

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ANTHROPOLOGY: A SELECTIVE HISTORY

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This inaugural issue of the *Southwestern Geographer* establishes a new tradition. Each issue of the journal will feature the history of a geography program at a university within the Southwestern Division of the Association of American Geographers. These histories will provide "institutional memory" of the regional development of our discipline. The importance of detailing the transformation of geography departments will grow stronger as the discipline of geography matures and changes—and as specializations wax and wane—fundamentally affecting geography nationally, regionally, and locally. We begin the series with the first department in the region to offer the doctoral degree: Louisiana State University, founded in 1931.

The beginnings of academic geography at Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College are comparable to geography's origins in many American colleges and universities from the middle to late decades of the last century. A few standard geography courses were features of most curricula, though in many cases they were offered only at sporadic intervals, reflecting a lack of trained or interested personnel. With the onset of what Dunbar (1981: 71) has dubbed "The Gilded Age," middle-class America's concern for careers, credentials, and professionalization in general laid the groundwork for the emergence of geography as a formal academic discipline and geographers as members of the professoriat. The first separate Department of Geography in an American research university was founded at the University of California in 1898 (Dunbar 1981: 73). With the arrival of Berkeley-trained geologist-geographer Richard Joel Russell at LSU thirty years later, an ongoing geography program was established that soon became an important compo-

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nent of the university's research and teaching mission.

During the subsequent fifty years, LSU geographers demonstrated fealty to their Berkeley roots and maintained close relations with the parent department. At the same time, the development of a sustained geography program did not result in an entirely independent Department of Geography. Rather, Russell, together with geologist Henry Howe, formed an integrated School of Geology, later called the School of Geoscience, in which geography grew in close association with geology and anthropology. This arrangement helped both physical and human geography to flourish, in effect united with closely allied disciplines.

In the past twenty years or so, LSU's combined Department of Geography and Anthropology has enlarged its foci and diversified its faculty to be sure, but the bearings set by the Berkeleyans Russell, Fred Kniffen, and Robert West in the first two decades still help to inform the interests and provide the orientation of a number of its faculty and students. Whether this is a confirmation of Zelinsky's (1973: 13-14) "doctrine of first effective settlement," or simply conformal with Louisiana's customary quirkiness and *arrière-garde* pacing and posturing is left to the reader to decide. We, however, would like to think that it represents fidelity to geographic thought and practice that has made good sense to local constituents and has produced good science and artful studies for a larger academic audience over a fairly long period.

Although LSU's joint Department of Geography and Anthropology is the only such program (offering graduate degrees) in North America, its strong emphasis on the cultural, historical, and physical branches of the discipline reflects greater similarity than difference with most of the other graduate programs in the Southwestern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG). Apparently, LSU's geography department was the first in the region to institute a graduate program, in 1933, but what impact and influence it has had on the development of other programs in the region is beyond the skein of this telling. Here, we would like to offer some outlines for a larger history of LSU geography — and by extension its companion programs in the SWAAG consociation.

Preludes to Academic Geography at LSU: 1860-1928

Louisiana State University was established near Pineville, Louisiana, as the

Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy in January of 1860. Its doors closed after only eighteen months, and its superintendent, Col. William Tecumseh Sherman, departed in the summer of 1861 with the outbreak of the Civil War. But during that time, the earliest infancy of LSU, two geography courses were a part of the curriculum: "Geography" and "Descriptive Geography," using texts by Morse and Davies, respectively (Blouet and Stitche 1981: 332). Following the Civil War, the seminary reopened, only to burn in 1869. It was then moved to Baton Rouge. Its name was changed to Louisiana State University in 1870, and the institution was merged with the Louisiana State Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1877.

Courses in geography returned in 1893 as components of the geology curriculum. Professor of Geology and Botany W. W. Clendenin taught "Physical Geography" and "Meteorology," in addition to courses in geology and botany, from 1893 to 1895. From 1896 to 1901, geography was dropped once again from the curriculum, but it was reintroduced in the Department of Commerce in 1901 with two courses in commercial geography. The first, "Industrial Physical Geography," dealt with world resources, political geography, and "commercial conditions," and the second, "Commercial Geography of the United States," covered "trade relations and comparative resources of the United States and other countries." These courses were offered from 1901 to 1918. In 1902, courses in physical geography and meteorology were revived as part of a new geology curriculum, but by the next year only one course in general geology was included in the university catalog. Efforts at establishing a geology program had apparently failed for the second time.

Geology enjoyed its third revival with Frederick Valentine Emerson's (1871-1919) arrival at LSU in 1913 after serving as a geology instructor at the University of Missouri. There he had worked with the eminent soil scientist and geographer C. F. Marbut (Martin and James 1993: 338). Emerson had originally intended to be a geologist and was hired as a geologist at LSU, but his preference seems to have been with geography as most of his publications were on geographical topics. Emerson had studied with A.P. Brigham at Colgate (B.A., 1898), and he spent a year each at Cornell (with R. Tarr) and Harvard (with W. M. Davis) before going on to the new Department of Geography at the University of Chicago in 1905. He was granted the first Ph.D. in geography from an American department of geography in 1907 (Dunbar 1981: 75). His disserta-

tion, "A Geographic Interpretation of New York City," was completed at the University of Chicago under the direction of J. Paul Goode. This foray into urban geography and away from his earlier interests in physical geography may have been the result of his discomfort with Rollin Salisbury, with whom he could have been expected to work (Dunbar 1981: 76). In contrast, Carl Sauer found Salisbury quite compatible, and Chicago's human geographers less congenial, despite the fact that Sauer's (1915) dissertation was a regional-historical geography of the Ozarks. This is but one minor and ironic dissonance among many, marking Emerson's ephemeral legacy at LSU, when compared with Sauer's major and lasting impacts through his former associates and students at Berkeley. While at LSU, Emerson also served as director of the Soil Survey of Louisiana and published articles on the geography and geology of the southeastern U.S. and Louisiana (1916, 1919a, 1919b). His capstone publication, a text on *Agricultural Geology* (1920) was published posthumously.

Emerson taught a number of geology courses as well as offerings with more geographical content, such as "Physiography," "Geological and Geographical Fieldwork," and "Geology and Geography of Louisiana." The physiography course was basically an introduction to physical geography and was divided into two sections the last year that he taught it. The first section focused exclusively on weather and climate, emphasizing "effects of climate on human affairs and the distribution of the world's crops," while the second was devoted to the genesis of landforms and their "influence...on human affairs." His course, "Geography of the Great War" (World War I), introduced shortly before his death, reflected another facet of his interests. Earlier he had written articles on the "physiographic control" and "geographical influence" in Civil War campaigns (1905a, 1905b, 1906).

With Emerson's untimely death at the age of forty-eight from "a cerebral hemorrhage caused by acute indigestion" (*State-Times Advocate* 1919) in October of 1919, a growing geology department once again collapsed, "leaving only scattered heaps of rocks, minerals, and fossils" (Morgan 1987). Given his Harvard physiographic and Chicago environmentalist training and outlooks, Emerson's presence might have fostered an earlier and quite different evolution of geography at LSU. Had he presided over a growing geography program in the 1920s based on the methodological approaches and research interests he held at the time of his death, then the Berkeley connection might never have occurred.

Rather, the LSU geography program would have probably developed in a fashion parallel to the departments emerging upriver in the greater Midwest. However, with the repeated falterings of geology, geography once again failed to take root as a discipline at LSU.

In 1922, the same year that construction of the current LSU campus began, Henry V. Howe was hired as an assistant professor of geology "with a mandate from the governor and the university president to build a credible department of geology to aid the state in the development of a burgeoning petroleum industry" (Morgan 1987). Howe quickly and efficiently built his department, introducing coursework in economic and petroleum geology, petrography, and petroleum production methods. He achieved the status of full professor in three years and immediately set out to expand his department beyond geology. Howe revived geography once more, adding "Principles of Geography" to the geology curriculum in 1925—"a course Dr. Howe quite possibly taught himself" (Kniffen 1978).

In 1927, Paul T. Post was added to the faculty of the Geology Department with the title "Assistant Professor of Geography," making him the university's first designated geography professor, though he "taught primarily geology courses and remained only one year" (Kniffen 1978). In addition to continuing the initial course in geography, Post added the course "Geography of North America," which explored how "geographic factors...influenced and determined the history and development of the United States, Canada, and Mexico."

Geography Takes Root

Most of the geography course descriptions prior to 1928 are thick with phrases that suggest that environmental determinism was accepted and promoted by the professors teaching geography. Frederick V. Emerson, trained at Chicago, was certainly a proponent of determinist doctrine, and the description of "Geography of North America" indicates that the same was probably true of Paul Post. In 1928, Richard Joel Russell replaced Post and brought with him new and different ideas about geography. Russell graduated from Berkeley with a Ph.D. in geology, but he was also trained in geography. Russell had been influenced by W. M. Davis after participating in one of his seminars and spending time with him in the field. After Carl Sauer and Albrecht Penck offered alternatives to the Davisian approach, Russell moved away from Davis's theories and

methods (Walker 1990). While at the University of California, Howe and Russell had been classmates and friends, although Howe completed his studies at Stanford while Russell stayed on at Berkeley, where he taught beginning geography courses as an associate with the arrival of Carl Sauer (Howe 1971). After completing his dissertation in 1926, Russell taught at Texas Technical College for two years until he was contacted by Howe about a position at LSU :

In 1928 I offered Russell a position to teach structural geology and to develop a Department of Geography at Louisiana State University. Dick was delighted with the opportunity and remained at LSU for the remainder of his career, despite attractive offers from many of the leading universities of this country and Canada. (Howe 1971)

Russell recognized the potential that the position offered:

One [Howe quoting Russell] could join with an old friend to help build a major school. In what other place could one organize the committee structure of a faculty, serve as Chairman of the Committee on Libraries for 25 years, practically design one of the most modern library buildings in the United States and see a collection grow from about 200,000 to well over a million volumes? And where could one establish a Department of Geography that need not be concerned with bread-and-butter courses, and, in fact, at the time of conferring the first Ph.D., had a record of turning out 11 masters and but one bachelor?...One could be a professor for doctoral candidates in either Geology or Geography, find generous research support, and enjoy physical facilities. (Howe 1971)

Russell had a long and productive career at LSU. He was head of the Geography Department from its inception until 1949, and he served as acting director of the School of Geology from 1944 to 1949. From 1949 to 1961, he was dean of the Graduate School. In 1962, he was made a Boyd Professor, the university's highest honor. Scientific research and publication, however, remained Russell's top priorities. He traveled the world and produced more than 150 publications on various aspects of geography and geology, established the Coastal Studies Institute at LSU, and remained active until his death in 1971.

The Department of Geography and Anthropology has adopted Russell's arrival as its founding date. However, geography's formal establishment as a "department" in the School of Geology did not actually occur until 1931-32. The undergraduate major in geography became available the following year. Russell enthusiastically took up the task of building a productive and viable

department from scratch. He scrapped the geography courses taught by his predecessor, Post, and initiated a "sequence of quite differently oriented courses" (Kniffen 1978). The 1928-29 catalog included three geography courses: "Introduction to Geography," "Economic Geography," and "Map Reading and Interpretation." Russell's introductory geography course emphasized spatial relationships and "the distribution of cultural forms," rather than "geographic influences" or determinants.

Fred B. Kniffen was hired as assistant professor of geology and geography in 1929 and submitted his dissertation on the Colorado Delta (Kniffen 1930) at Berkeley the following year. At the same time that he accepted LSU's offer, he was being considered for the chairship of the University of Oklahoma's Anthropology Department. Kniffen had majored in geology as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan. After a two-year *Wanderjahr* in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, Kniffen accepted Carl Sauer and John Leighly's invitation to study geography at Berkeley. While Sauer served as his advisor, he also worked with and was heavily influenced by Alfred Kroeber. Anthropology, though technically only his minor, became more than a minor consideration for Kniffen during his career (Walker 1994). Kniffen considered himself not only a geographer but "a special kind of anthropologist" (Richardson 1994). Kniffen's broad training in geology, geography, anthropology, and archaeology proved an ideal fit for the young and academically diverse department at LSU. Among the initial reasons he came to Louisiana was "the hope that work on the numerous Indian mounds would help date both coastal changes and changes in the course of the Mississippi" (Howe 1971). Kniffen would soon find many new and exciting research directions in Louisiana, a region that was quite unfamiliar to him before he accepted Russell's offer: "so Dick (Russell) wrote out and wanted me to come down here in the fall of '29 after I had my degree. I had a desire to see the Deep South and so I came down here" (Crews 1977).

During Kniffen's first two years, "World Regional Geography," "Meteorology," "Geomorphology," "North America," and LSU's first anthropology courses, "General Anthropology" and "The American Indians," were added to the geology roster. Kniffen headed the Anthropology Department (initially separate from geography) until 1939 and taught its courses along with most of the geography courses. The Department of Geology now included petroleum engineering, geology, geography, and anthropology, and faculty members of-

ten taught courses in two, or even three, of these divisions concurrently. In 1931, these four divisions formally became components of a School of Geology that persisted, losing petroleum engineering along the way, until 1970 when it was renamed the School of Geoscience.

Geography became the unifying link between the earth sciences in the School of Geology at LSU. Russell personified the junction between geology and physical geography, while Kniffen provided the bridge between anthropology and human geography. Russell's research and teaching were mainly in geomorphology and physical geography. He served as president of both the Association of American Geographers (1948) and the Geological Society of America (1957) (Morgan 1987). Kniffen's courses were mostly in geography and anthropology, and his research interests were primarily culturally oriented. He served as honorary president of the Association of American Geographers (1964-65) and became a Boyd Professor in 1967.

The department produced its first graduate student in 1935. Helen Bowie was granted the first Master of Science degree, with a thesis in "social geography" entitled "Bayou Lafourche." Kniffen served as major advisor. Between 1935 and 1941, seven master's degrees in geography were granted, along with one Ph.D. This first doctorate was awarded to John S. Kyser, who later became president of Northwestern Louisiana State University. His dissertation, "The Evolution of Louisiana Parishes in Relation to Population Growth and Movements," was filed in 1938, but no additional doctorates were granted for fifteen years. During this period, most graduate work was carried out on Louisiana topics, as these were the most immediate and accessible. The state, with its long history and resulting cultural "gumbo," lent itself well to the brand of geography taking shape at LSU.

In 1936-37, Berkeley geographer Lauren C. Post spent a year at LSU as a visiting instructor while completing his dissertation on "Cultural Geography of the Prairies of Southwest Louisiana." Post taught "Louisiana Geography," among other courses. In 1938-39 another Berkeley-trained geographer, Peveril Meigs spent a year at LSU as a visiting professor while Kniffen was on sabbatical in Europe. During the same year several anthropology courses were added: "Cultural Anthropology," "Culture Growth," and a course on African cultures, all taught by Kniffen. Archaeology got its start during this time with James A. Ford, a Kniffen student, joining the faculty as a research associate in 1937.

Charged with directing a new Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, Ford directed excavations at sites throughout Louisiana (Kniffen 1978; Haag 1994). The project ended with the onset of World War II but was perhaps "the most fruitful period in Louisiana archaeology" (Kniffen 1978). After the war, Ford left for graduate studies at the University of Michigan, and formal archaeological research and instruction were not revived until the 1960s.

Kniffen succeeded Russell as chair of the Department of Geography and Anthropology, serving from 1949 to 1962. By the 1950s Kniffen's name had become synonymous with LSU geography, and his particular approach became recognized as a unique tradition in American cultural-historical geography (Wyckoff 1979). Many of his students (he advised 27 Ph.D. and 17 Master's students) would continue and elaborate on his approach to studying the cultural landscape (Conzen 1993). In 1932, Kniffen introduced his course, "Elements of Cultural Geography." Through this course, Kniffen conveyed to students what he had learned at Berkeley and how his practice of cultural geography was evolving. It also helped him to define what some refer to as the "Kniffen" or "Louisiana" school of American historical and/or cultural geography (Conzen 1993; Wyckoff 1979).

The 1940s

Cultural anthropology continued to grow during the 1940s as war refugee Andrew C. Albrecht was added to the faculty. Albrecht had received his Bachelor's degree at Berkeley and completed his Ph.D. in Vienna. In 1941, he assumed many of Kniffen's teaching duties in anthropology, as well as conducting the ethnohistorical component of the continuing WPA project for a short time. Albrecht remained at LSU until 1952, teaching most of the anthropology courses. During that time, he also introduced several courses, including "Primitive Society" in 1941, "Indian Civilizations of Middle and South America" in 1942, and "Ethnology of the Pacific Basin" in 1944. Kniffen continued to teach his anthropology courses on North American Indians and Africa. Perhaps the major event (other than Russell's and Kniffen's arrivals) in the first two decades of the department's history was hosting the 1940 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Appropriately enough, Carl Sauer was the AAG's president that year. He delivered his memorable presidential address, "Foreward to Historical Geography" (Sauer 1941), on the LSU cam-

pus (Livingstone 1992: 260). Much of what Sauer prescribed for American geography in this epochal address was being—or subsequently would be—instituted within the LSU program. The meeting and its well-run field trips through southern Louisiana brought widespread recognition to the department (Kniffen 1978).

At the end of the 1940s, a fourth focus—along with the geology nexus, the integration with anthropology, and the historical-cultural emphasis—that helped to distinguish LSU geography began to emerge. Although Kniffen was the first of Sauer's many students to do doctoral field work in Latin America, he did not consider himself a Latin Americanist (Walker and Richardson 1994). Nevertheless, he taught a course on the "Geography of Latin America" between 1944 and 1948. In 1948, Robert C. West joined the department explicitly as a Latin Americanist, adding courses on "Middle America" and "South America," as well as a graduate course on "Advanced Latin American Geography." He also began to teach the anthropology course on the Indian civilizations of the region. Since his undergraduate days at the University of California at Los Angeles in the early 1930s, West has concentrated on Latin American studies. At Berkeley, he wrote his dissertation on colonial mining in northern Mexico and was part of a cohort of Sauer students that included George Carter, Andrew Clark, James Parsons, and Dan Stanislawski. During World War II, he worked in Arthur Robinson's cartography section of the Office of Strategic Services. After the war, he spent two years in Mexico as a researcher for the Smithsonian's Institute of Social Anthropology (Davidson and Parsons 1980). Author and editor of a dozen books and monographs and dozens of articles on Latin American topics, he continues to be one of that region's most accomplished authorities. West, as with Kniffen and Russell before him, was awarded a Boyd Professorship in 1970 for his accomplishments as both teacher and researcher.

The late 1940s also saw the beginnings of an extremely productive period in physical geography at LSU. Richard Russell introduced "Alluvial Morphology" to the geography curriculum in 1946-47. Many courses in alluvial and coastal geomorphology would follow, and these subjects would become the primary preoccupations of physical geography in the department. Russell was also laying the groundwork for the establishment of the Coastal Studies Institute during this period. Howe (1971) summed up the course of events leading

to the formation of the institute:

As a member of the Committee on Geophysics and Geography, Department of Defense and a member of the Committee on Geography, Advisory to the Office of Naval Research, Russell learned that progress in coastal research was lagging seriously in defense programs and was urged by both Army and Navy officers to turn his attention in that direction. At this time, 1949, he was assuming deanship of the graduate school at LSU, so he felt he had to turn down such offers. However, with the assistance of James P. Morgan, a proposal was developed and submitted to the Geography Branch of the Office of Naval Research for the study of trafficability of the Louisiana coastal marshes. This led to the creation of the Coastal Studies Institute. Initially, space was provided for the institute in the School of Geology Building, and the institute started...by providing graduate fellowships for students working under Russell's and Morgan's direction.

Russell's Coastal Studies Institute was formally established in 1952 with "publications streaming out of this productive center" (Pruitt 1979). Russell recognized that "research and graduate study are inseparable" (Walker 1984), and by the 1950s, one of the department's most important characteristics, emphasis on research and graduate study, was evident. Kniffen (1958) stated that "graduate work became a major concern of the Department only after World War II, when the big influx of students brought many who wished to further study in the field." Indeed, graduate work was a major concern, and this remains the case as the number of graduate students in the department continues to exceed the number of undergraduates.

The 1950s

In between their many administrative, research, and teaching duties, Russell and Kniffen (1951) found time to collaborate on *Culture Worlds*, an introductory world regional text. Its cultural orientation and unorthodox organization made it widely popular. It was adopted for use in geography and anthropology classrooms in North America and elsewhere. It also found audiences beyond academia and stayed in print for more than two decades.

In 1952, William G. Haag replaced Andrew Albrecht, who left the department due to poor health. Haag's first two degrees were in geology from Kentucky. He earned his Ph.D. in anthropology and zoology at Michigan, specializing in ethnozoology and studying with Leslie White. His broad train-

ing in human and natural history was ideally suited to the department's needs (Kniffen 1981). Like Kniffen, he taught courses in the full range the school's offerings. Haag continued to develop the anthropology program at LSU for the rest of his career. He introduced the first courses in archaeology in 1961 and served as department chair (1961–62). He was Louisiana State Archaeologist from 1972 to 1977. In 1966, he was named "Alumni Professor of Anthropology" and retired with emeritus status in 1978.

During the 1950s, the number of faculty increased, primarily through internal recruitments. Teaching responsibilities remained extremely demanding for the core faculty. Russell, Kniffen, Albrecht (later Haag), and West covered most of the courses, with teaching loads of up to twenty hours per week (Walker and Richardson 1994). Partial relief came through hiring graduate students and recent graduates to fill some of the department's teaching demands. From 1947 to 1957, LSU geologist Benjamin A. Tator (Ph.D. 1948) taught courses in geomorphology, human geography, and mapping sciences. Similarly, William G. McIntire, who completed his Ph.D. on prehistoric settlements in coastal Louisiana under Kniffen in 1954, taught a variety of courses from 1953 until his retirement in 1978. His research was centered on coastal studies and geomorphology.

John H. Vann, a Louisiana native who completed his Bachelor's (1943) and Master's (1947) degrees at LSU, returned to the department in 1953 to teach while completing his Ph.D. dissertation at Berkeley in 1959, a study of the physical development of the Parras Basin in Coahuila, Mexico. Vann taught various courses, including map reading, aerial photo interpretation, geomorphology, and advanced courses, until 1963. Thus, from the department's beginnings through the 1950s, the entire faculty including visitors (save for William Haag) had degrees from Berkeley, LSU, or both. The result was a faculty with complementary backgrounds "and the scholarly maturity...to challenge superior graduate students, a condition that other southern departments did not equal for some time" (Prunty 1979). While some may be critical of such "inbreeding," Kniffen, in a 1977 interview, stated that, early on at least, these Berkeley ties held in common by the faculty were instrumental in developing a viable department:

I don't think that (having so many from Berkeley) was a bad idea because I think that perhaps unwittingly we had ahold of something good and durable and we could sort of reinforce each other and push (the department) along.

No, I think it was a good thing as they say that in-breeding tends to accentuate good traits as well as poor ones. (Crews 1977)

The 1960s

The 1960s were boom times for academia in general, and LSU's Department of Geography and Anthropology enjoyed healthy growth. During the decade, it doubled its faculty from five to eleven. The first appointment was H. Jesse Walker in 1960. Walker (1960) completed his dissertation at LSU on human subsistence in the American Arctic under Kniffen. Walker's prior degrees were in geography from Berkeley, where studied with John Leighly and wrote his Master's thesis on rainfall in Mexico. As an LSU faculty member, Walker added a new departmental emphasis: coastal and alluvial geomorphology of Arctic regions.

In 1962, Walker was named chair, and he headed the department for the rest of the decade. In this sense, the 1960s at LSU can be seen as the "Walker Years." After the effective but low-key leadership of Russell, Kniffen, and Haag, Walker brought a new dynamism to departmental planning and growth. By most (if not all) measures—grants received, research produced and published, faculty and staff hired, graduate students and undergraduate majors enrolled and so on—Walker presided over large increases during this period. The only thing that noticeably decreased was the number of courses that each faculty member was expected to teach. By the end of the decade, he had cut the number in half or more—from the usual "4 and 4" (or more!) under Kniffen to "2 and 2" (or even fewer in the case of particularly active researchers). Through his intervention, "Economic Geography" was moved from the Business School to geography. This shift allowed for the hiring of James E. Lewis (Ph.D. Georgia) as the department's first economic geographer, in 1967. "Meteorology" was retrieved from physics and astronomy and taught by Walker, until Robert Muller (Ph.D. Syracuse) was hired in 1969 to develop the department's climate program. Philip E. Larimore (M.S. Virginia) was hired as an instructor in 1961 to develop the cartography program. An already strong emphasis in cultural geography was extended, with four new faculty hires during the decade. Donald Vermeer (Ph.D. Berkeley) joined in 1968 as an Africanist and cultural ecologist. Roland Chardon (Ph.D. Minnesota) was hired the same year as a Brazilianist. In addition, two of Kniffen's Ph.D. students, Charles F. Gritzner and Milton B.

Newton, became faculty members in the department during the 1960s.

The anthropology program also enjoyed expansion. Miles E. Richardson, who spent a year in the LSU Master's program in 1957–58 before completing his graduate studies in cultural anthropology at Tulane, joined the faculty in 1965. Richardson, who is currently Fred B. Kniffen Professor of Geography and Anthropology, has been active in both disciplines in his research, writing, and student advising since joining the department. Through his field work in the American South and Latin America, and his conceptualizations of place and meaning, Richardson has become a distinctive voice within contemporary humanistic anthropology and geography. Jay D. Edwards, another Tulane anthropology Ph.D., was hired as an instructor to teach linguistics in 1967 and was advanced to a tenure-track position in 1970. More recently, Edwards has directed his research toward material-culture studies in the Kniffen tradition. Similarly, Robert W. Neuman (M.S. LSU) joined as an instructor and anthropology curator in the late 1960s.

The 1970s

By the 1960s, the broad earth-science focus of the School of Geology that had been so effective in its early years had become less so. The pressures of expansion and increased specialization, plus the retirements of the founders, brought this phase to a close. In 1970, the School of Geology was superseded by the School of Geoscience, with a charge to renew interdisciplinary cooperation. As the founding document indicates:

The School of Geoscience is concerned with the advancement of the university's teaching and research programs in the geosciences, including the study of natural resources, mankind's relationship to his environment and its physical and cultural evolution within it. This interest is broader than that represented by the individual specialties within the departments. The School provides a framework in which these several disciplines are coordinated and developed to the mutual advantage of the departments and the University in academic, research, and public service programs. This grouping of disciplines was unique when it was organized at L.S.U. 35 years ago; with the present concern for human ecology and the environment, it provides a very pertinent and viable modern focus. (LSU School of Geoscience 1971)

This new administrative organization facilitated a broad range of programs and services, and it combined the resources available to support them. The

newly reorganized school included the Department of Geology, the Department of Geography and Anthropology, and the Museum of Geosciences. Also included were "Special Services" provided by the Cartographic Section, Photographic Section, Computer and Graphics Services, and the Map Library and Reference Room. Ties were strengthened between the school and the Coastal Studies Institute, the Louisiana Geological Survey, and the Louisiana State Climatologist Office, which had become a part of the school in 1967.

Perhaps the most important and enduring result of the establishment of the School of Geoscience in 1970 was the publications program that was initiated. The school's "Geoscience and Man" series materialized as "a medium for the publication of symposia, monographic studies, and collections of papers in anthropology, archaeology, geography, geology, meteorology, paleontology, and other areas of the geosciences" (LSU School of Geoscience 1971). Since its introduction, thirty-three volumes have been published in the series, the majority on geographical and anthropological topics.

In another initiative, Walker helped to establish the Richard Joel Russell Visiting Lectureship in 1975. Since its beginnings, the department had welcomed visiting professors and guest lecturers from around the world without any formal or consistent source of funding. Many were eminent scholars who stayed for periods of a month to a year. For example, between 1964 and 1974, there were two dozen longer-term visitors, including H. Ashmann, D. Brunsden, E. E. Evans, H. G. Geirloff-Emden, D. B. Prior, C. O. Sauer, J. Sauer, W. L. Thomas, Jr., J. K. Wright, and E. Yatsu. The Russell Lectureship ensured that the stream of distinguished scholars would continue to be an important component of educating graduate students and developing research.

The growth in faculty numbers that began in the 1960s continued through the 1970s. Accordingly, many new courses were added, particularly in coastal geography. New courses in the early 1970s included "Coastal Environments," "Coastal Ecology," "Coastal Climatology," and "Coastal and Estuarine Resources," were added, followed by "Coastal Swamps and Marshes," "Form-Process Relationships in Coastal Environments," and "The Ocean World." Over sixty Master's degrees and thirty Ph.D.s were conferred during the decade as the faculty was expanded to eighteen members. These new faculty included remote sensing specialist Anthony J. Lewis (Ph.D. Kansas), geomorphologist Richard H. Kesel (Ph.D. Maryland), historical geographer Sam B. Hilliard (Ph.D.

Wisconsin-Madison), and cultural geographer William V. Davidson (Ph.D. Wisconsin-Milwaukee). While the formative influences of the Berkeley- and LSU-trained faculty remained central, by the end of the 1970s, faculty composition had changed enough so that a new generation with more heterogeneous backgrounds was becoming established.

The 1980s

Social theorists and political economists of widely disparate views agree that the oil crisis of the early 1970s produced a major transformation in the global economy that is still unfolding (Harvey 1989). Not surprisingly, Louisiana was out-of-phase, and given its oil-driven economy, it did not suffer immediately. Its oil crisis did not come until the early 1980s, but as the state's flagship university, LSU did not suffer as much as one might have expected. Still, retrenchment came and with it stagnation, decline, and faculty flight in some areas. Owing to its excellent standing within the university, among other factors, the Department of Geography and Anthropology not only managed to continue its general expansion, but it also increased its full-time faculty during the decade—from nineteen in 1980 to twenty-five in 1989. The geographers hired during this period included: N.J.R. Allan (Ph.D. Syracuse, specializing in cultural ecology), K. Hirschboeck (Ph.D. Arizona, hydroclimatology), K.-B. Liu (Ph.D. Toronto, biogeography), C. D. Woodroffe (Ph.D. Cambridge, coastal geomorphology), N.S.-N. Lam (Ph.D. Western Ontario, cartography/GIS), K. Mathewson (Ph.D. Wisconsin, cultural geography), C. V. Earle (Ph.D. Chicago, historical geography), G. Veeck (Ph.D. Georgia, economic geography), G. Stone (Ph.D. Maryland, coastal geomorphology), D. Ramphall (Ph.D. Penn State, development), A. Mosher (Ph.D. Penn State, historical geography). As indicated by the number of faculty hires, the percentage of faculty turnover was somewhat higher than in previous decades, perhaps reflecting instability within both the university and the state. From some vantage points, the 1980s may have been "Morning in America," but to many in Louisiana it seemed more like "Twilight Time."

From 1981 to 1985, Milton Newton served as department chair. As a Kniffen protégé and cultural-historical traditionalist, Newton might have been expected to slow the pace of growth and change. Instead, he sought to accelerate them. In his first three-year term, he provided forceful and effective leadership, ac-

quiring the latest technology for the department, new space for archaeology and the State Climatologist Office, and helping to establish CADGIS (a center for computer mapping and Geographic Information Systems). In his abbreviated second term, he moved beyond material expansion to strong advocacy of new programmatic directions. Specifically, he sought a major initiative involving "geo-forensics," or the application of geographical knowledge to legal questions. This implied a political turn for the department on several different but interlocking levels. He was unable to enlist support for these changes, however, and soon afterward he retired from the university to devote himself full-time to forensic geography.

Sam Hilliard and Miles Richardson (each had served an earlier term as chair) returned for interims to oversee the department while an external search for a new chair was conducted. Both geographers and anthropologists were interviewed for the position. Historical geographer Carville Earle (Ph.D. Chicago) was selected, and he assumed the chairship in 1988.

The 1990s

Like Walker and Newton previously, Earle's term as chair extended beyond the "normal" three-year rotation and stands out for the initiatives undertaken and growth achieved. Earle completed two terms before stepping down to concentrate on his own research and his concurrent editorship of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. By the late 1980s, Louisiana began to climb out of its recession, and LSU rebounded from its related slump. From 1990 through 1994, faculty vacancies in geography and anthropology were filled as necessary, and one new line, in climatology, was added. The geographers hired during this period included cultural ecologist Stanley Stevens (Ph.D. Berkeley) and climatologist Keith Henderson (Ph.D. North Carolina).

The number of both graduate and undergraduate majors doubled during the first half of the decade. With some 150 graduate students, the department had become the largest Ph.D.-granting geography program in the U.S. Both the numbers and quality of student participation in regional and national meetings of the AAG reached new levels. For example, at the spring 1993 SWAAG meeting in New Orleans, more than forty LSU students presented papers in regular sessions. This is almost certainly a record for student participation from a single department in a SWAAG (or perhaps any other AAG-affiliated)

meeting. From 1991 to 1993, the department hosted one of the AAG's three Summer Minority Institutes and markedly increased its minority-student recruitment efforts. From the mid-1980s until the present, faculty diversity also notably increased. In terms of both gender and ethnicity, as well as academic specializations, the department has broadened its profile. For some time now, more than a third of the regular faculty has included women and/or persons of non-European ethnic backgrounds. Other initiatives during Earle's term included launching the Louisiana Geographic Alliance (headed by P. Larimore), installing the U.S. Southern Regional Climate Center within the department (directed by R. Muller), relocating the journal *Historical Geography* to LSU (co-edited by Earle and A. Mosher), establishing the FACES laboratory (a "state-of-the-art" center for forensic anthropology and locating missing persons), the Center for Geopolitical Studies, and modernizing the LSU Map Library (among the largest collection of maps at any university). From the late-1980s to the mid-1990s, grants received by the department and its faculty increased some twenty-fold—from under \$100 thousand to over \$2 million. By most measures, the department under Earle's direction experienced increases in resources and expansion of its facilities. The faculty were also noticeably active in a wide range of professional organizations, particularly the AAG and during the 1992 International Geographical Union meeting in Washington, D.C.

The current chair, W. V. Davidson, has continued many of the initiatives begun by Earle, but a new round of fiscal retrenchment within the university has forced lowering the horizons of what was once envisioned in various areas. A university-wide hiring freeze has stalled faculty replacements in the department's cultural and political ecology positions. Cultural ecology, in particular, serves as a key bridging point between the geography and anthropology programs. On the other hand, the department managed to preserve its considerable depth in historical geography. Two historical-cultural geographers, S. Hoelscher (Ph.D. Wisconsin) and K. Till (Ph.D. Wisconsin) have joined the department within the past two years. They also serve as co-editors of *Historical Geography*. To counter the long-term possibility of no or slow growth, one certainly not unique to LSU or its geography program, Davidson has energetically sought to increase the department's endowment. The results to date are encouraging. The department will soon increase the number of named endowed professorships from one (the Fred B. Kniffen Professorship) to five. These four

new professorships will honor founder Richard J. Russell, and long-standing friends of the department Doris Z. Stone, Carl O. Sauer, and James J. Parsons. Since 1981, the Robert C. West Field Award program has supported some 170 students with travel stipends of up to \$1,500 for field research. Partially as a result of this resource, a majority of the department's theses and dissertations continue to be based on field research, particularly in the American South, Latin America, and East Asia.

In an epoch of "free market" triumphalism and privatization-as-panacea, even Louisiana with its proud residua of petro-populism is moving away from public solutions. If this trend continues, then the effects will shape policies and directions at all levels within public universities such as LSU. It is hard to forecast the changes that might be visited upon the LSU geography program. Given its interdisciplinary structure and intricate web of associated research and service units (the Climate Center, Map Library, CADGIS laboratory, and a number of other similar entities), along with its stature within the university, LSU geography should be able to adapt to new conditions — whether constraints or opportunities — while continuing to pursue its time-tested concerns. While in some minds, fluvial and coastal studies on the physical side and historical material-culture studies on the human side may still be the stock images of what constitutes LSU geography, of course the picture has always been more complex than this. There are recognizable nodes of shared interests and research foci that have shifted over time, but the founding pursuits of Russell and Kniffen do represent something of a symbolic core with which to compare or locate newer concerns. This is likely to continue into the next century.

Summary

In the fifty years between its founding in 1928 and its hosting of the AAG's 1978 meeting in New Orleans, the Department of Geography and Anthropology at LSU had grown from a one-course program into one of the largest and most productive graduate departments in the United States. By the end of the 1970s, the founders had retired, but their replacements largely followed trajectories that they had established. Kniffen (1978) felt "the Department is in good hands...dedication to professional, scholarly standards, procedures, and goals is as strong as ever." At the same time, he conceded that "traditions must yield to the demands of the times."

Times have demanded significant change in recent decades. The School of Geoscience was dissolved in 1983, but the joint Department of Geography and Anthropology remains very much intact. The Coastal Studies Institute severed formal ties with the department, but close associations between individual researchers in both entities continue. Although increasing specialization has created centrifugal forces, a larger faculty has ensured that none of the historically important foci have been neglected, and a number of newer ones have been added.

Although the broad earth-science program initiated by Howe, Russell, and Kniffen no longer exists, the earth sciences continue to occupy a common place in the LSU campus facilities bearing their names. In 1987, the new Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex opened, integrating the "old" School of Geology Building with a new, state-of-the-art facility, and in 1994, the original portion of the complex was designated the Fred B. Kniffen Wing. The faculty members of the Department of Geography and Anthropology occupy offices in both wings. Indeed, the "new" sits comfortably beside the "old" at LSU, and it is likely to do so as long as Louisianians are willing to support a center of research and higher education that takes particular interest in how and why people, near and far, occupy and modify their environments.

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