Notes from the Chair

It's been a challenging semester. With Charlie exiled to Scotland for the semester, we've missed all the things he does so we'll welcome him back in mid-December.

We had a successful Geography Awareness Week and GIS lab open house on November 16. Once again faculty, students, and administrators from across campus visited the lab and we believe we've left a good impression on them. Good impressions are what we need right now. As many of you know the economy and budget cutbacks have forced us to do more with less. We will not be able to search for a tenure-track replacement for Don Petzold's position. There are just too many requests and too few dollars available on campus. Faculty potentially face even greater sacrifices in salary and benefits. We are willing to do our share of sacrifice in light of these problems, but many of us on campus fear that the educational mission of UW-River Falls is close to being hurt. These tough times though have revealed to me how hard working and great our faculty and staff here in Geography are. I can honestly say that our dedication to students has increased as we realize that students need a top-flight education to compete for jobs and graduate schools during these difficult times.

I wish to thank Charlie, Matt, Ian, Chaina, Dave, and Vicki for their continued dedication and good cheer and the students for continuing to excel and push us to do better. Many of our students are facing increasing financial hardship so I once again ask you to contribute to the Geography Scholarship, Scott Nelson Fund, or the Geography Fund. I wish to especially thank Mike Albert for his generosity. The library recently received the Encyclopedia of Geography, a six-volume encyclopedia just released. With Mike's generous donation and by cobbling together funds the library was able to purchase it in both print and online versions.

John

Congratulations
Fall Graduates!

Brett Sergenian & Michelle Weeks

Recommended Reading:
Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World by Dan Koeppel. This book out in paperback tells the fascinating tale of the banana and its impact on history and politics. Geographers will quickly appreciate the geography of the banana and see how its spatial diffusion and economic geography has influenced world events.

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Apologies that the Alumni Link on the department web page went missing, it is up and running again. 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/

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.
**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:** Davida Alperin  
**Geography Fund:** Mike Albert  
**Scott Nelson Fund:** John Cavanaugh

---

**FACULTY & STAFF NOTES**

Chaïna Bapikee started her summer with teaching "Physical Environment: Patterns and Systems" (GEOG110) online. After that, she spent most of her summer in the outdoors. She enjoyed lakes, outdoor events, friend and family time, and did a lot of bike riding...She challenged herself by participating in the MS150, a 150-mile bike ride over two days to raise money and awareness of multiple sclerosis (MS). When indoors, she mainly focused on working on her research and preparing classes for the fall semester. This fall, she is very excited to be back to River Falls and she has been enjoying the dynamics in the department and the third floor in general. She is teaching GEOG110 again and she has been enjoying very much the enthusiasm and curiosity that her students have for the class. She is also teaching "Weather and Climate" (GEOG212) this fall and she is very excited about her students' final projects. It has been a great fall semester and already Chaïna is working on preparing classes for the spring semester. Until then, she will be spending the holidays with her family in Canada and come back hopefully well rested and all ready to start the New Year and the new semester.

Dave Brandt covered GEOG 360 for the first time this semester. Thanks to Dr. Rader and Dr. Dooley for their material. It was hard to juggle my position at Washington County and teaching Intro to GIS as the demand for GIS continues to increase at the county. This semester, I also took on creating two FIRST Lego League teams in my daughter's school (they had to design, build and program a robot). It was very interesting interacting with 4th-6th graders and college students through the week. At least I didn't have to stop the GEOG 360 class from running around the room. While I have enjoyed being very busy this semester, I look forward to spending more time with my family and skiing this winter.

Matt Dooley has been busy teaching and working on various research projects this semester. He taught three sections of Introduction to Cartography and GIS, and one section of the Field Methods course. In October, he presented a co-authored paper with Ian Muehlenhaus at the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) conference in Florida, and plans to present a poster with Ian at the AAG conference in April.

John Heppen recovered from his broken ankle and has been enjoying the semester. He broke his ankle at Wild River State Park on the SGO trip in May. He wishes to thank the students and Ian for not leaving him there along the St. Croix River. After two surgeries and a lot of resting he was able to walk again in mid-August. He figures no more death marches along the St. Croix River anymore. He is grateful that Charlie, Ian and Neil Kraus in political science made sure he didn’t starve this summer. This fall he’s teaching Human Geography, Geography of the United States and Political Geography. Teaching Political Geography during an election year is always fun. This summer his article, “The Electoral Geography of Class, Race, and Religion in Huey Long’s Louisiana” appeared in *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South*. He also had two entries published in the new *Encyclopedia of Geography*. Finally with his friend David Beard he coauthored, “The Dynamics of Identity in the Communities of Local Professional Wrestling” which will appear in *Fandemonium: Explorations of Fan Power, Identity and Socialization* this upcoming year. So yes his time spent watching professional wrestling has paid off.

Ian Muehlenhaus enjoyed teaching Animated and Dynamic Cartography this past semester. He is really proud of many of his students' maps. He also really had fun with Mathew Dooley at the NACIS Conference in October, where they presented their research on mapping UFO sightings in the United States. He is looking forward to teaching human geography to a group of first year experience students this spring.

It is with mixed emotions that Ian will be leaving UWRF in summer 2011 to begin a position as Assistant Professor at UW - La Crosse. He will miss his colleagues and students here at UWRF. He will still be around Spring Semester to spread rumors about North Korea, though.

Charlie Rader spent the semester teaching in the Wisconsin in Scotland Program. It has been good to be back again in Dalkeith House and on the grounds of the estate. While here I've been able to do quite a bit with the students in Edinburgh, including several hikes and an urban geography field trip into the city. I spent a long weekend hiking in the Cairngorm mountains in September, covering about 33 - miles in 3 days. Beautiful craggy ridges mostly in the clouds and somewhat dreary (gray and rainy). Nancy visited over the October break and we spent a week traveling in Ireland, where I discovered that the roads don't have shoulders and extremely over optimistic speed limits (100kph my eye). Our niece Erica has been living with Nancy while she is doing an internship with the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, and Velcro is hanging in there at 16-1/2. Looking forward to returning and I'll admit that I almost missed being away.