Notes from the Chair

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Ruth Hale. Many of our current traditions and strengths can be traced back to her time here. We will miss her deeply. Charlie Rader has written a nice tribute to her in this newsletter. When I first started teaching at River Falls, I remember her as being very kind and gracious when visiting on campus and attending our banquets.

In other unhappy news, the latest round of budget cuts has impacted this University and our program. We are not able to offer as many classes as we would like to and we do worry about the long-term impacts on our program and many other programs at the University. For example we are not able to hire any adjuncts for next year and we will miss the contributions and extra courses that have been so valuable to students.

In more pleasant news we celebrated eight spring graduates at our Spring Banquet and inducted five new members into Gamma Theta Upsilon. David Fodroczi, Executive Director, Kinnikinnic River Land Trust, was our keynote speaker. We also graduated five certificate students. We’ve been delighted to have many students from Brazil take our GIS courses and participate in the Certificate Program. Our students displayed posters on April 30 at the Spring Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity Day at the University Center. We had one of the largest contingents on campus. On March 11 as part of the Series of Innovations and Excellence Program, Matt Millett led a demonstration in the GIS Lab after a catered lunch.

I wish to thank Charlie, Matt, Matt, Ruth, Connie, and David Brandt for their hard work and good cheer this semester. We have a wonderful and dedicated group of faculty and staff here. I also wish to thank those of you have contributed to the department in any way. We truly appreciate all the sacrifices and good things you do for us. Have a happy summer.
CONGRATULATIONS,
Spring Graduates!

Hollie Auchterlonie  Grace Davig
Greg Flaatten       Drew Michel
Daniel Patzke       Michael Phillippi
Chelsea Wiger       Cody Wolfe

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

Amanda Bowe Gray (2005) teaches 7th grade social studies at Woodbury Middle School. In November 2014, she and her husband, Andy, welcomed their third son, Clark. He joins older brothers, Nolan (4) and Marshall (2). They keep very busy!

Emily Czerwinski (2010) started a new job at Best Buy in April 2015 in an IT role.

Jeri Goodspeed-Gross (1982) is finishing her 27th year of teaching. She teaches Global Studies (lots of Geographic applications) at Minnetonka Middle School West in Excelsior, MN. Some of her favorite memories while at UWRF: making apple cider with SGO at Ruth Hale’s home, organizing topographic maps as part of her work study position and exploring the Kinnickinnic River and finding a stolen purse.

Ryan Stovern (2007) is now the GIS Principal for the St. Louis County, MN Auditor’s Office as of February 2015. He is in charge of managing and maintaining the parcels and other Cadastral data and manages the Administrative maps such as the election and commissioner data for the county. Ryan and his wife welcomed their second child, Jace, at the end of December.

Michael Phillippi (2015) will be continuing to work at WSB & Associates in Golden Valley, MN where he is currently a GIS intern. He will be working permanently in the GIS Department.

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  
Charles and Nancy Rader  
Larry Kuester  
Justin and Allison March  
Mike Albert  
Ron Swanson  
Marilyn Bostrack

Scott Nelson Fund:  
Bradley Bittorf and Deb Austin  
Paul and Karen Schultz  
Jeri Goodspeed-Gross and Mark Gross  
Ricky and Denise Michel  
Randy and Ann Patzke  
Justin and Allison March  
Marilyn Bostrack

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/I
index.cfm your contributions in support of Geography are greatly appreciated!

Interesting Websites

Urban Sketchers (http://www.urbansketchers.org/) – a nonprofit organization that fosters a global community of artist who practice on-location drawing that documents the places where they live and travel.

Interesting websites from UWRF students:

Diego Nunes Valadres’ Brazil website: 
http://uwriverrfalls.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/?appid=5ea0c68d705746c2a230e935cbd65afe
David Bergs’ websites: Animated County Development map page:  
http://countyology.blogspot.com/  
Other maps and projects in GIS:  
http://davidbergs.blogspot.com/  

Interesting Reads  
The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown (Penguin – 2014) – is a book about the importance of teamwork in order to accomplish the exceptional. Brown documents the crew that arose out of Depression Era America at the University Washington; an impeccably researched and well written piece that reads like a novel.

The History of Cartography, Volume 6: Cartography in the Twentieth Century by Mark Monmonier (Editor) (Chicago – 2015) – Volumes 4 and 5 are still in production but this volume collects over 500 articles and numerous images on the recent history of cartography. It is an extensive examination of the relations ship between maps, science, technology, and society. (It's only $398 on Amazon, but it qualifies for Prime Shipping)


Faculty News  
Ruth Baker taught two courses on campus until spring break and an additional two courses on line. Her adjusted teaching schedule allowed her to take maternity leave to welcome Grace Quinn Liend Baker on March 17, 2015. The family is happily adjusting to their new addition. Congratulations to Ruth and Jeremiah!

David Brandt had an enjoyable spring teaching GEOG 360. It was strange coming back to teach after spending 2 weeks working on a mountain for the Alpine World Championships. It was nice to work with many wonderful people from around the world. Yes, I saw Lindsey Vonn. No, I did not see Tiger. A big thanks to John and Charlie for their help. Once back from my 'vacation', this spring was busier than ever. Outside of teaching, work and family, my parody band had a couple gigs and I was tapped to sing countertenor (evidently, that sort of thing was popular in the Baroque period) for a local church. I'm looking forward to a summer of running, cycling, music, family and friends.

Matt Dooley is on sabbatical this semester working on the "Electronic Atlas of Maya Art." The results will be featured on the Maya Portrait Project website in late May or early June. Matt is also developing a new course, GEOG 268: Mapping and Spatial Justice.

John Heppen spent time teaching this semester in addition to chair duties and faculty senate issues. He taught Geography of Poverty in the US, Geography of Asia and Oceania, Quantitative Techniques for Geography and Cartography. He went to the AAG meeting in Chicago in late April and presented a paper, “Electoral Patterns and Place in the World Economy in US Presidential Elections”. He also served on a panel “The 2014 Elections and the 2016 Elections in the United States”. He continues as Chair and completed his latest term on faculty senate. He will do some travelling this summer to Michigan and work on his research projects.

This spring, Matt Millett has been busy managing the GIS Lab, teaching two sections of Introduction to Geographic Information Science, serving on Faculty Senate, advising students in the GiSci Certificate program and the Student Geography Organization (SGO), and overseeing the Map of the Year contest.

Charles Rader – spent the semester trying to catch-up from Fall Semester still wrangling Semester Abroad: Europe students as they finish up their projects and teaching Human Geography,
Digital Image Processing, and GIS: Analysis and Modeling. His office is in the usual state of disarray. Summer plans include canoeing, photography, a trip west, a trip east, and a numerous house projects. Nancy is as busy as ever with MnGeo. Gromit is either asleep or manic. Both are well.

EMERITUS FACULTY

Mike Albert was able to attend the Annual SGO Banquet in April, reporting that he continues to enjoy his retirement and his hobbies.

RUTH HALE (1928-2015)

It is with deep sadness that we report that Professor of Geography Emeritus, Dr. Ruth Hale, passed away April 29, 2015, she was 86. Ruth joined the department in the winter of 1967-1968 as the fourth faculty member and taught courses in cultural and regional geography. She served as chair of the department from 1975 to 1986 and under her stewardship courses in cultural and regional geography increased, the minor in cartography was developed, and the Student Geography Organization (SGO) was formed. In 1988, Ruth was awarded recognition as Outstanding Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences and she served as a faculty member in the Wisconsin in Scotland Program. After 26 years of service, she retired from full-time teaching at the end of spring semester 1993, with an agreement to return to teach two courses during the spring, 1994 and 1995.

Ruth was an active member of Peirce County Geographical Society and inveterate traveler. Ruth’s dissertation was entitled A Map of Vernacular Regions in America, a theme she explored throughout her career. She had a long respect for local landscape and in 1980 co-authored with Cotton Mather Prairie Border Country: Twin Cities to Rochester a chorology that traversed 171 miles from Hastings to Rochester. She enjoyed her students, dogs, horses, and life along her little reach overlooking the Little Trimbelle. We will greatly miss her presence and joy for life.

She requested there be no service. An online obituary is available from The River Falls Journal:

Don Petzold is doing well and is planning a trip to Iceland in the fall. He enjoyed the Wild’s hockey season.

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, and 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 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

SGO NEWS

SGO has been rolling along as well as it has in previous years. Despite a lack in attendance for multiple meetings, we were able to continue to successfully coordinate three bake sales to raise money for the club. We have also begun to coordinate with other clubs, with one student volunteering to help the Society of Physics Students with the GIS event at two high school Science Olympiads. We are hoping further our involvement with other clubs on campus in this manner, to promote ourselves on campus a little more. I would like to thank Diego, Dan, Drew, Sammi and Greg for all the ideas and time they have put in to help the faculty and myself to plan and execute events throughout the year, including Geography Awareness Week and the new student presentation section of the Spring Banquet. Due to the success of the latter, we hope to connect ourselves more with alumni and faculty emeritus, by showing off what we have accomplished each year.

Thank you for support of the Department of Geography and Mapping Sciences, as it even helps us as a club to help promote the awesome discipline that is Geography!

Submitted by David Bergs, President

SGO members from left to right: Drew Michel, Diego Nunes Valadares, Sammi Grzybowski, David Bergs and Dan Patzke.

2015 GEOGRAPHY AWARDS

Student Leadership Award David Bergs
Outstanding Graduating Senior Daniel Patzke
Award for Academic Excellence Hollie Auchterlonie
Outstanding Cartographer Nicholas O’Brien
Geography Scholarship David Bergs
Map of the Year JiYeon Ryu

CONGRATULATIONS!

Due budget cuts and environmental concerns, we will no longer be printing a hard copy of the newsletter to send to our alumni. You may continue to receive the newsletter by one of the following:
- provide a current email address and it will be sent via email: connie.simpson@uwrf.edu
- view the newsletter from our website: http://www.uwrf.edu/GEOG/AboutGEOG/Newsletter.cfm
- request a hard copy by calling 715-425-3264.
2015 SPRING BANQUET

David Bergs- GIS presentation

Diego Nunes Valadares- GIS presentation

Hollie Auchterlonie, Drew Michel, and Dan Patzke with Dr. John Heppen, receiving senior atlases

Emily and Kaitlynn Wilcoxson enjoying the Spring Banquet.

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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