Greetings from Bolton Hall,

As the newsletter is prepared to go out, we are enjoying the arrival of Indian Summer here on the UWM campus. While a bit distracting for those preparing for early mid-terms, this beautiful fall weather has arrived just at the right time for the Department’s “Welcome Back Picnic” at Lake Park. The leaves have begun to turn and there’s likely to be a football to toss (or kick) around as we celebrate the beginning of another academic year in this lovely spot on Lake Michigan. I wanted to share this news of Indian Summer and the image of another year beginning with alumni and emeriti faculty. I imagine you will have a memory that matches it and, at least figuratively, one that brings you back to campus.

Another year begins – and it is good! As you will read, we have added two new faculty members who bring us to lucky thirteen. Anne Bonds, an economic geographer from the University of Washington, has already made contact with the Center for Economic Development and is considering possible future projects. Woonsup Choi, a physical geographer from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (by way of a post-doc at the University of Manitoba), will be focusing on research related to the urban environment. We can also congratulate Professor Changshan Wu since he went up early for tenure and consequently begins the year as our new associate professor.

News from our students also begins the year well. We currently have 40 active graduate students and 65 majors. Thanks to the Mary Jo Read Fellowship fund four undergraduates and eight graduate students received awards to further their programs. In addition, doctoral students Aswin Subanthore and Rich Shaker were awarded MJ travel funds to assist them as they pursued their doctoral research this last summer – traveling to Chicago and Romania respectively. The first award from the Clinton Edwards Research Fund also puts a graduate student “on the road.” Brendan Vierk was given the Edwards Award to help his fieldwork in Puerto Rico where he is conducting research on the karst landscape. As the first recipient from this fund, it seems particularly appropriate that Brendan should share with Professor Edwards an interest in Latin America.

In the next newsletter I will describe the changes on campus related to Chancellor Santiago’s plan to raise UWM’s research profile. Until then, there is other assorted news... Prof. Donn Haglund recently returned from his summer trip to northern Canada with news of many whales sighted. Prof. Harold Rose and Betty Morgan joined me for lunch recently and while the state of the economy received the majority of our attention, Harold spoke of his trip to Tennessee while Betty described her busy daycare business. Chris Barth (G ’90), AGS Library Director, delivered the September lecture in the AGS’ Academic Adventurers Series on his own adventure, titled “Georgia on my mind: How four academics absorbed the culture, toured the countryside, tasted the wine, set up an exhibit and fled the Russian tanks.” And, much closer to home, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Professors Carol Rosen (G ’90) and Jeffrey Zimmerman (U ’92) conducted a field course for their students in Chicago. I imagine that there was some adventure there too.

We are looking forward to hearing your news. -And I hope that, if you are in the area, you will join us for events such as the Harold Mayer Lecture on Friday, November 21st, given by Prof. Larry Knopp of the University of Minnesota Duluth. -Or the AGS Library’s lecture with Prof. John Rennie Short, “Suburban Gothic: The Crisis in US Suburbs” on Thursday, October 30th. Check out our websites for the details.

Best wishes, Judith Kenny
Fieldwork makes geography come to life, as one might say. Despite well planning and organizing, there could be unexpected challenges out in the field, including atrocious weather. Prof. Mick Day, who has taught geography fieldwork courses for more than 20 years, abroad and at home, can certainly provide many vivid examples of these challenges. This year’s summer fieldwork course may well serve as one. Yet, as Prof. Day illustrates it below, expecting the unexpected and coping with the challenges also makes the fieldwork experience so vital for us geographers.

The 2008 summer fieldwork course (Geog 650) took place in southwestern Wisconsin during the first three weeks of June. Again based at Alana Springs campground, near Richland Center, the primary focus of the course was upon mapping the boundaries of the karst landscape in Richland, Vernon and Crawford Counties, as part of Mick Day’s ongoing studies of the regional karst geomorphology and land use.

An invaluable resource for this project was Teaching Assistant Steve Mauel, who this summer completed his MS thesis, titled “GIS, GPS, and USDA soils maps: Mapping the Jordan/Prairie du Chien contact in Southwestern Wisconsin.” Steve’s research had already identified the probable lower boundary locations, based on the soils expression of the geologic contact, and his GIS/GPS experience allowed us to stream real-time locational data as we drove around the landscape examining individual karst landforms and boundary exposures.

The first weekend saw the area drenched by over twelve inches of torrential rainfall, which resulted in extensive flooding in the Wisconsin River basin. The normally dry valley in which the campground is located witnessed extensive surface drainage, and the campsite was abandoned overnight when conditions were at their worst. Regional flooding delayed students returning at the start of the second week, and Mick Day was stranded in Viola for several days because of flooding in the Kickapoo River valley.

Fortunately the rains abated somewhat, and we were able to resume fieldwork by the middle of the second week, although we were still hampered by floodwaters, downed trees, and washed-out roads. Given these difficulties, the focus shifted from regional karst studies to more local projects tailored to accommodate individual students’ interests. Topics investigated included recent agricultural trends, recreational activities, rural housing development, flooding and erosion control (or lack thereof!), local economic transitions, and invasive species management. Better weather during the final week enabled students to complete their projects and to return to Milwaukee with (mostly) dry belongings but with a heightened respect for the power of fluvial processes.

Welcoming Our New Faculty!

The Geography Department welcomes Drs. Anne Bonds and Woonsup Choi, who are joining us in the Fall of 2008. In last issue, Dr. Bonds talked about her research interests. Here Dr. Choi introduces his research interests and background.

My research has been centered on the interactions between the hydrological system and anthropogenic environmental changes. I finished my doctoral dissertation at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign that examined the potential response of the Kishwaukee River basin to anticipated urbanization and climate change. Various climate and urbanization scenarios were generated from global climate models and a dynamic land use change model (LEAM; http://www.leam.uiuc.edu), respectively, and were used as input to a hydrological model for runoff simulations. I found a non-linear response of runoff to continuous urbanization and greater impacts of climate change than land use change on runoff.
After a short teaching appointment with the University of New Orleans in Fall 2005, I spent the last two and a half years at the University of Manitoba as a post-doctoral fellow. I was involved in two research projects, “Effect of Climate Change on Water Supply for Manitoba Hydro Systems” and “Use of North American Regional Reanalysis Data for Hydrologic Modeling and Climate Downscaling.” While working for the projects with civil engineers, I developed expertise in statistical downscaling of global climate models and utilizing reanalysis climatic data. Initial results from the projects were presented at the 13th World Water Congress held in Montpellier, France, in September 2008, and the final results will be presented at the upcoming AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. Over the next several years, I plan to explore urban climatic and water resource issues as a result of global and regional environmental changes using reanalysis climatic data and hydrological models.

As well, below are greetings from Dr. Bonds, who shares her conference experience at the Summer Institute in Economic Geography in Manchester this summer.

As one of two new faculty members joining Geography at UWM this year, I would like to say hello to those of you that I have not yet met and extend my deep appreciation to everyone in the department for their warm welcome and for helping me get settled in Milwaukee. I am very excited to be joining this dynamic, growing department and look forward to many years to come!

Before embarking on my cross-country move from Seattle to Milwaukee in August, I had the opportunity to attend the fourth Summer Institute in Economic Geography (SIEG) in Manchester, England, during July of 2008. The institute brought together early career academics with senior scholars for both professional development and networking as well as to explore key theoretical and methodological issues within economic geography. The conference program involved a range of sessions, panels, and plenaries including those focused on important career topics, such as “Writing Successful Research Proposals” and “Publishing in Key Journals,” as well as those with a more substantive theoretical focus, like “Economic Geography: How Have We Got Where We Are?” “Globalization of Economic Geography Knowledge,” and “Politics and Practice in Economic Geography.” All of the selected participants were actively involved in the conference, either serving as session chairs, discussants, or sitting on and/or organizing panels. I was asked to present in the session entitled “Assembling Global Shift” with Neil Coe, Martin Hess, Peter Dicken, and Rikard Erickson. The session focused on the origins and profound impacts of Peter Dicken’s book Global Shift, which was first published over 20 years ago and is now in its 5th Edition. My presentation focused on using Global Shift as a teaching tool to ground and place globalization in economic geography courses.

The conference was truly an international experience with participants in attendance from an array of countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Spain, and Sweden. This made SIEG an extraordinary opportunity to network with other economic geographers and to build a transnational community of scholars. Of course, we did manage to get out into the field and explore the economic geography of Manchester, from its industrial landscape of mills and factories to recent redevelopment projects. We also toured local pubs and enjoyed many a curry dinner in Manchester’s ‘Curry Mile’ called Rusholme, a focused stretch of South Asian restaurants. Manchester was a fantastic place for an economic geographer, not least because of its historical significance to the industrial revolution and the emergence of industrial capitalism, but also because of its importance to other phenomena central to economic geography, like deindustrialization, restructuring, labor geographies, and class politics.

In short, the SIEG was a rich experience full of intense discussions, shared insights, new professional and personal relationships, and multi-layered engagement with economic geography and economic geographers. What a way to spend the summer!
Dr. Woonsup Choi presented a paper entitled “Response of Hydrological Systems to Statistically Downscaled GCM Output in the Northern Manitoba (Canada) Boreal Forest Region” and coauthored by Adam Moore, Kristina Koenig, and Peter Rasmussen, at the 13th World Water Congress in Montpellier, France, September 1-4, 2008. Another paper entitled “Utilizing North American Regional Reanalysis for Climate Change Impact Assessment on Water Resources in Central Canada,” coauthored by Mark Lee, Woonsup Choi, and Peter Rasmussen was presented by Mr. Sung Joon Kim in the same session.

Dr. Chris De Sousa has a book recently published: De Sousa, C. 2008, Brownfields Redevelopment and the Quest for Sustainability (London: Elsevier Science/Emerald Group Publishing, Current Issues in Urban and Regional Studies Series, Volume 3). He has received a grant awarded by the US Environmental Protection Agency for the Brownfields Training, Research and Technical Assistance Grant Program ($750,000 total, Publication Number: EPA-560-F-08-288). The project is entitled “Best Management Practices and Benefits of Sustainable Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites.” The lead PI is University of Illinois at Chicago Institute for Environmental Science and Policy, with Sub-PI Chris De Sousa at UW-Milwaukee ($200,000) and Sub-PI John Braden at UI-Urbana. He is also a recipient of the UWM Graduate Research Committee Award for his project entitled “Residential Brownfields Development, Sprawl, and Sustainability: A Demand Side Perspective.”

Dr. Rina Ghose is continuing her research on citizen participation and spatial knowledge production in collaborative governance. She presented a paper titled “Politics of Scale and Networks of Association in Public Participation GIS” at the Fifth International GIScience Conference. She is an invited speaker at the Yi-Fu Tuan Lecture Series in Fall, organized by Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she will present her paper “Complexities in Citizen Participation and Spatial Knowledge Production in Inner-city Neighborhoods of Milwaukee.” She is also serving as a member in the Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council.

Dr. Ryan Holifield has been awarded the UWM Graduate Research Committee Award. The title of his project is “Environmental Justice and the Cleanup of Contaminated Urban Rivers: A Comparative Study of Areas of Concern in the Lake Michigan Basin.”

Dr. Anna Mansson McGinty is a recipient of the UWM Graduate Research Committee Award for 2008-2009. Her awarded project is titled “Gender Identity and Activism among Muslim Women in the Midwest.”

Dr. Kristin M. Sziarto has just presented a paper entitled “From Bridges to Hegemony: Antagonisms, Spatial Practice and Organizational Change in a Religion-Labor Alliance” at the 15th Annual Conference on Critical Geography in Athens, OH. She is now working on revisions to a paper entitled “Immigrants Riding for Justice: Spacetime and Emotions in the Construction of a Counterpublic” for Political Geography. Her recent publications include: 1) Sziarto, K. 2008, “Placing Legitimacy: Organizing Religious Support in a Health Care Workers’ Contract Campaign.” Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie (Journal of Economic & Social Geography) 99 (4): 406-425; and 2) Leitner, H., E. Sheppard, and K. Sziarto. 2008, “The Spatialities of Contentious Politics.” Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers NS 33 (2): 157-287. She has also been awarded the UWM Graduate Research Committee Award for her project “The Scales of Immigrant Regulation and Resistance: A Comparative Study.” She will be presenting some research findings from the project funded by the GRC award at the Race, Ethnicity, Place Conference in Miami, FL, in November.

Dr. Changshan Wu received an award from the National Science Foundation for his research on small area population estimation using high resolution remote sensing and GIS technologies. He also received an award from the Center for Urban Population Health for analyzing pathogen concentrations in Milwaukee and Menomonee Rivers using GIS technologies.
Welcoming Our New Grads!

**Nadia Bogue**
I received my undergraduate degree in History and Sociology from UWM and am currently in my first year in the graduate program in the Geography Department. I am pursuing a M.A. in environmental studies and conservation. I am interested in fresh water and human impacts in regards to quality and policy. My adviser is Dr. Ryan Holifield.

**Chengbin Deng**
I am seeking a PhD degree in Geographic Information Science, and my advisor is Dr. Changshan Wu. My research will focus on GIS, Remote Sensing, Urban Geography and Spatial Analysis. I am a TA for Our Physical Environment (Geog 120).

**Emily Engstrom**
I am pursuing a thesis track Master’s of Science degree in physical geography. I am also pursuing a graduate certificate in GIS. My research interests are in how humans have impacted the fire regimes of fire dependent ecosystems in the Great Lakes, looking specifically at pine ecosystem, and what these possible changes mean for the future. My advisor is Dr. Glen Fredlund.

**Andrea Hall**
I am pursuing a Master’s of Science in Geography. My research will focus on eco-tourism and human interaction within the karst terrain of the Caribbean and Latin America. My master’s advisor is Dr. Mick Day. I am a TA for Geog 120.

**Jeremy Sorenson**
I am a first semester PhD student here at UWM. Currently, my research interests include urban planning, neoliberal globalization, the “creative class,” and the role of image and discourse in planning, urban policy, and the production of space. My advisor is Dr. Rina Ghose. I am working for Dr. Judith Kenny as one of two TAs for Geography of Race in the US (Geog 114).

**Akarath Soukhaphon**
I am pursuing a Master’s of Art in Geography. My research interests include place-making and identity as well as GIS and its many applications. I have yet to choose an advisor as I am still unsure as to what path I can/should pursue. I am working with Dr. Judith Kenny as her TA for Geog 114.

Graduate Student News


Sponsored by the geography department, PhD candidate **Liang Liang** successfully hosted a symposium for Sino-Ecologist Association Overseas on UWM campus on August 3rd, 2008, associated with the Ecological Society of America annual conference held in Milwaukee this year. During this symposium, sino-ecologists from the US, Canada, Taiwan, and Mainland China gave talks and/or participated in discussions on diverse topics including Tibetan-plateau Climate Change, Landscape Ecology Theory, Water Sustainability, Collaborative Ecological Research in China, and the like.
Graduate Student News (cont’d.)

Sandra Zupan (PhD student) has been named, along with Pamela Fendt of Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods and Nancy Frank from the School of Architecture and Urban Planning, as a co-recipient of one of the 2008-2009 Community-University Partnership Grants from the Cultures & Communities Program. This grant is to support a joint project entitled “Environmental and Socio-Economic Justice and Oral Histories,” which aims to engage community residents and students to advance environmental and socio-economic justice through community participation in brownfield redevelopment in Milwaukee.

Four More Doctors... Congratulations!!

Four (former) PhD students, Jeremia Njeru, Lorne Platt, Parama Roy, and Deanna Schmidt have successfully defended their dissertations this year. Dr. Njeru’s dissertation examines political ecology of urban deforestation in Kenya, through the case of Karura Forest in Nairobi City. Dr. Platt’s dissertation focuses on planning history and the environmental justice of urban parks in Milwaukee. Dr. Roy’s PhD investigates urban environmental inequality through the issues of development and management of limited urban green spaces in the predominantly African American neighborhoods of Milwaukee. Dr. Schmidt’s dissertation research studies urban landscapes and urban planning, focusing on the interrelations between neighborhood organizations and the production of social space. Congratulations again and best wishes!

Alumni News

Elaine Bliss, MA 1989

After graduating in 1989 I worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on the Milwaukee River Integrated Resource Management Plan. Since 1991 I have been living overseas, mainly in Australia and New Zealand. From 1992-93, however, I volunteered for UNICEF on a project titled “Children in Situations of Armed Conflict” in the Philippines. From 1993-95 I worked at the Australian National University as co-editor of “Development Bulletin,” a publication of the National Centre for Development Studies, and tutored in the Department of Geography. I have been tutoring/lecturing in the Department of Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning at Waikato University in Hamilton, New Zealand, since 1995. I started a (interdisciplinary) PhD in 2006, and am jointly enrolled through Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning, and Screen and Media Studies at Waikato University. A tentative title for my PhD is “Placing Emotions through Digital Storytelling: Exploring New Methods in Geography.” Very happily interwoven into all this ‘professional stuff,’ I have given birth to, and am joyfully raising, two beautiful daughters, Zuleka (14) and Anya (9).

Carrie Czech, BS 2004

I worked for an ambulance company in Milwaukee after becoming a licensed Emergency Medical Technician through Gateway Technical College (2006-07). I went to Tanzania to assist Dr. McHenry with her fieldwork in the summer of 2007. Recently, I returned from Slovakia where I completed an intensive language program through the University of Pittsburgh and Comenius University (Bratislava) this summer. I am currently pursuing a M.S. in Geosciences at UWM.

Liana Escott, MA 2003

I am currently living in the City of La Crosse with my 5-year old son Nolan. We have been here for about three years and he just started kindergarten this fall. I am employed as the Community
Development Administrator for the City Planning and Development Department, where I work to revitalize central-city neighborhoods through the construction of new housing units, the rehabilitating of existing homes, and through developing and maintaining Neighborhood Centers, Senior Centers, Community Gardens, and City Parks. I have also continued to travel and explore and am planning a trip for Nolan and I to visit Peru in the coming year.

Jeremia Njeru, PhD 2008

I finished my PhD at UWM in the summer. In mid-July I rented a small U-haul truck and headed to Morgantown, West Virginia, to get ready for my first teaching job at West Virginia University. I have been transitioning very well. Here, the fall semester began on August 18, so we have already done over a third of the semester in early October. This semester I am teaching only one class, Geography 425 - Urban and Regional Planning. I have 23 students. It has been going great so far. Next semester I will be teaching two classes: Geography 108 - Introduction to Human Geography, and Geography 210 - Urban Geography. I am now also reviving my research from a long summer hiatus. I am revising my first dissertation paper, ready to be resubmitted to the Progress and Development Studies Journal. I am also serving on two faculty committees: the graduate studies committee and the search committee for a human geography position.

Bill Reynolds, MA 1980

After graduating I moved first to Los Angeles, then to Kansas City, then to Chicago. I spent 25 years working in transportation planning for Chicago’s Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and in PACE, the Chicago regional bus system, serving as Principal Analyst for the RTA and Department Manager and Operations Analysis for PACE. The last 10 years focused on working with communities to build sustainable transit-oriented developments. I retired in 2008 and am now residing in Unitedville, Belize, Central America, where I own and operate the Lower Dover Field Station. My interests in Belize date back to a fieldwork course in 1984 with Mick Day and Norm Stewart. Any UWM geographers interested in visiting and experiencing Belize would be particularly welcome.

Parama Roy, PhD 2008

I recently completed my PhD from UWM and started my job at Georgia State University. The first thing I noticed about Atlanta was its luscious canopy unlike I have seen anywhere else before. Given my interest in urban nature, race, and socio-environmental justice, Atlanta with its existing and future green elements (Belt-line) and racial and community gardening history seems to present an exceptional opportunity for me to begin my academic/research career.

My first semester so far has been an overwhelming experience. I spend much of my time preparing to teach. But as my advisors console, “that’s normal.” So I am hopeful that I will start working on my papers and a new research project soon. Overall, Atlanta has been treating me well. It’s a beautiful city with lots of things to do and many nice places to go to that are yet to be explored. I love the way Broadway Street in the downtown area is closed every Friday for people to come and sit outside, enjoy their food, and listen to live music. My colleagues at Georgia State University have been very kind and supportive. So things have started off well no doubt. But I still miss Milwaukee and the geography department. I was there just a couple of weeks ago, and as I walked through the corridor it felt strange not to see Jeremia or Lorne in their offices. It felt weird not to find my name on the mailbox or my door (well, my former office door). But it felt equally wonderful to meet some of the friends and professors... It just felt as if I was home. However, it would be ungrateful of me if I did not mention how glad I am to have embarked on this journey. I am thankful to all those wonderfully supportive people in my life. I feel grateful that I have been given the opportunity to live my dream. In more ways than one, I am looking forward to making Atlanta my new home.

Robert Schwerer, BA 1986

My life became interesting after graduation in 1986. I took a vacation trip to Vienna, Austria, to visit family members. Upon my return, in February 1987 my roommate and I decided to load up our belongings in a U-haul truck and move to San Diego, CA. After one year of job bouncing and a (low salary) job offer from the National Geographic Survey in San Francisco I started employment with the City of San Diego. I began an apprentice program in water treatment and later became a Licensed California Water Operator. I worked 16 years with the city of San Diego and in that time I married a Belgian woman, started a family, and became comfortable with the warm climate. In
2005, my wife and I decided to move back to Wisconsin to be with family. My employment has been unsettled since returning, but I now am working for the City of Milwaukee, which is rapidly becoming recognized as a leader in water technology. I work at the Linnwood Water Treatment facility on Lincoln Memorial Drive, where Lake Michigan water is purified using Ozone as the primary disinfectant.

Peter Strand, MS 2006
While attending UWM my time was split between School of Architecture and Urban Planning and the Geography Department. I was awarded my Certificate in GIS in 2005, followed by my MS from Geography in December of 2006. My time at UWM provided me with a foundation of GIS concepts and technical skills that I utilize every day in my position in Eau Claire County. I accepted the GIS Specialist position in the Department of Planning and Development in 2006. As Eau Claire County’s GIS Specialist, I am primarily involved in the design, development, and management of the county’s Geographic Information System. I administer and manage our GIS projects, overseeing the coordination of the real property records and permitting software and GIS advancements. Since starting with Eau Claire County our land records have undergone significant changes. We have converted our parcel mapping into a digital format, changed software and platforms, and placed the information online for public access.

Chuanrong Zhang, PhD 2004
Now I hold a joint Assistant Professor position in Geography Department and Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering at University of Connecticut. My current research is focused on development of GIS and geostatistical methods and their applications in natural resource management and environmental evaluations.

Please send us news of yourself either by email to: geognews@uwm.edu or by sending this form to us.

Name: ___________________________ UWM Degree(s)/Date(s): ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

____________________________________________________________

E-mail ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Post-UWM Degree(s): ____________________________

Employer: ____________________________

Please enclose news of yourself on separate sheet of paper. Your financial support is welcome. Please make your check payable to the UWM Foundation - Geography Fund and mail it to UWM College of Letters and Science, Holton Hall 253, PO Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413.

In Other News...
PhD student Jonathan Burkham has been elected as a Geography Graduate Representative and is beginning his service this fall. Congratulations and thank you! He is joining PhD student Jonathan Hanes (and yep, as Burkham puts it, they’re now “Jonathan²”) to work as liaisons between the graduate students and the faculty. Meanwhile, Hanes has been our grad representative since Spring 2007. Thanks very much for your service and dedication!

PhD student Falguni Mukherjee’s daughter Riya Roy was born July 27th at 9:30 PM. Congratulations Falguni and Kaushik!

Lorne Platt (PhD ’08) is also a proud papa. Daughter Mailani Elle was born July 25th. Congratulations Lorne and Leigh!

PhD student Jonathan Hanes has been our grad representative since Spring 2007. Thanks very much for your service and dedication!

Mailani enjoying a moment of observation