

# The L A N D R O V E R

## Notes from the Chair



As I write, we have experienced 14 days of below freezing weather. Winter is upon us, and I for one would rather look at snow than brown grass.

The GIS Lab renovation went smoothly this summer and the new facility is working very well. Matt Dooley played an important role in the whole project from start to finish. Physical renovations included removing the old computers to create a larger space and extensive rewiring. We now have 18 student work stations in the main teaching lab and three in the project lab. The upgrades also included a new server and lots of testing this summer to try and duplicate a teaching load on the network. This was the first time that we had a chance to fully test the lab prior to the start of the semester and were able to identify several network performance issues that had plagued us in the past. It is still one of the best undergraduate GIS and cartography teaching labs in the country and is supporting our majors and minors well.

We had a second meeting with our department advisory board in November and were able to discuss a variety of curriculum issues facing the department. The board met with 8 of our students and this provided them with a view of the department from the students' perspective. We discussed revisions to the GIS/Cartography minor. Through the input of the advisory board, we have a discussion of a dedicated GIS lab manager finally on the table and hope to have positive news on that soon.

Kleinpell Fine Arts will undergo a much needed HVAC renovation over the next two summers. We are currently starting a massive departmental house cleaning since we need to completely vacate the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors this summer. Completely means completely; everything needs to be boxed and moved out of every room and office. We will have temporary office space in Hathorn Hall this summer. The following summer, the building will be off line again while the basement and 1<sup>st</sup> floors are done. This will prove to be interesting.

On a personal note, this will be my last "Notes from the Chair." I will be resigning from my chair's duties at the end of the month and John Heppen will be taking over. After 7 ½ years, both the department and I need a change. I have great colleagues in this department and they have all made the job much easier. Thank you.

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### ***Congratulations December Graduates!***

*Ryan Babler*  
*Cassandra Garcia*  
*Thomas Lieberherr*  
*Benjamin Wilson*

## SGO NEWS

For Fall semester there were new officers elected. President - Ben Wilson; Vice President - Tom Lieberherr; Secretary - Brittany Payne; Treasurer - Marcus Poff. We held two VERY successful bake sales this semester and once again included many magazines and books that were "flying off the shelf". The money that was collected will be used for the upcoming 2008 Spring Trip that is set to be offered between March and May. We also held a Geography Pizza Party at Dr. Rader's house and enjoyed the company of fellow majors and minors. Special thanks go out to Dr. Rader and his wife.

Spring semester, SGO will have a new President – Steve Baisden. The position of secretary will be up for grabs and we are hoping that it will be filled shortly. We will be having two more bake sales and will be offering Pizza coupons from Kwik Trip for sale, a special addition to the bake sales. The organization looks forward to participating in a map painting project at a local school in River Falls and a contest for the NEW SGO t-shirts/sweatshirts (we haven't decided yet). We may also sponsor a day in recognition of Geography; with either a Geography Bee amongst the geography students and faculty OR the Battle for Social Science Supremacy; a competition that involves all the social science departments: Political Science, International Studies, Geography, and History, similar to Jeopardy. Please remember that the SGO Spring Banquet will be held the last Saturday in April, the 26th.

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### DONATIONS

Donations to the department go to support both the Geography Scholarship and the Scott Nelson Fund. These provide us with the means to provide partial financial support for one student each year and a variety of other things such as awards for graduating seniors and the map of the year contest. Please consider making a donation to one of these funds. Thank you to those who have made donations.

**Geography Scholarship:** Don Petzold, Mike Albert

**Geography Fund:** John Weigel

**Scott Nelson Fund:** Mike Albert, Don Petzold

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## STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS

Thanks to those of you who have updated us through the Alumni link on the department web page! For those of you who have not, please do so, we'd love to hear from you. [http://www.uwrf.edu/geography/Alumni/alumni\\_form.htm](http://www.uwrf.edu/geography/Alumni/alumni_form.htm)

**Gregg Albrecht ('00)** has completed his major papers for his M.A. in Geography at Chicago State University and will graduate spring semester.

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**Joe Ayers ('07)** has a job as Cartographic Technician with Garmin International in Olathe, KS. He is involved in Quality Assurance for their In-Car Navigation Systems.

**Dixie Bauer ('96)** went back to school and completed her Master's degree in Hospitality and Tourism. She is now working in the Wisconsin Dells as the Sales and Marketing Manager for the Best Western.

**Barb Bibeau ('06)** continues her Masters studies in library science at the College of St. Catherine in Saint Paul. Barb's husband gave her a present of a two-week trip to China last May and it turned out to be an absolute trip of a lifetime!

**Lori Dawson ('03)** is currently living in Dallas, TX and is making maps for Mapsco.

**Rebecca Foster ('96)** and husband, Chris, welcome the newest addition to their family: Noah Christopher.

**Ashley Glad ('06)** plans to apply to the College of St. Scholastica to get a teaching license. She currently works at Xcel.

**Justin March (current student)** has been awarded the 2007 United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation undergraduate scholarship. After five years in the U.S. Navy, he is pursuing his Bachelor's degree in geography.

**Shaun Priesgen ('07)** began his graduate studies in Higher Education Administration at Kansas University and visited UWRF for Homecoming in October.

**Jeff Prochnow ('93)** and wife, Stacey, are proud parents of son, Kovi, born last month. Jeff has taken a new job working as a corporate pilot for Cargill.

**Kiah Sagami ('07)** has just started a new job as a GIS technician at Houston Engineering Inc. in Maple Grove, MN.

**Mike Steuernagel ('92)** successfully finished the Chicago Marathon despite extremely hot, humid conditions.

**Ryan Stovern ('07)** married Cassie Tschernach on October 27<sup>th</sup>. He is currently working at Sportsman's Connection.

**Sally Wakefield ('97)** Geospatial Services Manager, was awarded the Polaris Mid-Career Leadership Award by the MN GIS/LIS Consortium at their annual conference this October. The Polaris Leadership award was established to recognize mid-career GIS professionals who demonstrate a beacon of energy and creativity that inspires and guides others in the field.

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## FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

**MIKE ALBERT** traveled to Pennsylvania in October to visit old friends Laura Quinn (former UWRF English professor) and Jim Hathaway (onetime Geography instructor at UWRF). He and Jim visited Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum. It was groovy! He also attended the Antique Auto Club of America's fall meeting in Hershey, PA, the world's largest antique auto event, which attracts a half million automaniacs annually. In January he will spend a week in Puerto Rico and a week in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, with Deborah Pile and Jack Flynn (occasional UWRF geography instructor and now head of the History-Geography-Classics Dept. at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul), and the aforementioned Jim Hathaway. They hope to observe the green flash.

**CAROL BARRETT** has been busy. She has a graphics arts business; doing book covers, journal covers, brochures, etc., for local Twin Cities clients. She is also now a professional genealogist, and has done some fascinating family histories for some really interesting families.

**MATT DOOLEY** has enjoyed a busy fall semester. He taught two sections of Intro to Cartography/GIS, one section of GIS: Theory & Methods, and one section of Animated and Interactive Cartography. In October, he attended the North American Cartographic Information Society meetings in St. Louis with Geography student Matt Millet. Both Dooley and Millet presented posters at the conference. In April, he will attend the AAG conference and will be second author on two presentations, one with Matt Millet, and another with colleagues from the University of Arizona Tree Ring Lab. In January, Matt will go to Tucson to work on a collaborative research project and to do some hiking.

**GEOFF FORCE** was busy teaching at both UWRF and Normandale Community College this semester, and will be glad to be teaching only at UWRF next semester. When not teaching Physical Geography, Human Geography, and Cartography and GIS, Geoff managed to find the time to build and install a weather station at his daughter Belle's school, the River Falls Public Montessori Academy. Geoff continues to work with the children of the school, taking them out every morning to read the weather instruments and recording their observations. He is also looking forward to having more time after the Holidays to work on his dissertation, which he hopes will be finished by this time next year. When not working or volunteering at his daughter's school, Geoff has also enjoyed attending and volunteering at his church, the Unitarian Universalist Society of River Falls, and spending way too much time on his fantasy baseball team, which slipped to a second place finish this year after finishing in first place in 2006. He will also be rooting for the Ohio State Buckeyes in college football's national championship game when they play John Heppen's LSU Tigers.

**RUTH HALE** says no special news from the Little Trimbelle except to say that she has signed an easement with the Western Wisconsin Land Trust headquartered in Menomonie that will tie up her 120 acres "in perpetuity" so that it can NEVER be sub-divided! This Land Trust is a charitable organization; cash contributions to it ARE fully tax-deductible. It seems to be well organized and well managed, and is actively sewing up hundreds of acres here in Western Wisconsin to protect the natural environment by limiting development by entrepreneurs! Ruth is pleased at this time to be a part of this movement!

**JOHN HEPPEN** was busy this Fall semester. He taught his regular course load of Human Geography and the United States and taught Introduction to International Studies as well. He enjoyed being part of the International Studies Program this semester. He continued his SGO duties and, as always, liked working with the students and raising money with the bake sales. The West Lakes AAG Conference was a highlight of the Fall Semester as he presented, "A Spatial Analysis of the Presidential Election of 1860 in Illinois" in Champaign-Urbana at the University of Illinois. The conference provided good times both professionally and personally as he was able to speak with some old and new friends. He also submitted a manuscript to *Wisconsin Geographer*. John and Sam Otterstrom at BYU received a contract for their edited volume, *Historical Approaches to the Geographic Restructuring of the American Political Economy* from Cambridge Scholars Publishing. He's happy to have that project going forward. He's serving as Faculty Senate Parliamentarian and getting to know Robert's Rules of Order pretty darn well. Faculty Senate is always interesting and they faced new challenges with issues regarding health insurance benefits, strategic planning, along with the more mundane, but still important stuff. John is still collecting and reading comic books and playing with his model trains in his spare time in between watching sports and professional wrestling.

**DON PETZOLD** begins his 20<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at UWRF. He had a usual fall semester focused on teaching Physical Environments, Weather & Climate, and Canada. This also marks the beginning of Don's 16<sup>th</sup> year teaching his "Weather Wonders" mini-course to 4<sup>th</sup> graders in St. Paul who continue to be mesmerized by weather experiments and demonstrations. This semester, big news centers on Don and Liny becoming grandparents to twin girls born to daughter, Helena, in November. Son Andrew got engaged in August to Logan Thompson, a UWRF grad student in counseling. Andrew continues working on his Ph.D. on nicotine addiction at the University of Minnesota; however, his research moved to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester this fall.

**CHARLIE RADER** has been teaching Geoprocessing Techniques and Europe and serving as chair. He will be heading off to Europe for spring semester with 33 students on the International Traveling Classroom. He spent much of the fall preparing them to go over and making the final travel arrangements. They say geography is good training for being a travel agent. It is. He attended the NACIS conference with

Matt Dooley and Matt Millet this past October. He managed to escape for several days this summer canoeing and camping along the St. Croix. Nancy and he spent a week in New Mexico hiking and visiting pueblos and archaeological sites. They were able to sneak off to the BWCA for a long, wet weekend in September paddling along the Laurentian divide and camping on Weird Lake. House projects, canoe building, and a little photography fill up the remaining minutes of the day that he is not "chained to his desk, as usual". The big news is that he will be handing the chair duties off to John Heppen at the end of this semester! Nancy and Velcro are well.

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## Web Sites of Interest

<http://www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk/> Antarctica is arguably the continent that most people know the least about, so it is nice to find out that the Royal Geographical Society has created this website which explores all aspects of life on this landmass.

The Encyclopedia of Earth <http://www.eoearth.org/> The Encyclopedia of Earth is an ambitious effort to provide high-quality information on a wide range of subjects related to the Earth, its natural environments and their interaction with society. For those who are geographically inclined, the Where in the World? feature lists articles by location.

<http://news.sco.wisc.edu/news/publications-and-data/history-of-cartography-project-releases-cartography-in-the-renaissance.html>

Cindy Brewer at Penn State has started a movement in Cartography called the "Brewer" these are interactive web sites that can help students with various aspects of map design. The original site, designed by Mark Harrower from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, is called ColorBrewer and provides advice on color schemes and usability for various purposes and impacts on color blind individuals.

[http://www.personal.psu.edu/cab38/ColorBrewer/ColorBrewer\\_intro.html](http://www.personal.psu.edu/cab38/ColorBrewer/ColorBrewer_intro.html) Type Brewer by Ben Sheesley, one of Mark Harrower's students, introduces type design elements into the Brewer environment. <http://www.typebrewer.org/>

Antique maps of Iceland in the collections of the National and University Library of Iceland and the Central Bank of Iceland have been converted to a digital format. Historical descriptions in Icelandic and English are available for most of the maps. They are based on the book *Kortasaga Íslands* (A history of cartography of Iceland) by Haraldur Sigurðsson. <http://kort.bok.hi.is/>

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## Recommended Books from the Sublime to the Highly Offensive:

***The History of Cartography: Volume III Cartography in the European Renaissance*** - David Woodward (2007) – Two books, 2,272 pages, weighing in at 18 pounds and a cost of \$400 it is the halfway point of this project. Vol. 1 appeared in 1987.

***The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Dust Bowl*** – Timothy Egan (2006) documents the how the dustbowl altered the lives of the people who survived it. Well written and an interesting read.

***A Land Gone Lonesome*** – Dan O'Neill (2006) – details the lives of those who lived along the Yukon River and how subsistence living changed with the Park Service coming into establish and manage the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

***Our Dumb World: The Onion's Atlas of Planet Earth*** – The Onion Staff (2007) – highly offensive and mythical country profiles from The Onion. No one escapes with their dignity intact. "Chile – Preventing Argentina from Enjoying the Pacific Since 1818, and so on, in this humorous look at our world. If you are not offended, seek help immediately.

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## Oh, those students...

A temperature inversion is when the temperature begins to invert...a bounty on their heads was not the soul reason for the wolves' dwindling population...Q: The longest bridge in Canada links what two provinces? A: Ontario and Alberta (ed. note: that is one long bridge!)...Tundra means: "damn it's cold".... Q: Describe 3 types of glacial landforms. A: Sink Holes - Glaciers form beneath the surface and then melt leaving caves that eventually one day sink.

**The New Math:** Nigeria has roughly 356,669 people every square mile... Costa Rica's population size is 4,173 people which are pretty small ... The life expectancy of the people of Greece is 106.5 ... The population density is calculated to be 348 square miles ... The internet usage [in Greece] is about 3.8 billion users. The amount of arable land was .26 nectars per capita ... Greece is a country made up with Greeks and 56 percent Albanians ... 101 percent of children are enrolled in primary school ... Since there is about 2 physicians for each person in China, they are a very healthy country ... Approximately nine billion Buddhists live in India ...

**And the rest:** Turkey is currently in a conflict between Syria ... People in America produce much more energy than they use ... In Mexico they also speak indigenous ... Even though Japan is covered with people they try to keep their health expenditures and physicians per capita low ... answer on map quiz: Swissterland.

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