.D.s from the University of Michigan, the department faculty had grown to nine members, the largest number ever recorded even to the present.

The geography masters degree was approved in 1971, and by this time Murray clearly had assembled a young, capable graduate-level faculty. A major event occurred in 1974 when geography became the only Arts and Sciences department to move into the newly constructed 12-story Urban Life Building. Murray considers this to be one of his most important achievements as department chair. The new quarters contained a pleasant, well-equipped suite of administrative offices, a cartography teaching laboratory, a cartography research and production lab, a seminar room, and large, comfortable faculty offices—a far cry from the
cramped quarters endured in the old parking garage. Murray spent many hours with the architects insuring that faculty needs were addressed. It later was learned that geography had the only space in the new building other than restrooms and dean’s offices that contained running water. Certainly, the department’s close relationship with the College of Urban Life was the primary reason for the new space. The dean of the new college understood the importance of geography, and saw to it that several faculty members held joint appointments there.

From 1968 until 1992, a period of 22 consecutive years, the College of Arts and Sciences was led by three deans who, as the record would prove, had little or no use for geography or geographers. These deans were, in order, a chemist, a political scientist, and a sociologist, and the latter two had been an assistant to the previous dean. They were seekers of power and control, had almost no respect for collegiality, and certainly did not easily accept faculty input. They fit beautifully into the “Southern plantation” administrative model.

Malcolm Murray, a man of high principle, apparently wrongly assumed that he could disagree with the deans without rancor or repercussion, but this was not to be. No matter who was chair, the department suffered continual problems that included low or no faculty pay raises; no promotions for quite some time; no new positions; and no consideration for offering the Ph.D. degree. When individuals left the university, they were not replaced, and one dean even organized a “Blue Ribbon Committee” to ascertain if the Department of Geography was governable. This committee, fortunately, was comprised of level-headed colleagues in the university, and it obviously reported to the dean that he had erroneous ideas about the Department of Geography. Because the creation of the Blue Ribbon Committee was only a mechanism for harassment, the committee’s final report was never revealed to the department, and nothing resulted from its findings.

Murray resigned as chair in 1972, and for a year Borden Dent was acting chair. It was during this time that the department was informed by the dean that, without consulting the faculty, he had hired a new full-time chair from outside the university. The new chair, Frank Thomas, rather quickly found himself in a no-win situation, and he experienced three very uncomfortable years at Georgia State University. During his short tenure, Kolberg, Dever, and Holder left the department, and none was replaced. Thus when Thomas himself departed the university in 1976, the faculty had been reduced to six. Only after John Ball retired in 1985 was a new geographer hired.

Even though problems with the dean’s office continued, these were not barren times. The department instituted imaginative scheduling, the graduate program blossomed, faculty members obtained research grants, and wrote valuable geography books. Truman Hartshorn’s Urban Geography, and later, his Economic Geography were popular texts, and Borden Dent published Cartography: Thematic Map Design, a volume he nurtured through five editions before he died in 2000. Pillsbury worked assiduously on his historical/cultural research about food, sport,
and other elements of popular culture. At one time, every geographer in the
department had published in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, and their articles commonly appeared in other journals.

Because faculty size remained stable but enrollments increased substantially,
there was great concern about scheduling all the classes that students needed for
their degrees. There was a particular concern with offering the requisite courses in
cartography. Borden Dent’s resolution of the problem proved to be very successful.
Cartographers normally offered only one discreet course at a time, resulting in only
three courses a year being taught. Furthermore, these were taught in sequence. If a
student missed a course in the sequence, he or she would wait a full year before it
was offered again. Placing a heavy burden on himself, Dent reorganized all of his
cartography courses, and converted them from the lecture-lab system to studio
courses, similar to what was done in the Art Department. By so doing, Dent was
able to offer every cartography class each quarter in what was called the
“Cart-stack.” It was a revolutionary way to teach cartography, and the students
loved the system.

Not as successful, but no less innovative, was the creation of two-credit
advanced-level courses taught by the faculty as overloads. Many students enrolled
in up to five of these short courses, and thus were able to show more (in some cases
12) than the normal eight five-credit courses on their transcripts. These two-credit
courses also appealed to students who found that they had an odd number of credits
on their transcript after transferring to Georgia State University from schools that
operated on the semester system. By taking several of these short courses, they were
able to get back on track more beneficially. Unfortunately, because of low enroll-
ments, the two-credit courses were discontinued.

In 1985, the department began offering a nonthesis option for its M.A. students.
It was clear that most of the graduate students at the time were seeking technical
skills in order to obtain professional employment. In addition, too many students
found jobs after completing their oral exams and, subsequently, failed to complete
all of the requirements for the degree. Since the nonthesis option was adopted, a
much larger percentage of the department’s graduate students have completed their
degrees.

Through the efforts of John Ball, who earlier had served as President of the
National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE), Atlanta was awarded the
venue for the annual conference of the NCGE in 1972. This was a good warm-up
for hosting the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, which
met in Atlanta the next year in 1973. Both Georgia State University faculty
members and colleagues at the University of Georgia acted as co-hosts, and, when it
was over, everyone agreed that the reward for doing a good job was that they would
never have to do it again. This was not to happen because, 20 years later, in 1993,
the department hosted another very successful annual meeting of the AAG. For that
In the early 1960s, the department added two additional full-time faculty, including Dr. Craig Dozier (also Hopkins)—who replaced Edna Arundel—and Dr. David M. McEachern of Syracuse. Dr. Seibert would later initiate the geography program at University of California. By the mid-1960s, the department’s course offerings had expanded to include instruction on the Soviet Union, Africa, East Asia, climate, and political geography in Eastern Europe, Middle East, and South America.

**Developing the Geography Program**

In 1962, a major addition to the program was made by Doctor Seibert. The department began to focus on the development of the global program. Some of the changes included greater emphasis on the structure of the department, including its curriculum, and the establishment of a new center. Members of the Georgia State University Department of Geography, 1983. Front row (left to right): Truman Harshorn, Malcolm Murray, Berden Deeh, Barbara Denon (secretary), Sanford Bederman. Back row (left to right): Frank Dragone (staff), cartographer), Nanda Shresta (visiting scholar), Richard Fillmore, John Ball. In the current conference, Truman Harshorn was the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, and Sanford Bederman compiled and edited the field trip guide.

**New Faces, New Challenges, 1983-1996.** Truman Harshorn was chairman between January 1979 and June 1990. Significant changes occurred during his tenure that eventually segued into the third period of the department’s history. John Ball, retired in 1985, and was replaced by Sheridan Dodge, a physical geographer. Malcolm Murray followed Ball into retirement in 1988, and his replacement was Francis Magilligan, another physical geographer. Because new teachers were only rearrangements, the size of the department held at six faculty members for 15 consecutive years, but for the first time the physical geography program was staffed by faculty with a research interest.

In 1988, the university for the very first time instituted college-wide programs of departmental reviews, which included assessments by outside visitors. The Geography department was the first academic unit in the College of Arts and Sciences to undergo such a self-study. Sanford Bederman chaired the internal portion of the program review, and Saul Cohen, former president of the AAG, led the outside review committee, which also included William Graf (then at Arizona State University) and Richard Dahlberg, a cartography professor at Northern Illinois University. Needless to say, the outside review committee made a number of comments about the size of the department, its leadership, and its programs, and it...
presented many positive recommendations for improvement. Of great importance, the outside review committee corroborated the department's insistence that its faculty was comprised of very able geographical scholars who were well-respected by colleagues around the nation. Unfortunately, it was not helpful that Bederman, in his historical précis to the final report, highlighted the fact that there had been virtually no support from the dean's office during the previous two decades.

By 1990, when Hartshorn stepped down and was replaced by acting-chair Richard Pillsbury, Sheridan Dodge had left the University, and was replaced by Zhi-Yong (John) Yin, a physical geographer who had just completed his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia. At the same time, Eileen O'Brien, a Ph.D. graduate of Oxford University came to the department. Shortly thereafter, Melissa Gilbert, an urban geographer with a strong women's studies bent also joined the faculty.

In two years, conditions were to change radically. Sanford Bederman retired in 1992, and, fortunately, the last of the troika of unfriendly deans also retired. Relations with the dean's office (for the first time in two decades) became polite, congenial, and positive. But, alas; strategic planning at both the college and university levels did not recognize the geography program as a priority for growth.

Magilligan, O'Brien, and Gilbert did not remain at Georgia State University for long. Magilligan was recruited by Dartmouth University and, after Gilbert acquired her Ph.D. from Clark University in 1993, she left for Temple University after a year's leave at the University of Southern California. O'Brien was not considered for tenure. It was at this time (1992) that Paul Knapp, another Ph.D. student from the University of Georgia, was recruited. It is noted, therefore, that the early 1990s was a period of personnel flux and considerable uncertainty. Dent, Hartshorn, and Pillsbury provided experience and leadership, whereas John Yin and Paul Knapp were young scholars who were at the beginning of what were becoming quite productive academic careers.

A MERGED DEPARTMENT, 1997-PRESENT: Several important events occurred in 1997. Susan Walcott and Dona Stewart, two remarkably active scholars, joined the faculty; soon thereafter the dean of the college announced that he was combining the departments of geography and anthropology to become the new Department of Anthropology and Geography (Borden Dent was named chair); and, it was determined that the newly combined department would move into renovated space in Sparks Hall, the structure that housed classrooms, the university's library and cafeteria when Bederman came to Atlanta in 1959. The move took place throughout 1997 and 1998.

Recently tenured, Walcott and Stewart are both human geographers with an applied geography bent, and both have significant regional interests. Stewart's specialty is the Middle East, whereas Walcott is an authority on economic development in China. Both John Yin and Susan Walcott have traveled often to China, and their research is widely published. Dona Stewart has lived in Egypt and has
traveled often to the Middle East. Her articles in leading geographical journals have added luster to the department’s reputation. Stewart and Walcott both are administrators of College-supported regional studies centers. Stewart directs the Middle East Center for Peace and Development, and Walcott is Director of the Asian Studies Center.

Cartography has always been a significant element in the department’s academic program. Malcolm Murray had envisaged that Georgia State University would be a leader in this field, despite the fact that it only offered the M.A. degree, and his foresight certainly came to fruition in the 1990s. The cartography production laboratory, with state-of-the-art computers and software, and, since 1988, under the direction of Jeffrey McMichael, churned out imaginative maps, and greater attention was given to the new subfield of geographic information systems. The department had contracts with a number of agencies in the Atlanta area to produce maps for their needs. These agencies included MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority), the State Geological Survey, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Atlanta Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, the Georgia Humanities Council, and the Kennesaw Mountain Historical Council. From the moment the cartography production laboratory was created, it provided the service of producing maps for faculty members throughout the university who needed them for their publications.

Every student with a specialty in cartography, even if they did not go to graduate school, found a job upon graduation. Almost from the beginning, the GIS program has been administered by Elaine Hallisey Hendrix, a talented geographer who obtained her M.A. at Georgia State University in 1995. Since fall 2001, the Department of Anthropology and Geography has offered a certification program in geographical information systems, and, at last report, the program was growing nicely.

With John Yin and Paul Knapp developing their strong interests in climatology, hydrology, and biogeography, students were able for the first time to specialize in these important subdisciplines. Further, in 2002, Knapp and Walcott instituted a summer field camp in the American west, and students to a person praise the experience. The summer field course carries eight credits, with Walcott teaching the human geography half and Knapp handling the physical geography. Registration for the summer field school is always brisk, so much so, that the department is happily committed to continuing the program.

Because of declining health, Borden Dent retired in 1999, and a year later Richard Pillsbury, after serving 31 years on the faculty, also retired. Needless to say, their departure left a huge void. After all, Dent had been the primary person teaching cartography for almost 30 years, and Pillsbury had been responsible for virtually all of the historical and cultural geography program during his tenure. In 2000, only Truman Hartshorn remained from the original group that Malcolm Murray hired in 1969–1970.
John Yin replaced Borden Dent as acting chair in 1999, and remained in that position until 2002. Under his leadership the most recent hires took place. It was vital that the cartography program not be diminished. When Dent retired, he had to be replaced. Fortunately, his slot was filled in 2000 by Jeremy Crampton, a Ph.D. graduate of Pennsylvania State University (1994), who had been teaching at George Mason University in Virginia. In addition to his interests in geographical theory, Crampton began to offer courses in map design, digital cartography, and online mapping.

The most recent geographer recruited by the department, Jeremy Diem, arrived in 2001 to fill the slot vacated by Pillsbury. Diem, whose doctorate is from University of Arizona (2000), enhanced the department’s offerings in climatology and GIS. Diem, along with Paul Knapp and John Yin, are now the core instructors in physical geography, and for the very first time this subfield has become the department’s strongest academic program.

**FINAL THOUGHTS.** Through the auspices of the University Center in Georgia, a consortium of both public and private colleges and universities, outstanding national and international scholars in various disciplines each year have been invited to visit at least two (and more often, three) departments in the state. Geographers who visited Georgia always spent most of their time at Georgia State University and the University of Georgia, enhancing the collegiality that already existed between the two departments. These visits by distinguished scholars were invaluable for both students and professors, and, not incidentally, to a person they made an extremely good impression on doubting administrators. Among the most memorable of the geographers sponsored by the University Center to visit the state were Robert Platt, Walter Kollmorgen, Jean Gottmann, Jacques Soppelsa (later President of the Sorbonne), Yi-Fu Tuan, Julian Wolpert, Jonathan Sauer, Harley Walker, Peter Haggett, James Vance, David M. Smith, and Peirce Lewis. Poor John Jakle, expecting hospitable southern weather, arrived in the state as a snow and ice storm raged and spent three days stuck in a motel room.

Geographers at Georgia State University have been great travelers. In 1965-1966, Sanford Bederman lived in Nigeria and Cameroon (this is where he met Malcolm Murray). While on a Rockefeller Grant in 1971, he spent a short time in Kenya and Tanzania; and he traveled for two weeks in Morocco in 1981 after receiving a grant from the Georgia State University Foundation. He had been Visiting Professor at the University of Oregon during the summers of 1977 and 1987, and he was Visiting Professor at Queen Mary College, University of London, in 1990.

Malcolm Murray, the most prodigious traveler in the department, went to the University of New England in Armadale, Australia, on another Fulbright Fellowship in 1975. In rapid order, John Ball and Gerald Holder followed Murray to Armadale, also on Fulbright fellowships. Richard Pillsbury (after Murray, perhaps
the most peripatetic member of the faculty) continually wandered throughout the United States conducting fieldwork for his books and articles. Truman Harshorn attended a number of IGU (International Geographical Union) meetings, including those in Montreal, Tokyo, Paris, and Washington, DC. In 2002, he was invited to lecture in Japan and Korea. Of course, John Yin and Susan Walcott travel often to China, and Dona Stewart continues to acquire frequent flyer miles while jaunting to the Middle East. Paul Knapp continues his annual first-hand study of the American West.

Even though it is impossible to mention all of the fine students who have earned degrees from the Geography Department at Georgia State University, it is justifiably proud of all of its graduates. Furthermore, geographers at Georgia State University agree that its reputation is based in large part on the quality and deeds of its graduates. An early student was Joseph Ashley, who, after leaving Atlanta, earned a Ph.D. at the University of Colorado in 1971, and has taught at Montana State University for many decades. Nancy Brannen Hultquist, an undergraduate math major at Georgia State University, later earned the M.A. in geography at the University of Cincinnati, the Ph.D. at the University of Idaho, and now is professor of geography at Central Washington University.

Donald Kunze was a practicing architect when he came to Georgia State University for his Masters Degree. He moved to Pennsylvania State University where he earned the Ph.D in geography in 1983, and since has been a tenured professor of architecture at Penn State. Patricia Gilmartin, a student of Borden Dent, completed the M.A. at GSU in 1977, and received the Ph.D. at the University of Kansas in 1980. Now a professor at the University of South Carolina, she is one of the most distinguished cartographers in the United States today. Another Dent student, Richard Lindenberg, followed Gilmartin to Kansas, where he, too, obtained the Ph.D in 1986. Lindenberg now is on the geography faculty at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Still another Dent student, Thomas Paradise, earned his M.A. at GSU, then a Ph.D. at Arizona State University in 1993. After years teaching in Hawaii, he is now Professor of Geography at the University of Arkansas.

Long before Sanford Bederman introduced himself to Merle C. Prunty, Jr., in 1960, the departments of geography at Georgia State University and the University of Georgia had a close relationship with each other. Not only have many GSU students studied at the university in Athens, graduates of the University of Georgia have taught at Georgia State. Indeed, the majority of Georgia State students who wished to continue their graduate education went to Athens to study. The first was Gerald Sanders who completed his Ph.D. at Georgia in 1972. He now is retired from the faculty at West Georgia College and State University in Carrollton. Max Beavers, after receiving his M.A., earned his Ph.D. in 1999 at the University of Georgia, is now on the faculty at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Another Georgia State graduate, John Strait, earned his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia in 1999, and presently teaches at the University of New Hampshire. The
most recent former Georgia State student to receive the Ph.D. at the University of Georgia is Leslie Edwards. She completed her studies in 2001, and now, among other things, is working with the Atlanta Botanical Gardens developing educational materials.

Selima Sultana came to Georgia State after completing a graduate degree in Bangladesh. After studying in Atlanta for a few years, she entered the graduate program at Georgia, and acquired her Ph.D. in 2000. She now teaches at Auburn University. Fred Koechli is another student the department claims, even though he did not earn the M.A. degree at Georgia State. Koechli received a graduate degree in public administration, and then entered the M.A. program in geography at Georgia State. After taking a number of courses, he transferred to Georgia, where he completed his doctorate in 1984. He then entered the business world in Atlanta, and for 18 years managed Wachovia Bank's market research department. After leaving the bank, he returned to Georgia State and in 2003 obtained the M.Ed. degree with a teaching specialty in geography.

Harold Trendell is a perfect example of how a student took advantage of the nearby "urban" university. A long-time teacher of geography in an Atlanta high school, Trendell enrolled in the Georgia State geography graduate program, taking all of his courses at night. When he completed his M.A., he determined that he could not commute to the University of Georgia to work on a Ph.D., so he stayed at Georgia State and earned his doctorate in political science. His dissertation was heavily oriented toward political geography. He now is a tenured professor of geography at Kennesaw State University.

Being a faculty member of an academic department involves more than teaching and conducting research. In fact, a significant portion of time is devoted to service to the university, the profession, and certainly to the community. Over the years, Georgia State faculty produced an exemplary record in this area by serving on college and university committees, giving lectures in public schools, senior citizens learning centers, to community groups, and by serving as officers in professional organizations.

Because it is impossible to list everything that geographers at Georgia State have done in the service arena, only a few examples are mentioned here. Hartshorn chaired the university committee charged with the responsibility of locating suburban sites for satellite campuses. As a result, Georgia State now has a large presence in its own facility in north Fulton County, 30 miles from downtown Atlanta. For almost 15 years, Hartshorn has directed the Georgia Geographic Alliance, which has provided in-service training, summer institutes, and myriad geography materials to hundreds of social studies teachers throughout the state. He was local arrangements chair of the 1993 annual meeting in Atlanta of the Association of American Geographers; he served as vice president and program chairman of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG) in 1994–1996; and he presently is editor of The Professional Geographer.
Sanford Bederman was president of SEDAAG in 1977–1979, and later represented the region on the AAG Council in 1987–1990. He served as president of the Society for the History of Discoveries (SHD), and, in retirement, now is the secretary-treasurer of this small learned society. At the university level, he chaired the planning committees that resulted in the creation of the Heritage Preservation Program (which has been in existence for over two decades), and the Sports Medicine Program that played a small, local role in planning for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

When Sanford Bederman arrived at the Georgia State College of Business Administration in 1959, the institution barely had five thousand students, many of whom were part-time. In 2003, Georgia State University claims over 34,000 degree-seeking students. In 1971, the Department of Geography had nine faculty members. In 2003, the number of full-time geographers is seven, with one lecturer. It is clear, therefore, that the department is limited in how it can grow, certainly as far as semester enrollments are concerned. There is no question that much has happened in the 54 years since Merle C. Prunty, Jr., insisted that geography be taught in Atlanta; yet, in spite of its academic accomplishments, geography has yet to be given the institutional support it needs to truly evolve into a first-class Ph.D.-granting program.

NOTES

1For a short while, the State Board of Regents shared space in that cavernous facility. Legend has it that in the 1920s, bootleggers carried out their nefarious activities from this structure.

2Walker resigned in 1959 and moved to Louisiana State University where he completed his Ph.D in 1960. He taught at LSU for the remainder of his career, retiring as Boyd Professor of Geography.

3After the Korean War, Reese Walker worked for Lockheed in Houston, and was involved with a group of scientists who determined landing sites on the moon for astronauts.

4Bederman had another surprise when he discovered more than a five-year supply of army surplus toilet tissue in a room near his office.

5With the new name, Georgia State College of Business Administration severed its affiliation with the University of Georgia and became a separate unit of the University System of Georgia.

6Pennington taught at the University of Utah for a while, moved to Southern Illinois University, and then became chair of the Department of Geography at Texas A & M. He remained there until retirement.

7A story is often told that students in the 1960s and 1970s registered for classes in order to have a handy, cheap downtown parking space. Tuition was cheaper than parking fees.

8Hoshi left Atlanta to enter the Ph.D. program at Minnesota, but before completing his degree, he returned to Japan and entered the business world.
Meyer went to the University of Minnesota and completed his doctorate in 1975. He presently is Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.

Himmel held an M.A. from Eastern Michigan University, and was a doctoral student at the University of Georgia. He left Atlanta for the University of North Alabama, where he teaches today.

Brannen (now Nancy Hultquist) had a Master's Degree from the University of Cincinnati, and she completed her Ph.D. at the University of Idaho in 1990. She is now Professor of Geography at Central Washington University.

On one occasion, Rayford Stevens (who obtained his doctorate at a university in Mexico) taught the Latin America course in Spanish.

Larson later left Georgia State College to complete his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, and then spent the remainder of his career as Professor of Anthropology at West Georgia College in Carrollton, where, among other things, he served for many years as the State Archaeologist. He is now retired.

Hartshorn had earned his Ph.D. at the University of Iowa in 1968.

Pillsbury, a student of Wilbur Zelinsky, received his Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University in 1968.

Holder (1942–1991), received his doctorate from the University of Georgia in 1973, and after leaving Georgia State University, taught for many years at Sam Houston State University in Texas, and at East Carolina University.


Ball (1923–1999) earned his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in 1952.

The first graduate degree in the geography was awarded within months to Eugene Loring, a public school teacher, who received the M.A.T in 1971.

The Geography Department was also the only department that possessed individual light switches in its offices. Everywhere else in the building, lights remained on permanently.


Dodge received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1984.

Magilligan received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1988.

Knapp came to Georgia State University from the University of Nevada, Reno. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia in 1989.

John Yin, since 1992, has published over 25 articles (as author or co-author) in refereed physical science journals. Paul Knapp has received a prestigious National Science Foundation research grant, and has become a leader in the field of dendroecology.

Walcott received the Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1995, and Stewart completed her doctorate at the University of Florida in 1994.


29 For over a decade prior to 1988, the cartography laboratory was ably directed by Frank Drago, who now is in private business in Connecticut.

30 The first course in GIS was taught at Georgia State University in 1987.

31 Georgia State University geography students, both undergraduate and graduate, can be found today working at the CDC, as well as in local and regional planning agencies throughout metropolitan Atlanta. Rather than work for a government agency, Linda Turnbull entered the Ph.D. program in sociology at Georgia State University, and proceeded to produce a highly useful book, *Atlas of Crime: Mapping the Criminal Landscape*, published by Oryx Press in 2000. Turnbull is a budding writer of mysteries.

32 The Department of Anthropology and Geography presently is chaired by Katherine Kozaitis, an anthropologist.

33 Graduates of the University of Georgia who have taught, or are now teaching in the department of geography at Georgia State University include Leonard Evenden (M.A.), Gerald Holder, Eileen O'Brien (M.A.), Zhi-yong Yin, and Paul Knapp.

34 In 2002, the University System of Georgia approved the rank of Lecturer, which allowed teachers to draw full-time salaries, but would not fill a tenure-track position. Dr. John Allensworth, a retiree from Kent State University, presently holds the lectureship in the department.