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Notes from the Chair



It's been a busy and rewarding semester at UW-RF. The big news on campus has been strategic planning and the hiring of a new Chancellor and Provost. This semester all of the programs at UWRF completed a self-study for the purpose of academic program prioritization. The good news is that the Geography major and minor programs were targeted for maintenance during these tough economic times. Sadly, some programs on campus were slated for elimination and reduction. This was a time-consuming and hectic process, but we learned a lot about our program and believe that a lot of others on campus learned what we already knew—that Geography and Mapping Sciences at UWRF is among the most productive programs in regards to teaching, research, and service. We ranked highly in student credit hours, research, and compatibility with UWRF's mission, vision, and values and we remain one of the most cost effective programs on campus.

In other news, the Spring Banquet was held on April 25 (more on this in the issue). We have to move out for the summer for the KFA remodeling project. The good news is that we don't have to pack everything up like last summer. We have to take enough with us for the summer offices and we can leave most of everything in the building. It's far from ideal to be away from our offices and the lab this summer, but we'll manage.

Our students had a good showing at Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity Day held at the University Center on April 28. All students in Geography 401 presented posters based on their research. We once again had one of the largest contingents.

As noted before we are in tough economic times and the university budget has been cut. Since we are slated for maintenance according to program prioritization we hope to not feel the cuts too much. However, it looks like our ability to teach extra sections of Human Geography will be limited and we won't be able to hire adjuncts to teach courses as in the past. The good news is that we will continue as a five person department with Ian making five. I must say that this year has been one of the most productive years in the department. Student maps and projects have never looked better and we've been productive teachers and scholars. This has been a good year and I wish to thank Don, Charlie, Matt, Ian, and Vicki for all of their hard work which has made my job as chair easier.

John

Congratulations Spring Graduates!

Steve Baisden
Lauren Fulton
Elizabeth Meyer
Britney Payne

Ross Bushey
Justin March
Jordan Miller

GIS and Cartography Curriculum – Matt Dooley, Ian Muehlenhaus, and Charlie Rader worked on a revision of the GIS and cartography curriculum. This involved revising existing courses, adding new courses and a reorganization of the sequence of courses. The two major additions have been Field Methods and GPS, which will be taught by Matt, and Geoprocessing Techniques has been revised and renamed Digital Image Processing, which will be taught by Charlie.

We now have five graduate level GIS sections in the curriculum. These courses include Field Mapping and GPS (366/566), GIS Theory and Methods (360/560), Digital Image Processing (368/568), GIS Analysis and Modeling (460/660), and GIS for Sustainable Community Development (760). These courses will serve students in the M.S. in Sustainable Community Development program and will eventually serve as the basis for a graduate level certificate in GIS. We'll keep you informed as this continues to develop.

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: John Heppen, Ron Swanson

Geography Fund: Richard & Neva Sprung

Scott Nelson Fund: Ruth Hale, Richard O'Brien, Don & Liny Petzold, Charlie & Nancy Rader, Micky Sigris, Michael Voss, Ezra Zeitler

SGO

SGO had a busy and productive spring semester. With current president Steve Baisden participating in the semester abroad-Scotland program along with secretary Elizabeth Meyer, vice president Chris McPherson and treasurer Mark Huonder stepped up to fulfill their duties.

As a part of the fundraising activities this spring, SGO held two bake sales. The first was extremely successful with the addition of dozens of aloe plants to the sales table donated by Cheryl Arcand. Students at UWRF seemed eager to add a little green space to their living environments

and quickly bought up the plants. The two bake sales helped to add over \$200 dollars to the treasury.

SGO also began a new fundraising activity. A local establishment, Bo's N' Mine, allowed SGO members to sell grilled cheese sandwiches after the bar's regular kitchen hours had ended. While patrons sang their hearts out to various karaoke songs, SGO members fed them delicious sandwiches. This activity was held twice this spring, and helped to add nearly \$200 dollars to SGO's coffers.

In addition to the fundraising activities, SGO held a one day field trip to St. Paul. Members took a tour of Como Zoo and Conservatory, watched a film at the Omni Theater, and viewed the Minnesota map collection at the Minnesota Historical museum. The day was highlighted by another wonderful dinner served up by Dr. Petzold. Thank you to Dr. Petzold and his wife, Liny, for allowing us into their homes for an evening.

Still on the agenda for this school year is the annual KFA third-floor picnic, in which SGO hopes to field another champion volleyball team. There are also plans to see the exhibition season home opener of the St. Paul Saints, as well as the annual spring trip. This year members have chosen to travel to Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago. The trip will include various museum tours, a viewing of Chicago's skyline, and hiking through Devil's Lake State Park in addition to many other activities. SGO was excited to learn that they have been awarded single event funding from the University which can be used to off-set up to 50% of the spring trip's cost.

SGO wishes everyone a safe and fun summer and looks forward to seeing everyone in the fall.

Department Awards

Award of Excellence
(for outstanding academic achievement)

Lauren Fulton

Student Leadership Award
(for outstanding service to SGO and the dept.)

Steve Baisden

Outstanding Graduating Senior Award
(for contributions to the department)

Steve Baisden & Elizabeth Meyer

Outstanding Cartographer Award
Justin March

Geography Scholarship
Vince Capeder

University Awards

Lauren Fulton – Magna Cum Laude
Steve Baisden – Senior Merit
Elizabeth Meyer – Senior Merit

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/>

RYAN BABLER ('08) and **LEWANN IHRKE ('08)** announced their engagement earlier this semester.

STEVE BAISDEN (SGO President) spent the semester in the Wisconsin-In-Scotland program, from which he traveled to Greece, southern France, Italy, Ireland, Berlin, Paris, Normandy and the Netherlands. He's looking forward to returning home!

NICOLE HELGESON ('08) recently spent a month in Cuernavaca, Mexico traveling and taking intensive Spanish instruction.

ELIZABETH MEYER (SGO Secretary) also spent the semester in the Wisconsin-In-Scotland program and made trips to Ireland, Czech Republic, Switzerland and London.

SEAN RALEIGH ('08) is working as a GIS technician for GIS Rangers, a company that does contract work for municipalities in the northern Twin Cities metro area. He and fiancée, Amy Nonn, will be married in November in Mexico.

RON SWANSON ('81, SGO President '79-'80) is still active in the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota as their newsletter editor and past-president and also his father's WWII Navy reunion group for the LCT landing craft flotillas. He edits their newsletter, helps organize the reunions and acts as their historian. His geographic interests include studying and photographing the physical landscape of the Black Hills and impact by human settlement. It is fascinating to compare historical photos of the landscape with modern views. Indian history, encroachment by miners and the ensuing gold rush of the 1870s is a current project. Mining impact on the physical landscape is very evident throughout the trans-Mississippi west.

MARK TINKLER (KSU '91; SGO President '88-'90), a geospatial analyst with the United States Department of Defense, is currently on a six-month deployment to Baghdad, Iraq. He will be working and living on Camp Slayer, near the Baghdad International Airport, from February to August of this year.

EZRA ZEITLER ('00) is completing a busy but enjoyable first year as an assistant professor in the Department of Geography & Anthropology at UW-Eau Claire. This year he instructed courses in Human Geography, Geography of Wisconsin, and Native Geographies, with the latter two courses providing opportunities for field trips to Door County and the Menominee Reservation, respectively. He is looking forward to co-instructing a Geography of the Northwoods course, which includes a 10-day field trip

around Lake Superior, in the fall. This summer he plans on reading, writing, and relaxing.

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Matt Dooley has had a busy semester teaching Introduction to Cartography and GIS, Map Design, and Quantitative Methods. This summer Matt plans to work on two ongoing research projects, begin preparation for the Field Methods course offered in the Fall, and do some traveling.

John Heppen continued his chair duties this spring in addition to teaching Human Geography, Geography of Poverty in the US, and Geography of Asia and Oceania. Wednesday was especially busy for him since he alternated between faculty senate and chairs' meetings, but he did find parts of it rewarding. He attended the Annual Meetings of the AAG where he presented a poster, "The 2008 Presidential Election in Geographic and Temporal Context" and participated in a panel on the 2008 elections. The meeting was held in Las Vegas at the Riviera. He enjoyed the sights and sounds of the Las Vegas Strip and the craps tables where he managed to come out ahead. The secret is to bet against the shooter even if it's you. The edited volume (*Geography, History, and the American Political Economy*) he co-edited and contributed to is finally entering production and he hopes it's ready to buy and read in August. He's looking forward to the summer to spend time on his hobbies and watch baseball and professional wrestling.

Ian Muehlenhaus continued guzzling coffee at an unhealthy pace this spring in a futile attempt to keep up with all of the cool projects and developments going on in the department. In addition to teaching two sections of Geog 120, he has been busy preparing the first online version of this course. This includes the creation of a dynamic Web site that will include: lecture video casts, discussion forums, student blogs, and online video feeds. Ian has also really enjoyed working with and advising students on their senior colloquium projects. He has learned a ton about Middle Earth, Edinburgh, and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in the process! He also had an opportunity to teach K-12 educators in February, lecturing at an institute on Central European Cultural Geographies sponsored by the Center for Austrian Studies at the University of Minnesota.

On the research side, Ian presented a paper on the changing symbolization and cartographic representations found in Goode's World Atlas at the AAG conference in Las Vegas. Once the semester ends he will polish and submit the paper for publication. He is also working on a book proposal concerning the cartographic design of interactive maps that he hopes to finish for *CRC Press* in the near future. Most excitingly of all, he plans to defend his dissertation in late August!

Last but not least, Ian is getting ready to be a father in early June! He is both incredibly enthusiastic and nervous

but looking forward to the joy and challenges that surely await him. Ian is really happy working in such an energetic, fun, and productive department. He hopes everyone has a great summer!

DON PETZOLD had a very busy semester teaching five classes (including three sections of GEOG 110) and two "Weather Wonders" workshops for 4th graders in Saint Paul. A highlight of the semester was a trip during Spring Break with Liny to Scotland where they spent most of the time with Don's grad school friend, Anne Carstairs, touring western Scotland including the Isle of Islay, known for its rich, peaty whiskies. They also briefly visited Elizabeth Meyer and Steve Baisden who are in Dalkeith with the Wisconsin-In-Scotland program. A slight automobile "mishap" didn't slow them down too much! Don and Liny plan their usual trip to the East Coast this summer to relax and eat lobster. They are also contemplating a trip to Iceland again. Their son, Andrew, has finished his fourth year of a Ph. D. program at the Mayo Clinic in association with the University of Minnesota. He and Logan bought a house in Rochester and are dabbling in gardening this spring. Daughter, Helena, is staying at home with twins, Sarah and Charlotte, who are now almost 18 months old and running around the house "exploring". They have their hands full!

Charlie Rader taught the Senior Colloquium, GIS, and Advanced GIS this semester along with being chair of the International Studies Program. In addition, he has been chair of the Faculty Senate International Programs Committee and working on a review of international programs for campus. This has kept him out of the police reports. He completed the cedar strip canoe that he had been building and it has had its maiden voyage. Nancy and Velcro are well. Summer plans include travels to visit family on the east and west coasts, building a fence in the back yard, a couple of painting and refinishing projects inside the house, photographing, and canoeing.

Recommended Reading:

Minnesota on the Map: A Historical Atlas. David Lanegran with Carol Urness (2008). MHS Press.

The Horse, The Wheel and Language. David Anthony (2008). Princeton University Press. An examination of bronze-age riders from the steps on the formation of the modern world.

The Great Warming. Brian Fagan (2008). Bloomsbury Press. An investigation of the relationship of climate on the rise and fall of civilizations.

The Nursery Crimes Series – Welsh author Jasper Fforde continues his lark through literature in **The Big Over Easy** and **The Fourth Bear**, where CDI Jack Spratt and DI Mary Mary investigate crimes against nursery rhyme characters.

OH THOSE STUDENTS...

New place names identified on map quizzes: Pennslovenia, Illinose, Ukrainistan, Saska and Chewan, Uberstan, Banos Aires, Kineticut, Jerkarta, Antritic Ocean, and Teshestilstan.

"Out of downtown Appleton we have the Fox River Mall. I only travel out there if I need a nice pair of genes...which is very rare." (from Ezra Zeitler, UW-EC).

Web Sites of Interest

Maps of Scotland in the National Library of Scotland - <http://www.nls.uk/maps/index.html> - continues to evolve and digitize interesting historical maps of the nation. Senior Dan Bochman has been working with this collection for his senior colloquium project and has extensively used John Bartholomew's chronological map of Edinburgh's development – <http://www.nls.uk/maps/towns/detail.cfm?id=412>.

Maps and Geographic Data: Red River Flood 2009 - http://www.gis.state.mn.us/committee/emprep/response_events/red_river_flood_2009/index.html - gateway page to resources regarding this year's flood including interactive maps and responder maps. Check out the USGS poster "A History of Flooding in the Red River Basin" in the very last section. It is called a flood plain for a reason.

<http://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/kayak> New York City Water Trail; a little urban canoeing and kayaking any one? More locally,

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/watertrails/index.html> Minnesota's Water Trails could provide some interesting recreation for the summer.

Exhibits

Minnesota on the Map: Four Centuries of Maps from the Minnesota Historical Society Collection at the Minnesota History Center, Feb 28 – Sept. 7, 2009. Great exhibit well worth the visit complete with a Delisle 1765 Globe.

Photographer Tom Arndt – **Tom Arndt's Minnesota** – black and white images of Minnesota from the 1970s through the present at the Minnesota Institute of Arts, Feb 21 – Aug. 23, 2009.

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