

Panther Geographer

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Upcoming and recent events

Friday, October 11, 2013

Caroline Nagel, Department of Geography, University of South Carolina
"Arab-American activism and the problem of religious identity"

Friday, October 25, 2013

Andrew Kahrl, Marquette University, Department of History
"Developed Shorelines and Rising Tides: The History and Future of Coastal America"

Friday, November 1, 2013

West Lakes Speaker Daniel Trudeau, Macalester College, Department of Geography
"Diversity in the New Urbanism? Examining the attempt to build inclusive neighborhoods in the United States"

Letter from the Chair

Professor Changshan Wu

Welcome to the academic year of 2013-2014! After staying in the Northwest Quadrant (NWQ) for one and a half years, we finally moved back to Bolton Hall, and we enjoy being back in the



center of campus. At the same time, though, we also miss the pleasure of commuting between NWQ and Bolton Hall, especially in the winter of Wisconsin!

Currently, the geography department has a stable and productive group of tenure track or tenured faculty members. Starting Fall 2013, assistant professor Anna Mansson McGinty was promoted to associate professor with tenure; I was also promoted to full professor, and I assumed the department chair position at the beginning of the semester. In addition, assistant professors Ryan Holifield and Woonsup Choi have received unanimously positive recommendations from the Social Science Divisional Committee that they be promoted to associate professors with tenure, starting next fall. For those of you who missed the newsletter last spring, associate professor Judith Kenny announced her retirement after 23 years of service to the department. Professor Kenny is appreciated by the faculty and students as a dedicated mentor, advisor, and teacher, as well as an administrator who gave generously of her time in numerous critical service positions, including a term as department chair

Again, we wish her a long and fulfilling retirement in her native state of Oregon.

During the academic year of 2012-2013, the department has graduated one doctoral (Chengbin Deng) and four master's students (Jonathan Martin Kult, Kathryn Joann Nauth, Claire Marie Reuning, Rodney Ranken). Dr. Deng accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position at the Department of Geography, State University of New York at Binghamton. In the beginning of this semester, we welcomed our eight new doctoral and master's students starting this fall. In addition, the department is pleased to welcome our new adjunct assistant professor, Jonathan M. Hanes. After being an assistant professor at Northern Michigan University for two years, Dr. Hanes returned to UWM as an institutional research analyst.

Finally, as the new department chair, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the exceptional service that our former chair, distinguished professor Mark D. Schwartz, has put in the past four years. As always, your continued support and interest are greatly appreciated!

Join us in our congratulations to:

- Peter Armstrong received Service Learner of the Year.
- Angie Jackson also received recognition at the Community Engagement and Student Leadership Awards.
- Isaac Park's paper won first place in the AAG Biogeography Specialty Group student paper competition.
- John Gurda (MA, 1978) was named Honorary Doctor of Milwaukee History and Geography by UWM.

Graduate recruitment trip to Korea

By Woonsup Choi

Professor Hyejin Yoon and I traveled to Korea in June 2013 to conduct recruitment activity for our graduate program with financial support from the UWM Graduate School. The main activity was to set up and attend a UWM Geography booth at the Congress of Geography 2013 that took place on the 21st and 22nd of June at Seoul National University. The conference is an annual event organized by Korean Geographical Society, a leading organization of geographers in Korea. This year, it was expanded to the Congress of Geography by involving other related institutions and organizations in the organizing committee.

The UWM Geography booth drew a large crowd. Many of them were just curious about UWM, but some of them showed more serious interest in studying at UWM or other universities in the US. Particular interest came from some students and professors of universities located far from Seoul, the capital. The professors know of some students who have good academic potential, but said lack of information and advising leads many of the students to a limited career path, such as teaching in secondary education. I encouraged the students to apply and professors to encourage their students. A few students actually committed to applying for admission for the next academic year. I look forward to seeing their applications.



Faculty news highlights

UWM Geography faculty members have been busy as usual. In addition to many new publications (too many to list!), here are some highlights:

Many congratulations to **Zengwang Xu**, who received a Research Growth Initiative grant from UWM for his project, "Modeling the diffusion and intervention of H5N1 in a realistically connected population in Milwaukee city: a social spatial network approach."

Rina Ghose was invited to collaborate in research on urban community gardens by the Department of Geography at the University of Copenhagen, where she recently presented "Urban Community Gardens as Spaces of Citizenship." She has also been awarded Transdisciplinary Research Fellow, Center for 21st Century Studies, UWM to collaborate on a digital humanities project, which will be an extension of her critical GIS research.

Mick Day has been invited by the World Council for Protected Areas (WCPA) to review World Natural Heritage nominations for the Cat Ba Archipelago (Vietnam) and the South China Karst (Phase II).

Mark Schwartz will be an invited keynote speaker at the 2nd International Symposium on Climate, Food and Water, which will be held in November 2013 in Jeju, Republic of Korea. His lecture is entitled "Seasons of Change: Plant Phenology as Indicator of Atmosphere-Biosphere Interactions."

Other faculty members who have recently delivered guest lectures regionally include **Anne Bonds** (at Illinois State), **Alison Donnelly** (at Illinois State), and **Ryan Holifield** (at UW-Madison).

Woonsup Choi has been elected as the vice president of the Korean-American Association for Geospatial and Environmental Sciences.

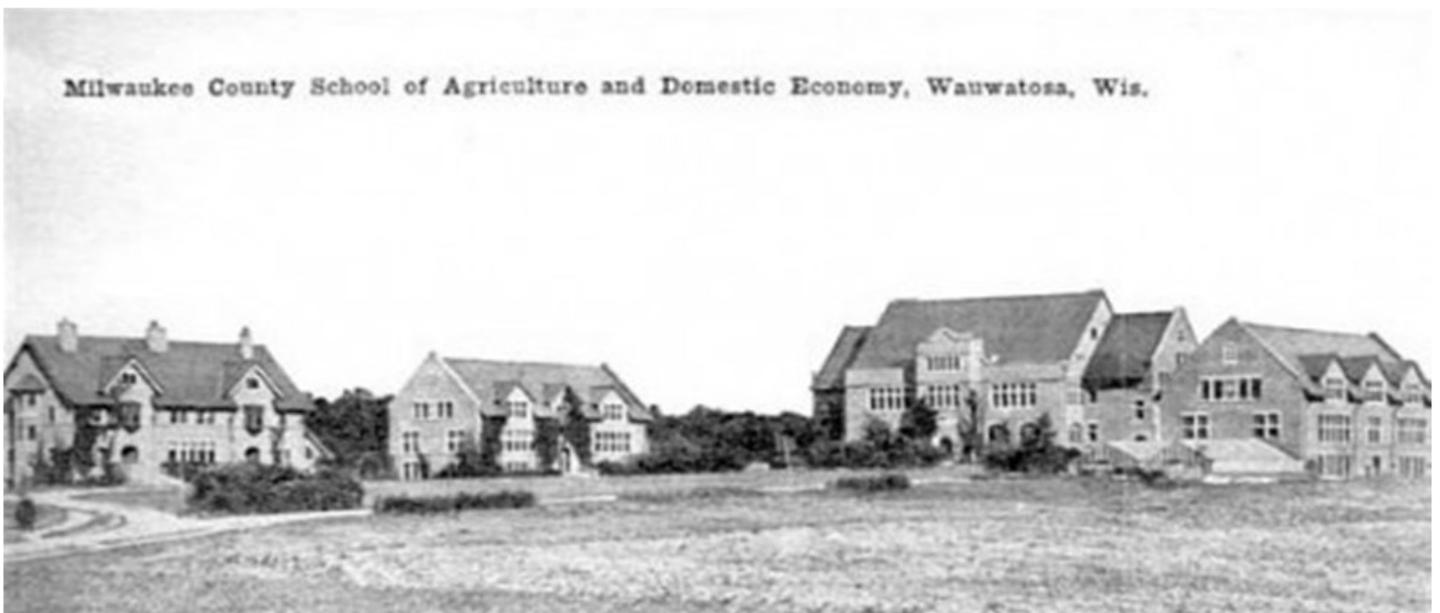
Alison Donnelly was invited, by Illinois State University, as an Expert Advisor, to participate in an outreach workshop designed to train school teachers in ways to communicate climate change to their students.

Graduate Student News

Tom Welcenbach

UWM Innovation Campus is breaking ground as this past week saw the first road, Discovery Parkway cover the land. This 88 acre parcel in the northeast quadrant of the Milwaukee County grounds will be the future home to ABB Inc., UWM Accelerator Building and the Mandel Group Inc.'s 200 unit apartment complex. An extended stay hotel is also back on track and the possibility of The Forest Exploration Center charter school still lingers in the air. The historic Eschweiler buildings which are a part of the new site are owned by an affiliate of the UWM Foundation which is overseeing Innovation Campus. The four historic buildings of gothic architecture were built by renowned Milwaukee architect Alexander Eschweiler in 1911 and have been mainly left vacant for the last forty years. In 1910 Teddy Roosevelt established the Commission on Country Life which sought to preserve and improve the conditions of rural communities through the establishment of schools specializing in farming and domestic economy. Milwaukee was one of the many cities targeted by this new initiative and the Eschweiler buildings are the former Milwaukee County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy which was in operation from 1912 to 1928. The school housed both boys and girls and taught them the skills necessary for farming and how to maintain a livelihood outside of the city.

This past summer I volunteered my time on behalf of the Wisconsin Charter Schools Association to help clean out the Administration building of the former Milwaukee County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy. The Forest Exploration Center's University Lab School, is seeking endorsement from UWM as well as funding to preserve the Eschweiler buildings and use them for their University Lab School. As a young kid I often rode my mountain bike around the Milwaukee County grounds exploring abandoned buildings, forgotten cemeteries and the remnants of a once flourishing humanized landscape. History has a way of repeating itself as the Eschweiler's are once again being considered a space for the new 55 acre charter school to educate young minds. This time around, however, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum geared towards the understanding of the forests of Wisconsin and the economic, social and ecological aspects of sustainable forestry will be utilized.



Graduate Student News

Jana Viel

The past two summers, I have dedicated many Saturday mornings (4:45 am - 11 am) volunteering for a group that does work for the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) banding program. MAPS is a continent-wide effort to collect information about land-bird demography, ecology, etc. in order to aid in conservation species and management of habitat. The MAPS group I volunteer with is organized by the Riveredge Nature Center and has been banding birds at a remote location in Saukville, WI for 15 years.

MAPS website

<http://www.birdpop.org/maps.htm>

In this picture, I am getting ready to place a band on a male Common Yellow Throat. The woman behind me, Joan Sommers, is placing a band on a Grey Catbird.



Here I am banding a Trail's Flycatcher. I am blowing on the bird's feathers to determine the gender as well as body and feather condition of the bird (these are just a few the attributes we collect for each bird).



Yui Hashimoto

At the end of spring semester, final papers were in, final exams had been graded, and I had finished the first year of my PhD! I could take a breather from academics for a while, I thought. I would have to wait a little while longer, however, because through the generosity of the Geography department, I returned to the Greater Toronto Area—where I had completed my MA in 2012 at McMaster University—to attend York University's International Political Economy and Ecology Summer School (IPEE). Hosted by York's Faculty of Environmental Studies and the Departments of Geography and Political Science, the IPEE invites a renowned scholar in political ecology or economy to explore interdisciplinary contemporary issues of concern. Past instructors include Vandana Shiva, Eric Swyngedouw, and Saskia Sassen. The theme for this year's was "Radical food and hunger politics in the city," where we explored the themes of problematizing and organizing around hunger. For those of you who don't know me, these are some of the topics that I am interested in working through for my dissertation. The IPEE was the perfect opportunity for me to devote my energies to working through questions around food and hunger in an interdisciplinary setting.

Twenty or so students and activists from across Canada and the U.S. gathered for the first two weeks of June to read, discuss, challenge, problematize, and hope alongside geographer and guest instructor Dr. Nik Heynen (University of Georgia) and urban planner Dr. Liette Gilbert (York University). When we weren't in the classroom participating in discussion, we were at a public event hosted by FoodShare Toronto—a non-profit organization working through various methods to alleviate hunger in Toronto neighborhoods—to discuss some of the challenges and opportunities to food justice and food security in Toronto and further afield. We led discussions outside at York University's neighbor, Black Creek Community Farm, a 50-acre teaching farm in the city of Toronto that seeks to build healthy neighborhoods through farming and access to healthy food. Through these various activities, we attempted to achieve the objective of the IPEE, to "bridge the gap between theory and practice, and between ecology and democracy."

It wasn't all work and no play in the GTA, however! Attending the IPEE also allowed me to catch up with friends and colleagues from McMaster and Hamilton, visit old haunts like coffee shops where I wrote my thesis and the farmers at the farmers markets that nourished me, and finally for me to start training for my first triathlon.

Graduate Student News

Margaret Pettygrove

In May, I had the opportunity to travel to George Mason University to present a paper at the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) Symposium (thanks to a UCGIS student travel award and assistance from the UWM Geography Department). The theme of this year's Symposium, "Collaboration Across Communities: GIScience 2.0 and Beyond" focused on partnerships between academia, government, and industry, and newer modes of GIS involving volunteered geographic information, crowd sourcing, mobile technologies, and web GIS. My paper (co-authored with Rina Ghose), "Community-engaged GIS for Urban Food Justice Research" addressed many of these topics, but examined in particular the use of a web GIS application for collecting local, community-

based data on the quality of urban food access. Attending the Symposium was an exciting experience, not only because I was able to share my work and learn many new things, but also because it gave me the chance to interact with many seasoned scholars within the GIScience field in a small, focused conference setting and to participate in formal conversations about how to advance

GIScience broadly as a discipline. For example, UCGIS has a strong pedagogical focus, with one of its primary goals being to expand and strengthen GIS education at various levels. One of the key questions in this area concerns how to integrate new GIS technologies and platforms (e.g., web GIS, cloud computing) into curricula and use them as pedagogical tools. As a young scholar in the field of GIS, I look forward to becoming further involved in these kinds of academic communities and to exploring these kinds of questions.



Margaret Pettygrove

Alumni News

George Ananchev (BA, 2013)

My essay "Perceptions of Landscapes of Movement: Phenomenology and the Archaeology of Roman Roads" was written for an archaeology course focusing on power and ideology in ancient states, but I consider it a geography paper disguised as one about archaeology. It is now published in the Fall 2013 edition of *Environmental and Architectural Phenomenology* (EAP). In a very broad sense, it considers how state power functions and how it can manifest in space. Its main concern, however, is how Roman hegemony was embedded in the experience of the traveler of Roman roads. By constructing the road network, Rome had gained dominance over the mobility of road users and the types of landscapes that they traveled through. The road, in general, is an important venue for studying perceptions of and movements through space and landscapes because it "embodies issues of ideology, power and identity, and [is] intimately involved in our social constructions of the world," as Robert Witcher helped me understand. With this type of framework, one can study roads and power in any time and place. I hope to do so by examining how American highways could reveal a particular type of state power. I am currently applying to be a graduate student in UWM's Geography Department.

Phil Reeder (PhD, 1992) has been appointed Dean of the Bayer School of Natural and Applied Science at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

Bob Brinkmann (PhD, 1989), Director of Sustainability Studies at Hofstra University, was recently interviewed on CBS as an expert on sinkholes in Florida.

Congratulations to **John Gurda** (MA, 1978), who received an honorary degree from UWM in the spring for his distinguished work on the history of Milwaukee.

Bill Mueller (MS, 2002) was recently featured in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel for completing a bird hike across Wisconsin.

Alumni news continued...

Greg Rybarczyk (Ph.D., 2010)

Hello from across the pond, that is, the pond separating Wisconsinites from most Michiganders! Since graduating from UWM, I have been employed by the University of Michigan-Flint. At this institution, I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth and Resource Science where I have just entered my 4th year of employment - and I know this because the beat of the tenure drum is getting louder and louder these days. I currently am responsible for teaching spatial analysis, GIS, remote sensing, and bicycle/pedestrian planning courses. At UM-Flint my department is at the center of all GIS activities, and I have become the de facto GIS guru as a result. In this role I have been able to carry out several exciting GIS initiatives on campus such as: implementing a GIS Center, assisting the library in instituting a spatial data repository program, developing an undergraduate GIS Certificate, and placing students in GIS positions off-campus and on-campus. For those of you who are familiar with GIS at UWM, all of these initiatives may sound familiar, and in fact, my experience with them is helping me greatly while at UM-Flint. In addition to these service opportunities I continue to forge ahead with my research goals.

My research continues to be grounded in GIS and transportation. However, like most research agendas, these are living documents that may experience slight deviations. One unexpected turn in my research occurred when I was invited to participate in a USDA grant proposal. The proposal was premised on disentangling the myriad of issues and barriers surrounding healthy food access in Michigan while addressing the obesity epidemic. This grant was accepted and funding commenced during the spring of 2012. The major goals of this project are to undertake research, education, and extension activities that will provide a better understanding of the food environment, as well as increase healthy food access in the State of Michigan. Now in our second grant year, the five largely-Michigan based research teams have been actively collecting (spatial and non-spatial) data, working with local residents obtain

healthy food, and helping community gardening partners facilitate access to community gardens. My research team in particular has been deeply immersed with collecting GIS data for further spatial analysis and model development. We have derived some preliminary model results that I intend to present during the upcoming AAG meeting. Other research areas that I am actively pursuing include: a spatial and travel behavioral assessment of faculty, staff, and students at UM-Flint with the purpose of understanding what strategies would most effectively increase bicycling and walking to or on campus, assessing the linkages between bicycling and weather, quantifying the learning benefits of “clickers” in a GIS classroom, and evaluating crime rates in Flint between 2000 and 2010.



Department news in brief

Rebecca Nole Birth Announcement FALL 2013

Naomi Esther Wolfe was born to Rebecca Nole and Eli Wolfe on August 18th safely in the comfort of her own home. She was 6 pounds, 4 ounces and 20 inches long.



Naomi Esther Wolfe

Department's Fall Picnic

Wonderful day for a picnic! Geography takes it outside on a spectacular Fall day.



Fall picnic, Sept 29, 2013

2013 Panther Prowl—Geog Grad Runners

On October 13, 2013. Four graduate students—Jana Viel, Yui Hashimoto, Nick Padilla (with Frankie) and Yingbin Deng—took part in UWM's Panther Prowl. And they all finished the race. Congratulations!!



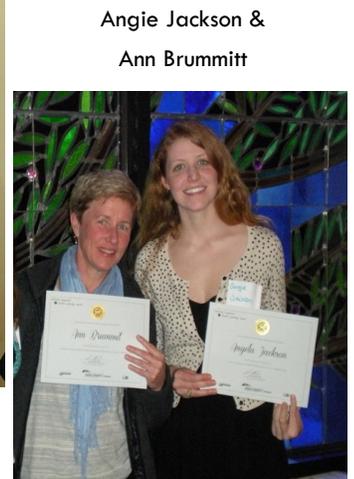
Panther Prowl. Oct.13. 2013

Congratulations to our students on their research and dedication from the Community Engagement and Student Leadership Awards! Peter Armstrong - both a recent BA graduate and now master's student in geography was awarded Service Learner of the Year for his field study work with Nate Sessler (not pictured) on the Hank Aaron State Trail! Way to go, Peter!

Congratulations also to Angie Jackson (Department of Geography) and Ann Brummitt (Milwaukee River Greenway Coalition), who were recognized at the Community Engagement and Student Leadership Awards for their collaboration on a Service Learning project developed for Geography 125 (Environmental Geography) in Fall 2012. Angie was nominated in the Student Leader of the Year category while Ann was nominated in the Community Partner of the Year category.



Laurie Marks & Peter Armstrong



Angie Jackson & Ann Brummitt

