

February 4, 2015

VGSP Program
Association of American Geographers
1710 Sixteenth Street NW
Washington, DC 20009-3198

Dear friends,

I am writing to request funding for Dr. David Butler to come speak at Northwest Missouri State University and Missouri Western State University through the Visiting Geographical Scientist Program. The Zeta Theta Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon at Northwest Missouri State will be taking the lead in hosting Dr. Butler. Our chapter president, Brian Birchler, found the VGSP link on the GTU web site and requested that we apply for a visit. After reading the criteria, our chapter chose to invite Dr. Butler. Once we received positive feedback from Dr. Butler, we contacted the geographer at Missouri Western University who is Dr. Dawn Drake. Although Missouri Western does not have a GTU chapter per se, Dr. Drake is working on a joint initiation through Park University in Kansas City for students at Missouri Western. At Missouri Western, Dr. Butler will be visiting with the GIS class as well as giving a talk hosted by the Wildlife Biology Club. At Northwest Missouri State University, Dr. Butler will visit our Natural Hazards course and give a lecture hosted by Gamma Theta Upsilon. As smaller, regional universities, we do not often get to host a speaker as distinguished as David Butler, so his talks will be advertised on our web sites, the University calendar, the school newspapers, and through word of mouth.


Three years ago, the Geosciences department at Northwest Missouri State University was realigned. Geographers went to the Humanities and Social Sciences department and Geologists went to the Natural Sciences department. There are six full-time faculty in Geography, and we offer both a bachelor's degree as well as a M.S. in Geographic Information Science. At Northwest, Dr. Butler's focus on geomorphology and mountain environments would help engender a greater awareness of the breadth of geography as a discipline.

The Geography program at Missouri Western University is housed within a combined department with History. There is one full-time geography faculty member, and Dr. Butler's visit might help administrators and decision-makers recognize the importance of Geography and provide more support to Dr. Drake. Although our Universities are only about 40 miles apart, this visit would also help facilitate greater relations between our campuses. Over the past

ten years, there has been little to no interaction between geographers at these two universities which is rather sad.

In terms of details, our local chapter of GTU will be covering Dr. Butler's lodging accommodations. The department of Humanities and Social Sciences will arrange transportation for our speaker, and the department of History and Geography at Missouri Western University will be providing a meal/reception for Dr. Butler in St. Joseph. I hope that you agree that this visit has direct benefits to our geography majors/minors, to students in geography classes, to our geography faculty in Missouri, to the participating institutions, and to members of the broad community who might come to recognize the importance of geography through Dr. Butler's visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Romig".

Kevin Romig

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Northwest Missouri State University

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Draft Itinerary for David Butler's Visit to Maryville and St. Joseph

Wednesday April 1, 2015

Arrival at Kansas City Airport

Check-in at hotel in Maryville, MO

Dinner with Student members of GTU- Zeta Theta Chapter (A&G Restaurant)

Thursday April 2, 2015

7:30am: Dr. Butler will be dropped off at the MWSU Department of Geography and History (Poppewell 115) to meet with Dr. Drake

8:00am-10:00am: Dr. Butler will accompany Dr. Karen Koy (Biology) and her geology students to measure surface velocity on the Otoe Creek. Dr. Butler will then meet with Dr. Koy for a short time

10:30am: Dr. Koy will bring Dr. Butler back to the Department of History and Geography (Poppewell 115) for prep time for his late morning seminar

11:00am-12:00pm: Seminar with undergraduate biology students, topic TBD (Agenstein 224)

12:00-12:30pm: Lunch with Dr. Drake and geography minors at Einstein Brothers Bagels in Remington Hall

12:30pm-2:00pm: Dr. Butler will attend Dr. Drake's Introduction to GIS class (Remington 105). He can speak to the students on a relevant topic or just observe at his discretion

2:00-2:30pm: Break

3:00pm-4:30pm: Various activities TBD that could include meeting with Dr. Mark Mills ecology class, meeting with the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, meeting with the Department Chair in History and Geography, and/or a tour of the Missouri Department of Conservation offices on the MWSU campus

4:30-5:30pm: Dinner at il Lazzarone with Dr. Drake and other faculty

5:30-6:00pm: Prep time for public lecture

6:00pm-7:00pm: Open public lecture on animals as agents of geomorphic change (Agenstein 224)

Friday April 3, 2015

9:30 Tour of Geography facilities and campus, NWMSU (Garrett Strong Science Bldg)

10:00 Meeting with Dean Michael Steiner, Arts and Sciences (Administration)

11:00 Visit with Jeff Bradley's Conservation of Natural Resources class (GS 1050)

- 12:00 Lunch with faculty from Humanities and Social Sciences Department (Simply Siam)
- 1:15 Afternoon presentation hosted by Gamma Theta Upsilon Zeta Theta Chapter (TBD)
- 2:00 Brief reception hosted by Geography Club (NWMSU)
- 2:30 Depart for airport