Notes from the Chair

Spring semester is always a challenge. We have to say goodbye to our graduating seniors and finish up the academic year and yet also lay a foundation for upcoming academic year. We continue to teach and put forth our efforts in these days of uncertain and declining resources. I wish to thank Charlie, Matt, Matt, and Ruth for their hard work and good cheer throughout the semester. They have continuously gone beyond the call of duty in working with our students. We will have a total of 12 graduates this academic year from our program and we continue to admit and graduate GISci certificate students. This year we have admitted international students to the certificate program. The GIS Lab continues to hum along as we continue to upgrade and maintain it. We have just purchased a new plotter so our research posters will look even better. Some of you alumni may have fond memories of the old plotter.

We had a nice banquet at the University Center this year. Kelly Cain, who is retiring from the University but not from working, gave a great banquet talk on the importance of sustainability. I wish to once again thank Connie Simpson and Brie Simon for their hard work on the banquet and I especially wish to thank Connie for her continued hard work on behalf of the department as our program assistant.

I wish to thank you our friends and alumni for your continued support to the Geography Scholarship, Scott Nelson Fund, and Geography Fund. Your contributions mean a lot to us. We are able to award scholarships to deserving students, purchase equipment, and, through the Scott Nelson Fund, provide opportunities for our students to travel and attend conferences. So if you have some interest in contributing to any of the funds please do not hesitate to get in contact with us on how you may help the program.
CONGRATULATIONS,
Spring and Summer Graduates!
Mark Haas   Lora Mellberg
Brie Simon   Isaac Solum
Colin Tomesh Rozlyn Tousignant
Michael Wickland Victor Zafke

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

Brad Bohen (1997) is a fly-fishing guide and lodge owner in northern Wisconsin.

Jackie (Ryan) Klein (1993) After a long hiatus staying home with her children, Jackie re-entered the workforce in October as a Senior Labor Compliance Investigator with MnDOT. Loves busting the bad guys!!

Dr. Steve Mooney (1971), a professor at St. Cloud State University and holder of the MN Chair in Real Estate. One of his most memorable times was doing small business research at Shady Grove.

Heidi (Jobst) Nordwall (2001) works for Health Partners in the dental division 3.5 days a week. On my days off I try to substitute teach in the Prescott School District as I really love doing it. I am also now the proud parent of a middle school daughter.

Michael Sonn (2006) worked for the Assessor’s office in the County of San Mateo, California for the last 7 years as a Mapping/GIS Technician and managed and updated over 220,000 parcels both on mylar and in the GIS system using Intergraph's GeoMedia. Michael recently started working for the Metropolitan Council in downtown St. Paul in the newly formed Real Estate division. His duties include creating legal description exhibits for land acquisition and mapping land holdings using ESRI ArcMap.

Rick Sprung (1983) retired from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) October 1, 2013 after 29 years and 11 months. He was hired by the former Defense Mapping Agency - Aerospace Center (DMAAC) in St. Louis on October 17, 1983 as a cartographer and ended up as a Supervisory Data Management Specialist. It was a fun and rewarding career. My wife Neva and I plan to stay in St. Louis and travel in addition to our many other hobbies.

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
Randy & Ann Patzke Charles & Nancy Rader
Gregg Roehmildt Marilyn Bostrack

Scott Nelson Fund:
Bradley Bittorf Ron Swanson
Justin March Michael Albert
David Brandt Marilyn Bostrack
Caroline Nelson Paul & Karen Schultz

Geography Fund:
Dr. Ann Legreid

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

Infographic of the Day
(http://www.fastcompany.com/section/infographic-of-the-day) a fun feed of interesting maps, charts, and graphics that help explain data.
Topographic Photography (https://www.pinterest.com/morgansmuir/topographic-photography/) a Print Interest page on photography of the mundane or human altered landscapes. Lots of good industrial and post-industrial landscapes.

MapPorn (http://imgur.com/r/MapPorn) yet another collection of interesting cartography that may appeal to your guilty pleasure...

Interesting Reads


Faculty & Staff Notes

While this winter has been statistically interesting, Ruth Baker is looking forward to a warm and productive summer. In addition to her usual rotation of physical geography courses, Ruth had an especially rewarding semester offering Advanced Climatology for the first time. This upper level course in her field of expertise culminated in high-quality student research projects. Ruth also presented her own research on extreme snowfall events in the Upper Midwestern US at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in Tampa, FL this past April. She was also able to tour the desalination plant while in Tampa, as part of her research for her new Global Water Resources course. This summer Ruth is looking forward to one quick trip out west to visit the Hoover Dam, the largest solar thermal power facility in the world (Ivanpah), Death Valley desert regions, and Yosemite National Park. The rest of the summer Ruth will be focusing on writing and continuing her research on snowfall and climate.

Matt Dooley has had a busy Spring semester teaching Intro to GISci, Map Design, and the Senior Seminar courses. For the Map Design course, Nat Case (a prominent Minneapolis cartographer) gave a stunning presentation on the role of critique in cartography and then led a critique focused on some of Matt’s new work in “clay maps” (see http://mattdooleycartography.blogspot.com/p/drainage-tiles.html). It was fun for the students to finally have the opportunity to “grade” their instructor’s work! Nat also helped Matt contextualize this work, and provided great advice for pursuing this into the future. Matt was also glad to see the Secret Atlas of North Coast Food published in November 2013. He was lead cartographer for this collaborative work, and was delighted to be able to work with Jim Norton (from the Heavy Table blog) and an amazing set of writers, illustrators, and designers from the Twin Cities area (see http://heavytable.com/books/).

John Heppen kept busy this semester teaching Human Geography, Geography of Latin America, and Quantitative Techniques for Geographers. He continues as Chair and served as secretary of faculty senate. He presented a paper at the AAG meeting in Tampa, Florida, “Place, Voting, and Status in the World-Economy in the 2012 Presidential Election”. He had a nice time visiting with fellow geographers and attending sessions. He did meet Arturo Fuente Jr of the famous Fuente Family of cigar makers. He has not made any travel plans yet for the summer but he will definitely go to Michigan and maybe make another trip somewhere else and find some time for writing.
**Matt Millet** had a busy semester, sporting a new mustache, and teaching and advising a new crop of GISci Certificate, Human Geography and Intro to GISci students. He and his new mustache oversaw some significant upgrades to the GIS Lab, notably the addition of another workstation (which brings the total to 27), some new GPS units, and a new large-format plotter. In addition, he (in cahoots with that fabulous new mustache) took over the faculty-advising reins of SGO and is looking forward to working with students in earnest in the fall. Lastly, he ran the Faculty Senate elections, which were much more work than he had anticipated (though his mustache thought it was an enlightening experience and actually a little fun!)

**Charlie Rader** – In addition to teaching a full array of GIS courses this spring, he has been working with preparing 16 students for the Fall Semester with Semester Abroad: Europe. Students from all disciplines participate in this program under the guidance of a faculty mentor in their home department. Summer will consist of some travel to the SW to the NE and canoeing before he heads off for the fall semester. Geographically he’s also been working on completing a Public Recreation Map for the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. Nancy and Gromit are well and continue to tolerate his presence in the house.

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**A Special Thank You**

The department thanks Dr. Sandra Soares and family, who very generously donated their aunt’s copy of Carl Sauer and John Leighly’s - *Syllabus for An Introduction to Geography I. Elements* (Second Edition – 1925) to the Department. It largely covers physical geography with a little human geography thrown in for good measure. There are copious notations throughout made by her aunt, Thea Soares. It should serve as a basis for an interesting content analysis and we are pleased to have this document.

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**Mike Albert** and **Don Petzold** were able to attend the SGO Banquet. It was good to see them and catch up with their retirement news.

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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 (continued on next page.)
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

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**SGO NEWS**

Greetings from SGO:

Thank you to all of our members and faculty; your involvement with the Student Geography Organization (SGO) is greatly appreciated!

Looking back on this semester... we had with a pizza party in February at the home of Charlie and Nancy Rader. Later on in the semester, plans were made for the annual SGO banquet which was held April 26, 2014 in the University Center. We enjoyed listening to our keynote speaker, Kelly Cain and visiting with faculty, parents and students. It was an enjoyable evening.

Matt Millett is taking over as the faculty advisor for the group, with the help from co-advisor, Ruth Baker.

Election of officers for 2014-15 will take place in Fall 2014.

Have a great summer!

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In order to save costs for printing and sending the newsletter, please consider receiving a paperless copy of this newsletter by providing a current email address or reading the newsletter from our web site:

http://www.uwrf.edu/GEOG/AboutGEOG/Newsletter.cfm

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**SPRING PICNIC**

MAY 8, 2014 - GLEN PARK

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**2014 GEOGRAPHY AWARDS**

Award of Excellence- Gregg Roemhildt

Outstanding Graduating Senior Award- Brie Simon

Student Leadership Award- Brie Simon

Geography Scholarship- David Bergs

Outstanding Cartographer Award- Hollie Auchterlonie

These awards were presented to students at the annual SGO Banquet, April 26, 2014.

CONGRATULATIONS!
SGO Banquet, April 26, 2014

Pictures from left: Kelly Cain, Keynote Speaker; Geogrphay faculty with GTU initiates, David Bergs and Nick O’Brien.

From left: Geography faculty with Gregg Roemhildt and Graduates Gregg Roemhildt, Brie Simon and Rozlyn Tousignant receiving their atlases.

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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Most Memorable Times at UWRF: