A Short History
Of
Geography at
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale
1868-1967

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A HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY AT SIUC

Geography has been a part of SIU since the school's beginning more than 130 years ago as Southern Normal.

The 'Normal'

Because geography as a subject has long been a part of K-12 education, it has been taught at SIU since the first Normal School opened its doors in 1874. Geography, combined with History, was one of 12 one-person departments, Granville F. Foster, holding the post at a salary of $1,000 a year. (The vocal music and drawing and writing instructors made just $400 each while the Principal got $4,000.) Mr. Foster had taught in public schools in Illinois for four years. He was also appointed the school librarian.

The entire school registered 53 students during its initial term in Summer 1874. Virtually all of them were school teachers with no training past 12th grade. They were tested to determine their competence in geography as well as reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, and English grammar. By Fall, there were 143 students registered in 'the Normal' and Mr. Foster added algebra and geometry to his U.S. History and Physical Geography courses.

Southern Illinois State Teachers College

Southern continued as a Normal School until 1928 when it became a teachers' college. It was 1931 before it was recognized by the North Central Association, the accrediting body. The distinction between 'normal school' and
'teachers college' was important. A 'Normal School' was concerned with 'teacher training' rather than education as recognized by liberal arts colleges. Normal schools normally had low admission standards, the credentials of its faculty focused on teaching experience rather than academic degrees, and had minimal facilities. Programs were usually two-years long, not four years, and diplomas and certification, not degrees were awarded. Its graduates had difficulty in transferring credits to liberal arts and professional schools.

In 1907 the state had authorized the Normal schools to offer four-year degrees in education. Still, this was not the focus of the program at Southern. Until 1922 no more than one individual completed the new program in any year. Then a class of four received their bachelor's degrees.

The key figure in geography for almost 40 years was Frank Colyer, who came to campus in 1897, held a Master's degree, and through the years taught history and physiography as well. In 1930 geography separated from history and became a separate department, which, by then, had a total of four members.

Marjorie Shank, with a M.A. in geography from Clark, joined the department in 1923 and remained for the rest of her career---some 40 years---although she was campus registrar from 1931 to 1953. Flemin Cox was added in 1929, serving for 16 years before retiring in 1945. Both Marjorie and Cox had Master's degrees as well. Annemarie Krause also joined the department in 1929 with a bachelor's degree from Minnesota and graduate work at Illinois. She completed her M.A. the next year. She remained in the department, specializing in Latin America and economic geography, until her retirement in 1964.
Several geography graduates of this period went on to graduate school and had significant careers in the field. Mabel Eads of the class of '29 went on to a master's at the University of Chicago and a career in the Federal Government. She was an International Trade Economist for the Far Eastern Division of the Bureau of foreign Commerce. George Wells, class of '31, got his M.A. from the University of Illinois and became chair of the Earth Sciences Department of Joliet Junior College. Robert Finley, class of '34, got his Master's and Ph.D. at Wisconsin and handled geography in the extension program at that school. Hoyt Lemmons, who graduated in '36, went on to Nebraska for both M.A. and Ph.D. He became Chief of the Geophysics Branch of the Army Research Office.

The designation as a teachers college gave the campus new impetus, but, in fact, it had been changing since the appointment of H. W. Shryock as president in 1913. Shryock had been quietly working to change the college into a stronger, more liberal arts oriented place. In the '30s, aided by efforts to meet North Central Association requirements, he changed the curriculum from the many training courses to one more academically based. He strengthened the curriculum by adding Ph.D.s to the faculty.

**The Department Takes a New Direction** - The new direction hit geography in the mid-Thirties with the appointment of Thomas Barton to replace Colyer as chair upon the latter's retirement in 1935. Barton was the first faculty member to hold a Ph.D. An Illinois native, he received his bachelor's degree from Illinois State Normal, his master's from Wisconsin, and his Ph.D. from Nebraska the year he came. He had been a teaching assistant under V. C. Finch at Wisconsin,
had taught summer school at Tennessee Teachers (now Memphis State), and had been on the faculty of Nebraska State Teachers in Kearney.

Barton was young (30), enthusiastic, dynamic, and was an outstanding teacher. He was very popular with students and geography was a strong department on campus. He was very much interested in conservation of natural resources. And, he was active in educational geography at both state and national levels. He was a leader in conservation issues throughout Southern Illinois and established a national weather station in the department.

He left Carbondale in 1946 to join the faculty of Indiana University. There he was a leader in geographic education, pioneering geography texts for the primary grades. He was secretary of the National Council for Geographic Education for five years and was its president in 1945. He then edited the *Journal of Geography* from 1950 to 1965. He served on the International Geographical Union's Commission on the Teaching of Geography and taught for two years at the School of Education in Bangkok. He helped establish the first Gamma Theta Upsilon chapter at Illinois State and the chapters at both Southern and Indiana.

Under Barton's leadership the department added a second Ph.D. in 1939—Joseph Van Riper. Van Riper had a great geographic pedigree: he did his undergraduate work at Michigan, got his Master's from Syracuse, and completed his Ph.D. at Michigan the year he came to Southern. His interests complemented Barton's conservation concerns; he specialized in land utilization and soils. He left the department in 1946 when Barton moved on.
Several of the undergraduates of the Barton-Van Riper era went on to graduate school and important careers in geography. Lloyd Mitchell, class of '42, took graduate work at Illinois, Chicago, and Maryland and became Chief of the Synoptic and Dynamic Studies Branch of the Air Weather Service. Ed Becht, '47 got his M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Illinois. He became known in the business world for his transportation studies and Chaired the Department of Transportation and Geography at the University of Houston, then its Department of Business Economics. Art Doerr, also of the class of '47, got his Master's at Illinois and Ph.D. at Northwestern. He went on to the staff of the University of Oklahoma. Wally Akin, '48, completed his Master's at Indiana and Ph.D. at Northwestern and chaired the department at Drake University. John Dornbach went on to a Masters at Washington University and became Director of Operations at the Army Aeronautical Chart and Information Center in St. Louis.

**Southern Illinois University**

The loss of its two Ph.D.s was a blow to the department just as the University was emerging from World War II with a new name and mission. In 1943 the legislature had approved university status for Southern. It now became Southern Illinois Normal University with authorization to grant liberal arts degrees and master's degrees in education. A College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a College of Vocations and Professions were added. In 1947 the legislature completed the move from teachers college by changing Southern's name to Southern Illinois University. The change to University status was fought all the way by the University of Illinois, which wanted no challenge to its status as THE
state university. The bill specifically prohibited SIU from offering doctoral work or creating any professional schools.

In the department, still another Ph.D. came as Barton and Van Riper left. The new addition was Clarence Vinge, a northern Michigan native with a new Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. His interests were Anglo America and economic geography. However, Vinge was to stay only two years before he moved on to the faculty of Michigan State.

Two new faculty members were added in 1947. Floyd Cunningham, an Illinois native, came from Alabama Teachers in Florence, where he was department head, to take over the department at SIU. Floyd also was an Illinois native and an Illinois State graduate, but had both his M.A. and Ph.D. from Clark. Like Barton before him, Floyd's chief interests were conservation and geographic education. He had long been active in the National Council for Geographic Education serving, first as its secretary, then as its President for three years during World War II. Also, added was Dalias Price with a B.A. from Illinois and a Master's from Wisconsin. Dalias, too, was a physical geographer and an Illinois native. The department now had four active members: Cunningham, and Price, Van Riper, and Krause. Marjorie Shank worked full-time as registrar.

In 1949 geography became the Department of Geography and Geology with the addition of Stanley Harris, Princeton undergraduate and Ph.D. from Iowa, a geologist. Stan's charge was to build up geology and spin it off as a separate department. This was done in 1955. With Vinge gone, Oliver Beimfohr, with an M.A. from Ohio State, was hired to take his place.
There had been no new building on the campus since 1928 and, while enrollment was less than 4,000, there were only three teaching buildings: Old Main, the main teaching facility, built in 1887; Altgeld Hall from 1897; and Parkinson Laboratory, the 1928 facility. The campus also included Wheeler Library, 1903; Shryock Auditorium, 1916; the Gymnasium, 1925; the Allyn Building which housed University School, 1903; and Anthony Hall, a women's dorm 1913. Other classes were taught in various wartime temporary buildings that had been hauled to campus after the war's end. There was little office space and departments were housed in a wide array of houses the university had purchased to the north of campus.

The geography house was an ancient two-story asphalt shingle house on the site of the present Quigley Hall. With three staff offices in the tiny bedrooms upstairs, the chair in what was once another bedroom downstairs, Stan Harris in the dining room, and the departmental secretary in the old parlor, the kitchen was still used as a general classroom by various liberal arts departments until it became the office for Charles Colby when he came. Geography courses were taught on the second floor of Old Main where the department had a small office for storing maps and globes. Faculty members met there between classes.

The Morris Years

Any department’s history is a small part of the story of the university as a whole. For Southern that meant years as a normal school, then the expansion as a teachers college, then its emergence as a university after World War II. In 1948 the University got a new president, largely by default. The immediate
postwar president, Chester Lay, suddenly left the university just before the beginning of the Fall Term in 1948. The post needed to be filled quickly and the Illinois Teachers College Board turned to a candidate they had interviewed when Lay was hired: Delyte Morris.

Morris was the right man for the job at the right time. He was confident, had his own vision of a modern university, and he was charismatic. Moreover, he had two key advocates in Springfield—Paul Powell, leader of the Democratic party in the State House of Representatives, and R. G. Crisenberry in the Senate. Crisenberry had been instrumental in obtaining university status in 1943. Moreover, all Southern Illinois was behind the move to build SIU into a great university and the largely Democratic region teamed up with the Daley machine in Chicago to form a bloc against Republican Central Illinois for the advantage of both areas. As a result of this power, in 1949 SIU was separated from the statewide Teachers College Board and got its own board of trustees just as the University of Illinois. The other teachers colleges, soon to be universities, remained under the old Teachers College Board.

All this occurred when the national climate would soon be right for higher education. Impressed by the success of the G. I. Bill and, later, faced with Soviet competition in space, the ‘50s were the golden age for higher education throughout the country. This was the time of the creation of the California higher education system, SUNY in New York and other state systems. Major universities such as Michigan State and Penn State emerged. Throughout the countries legislatures and their constituents saw higher education, particularly
science, as their number one priority. SIU was positioned to take advantage of the opportunities as they arose.

It was the mid-Fifties before real expansion occurred at SIU. In the meantime, in 1950, Robert Harper, a new Ph.D. from Chicago, joined the staff. A wallboard partition was built in the kitchen of the Geography House to create his office, five feet wide and 12 feet long with the chimney along one wall. Classes continued to be taught in the rest of the kitchen.

In 1950 the total University enrollment was 3,477, the first time it had been over 3,000.

**Geography in the Early ‘50s** - The department now had six members, not counting Marge Shank who did not teach—five geographers and one geologist. Harper’s coming, as the second Ph.D. on the geography staff (Cunningham was the other), meant that the department could begin graduate work. A handful of grad students, all of them natives of Southern Illinois, began programs.

At the undergraduate level, the department’s *World Regional Geography* and *Physical Geography* courses met university general education requirements. The regional course, *Geography 100*, a five hour course (the university was on the quarter system), was taught in 7 or 8 sections under different instructors. The department offered an undergraduate major and minor as well as a minor in geographic education and required courses for other education curricula.

A major event in the department occurred in Spring Quarter 1951. Chairman Cunningham had taken advantage of an offer by President Morris to fund visiting Distinguished Professors, retired faculty members at major
universities. Cunningham asked Charles Colby, newly retired Chair of the department at the University of Chicago, to come for the Spring. The Chicago department was generally recognized as the leading graduate department in the field at that time. Colby came largely because he had family ties in the region.

Colby was an activist and did not just come to visit. He called on President Morris just as a very negative report on the economic future of the region was published. The report, commissioned to a nationally-known regional planning firm by a local development organization—Southern Illinois Incorporated—had surprised everyone with a very pessimistic prognosis.

As Morris and Colby talked, Morris asked Colby if he had read the report. Colby replied that he had. Morris asked, “What do you think of it?” Colby replied, “Not much.” Morris responded, “Neither do I. Do you think you could do better?” Colby nodded and, as was his way, Morris asked Colby if he would come back the next year to study the region. Colby had commitments at the University of Kansas and UCLA for the coming two years. At Kansas he helped establish a doctoral program while working on a study of the Kaw River valley; at UCLA he was the major consultant on their new doctoral program.

In 1953-54 Cunningham received a Fulbright grant to teach at Ibrahim Pasha University in Cairo, so Colby came for the year as Acting Chair while undertaking his study of the region, A Pilot Study of Southern Illinois, published by the new Southern Illinois University Press. He did not teach.

Colby accomplished a minor miracle that year. Krause, Beimfohr, and Price were long inactive ABDs in their graduate programs. All were middle aged
and were not actively pursuing dissertations. Colby decided to do something about that.

He knew that Annemarie had completed the course requirements for her doctorate at Chicago. While he was visiting in Spring 1951, he talked to her about choosing a dissertation and doing the fieldwork. Annemarie was the daughter of a German-speaking minister in Kansas so she was fluent in the language. Her interest was Latin America. With Colby’s urging, she decided to undertake a study of German-speaking Mennonites who were in the midst of establishing a colony in Paraguay. At age 53 she traveled by wagon, muleback, and dugout canoe to reach the colony. She got study and her degree in 1952.

Oliver Beimfohr had completed his coursework in economic geography at Ohio State. When Colby was planning his study of Southern Illinois, he told Beimfohr to work with him and he could develop a dissertation out of it. Beimfohr did and in 1954 he was awarded a degree. Price, a very competitive individual, realized what was going on. He was at the dissertation stage at Wisconsin, but at 41, was not actively pursuing work. Now he was stimulated to undertake his own study. As a result of Colby’s prodding, all of the departmental faculty now had doctorates. At the same time Colby had completed his study for President Morris. As a result Colby was in high regard with President Morris and, by association, so was geography.

In the early ‘50s a second geologist, Jules Dubar, was hired. At first, much against his will, he had to teach a section of introductory geography as part of his course load. This proved distasteful to him and disastrous to students and
the department. In 1955 geology became a separate department and moved to its own quarters in Altgeld Hall. At the same time geography, also, added staff, After 30 years Marjorie Shank returned to the department, but only after she, in her mid-50s, spent a sabbatical taking further coursework at the University of Chicago. Richard Dahlberg, a young cartographer from Syracuse University, joined the staff for a year, but then moved on to UCLA and Northern Illinois.

Colby returned to the University in Fall '55, not in the department, but as head of the Mississippi Valley Investigations, a campus-wide effort by President Morris to encourage faculty research. The MVI was an umbrella organization that covered a wide range of research. Geographically it encompassed the entire Mississippi-Ohio-Missouri watersheds, essentially all the country from the Appalachians to the Rockies. It was open to the full-range of campus disciplines—any researcher from any discipline on campus who would do research within the prescribed geographic area. Colby set up headquarters in a WWII army surplus barracks, brought his son Stephen to serve as his assistant, and hired Dan Irwin, a cartographer with a master's degree from UCLA.

The MVI had two components: (1) A monthly dinner and seminar with a speaker from either the campus or outside. President Morris was regularly in attendance, and (2) Research support, primarily during the summer, in the form of travel monies and research assistants. Colby continued to direct the MVI until his death in 1966 while in the field in the upper Mississippi Valley with grad assistant Curt Roseman. He simply did not wake up one morning. He was 82. He had been awarded an honorary degree by the University. The Mississippi Valley
Investigations produced few significant studies, but it accomplished its purpose to showcase the University's commitment to research. SIU was on its way to becoming a research university.

In 1955 the total campus enrollment was over 5,500. SIU was beginning to move.

The staff had a tragic loss when Oliver Beimfohr died of a massive heart attack on-campus in '55. Robert Buzzard, former President of Eastern Illinois and a geographer, joined the staff for a year after his retirement from Eastern while waiting for pension adjustments that he had helped initiate. He proved to be a good undergraduate teacher and willing colleague.

Immediately after his arrival, President Morris began to think about expanding the graduate program and adding professional schools. All departments were encouraged to increase their graduate offerings as they added staff. A regular program of outside evaluation of departments by outside referees was established.

In the mid-'50s, the department's graduate student numbers limped along at a half-dozen or so, mostly SIU graduates. Betty and Joe Sims and Bill Almond were among the pioneers. Betty and Joe went on to teach school while Bill spent his career with the Aeronautical Chart and Information Service in St. Louis. Lee Okeson went on to become the Chief Planner for the city of San Diego. In the mid '50s the program was augmented by the first foreign students. A pair of students came from India. Then Mei-Ling Hsu arrived from Taiwan. She would go on to a Ph.D. at Wisconsin and a career at the University of Minnesota.
In 1955 George Cressey, chair of geography at Syracuse University and a leading figure in geography for many years, made an onsite visit to evaluate the departental program. The sum of his report was that the department had a 'C' ranking (he was probably generous) and that no member of the present staff was qualified for a position in a major graduate department. He cited the poor quarters and the lack of research as major problems.

With Colby having the President's ear, geography was in a strong position on campus. However, any real department growth was stymied by its facilities. Despite the space made available when Stan Harris and geology moved out, there was no more room in the decrepit geography house. Teaching facilities in Old Main were woefully inadequate.

**New Quarters: Room to Expand** - The solution came in '57 when the new Agricultural Building opened. It had been built to accommodate future growth of the new Ag. School, so there was space left over and it was assigned to geography. The department had its own central office in the new building, but the faculty was scattered throughout the building wherever there was a vacant office. Two classrooms were also used as offices. The space was only temporary. The Ag Dean, Wendell Keepper met the department as it moved in saying, "I'm going to get you out of here as soon as I can!" The old Geography House was burned down in a firefighters demonstration.

The senior staff of Cunningham, Price, Krause, Harper, and Shank was now joined by two new Ph.D.s—Carl Swisher, a local boy with a Ph.D. in physical geography from Northwestern and Ronald Beveridge, an economic geographer
and a Scott with his Ph.D. from Illinois. John Hopkins, a Ph.D. candidate at Northwestern, and Frank Stern, a doctoral candidate at Syracuse were also on the staff. Hopkins served as a faculty advisor in one of the dorms at the new ‘Living and Learning’ dorms in the new Thompson Point residential complex. The dorms had classrooms where students took some of their classes. Dalias Price, who had developed a Southern Illinois rain-gauge network, established a ‘Climatology Lab’ in his classroom office. Colby’s Mississippi Valley Investigations was in located in a war surplus tarpaper build west of the Ag Building.

In order to provide Graduate Assistantships, the department began shifting the multi-section Geography 100 general education course to a lecture format. The 5-hour course now had three lectures a week plus two discussion sections led by graduate assistants.

The result was the first real ‘critical mass’ of M.A. students. The availability of graduate assistantships attracted the first group of graduates of other colleges and universities: George Demko, West Chester State; Berndt von Boehm, Free University of Berlin; Carmen Harper, St. Cloud State; John Quinn and Tom Wilson, Illinois. They joined Ron Nelson, Bob Holz, and Carroll Schwartz, SIU grads. Nelson went on to a Ph.D. at Nebraska and spent his career at Western Illinois, Harper taught at St. Cloud; Quinn’s career was in planning. Wilson, who was severely handicapped, died shortly after completing his Master. Holz took his Ph.D. at Michigan State then spent his career at the University of Texas where he headed a Middle East program as Erich W.
Zimmermann Regents Professor. Demko, with a doctorate from Penn State, was on the faculty at Ohio State, then the Geographer at the State Department, and, then, Professor and head of an international studies center at Dartmouth.

**A New Chair, New Faculty, Another New Home**—In '58 Dallas Price left the department for the Chair at Eastern Illinois. Floyd Cunningham signaled his willingness to give up the SIU Chair and take over Price's Southern Illinois Climatology Lab as Director. The facility was moved to a war-surplus building near the Mississippi Valley Investigations.

A nationwide search was authorized for the new department chair. After much searching and soliciting suggestions, two candidates emerged. John Alexander from the University of Wisconsin, author of a new Economic Geography text, and Leslie Hewes, chair of the Department at Nebraska. During a meeting with the faculty, Alexander spoke of creating a model city on the edge of Carbondale, an idea that did sounded wild to the staff. Hewes became the top candidate. He not only visited campus, he came back with his wife. When he returned to Lincoln, he wired his acceptance, only to call a day later and withdraw. Apparently his wife did not want to move.

With the Fall term '58 coming on the search for a chair had failed. At this point, Harper wrote a letter to Dean Talbot Abbott, outlining his thoughts on the future of the department and what might be done. Whether the letter impressed Abbott, or Colby used his clout with Morris, or a little of both, Harper was appointed Chair and promoted to Professor. He had refused to accept the acting chair.
He faced a major task—but also a great opportunity to move the
department in a new direction. The department had five staff openings to fill in
year '59. Price's slot was open. Swisher had left academia to go into the
mattress business.; Beveridge became a stock broker; Hopkins had committed
suicide after a discouraging conference with his dissertation advisor, and Stern
was not renewed.

Harper heard that Wilbur Zelinsky, a well-known cultural geographer, who
oddly worked for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in their industrial location
department, wanted to get back into academia. Zelinsky was interested in SIU,
but expected a full Professorship. After lengthy correspondence and several
visits, the offer was made. Zelinsky accepted and seemed eager to get to work.

With the big slot filled, Harper went to the Association of American
Geographers meetings in Pittsburgh in Spring '59 looking for four more staff
members. He had a long list of possibilities, but used the Pittsburgh meetings to
interview all the candidates he could. The result was four additional
appointments.

Joseph Velikonja was a Slovenian immigrant, with a Doctorate from the
University of Rome. He had come to the country in the regular immigration
quota, knowing little English. He moved to Slovenian cluster in Cleveland, and
worked in a factory there. He made contact with Edna Eisen, a Chicago Ph.D. on
the faculty at Kent State. She referred him to the University of Chicago which
gave him financial aid. There, he expected to undertake a second doctorate, but
the faculty told him that wasn't necessary; all he needed was to work on his
English. Joe was ready for an academic appointment and accepted Harper’s offer as an Assistant Professor.

There was an excellent crop of Ph.D. candidates on the market in ’59 and Harper had a wide range of choices. He chose three: Theodore Schmudde, physical geographer from the University of Chicago; Frank Thomas, an economic geographer from Northwestern; and Howard Stafford, also an economic geographer, from Iowa. All accepted.

The new staff led by Zelinsky, included Velikonja; and Schmudde, Thomas, and Stafford—about to be awarded their degrees. The old guard consisted of Harper, Cunningham, Krause, and Shank. The new members and Harper taught both undergraduate and graduate work, while the others almost exclusively taught undergrads.

There were nine faculty in all. With the massive additions to the faculty, the department was full of new ideas. To the credit of Cunningham, Krause, and Shank, who might have felt pushed aside, none complained. On the contrary they accepted the new faculty and ideas graciously.

While, at the undergraduate level, the department offered a full range of courses, at the graduate level, emphasis was on economic-human geography. Zelinsky and Velikonja were human geographers, Thomas, Stafford, and Harper, economic. Even physical geographer Ted Schmudde’s emphasis was on land use and resource management. Howard Stafford brought training in quantitative methods based on his work at Iowa and introduced it into the program. The
addition in '60 of David Christensen added an urban-economic dimension as well as work in cartography.

But, geography was in for another move. Keepper, true to his welcome to the Ag Building, was taking the rest of its space. Geography moved to a cluster of four houses on either side of Elizabeth Street on the west edge of the campus—its own little subcampus. In addition to the new buildings being added annually to the campus, the University occupied dozens of former houses on the fringes of campus as far as Mill Street on the North and Oakland on the west. Geography used one house as the departmental officer-library-conference room; another as a cartographic lab, and the other two housed faculty offices. Unlike the Ag Building, where geographers were scattered throughout the vast building, the geographers had their own little neighborhood. Teaching took place on-campus mostly in the new Lawson lecture hall and in the Ag. Building.

**Graduate Work**

The department moved aggressively to make its graduate program known. Increased enrollment numbers for the university meant more enrollment in Geography 100 and physical geography, both still components of the General Education program. This, in turn, along with the climatology lab, and faculty research increased the base of graduate and research assistants. Graduate program announcements were sent throughout the country. The addition of Zelinsky, Velikonja, and the young faculty from major departments, sent a buzz around the geographic profession that SIU was up and coming.
The result was the beginning of a major influx of graduate students. That year Aulis Lind, who got his Ph.D. from Wisconsin and spent his career at Vermont, and Leland “Sam” Newman, who became a regional planner, came from Augustana College, Illinois; Placido LaVale, who did his Ph.D. at Iowa and taught at the University of Windsor, arrived from Columbia University; Tso-hwa Lee, who was to get both his Master’s and Ph.D. from SIU and spend his career at Fresno State, came from Taiwan.

Other arrivals in the early ‘60s, who later had distinguished careers included John Jakle from Western Michigan who, after a Ph.D. at Indiana went on to chair the department at the University of Illinois; Gary Meyer from the University of Idaho who got his Ph.D. from Minnesota and taught at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point; Rey Ayala from the University of Minnesota who later completed his Ph.D. at San Diego State; John Hall from Southwest Louisiana who did his Ph.D. at LSU and then taught at their Shreveport campus. David and Judy Meyer, met at Concordia College, Illinois, married at SIU and each went on to separate careers, David at U. Mass and Brown, Judy at Central Connecticut, before going into administration at Fontbonne University, St. Louis. Arnold Burke from Massachusetts State, Wooster went into planning and his wife, Luella, became a prison warden in Michigan. Curt Roseman from Augustana, got his Ph.D. from Iowa and became chair of the new department at Southern California. Malcolm Comeau from Southwest Louisiana, completed his doctorate at LSU and spent his career at Arizona State. Don Clements from Brigham Young, later got his Ph.D. at SIU and
taught at SIU Edwardsville. Jerry Towle from Valparaiso got a Ph.D. from Oregon and taught at Fresno State. David Sibley from the University of Liverpool taught at the new university of North Staffordshire at Crewe, England. Vernon Meentemeyer, a homegrown SIU product, completed his Ph.D. later and became a professor at the University of Georgia.

Working to enrich graduate studies and to expose the program to the outside world, during the next few years nationally-known geographers were invited to campus for seminars—among them Joseph Russell, Chair, University of Illinois; Andrew Clark, Rutgers; H. H. McCarty, Chair, Iowa; Allen Rodgers, Penn State; Ed Ullman, head of the Meramec Valley Project; John Augelli and George Jenks, Kansas; Ed Higbee, University of Rhode Island; Raymond Crist, Florida; William Thomas, University of California-Riverside; Fraser Hart, University of Minnesota.

**Geography Goes International** - With over 12,000 students on campus and another 6,000 at Edwardsville, Delyte Morris raised his sights. Why couldn’t the ideas about dealing with a depressed area in Southern Illinois be translated to problem areas overseas? Besides, the Federal Government was beginning to fund aid programs. At a faculty meeting, he called for departments to become international in scope.

Geography responded with a series of faculty exchanges with England. In 1961-62 an exchange was arranged with the department at the University of Manchester. Robert Harper would teach for the 1961-62 year at Manchester and David Niddrie, of the Manchester staff would come to Carbondale. The two
would exchange houses (but, Niddrie, whose daughter remained in England to complete her prep school work, decided to rent an apartment) and cars. Each would stay on his own salary. The disadvantage of that arrangement for Niddrie was made up by SIU hiring Niddrie's wife to join the Language department to teach French. Joseph Velikonja would serve as acting Chair.

This was the beginning of a flurry of exchanges and foreign visitors. The next year Frank Thomas exchanged with J. Allan Patmore of the University of Liverpool and the following year David Christensen and Richard Lawton of Liverpool exchanged. In all cases except Niddrie, the whole family of each participant was part of the exchange. Frank Monkhouse, a physical geographer from Oxford spent a quarter on campus. David Fox was in Carbondale throughout 1962-63. Louis Trottier came from the University of Laval, Canada.

Distinguished geographers Ed Hammond, University of Wisconsin, and Robert McNee, Chair, University of Cincinnati taught during summers '62 and '63 respectively. Velikonja taught at Yale in '63.

In 1963 Jean Gottmann of the Sorbonne, who had also taught at Johns Hopkins, came for a few weeks. He had only recently completed his landmark study on 'Megalopolis' for the Twentieth Century Fund. The Department held a symposium on Urban Sprawl in his honor. Among those who gave papers were Harold Mayer of the University of Chicago; Edwin Thomas of Arizona State; Peter Nash, Dean of the Graduate School at Rhode Island; Edward Higbee, also at Rhode Island; Robert Dickinson, University of Leeds; Robert Lederman, Director of Community Facilities and Urban Renewal for the Home Builders
Association; Bart Epstein, Supervisor of Sales Facilities Research for B. F. Goodrich; James Kenyon, University of Georgia; Henry Fagin, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Wisconsin; Robert McNee, chair of the department at Cincinnati, and William Garrison of the Transportation Institute at Northwestern. The proceedings were later published by Wiley as 'Metropolis on the Move. Geographers Look at Urban Sprawl'.

Growing Staff, Growing Activities—In the midst of all this, the department staff continued to grow. As has been noted, David Christensen, Ph.D. Chicago and faculty member at Florida State, came aboard in '61. Several young ABDs—Don Eggert from Indiana; Pat Tyson from Michigan, and Walter Schroeder from Chicago—spent time on the staff, but none completed the degree, so all moved on.

Gottmann would return later for a quarter. He and his wife, a former editor for 'Life' magazine, were part of the community of Distinguished Visiting Professors living in the Van Atta apartment complex on campus, where Colby also lived. Neither Gottmann or wife Bernice could drive. Moreover, he had suffered a broken neck earlier and had to wear a cushion-collar when riding. She took driving lessons in Carbondale and they followed a regular sightseeing regime. Both Colby and Gottmann later donated significant parts of their personal libraries to the Morris Library.

The new faculty was full of new ideas. In 1963 these included a summer program in England offered jointly with the University of Liverpool. A field camp was also proposed. To publicize the graduate program and the new ventures,
Dan Irwin, cartographer, designed a series of display panels to be shown at the AAG meetings that year in Denver. Dan loaded the panels on top of his car for the trip to Denver. Neither of the planned programs took place, but the profession learned more about what was going on in Carbondale.

The department also joined the interest in the economic development of Southern Illinois. Ted Schmudde and Frank Thomas proposed the damming of the Mississippi River at Thebes, Illinois, the last upland narrows downriver. The dam would back water 110 miles to St. Louis and up the Muddy River in Southern Illinois. A canal through the Missouri Bootheel and Arkansas to Helena, Arkansas was included, a canal that would flow through cotton and rice country and would bypass Memphis. The idea was that economic development could not take place piece-meal, it needed a major investment for change.

President Morris, always one for big ideas, was impressed and arranged for a showing to Senator Charles Percy. Schmudde, Thomas, and Harper also made a presentation to Winthrop Rockefeller, then Director of Economic Development for Arkansas. Rockefeller entered the presentation room in his riding outfit, complete with riding crop, but showed little interest in the project—he hadn’t thought of it. The idea faded, but the department produced a monograph—Economic Revitalization in the Confluence Region: An Argument for a Regional Scale Approach to Areas of Depression—on the idea and it was presented before various geographic and planning meetings. Christensen and Harper edited a volume ‘The Mississippi-Ohio Confluence Area’ for the National Council for Geographic Education series ‘Geography through Maps’.
Howard Stafford, in a statistical study, picked up on an idea introduced by Brian Berry of the University of Chicago: a 'dispersed city' in the coal counties of Perry, Jackson, Williamson, Saline, Franklin, and Jefferson—an area with 250,000 people, but no individual city of over 20,000. The idea has never picked up on.

Harper—along with faculty from the University of Illinois, Indiana, Indiana State—served on the Research Advisory Committee to the Rend Lake Conservancy District that was seeking to create the lake, and was the university representative to the Wabash Valley Commission. Harpeer was involved with Wabash Valley Development, first as a member of the Research Advisory Committee of the research committee of the Wabash Valley Association, then the Research Technical Advisory Committee to the Wabash Bi-State Commission, and, then as Chair of the Inter-university Council of the Wabash. Each of these had membership from Indiana and Illinois Universities, Indiana State, Eastern Illinois, and SIUC.

**Summer Institutes for Teachers and Educational TV** - These were the years after Sputnik when the Federal Government was pushing science education through the Academy of Sciences. The emphasis was on improving science teaching and science teachers. Geography was part of the program that centered on summer institutes for teachers. The department offered National Defense Education Act teacher institutes during the summers of '65,'66, and '67 with various staff members involved. Schmudde directed two and Harper one. High school geography teachers came from throughout the country.
The '68 NDEA Summer Institute, a cooperative venture with the University of Maryland, to which Harper had gone as Chair, gave teacher-students a first-hand look into decision-making among national government and business. After a week of introduction on the Maryland campus and meetings with government and union officials, the group embarked on a two-week field trip to Carbondale with stops in New York City for interviews with top executive of a major bank, insurance company, publishing house, and telecommunications, Buffalo NY to talk to steel and milling administrators, Muncie IN to speak with leaders of an auto parts manufacturer and a glass producer, at Bloomington, IL to stop with State Farm insurance and individual farmers. The course ended with a week wrap-up in Carbondale.

Nationally, higher education was responding to television. TV courses were appearing. SIU, with a new TV station up and running, called for departments to develop TV courses. Geography—that is Dave Christensen—responded. He developed a TV version of the departmental standby ‘Geography 100’. It was not an easy task. In those days it was not possible to 'cut and splice'. Episodes taped ran from beginning to end, or else! Dave worked on the course for years. It is still running!

**Adding the Ph.D.** Morris continued to push graduate programs with emphasis on developing Ph.D. work. The first doctoral work had been established in 1955 in government, speech pathology, and education. By the early '60s other programs were underway in English, sociology, botany, economics, higher education. In 1961 Professor Jan Broek of the University of Minnesota was
asked to evaluate the department's readiness to offer the Ph.D. By this time, thanks to initiatives by Zelinsky and Velikonja and the support of Ralph McCoy, Director of Libraries, the library's geographic collection had been strengthened to support graduate work. Mary Galneder, a geographer, headed the map collection.

As a result of all this, Geography was authorized to start doctoral work. However, it was deemed that any department beginning Ph.D. work had to have two faculty members with experience directing doctoral dissertations. None of the current faculty, even Zelinsky, qualified.

The department was given two professor slots to seek persons with doctoral experience. The result was the addition of Douglas Carter, a physical geographer with a University of Washington Ph.D. from the faculty at Syracuse and Campbell Pennington, a cultural geographer with a Berkeley Ph.D. under Carl Sauer. Pennington was on the faculty of the University of Utah. These were very significant appointments in the history of the department, not for the expected reason. The two could not have had more opposite views on geography, both were outspoken, and from the beginning sparks flew. The consensus and comaradarie that had developed within the department after '59 was broken.

The first Ph.D. candidates were David Sharpe, who had been working with Doug Carter at Syracuse, and Peter Hosking from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, who had been doing graduate work at Wisconsin.
Growth, Change; On the National Scene - With the many staff additions of the early '60s there was a passing of the guard. Floyd Cunningham, Annemarie Krause, and Marjorie Shank all retired.

The department had large delegations offering papers at the Illinois State Academy of Science and Illinois Geographical Society meetings, at the West Lakes Division of the AAG meetings, and at the annual AAG meetings where papers were still being refereed.

The department now offered to host the '67 AAG Annual Meeting in St. Louis. Wilbur Zelinsky agreed to serve as local arrangements chair. However, in '65 Zelinsky accepted a Professorship at Penn State. Harper took over the responsibilities.

By this time, Buckminster Fuller had been added to Morris’ string of Distinguished Professors. 'Bucky' in his latter years was finally gaining fame. A globe was among his 'geodesic' inventions and he was anxious to get approval from the geographic profession. He asked the department to help him obtain membership in the AAG. Using this lever, Harper asked Fuller to give the keynote speech at the St. Louis AAG meeting. He agreed.

The ballroom of the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis was packed when 'Bucky' was introduced to speak. Few knew that he was notorious for the length of his talks. When speaking he would go into a sort of trance oblivious of all around him and go on and on. When he began to speak the lights went out. Over three hours later, when they came on, there was only a handful of people in the audience. Bucky didn’t notice.
In '62 the department initiated its own 'Occasional Papers' publications series.

The class of '59 that Harper had recruited was breaking up. In addition to Zelinsky, earlier, Velikonja had joined the faculty at the University of Washington and Stafford had left for Cincinnati. Howard took with him an exchange that the department had arranged with the University of Wales.

A key new faculty addition was T. J. Denis Fair, from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa—probably the best known geographer in that country. Denis had visited campus earlier while on a fellowship to visit American departments. The department had been impressed. At the time, Apartheid in South Africa had been greeted with riots and unrest. The department learned that Dr. and Mrs. Fair were anxious to leave the country for the safety of their daughter. An offer was made and accepted. But, entering the country was another matter. Over the Labor Day holiday just before the Fairs were to leave—and the Fall Term at SIU was to begin, a message arrived that their visas had been refused. The department notified the University administration and the wheels began to turn. Senator Dirksen was informed and his staff went to work to clear the snafu. By the end of the weekend the Fairs were on the way. Denis was a strong addition to the staff. He had dissertation experience and had held key government planning positions. David Jones, a physical geographer from Arizona State was also added. David Smith from Queen Mary College, London spent a year on campus.
In '66 Harper took a sabbatical and Thomas became acting Chair. Thomas did so well that Harper gave up the chair the following year. The same year Schmudde became a visiting faculty member at Lund, Sweden.

After 17 years on the faculty, in '67, Harper accepted the chair of the University of Maryland in College Park. Zelinsky, Velikonja, and Stafford were long gone and Schmudde and Thomas would soon follow. Fair and Carter would also both leave. A new chapter was beginning.