Notes from the Chair

As we look forward to summer, if it ever comes, we can reflect on many things. Despite this crazy weather, we managed to teach all of our courses. I am proud to say that no geography class was cancelled this semester due to the weather. We in geography are a tough bunch who drove through the snowiest winter in a long time to teach our courses. We recently transformed the mysterious back room of the GIS Lab into a geography conference room and meeting space for faculty and students. We had a wonderful banquet at Junior’s in the Riverview Hotel & Suites. Dave Brandt was our guest speaker. I wish to especially thank Connie Simpson and Brie Simon for their hard work in putting the banquet together.

The core of what we do is teach, and I wish you all could see the hard work our faculty put into teaching. Charlie, Matt, Matt, and Ruth have put in countless hours in preparing and teaching our courses and have all cheerfully done all the extra duties related to research and service. We will have 10 graduates this year which is a good number for us and more than some programs twice our size. Congratulations!

In the fall we will begin the Bachelors of Applied Science in GISci. This, along with the certificate program and our major and minor programs continue to show the demand for geography at UWRf. Our number of majors remains stable and I detect a slight growth in incoming students as the university itself experiences a decline in the number of students due to demographic changes, increased competition from other institutions and the continuing economic and political challenges faced by UWRf.

We continue to rely on your support. You are our greatest advocates whether you make a contribution to our funds, attend the banquet, or just continue to do good work and provide good word of mouth about our program. If you have a chance to speak to someone influential or a politician your advocacy of geography at UWRf is our greatest asset. You truly know the hard work and wise use of resources at UWRf by students, faculty, and staff.
Congratulations 2013 Spring Graduates!

Lindsey Bierwerth  Lindsay Fox
Christopher Collins  Clifford Johnson
Shelby Dupre  Nathan Schilling
Timothy Emahiser  Zachary Rossow

Special Recognition to those graduating with honors:
Lindsay Fox - Magna Cum Laude
Shelby Dupre - Cum Laude

ALUMNI NEWS
Thanks to those of you who have updated us through the Alumni link in the past. For those of you who have not, please do so, we’d love to hear from you!
http://www.uwrf.edu/GEOG/Alumni.cfm

Steve Baisden (2009) graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a Master of Urban Planning degree and accepted a position as associate transportation planner with the Twins Cities Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit Division.

Katherine Gannett (2004) recently moved to Lawton, Okla., where she works as a night auditor at Apache Casino Hotel. In her spare time she likes to knit, read, walk and bike. She is also an amateur birdwatcher.

Mark Huonder (2010) returned from another deployment to the Middle East and resumed studies in a Master of Urban Planning Program at the University of Minnesota. He works as a Planning Technician for Woodbury, MN.

Sean Raleigh (2008) returned from another tour of duty with the MN National Guard to Iraq/Kuwait. He and wife, Amy, are expecting their second daughter in June. He works for the Veterans Administration in Minneapolis.

Ron Swanson (1981), founder of SGO in 1979, currently resides in Oakdale, Minn. He works for Josten’s.

Micky Sigrist (1979) lives in Pine Island, Minn., and works for the Federal Crop Agency. His son, Dakota, is attending UWRF.

Gary Thorson (1967) lives in Bay City, Wis., where he is farming.

Sally Wakefield (1997) is a development director for a nonprofit open source GIS service firm www.sharedgeo.com

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FORMER STAFF NEWS

Upon leaving River Falls, Vicki Winch settled in Reedsburg, WI. At times she misses UWRF, but is enjoying her position as an elementary school assistant librarian. Kyli, Kaelyn and Kelsey have settled in very well at their new schools and have kept Vicki and Wayne very busy with volleyball, track, music and school events. This summer includes plans to visit relatives in Colorado as well as touring several of our National Parks.

DONATIONS
Your donations to the department 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:
Dr. John Weigel
Chuck & Connie Simpson
Peggy Varien
Mike Albert
Matt Renault
Ron Swanson
Dan Patzke & Ann Patzke
Rick & Liz Johnson

Scott Nelson Fund:
Bradley Birttorf  Mike Voss
Charlie Rader  Kathy Foeller
David Brandt  Mike Albert
Cheryl & Gordon Arcand

If you wish to make a gift you may follow this link:
http://www.uwrf.edu/RisingToDistinction/WaysToGive/Index.cfm Your contributions in support of Geography are greatly appreciated!
**INTERESTING WEBSITES**

Out of Eden Walk: A Journey Through Time – follow journalist Paul Salopek on a 7 year – 21,000 mile trek from Ethiopia to Tierra del Fuego.  [http://www.outofedenwalk.com](http://www.outofedenwalk.com/).


Swisstopo journey through time – Imhof fans rejoice! An interactive website that shows the development of Swiss topographic maps from 1938 to present produced by the Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft.  [http://map.swisstopo.admin.ch](http://map.swisstopo.admin.ch).

**FACULTY & STAFF NOTES**

**Ruth Baker** is excited to complete her first academic year in the Department of Geography and Mapping Sciences at UWRF. She has been busy teaching and working on her snowfall research this climatologically-interesting Spring! She presented “Trends in Snow-to-Rain Ratios in the Upper Midwestern U.S., 1948-2012” at the annual AAG meeting in Los Angeles this April. She also participated in the Online Teaching Institute in preparation to offer sections of Physical Geography online this summer. Ruth will be a Faculty Fellow in the Sustainability Across the Curriculum Workshop this summer, but is also looking forward to seeing lots of live music this summer and starting her first outside garden at her new house.

**Matt Dooley** has had a busy spring semester teaching and working on various research projects in cartography. In April, he gave an invited talk at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in honor of his late Ph.D. advisor Dr. Stephen Lavin. The talk was entitled “Mapping Matters: Cartography as a means and an end.” If interested, you can download the power point presentation at [http://mattdooleycartography.blogspot.com](http://mattdooleycartography.blogspot.com) (see "Download UNL Talk" link in the bottom left-hand corner).

**John Heppen** was busy during Spring Semester. He taught Human Geography, Geography of Poverty and Geography of Asia and Oceania. In April he attended the AAG meeting in Los Angeles where he presented his paper, "Electoral Geography and Political Cultures of Presidential Elections". He had a good time in Los Angeles seeing papers and old friends and making new friends and thinks he got some restaurant suggestions from a celebrity (Julianne Hough) or someone who looks like her. He is planning a trip to a conference in Victoria, British Columbia where he will once again co-present a paper with David Beard from UMD on the use of graphic novels as a teaching resource in regional geography courses. He hopes to get some writing done this summer while making visits to Michigan and he has tickets to Lollapalooza in Chicago in early August.

**Charlie Rader** Other than teaching four different courses this semester; he has been working as the Semester Abroad: Europe assistant group leader in preparation for leading the group Fall Semester 2014. He has been serving on the Sustainability Working Group, Sustainability Faculty Fellows, We Bike River Falls committees and has ongoing mapping projects with the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. This summer he has a couple of canoe trips planned, lots of house and yard projects, and a trip to Paris to meet the SA:E group for orientation in early September. Nancy and wee beast, Gromit, are well.
Matt Renault’s big accomplishment was the awe-inspiring transformation of the back room of the GIS Lab from what was essentially a large storage closet into a new student seminar room complete with a white board, conference table, chairs, and even some art work! Several meetings of the Student Geographers Organization (SGO) have taken place in the new space and the white board has been a magnet for numerous doodles and quasi-artistic endeavors, and random hyperbolic proclamations.

In addition to teaching Intro to Geographic Information Science, Matt taught Human Geography to a learning community of freshman students. What’s a learning community, you say? Well, according to the official UW-River Falls verbiage: “Learning Community members choose to live in the same residence hall and take several classes with their floor members.” So it’s basically a recipe for lots of tomfoolery. But it’s been fun. Matt continues to advise GISci Certificate students and this spring marked a milestone for the program: two students completed the program, one of whom landed a pretty sweet job. A couple of newcomers will take their places and we hope to have around eight students enrolled in various GISci courses this fall.

Lastly, Matt became the local chapter sponsor for Gamma Theta Upsilon, the International Geographical Honor Society. Five students were inducted into the organization and encouraged to develop a secret handshake. Apparently, though, the handshake is so secret, no one knows how to do it!

Senior Colloquium

Every spring semester we teach GEOG 401 – Senior Colloquium in which students carry out an independent research project under the guidance of a faculty member. This year we have had an outstanding crop of a dozen students engaged in interesting research projects that span the breadth of geography. Charlie Rader has enjoyed working with this year’s group and appreciates all the significant efforts of Ruth Baker, Matt Dooley, John Heppen, and Matt Renault in guiding the students. We were represented by 11 posters at the UWRF – Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity Day in April.

Students, titles, and mentors include: Jacob Boyd – Current Patterns of Migration in the Twin Cities (Rader), Christopher Collins – A Study of the Effects of Urbanization on Civil War Battlefields (Heppen), Shelby Dupre – Anthropogenic Effects on Ponderosa Pine in the Black Hills (Baker), Tim Emahiser – Bike Minneapolis: A Study of Where Cyclists Ride, Live, and Crash (Rader), Lindsay Fox – Booze on Blocks (Dooley), Adam Geurkink – Mississippi Water Levels Hindering Barge Traffic (Baker), Rhianna Leach – Recent Asian Settlement in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (Heppen), Daniel Reinbold – Geography of Rugby (Rader), Zach Rossow – Internal Migration: Why We Move (Rader), Nathan Schilling – Red River of the North Seasonal Flooding Comprehension (Baker), Brie Simon – Changing Climate, Changing Health (Rader), and Rozlyn Tousignant – Safest Country in the World? Criminal Patterns in Modern Day Japan (Heppen)

Mike Albert reports that he is well and survived the late April assault of snow, but was tree bound for a day or two having lost a number of trees around his house. He is pleased that his first daffodils bloomed May 6th and hopes it’s finally the end of winter.

Ruth Hale would enjoy hearing from former students and faculty. Her address: 906 College Avenue, Room 115, Red Wing, MN 55066

Don Petzold continues to enjoy retirement very much -- he does what he wants, when he wants. In the past year, he and Liny traveled to Seattle, Vancouver and Toronto, as well as the usual drive to the cabin in Massachusetts, twice. This spring, in lieu of visiting someplace exotic, they concentrated on a complete renovation of their basement. Otherwise, they are waiting for spring to arrive and for the WILD to ramp up the play!
TWO PROGRAMS OFFERED THROUGH OUTREACH AND GiSci

GiScience Certificate Program

Geographic Information Science (GIS) refers to the many branches of geospatial science and technology (e.g., Cartography, Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems). The use of GIS has become increasingly popular in the U.S. To meet these needs, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has developed an undergraduate certification program in GIS, leveraging more than 30 years of experience the Department of Geography and Mapping Service holds in teaching cartography and geospatial sciences.

Students will learn about geospatial theory and literature that drives data collection, storage, analysis, and mapping in GIS. They will also build proficiency in the use of state-of-the-art GIS technologies including GIS and Remote Sensing software applications, GPS and GIS data collection, data analysis, web mapping, and digital image processing, among others. Courses are scheduled to allow students to complete their program within one year.

Search this link for more information on the program:
http://www.uwrf.edu/ContinuingEducation/GeographicInformationSystemsCertificate.cfm

B.A.S. in GiSci

The Bachelor of Applied Science of Geographic Information Science is starting Fall Semester 2013. It is a 120-credit program. Students complete 60 credits at a two-year institution and then earn 60 further credits at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in general education and in a specific sequence of Geographic Information Science courses. Selected credits from technical or community colleges may be eligible for transfer.

Specifically, students must complete five required courses in GiSci and five elective courses in GiSci and Geography. In addition, students must meet the University Requirements and General Education Requirements (see below), and have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.25 in the major field of study and 2.00 overall upon completion of the program.

More information about this new program offering can be found at:
http://www.uwrf.edu/MyDegree/GiSci.cfm

SGO NEWS

The Student Geography Organization participated in a mix of social and academic activities during the Spring 2013 semester. Geography club hosted the Spring Banquet and held two successful on campus bake sales, and arranged a student and faculty pizza party.

New Officers for 2013-14:
President: Jessica McCollum
Vice-President: Brie Simon
Communications Specialist: David Bergs

2013 Student Achievements in Geogrpahy and Mapping Sciences

Student Leadership- Brie Simon
Outstanding Graduating Senior- Shelby Dupre
Academic Excellence- Lindsay Fox
Cartographer of the Year- Lindsay Fox
Map of the Year: Static- Lindsay Fox; Animated- Garrett Stennes

Geography Scholarship- David Bergs and Gregg Roemhildt

Gamma Theta Upsilon- Lindsey Bierwerth, Haily Henderson, Tara Allington and Garrett Stennes

THINK GREEN- Newsletter Recipients!
Please consider receiving an electronic version of the newsletter rather than the ‘hard copy’ you receive in the mail. This would help save resources. Please email geography@uwrf.edu with an active email address. You may also find our newsletters on line at:
http://www.uwrf.edu/GEOG/AboutGEOG/Newsletter.cfm
Alumni- Please send us your news! We would love to hear from you.

http://www.uwrf.edu/GEOG/Alumni.cfm

Alumni Update

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