Notes from the Chair

If you come to visit the department you may notice some new things. First we replaced our projector in the GIS Lab. Our new projector actually shows true colors now! We also received new computers in the GIS Lab over the summer and a new server which we hope will serve us well. The next addition to our facilities will be a television/monitor for the Geography Seminar Room which will allow us to make presentations and transform the room into a real seminar room.

In other good news, Dr. Matt Dooley was awarded the 2013 Excellence in Teaching Award in the College of Arts and Sciences. Those of you who have had Dr. Dooley in class are not surprised by this. This is quite an honor and he joins Dr. Petzold and Dr. Rader as past recipients. Our students won awards at NACIS and we had students present at the SURSCA Gala on December 3.

We hosted our annual GIS Lap Open House during the Geography Awareness Week. We had guests from all over the University. I wish to especially thank Connie Simpson and SGO officers for their help.

Our GIS Certificate Program continues to draw students and we anticipate a large group of graduates this May. The BAS in GIS has started this fall and we have had students express interest in the program. The GIS Lab is as busy as ever and it is a joy to see students working in the lab on Friday afternoons even if they wish they were somewhere else.

I wish to conclude by thanking you for your support of Geography at UWRF. When I see what our graduates are doing via LinkedIn, Facebook, or by just running into them at the grocery store, it truly is a great feeling. You, our alumni and friends of Geography are very important to us. I ask that you take a few moments to please keep us updated on what you are doing. There is a form in the newsletter or you can email us. Please let us know what you are up to. Telling others about your successes makes us look good!
Congratulations 2013 Fall Graduates!

Jacob Boyd
Rhianna Leach

Adam Geurkink
Gregg Roemhildt

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

Alex Dubish (2005) who was a GIS/Cartography minor visited the department. He is currently working as GIS Coordinator for NRCS in Montana.

Gregg Roemhildt (2013) recent grad, will be working for Lake County, Division of Transportation as a GIS Analyst in Libertyville, IL starting in January 2014.

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

Scott Nelson Fund:
Bradley Birttorf

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

How Old is My Globe? If you wish to determine the age of a globe, you should look for clues on the map itself. Replogle Globes has a helpful list of old/new place names, and the year when the change took place:

Paris Metro Map Interactive
(http://vasyenmetro.com/?lang=en) an elegant navigational tool for one of the most comprehensive metro systems in the world.

World Bank eAtlas on Global Development
(http://www.app.collinsindicate.com/worldbankatlas-global/en-us) delves into the World Bank’s extensive database with animated time lines and rankings of variables.

402 South Sixth Street – Solar PV Array
(http://egauge3975.egaug.es/) check out the Rader’s Solar PV array generation and electrical usage! We are currently generating about ½ of our electrical usage, based on 6 months of operation.

Interesting Reads

Venice: Pure City (2011) Peter Ackroyd’s social history of Venice and the lagoon that reads like a novel. (Anchor Books)

Cartographies of Time: A History of the Timeline (2012) Daniel Rosenberg and Anthony Grafton’s guide to the one of the most important of all infographics. (Princeton Architectural Press)
Marian Bantjes: *Pretty Pictures* (2013) a retrospective of typographic design by one of the premier typographic designers currently practicing. (Metropolis Books)

**FACULTY & STAFF NOTES**

**Ruth Baker** had a very active Fall Semester. She taught a new special topics course, *Natural Disasters*, which she is now working on with faculty in Geology to propose as a cross listed course in the regular Fall rotation. Ruth has also been working on acquiring a Weather Station for UWRF, with support from the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development. Stay tuned for an announcement when we have this up and running! Over the summer, she became a Sustainability Faculty Fellow and participated in the Sustainability Across the Curriculum Workshop, which gave her some great insight into better incorporating issues of sustainability into course redesign and development. Ruth also recently welcomed Leroy Jenkins, a Yellow Lab/German Shepard mix puppy into her family. It has been an adventure in patience and sanitation engineering, but totally worth it!

**Matt Dooley** has been busy teaching and working on various research projects this semester. In October, he presented a map at the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) meeting in Greenville, South Carolina, entitled Rivers of the Maya Region (co-authored with geography student Jake Boyd). Students Hollie Auchterlonie and Brita Swanson also presented maps at the conference. Both maps were very well received and Brita Swanson won 2nd place in the NACIS Student Poster Competition!

**John Heppen** continues as Chair in addition to teaching Human Geography, Geography of the United States and Historical Geography of the US. He presented a poster at the West Lakes Conference at UW-Eau Claire in October. It was nice to see so many familiar faces and new ones. He is serving as secretary for Faculty Senate again. A few years after he swore he would never do it again and once again serving on the General Education Committee. He admits to getting worn down in these final days of the Fall Semester but he looks forward to Spring Semester. He is now an expert on professional wrestling as he was quoted in an article in the Pioneer Press in late November. There is a link to it in the newsletter. He feels vindicated now! [http://www.twincities.com/news/ci_24635906/good-vs-evil-theatrical-st-paul-pro-wrestling?IADID=Search- www.twincities.com-www.twincities.com](http://www.twincities.com/news/ci_24635906/good-vs-evil-theatrical-st-paul-pro-wrestling?IADID=Search- www.twincities.com-www.twincities.com)

He had a good summer which seems so long ago now.

**Matt Millett**, the GIS Lab Manager, formerly known as Matt Renault is now back to Matt Millett after another life change. In addition to changing his name and/or possibly dodging the Internal Revenue Service (just kidding), Matt oversaw a major hardware upgrade to the GIS Lab, taught Intro to Geographic Information Science and Human Geography, served on Faculty Senate, and continued to advise GISc Certificate students.

**Charlie Rader** – This semester, he taught Human Geography, Africa, and GIS: Theory and Methods as well as working on a variety of small mapping projects. Over the summer, Charlie participated in a group call and response exhibit of art and poetry at the River Falls Public Library. Charlie was honored that Thomas R. Smith chose one of his photographs to write a poem about and Charlie made a piece of digital artwork to illustrate one of Kate Maude’s poems (UWRF English). Clarke Garry and Charlie returned to Quetico Provincial Park to repeat a traverse from Atikokan to Ely that they had done in 2001. This year John Wheeler (UWRF Biology) and Kerry Keen (UWRF Geology) joined the paddle. Thin mosquitos, cold, and rain but good fun. Nancy and Charlie had short trips East to visit family and to the BWCA. At the end of August, they headed to Iceland. They had every sort of weather that Iceland can experience in a week. Charlie continued on to Paris to work with orienting the Semester Abroad: Europe group with Brad Gee and then returned mid-September to resume on campus duties. Other than house projects, he built a canoe with
former student, Dan Bochman, and did a little photography. Nancy continues with MNGEO and Gromit continues to be a wee beastie alternating between adorable and incredibly mischievous.

**EMERITUS FACULTY**

**Mike Albert** reports that he is well and shoveling snow. In January he will be spending two weeks in sunny Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands with Jack Flynn and Deb Pile.

**Don Petzold** continues to enjoy his retirement. He has no news to report since the last newsletter.

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2013 Excellence in Teaching Award Winner in the College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Mathew Dooley, Associate Professor
Recipients were selected based on responses from alumni. Congratulations, Matt!!!

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**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](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](http://www.uwrf.edu/MyDegree/GISci.cfm)
Greetings from SGO:

Thank you to all of our members and faculty; your involvement with the Student Geography Organization (SGO) is greatly appreciated! It has been a pleasure to see our membership and participation increase in 2013.

Looking back on this semester... we began with a dynamic crowd and delicious summer eats at the KFA 3rd floor semiannual picnic at Glen Park. We traveled back in time to experience live jousting, silly comedy shows and rummage through unique handmade crafts and necessities of the time like weaponry at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. Dr. Charlie Rader took us on a photo journey to Iceland at the pizza party. Thanks to Charlie for showing us the magnificent landscape, culture and architecture of Iceland and hosting this event.

Two fall SGO bake sales increased the budget by $200. This will be used for our spring trip, next semester. SGO is open for suggestions.

SAVE THE DATE:
SPRING SGO BANQUET
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

FORMER STAFF NEWS

Vicki Winch is currently a Program Assistant at Cooperative Education Services Agency #5 (CESA 5) out of Portage.

Highlights for her since the last newsletter was vacationing with her girls and mom on a trip out west. For 17 days in July, they travelled through South Dakota (Mt. Rushmore), Wyoming (Devils Tower, Yellowstone & Grand Tetons), Salt Lake City, Utah, Arizona (Grand Canyon), Colorado (Pikes Peak), Four Corners and Kansas (The Wizard of Oz Museum) and drove through parts of several other states (well over 4600 miles of driving)… and yes, Kyli is several inches taller than Vicki now and Kaelyn is catching up quickly.

Kyli is a freshman this year and is very busy with her musical career. She currently plays three instruments (French Horn, piano and bass guitar) on a regular basis and sings in the school choir and is the youngest member of church's Senior Choir (the average age being about 50). She played volleyball in the fall and she's excited to be taking driver's ed this spring.

Kaelyn is in 6th grade. She continues taking piano lessons and has started playing trumpet in the school band. She's an excellent student, excelling at both math and reading. This summer, she took several classes at UW-Baraboo through the gifted & talented program at school. This fall she attended an Expand Your Horizons event at UW Madison geared towards middle school girls to get them interested in math, science and engineering. She had a wonderful time and it was a great learning opportunity.

Kelsey started second grade this year and is doing very well. She is very advanced at reading and reads anything she can get her hands on! She loves taking piano lessons and gymnastics.

As you can imagine, the three of them keep Wayne and Vicki pretty busy.
The Geography and Mapping Sciences Department celebrated National Geography Awareness Week (November 17-23) by hosting an open house in the newly updated GIS Lab on November 20, 2013. Student and faculty work was displayed. Below: Dr. Charlie Rader explaining a student map to Wei Gao.

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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