"Geography is the subject that holds the key to our future" - Michael Palin

Notes From the Chair

By Charlie Rader

As you see, we are going digital with this issue of The Land Rover. Katie Possehl, our Program Associate, has lead the charge on this, along with enhancing our social media presence; we will continue to send out paper copies to those who request it, but the digital newsletter allows us color and links that can connect you with all the interesting things happening in the department. So what is going on in the department?

We’ve had an active fall with teaching and conference attendance. We continue to have good students and are actively recruiting more. If you do know of any promising high-school student we’d be happy to talk
with them about geography and GIS. Over the summer, the Board of Regents approved our request to pursue the development of a Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science and are currently completing that application. One challenge that we have is the odd calculus that the administration uses in determining the number of majors, so once we work through that we plan to offer two degree emphases within the department.

The Student Geography Organization continues along and is actively working toward the Annual Banquet in April and having some fun along the way. Our thanks to our outgoing graduating SGO President, Alex Meincke, and incoming SGO President, Rachel Potter, for keeping the organization moving forward. John appears to be enjoying not being chair a little too much, but is keeping mostly out of trouble with Faculty Senate. Ruth has been busy with a large section of Physical Environments and preparing for Spring Semester. Matt has been busy with his gunpowder mapping and projects with his students in Field Methods and GPS, many of which are being presented at the UWRF Fall URSCA Gala.

We are going through Program Review this year and preparing for Higher Learning Commission accreditation starting next year, so we’ve been working on updating and refreshing the curriculum to better align with our specialization in the department. We are still living through the effects of significant budget cuts over the past 8-years. We’ll be discussing how best to update and maintain the GIS lab over the Spring Semester, so there is no lack of paperwork this semester.

What strange times in which we live, but these are the times in which we live. Our best wishes to everyone for the holidays and New Year.

Recent News

Rader Receives 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award

Aug. 29, 2016 - Professor and department chair, Charlie Rader, received the 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award for the second time this past fall, awarded by the College of Arts and Sciences, and based on responses from alumni in the college. Previous recipients in the department include Matt Dooley, Don Petzold and Ruth Hale. Photo by Kathy M. Helgeson, University Communications
Time to Fly, Falcons...

Dec. 16, 2016 - The following students graduated on Saturday, Dec. 17th. The Department of Geography and GIScience wishes you the very best!

Carl Bjornstal, Senior Merit Award, geography major
Tyler Galde, Falcon Travel Grant recipient, GIS minor
Matthew Holub, Student Geography Organization Treasurer, geography major and GIS/cartography minor
Thomas Huberty, GIS minor
Alexander Meincke, Student Geography Organization President, GIS minor
Cody Stencil, geography major and GIS/cartography minor

Featured Student Projects
(continued…)
Trash Accumulation on UWRF Campus by Kalley Swift and Kirsten Schmidt

Project Summary:

INTRODUCTION
UWRF prides itself on sustainability and leaving a greener footprint. One obstacle that stands in the way of maintaining a green campus is the accumulation of trash and the negative aesthetics associated with it. The objective of this study was to assess how well UWRF can live up to its promise of being a clean and eco-friendly environment. The location of trash on campus along with trash cans, recycling bins, and dumpsters were collected to analyze their position relative to each other. Spatial analysis was performed through a heat map of all compiled trash along with a buffer zone map to display how effective UWRF’s trash can locations are compared to the placement of trash.

Figure 1: The map above is a heat map of campus. High concentrated areas of trash are shown as red dots

RESULTS

After two weeks of data collection, 888 pieces of trash were observed and mapped. The heat map (Figure 1) shows that trash accumulates in high density around dorm buildings and in parking lots which are located on the perimeter of campus. Trash in the center of campus is evenly distributed but not as dense. Our analysis suggests that there are an adequate number of trash cans and recycling bins distributed throughout campus. There was also drug paraphernalia, cigarettes, and one firework found on campus which is against UWRF official policy.
Figure 2: The map above is a spatial analysis map showing the distribution of 94 trash cans and 32 recycling bins across campus. A blue 100 foot buffer zone is shown around each trash can. Each trash data point is shown in orange. This map demonstrates how there is an adequate number of trash cans and recycling bins despite the excessive trash around the perimeter of campus in parking lots and dormitory buildings.

Field Methods and GPS class project

Drone video by students; Rachel Potter, Gary Strohbeen Brett LaCoy; and professor, Matt Dooley. Watch the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nSN4p6ob

Letter from the SGO President

By Alex Meincke

Dec. 11, 2016

The Student Geography Organization had another great semester. We had quite a few members graduate last Spring and more this semester, including myself. We have been actively recruiting for next year.
There are a few new members already, and I have heard from students who are interested in joining our club.

Once again, we had a successful bake sale, and we used those profits to attend a Timberwolves game. We will continue to have bake sales in the future as they are a very good fundraiser for our club and allow us to have social gatherings. The semester started off well with a taco party night at Dr. Rader’s and we will finish up with a pizza party at his house as well.

I have enjoyed my time in SGO. Being a leader in the organization, I have gained many lifelong skills, made countless friends, and was able to get to know the professors in a way I never could before. My skills gained here were very useful in my internships, and being the President of this club has helped me secure a job before I graduate. Through SGO, I was able to attend the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) conference in 2015. It was hosted in St. Paul, and I was able to meet professionals in the field of cartography. SGO has prepared me for my post college career and has enriched my life so much more than I could have ever imagined.

Thank you for the memories.

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**Faculty Projects and Updates**

**Charlie Rader** resumed being chair for what he states will be his last time. He and Nancy had a good summer. Charlie spent 3 weeks in Scotland working with alumnus Dan Bochman on a map of Islay whisky production which they presented at the NACIS conference in October. He and Nancy traveled east to see family and had a couple of trips into the BWCA. Other than chair duties and teaching, he has had a little time for photography and house projects. Nancy and Gromit are well.

**John Heppen** taught two sections of Human Geography, the Geography of the United States, and Political Geography this Fall. Political Geography is always fun to teach during an election year, and this year was especially interesting to say the least. John is one of the co-editors of the *Atlas of the 2016 Elections*, published by Rowman & Littlefield, after being a contributor for the previous editions. Look for the Atlas in 2017. On October 15, John joined geographers from UW-Eau Claire and Macalester College on a bus trip to the West Lakes Division annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) in
Marquette, Michigan. He presented a paper, entitled *Geographies of Socialist and Protest Voting in Michigan Presidential Elections*.

**Ruth Baker** continues to teach Global Water Resources (GWR) and Physical Environment. A recently proposed, **Sustainable Justice minor** includes GWR as a required, core course, and a **major grant proposal** has been submitted to offer linked courses with other disciplines. GWR would be linked with Sustainability in the Arts, a course in the Stage and Screen Arts department. We will find out about the minor and the grant proposal in the next few months. The Physical Environment course is also being considered as an elective for the proposed minor, which should generate further interest in the discipline of Geography and help us to be more visible to students on campus.

Ruth and Jeremiah are excited to announce they are expecting their second child around Spring break in March!

**Uisge Beatha: A Deep Map of Islay**, the work of Charlie Rader and Dan Bochman, alumnus and PhD candidate at the University of Edinburgh, was presented at the North American Cartographic Information Society in Colorado Springs this past October. The project reflected on the chorology of the Islay whisky industry in order to understand its impact in place creation. The project summarizes archival research, field work, interviews, sketches, photographs, and mapping related to this industry. Dan and Charlie are continuing to refine the map and hope to have it out in form for popular consumption.

**Mapping the St. Croix Valley: Beyond Sustainability** was a project by Drs. Florence Monsour and Mary Wright in the UWRF - Teacher Education Department, Professor Emeritus, Kelly Cain from the UWRF-Environmental Science Program and now director of the St. Croix Institute, and Geography Department member Charlie Rader. The work documents the diversity and locations of sustainability projects in the St. Croix Watershed and was presented at The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education 2016 conference in Baltimore this past October.

**Canoes: A Natural History in North America**, by Mark Neuzil and Norman Sims is a University of Minnesota Press publication that documents a singular North American artifact and traces its history from dugouts through birch bark and cedar to modern composites. In addition it delves into the social and cultural history of the craft. Charlie Rader contributed five maps to the project: **Range of Paper Birch**,
We Hear That.....

UWRF Biology Professor Emeritus, Dr. Jack Bostrack, husband of Geography’s retired program associate, Marilyn Bostrack, passed away on November 30th in River Falls. We in the department extend our sympathies to Marilyn and her family. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Wisconsin Chapter 3313 S. Packerland Dr., Suite E, DePere, WI 54115. An obituary may be found at http://bakken-young.com/jack-bostrack-11302016/

Don Petzold enjoyed this prolonged warm autumn, but despite this, still has yard work to do! He and Liny started last summer by relaxing and reconnecting with family and friends at the family cabin in Massachusetts, as they do every year. However, the highlight of summer was a week-long “in celebration of wine” cruise up the Rhône River in France, beginning with three days in Barcelona and ending with three days in Paris. Meanwhile, Liny has finally retired and has started new quilting projects and Romanian language lessons in preparation for an eventual trip to Romania to investigate their families’ roots.

Michael Albert sends his greeting to alumni, students, faculty and friends of geography. In October, he made his annual pilgrimage to the Antique Auto Club of America’s annual extravaganza in Hershey, Pennsylvania and visited former UWRF English Professor Laura Quinn and Geography Professor Jim Hathaway at their new home in Pittsburgh. He has also been in a process of downsizing his library, other personal belongings, and self and is having success on all three endeavors.
Carol Barrett sends her regards and reports that she is still doing genealogical research professionally and has been able to help some people trace the journey of their ancestors across Europe. She states that her mind is still working pretty well, the “rest is more or less going to hell.”

Our Favorite Sites

"Four Million Commutes Reveal New U.S. 'Megaregions," National Geographic- Nov. 30, 2016
NACIS Practical Cartography Day, youtube.com - Nov. 18, 2016
Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections

Why All World Maps Are Wrong: Watch the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIID5FDi2JQ
Save the Date!
Annual SGO Banquet
Saturday, April 22, 2017
@ 5 pm
University Center, UWRF

More details coming soon!
Visit uwrf.edu/GEOG/SGO

Thank You to Our Donors....

Your support of the Department of Geography and GIScience is greatly appreciated!

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Alumni

We would love to hear from you!
Submit the alumni form below, or send your news to geography@uwrf.edu

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Most Memorable Times at URF:

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