Notes from the Chair

We end the Fall Semester with a great showing by our students at the Fall Gala of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity. I wish to thank Matt Dooley for taking the lead in getting our students to present their work. We in the Department are chugging along. We will be part of a new BS in Data Science program at UWRF with a GIS cognate so we are happy about that. Charlie Rader has been working hard in Europe leading Semester Abroad and I wish to thank Dave Brandt, Geoff Force, and Matt Millett for picking up courses in his absence. The GISci Certificate keeps moving along. We’ve been blessed with the enrollment of a number of students from Brazil as part of the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program at UWRF. Most of them are in the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Science and a good number of them take GIS courses and are earning the GISci Certificate. We also have students from China, Japan, and South Korea taking a large number of geography courses. We have a goal of recruiting more international students for the certificate program since it can be done in one year in most cases and GIS is becoming a global force. Our majors continue to impress with their hard work and talent. We had a successful GIS Lab Open House in November during Geography Awareness Week. I wish to thank Connie Simpson especially for her hard work in making the event a huge success. I am grateful for our alumni and friends who have helped us out in so many ways. Thank you for your financial contributions and most importantly thank you for the good things you have said about us. Finally, I want to thank Charlie, Matt D., Ruth, Matt M., Dave Brandt, Geoff Force, and Connie once again for their hard work and good cheer.
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 Bittorf (1983) is the software quality engineering subject matter expert and the Capability Maturity Model Integration compliance manager for Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson, AZ. In his spare time Brad is a volunteer captain for the annual “El Tour de Tucson” bike ride, science fair judge, vintage baseball player for the Tucson Saguaros baseball club and executive vice president of the International Lilac Society.

Dr. Ann Legreid (1976) serves as Dean of Business and Social Sciences at Shepherd University (7th year), a public liberal arts institution on the Potomac north of Washington, D.C. She has been very active in facilitating/leading aspects of campus internationalization. Geography is central!!

Steve Baisden (2009) married Sara Ehlenz (UWRF MARC ’09) in an outdoor ceremony at the UWRF Amphitheater in August. They recently travelled to Seattle and Los Angeles. Steve continues to work as a transit planner for Metro Transit, focusing on the East Metro region.

Mark Tinkler (SGO president, 1988-’90) is concluding his active duty tour with the US Navy this summer. He will then return to his civilian job with the US Department of Defense with a new assignment to a NATO office in England.

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. Ann Legreid

Scott Nelson Fund:
Bradley Bittorf and Deb Anstin
Paul and Karen Schultz

Geography Fund:
Dr. John Weigel and Christine Weigel

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 Website

I Draw Maps http://www.idrawmaps.com/
Mapmaker/illustrator Nate Pedavick’s website featuring his editorial and commercial projects.

Interesting Reads

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce involves a retiree who one day goes to post a letter to a friend and decides to walk the length of England to find her. It is sad, funny, and engaging.

The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden by Jonas Jonnason is a joyous romp through the late 20th century’s political landscape from slums of Soweto to Sweden.

SAVE THE DATE
SGO BANQUET
APRIL 18, 2015
Faculty News

Ruth Baker had another very active fall semester. She worked on incorporating the images and information from her trip out west last summer into her existing courses. Ruth and Jeremiah did a water-resource and energy-use tour of the Western US. They toured the Hoover Dam Power Plant, the Ivanpah Solar Electric Plant, and a Geothermal plant in California, all whilst staying in the energy intensive Las Vegas. They followed the Los Angeles Aqueduct from the former Mono Lake extension to Owen’s Dry Lake, and through the mountains down to Los Angeles, while detouring through Yosemite National Park and Death Valley. Many of the pictures from this trip can now be found in Ruth’s Physical Geography course, and many more are waiting to get incorporated into her water resource and biogeography courses. After this adventure, Ruth and Jeremiah started another big undertaking, with their first child expected to arrive March of 2015. Leroy, their year and a half old yellow lab, couldn’t be happier!

David Brandt managed to squeeze in another ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ mountain bike trip. The route this time was from Telluride to Moab and my whole group made it without serious injury. While not as remote as the Durango to Moab route, it was every bit as challenging. David returned just in time to teach GEOG360, covering the class while Charlie was abroad and feeling more prepared for teaching. He’ll be coming back from working the 2015 Alpine World Ski Championships in Beaver Creek, CO. In other news, I'm putting my solar capacity modelling using lidar research to the test by installing solar panels on his roof. It’s been great to see his work expanded statewide by the University of Minnesota. Anyone in Minnesota can now get a good idea of their solar potential (http://solar.maps.umn.edu).

When not running around on adventures, David still works at Washington County as the GIS Manager and spends time with his wife and two active teenagers.

Matt Dooley has had a busy fall semester teaching Intro GISci (GEOG 250), Map Design (GEOG 351), and Advanced Map Design (GEOG 455). In October, he presented a paper at the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) conference in Pittsburgh titled “Digital to Analog: explorations in non-traditional media” (see https://speakerdeck.com/nvkelso/digital-to-analog-explorations-in-non-traditional-media). At the conference, he also presented a series of gunpowder maps co-authored by Randy Johnston (UWRF Art faculty) and Carson Giblette (UWRF Art student). In addition to the NACIS conference, Matt participated in two geography-related art exhibitions at the now defunct Shoebox Gallery in southeast Minneapolis.

John Heppen continues as Chair in addition to teaching Human Geography, Geography of the United States and Political Geography which is fun to teach during election years. He presented a paper at the West Lakes Conference/East Lakes conference at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. It was nice to see so many familiar faces and new ones and get a brief visit home. He is serving as secretary for Faculty Senate again. He admits to getting worn down in these final days of the Fall Semester but he looks forward to Christmas and the New Year. He had a chapter published in the Atlas of the 2012 Elections and a book review in the AAG Review of Books which was nice.

This fall, Matt Millett has been busy managing the GIS Lab, teaching two sections of Intro to Geographic Information Science, and serving on Faculty Senate as the Elections Chair. In addition, he is advising both students in the GISci Certificate program (which now includes several international students from Brazil), and the Student Geography Organization (SGO).


EMERITUS FACULTY

Mike Albert doesn’t have much to add to his “humdrum” existence. However, in October he attended the World’s Largest Antique Car Show in Hershey, PA. While there, he visited retired UWRF English professor, Laura Quinn and a former UWRF geography professor, Jim Hathaway (1984-85).

From Carol Barrett:
Although my mobility is pretty limited by spinal problems, I am lucky that my mind is still functioning, and I can pursue my interest via my computer.
In 2013, I had a digital art show at the Café Espresso coffee house in St. Paul, which resulted in a lot of satisfaction and even some money.
This past spring I was hired by the chairman of the Civil Engineering department at the University of Minnesota to restore and prepare old departmental photos for display at an international conference hosted by the department, and to prepare photos for a tribute presentation for the Dean of the Engineering school.
I continue to indulge my interest in genealogy, and have prepared professional genealogies for the retired Dean of Liberal Arts at SUNY-Albany and a senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute at the U of MN. I have designed a 10-generation genealogy chart used by several clients, including Margo Sorenson, a popular California children’s author. These activities also happily resulted in additional income.
For several years after I retired from UWRF, I had a number of free-lance graphics jobs, including journal covers, book covers, and book and article illustrations, many of which were maps. There is still a solid market out there for custom maps to accompany book chapters or journal articles.
I think of my former students often, and am pleased when I get news from them or about them. On a heavier note (much heavier), I will turn 80 this coming January.

Don Petzold along with his wife, Liny, have some exciting news to share: son Andrew and his wife Logan have just become parents to their first child, daughter Ivy Eleanor. All are doing well, but Ivy prefers to sleep during the day and be awake all night! This is granddaughter #3 for them. Otherwise Don and Liny, who is still working as a psychologist for St. Paul Public Schools, have done a lot of travelling within the US during this past year: week long visits to Tucson, Savannah, Chicago (three times) and for Don, three trips to the camp in Massachusetts (had to renew the accent!). Of course -- he is still hopeful for a successful season for the Wild!

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
As an organization we have supported two successful bake sales and had an excellent turnout for the GIS Open Lab during Geography Awareness week. This spring we will be discussing plans for the Spring Banquet, as well as a potential spring trip. We hope you all have a wonderful holiday season, and a great start in the New Year!

Submitted by
David Bergs, President

Kinnickinnic River Land Trust – Public Recreation Map.

Charlie Rader with the assistance of KRLT intern (and niece), Erica Rader, and former KRLT Land Manager, Eric Forward, finally completed a public recreation map that list over 70 places within the watershed were outdoor recreation can be found. The work began under the former director, Nelson French, in 2010. Erica and Eric compiled the initial data sets and with Charlie made the prototype maps in early 2011. Then due to changes in staff at the Land Trust, the project went dormant for two years, and was revived this past January by current director, Dave Fodroczi, former acting director Dale Jorgensen, and KRLT Board Member, Peter Dahm. By this point the data needed to be rechecked with all the partners in the watershed, final size determined, and all the data needed to be rechecked and new data added. The map was finally produced by Charlie using ArcGIS, Microsoft Office Excel for the tables, final edits to the map were completed in Adobe Illustrator, and the final layout was completed in Adobe InDesign. The final layout was converted into an Adobe PDF file for the printer and submitted electronically the week before Charlie left for Europe in September. Charlie says, “In some ways, the newer technology makes things far easier, but the final stages take much longer, but ultimately result in a much better product both in quality and content than the photo mechanical techniques that were used for so many years. The problem now is knowing when enough is enough and not falling into the hopeless pursuit of perfection trap.”

The Bachelor of Applied Science of Geographic Information Science started 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

B.A.S. in GISci

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SGO NEWS

This fall SGO had a quite exciting semester. Along with gaining some new members in both freshman and international students, we were able to replace the previous officers with a fresh hard-working group of individuals. The officers for the 2014-15 school year are:

David Bergs, President
Greg Flaatten, Vice President
Daniel Patzke, Secretary
Samantha Grzybowski, Treasurer

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

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
FALL SEMESTER 2014

Semester Abroad: Europe
Anthony Tumbarello (Geography) and Matthew Ford (Digital Film & Television) with Charlie at John O'Groats in Scotland. Anthony Tumbarello at Skara Brae in the Orkneys where he was studying Neolithic chambered burial cairns.

GIS OPEN HOUSE- November 19
Matt Millett and students examining Dan Patzke’s family globes.

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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Current Employment:

Most Memorable Times at UWRF: