Seventy-Five Years of Geography at the University of Cincinnati

BRUCE RYAN

Cover Device: Mrs. Frances Trollope's Cincinnati Bazaar, coffeehouse, and ballroom, built in 1829 on Third Street, east of Broadway

International Standard Book Number: 0-9611212-0-3
Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 0-00000
Copyright © by the Department of Geography, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221.
All rights reserved.
Printed in the United States of America.

1983
The University of Cincinnati
Department of Geography
Seventy-Five Years of Geography at the University of Cincinnati

BRUCE RYAN

GEOGRAPHY is the study of the earth. The word itself stems from two Greek roots with their connecting and terminal vowels, ge-o (the earth) and graph-γ (write, writing). Literally, therefore, it means “earth writing,” or “writing about the earth,” although not all geographers have written from the same perspective. Some have written compendiously, in gazetteers, as Strabo and Reclus did. Others speculated about the form of the earth, and tried to capture its continents and oceans in a cage of latitude and longitude, as Ptolemy and Mercator did. Others wrote of it as explorers, like Columbus or Magellan or Cook, or as travelers in strange lands, like Marco Polo or David Livingstone or Alexander von Humboldt. Some displayed the earth in great atlases or mapping projects, like Rand McNally, John Bartholomew, or the Survey of India. Sir Halford Mackinder, Friedrich Ratzel, Isaiah Bowman, and Derwent Whittlesey were among those who strove to produce a global political perspective. Others conveyed their love of this planet as popular educators, like Gilbert Grosvenor and the National Geographic Society.

During and since the nineteenth century, many geographers have become scientists, more concerned with theories, concepts, and processes than with anthologies of unrelated facts, more concerned with the human use and organization of earth-space, with the principles underlying the choice of locations (for towns, or factories, or railroads), with the differentiation of land use and the evolution of landscapes from region to region. Many geographers have tried to change the use of the earth — as planners, soldiers, colonizers, or developers. Cumulatively, over many centuries, geographers have
provided an accurate, orderly description and rational explanation of the variable character of the earth’s surface, and have clarified the processes of interaction between the physical and human environments.

These different voices of geography may be confusing to modern Americans, who sometimes wonder whether the voices are contributing to the same conversation. But they are. They are no more different than simultaneous discussions of urban growth by Chinese, Indian, African, and Latin American scholars. They are no more different than accounts of travel by Chaucer, Defoe, Georges Sand, and Rudyard Kipling. No matter how different the perspective or how unusual the method, geographers have been united by a common urge to write about the earth. Those ancient Greek roots may have produced a bewildering variety of surface plants, and may have penetrated very deeply into the earth itself, but they were the same roots that branched forth into the universal family tree of geography.

**THE FOUNDER**

The first geography course at the University of Cincinnati was offered in 1907-08, when the late Professor Emeritus Nevin M. Fenneman (1865-1945) included “Geography for Teachers” among the five courses that inaugurated the Department of Geology and Geography. It consisted of “lectures and assigned readings adapted to teachers in the grades,” and addressed both the “subject matter of the science” and the “problems of teaching.” Fenneman, newly arrived in Cincinnati from the University of Wisconsin, was the only faculty member in the new department. As his title indicated, he was the foundation Professor of Geology and Geography. “Geography for Teachers” was taught on Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., in a lecture room on the fourth floor of the original McMicken Hall, capable of seating 36 students and “equipped with a stereopticon of the highest grade... and the customary models and illustrative material.” When first offered, the course emphasized eighth grade work, but in subsequent years stressed the geography of the United States (1908-09) and physical geography (1909-10).

Around three walls of the present geography office hang the framed photographs of 42 of its past and present faculty members. Fenneman’s portrait comes first—a severe and dignified face, befitting a man whose father was a minister of the Reformed Church in America,
and whose own middle name, Melancthon, was an anglicization of that of the Professor of Greek at Wittenberg, Phillip Melancthon, who succeeded Martin Luther as leader of the Lutheran party in 1546 and whose principal work was to formulate the theology of the Reformation. Fenneman, his memorialist wrote, at first frightened his elementary classes with a “certain assumed gruffness of manner... and a deep resonant voice which... could become rather terrifying when occasion warranted.”

Fenneman was one of the 47 charter members of the Association of American Geographers in 1904, and served as its President in 1918. His famous presidential address, “The Circumference of Geography,” classified the place of geography among the sciences and still serves as a brilliant elucidation of the field for those who wonder what it encompasses. Much of Fenneman’s practical work was also geographical rather than geological: the UC archives contain folders and folders of his correspondence, research, and consulting records on such topics as blast furnaces, the metal-working industries, Ohio River transportation, soya beans, the Commercial Club of Cincinnati’s resource survey of 1925-30 (which culminated in Fenneman’s proposals for the city’s industrial development) and his ultimately unsuccessful Statement of the Claims of Cincinnati for a Regional Bank (1914), the failure of which is enshrined today, at the corner of Fourth and Main, in the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (Cincinnati Branch).

His landform (physiographic) classification map of the United States, first published in 1916, was a committee enterprise commissioned by the Association of American Geographers. It virtually became the “official” rendition of the nation’s physiographic provinces, and is still in print. So is Bulletin 19 of the Geological Survey of Ohio, Geology of Cincinnati and Vicinity (1916), the last chapter of which concerns “habitation” and “location.” For his two-volume magnum opera, Physiography of the Western United States (1931) and Physiography of the Eastern United States (1938), he was awarded the gold medal of the Geographic Society of Chicago in 1938.

Two instructors were soon assisting Professor Fenneman as the demand for geography courses increased. In 1912-13, Mr. J. Ernest Carman introduced an evening course on “Physical and Commercial Geography,” and Mr. McFarland offered the “Geography of Europe” in 1916-17. Both men were primarily geologists, however, as were the next faculty members appointed to the joint department, Walter Bucher and Otto von Schlichten, whose Appalachian Field Course of 1917-18 was the premonition of a mounting concern for that region.

Until 1959, several of the geologists continued to make salient contributions to the adjoining field of geography, among them the late Professor John L. Rich, who had been Director of the Army Map Room during the First World War and whose monograph, The Face of South America, was published by the American Geographical Society in 1942.

EARL CASE AND THE BONA FIDE GEOGRAPHERS

The first bona fide geographer to join the department was the late Professor Emeritus Earl C. Case (1888-1978). He served UC for 37 consecutive years, from 1920 to 1957. Like Fenneman, he received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago, and was also a devout member of the Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church. He achieved fame as the co-author (with Daniel R. Bergsmark) of College Geography, which John Wiley & Sons published in 1932. Its innovative classification of regional economic development according to climatic zones established a pattern of organization for geography textbooks that persisted for another thirty years. Its third edition (many printings later), appeared in 1949, eight years before Dr. Case retired from academia and became an investment broker for the Westheimer company.

Dr. Case taught economic geography for many years when it was a requirement in the College of Business Administration. He was the grandfather-in-retirement to many a subsequent UC geographer, just as his wife, Mayble Case, served for many years as the “neighborhood grandmother” on Evanswood Place—a Clifton street on which five of UC’s geographers have lived over the years. Dr. Case was the personification of a gentleman, the gentlest of teachers, and the most Pickwickian of colleagues. When he died at the age of 90 in 1978, UC lost its last connection with the earliest days of academic geography.

Until 1952, however, there were never more than three geographers teaching full-time at UC. Even so, Cincinnati hosted the national conventions of the Association of American Geographers in 1923 and 1957, and that of the National Council on Geographic Education in 1960. Its faculty members, though few, made notable contributions to geographical scholarship. Dr. Case’s collaborator, Daniel R. Bergsmark, published one of the first texts on the economic geog-
ography of Asia (1935), and Jordan A. Hodgkins, who left UC to become chairman at Kent State University, produced his sombre but very timely *Soviet Power: Energy Resources, Production and Potentials* (1961). Edward T. Price (UC, 1946-52) proved to be one of the truly original thinkers in American cultural geography, George Deasy (UC, 1936-40) became associate editor of the *Professional Geographer*, and Douglas R. McManis went on to Columbia University and the present editorship of the *Geographical Review*, the longest-established (and probably most literate) geographical serial in the western hemisphere.

John Wesley Coulter (1893-1967) taught geography at UC for 17 years, having previously studied at the University of California (Berkeley) and having taught at the University of Hawaii. He brought to Cincinnati a career-long interest in the island archipelagoes of the South Pacific (particularly Fiji). As U.S. Representative to the Trusteeship Secretariat of the United Nations (1949-50), Colonel J. W. Coulter was made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in recognition of his liaison between French authorities in the Pacific and the United States General Staff during World War II—a period which also brought him into the service of Military Intelligence and the White House. He longed and labored for the establishment of an autonomous Department of Geography, but retired to Middlebury, Vermont in 1963, only months before it was achieved, having survived the tumultuous years of *Sturm und Drang* that preceded it. He was a raconteur of Irish extraction, in love with the South Pacific, and is now succeeded (some aver) by another.

Including Nevin M. Fenneman, the Founder, whose academic title did include both geography and geology, there were altogether twelve faculty members responsible for instruction in geography before 1957—that is, during its first fifty years in the UC curriculum. Besides those already mentioned were Howard Martin (UC, 1925-30), Urban Linehan (UC, 1940-46), Ralph Frank (UC, 1952-53), and William Sanders (UC, 1956-59).

**AN AUTONOMOUS DEPARTMENT**

In 1959, just when American geography was forging a new alliance with the social sciences and was temporarily subordinating its physical science component, the old UC Department of Geology and Geography was sundered administratively, and a new Department of Geog-
NASH TO McNee: WOLF, COREY, COOPER & RODER

The only remaining faculty link with the primordial, "geologic" past was Laurence G. Wolf, whose thirty-first year at UC has just begun. McNee also inherited three comparative newcomers—Kenneth E. Corey (himself a UC graduate), Sherwin H. Cooper, and Wolf Roder—all of whom helped align the department with the imperiously quantitative, social scientific approach that was then transforming traditional geography. It was as though the New Testament had just been published, although by divorcing geology, the geographers had already lost the feeling of being Algerians within the French Empire.

Laurence G. Wolf had joined the UC faculty in 1952, after a stint at Indiana University, and knew McNee from their graduate student days at Syracuse. His cartographic and statistical approach to what was then the burgeoning field of urban geography ran parallel to the enlightened urban involvement of Kenneth E. Corey (UC, 1962-79), a young instructor with a string of UC degrees who had been attracted into advocacy planning by Peter Nash and Robert Hoover. Wolf wore several other hats, some of which he tended to misplace. One of them was a macro-cultural approach to human distributions (the "big picture," as he called it); another was global political geography.

In both of these he found a sympathetic and cultivated colleague in Sherwin H. Cooper (UC, 1962-69), a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Michigan who had been recruited away from the University of North Carolina by Nash. Cooper had one leg in historical geography, the other in physical geography. This was the traditional Cambridge conception of a proper geographical education. It was Cooper who successfully guided the introductory course in physical geography into the College of Arts and Sciences' list of science requirements in 1962.

The fourth member of McNee's inherited staff was Wolf Roder, who had joined the UC faculty in February, 1963 (only months before McNee arrived), after spending two years in what was then Rhodesia (and Oxford) on water resource research for his doctorate from the University of Chicago. Roder brought to the department a greater mathematical facility than it had previously known, acquired largely through his work with Professor Brian J. L. Berry (of Chicago, Harvard, and Carnegie-Mellon Universities). From Chicago's Norton Ginsberg, Roder also brought an interest in African development which became, over the years, the Department's most salient concern for Third World problems, and was to lure students to Cincinnati from several African countries. Roder's war against the forces of repression had already begun. In 1968, he was declared a "prohibited visitor or immigrant" to Rhodesia, not to be invited back, and spent a night in a lock-up for having visited native areas without permission.

THE OLD NEW GUARD: STAFFORD & RYAN

McNee's nick-name among graduate students was "the Bullet," and he kept Nash's ceiling mirror which served to identify those waiting for him in the outer office—one of the earliest applications of remote sensing in the office environment. McNee's desire to congeal departmental interests around urban, economic, and historical geography (a trinity against which several counter-reformations have since been waged in vain) was a realistic assessment of existing faculty strengths, current disciplinary growth directions, and the resources of Greater Cincinnati as an outdoor laboratory for geographical research. It also reflected his educational philosophy that university departments stagnated if every faculty member pursued a discrete specialization so strenuously that there was little or no interaction with colleagues. His first faculty recruitments reflected this stance.

In 1965, he persuaded Howard A. Stafford, Jr. to leave Southern Illinois University for UC. Stafford was a graduate of West Chester State College in Pennsylvania, where he had studied mathematics, and had obtained his doctorate at the University of Iowa, where dedicated quantitative "revisionists" were playing a central role in the transformation of geography. Like Fenneman, he had also taught at the University of Wisconsin, which has been one of the leading geography departments in the United States for decades. Stafford brought to Cincinnati not only a personally inscribed copy of Buckminster Fuller's Dymaxion Airocean World projection, but significantly compatible interests in location theory, the site selection process, and manufacturing geography, into all of which droves of job-conscious graduate students were led. Stafford can claim much of the credit for directing students away from an ailing, unsettled academia into more immediately rewarding business careers, although McNee, Corey, and Robert B. South were partners in this enterprise.

McNee's next appointment was Bruce Ryan, a pig in a poke recruited in 1966, sight unseen, from the University of Western Australia. Ryan was a native Sydney-sider, with degrees from Sydney University and the Australian National University in Canberra, where
he had worked with Professor O. H. K. Spate, mostly on the evolution of small towns and business centers. He was the first non-American geographer hired by UC, and it took many students three weeks to disentangle the words from the accent. His research has run from Appalachian regional development to the international diffusion of colonial architecture, but he is better known for what a colleague called his acerbic wit. Students claimed that he exceeded them all in the range and depth of his trivia, and he was introduced at a national convention as the "Cincinnati Cynic."

During his headship, while Swift Hall was being renovated, Ryan’s dealings with the UC Building Committee occasioned Professor Meunier of Architecture to call him "a cat among pigeons." University Dean Yates thought he was more like "a kangaroo among pigeons." Ryan served as Program Chairman for the 1980 Louisville meeting of the Association of American Geographers, and he was the North American representative of the Institute of Australian Geographers for a decade—although a female compatriot called him "the most unregenerate male geographer outside Australia," a comparison quite beyond her scope and needlessly insulting to several other contenders for that title.

**THE ABERYSTHYTH CONNECTION**

Roder returned to Africa in 1966-67 at the joint invitation of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN and the Nigerian Government, to study resettlement problems anticipated after the filling of Kainji Dam. Stafford also departed, having only just arrived, for an exchange year in Aberystwyth at the University College of Wales. His "exchange replacement" was Dr. Peter R. Mounfield, an economic geographer concerned with nuclear energy who is now Senior Lecturer at the University of Leicester—a bluff, hearty workhorse who tried valiantly to wear one of Roder’s shoes on his left foot and one of Stafford’s on his right. This exchange initiated what unexpectedly became the "Aberystwyth Connection." Out of it came the 1967-68 sabbatical year of Harold Carter, Gregynog Professor of Human Geography in Aberystwyth, whose year-long Cincinnati seminar resulted in *The Study of Urban Geography* (3rd edition, 1981), still the most immaculate and current text in its field. Out of it came Carter’s interdisciplinary seminar, “Frontiers of Urban Research,” which is still offered each year with faculty participants from several UC colleges. Out of it came such "Welsh" graduate students as John Rees (who eloped with a secretary when returning to the London School of Economics, and now teaches at Syracuse University), Max Barlow (who went to McGill), and Martyn Winrow (who organized the UC rugby football club before returning to Wales, where he lived with an incendiaryist whose two buddies and four German Shepherd dogs formed the Free Welsh Army). Out of it came Dr. Brian E. Davies, a Welsh soils chemist turned physical geographer, who taught at UC in 1970-71. Into the "Aberystwyth Connection" went Bruce Ryan (on study leave in 1971-72) and Kenneth E. Corey (also on study leave, in 1974-75). Mrs. Frances Sandmel and the late Dr. Samuel Sandmel of Hebrew Union College very generously hosted and accommodated several of these Welsh visitors, who spoke the "language of heaven" but had no prospect of going there.

**THE NEW OLD GUARD: SOUTH & SELYA**

The only other faculty members to obtain tenure during the past twenty years were Robert B. South and Roger M. Selya, the former an Indiana geologist turned geographer at the University of Maryland, the latter a Harvard historian turned geographer at the University of Minnesota. Dr. South personified what was best in the social-conscious "applied geography" of the past decade, his early work tracing the movement of Bolivian coca into the United States narcotics market, his later work embracing several environmental impact statements (for the recovery of Lake Erie natural gas, and for mining on Indian reservations), some of them commissioned by the Argonne National Laboratory. He came to UC in 1970, having taught at Western Michigan University, and revitalized Latin American studies. Experiences with the Peace Corps (in southern Chile and the Atacama Desert) deepened his concern for less developed areas abroad and proved to be, once again, a very common route into geography. South also strengthened the department’s computer capabilities—a far cry from the 1950s, when L.G. Wolf had cajoled the department into purchasing its first calculator.

Dr. Selya, by contrast, was an established Asianist whose mailbox overflows daily and disconcertingly with Chinese language periodicals. No sooner had he joined the UC faculty in 1975 than he was made Director of Asian Studies by the interdisciplinary committee responsible. In this capacity, he managed to secure a $10,000 library
grant from the Commemorative Association for the Japan World Exposition. Not long before, Dr. South had also attracted new Canadian library holdings, these accessions building upon the “journal exchange” depository collection of the Association of American Geographers which Fenneman had negotiated for the UC library forty years before. Selya was an accomplished cellist and linguist who found time for humane research in population dynamics, epidemiology, urban food supplies, and industrial development, mainly in Taiwan and Israel.

**FACULTY THROUGH THE REVOLVING DOOR**

During the 1970s, most of the other faculty member made the department look like a revolving door that took up to four years to spin once. Through that door went Wilfrid Bach (UC, 1967-70), an air pollution meteorologist whose joint appointment with the Kettering Laboratory (Environmental Health) produced the first maps of Cincinnati’s dust dome. Obsessed with ambient purity, Bach used these maps to select a “clean air” site for his home in College Hill, but left for the University of Hawaii and his native Marburg before X-ray streaks appeared on his lungs. David L. Ames (UC, 1967-69) swung through the door into the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Planning Authority, having brought “urban blight” into the curriculum. He became a dean at the Commonwealth University of Virginia. From Ohio State University and the Battelle Institute came Budd Hebert (UC, 1968-71), whose air transportation studies refined the earliest linear programming models of Edward N. Taaffe, with whom he had studied at OSU. Hebert became a much-travelled and much-demanded consultant with Dames & Moore, Inc., a firm which subsequently employed many geography interns. In 1982, he was elected to the State Senate of New Mexico. Through the same revolving door passed Marilyn Shelton, on his way to the University of California at Davis, a many-talented hydrologist from Oregon who had perfected a snappy rebuke for telephone callers wanting a “Marilyn” Shelton (UC, 1971-75). There was also Peter Schulz, a Berliner in lederhosen from the University of Illinois (UC, 1969-74), and Robert van Spyk (UC, 1974-78), a Dutch urban geographer who bequeathed to the department its present courses in remote sensing and tourism, and to whom a former Californian student mailed a letter-bomb which was accidentally detonated, without tragic consequences, by his cat.

Percy Dougherty taught physical geography, remote sensing, and computer cartography at UC from 1978-82, was faculty sponsor for the cave and mountaineering clubs, and L. G. Wolf’s associate in the editing and publication of *Transition*, the quarterly journal of the Socially and Ecologically Responsible Geographers (SERGE). This in-house journal, now in its twelfth volume, has carried Cincinnati’s imprint and reputation for environmental studies and contemporary social concerns to hundreds of geographers and libraries in several continents.

**WOMEN IN GEOGRAPHY: ZANNARAS & MAZEY**

Georgia Zannaras was the first woman appointed to an extended term (UC, 1974-78) and was the true begetter of research in behavioral geography at UC. She devised and taught “Women’s Role in the Spatial Organization of Society,” which was the first “Women’s Studies” course in geography to be offered anywhere. A more protracted accomplishment, but just as revolutionary, was her conversion of the basement toilet for “Faculty Men” into one for “Faculty Women,” after what a colleague called the “defeat of the male chauvinists in the battle of the johns.” Dr. Zannaras took accouchement leave to deliver Katrina Aphrodite Zannaras Jones, a genealogical conundrum, not long before Mary Ellen Maze (her doctoral student and successor) delivered Zachary Brett King Maze. For his un-Australian forbearance during the baby boom, Professor Ryan twice received the “Mother of the Year” award at departmental banquets. Zannaras left Cincinnati to become an economic planner with the City of San Antonio when her husband, Richard C. Jones (another geographer from Ohio State University), accepted an appointment at the University of Texas. Both of them continued to make stimulating, policy-oriented, often jointly-published contributions to the literature of Latin American migration.

**FROM SYRACUSE AND THE ANTIPODES**

The syracuse contingent at UC, already over-mighty with McNee and Wolf, was augmented by Richard Symanski (UC, 1971-73), who ruffled a few feathers by publishing some courageous work in the geography of prostitution and Nevada brothels, but left for the more congenial badlands of Texas. Since 1978, Syracuse has again been rep-
resented by Jonathan S. Mesinger, whose graduate work with the
much-honored and greatly revered Donald W. Meinig equipped him
well for his present research on ethnic neighborhoods and Cincinnati’s
Jewish community. Mesinger also took fresh initiatives in historical
preservation (more policy-oriented than Ryan’s earlier building
surveys in Clifton and Eastern Kentucky), and brought them to an
interdisciplinary culmination at UC in a new certificate program. His
community involvement was recognized and rewarded by his chairing
the University’s Council on Academic Urban Programs.

Courses were occasionally taught in the Department by visitors
from abroad, four of whom had been Ryan’s former Australian col-
leagues. Donald McTaggart, a tropical specialist from Scotland who
had served in the Royal Navy, spent his study leave from the Univer-
sity of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur in Cincinnati, and recently assumed
the chairmanship at Arizona State University. Michael Webber, a
mathematical trail-blazer from the Australian National University,
became head at McMaster University in Ontario, and Dennis Jeans,
Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney and recently editor of The
Australian Geographer, presented a splendid graduate seminar at UC
on landscapes in art and literature but nevertheless failed to civilize
the local visgoths. UC has twice enjoyed the inspiration of Larry
Sterne, an American geographer now holding a Senior Lectureship
at the Australian National University in Canberra, most recently while
he was completing the official bicentennial Portrait of Bangkok
(1982). Sterne had been McNeely’s student at the City College of
New York, and served for many years, under the patronage of King
Bhumipol Adulyadej of Thailand, as Municipal Advisor to Bangkok.

INSTRUCTORS

When study leave or unexpected resignations reduced the number of
regular faculty members available, the department’s own doctoral
candidates were sometimes asked to fill in as instructors for a year or
two. Peter L. Halvorson, now chairman at the University of Connect-
cticut, did so in 1963-67, while completing a dissertation on Appa-
lachian commuting and laborsheds. So did Michael Marchioni, one of
several graduate students funded by the U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers, and Alton C. Thompson, who took a job at Miami Uni-
versity in Oxford, Ohio. Marchioni is remembered as the Greatest Size
ever to squeeze through the geography office door, and went on to test
the elevators at Hunter College in New York.

For the period 1977-79, while Wolf Roder resumed his African
odyssey in Zambia as a Fulbright-Hays Senior Lecturer with State
Department support, many of his UC duties were performed by Mary
Ellen Mazey, a doctoral student from West Virginia. Later appointed
to Wright State University in Dayton, Mazey continued the UC
commitment to the Ohio Academy of Sciences by becoming vice presi-
dent of its geography section. Most recently, Joan H. Fabe has bailed
out the sadly under-staffed department by teaching double sections of
the course on tourism, drawing upon a long career as globetrotter and
mother-returned-to-college. She also lectured to the Cincinnati
Historical Society about her research on communications between the
earliest “station” settlements in the Ohio Valley.

STUDENTS

These students of the department represent: only those who made sig-
nificant contributions to its teaching program. It is much more dif-
cult to summarize the accomplishments of the 126 who have now
graduated with Master’s degrees, of the 23 Ph.D.’s, or of the hun-
dreds of majors, few of whom entered the UC graduate program in
geography. It was unofficial departmental policy to discourage them
from doing so. The faculty believed themselves to be too few (and too
narrowly specialized within geography or too unrepresentative of the
whole field) to provide the breadth of experience available in graduate
programs elsewhere. Perhaps a few vignettes of representative
students can characterize them all.

The late Dr. William C. Wachs certainly takes temporal priority.
His was the unusual distinction of being the first person to obtain a
baccalaureate degree in geography at UC, the first to receive his
Master’s (1931), and also the first to complete the Ph.D. (1964). His
dissertation was an historical geography of Early Christian and
Byzantine church architecture, the 7,000 item bibliography of which
he gave to the College of Design. During his retirement, while serving
as a Research Associate in the department, Dr. Wachs also completed
a research bibliography on the geography of Cincinnati. He was pro-
foundly fond of classical music. As a memorial to the late Thomas
Schippers, former conductor and music director of the Cincinnati
Symphony Orchestra, he commissioned the restoration of carved cor-
bels in the foyer of Music Hall—gargoyle-like figures of “Tragedy
and Comedy” saved from Cincinnati’s National Theater.
Kenneth E. Corey was another who received all three of his degrees in geography at UC. He became head of the Graduate Department of Community Planning at UC, but moved to Washington, D.C. in 1979, to lead the large and prodigiously well-equipped Department of Geography at the University of Maryland. Corey worked closely and sensitively with the Community Chest, taking initiatives in practical social research which placed him in the national spotlight of applied geography. He sat on the national councils of both planning educators and the Association of American Geographers.

Given the present paucity and aenemia of high school geography in the United States (a sad contrast with its importance in every other English-speaking country), it is a wonder that UC produced any geography majors at all. Donald C. Dahmann's father and grandfather had been superintendents of the Vine Street Hill Cemetery, and for Dahmann it was possibly a desperate choice between geography and the afterlife. While a geography major, he became Cadet Brigade Commander of the ROTC at UC, and served out his commission in charge of the first topographic survey of Liberia. At the University of Chicago, his doctoral dissertation contrasted the roles of Western Hills High School and Walnut Hills High School in producing “locals and cosmopolitans”—students who stayed in Cincinnati and other students who used the educational system to carve out careers elsewhere, and whose talents (though developed here) were lost to Cincinnati.

The elder statesman among UC’s geography majors was Raymond Crist (B.A., 1925, and recipient of the University’s McKibben Medal), whom the university honored with its D.Sc. (honoris causa) degree during the sesquicentennial celebrations of 1969. Crist became Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Florida, capped his Amazonian studies with East From the Andes (1973), and served as board member for the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Foreign students came in a very stimulating assortment. One was Sister Barbara Marie Francis, S.S.F. (Ph.D., 1975), a British Honduran (Belizean) nun who looked down on the Armco rolling mill from a catwalk and said “it looks like hell.” She travelled widely, as geographers do, and concluded that “if I went to live in Europe, Paris would be the place for me, with summer trips to Switzerland.” She left Cincinnati and her mother house in New Orleans to become a school principal in Los Angeles.

The list goes on and on. David Lantis (M.A., 1948) became national president of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the geography honorary frater-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Degree awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B.A./B.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College teaching</td>
<td>5.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School teaching</td>
<td>6.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational administration</td>
<td>1.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government and governmental agencies</td>
<td>6.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed services</td>
<td>7.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartography and map librarianship</td>
<td>9.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and development</td>
<td>9.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health planning and environmental services</td>
<td>4.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>17.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>3.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further education</td>
<td>25.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other destinations</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (percent)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (jobs reported)</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, 1966-82**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical occupations</th>
<th>Representative employers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor, professor, dean, director</td>
<td>74 universities in North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, principal</td>
<td>Cincinnati public schools, Peace Corps, Canada, Operation Headstart, corrections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority services, computer services, academic</td>
<td>University of Cincinnati, Miami University, Behavioral Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>services, labor education, program coordinator,</td>
<td>Laboratory, planetarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>librarian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic analyst, housing surveys, school</td>
<td>US Census Bureau, Central Intelligence Agency, Ohio Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>redistricting, municipal information systems,</td>
<td>Department, Council of State Governments, Cincinnati Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>economic base research, town incorporation</td>
<td>Works, Dade Metro Government, Seattle Office of Women's Affairs,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feasibility, urban policy, demographer, park</td>
<td>Nigerian Ministry of Economic Planning and Reconstruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ranger, resort manager, East European specialist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>topographic surveyor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surveyor, photogrammetrist, remote sensing,</td>
<td>Congress, Liberia-US Mapping Mission, British Ordnance Survey,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>optical data processing, stereo-plottet, change</td>
<td>Stanford University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>detection systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional and city planning, community and</td>
<td>Doxiadis Associates (Athens), Wilbur Smith Associates, and 14 other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regional development, land use planner,</td>
<td>private consulting firms; Appalachian Regional Commission, and 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>business district analyst, urban renewal,</td>
<td>other city, county, and state planning agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>urban conservator, historic preservation,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airport development, planning technician,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>planning law, planning journalism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care delivery systems, hospital location</td>
<td>Blue Cross-Blue Shield, CORVA, Rockford Community Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>location analyst, biostatistician, climatologist,</td>
<td>Research Office, Idaho Health Planning Council, N.J. Alcoholism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>energy systems, environmental impact analysis,</td>
<td>Research Institute, Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flood plain management, water resources,</td>
<td>Solid Waste Management, IBM, Little Miami Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pollution monitoring, natural hazards, soil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>erosion control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographer, business location, marketing</td>
<td>Kroger, Federated Department Stores, Taft Broadcasting, Proctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>research, consumer behavior, real estate,</td>
<td>&amp; Gamble, Stouffer, Kaiser, Zare, Hong Kong Polyester, Kenner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>property development, land planning and</td>
<td>Toy, Marathon Oil, Arco, and 37 other businesses; Merrill Lynch,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>packaging, industrial development, shopping</td>
<td>Investor's Diversified Services, Manufacturers Hanover Bank,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>center design, operations research, location</td>
<td>Barclays Bank, and 12 other financial institutions; Stanford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>analyst, computer applications, data analyst,</td>
<td>Research Institute, Howard L. Green Associates, and 18 other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plant manager, traffic controller, inventory</td>
<td>consulting firms; Assembly of Social and Behavioral Sciences,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>control, appraiser, buyer, public relations,</td>
<td>American Geographical Society, Teamsters Union, United Steel-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brokerage, journalism, photographer, map</td>
<td>workers Union, and ten other organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>retailing, travel equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminal manager, traffic dispatcher, traffic</td>
<td>Provident Travel, Roadway, Greyhound, Delta Airlines, TWA,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>engineer, travel &amp; tourism, pilot, rapid</td>
<td>Southern Railway, Holland-America Lines, Port Authority of New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transit, network analyst, stewardess</td>
<td>York Geography, law, engineering, design, architecture, planning,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher degrees, postdoctoral fellowships</td>
<td>and business programs in 43 American and European universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globe-trotting, “Grand Tours”</td>
<td>Unpaid voluntary community service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** Alumni records, Departmental newsletters, personal communications
FRIENDS OF GEOGRAPHY

Five secretaries have taken control of the geography office (and most of the faculty) during much of this period. Lillian Smith was hired in 1925 by Nevin M. Fenneman and retired 41 years and five Department Heads later, having remained in the Department of Geology after the administrative rending asunder. Geographers are indebted to her for transcribing and preparing for publication the handwritten autobiography of Hugh Robert Mill, onetime librarian and institutional historian of Britain's Royal Geographical Society. The secretary in Dr. Nash's Department of Geography and Regional Planning was Margaret Lotspeich, now Associate Professor of Planning. With Dr. McNee in 1963 came Alice McMahon, who retired on February 1, 1974, still resolutely refusing to try the new-fangled electric typewriters, but taking with her UC's "Ten-Year" brooch and the gratitude of everyone. She was succeeded by Karen Behmer Nilson (UC, 1971-75), who was to leave UC with her graduating husband for engineering and social work careers in New Mexico and California.

The present secretary, Cheryl A. Sievering, has been crossing the Mill Creek Valley between Price Hill and Swift Hall since 1974, reigning as Supreme Commander since 1975. A safe and secure job? The secretaries were once handed an article of "lost property" left in the classroom across the hall—a woman's purse containing a loaded pearl-handled pistol. Previously, they had imagined that only the faculty were to be feared, with their voracious appetites for memo pads and disgusting habit of spilling pipe tobacco into the keyboards of typewriters.

Within the UC community, geography students and faculty members were by no means the only ones interested in the discipline. Barry Bishop, a Cincinnati native who studied geology at UC, and was to climb Mount Everest, became a geographer at the University of Chicago, where his dissertation field area was Himalayan Nepal. He is now a member of the Committee for Research and Exploration at the National Geographic Society. Another UC geologist who contributed to geography was the late George B. Barbour, former Dean of the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences. Barbour had convinced Nevin Fenneman (whom he called a "tight-lipped man") that courses were needed in cartography and meteorology. With the Pentagon's blessing, he also helped to establish the Area and Language cadet program at UC during World War II. Out of Barbour's China experiences and American travels came the first 16 mm color film to be

screened at the Royal Geographical Society in London, where he had taught at University College under the Professor of Geography, Charles B. Fawcett. Another Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society on the UC faculty was the great sociologist, James A. Quinn, elected a Fellow in 1941 for his contributions to human ecology.

OUR BENEFACTORS

Although the department still lacks an endowed chair and a self-replenishing fund for visiting lecturers, there has been no shortage of other external support. Every year since 1963 there has been awarded the Cincinnati Association Prize in Urban Geography for the best student paper dealing with Cincinnati. The prize was established at the instigation of Norman L. Spelman, a geography graduate student who was also a member of the Cincinnati Association, a very active and elite "political reform" organization founded in 1920 to apply "intelligent public opinion" to important local projects. The conditions of the award were drawn up by Professor Peter Nash and John L. Strubbe of the Kroger Company, who represented the Association.

Another endowment assigned to the department in 1977 was the Mrs. Martin Low Fund, to support ecological education through the year-long course, "People and Environment." It has enabled the department to bring expert guest lecturers into the classroom from many other UC departments, and from other institutions.

Since the autonomous Department of Geography was established in 1963, public and private funds have also supported research and provided scientific equipment. Substantial external (non-UC) grants were awarded to Wilfrid Bach for air pollution research ($68,000 from the National Science Foundation and Environmental Health Center), to Kenneth E. Corey for training, consultation, and developing a mechanism for cooperation between UC and the City of Cincinnati ($237,000 from Proctor & Gamble and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare), to Sherwin H. Cooper for the Miami Valley Project ($270,000 from the National Science Foundation and Environmental Health Center), to Roger Selya for a workshop on geographic literacy and field work in Taiwan ($27,000 from the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society), and to Howard Stafford for work on locational decision-making by manufacturing firms ($74,000 from the National Science Foundation).
Georgia Zannaras was funded by a Venezuelan bank and FUDECO (a regional planning agency) for her summer studies of cityward migration by young workers, mainly to Caracas. During the past twenty years, Wolf Roder has found it possible to spend over 40 months in Africa, and Bruce Ryan was enabled to fly around the world in search of the Asian and European antecedents of the Australian farmhouse.

QUARTERS, MOSTLY HINT

State money also flowed into the renovation of Swift Hall, where the Department of Geography had moved in 1970 after a decade of uneasy cohabitation with the geologists in Old Tech. There, the geographers had been literally squeezed between a rock and a hard place. Old Tech was the oldest (if not the most venerable) building on campus — an 1886 throwback to the Technical School of Cincinnati, which had been devoted to cultivating not only the manual arts but also "the faculties of Precision, Logical Thought, and Invention."

Engineering and science departments occupied Old Tech before the Department of Geology and Geography was housed below its "healthfully high ceilings." Its wooden central pillars were "marvels of torque," while roaches infested its downstairs hall sink and a teeming squatter settlement of mice filled the straw-stuffed "mammoth" displayed in the geology museum. The beams creaked above one's head whenever the ghost of Fenneman walked at night.

In the early 1950s, the cartographic facilities consisted of an orange crate with an antique unfrosted light bulb and a pane of clear glass that served as a light table. The library allocation for new books in 1953-54 was $9.25. There still survive a few mementos of those dear, dead days. Fenneman's carved owl and his roll-top desk are in Swift Hall, his academic hood is in the UC archives, and Frank H. Myers' portrait of him hangs in Old Tech.

Swift Hall had been built in 1926 to a design by the Cincinnati architect, Harry Hake. He was also responsible for the present McMicken Hall (1946), the Tangeman University Center (1936), Memorial Hall dormitory, part of Old Chemistry, and the Tanners' Research building. His many commissions for Cincinnati Bell and the Western-Southern Life Insurance Company transformed Fourth Street around its intersection with Broadway into what could almost be called "Hake's End," and a score of his fire houses and police sta-

tions still dignify the Cincinnati townscape. Swift Hall was a three-
storeyed brick structure enclosing the southern side of the Hermann Schneider quadrangle, and was furnished initially for the electrical engineering department.

When the geographers became its prime tenants in 1970 ("all power to us"), they found a super-abundance of electrical outlets and a deficiency of women's restrooms. In September, 1970, to celebrate their first morning in the new quarters, the geography faculty strolled over to the Union for coffee, but were astonished to find a policeman blocking their return at the western door. They were informed that the building had just been evacuated following the receipt of a bomb threat. Sic transit gloria mundi.

Swift Hall continued to crumble for another decade. It exuded the "penitentiary look." No matter which floor she was on, one student said she always imagined she was in the basement. On the blank wall of one depressing classroom, nameless students painted a full-scale window with curtains, through which could be seen trees, clouds, birds, and the sun. The Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade found it appropriate to glue their posters to the glass entrance doors, which were either jammed shut or refused to be locked.

RENOVATION OF SWIFT HALL

Out of this dereliction came $2.5 million from the State of Ohio for the remodeling and renovation of Swift Hall. Functionally elegant schematics were devised by Del Strickland of KZF Inc., a Cincinnati architectural and engineering firm, and campus planners insisted on the energy-conserving suspended ceilings, sealed windows, and bricked-up openings. A dazzling portal rotunda, sculptured in glass-blocks, was trimmed from the original proposals by penny-pinching watchdogs of the public purse. Work commenced on October 8, 1979, but because alternative quarters were not available, the Department was forced to remain in the dust-choked building, while bulldozers cluttered down the corridors, until being transferred to temporary offices on the second and third floors of Lance's Bookshop on Calhoun Street, opposite the College of Law. There they remained from April 10, 1980 until March 2, 1981, when Swift Hall was at last reoccupied.

With the renovation in 1980 came an additional $31,000 of State money for new equipment, as well as $15,000 in start-up funds for cartographic projects from the University Research Council, and $12,000
Nevin M. Fenneman's "Circumference of Geography," redrawn from his diagram in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Vol. 9, 1919, p.4. "In a loose way," Fenneman wrote, "the central residual part of the circle may represent regional geography."

for laboratory improvements from the National Science Foundation. Almost half of these grants was spent in acquiring a Tektronix graphic computing system (including an inter-active digital plotter).

Delighted though the department was at receiving such beneficence, the total available did fall $70,000 short of what a properly-equipped Department of Geography needed, and plans for the use of the new research facilities were shattered when Professor Dougherty was not re-appointed in 1982 and his position was lost. A state government that had been so generous so recently with buildings and equipment found itself unprepared, once again, to invest in the human resources to operate them. The onset of Ohio's worst recession in 40 years did nothing to help matters.

THE GOSPEL AS PREACHED

To characterize the philosophy and thrust of geography at UC over these past 75 years is beyond the scope of a single observer, however acutely involved. The accomplishments and innovations can often be identified, and the style suggested, but the underlying currents are too deep to fathom truly. Geography itself did not stand still during that period, but became "a Los Angeles among academic cities in that it spreads over a very large area, it merges with its neighbors, and we have a hard time finding the central business district." Even so, to paraphrase David Lowenthal, beyond that of any other discipline, the subject matter of geography continued to approximate the world of general discourse, and the palpable present. The everyday life of people on earth was seldom far from professional concerns.

A strong professional concern was always evident at UC, from Fenneman's Presidency of the Association of American Geographers in 1918 to McNee's leave of absence from 1973-76, to serve with great distinction during a period of change as Director of the American Geographical Society in New York. Similarly, Howard Stafford is at present the only North American representative on the eight-member Commission on Industrial Systems of the International Geographical Union, and has attended its meetings in Stockholm, Hungary, and Moscow. During the 1960s, Corey, Hebert, Stafford, and McNee were also publishing participants or members of the steering committee for the High School Geography Project, part of the nation-wide, multi-disciplinary attempt at curricular reform which was funded by the National Science Foundation.

THE URBAN MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

One external evaluation of the department described the faculty as a "group of academics seriously concerned with their subject and its relationship to the everyday world." Community involvement has certainly been emphasized over the years, but not so much by active participation in community groups—although Wolf did attend the 1968 Democratic National Convention as an alternate delegate. Community service was made manifest more often in feasibility studies and expert testimony. Wilfrid Bach, for example, appeared before one air pollution tribunal after another, and Wolf's membership on the Cincinnati Census Tract Committee and Miami Valley Conurbation Base Map Project made it possible for many others to display statistical data accurately and honestly.
GEOGRAPHY OF THE FIRM

In another external evaluation, the reviewer found what he called “an atmosphere of mutual respect among a faculty of individualistic geographers.” Sometimes the idiosyncrasy has run rampant — in Selya’s study of guild violin-making, for example, or Ryan’s of Australian film imagery, or McNee’s gay ghettos — but more often a common focus for research has been found in just four principal areas — the geography of the firm, environmental quality, regional and national development, and urban studies.

There was no precedent in the literature for McNee’s early work on the spatial organization of multi-national corporations, and Stafford’s brave attempts to model the industrial location decision-making process (published in 1978 as Principles of Industrial Facility Location) brought him international recognition and the chance to educate London business magnates over lunch at White’s and the Athenaum. Drovos of students wrote theses on “the mortality of discount stores” and kindred topics.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Definitive American research on environmental quality was embodied in Robert South’s numerous impact statements, which were extolled as epitomising the “state of the art,” and in his rigorous evaluation of the National Environmental Protection Act of 1970. Elsewhere, Roder completed the very first environmental assessment for East Africa, during 1978-79, under the auspices of the United Nations.

For twenty years now, geography graduate students have not flinched from the field work demanded by theses on sanitary landfills, noxious facilities, the selection of solid waste disposal sites, state mental hospitals, storm drainage options, inner city decay, and areas where crime occurrence rates contend for inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records. As one doctoral candidate advised the others, “keep your head up and don’t turn your back.”

The third thrust has been regional and national development. Traditionally, geographers have been wont to describe themselves, say, as urban geographers with a regional specialization in Southeast Asia, or as historical geographers working mainly on nineteenth century Australia. Over these 75 years, most UC geographers have claimed a

ETHNIC AND MINORITY CONCERNS

Community involvement has also meant working with ethnic and minority groups. Roder was chairman of the faculty committee which recommended the expansion of African studies at UC (which led, shortly afterwards, to the creation of the Department of Afro-American Studies). During the race-riotous 1960s, he resolutely disregarded his personal safety by confronting landlords who were suspected of engaging in racial discrimination, on behalf of H.O.M.E. (Housing Opportunities Made Equal, the Cincinnati action group pledged to racial integration). He also applied his expertise to still-pending school desegregation suits.

It is not easy for a white geographer, however expert an Africanist, to publish a column in Cincinnati’s black community newspaper, but Roder did. Between November, 1973 and June, 1977, his African Background appeared 186 times above the pen-name, “Faraiyi Sigauke,” which he derived from an African’s phonetic attempt to say “University of Chicago.” Roder and Wolf both drafted policy-indicative distribution maps of Cincinnati’s black population.

Of national significance was McNee’s work for the Association of American Geographers as chairman of its “Black Towns Project” (which included Lincoln Heights, just north of Cincinnati), and as chairman of COMGA (its Commission on Geography and Afro-America), which was funded by the U.S. Office of Education and accelerated the graduate school intake of black American geographers.

In 1971, when Phillip E. Kithcart successfully defended his dissertation on “Intra-Urban Travel Patterns of the North Nashville, Tennessee Black Community,” UC’s Department of Geography joined that very select company which had awarded the Ph.D. degree to a black American. Dr. Kithcart is now assistant to the president of Prairie View A & M University, Texas.
regional affiliation in their teaching, if not always in field research: Fenneman is associated with the United States, Coulter with Polynesia, Zannaras and South with Latin America, and Case with the world pattern in its entirety.

Much of the research has concerned the development of lagging regions which have been by-passed by economic progress. Roder's work in Africa is the most fully articulated instance. He has even chaired televised debates on “Nation-Building in Africa.” Selya, however, has also tried to trace the effects of industrial development in Taiwan on food production, occupational hazards, pollution problems, and population growth, while Ryan has criticized the role of governments in Appalachia and rural Australia.

CINCINNATI STUDIES

Fourthly, geography at UC has never neglected its location in a major metropolitan area, and has attracted many of its graduate students over the past twenty-five years by advertising how fertile an “urban research laboratory” Cincinnati is. It was not by accident that the term “megalopolis” was first propounded by the geographer Jean Gottmann, of the Sorbonne and Oxford University, to a receptive Cincinnati audience in 1952.

Almost exactly half of all theses and dissertations written in the department have dealt with the Greater Cincinnati region, and another ten percent have been set in the surrounding tri-state area. Many have investigated locational changes in industry, commerce, and other land use categories, trying to keep tabs on a volatile city. They have ranged in topic from the contrasting location patterns of liquor outlets on either side of the Ohio River to planned shopping centers, from drive-in restaurants to breweries, from street-corner groceries to the location factors in supermarket sales—this latter by a Ph.D. graduate who now commands the Office of the Geographer at the Kroger Company.

Also significant have been studies of the locational efficiency of such public facilities as health clinics, emergency medical systems, and storefront churches. One student delimited UC’s sphere of influence, and another doubled her life insurance premiums by riding shotgun in Cincinnati Police cruisers, while studying their movements.

Another prominent research theme has been the pattern of residential migration within the city, whether as the result of urban renewal, real estate activities, freeway clearance, racial transition, or new housing construction, and whether by blacks, whites, Greeks, Jews, renters, or those listed in the Cincinnati Blue Book between 1892 and 1910.

Seven theses have tried to fathom how citizens perceive and react to differences in the socio-economic status of Cincinnati’s neighborhoods. Such studies of spatial perception led one student into “fantasy space and doll play” with Kenner Toys, and another into research for the Children’s International Summer Villages—the first geographer to break into that formerly exclusive coven of psychologists.

Not all urban geographical studies have been confined to Cincinnati. Stafford and Ryan, for example, have worked on small town development in Wales and Australia respectively, while McNee has published structural analyses of New York City. Wolf provided a conceptual context for the past and future growth of the Cincinnati region by adapting and extending Hans Blumenfeld’s famous “metropolitan tidal wave” model to the State of Ohio. This was the first application of the concept on a state-wide basis.

CINCINNATI IN GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

Crucial though Cincinnati studies have been, part of their popularity must be attributed to the self-indulgence (if not the self-righteousness) of a parochial and conservative Midwestern community. Fenneman was well aware of the local tendency to ignore or disdain the world beyond southwestern Ohio. In 1926, before a student group, he said “I ask only that you shall not assume that the small corner of the world in which you live is all there is and that the brief period that your life covers is like all that ever was or will be.”

Geographers at UC have tried to cure this parochialism by offering a wide range of courses in regional geography, by seeking faculty colleagues familiar with foreign places, and by resisting those voices within the university which would define everything non-Cincinnatian as irrelevant or subordinate.

So long as the university’s mission is to open eyes and minds, there will be a need for the teaching of geography. But it is not hard to compare the successes of the two countervailing tendencies, the one introspective, the other exspective: for every student now taking a course in the regional geography of a foreign area there will be three taking a course in the geography of Cincinnati, Ohio, or the United States and Canada, and for every graduate thesis or dissertation writ-
ten on a foreign area during the past fifty years there will have been nine dealing with some part of the United States.

It was not originally so. Sixty years ago, it was assumed that UC freshmen were already well acquainted with the geography of their own country. In fact, the first course in regional geography offered at UC, in 1916-17, was Mr. McFarland's "Geography of Europe," and the first courses taught by Dr. Earl Case, in 1920-21, were the "Geography of the Old World" and the "Geography of Latin America."

We can be proud of these past 75 years of geography at UC, but in commemorating them we should recall Fenneman's admonition, and not assume that the small corner of the world in which we live is all there is, or that this florescence of geography in Cincinnati is all that ever was or will be. It is worth recalling, to place our accomplishments in perspective, that the first work entitled Geography was written in Alexandria, in the third century B.C., by Eratosthenes, and that writings dealing with the shape of the earth and the nature of the environment date from the days of Ionian science, as early as the sixth century B.C. It might place our local longevity in context to recall that the first regularly appointed (and regularly paid) geographer in a university was Barthel Stein, who delivered his inaugural lecture in Wittenberg (Germany, not Ohio) in 1509. It was 1871 before the first International Geographical Congress assembled in Antwerp, although today the International Geographical Union represents an estimated 40,000 geographers in 86 countries.

Heffer's catalogue of geographical books currently in print, in English, runs to 135 pages, and the latest edition of Harris and Fellmann's International List of Geographical Serials (1980) enumerates 3,445 of them. As custodians and cultivators of this very substantial greenhouse of human knowledge, we should remember, from the southwestern corner of Ohio, that there is also an ancient Muslim geography, and a very different Chinese geography, and even a New Zealand geography, and that the study and writing of geography have been universal concerns for as long as human beings could write, and in every part of the occupied world.

Graduate Degrees Granted, 1931-82

DOCTOR of PHILOSOPHY (Dissertations)


Haake, John. 1977. The Relationship of Supermarket Sales and Traditional Retail Location Factors.


Marchioni, Michael. 1971. Economic Development and Settlement Patterns in the Flood Plain of the Upper Ohio Valley with Special Reference Given to Flood Damage Reach 11.


Root, James. 1976. The Structure of Spatial Cognition.


Thompson, Alton C. 1971. A Multivariate Analysis of the Distributions of Selected Retail Activities at the Intrarural Scale.


Wachs, William C. 1964. Historical Geography of Medieval Church Architecture.
MASTER of ARTS (Theses)

Angus, John Ferris. 1968. Migration to the Periphery of a Metropolis: Union Township, Clermont County, Ohio as a Case Study.

Ball, Mary S. 1962. Future Developments in the Utilization of Agricultural Resources in Ghana.


Baulch, DeeWitt M. 1963. Contribution of Meteorological Analysis to Land Use Planning for Air Pollution Control.

Bell, Dean. 1974. Busing as Related to Desegregation of Schools in the Rural South.


Blane, John P. 1953. An Historical Geography of the Amur-Ussuri Region of the U.S.S.R.

Brannen, Nancy L. 1967. The Spatial Pattern of Enrollment at the University of Cincinnati: A Case Study Concerning Factors Influencing the Sphere of Influence of a Large University.

Bridges, Bruce. 1976. Dispersion of High Level Manpower from a Black University.


Collier, James E. 1938. Topographic and Soil Factors in Kentucky’s Agriculture.


Demko, Donald. 1967. The Hierarchy of Central Places in the Blue Grass Region of Kentucky.


Gross, Robert Gaylord. 1965. Planning for a Metropolitan Library System with Hamilton County, Ohio as a Case Study.

Hagerstrand, Karl. 1971. An Analysis of Factors Influencing the Marginality of Farms in the Corn Belt of Western Ohio.


Harper, William. 1964. The Large Old Single Family House (LOSFH), A House Type Study in Cincinnati, Ohio.


Ho, Dick. 1980. A Spatial Analysis of the Retail Sales Variation Among the Major Retail Centers: A Case Study of the SMSAs in Louisville, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis.


McKinley, William E. 1962. *A Central Place Analysis of Three Centers in Southwest Ohio.*


Murphy, J. Elaine. 1971. *An Analysis of the Relationship of the Structural Character and Economic Development of the Regional Air Carriers in the U.S.*


Pasierb, Robert S. 1964. *A Geographic Analysis of Cincinnati's Labor Shred Beyond the SMSA.*


Peuquet, Donna. 1971. *An Examination of the Effects of Selected Physical Attributes on Residential Desirability.*


Schroeder, Kenneth R. 1976. *Social Bias and Social Distance: Components of Intraurban Migration.*


Sonntag, Dorothy. 1966. *A Preliminary Study of the Spatial Distribution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Ohio.*


Stevens, J. Minard. 1964. *Unique Responsibilities of the Planner Resulting from the Regional Setting.*
Taylor, James W. 1971. *The Spatial Distribution of Service Stations in Clermont County, Ohio.*
Welsh, Gerald M. 1956. *Space and Water for Industry in Mill Creek Valley, Cincinnati.*
Williams, James A. 1964. *An Analysis of Recent Industrial Expansion in the Upper Mill Creek Valley: A Study Investigating the Significance of Factors Influencing Industrial Location.*
Yuk, Wai Chun. 1976. *An Estimation of Travel Demand for the Cincinnati-Cleveland Corridor of the State of Ohio.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Much of this material has been drawn from twelve issues of *The Isoline,* the Department of Geography’s newsletter, edited (and largely written) by my colleagues Laurence G. Wolf and Wolf Roder. I thank them both. I also thank librarians Alice Vestal and Richard Spohn for delving into the UC archives; Harry Hake III for details of architectural designs by the first Harry Hake; Richard H. Durrell and Kenneth E. Caster, both of the Geology Department at UC, for photographs and nostalgia; Arthur G. King, M.D., for material on J.W. Coulter; Tom Carch of UC Printing Services, for just that; Cheryl A. Sievering, who prepared the manuscript for publication; and my colleagues and students who suggested improvements, insisted on corrections, and waxed stoical over my vignettes of themselves.

Lady Day, 1983