Notes from the Chair

I write to you having nearly completed my first fall semester as chair. It’s been full of meetings and other chair duties, but I’ve found it very rewarding. We’ll see how I feel after a few more years. We made our transition back to KFA after the summer renovation to the building. We have new office furniture, carpet, and fresh paint. Most importantly we were able to get the lab together without losing anything.

It’s been an exciting semester for us in geography. The big news has been the addition of Ian Muehlenhaus as our GIS lab manager and human geography instructor. Ian is a native of Duluth, majored in geography at the University of Minnesota - Duluth, and obtained his Master’s at Penn State. He returned to Minnesota to continue his education at the University of Minnesota where he is working on his doctorate. Ian has also taught at Minnesota, Metro State, and Macalester. He’s been a great addition to our department and has done an exceptional job of managing the lab, teaching, and most importantly he’s brought vitality and new ideas to the department. He has undertaken various projects and mentored students. One of his most successful projects has been an interactive campus map that will soon be accessible via the university webpage. It’s something we’ve felt that our campus has needed for years and it’s almost done. We look forward to Ian’s contributions to our department.

Another important event was Geography Awareness Week, November 17-21. The 21st was especially big for us since we hosted our GIS Lab Open House and invited people across campus to meet Ian. In addition to faculty, the provost, our dean and other college deans and administrators visited our lab. We had many positive comments and it was nice to share with the campus community the great work done by our faculty and students.

Some of you have heard about budget difficulties facing Wisconsin. It’s true, but we should weather this storm without any major cuts or setbacks. We’ll have to be smarter and more creative without money next year like everybody else.

John Heppen

Congratulations December Graduates!

Steve Baisden, Nicole Helgeson, and Sean Raleigh.

We wish you the best of luck and we will miss you.
DONATIONS

Donations to the department go to 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:
Mike Albert     Charlie & Nancy Rader

Geography Fund:
Ann Legreid     Bernadette Vanatta
John Weigel     Wells Fargo (Employee Matching Gift)

Scott Nelson Fund:
William Klingelhoets  Don & Liny Petzold
Charlie & Nancy Rader

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Cheryl Arcand (current student) was awarded a Damon Anderson Memorial Scholarship for 2008-09 from The Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA). The Scholarship was established to help students working towards a degree related to land information (such as geographic information systems, geography or urban planning).

Steve Baisden and Sean Raleigh (graduating seniors) presented maps at the annual meeting of the North American Cartographic Information Society in Missoula, MT in October. Both maps were critiqued by internationally known cartographers.

Ryan Babler (07) is now working as an Automated Mapping Specialist with Wright County, MN.

Mark Huonder (current student) is serving in Afghanistan in the Air Force National Guard. He hopes to be returning for the beginning of spring semester.

Lewann Ihrke (08) is working for Wolters Kluwer as a Mapping Analyst.

Aaron Kenealy (06) has a job making fishing maps for Fishing Hotspots, Inc. in Rhinelander, WI. He is engaged and planning a wedding for next August.

Matt Millett (08) and wife Molly are proud parents of daughter, Marigold, born in August. Matt has begun his studies toward a Masters degree in geography at the University of Oregon.

Richard O’Brien (07) purchased an old 27-foot sailboat that he fixed up then motored and sailed to Florida.

Ryan Stovern (08) is now working for Kelly Services/City of Superior.

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Mike Albert traveled to Pennsylvania in October to attend the Antique Auto Club of America’s Eastern Division fall meeting, the world’s largest antique car show and flea market, which attracts a quarter million visitors during its three days at Hershey. On his way home, he visited former UWRF English Professor LAURA QUINN and her geographer husband JIM HATHAWAY (instruction at UWRF in 1984) at their home near Mercer, PA. Spectacular fall color and temperatures near 80 made this a memorable visit to Pennsylvania. After a long delay because of a change in publisher, his essay “The Japanese” finally appeared in the Encyclopedia of the Midwest from Indiana University Press. In November he spoke at Western Illinois University in Macomb during their Geography Awareness Week celebration. His topic was “The Landscape of Abandonment in North Dakota.” Joining him was JACK FLYNN, chair of Geography, History & Classics at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. Jack has been an instructor at UWRF on four occasions. While visiting Macomb, they enjoyed a field trip with cartographers SIYOUNG PARK and ARLIN FENTOM and visited Carthage, Warsaw, and Nauvoo, then crossed the Mississippi to visit Keokuk, Iowa. Mike has now laid in a supply of firewood and plans to enter hibernation until the arrival of spring.

Matt Dooley has had a busy semester teaching and preparing courses materials for the spring. In October, he presented a poster at the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) meeting in Missoula, Montana. He sponsored two geography students to attend and present at the conference. Next semester Matt will be teaching the Quantitative Techniques course and will be preparing for the new Field Methods course offered in the fall.

John Heppen had an exciting Fall Semester, which was his first fall as chair. John taught Human Geography, Geography of the United States and Political Geography. Good timing for teaching Political Geography as the election provided great discussion and opportunities for study. He enjoyed a trip to the Great Plains Rocky
Mountains AAG conference in Grand Forks, North Dakota where he was a panelist discussing the geographic perspectives on the 2008 Election. In October he was honored to give a guest lecture at Western Michigan University, titled: "Geographical Interpretations of the 2008 Presidential Election in Michigan, the Midwest, and the Nation." He had an article published in the Wisconsin Geographer, "Continuity, Change, and Campaign Visits in the Midwest during the 2004 Presidential Election" and recently had two articles accepted for the upcoming Encyclopedia of Geography by Sage Publications. One article is about Regions and Regionalism and the other is a piece on Carville Earle, his advisor at LSU. And yes his edited volume is moving along slowly but surely. His spare time is devoted to his hobbies.

**Ian Muehlenhaus** has been extremely caffeinated since arriving on campus this August and with good reason; he is too excited about a multitude of projects to worry about sleeping. Ian taught two sections of Geog 120 this fall and will do so again in the spring. He has also been busy working on several GIS and cartography projects, including: (1) an interactive campus map, (2) an art installation map, and (3) a map showing where every first year student on campus migrated from. Beyond maps, Ian is also in the process of completely revamping the GIS Lab web site, which will be up and running by early January. His goal is to make the site extremely interactive and student-oriented. On the weekends he is producing a series of webcast tutorials covering topics in GIS, Flash, and cartographic design to be posted on the site. Advising is also one of Ian's favorite things to do. He worked with the National Geographic Society as chief adviser and editor of 10 geographic “hotspots” around the world for the My Wonderful World campaign to highlight online using Google Earth. He also helped his former cartography student prepare and present the award winning map, “The Great War in East Africa,” at the annual NACIS Conference. Finally, Ian is spending most of his weekends working on research projects and his dissertation, which is half-written and at three-quarters baked! He presented the preliminary results of his dissertation at the NACIS Conference in Missoula, Montana. He has also been writing book reviews and co-authored a book chapter on cartographic symbolization, all of which should be published in 2009. He and Matt Dooley are planning several research projects for the upcoming year as well. Ian is enthused about being part of such an energetic and dynamic department and looks forward to helping students with their GIS and map projects more in the future.

**Don Petzold** had an interesting summer with two trips to the cabin in Massachusetts, one to Washington, DC, and another to visit former SGO President, MARK TINKLER (KSU ‘91), at Fallon Naval Air Station in Nevada. This year marks Don's 21st year of teaching at UWRF and a return to being advisor to SGO, which he has enjoyed very much. He had a usual fall semester focused on teaching Physical Environments, Physical Environments of Cities, and Canada. This also marks the beginning of Don's 17th year teaching his “Weather Wonders” mini-course to 4th graders in Saint Paul. This semester, big news centers on the wedding of son, Andrew, to Logan Thompson, a UWRF grad student in counseling. They bought a house in Rochester where Andrew continues his Ph. D. research on nicotine addiction at the Mayo Clinic. Helena’s twin girls have just had their first birthday and are growing fast and developing their own personalities.

**Charlie Rader** thought he was returning to the classroom fulltime, but over the summer, he was appointed Chair of International Studies. He is also serving as chair of the Faculty Senate International Programs committee, and has served on the Search and Screen Committees for the CIO and a tenure-track position in Sociology. He attended the Minnesota GIS/LIS meeting in October and caught-up with 18 former students there. He also attended the Wisconsin System conference on Best Practices in Global Education this past fall. With that said, he has spent some time photographing, canoeing, and is just about done with his third cedar strip canoe. Nancy is well and still working for the Land Management Information Center and the Governor's Council on GIS. They spent the summer landscaping around the house and made their annual pilgrimage to the BWCA. Velcro is well.

**Recommended Reading:**

Hunter Davies (reprint 2000) – *A Walk along the Wall*. A quirky travelogue from a walk along Hadrian’s Wall, written with a wry sense of humor and irony.


Where on Earth?
From www.funtrivia.com – Answers at the end

1. The sun is about to go down, you, along with a hundred or so other people, are in the Red Center of a vast country waiting to see the changes of color on a vast monolith. This large rock used to be called Ayers Rock, but now it is known by its aboriginal name. What is it?
   a) Wollongong       c) Wagga Wagga
   b) Uluru              d) Woomera

2. You are about to attempt to climb Mount Everest. You are staying in Kathmandu, the capital of this small Himalayan country. Siddartha Gautama (Buddha) was born in this country. Where are you?  (one word)
   a) Nimba       b) Kenya       c) Kilimanjaro       d) Everest

3. You are on a shopping street known as the Ginza. This is the probable birthplace of William Shakespeare. He was baptized there in 1564, but there is no record of his actual place and date of birth.
   a) Tokyo

4. You are crossing the 'blue' Danube, in a city where many great composers lived, among them Johann Strauss, jr., Beethoven and Mozart. Where are you?
   a) Vienna          b) Prague         c) Salzburg      d) Munich

5. You are beside the highest navigable lake in the world, watching the reed boats sailing on the water. It lies between Bolivia and Peru. What lake is it?
   a) Titicaca      b) Victoria      c) Superior      d) Tanzania

6. You are in George Town, an international banking center. You arrived on this small island in the Caribbean by cruise ship. Soon you will be boarding a bus to take you to stingray city, where you can snorkel amidst a lot of stingrays. Where are you?
   a) Bermuda       b) Grand Cayman       c) Jamaica       d) Aruba

7. You are in England looking at the home of the world's greatest playwright. It is a half-timbered Tudor building. Nearby a modern theater stands beside the river that is part of the town's name. Where are you?  (Three words no punctuation)

8. You are in a city that stands at the entrance to the St. Lawrence Seaway. This is a French-speaking city, but you may spot some English signs. Expo 67 was held here and it is the home of McGill University. Where are you?
   a) Toronto         b) Mexico City       c) Quebec City    d) Montreal

9. You are in a city that stands at the entrance to the St. Lawrence Seaway. This is a French-speaking city, but you may spot some English signs. Expo 67 was held here and it is the home of McGill University. Where are you?
   a) Toronto         b) Mexico City       c) Quebec City    d) Montreal

10. You are in Africa, in the Serengeti National Park enjoying seeing all the animals: zebra, giraffe, elephants and even the black rhinoceros. Not too far away is the mountain that inspired one of Ernest Hemingway's short stories. What is this mountain?
    a) Nimba       b) Kenya       c) Kilimanjaro       d) Everest

Web Sites of Interest
Ian Muehlenhaus’ preliminary version of UWRF Interactive campus map, check it out at: http://www.uwrf.edu/geography/campusmap/
Strange Maps – what can one say, but some strange and very-cool maps: http://strangemaps.wordpress.com/
Antique Maps of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. A nice historic collection of maps with search by author and region. Nice scans with reasonable detail. Most focus on East Asia, but some representative examples from other parts of the world. http://lbxml.ust.hk/mp/main.html.
Google Earth Ancient Rome. An overlay of Rome as it was c. 320 AD. It takes a while to load but allows one to navigate a recreation of the city. Fun stuff. http://earth.google.com/rome/index.html.

ATTENTION Newsletter Recipients!
If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of the newsletter rather than the 'hard copy' you receive in the mail, please email geography@uwrf.edu.

Answers to trivia:
1. Uluru, in Australia's Northern Territory, is a wonderful sight to see at sunset. Uluru is sacred to the aboriginal people and to respect them all nearby tourist accommodations have been removed.
2. Nepal lies between India and the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China. Seven of the eight highest mountains in the world lie in, or partly in, Nepal
3. Tokyo, the capital of Japan, is on the island of Honshu. It was formerly known as Edo.
4. Vienna, capital of Austria, was capital of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy from 1867 to 1918.
5. Lake Titicaca is the second largest lake in South America. It is 122 miles long and over fifty miles wide, and is 12,507 feet above sea level.
6. New Orleans The large river is, of course, the Mississippi, and the lake is Lake Pontchartrain. New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz, is situated one hundred miles up the Mississippi from the Gulf of Mexico.
7. Stratford-upon-Avon is the probable birthplace of William Shakespeare. He was baptized there in 1564, but there is no record of his actual place and date of birth.
8. Montreal, named for Mont Royal which rises 769 feet in the middle of the city, is the largest city in the province of Quebec. However, the capital of Quebec is Quebec City.
9. Grand Cayman is the largest of the three Cayman Islands and is part of the British Commonwealth.
10. Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa. It is located in northeast Tanzania. "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" is Hemingway's story. The movie version starred Gregory Peck, Susan Hayward and Ava Gardner.
SGO BANQUET

Mark your calendars now! The SGO Spring Banquet is planned for Saturday, April 25, 2009 in the UWRF University Center. More information will be sent out later in the Spring Semester.

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SGO Update

Once again, SGO had a very busy and productive semester, beginning with Steve Baisden being reelected President and Elizabeth Meyer reelected as Secretary. Chris McPherson was elected Vice President and Mark Huonder, Treasurer. Dr. Don Petzold is serving as SGO Advisor again, the first time since 2001.

There were a number of successful SGO activities including two very successful bake sales with the last one collecting over $200, a Fall Trip to Crystal Cave, a guided tour of the Leinenkugel’s Brewery followed by a group dinner at a restaurant in Chippewa Falls, and also the resurgence of Geography Awareness Week.

Geography Awareness Week was celebrated from November 17th – 22nd, with Wednesday the 19th designated as Geography Awareness Day. This was to get other students familiar with the Geography program and maybe spark an interest in it. The second bake sale was also held on this day. Informational fliers on Geography, the GIS minor, and fliers encouraging students to take an on-line geography quiz were also passed out. This year there were two prizes given away: a $50 gift card for 1st place and two Minnesota Timberwolves tickets for 2nd place. 125 students came to the GIS Lab to take the quiz. Many thanks go out to Steve for his enduring efforts to promote the activity. Hopefully it will bring new students to our program. Overall, SGO members did an excellent job and put forth a great amount of effort into making Geography Awareness Week a success, but the fun did not end there. On Thursday, SGO went to a Minnesota Wild game, and although the Wild lost, it was great to be in good company and enjoy many laughs. Geography Awareness Week ended on Friday with a pizza party at Dr. Rader’s house and the good company and many laughs continued! It was a great week for SGO! Special thanks go out to Dr. Petzold for paying down the cost of the Wild tickets for students and to Dr. Rader, his wife Nancy, and Velcro for welcoming us into their home.

After the successful sale of the new SGO t-shirts in the spring, SGO members were craving for more! This year we chose a new color scheme and ordered hooded sweatshirts. They were displayed with great pride throughout Geography Awareness Week as well as the rest of the semester.

SGO completed another map painting project this semester at River Crest Elementary in Hudson, WI. The map was a colorful 56’ X 72’ and included Hawaii and Alaska (in their proper place!). This annual community service project received rave reviews and was featured in the River Falls and Hudson newspapers. There is now a waiting list of schools that would like SGO to paint a map for them. The process has become very rewarding for SGO members and has received high acclaim by schools and the community.

At the end of the semester there will be nearly $700 in the treasury to be used for the upcoming Spring Trip. That, together with the possibility of “single-event funding” from Student Services, means that the destination for the Spring Trip could almost be limitless! So far, the destination has not been determined, but plans will become more concrete during spring semester.

Best wishes to Chris, who will become Acting-President, and Mark and other returning SGO members for a great Spring Semester!

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SGO Says “Goodbye”...

At the end of the semester, SGO will be saying good-bye to five active members: Sean Raleigh, Nicole Helgeson, Heidi Vanderloop, Elizabeth Meyer, and Steve Baisden.

Elizabeth did a great job as secretary. She will be missed next semester while studying in Scotland but the Geography Lounge will still be known as “Elizabeth’s Office.” After that, it is off to grad school.

Sean is thinking about becoming a commissioned officer in the MN Army National Guard, possibly in the engineering branch. He still enjoys bartending and his dashingly good looks help him get great tips. He will continue to play hockey when he can. Sadly, Sean will be “off the market” as he will be getting married in May to his long time girlfriend Amy, in Mexico. Best of luck to them both! Speaking of Sean, Steve has been overheard by saying, “I will always miss those late nights in the GIS Lab with “my best good friend” Sean.” What he is talking about, we may never know……..

Steve will be joining Elizabeth in Scotland while finally being able to “let loose” as he tries to conquer the world while looking like a lumberjack. As soon as he returns from his journey he plans to live out a half-life long dream of playing hockey in a local men’s league where he and Sean can be on the same team. He also plans on finding a job that allows his creative juices to flow and if that means coming back to school-so be it.

Nicole plans to head to Mexico for the summer where she will take courses to improve her Spanish fluency. We will never forget the time Nicole sang karaoke in front of nearly 30 men to the tune of “Ring of Fire” in a Rapid City, SD bar.

Heidi is a finalist for a Teach For America position, teaching in high poverty communities in rural areas of the U.S.
Map painting at River Crest Elementary School, Hudson, WI. Hand drawn boundaries are outlined in white.

Bright colors are added to the map.

The map is done! Steve Baisden, Don Petzold, Heidi Vanderloop, Chris McPherson, Erika Dehne.

Final touch-ups on the map.

Leinenkugel’s Brewery, Chippewa Falls, WI

Lots of good food for sale on Geography Awareness Day.

We sold everything at the Bake Sale.

SGO enjoying a Wild hockey game.

Inside Crystal Cave, Spring Valley, WI

Pizza party at Charlie Rader’s home.
Steve with posters he designed for Geography Awareness Day, Nov. 19, 2008

Steve helping a student with the online map quiz for Geography Awareness Day.

Steve with the Wild’s new mascot, Nordy.