Notes from the Chair

It’s been a busy Fall Semester here at Geography. I still enjoy serving as chair, but I do admit to getting a little tired of the meetings. However, having an opportunity to work with our faculty, staff, and students in Geography is very rewarding. Our GIS Lab remains in tip-top shape thanks to the hard work of Ian Muehlenhaus. Matt and Charlie continue to work with good cheer and Vicki keeps our department from falling apart.

The biggest news this fall is that Don Petzold has announced his retirement effective at the end of Fall Semester. We will miss Don greatly and all of his contributions to the department. We will be honoring Don at the SGO Spring Banquet, which will be on April 10, 2010 in River Falls. Please make plans to attend this special occasion.

Geography Awareness Week was from November 15-21. We hosted a GIS Lab open house on Monday the 16th. We had many visitors including our new Chancellor, Dean Van Galen and our new Provost Fernando Delgado. SGO created a geography quiz again this year and we enjoyed visits from faculty across the university as well. We also met with our Geography Advisory Board on November 27th on-campus and then had dinner at the Winzer Stube in Hudson. I would like to thank Dave Brandt, Jeff Torgeson, Ezra Zeitler, and Sarah Schrader for joining us and providing us with valuable advice.

Academically we are in the planning stages to provide an undergraduate certificate in GIS. We are excited about this and hope to provide a way for adult learners and students to become qualified in an important skill. More information about this will be forthcoming. We are also planning some slight reorganizing of the GIS curriculum to make our program stronger.

The Great Recession has impacted all of us. We have faced budget cuts and are trying to make do with less. In a time of salary furloughs and tuition increases, we have managed to continue to provide a top-notch education. Of note is that our Geography Scholarship, due to losses in the market, is suffering. We are not able to offer the full $1000 this upcoming Spring, but we will offer a smaller scholarship. We ask that you please consider a contribution to the scholarship, geography fund, or the Scott Nelson fund. Any amount would be appreciated. If 100 people gave an average of $10 we would have raised $1000 which would have a large impact.

Finally, if you know of anyone interested in geography please tell them about us. It can be a potential student, a friend, a teacher, or a coworker. We depend on your good word of mouth as our best advertisement.

John Heppen, Assoc. Professor & Chair
Vicki Kurtenbach, Administrative Support
Matt Dooley, Asst. Professor
Ian Muehlenhaus, Lab Manager & Instructor
Don Petzold, Professor
Charlie Rader, Professor
Congratulations Fall Graduates!

Cheryl Arcand  Erika Kopp
Chris McPherson  Andy Moody

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:  Charlie & Nancy Rader
Geography Fund:  John Weigel
Scott Nelson Fund:  Brad Bittorf  Charlie & Nancy Rader

SGO

This semester has been another busy one for SGO. The fall for SGO began with the selection of a new panel of officers. Andrea Strauch was chosen to head the treasurer position, Dan Bochman (also the President of the History club) is representing the secretary position, senior Martin Patzke is serving as the club Vice-President, and Mark Huonder is the new SGO President.

So far, two very successful Bake Sales have resulted in a very respectable balance in the SGO account. The main reason for the success of the Bake Sales is due to the large amounts of baked goods brought in by SGO.

During Geography Awareness Week, which took place from November 15th to Nov 21st, SGO offered University students from different majors the opportunity to experience parts of the Geography curriculum. University students were given access to the GIS lab and were given a Geography related online quiz. The person with the highest score was given a Visa Giftcard. Although the President was gone for that week, SGO members truly stepped up and made sure that the event ran smoothly.

For the annual Fall Daytrip, SGO members were given the opportunity to spend a day in Minneapolis and St. Paul, learning about the Human and Cultural Geography from former University of River Falls Professor, Dr. Michael Albert. The group started at St. Paul Cathedral, walked to an overlook of Summit Avenue, toured along Lake Street and up Nicollet Avenue and experienced the tastes of a local deli, Kramarczuk’s Sausage Company and Deli, for lunch.

Continuing the tradition started last year, SGO also held a Grilled Cheese Sandwich Sale on November 12th at local bar and restaurant, Bo’s and Mine. Deviating from the previous cheese sales, SGO decided to join with the UWRF Women’s Club Volleyball team in order to further the success of the sale. The event was a hit; over one hundred grilled cheese sandwiches were sold!

Looking ahead, SGO has at least two school map paintings lined up in the Spring Semester. As always, we have two more bake sales in the spring as well as one more grilled cheese sale. SGO will also be kept busy planning the annual spring trip, which is traditionally the highlight of the SGO year. SGO has decided to design and produce new club t-shirts. If you any interested in purchasing an SGO shirt, contact Mark Huonder at mark.huonder@uwrf.edu. The prices have not been determined yet, and as soon as we have a design ready, it will be posted on our website at www.uwrf.edu/geography.

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Thanks to those of you who have updated us through the Alumni link on the department web page! For those of you who have not, please do so, we’d love to hear from you. http://www.uwrf.edu/geography/


MARK HUONDER (current student) is currently working as an intern for the City of Woodbury in Minnesota.

MURIS LUCAREVIC (’06) is working for the San Diego police department and has organized a team handball club which took part in the national competition last summer.

JUSTIN MARCH (Sp 2009) won Honorable Mention for his animated map, "Explorations in Cartomorphology," in the 2009 North American Cartographic Information Society Student Animated Map Competition.

ANDY MOODY (Fall 09) worked as an intern at the City of River Falls during the summer of 2009.
**Faculty & Staff Notes**

**Mike Albert** has been retired for seven years! He suffered from H1N1 influenza in late September, but recovered just in time for his annual visit to Hershey, PA for the world's largest antique auto festival from October 7-9. He then visited former UWRF faculty Laura Quinn (English) and Jim Hathaway (Geography) near Mercer, PA, and hiked in Moraine State Park. He disapproves of the snow and cold, and fortunately will be spending part of January in the U.S. Virgin Islands with geographers Deborah Pile and Jack Flynn.

**Matt Dooley** has had a busy semester teaching Introduction to Cartography and GIS, Animated and Interactive Cartography, and a new course Field Methods and GPS. In October he presented a paper co-authored by Justin March (former student) at the North American Cartographic Information Society in Sacramento. He also sponsored Dan Bochman to attend and present a poster at the same conference. Next semester Matt will be teaching Intro to Cartography and GIS, the Quantitative Methods course, and Map Design.

**John Heppen** enjoyed a semester teaching, researching, and serving as department chair. He taught Human Geography, Geography of the United States, and Historical Geography of the United States. He is happy to announce that his co-edited volume was released. “Geography, History, and the American Political Economy” was published by Lexington Books. His coeditor, Sam Otterstrom, was a classmate at LSU and is now at BYU. You can find the book at the Amazon or Barnes and Noble websites or directly from Lexington Books. He has one chapter in the book and he co-wrote the introduction and conclusion with Sam. Other contributors include John Agnew, Fred Shelley, and Anne Mosher. He presented a paper at the West Lakes meeting which was at Macalester College in Saint Paul titled “A Geographical Analysis of the 2008 Presidential Election in the Northern Battleground States”. He’s hoping to publish an article or book chapter with his friend David Beard at UM-Duluth. The topic is a secret, but should be of no surprise to those who know his interests. Yes it will be a refereed, scholarly publication! He’s also been asked to write a little bit on the 2008 election in the Midwest for an atlas to be published by Rowman and Littlefield. Plus, he is keeping busy serving on the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, which is always interesting.

**Ian Muehlenhaus** has had his hands full since last spring. On June 3, he became the dad of a six-pound girl named Svenja. In October he successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Minnesota. He presented some of his research at the AAG West Lakes Conference and received an honorable mention award. He is currently gearing up to teach Human Geography online over J-Term, and working on several papers based off his dissertation for submission to journals. His goal for winter break is to master using his new skate-shoes in the hallway, so that he can race down to the lab at a moment’s notice when needed next semester!

**Don Petzold** is retiring after 33 years of teaching, the last 21½ years here at UWRF. That’s all for now!

**Charlie Rader** has been teaching GIS Theory and Methods, Africa, and Introduction to International Studies this past semester. Over the summer, he was appointed to serve a 3-year term as Chair of the International Studies Program. He has continued on as chair of the Faculty Senate International Programs Committee and has the committee working on implementation of the results from an external review of campus internationalization efforts. Over the summer, he took a digital photography workshop with Craig Blacklock on nature photography and is slowly (read very slowly) making a transition from film to digital. Nancy and Charlie travelled to Washington to visit family and friends, to the East Coast to catch up with family, and made their annual pilgrimage to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. They are currently preparing for Charlie to teach fall semester 2010 in the Wisconsin in Scotland Program. Nancy continues to work for the State of Minnesota, now in the newly formulated Minnesota Geospatial Information Office MnGEO. Velcro is 15½ and doing remarkable well.

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**Recommended Reading:**


*Placing History: How Maps, Spatial Data, and GIS are Changing Historical Scholarship.* Anne Kelly Knowles, 2008. ESRI Press. An examination of how maps and GIS are developing as a method for historical research.

OH THOSE STUDENTS...

The name of the French settlers who farmed in 17th century Québec: The Mounties

Seasons are due to the tilt of the earth’s access.

Mt. Kimonojaro

Owinnebago (Ougadougou)

Primate city – a large city of apes

Web Sites of Interest

Norwegian Cartozoologic Society -
http://www.kartozoologi.no/English/About_cartozoology.html - specializes in identifying and mapping hidden two-dimensional cartographic representations of animals, i.e. street patterns that look like animal shapes. Consumption of large amounts of alcohol might be involved in the formulation of this society.

People’s Map - http://peoplesmap.com/ - community based mapping service that allows users to create and maintain maps of Britain by drawing features onto a map. The resulting maps can be used for creating new maps free of copyright, which is unusual for Britain.

Open Street Map - http://www.openstreetmap.org/ - is an open source free editable map of the world based on the model of a Wiki.

Geothought - http://geothought.blogspot.com/ - Peter Batty’s blog on dynamic mapping and location based services. A former CTO of Intergraphy and Smallworld he has some interesting insights into the changing nature of mapping.

U.S. Geography Quiz
http://geography.about.com/library/quiz/082109/blquizusgeographyquiz.htm

1. What is the largest landlocked harbor in the world?
   a. Boston Harbor  c. Tampa Bay
   b. San Francisco Bay  d. Puget Sound

2. While Los Angeles County is the most populous, what is the second most populous county in the United States?
   a. Cook County, IL  c. Kings County, NY
   b. Haric County, TX  d. Maricopa County, AZ

3. Which state does not have some land north of Canada’s southernmost point?
   a. Pennsylvania  c. Wyoming
   b. California  d. Missouri

4. Excluding the complex Mississippi-Missouri River system, what is the longest river in the United States?
   a. Colorado  c. Arkansas
   b. Yukon  d. Rio Grande

5. Which city lies on the shores of Lake St. Clair?
   a. Detroit  c. Buffalo
   b. New Orleans  d. Louisville

6. While Wyoming is the least populous state, which state is the second least populous, or the 49th most populous?
   a. South Dakota  c. Vermont
   b. North Dakota  d. Alaska

7. What is the longest interstate highway in the U.S.?
   a. I-10  c. I-80
   b. I-15  d. I-90

8. Which country is responsible for the largest share of U.S. exports?
   a. Canada  c. Mexico
   b. China  d. Japan

9. While the Big Island of Hawaii is the country’s largest, what is the second largest island in area in the U.S.?
   a. Long Island  c. Puerto Rico
   b. Prince of Wales Island  d. Kodiak Island

10. What is the approximate average elevation of the U.S.?
    a. 1000 feet  c. 2000 feet
    b. 1500 feet  d. 2500 feet

Answers: 1. b, 2. a, 3. d, 4. b., 5. a, 6. c, 7. d, 8. a, 9. d, 10. d

To receive an electronic version of the newsletter rather than the ‘hard copy’ in the mail, please email geography@uwrf.edu.

UWRF-Geography has two groups on Facebook:
   UWRF SGO – Geography
   UWRF Geography Alumni


Answers: 1. b, 2. a, 3. d, 4. b., 5. a, 6. c, 7. d, 8. a, 9. d, 10. d