I joined the University of Utah Geography Department as an adjunct in the summer of 2009. I completed my bachelor's degree in Anthropology at the University of Utah and my master's and Ph.D. degrees from the Anthropology Department at the Washington State University after a military tour in Vietnam; and completed a post doc that allowed me to work on Nile flood history in Egypt. ([Ken's CV](https://geog.utah.edu/pdf/KenPetersenCV.pdf)) I grew up in Farmington, Utah, when it was quite rural and loved exploring in the canyons behind my home. I have had great mentors through the years and owe them a great deal for the chance to do real scientific research while in still high school and as an undergraduate. In high school I decided I wanted to be associated with a university so I could do field research during the summer time. I started as a zoology major at the University of Utah, but so enjoyed my exposure to geology, botany, geography, archaeology, and climate studies that when I discovered palynology as an undergraduate -- I saw a way to combine them all.

My wife has been good sport as we have spent summers in the field and have lived in Utah, Washington, and Colorado, as I pursued careers associated with archaeological salvage ahead of dam construction, nuclear waste cleanup, and college outreach. We currently live in Sugar House and I can ride the UTA to work. We have four married children and nineteen lovely grandchildren.