Notes from the Chair

Fall brought a department name change to the more contemporary Geography and Geographic Information Science. It is more descriptive of our course offerings and the future direction of the department.

Several of our students participated in scholarly activities this fall which are detailed in other parts of the newsletter. Our students also displayed their research at the Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity Gala on December 3. We have also been blessed by international students from Trinidad, Brazil, Japan, China, and Korea in our classes. We are very proud of students’ accomplishments.

Brad Bittorf (1983) visited the department and campus. We were happy to show him how technology has changed. Geography Awareness Week brought a visit from Nick Kelch from the ESRI Corporation on career opportunities for students. This was an especially exciting addition to our usual open house during Geography Awareness Week. We also had a visit from Tim Leininger from Inver Hills Community College about working more closely in the future in matriculating students into our program.

I want to thank Charlie, Matt, Matt, Ruth, and Connie for their hard work and good cheer despite often trying circumstances. I especially want to thank them in going the extra mile in helping students with their undergraduate research projects and the extra time and paperwork that often goes into assisting students.

We in the department ask for you continued good wishes and your word of mouth on the good work we do here. It does matter when citizens, administrators, and politicians hear you speak in support of Geography and Geographic Information Science.

Finally, we say farewell to Connie Simpson, our department associate, who is retiring in January. There is no way we could have run the department without her. I especially want to thank her for all the work she did in helping us plan the Spring Banquet, Geography Awareness Week, receptions, and the third floor picnic and Christmas party. I will miss hearing about Chuck and her family and talking Twins baseball with her.
CONGRATULATIONS,
Fall Graduates!

Jason Blatz    Anthony Tumbarello
Emily Wilcoxson Kaitlynn Wilcoxson
Steven Wolf

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

Scott Adolphson (2011) graduated from Central Washington University with an MS in Resource Management in March 2015. He now has a position at USGS, Minnesota Water Science Center.

Hollie Auchterlonie (2015) was hired as an IT Specialist 2 with Minnesota Geospatial Information Office for the State of Minnesota. She has also recently married.

SAVE THE DATE
SGO BANQUET
APRIL 23, 2016

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
DeWayne and Gerda Benedict
Jack and Marilyn Bostrack

Scott Nelson Fund:
Bradley Bittorf and Deb Austin

Geography Fund:
Dr. John Weigel and Christine Weigel
Jack and Rebecca Rasmussen

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

EMERITUS FACULTY
Mike Albert – had a great trip to Pennsylvania in October to attend the Antique Auto Club of America’s Easter Division Fall Meeting, which is the largest antique automobile festival in the world. He continued on to visit former UWRF English Department faculty member Laura Quinn and Jim Hathaway. He looks forward to a January escape to St. Thomas and St. John USVI with fellow geographer friends Deb Pile and Jack Flynn.
Faculty News

Ruth Baker had an active fall semester. She taught two sections of GEOG 110: Physical Environment: Patterns and Systems, GEOG 212: Weather & Climate and GEOG 318: Global Water Resources. She and Jeremiah are enjoying the challenges of parenting their 9-month old daughter.

Matt Dooley has had an exciting Fall semester teaching Introduction to GISci (GEOG 250), Map Design (GEOG 351), and Field Methods (GEOG 366). In October, as part of the NACIS mapping conference, he co-organized a map art exhibit in Minneapolis. The exhibit was a huge success and drew a steady stream of visitors from the public. It was covered by Minnesota Public Radio and later written up on the International Map Year’s website (see http://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/10/16/map-exhibit and http://mapyear.org/international-map-year-event-at-nacis-2015-in-minneapolis-usa/).

Along with five Geography students, Matt also taught a workshop on campus for the NACIS conference focusing on mapping with gunpowder, a technique adapted from Randy Johnston in the Art Department (see https://www.flickr.com/gp/135502664@N05/3m3X55 for photos). Matt and the students had an amazing time, and got to rub shoulders with the finest in cartography, including Cynthia Brewer (of ColorBrewer) and representatives from Apple and CartoDB, among others.

John Heppen spent a busy time teaching this semester. He taught Geography, 120 Human Geography; Geography 240, The United States; and Geography 324, Historical Geography of the United States. He attended the West Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers meeting. He presented a poster with his friend and coauthor, David Beard of Minnesota-Duluth. The poster Graphic Novels in Teaching the Geography of Asia might be familiar to those who took Geography of Asia and Oceania. He is looking forward to the AAG meeting in San Francisco. He’s trying to find time to do some writing and as a political geographer as he is pretty fascinated by what’s been happening in presidential politics. He on-going interests include: comic books, professional wrestling, and aquarium hobbies.

This fall, Matt Millett has been busy managing the GIS Lab, teaching one section of Intro to Geographic Information Science, serving on Faculty Senate, and advising both students in the GISci Certificate program and the Student Geography Organization (whew!). The Certificate Program is doing well and the last of the half dozen or so Brazilian students are wrapping up their coursework at the end of the spring semester. SGO has benefitted from the leadership of new president Diego Valadares, who organized a number of events including a weekly Game Night in the GIS Lab, a trip to Crystal Cave, and a GIS Jobs presentation in November, among many others. Matt will be busy during J-term teaching GIS Theory and Methods in the GIS Lab and Human Geography online.

Charlie Rader – has taught his usual rotation of human geography and GIS courses this semester. He continues to work with the Semester Abroad: Europe (SA: E) program and is currently directing that program. This past year he had two photography exhibits focusing on images from his travels. Europa was a series of urban-related travel images from his experiences with the SA: E program and was displayed at Gallery 122 in River Falls. Among the Trees was an exhibit of landscape photographs made over the past decade and was at the Harriet Barry Gallery in UW-RF Library. He is currently developing with Assistant Professor of Art - Brett Kallusky a landscape photography class that deals with geographical aspects of making images that represent place and they hope to launch it in the next year as an education abroad offering that can be taught in several locations throughout Europe. He attended the NACIS conference in Minneapolis this October and has mentored several student projects over the semester. He is currently working on several maps for a book on canoes. Gromit continues to rule the house with an iron paw, because it really is all about him. Nancy is well and continues in her various roles at MNGeo.
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 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

Fall Semester Student Activities
West Lakes Conference
UW-Eau Claire, October 2015

Emily and Kaitlynn Wilcoxon both presented papers at the West Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on October 16, 2015. Emily presented Gender and Climate Change and Kaitlynn presented Regional Distribution in Income Inequality across the United States. Kaitlynn won second place in the undergraduate student paper competition.

Below: Kaitlynn is pictured (center) with her award.
NACIS Mapping Conference
Minneapolis, October 2015

Six students were able to attend the conference with Dr. Matt Dooley and Dr. Charles Rader thanks to funding from the Scott Nelson Fund. Diego N Valadares, Rachel Potter, David Bergs, Alex Meincke, Jason Blatz and Kyle Glowa all were able to attend the conference to attend workshops, explore career opportunities and network with other geographers. Thank you to all who have contributed to the Scott Nelson Fund which directly benefits our students.

Fall Gala
December 3, 2015

Several students from Geography presented their undergraduate research at the annual event sponsored by UWRF Undergraduate Scholarly and Creative Activity. Students and faculty mentors for those participating from Geography and Geographic Information Sciences are listed below.

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Mathew Dooley, for the following students:

**Hidden Trails along the Kinnickinnic**
David Bergs and Danilo Silva da Silva

**The Ballon Project**
Jason Blatz, Diego Valadares and Sammi Grzybowski

**Using GPS to ceate high resolution terrain data**
Tyler Glade, Michael Wallace & Trent Gundrum

**White Tail ridge Mountain Bike Map**
Kyle Glowa, Tucker Hagen, Cody Stencil & Alex Hamus

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Charles Rader, for the following students:

**Trumpeter Swan Preserve Boundary Marking Proposal**
Steven Wolf

**The Mapping of Solar Alignments in Neolithic Burial Cairns of the Orkney Islands**
Anthony Tumbarello

Anthony Tumbarello presenting his project during National Geographic Awareness Week.

Link to Fall Gala photos:
https://flic.kr/s/aHskpQXxiT

Congratulations to all participants!
GIS OPEN HOUSE- November 18
Brazilian international student Diego Valadares talks about using this helium balloon and a GoPro with geography student Jason Blatz to capture aerial photos for a project. The two students spoke during the GIS Lab Open House as part of Geography Awareness Week, November 15-21, 2015.

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: