

# The L A N D R O V E R

## Notes from the Chair



It is with pleasure that I write to you as Chair for the first time after having completed a successful coup as soon as Charlie left for Europe to lead the International Traveling Classroom. We have granted him amnesty and we look forward to his return.

We wish to congratulate our May graduates: Matt Millett, Bob Leonetti, and Lewann Ihrke. It has been a pleasure to work with them and we wish them the best of luck in the future.

The big projects now include evacuating KFA for the summer so they can remodel the heating, cooling, and ventilation system. We are up to our ears in boxes and under pressure to have things either stored or taken home for the summer less than one week after finals. If nothing else, this will be a good excuse to clean up our offices. We are supposed to get new furniture as well. We just hope they do not lose anything and we have what we need for the summer and have enough shelves and filing cabinets upon our return. Keep your fingers crossed especially in regard to the GIS Lab. We will be moving to temporary offices in the basement of the library so look for us there this summer.

But the even bigger project for the department is our search for a GIS lab manager and geography instructor. Matt Dooley is leading the search committee and he has been busy working on that. We hope to introduce to you our newest member of the department in the fall. The new person will be a tremendous addition to our program and will be a real plus for our students and put us in a position to grow and give Charlie and Matt a helping hand that is very much needed. I still cannot believe the additional amount of work they have done in support of our program. I have to believe that they are two of the most overworked members of the entire university let alone the department.

I wish to thank Geoff Force and Dave Brandt for teaching this semester. Geoff will be leaving for a full-time job teaching at Century Community College. We are very happy for him and his daughter Belle and look forward to building bridges over at Century. We hope to see Dave Brandt return to teach for us in the near future.

Our plotter conked out on us at the end of the semester just when we needed it the most for Student Research Scholarly and Creative Activity Day and the Spring Banquet (more on the banquet in this issue). It managed to hang on long enough though our blues became purples. We are one of the most productive departments on campus and fortunate enough to be involved in the growing field of GIS. Given the great faculty in our department and support from Vicki Kurtenbach we hope to have good news for you in the fall.

---

---

### **Congratulations Graduates!**

Robert Leonetti      Matt Millett      Lewann Ihrke

## SGO Banquet

SGO had its Spring Banquet on Saturday April 26, 2008 at the University Center. Approximately 40 students, alumni, faculty, and friends gathered for a buffet dinner, drinks, fellowship, a presentation by Ezra Zeitler (2000), and student awards. Ezra Zeitler presented "Hematites, Flivvers, and Modeltowners: Geography and High School Nicknames".



Atlases for graduating seniors Matt Millett & Bob Leonetti with Dr. John Heppen

*Outstanding Cartographer Award for a Graduating Senior*  
**Matt Millett**

### Map of the Year 2007-08

**Matt Millett – Animated Cartography**

*Estimated Population Change in Africa, 1950-2050*

**Elizabeth Meyer - Introductory Cartography**

*Wheat for Grain, 2002*

**Steve Baisden - Advanced Cartography**

*First Bulgarian Tsardom*

*Honorable Mention*

**Cheryl Arcand: Energy Consumption by Country, 2001**

**Steve Baisden: Global Air Travel, 1993-2004**

### Gamma Theta Upsilon Honor Society Inductees

Cheryl Arcand	Steve Baisden
Sara Dieck	Nicole Helgeson
Maria Therese Hull	Robert Leonetti
Justin March	Elizabeth Meyer
Andrew Moody	William Sean Raleigh

## Department Awards

Each year the Department acknowledges a number of graduating seniors for achievement in various categories. Names of recipients are engraved onto plaques that are displayed in the Department.



*National Council for  
Geographic Education  
Excellence of Scholarship  
Award*

**Matt Millett**

*Award of Excellence for  
Outstanding Academic  
Achievement*

**Matt Millett**

*Student Leadership  
Award for  
Contributions  
to SGO and to the  
Geography  
Department*  
**Steve Baisden**



*2008 Geography  
Scholarship*  
**Cheryl Arcand**



*New GTU Members*

## SGO NEWS

SGO had a very busy and productive semester. Steve Baisden took over the position of President and was responsible for developing a number of successful activities. Elizabeth Meyer took over secretary duties and did a great job of keeping members informed of upcoming meetings, bake sales and activities and posting meeting minutes.

Activities included two very successful bake sales with the last one collecting over \$240 – the most in nearly 10 years. We went on a day trip to the Twin Cities that included a tour of the Summit Brewery, Lock and Dam No. 1 on the Mississippi, where we were able to walk in a tunnel underneath the river and SGO members were able to operate the gates of the lock, and a brief walk around Minnehaha Falls.

For the first time since 2003, SGO has new t-shirts. A competition was held to design a new logo, and as an incentive, the winner received a free shirt. This resulted in 15 designs being submitted. The winning design was printed in lime green on a navy blue shirt. There are still some available for sale!

In conjunction with the last bake sale on April 2, SGO sponsored "Geography Day". This was an attempt to let other students know about information on the field of geography and on the geography major, as well. Informational fliers were handed out to passers-by encouraging students to take an on-line geography quiz in the GIS Lab – the highest score won an iPod. SGO members put a great effort into the success of the day and wore their new t-shirts LOUD and PROUD!

SGO recently finished painting a colorful 27' X 42' playground map at River Falls Academy. This has become SGO's way of giving something back to the community. Kids from the school have been playing games on it before school and during recess.



At the end of the semester, SGO will go on its annual Spring Trip – this year to the Black Hills and Badlands. Due to the success of the four bake sales this year, they will have about \$1200 that will go toward the expenses of the trip.

---



---

## 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 donating to one of these funds. Thank you to those who have made donations.

### Geography Scholarship

Don Petzold	Mike Albert
John Heppen	Michelle (Zander) Holland

### Geography Fund

Jack & Rebecca Rasmussen	Ann Legreid
Richard & Neva Spring	Bernadette Vanatta
John Weigel	Bruce & Jean Bushey

### Scott Nelson Fund

Mike Albert	Don Petzold
Ruth Hale	William Klingelhoets
Wanda Koehler	Jeri Goodspeed-Gross
Joyce Knowlton	Ryan & Cassie Stovern

---



---

## 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 would love to hear from you.  
[http://www.uwrf.edu/geography/Alumni/alumni\\_form.htm](http://www.uwrf.edu/geography/Alumni/alumni_form.htm)

**Ryan Babler ('07)** is now working as a GIS tech for Xcel Energy in Minneapolis.

**Steve Baisden (current student, SGO President)** has had three maps published on 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Century Bulgaria in *The Voices of Medieval Bulgaria: The Records of a Bygone Culture, 6th-15th Centuries* by Dr. Kiril Petkov, History Department, UW-RF. Steve is also a recipient of the 2008 Chancellor's Award.

**John Boentje ('03)** and wife, Darcy, are proud parents of daughter, Abigail, born in April.

**Amanda (Gray) Bowe ('05)** was married in 2007 to Andy Bowe (UWRF graduate, as well). She is teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Armstrong Elementary in Cottage Grove, where SGO did the map painting a few years ago.

**Michelle (Zander) Holland ('03)** serves as student services coordinator in the biology graduate program at UW-Madison. She recently won a Campus Impact Award by instituting meaningful changes in the largest graduate program on campus.

**Justin March (current student)**, a senior from River Falls who served five years in the U.S. Navy, is the recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship for the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation. After graduation, March, who is pursuing his bachelor's degree in geography, hopes to continue his service to the nation's defense in the geospatial intelligence trade craft.

**Doug Matzek ('01)** and wife, Kelli, are proud parents of son, Henry, born in March.

**Jeff Pilgreen ('91)** is serving as the acting chief in the non-immigrant visa unit at the US Consulate General in Juarez, Mexico. In June, he will take on a one-year assignment in Baghdad, Iraq as a desk officer in the Embassy's Office of Provincial Affairs. His job will be to support the provincial reconstruction teams that are dispersed in Iraqi cities and among US Army units.

**Joe Schertz ('91)** completed a Masters Degree from the University of Minnesota in Natural Resources Science and Management. His thesis focused on the relationship between community members and park staff of Voyageurs National Park.

**Ron Swanson (1980)** is current president of the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota and also busy researching his father's involvement in the US Navy of WWII. Travels include a geographical-historical study of gold mining locations in the Black Hills.

**Ezra Zeitler ('00)** completed all requirements for his Ph. D. degree to be awarded in May. Ezra was our SGO Banquet speaker in April.

**Micah Zeitler ('01)** passed the Wisconsin Bar Exam on his first try! Congratulations!

## FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

**MATT DOOLEY** has had a very busy spring semester teaching and serving as chair of the GIS lab manager search and screen committee. He taught two sections of Intro to Cartography/GIS, one section of GIS: Theory & Methods, and one section of Thematic Map Design. In April, he attended the AAG meetings in Boston with Geography student Matt Millet. Dooley and Millet presented a paper together entitled "Time Scale, Animation Pace, and Pattern Detection." Dooley was co-author on an additional paper with colleagues from the University of Arizona Tree Ring Lab entitled "Mapping the Oldest Trees: Spatial Patterns of Tree Longevity in the American West." In July, Dooley has an article coming out in the peer reviewed, edited book entitled "Time in Archaeology: Time Perspectivism Revisited" (University of Utah Press).

**JOHN HEPPEEN** settled into his new duties as chair this Spring in addition to teaching Human Geography, Latin America, and the Historical Geography of the United States. He presented a paper at the AAG meetings in Boston, "United States Presidential Election Regions 1892-2004" and was part of a panel of political geographers addressing the upcoming 2008 elections. He was reelected to another term on Faculty Senate. As reported in the last newsletter he is working with Sam Otterstrom at BYU on an edited manuscript. One update to the manuscript titled, *Historical Approaches to the Geographic Restructuring of the American Political Economy*, is that they have signed a contract with Lexington Books which is part of Rowman & Littlefield. At the College of Arts and Sciences Block Party he was recognized for being awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity for the Social Sciences for 2008.

**DON PETZOLD** had a busy semester teaching five classes and two "Weather Wonders" workshops for 4th graders in Saint Paul. A highlight of the semester was a trip during Spring Break with Steve Baisden to visit Ezra Zeitler in Nebraska and to view the massive Sandhill Crane migration along the Platte River. They witnessed over 150,000 birds roosting in a one-mile stretch of the river – truly awesome (and noisy)! Don and Liny plan at two trips to the East Coast this summer to relax and eat lobster. Their son, Andrew, has finished his third year of a Ph. D. program at the Mayo Clinic in association with the University of Minnesota. He is otherwise occupied with plans for a fall wedding. Daughter, Helena, has resumed teaching grades 3/4 at the Woodlands School in Milwaukee, after spending three months at home with twins, Sarah and Charlotte, who are now five months old and developing their own personalities.

**CHARLIE RADER** spent the semester in Europe Leading 32 students on the International Traveling Classroom. He had a great group of students and they traveled to 8 cities in 7 countries. Highlights from the trip included 30+

museums, a bicycle tour of Berlin, one concentration camp, lecture from a person imprisoned by the Stasi for 13 years, late spring everywhere, lots of rain, good food, and interesting wine. Nancy came over for the free travel at the end of the semester and they spent a week on the Grand Union and Oxford Canals going through the English countryside on a narrow boat at 4 mph and learning about the history of the canals. Charlie, Nancy, and Velcro have a quiet summer planned for house projects and canoeing, and Charlie will be preparing to return to the classroom full time in the fall.

---

---

### *Geography Students in Europe*



*Justin March*



*Maria Hull(far right)*



*Andy Moody(center)*



*Group Toledo*

---

---

ATTENTION Newsletter Recipients!

If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of the newsletter rather than the 'hard copy' you receive in the mail, please email [geography@uwrf.edu](mailto:geography@uwrf.edu).