

Dr. Carol Burton, Associate Provost
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, North Carolina

February 24, 2013

Dear Associate Provost Burton:

I welcome consideration for the recently announced opening for the position of Assistant/Associate Vice Chancellor for International and Extended Programs at Western Carolina University. Please find my résumé attached, which includes a list of references on the last page.

I have been a faculty member at the University of New Orleans (U.N.O.) since 1981 and an administrator since 1989. I currently hold the rank of Professor of Geography, and serve as the Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Director of the Latin American Outreach Program. In past administrative lives, I have been Associate Provost, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Chair of the U.N.O. Department of Geography, among other appointments.

My administrative experience is lengthy and wide-ranging. As a department chair, I supervised seven full-time and several part-time faculty members. At the college and/or university levels, I have maintained college budgets, supervised personnel actions, managed promotion/tenure and sabbatical processes, dealt with courses-and-curricula matters, worked in a supervisory capacity to build and maintain centers and institutes, developed technology initiatives, and constructed virtual worlds. I have a long history of collaboration with department chairs, center directors, and deans. Finally, I have done my share of work in strategic planning, in accreditation (I was a member of a SACS team to Jackson State University in 2011), and in outcomes assessment.

My background includes significant involvement in both online learning and international education. Permit me to address each type of experience separately.

International education.

International education at U.N.O. reports to my office. Included are the summer abroad, exchange, collaborative, and campus internationalization activities, among others. Not included are programs housed in academic units.

My international experience began as a teenager when my family moved to Canada, where I finished high school (London, Ontario, Grade XIII, with Honours). I subsequently returned to the U.S. for college and completed a B.A. in International Relations with Special Honors in Political Science; my honor's thesis examined the U.S.-Canada political and economic relationship. My M.A. study had a Latin American emphasis and I wrote a thesis on the growth-pole/center phenomenon in northern Mexico. After my master's work, I passed the U.S. Foreign Service exam, but elected not to continue with the interview process in favor of a Ph.D. program. While working on my Ph.D., I was selected as an Organization of American States Fellow to Ecuador, where I completed the Spanish-language curriculum on applied tropical geography "con excelencia."

I have continued to pursue my interest in international studies while at the University of New Orleans. I have taught world regional geography to literally thousands of students. I am the co-editor of a world regional geography textbook in which I wrote several chapters and the section on globalization. I taught twice in the University of New Orleans summer program in Innsbruck, Austria. I have done consulting work in El Salvador and Honduras, and have worked on a NASA project in Veracruz, Mexico. I was a member of the committee that designed and implemented a highly successful B.A. in International Studies (now over 175 majors), and I teach the required course in political geography. Throughout, I have served on various internationalization committees and subcommittees.

Perhaps of greatest relevance is my work with the University's Latin American Outreach program. The result of collaboration with two colleagues and an outside benefactor, this program was begun in 1998 and was charged with communicating the advantages of a U.N.O. education to mainly bilingual Latin American high school students. I became the Director in 2005 with the retirement of the founding Director. The program now has a full-time staff person and a team of six faculty members who collectively make over a dozen recruiting trips a year, speaking to students and parents. Our initial focus was on Central America, but we have expanded to include schools in the Caribbean and South America. Over 125 Latin American students are at U.N.O. as a result of these efforts, and we expect this number to rise significantly in the coming years. In 1999-2000, this initiative received a commitment of \$1.2 million from a local foundation to fund a permanent Latin American faculty presence on campus, and to help with recruiting and scholarship support. I subsequently wrote the proposal that led to an \$800,000 match from the State of Louisiana to create an endowed chair in Latin American Studies. I had the privilege of leading the search that identified the current occupant of the chair.

I see the academic role of a senior international officer as one of support, coordination, and idea generation, rather than that of a campus international 'czar'. International expertise comes in many forms and exists in multiple disciplines, and that expertise should be recognized. Of course, the more service-oriented activities of an international office—e.g., SEVIS matters, exchange agreements, etc.—should remain under the direct control of the international office. The senior international officer should feel no reluctance in making recommendations regarding internationalization of curricula or pursuing funding to support internationalization initiatives.

Whether at U.N.O. or elsewhere, my vision of a progressive internationalization policy is informed by:

- a desire to produce students who are 'globally competent'. I include in competence qualities such as an appreciation for diversity, open-mindedness, cultural sensitivity, awareness of the various economic and political components of the global system, and at least a minimal understanding of the role of technology in the globalization process.
- a willingness to examine all approaches to the internationalization process, but a recognition that institutional setting and external precedents will influence which of the various approaches offer the greatest value.
- a recognition that internationalization is both an import and export activity. Some observers argue that by 2025, perhaps eight million students will travel abroad. The globally engaged university must present itself as an attractive destination to foreign students and faculty, as well as a generator of students travelling abroad.

- an appreciation for international education as more than a niche or peripheral activity on campus. The business community has not been silent on this issue and has clearly indicated to prospective employees that some sort of background in global studies is important. The job-getting advantages aside, however, it is clear that an understanding of global issues fills out the educational profile of all students.
- a belief that the campus that ignores the transformative role of technology in the internationalization process does so at its own peril. With the rise of social media, virtual world, and personal video options, a key part of the friction of distance that traditionally has impeded international interaction has been overcome--i.e., we no longer must travel to a foreign destination to have meaningful interaction with it.

I enjoy public speaking and feel no reluctance in sharing this vision with anyone who will listen.

Online and continuing education.

As with international education, most of the university's online and continuing education activities report to my office.

I currently oversee the distance-education program at U.N.O., and work with online and extended learning in general. Our goal is to establish a robust online presence using new video-conferencing and virtual-world technologies that will provide a synchronous complement to our existing asynchronous courses. U.N.O. is the leader in a Louisiana multi-university initiative to create electronic campuses in Second Life; we were successful in competing for over \$200,000 in grant money to support the multi-university builds. I have an avatar, an office, and experience teaching other avatars in nicely appointed virtual classrooms. In addition, we are moving forward with plans to enlarge dramatically student access to courses using Internet-based video options (e.g., Adobe Connect), and to develop an array of new programs using hybrid concepts in a low-residency setting. When I arrived in my current position, U.N.O. had no online programs. In the last year, we have received authorization to proceed with twenty-two programs.

My vision of a progressive approach to distance or online learning embraces the following considerations:

- an understanding that online education increasingly is becoming less about overcoming "distance" and more about providing "convenience." Increasingly large proportions of online students actually live close to school.
- a prediction that within the next five-to-ten years, the "typical" university will be dominated by hybrid or blended courses and programs, employing an array of synchronous (e.g., personal video conferencing/virtual world) and asynchronous solutions; our current "high tech" will become more "high touch" as a result, and the relationship building that comes from face-to-face interaction will not be lost.
- a recognition that changes in online-learning possibilities and the globalization process go hand-in-hand. In a world in which technology has done much to collapse distance, it is a natural expectation that online learning increasingly will become a global enterprise. The world is the next big market opportunity, which may help to explain why some universities couch their distance learning activities in a 'global' or 'world' campus initiative.

I should add that my office also oversees noncredit and continuing education initiatives, both of which make use of online resources. A major current focus is adult learning, particularly at the Jefferson Parish campus (which reports to my office). U.N.O. is also cooperating with the other eight universities of the University of Louisiana System to develop an adult completer program in organizational leadership. I was the initial U.N.O. coordinator and the current coordinator reports to my office.

Concluding comments.

Not long ago, I was asked to comment on the role of the “regional university” in the evolving educational landscape of the 21st century. My response was that there are no longer “regional” universities in the sense that they were once known. With the collapse of distance, thanks to technology, and the rise of a global context, all universities have the same reach. The local online course can just as easily be taken by a Chinese or Russian student as a student living on campus. At U.N.O., we have embarked on an ambitious program to bring together the promise of online learning and the benefits of a global perspective to create new and enriching experiences for students, not only locally but globally. I am coordinating this initiative. It is my conviction that the successful 21st century university must embrace these opportunities in order to thrive.

I believe that my record addresses Western Carolina’s requirements for this position. I offer a combination of front-line administrative experience and involvement in online and international education that has prepared me to engage in the strategic planning and daily decision-making necessary for successful programs.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to answering any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Johnson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Merrill Johnson, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Vice President for
Academic Affairs, Director of Latin
American Outreach, and Professor of
Geography
Office of Academic Affairs
University of New Orleans

Résumé for

MERRILL L. JOHNSON

Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Director of Latin American Outreach, and Professor of Geography, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana 70148

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EDUCATION

Degree Programs:

- Ph.D. (Geography)** University of Georgia, Athens, 1981. Areas of concentration included urban/industrial, Latin America, and cartography.
- M.A. (Geography)** Arizona State University, Tempe, 1977. Emphasis on economic geography and Latin America.
- B.A. (International Relations)** West Texas State University, Canyon, 1974. Political science concentration within 54-hour major. Secondary concentrations in history, education, and Spanish.

Other Higher Education:

- One of two U.S. delegates to the Sixth International Course on Applied Geography, Quito, Ecuador, summer of 1978. Graduated from program "with excellence."
- University of Texas School of Law, 1974-75
- Qualified for Texas teaching certificate in secondary-level social studies, emphasizing political science. Student taught in government and economics.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Academic Positions:

- 1981-present** University of New Orleans, **Assistant Professor** (1981-86), **Associate Professor** (1986-94), **Professor** (1994-present). Areas of interest include:
- Industrial geography, focusing on the U.S. South.
 - Latin America/urban
 - Political geography
 - Cartography/GIS in education
 - Internet-based virtual worlds.
- 1977-1981** Teaching Assistant, University of Georgia, with full course responsibility at the freshman level.
- 1976** Lab Instructor, Arizona State University.

Administrative Positions:

- 2011-present** **Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs**, Office of Academic Affairs, University of New Orleans. (Title change due to System change in December, 2011.)
- 2009-2011** **Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs**, Office of Academic Affairs, University of New Orleans. Associate Provost duties plus oversight of:
- International activities
 - Distance education/L.M.S.
 - Noncredit curricula
 - Campus website development (until 7-1-12)
 - University Computing/Communications
 - Endowed chairs/centers
- 2008-2009** **Associate Provost**, Office of Academic Affairs, University of New Orleans. Management authority over:
- Courses and curricula
 - Honors Program
 - Summer school/Intersession
 - Promotion/tenure
 - Sabbatical leaves

- International students and scholars (official signature)
 - Student complaints/retroactive drops/resignations
- 2007-2009** **Coordinator** (unofficial) of the U.N.O. virtual campus project, focusing on the Second Life 3-D Internet platform. A UNO campus was built as part of a larger Louisiana university consortium. I have taught a course in one of the virtual campus classrooms, and I represented the University's initiative to the press and other outside interests.
- 2007-2008** **Interim Director, School of Urban Planning and Regional Studies**, College of Liberal Arts, University of New Orleans. Part of the post-Katrina restructuring process was the consolidation of the planning, geography, and anthropology activities on campus into a single school.
- 2005-present** **Director of Latin American Outreach**, College of Liberal Arts, University of New Orleans. Duties include coordination of student recruitment in Latin American bilingual schools and support of Latin American students at U.N.O. Requires multiple trips to Latin America each year.
- 2001-2003, 2004-2008** **Associate Dean**, College of Liberal Arts, University of New Orleans. Responsibilities included oversight of:
- College budget (2003-2008)
 - Personnel (2003-2008)
 - Promotion and tenure procedures
 - Sabbatical procedures (2001-2004)
 - Graduate faculty appointments (2001-2004)
 - College technology
 - College international programs
 - Grants and contracts
- 2003-2004** **Acting Dean** (with Dr. Susan Krantz), College of Liberal Arts, University of New Orleans
- 2002 (Spring/Summer)** **Acting Director**, U.N.O. Arts Administration Program
- 1989-2000** **Chair**, Department of Geography, University of New Orleans. Duties included the usual departmental budgetary, scheduling, and personnel responsibilities.

2000

GIS Program Coordinator, Department of Geography, University of New Orleans. Done in conjunction with Chair's responsibilities.

RESEARCH AND GRANT ACTIVITIES

Published Research:

- Johnson, Merrill L. "Geographical Reflections on the 'New' New Orleans in the Post-Hurricane Katrina Era." *The Geographical Review* 96 (2006): 139-156.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "To Restructure or Not to Restructure: Contemplations on Postwar Industrial Change in the U.S. South." *Southeastern Geographer* 37 (1997): 162-192.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "GIS in Business: Issues to Consider in Curriculum Decision Making." *Journal of Geography* 95 (1996): 98-105.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "Public Policy and Industrial Location in the Lower Mississippi Delta in an Era of Restructuring." *Southeastern Geographer* 34 (1994): 17-39.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "An Empirical Update on the Product-Cycle Explanation and Branch Plant Location in the Nonmetropolitan South." *Environment and Planning A* 23 (1991): 397-409.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "A Survey-Based Analysis of Race and Manufacturing Branch Plant Location in the Nonmetropolitan South." *Southeastern Geographer* 30 (1990): 79-93.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "Industrial Transition and the Location of High-Technology Branch Plants in the Nonmetropolitan Southeast." *Economic Geography* 65 (1989): 33-47.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "Labor Environment and the Location of Electrical Machinery Employment in the U.S. South." *Growth and Change* 19 (1988): 56-74.
- Johnson, Merrill L. and Fisher, James S. "Regional Wage Productivity Trends in the United States." *Southeastern Geographer* 25 (1985): 46-59.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "Postwar Industrial Development in the Southeast and the Pioneer Role of Labor-Intensive Industry." *Economic Geography* 61 (1985): 46-65.

Johnson, Merrill L. and Sauder, Robert A. "Land Use Policy and Flood Hazard Mitigation in the Development of Eastern New Orleans." *Papers and Proceedings of Applied Geography Conferences* 7 (1984): 69-79.

Grant Reports:

Johnson, Merrill; Speaker, Richard; and Hamlin, Lindsey. *Disciplinary Enrichment Using 3D-Web in an Enlarged Statewide Second-Life Grid: Final Report*. Submitted to Louisiana Board of Regents as part of its SELECT program, 92 pages. (June, 2012).

Johnson, Merrill and Speaker, Richard. *Toward Enhanced Statewide Teaching and Administrative Disaster Resilience Using 3-D Web: Final Report*. Submitted to Louisiana Board of Regents as part of its SELECT program, 73 pages. (September, 2009).

Johnson, Merrill L.; Clawson, David; and Lodhi, Mahtab. Report on the Veracruz GeoSpatial Education Project. (2003) (Mainly a Powerpoint presentation, with a brief written report to NASA)

Johnson, Merrill L. *High-Technology Branch Plants as Labor-Oriented Industries in the U.S. South*. Prepared for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Project Number RED-863-G-86-8 (99-7-13 668), approximately 170 pages (1988).

Encyclopedias:

Johnson, Merrill L. "Virtual and Immersive Environments." *Encyclopedia of Geography*. Edited by Barney Warf (Sage Publications: 2010)

Textbooks and Textbook Chapters:

Johnson, Douglas L.; Haarmann, Viola; Johnson, Merrill L.; and Clawson, David L., editors. *World Regional Geography: A Development Approach*. 10th Edition. (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 2010). Also contained in the textbook:

Prefatory comments: "A Note About the Global Economic Crisis," M. Johnson (principal author)

Chapter 1: "Geography and Development in an Era of Globalization," M. Johnson, D. Johnson, V. Haarmann.

Part 2: "United States and Canada," M. Johnson.

Part 3: "Latin America and the Caribbean," D. Clawson and M. Johnson.

Selected online portions of the textbook.

Clawson, David; Johnson, Douglas; Haarmann, Viola; and Johnson, Merrill, editors. *World Regional Geography: A Development Approach*. 9th Edition. (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 2007). Also in text:

Part One, Chapters 1-3: "Basic Concepts and Ideas," M. Johnson, D. Johnson, V. Haarmann, and D. Clawson. (I wrote the globalization and development sections. Part One was substantially revised relative to previous editions.)

Part Two, Chapters 4-6: "United States and Canada," M. Johnson.

Clawson, David and Johnson, Merrill, editors. *World Regional Geography: A Development Approach*. 8th Edition. (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 2004). Also in text:

Part 1, Chapters 1-4: "Basic Concepts and Ideas," Clawson and Johnson.

Part 2, Chapters 5-7: "United States and Canada," Johnson and J. S. Fisher.

Johnson, Merrill and Fisher, James. "The United States and Canada," Part Two, Chapters 5-7. *In World Regional Geography: A Development Approach*. Seventh Edition. Edited by David L. Clawson (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 2001).

Proceedings:

Rucker, James and Johnson, Merrill. Co-editors. *Proceedings of the 7th Annual Workshop on Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems for Coastal Management in Louisiana*. New Orleans, Louisiana, April 30-May 1, 1991.

Agencies and Journals For Which I Have Reviewed Manuscripts:

- *International Journal of Virtual and Personal Learning Environments* (2009)
- *Urban Geography* (1995, 1997, 2000)
- National Science Foundation (1991, 1994, 1995, 1997)
- *Southeastern Geographer* (1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2005)
- *Growth and Change* (1989)
- *Environment and Planning A* (1989)

Research Grants/Awards/Gifts:

- Louisiana Board of Regents. "Disciplinary Enrichment Using 3D-Web in an Enlarged Statewide Second-Life Grid." With Dr. Richard Speaker and Ms. Lindsey Graveline. Funded at \$122,812. Awarded March, 2009.

- Louisiana Board of Regents. “Toward Enhanced Teaching Outreach and Administrative Disaster Resilience Using 3-D Web,” with Richard Speaker, U.N.O. This effort will provide guidance for a statewide higher-education implementation of 3-D Web technologies. Funded at \$120,000. January, 2008.
- Louisiana Board of Regents. Legislative apportionment of \$800,000 to add to the \$1.2 million gift from the Zemurray Foundation to create the Doris Zemurray Stone Endowed Chair in Latin American Studies. A center will also be created. This process was begun in the late 1990s by Dr. David Clawson and Dean Phil Coulter. They retired several years ago and I wrote the proposal that led to the State’s endowment. Announced in August of 2007.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration, “Causes of Tropical Deforestation in the State of Veracruz, Mexico,” with David Clawson and Armond Joyce, \$48,000, 2003-2006. M.A. thesis support for Mark Dalrymple. David Clawson the initial P.I.; transferred to M. Johnson upon Clawson’s retirement.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration, “Geospatial Education Pilot Study for the Gulf of Mexico Accord: Using Satellite Imagery to Analyze Agricultural Land-Use Changes Near Veracruz,” \$24,838, 2001-2003, with David Clawson and Mahtab Lodhi.
- New Orleans City Planning Commission. “New Orleans Planning Commission Summer Student Worker Project,” \$19,580, 2001-02. [Summer employment for students to do GIS work for the city of New Orleans.]
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, “GIS Support for Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation,” \$15,223, fall, 1998 and spring, 1999. [Departmental graduate assistantship]
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration, “Image Analysis Enhancement for Advanced Environmental and Land Use Study at the University of New Orleans,” \$98,162, fall, 1997 to fall, 1998. I was principal investigator. Co-investigators included W. Cibula, K. Holladay, J. Howard, A. Massasati, S. Penland, R. Thayer, T. Marstall.
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, “GIS Support for Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation,” \$16,483, fall, 1997 and spring, 1998. [Graduate assistantship]
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, “Summer GIS Support for LPBF,” \$4,023, spring, 1997.

- Louisiana Educational Quality Support Fund, \$120,000 to support “Computer Enhancement for Proposed Southeast Louisiana Geographic Information Laboratories,” (with Ahmad Massasati and Rick Loggins). Completed in October, 1995. I was lead principal investigator. Substantial University cost-share also included.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration “JOVE” participant, summer of 1994 through summer of 1996. Project mission was to examine the use of GIS/remote-sensing technologies in economic development decision-making. A related task was to evaluate the role of GIS instruction in higher education, focusing on U.N.O. Approximate value: \$25,000 for three years from N.A.S.A., and a roughly equivalent match from U.N.O.
- Louisiana Educational Quality Support Fund, \$110,000 to establish a workstation-based “Spatial and Environmental Analysis Laboratory,” 1991. An additional \$42,000 was provided by U.N.O. as cost-sharing for maintenance, released time, etc. I served as principal investigator.
- University of New Orleans Summer Scholar Award, \$2,743, summer 1988.
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, 1986-88, \$28,800. (See citation under *Grant Reports*, above.)
- Atlantic Steel Fellow, dissertation research, University of Georgia, 1980-81 (less than \$1,500).
- Organization of American States Fellow, study in Ecuador, summer of 1978 (travel and maintenance).

Other Grants/Awards/Gifts:

- Johnson, Merrill L. Louisiana Board of Regents. Jefferson West Higher Education Center Proposal, 2010-2011. Approved funding at \$55,000. 2010-11 fiscal year. Served as PI and grant manager.
- Johnson, Merrill L. Louisiana Board of Regents. Jefferson West Higher Education Center Proposal, 2009-2010. Funded at \$120,000. 2009-10 fiscal year. Served as PI and grant manager.
- National Association of College and University Business Officers, in conjunction with ESRI and the Redlands Institute. Grant of \$125,000 to support a campus-wide ESRI software license for three years and the construction of a post-Katrina data warehouse at U.N.O. Gift announced July, 2007.

Book Reviews:

- Johnson, Merrill L. Review of *An Unnatural Metropolis: Wrestling New Orleans from Nature*. By Craig Colten. In *Geographical Review* 96 (2006): 325-27.
- Johnson, Merrill L. Review of *Making and Selling Cars: Innovation and Change in the U.S. Automotive Industry*. By James M. Rubenstein. In *The Professional Geographer* 55 (2003): 396-97.
- Johnson, Merrill L. Review of *The Second Wave: Southern Industrialization from the 1940s to the 1970s*. Edited by Philip Scranton. In *Southeastern Geographer* 42 (2002): 144-46.
- Johnson, Merrill L. Review of *Government Policy and Industrial Change*. Edited by David Gibbs. In *The Professional Geographer* 43 (1991): 118-119.
- Johnson, Merrill L. Review of *High Tech, Low Tech, No Tech: Recent Industrial and Occupational Change in the South*. By William W. Falk and Thomas A Lyson. In *Geographical Review* 79 (1989): 366-68.

Contributions to Latin America in Books:

- Review of *Theatres of Accumulation: Studies in Asian and Latin American Urbanization*, by Warwick Armstrong and T. G. McGee (New York: Methuen, 1985).
- Review of *Industrialization and Urbanization in Latin America*, by Robert N. Gwynne (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1986).
- Review of *Urban Development in the Third World*, edited by Pradip K. Ghosh (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1984).
- Review of *Spanish City Planning in North America*, by Dora P. Crouch, Daniel J. Garr, and Axel I. Mundigo (Cambridge, Mass.: M.I.T. Press, 1982).
- Review of *Urban Spatial Development in Mexico*, by Ian Scott (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982).

Unpublished Research:

- *Issues Related to GIS-Based Decision Support Systems and Industrial Location Decision-Making in the Nonmetropolitan Lower Mississippi Delta*. Report submitted to N.A.S.A. in connection with work done at the Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, summer, 1994.
- *A Review of Selected Issues Related to GIS Instruction in Higher Education, Focusing on the Role of Junior Colleges*. Report submitted to N.A.S.A. in connection with work done at the Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, summer, 1994.

- Ph.D. dissertation: *Industrial Evolution in Selected Labor Intensive Environments of the Southern Piedmont: 1947 to 1977.*
- Field research, Latacunga, Ecuador, 1978. Submitted 'mini-thesis' to Centro Panamericano de Estudios e Investigaciones Geográficas, entitled *The Distribution and Function of Abarroterías in Latacunga, Ecuador: A Study of Low-Level Business Centers.* Research partner was Carlos Héctor Sabillón of Honduras.
- M.A. thesis: *The Spread of Development from a Natural Growth Center: A Mexican Case Study.*

Papers Presented at Professional Meetings/Invited Presentations:

- Johnson, Merrill L. "Identity Formation and Expression in Second Life: Implications for the Use of Virtual Places in Education." Presented at the 2009 annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, March 25, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "When Geography Meets the Metaverse: Teaching Geography in Emerging 3-D Web Social Worlds." Presented at the 2008 annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, April 19, 2008, Boston.
- Johnson, Merrill L., with Richard Speaker. "Toward Enhanced Statewide Teaching Outreach and Administrative Disaster Resilience Using 3-D Web." Presented at the 2008 Innovations Showcase Conference, April 22, 2008, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Johnson, Merrill. "Implementation of 3-D Web in Higher Ed: Selected Administrative Challenges." Presenter and panelist, American Council on Education Annual Meeting, February 11, 2008, San Diego, California.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "3-D Web and Higher Education: A 'Second Life' for the University of New Orleans?" Council of Information Services Directors meeting, October 23, 2007, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "The University of New Orleans/University of Veracruz Geo-Spatial Education Pilot Project: Implications for Future Inter-university Cooperation." Binational Collaboration Workshop on Red Tide Programs, June 10-11, 2003, New Orleans.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "GIS/Remote-Sensing Support for Recruiter-Based Industrial Growth in the South." Presented at the 1997 annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Ft. Worth, April, 1997.
- Johnson, Merrill L. "Down the Road: The Future of GIS in Louisiana Higher Education," for the Louisiana chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, Baton Rouge, LA, November 19, 1996.

Johnson, Merrill L. "Correlates of GIS/Remote-Sensing Software Developer Location in the U.S." Presented at the 1996 annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Charlotte, April, 1996.

Johnson, Merrill L. "Industrial Development Philosophy and Implications for GIS-Based Decision Support Systems in the Rural U.S. South." Presented at the 1995 annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, March, 1995.

Johnson, Merrill L. "Rural Manufacturing and Economic Development Prospects in the Lower Mississippi Valley." Presented at the 1992 annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, San Diego, April, 1992.

Johnson, Merrill L. "A Comparison of Locational Needs of Southern and Midwestern Nonmetropolitan Branch Plants." Paper presented at the 1989 A.A.G. meetings in Baltimore.

Johnson, Merrill L. "A Comment on Race and the Location of Manufacturing Branch Plants in the Nonmetropolitan South." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Division, A.A.G., Mobile, November 1988.

Johnson, Merrill L. "Product-Cycle Expectations and the Location of High-Technology Manufacturing in the Nonmetropolitan South." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the A.A.G., Phoenix, April 1988.

Johnson, Merrill L. "Changing Emphases in the Postwar Location and Structure of Labor-Intensive Manufacturing in the Southeast." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the A.A.G., Detroit, April 1985.

Johnson, Merrill L. "The Application of Selected Measures of Labor Intensity to U.S. Productivity Patterns, 1977." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the A.A.G., Denver, April 1983.

Johnson, Merrill L. and Fisher, James S. "Industrial Evolution in Labor-Intensive Environments of the Southern Piedmont: 1947-1977." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the A.A.G., San Antonio, April 1982.

Selected Community Presentations:

- "The Landscapes of New Orleans before and after Katrina." Presentation to visiting Austrian university faculty and students, April, 2006.
- "Mapping the New Frontier" A geographer's perspective on the Louisiana Purchase. Presented as part of the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Lecture Series, University of New Orleans, October 1, 2002.
- Presentation entitled "Geography and the World of GIS at UNO," given before UNO Honors Assembly, February 4, 1997.

- Presentation entitled “Cartographic, GIS, and Satellite Image Analysis in the Geography Department at UNO,” given before Lockheed-Martin employees, Stennis Space Center, July 18, 1996.
- Presentation entitled “A Brief (Really Brief) Introduction to GIS for Law Enforcement” for local parish law enforcement officials, Jefferson Parish training facility, June 20, 1996.
- Presentation entitled “Satellites, Computers, and the Geographer’s Craft in a High-Tech Age” before high school guidance counselors (75-100 present) from throughout the New Orleans area, February 15, 1996.

Selected Recent Media Coverage:¹

- McClelland, Mac. “Get a (Second) Life: A Nonbeliever Ventures into the Realm of Virtual Worlds.” *Orion* (March/April, 2010), pp. 38-42.
- Larino, Jennifer. “Virtual Office Space: Law Firm Explores Benefits of Second Life as Businesses Try on Social Media for Size.” *New Orleans Business* (March 22, 2010), p. 14.
- Graves, Lucia. “A Second Life for Higher Ed,” *U.S. News & World Report* (January 21, 2008), p. 50.
- Foster, Andrea L. “Linked in with: Merrill L. Johnson, Who Teaches a Real Geography Course at a Virtual University Campus,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (November 2, 2007), p. A24.
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- “A Second Life for Academics,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, <http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/article/2450/a-second-life-foracademics?at>, accessed 10-12-2007.
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- Pope, John. “UNO Virtual Campus To Be Used After Storms,” *The Times-Picayune*, (June 11, 2007), pp. A-1, A-5.

¹ These entries contain interviews with me and/or references to the virtual-world projects at UNO.

Other Relevant Research Experience:

- Research Assistant, North Carolina A.&T. State University study on nonmetropolitan Georgia freight transportation usage, summer, 1979.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Courses Taught:

University of New Orleans

- GEOG 1001—World Regional (Europe, Americas)
- GEOG 1002—World Regional (Asia, Africa)
- GEOG 2254—Introduction to Economic Geography
- GEOG 2422—Geography of Western Europe
- GEOG 3310 (now 4310)—Political Geography
- GEOG 3230 (now 4230)—Geography of Manufacturing (introduced this course to the curriculum)
- GEOG 4805—Introduction to Cartography (now called Fundamentals of Mapping and GIS)
- GEOG 6887—Geographic Thought and Research Methods

University of Georgia

- Geography 102—World Regional (Less Developed World)
- Physical geography labs (geomorphology, biogeography)

Arizona State University

- Physical geography labs (climatology/geomorphology)

Other Relevant Teaching Experience:

- Participated in a special videotaped course, including a one-hour lecture, on the Louisiana Purchase, 2003-04.
- Edited the preparation of teaching modules in remote sensing and GIS (with Mahtab Lodhi and David Clawson) as part of the NASA project related to the University of Veracruz, 2001-03.
- Teaching faculty, U.N.O. Innsbruck Summer School, Innsbruck, Austria, summers of 1985 and 1987.

Graduate Students:

- While I have championed the development of graduate programs (e.g., the M.A. in Geography), my administrative responsibilities have limited the number of graduate-student mentoring opportunities that I have been able to accept. I have supervised

one M.A. thesis and served on multiple committees (including those of Ph.D. students in other departments).

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Selected Committee Assignments, University of New Orleans:

System Committees

- University of Louisiana System Organizational Leadership Work Group, U.N.O. representative (2011-present)
- University of Louisiana System Study Abroad Cross Promotion Committee, U.N.O. representative (2011-present)
- Louisiana Board of Regents Online Learning Committee (2010-present).

University Committees

- Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School Search Committee, Chair, Spring 2009.
- Doris Zemurray Stone Chair in Latin American Studies Search Committee, Chair, Spring 2008.
- U.N.O. Internationalization Committee, 2007-present
- Director of U.N.O. Human Resource Management Search Committee (2005-06)
- *Ad Hoc* Committee on the future structure of the College of Urban and Public Affairs, University of New Orleans (Summer, 2004)
- Liberal Arts representative, Strategic Technology Planning and Implementation Group (2001 and various times after)
- Liberal Arts Dean's Search Committee (2000)
- University Computing and Communications Hiring Committee, May, 2000
- Liberal Arts delegate to U.N.O. Faculty Senate (1994-96, 1998)
- Metropolitan College Dean's Search Committee, Chair (1993)
- Steering Committee for SACS Reaccreditation (1992-94)
- SACS Subcommittee on Faculty, Chair (1992-93)
- Research and Technology Park Faculty Advisory Committee (1991-present)
- Department Chairs' Steering Committee (1989-92)
- *Ad Hoc* Faculty Grievance Committee (1987)

College of Liberal Arts Committees

- College of Liberal Arts Technology Committee, Convener (2000-present)
- International Studies Committee (1996-present). Led to creation of a B.A. in International Studies.

- Liberal Arts Program for Interdisciplinary Studies in Hypermedia Curriculum Committee (mid-1990s)
- *Ad Hoc* Equipment Committee, Chair (1994)
- *Ad Hoc* Committee on Computer Equipment, Chair (1991)
- Courses and Curricula Committee (1987-1989); Chair (1988-89)
- Admissions Review Board (1983-1985); Chair (1984-1985)
- Advisory Committee (1983-1985)
- Coordinator, United Way Campaign (1983-1984)

Department of Geography Committees

- Library Representative (1982-1989)
- Anthropology/Geography Honors Committee (1981-1983)

Service to Professional Organizations/Accreditation Bodies:

- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Reaffirmation Site Visit Team, Jackson State University, April 10-13, 2011.
- Session Chair, Conference on The Privatization of Urban Space: Gated Communities—A New Trend in Global Urban Development? Session: “The World.” February 27, 2004. Sponsored by the University of New Orleans, University of Innsbruck, Austrian Cultural Forum, Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation.
- Local Support Committee and Program Committee, Association of American Geographers 2003 Annual Meeting, New Orleans, March 5-8.
- Experto Internacional, *Taller sobre Ordenamiento Territorial en Nejava*, San Salvador, El Salvador, April 4-6, 2002.
- Editorial Committee, *Southeastern Geographer* (1999-2001)
- Session Chair, A.A.G. annual meeting, Chicago, March 1995.
- Session Chair, “Ethnic Groups in Europe and the Americas,” University of New Orleans/University of Innsbruck Symposium, New Orleans, February 21-22, 1994.
- Session Chair, A.A.G. annual meeting, Miami, Florida, April 1991.
- Session Chair, 7th Annual Workshop on Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems for Coastal Management in Louisiana, U.N.O., May 1, 1991.

SELECTED ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM- DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

As Associate Vice Chancellor-President/Associate Provost (so far):

- Assembled a task force to examine international recruiting practices at U.N.O.
- Appointed and led a task force of faculty and staff to examine Internet-based education strategies for the university, focusing on the use of new concepts and technologies—e.g., personal video, virtual worlds—to augment and to improve on existing asynchronous course offerings.
- Provided administrative leadership for design and implementation of new online and/or noncredit programs.
- Systematized and streamlined the university approval process for cooperative programs with international universities. Recently provided Academic Affairs oversight for new programs with universities in China and South Korea. Currently working on initiatives with Ecuador, Honduras, and Chile, among other countries (most recently Iraq).
- Updated forms and procedures for campus courses and curricula initiatives.
- Re-instituted an Institutional Technology Advisory Committee to review technology, especially software, requests.
- Reorganized application procedures for sabbaticals and promotion/tenure, focusing on new electronic forms.
- Provided administrative oversight for reorganization of university website presence, focusing on adoption of Omni Update software.
- Updated Intersession and Summer School procedures to ensure profitability of the sessions.
- Served as administrative lead in redesign of retroactive withdrawal adjudication procedures.

As Associate Dean:

- Coordinated the University's entrance into 3-D Internet. The University is currently using the Second Life platform, although this may not be the final presence as other platforms come online. I am "Merrill Johnin" in Second Life, for those persons who are interested.

- Appointed Director of Latin American Outreach in 2005. I have been involved with the program since 1998, but was appointed Director upon the retirement of David Clawson. I reorganized the program and appointed a faculty team that visits schools in Latin America on behalf of U.N.O. I have made as many as eight trips per year, though the pace has dropped off due to other administrative duties. In addition, I wrote the proposal that led to an \$800,000 match to produce a \$2 million *Doris Zemurray Stone Chair in Latin American Studies*.
- Helped with the recovery of the College and University after Hurricane Katrina. The University had 17,000 students before the storm and 7,000 after the storm. I focused on budgetary and personnel issues, including designing a “temporary” electronic personnel action form.
- Provided administrative oversight and design recommendations for the construction of a new Social Science/GIS Computer Lab, bringing together the departments of Geography, Political Science, and Sociology (spring semester, 2003).
- Coordinated preparation of College of Liberal Arts technology proposals for 2002 to 2005—approximately \$200,000 generated.
- Created a Liberal Arts Technology Committee to advise the Dean’s Office on Liberal Arts computing needs (spring 2001 to present).
- Served as Interim Director, Arts Administration Program (spring semester, 2002).

As Department Chair and Faculty Member:

- Redesigned departmental certificates in GIS (approved fall semester, 2002)
- Designed and implemented a GIS track in Geography, with computer, visualization, and photogrammetry options (1995-96).
- Participated in the design and implementation of a Master of Arts in Geography (began Fall, 1994). Included administrative oversight of major curriculum modifications and external review of department by Regents' committee.
- Provided administrative oversight of (and funding for) development of a workstation-based GIS/remote-sensing and PC-based computer cartography labs.
- Served as faculty liaison for the Stennis Space Center, Mississippi. Coordinated efforts to involve NASA and USGS specialists in departmental activities, including teaching of remote-sensing and GIS courses. Several NASA personnel are now adjunct members of the U.N.O. Department of Geography.

- Introduced a course on manufacturing location to curriculum; modified existing economic and political courses.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Association of American Geographers
- Southeastern Division, A.A.G.
- Political Geography, Industrial Geography, and Cartography Specialty Groups of the A.A.G.
- American Planning Association
- Association of International Education Administrators

AWARDS, HONORS

- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, inducted November 24, 2002
- Golden Key National Honor Society recognition, University of New Orleans, spring, 1993.
- Graduated with Special Honors in Political Science, West Texas State University, 1974.

ADDITIONAL PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Public School Background:

- Attended public schools in Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, and Ontario. Graduated from Oakridge Collegiate Institute in London, Canada (1970) with Grade XIII Honour Diploma.

Selected Volunteer Activities:

- Commissioner, Slidell Louisiana Planning and Zoning Commissions (2006 to present).
- Volunteer and participant, Slidell Youth and Community Orchestra (1987 to present).
- Past President, Board of Directors, Rainbow Child Care Center of Slidell (1992-96). This is a United Way agency that provides child care for low-income working families in St. Tammany Parish. Currently on leave from the Board.
- Past member, Board of Directors, Methodist Children's Home of New Orleans.
- Member in good standing, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Pearl River, Louisiana.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Joe King, Ph.D.

Provost, Auburn University
Montgomery
334-244-3600
jmking@aum.edu
Former Acting Chancellor, Provost,
Dean, and Professor of Biology
University of New Orleans

(I have worked with Dr. King since he came to UNO in 1992. He was my "boss" from 2008-2011. He can comment on my administrative experience.)

Fredrick Barton, MFA.

Professor of English, Emeritus.
Former Provost and Vice
Chancellor for Academic and
Student Affairs, U.N.O.
504-280-5421
fbarton@uno.edu

(Professor Barton and I have worked with each other since the late 1980s. He was Associate Dean of my college while I was Geography Chair. When he was appointed Dean, I became one of the Associate Deans. I remained Associate Dean for the five years that he was Provost. He should be able to comment extensively on my administrative experience.)

Philip Coulter, Ph.D.

Dean, Emeritus, College of Liberal Arts and Professor of Political Science,
U.N.O.
849 Carrington Greens Drive
Frisco, Texas 75034
214-407-8540 pcoulter@uno.edu

(Dean Coulter was my "boss" for about eight years when I was Geography Chair. We worked closely on a variety of matters, including a shared passion for campus internationalization. He can comment on my administrative abilities.)

Warren Billings, Ph.D.²

Distinguished Professor of History,
Emeritus
University of New Orleans
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New Orleans, Louisiana 70124
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wbillings@uno.edu

(Dr. Billings retired after Hurricane Katrina, but remains professionally active. He was Chair of the History Department for part of the time that I was in the Dean's office. He can comment on my administrative abilities from the standpoint of a department chair.)

Robert Sauder, Ph.D.

Professor of Geography (Ret.),
U.N.O.
792 S. Tohono Ridge Pl.
Tucson, Arizona 85745
520-624-3751
rasauder@earthlink.net

(Dr. Sauder has been retired for several years. He was Chair when I arrived at UNO and was a member of the faculty for the eleven-plus years that I was Chair. He can comment on my administrative skills and my geographical expertise.)

² Dr. Billings is currently a Visiting Professor of Law at the William and Mary School of Law in Williamsburg, Virginia.