Poised as I am on the threshold of retirement, change and transition are themes central to my thoughts, although certainly not for the first time. Volatility is inherent in academia, and it merits due consideration and appreciation. Each of us, in turn and time, makes our contribution, but the accumulation and the ongoing entity are somehow greater than the sum of their parts. Through my time here, I represent a bridge between the department’s past and its future, a connection between our illustrious benefactor, Dr. Mary Jo Read, and our most recent recruits. Much has changed over the years, but the fires of geographic inquiry still burn brightly at UWM, and long may they do so.

Mention of Mary Jo Read and the imminence of the “Gendered Rights to the City” IGU conference at UWM prompt me to consider the critical roles that women - faculty, staff, graduates and undergraduates alike - have played, and continue to play in the department's development. Among the former faculty, Mary Jo Read, Ruth Stoveken, Barbara Borowiecki, Sona Andrews, Judith Kenny and Taly Drezner were highly influential scholars, teachers and administrators who left lasting legacies; Betty Morgan made our office among the most efficient and welcoming on campus for many years; our first PhD recipient, Sr. Dolores Rauch, and other graduate students such as Wen Lin, Jill Hapner, Parama Roy and Chuanrong Zhang have gone on to distinguished academic and professional careers, and our female undergraduate alumnae have done us proud in academia, government, NGOs and business. Women have always been well-represented in the department, and it is only fitting that, with my retirement, women will now constitute a majority of the department faculty, and a healthy majority including lecturers, adjuncts and academic staff.

Other prospects for the department are less encouraging, with fundamental changes to the UW System currently being proposed by Governor Walker. How this will unfurl remains to be seen, but you, our alumni, are our legacy, our pride and joy, and our greatest asset. Your support, in whatever form, is increasingly crucial.

It is with fond memories and considerable optimism that I sign out now. As the late, great rock musician Warren Zevon suggested wryly when asked for advice on life, “Enjoy every sandwich” and, as one of his last recorded songs requested so plaintively, “Keep me in your heart for a while”.

Cheers.

Professor Mick Day
IN HONOR OF **MICK DAY**

In August, Mick Day will become the Department of Geography’s newest Professor Emeritus. Mick is one of the longest-serving professors in our history, and if we had our druthers, we’d insist that he remain indefinitely – but we are also excited for him as he takes his well-earned retirement.

Mick began his distinguished career at UWM in 1977 after a year-long stint in Dublin, Ireland, just before he completed his DPhil in Geomorphology from Oxford University in 1978. Mick made the inspired choice in his graduate studies to specialize in tropical karst geomorphology, with the Caribbean and Central America as his regional focus. This choice went on to form the heart of his extraordinary career in research, teaching, and service.

Mick’s scholarly output is staggering; he has authored or co-authored over 150 scholarly publications (and counting), in addition to over 30 other publications and over 120 professional presentations. In the process he has established himself as one the world’s leading experts on the geomorphology, biogeography, conservation, and management of karst landscapes. Although he has retained his passion for studying the landscapes of the Caribbean and Central America, his research has taken him to places ranging from southeast Asia and the Pacific to the caves of southwestern Wisconsin. It has also never been confined only to geomorphology, or even to physical geography; the research that he and his students have tackled has encompassed dimensions of human geography like tourism, mining and quarrying, and the military uses of caves.

Mick’s service reflects his deep and abiding commitments not only to geography, but also to the practical work of preserving natural landscapes across the globe. His service on behalf of conservation ranges from the global and international – such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s World Commission on Protected Areas, and its Task Force on Caves and Karst – to the local and regional, including the Wisconsin Speleological Society. Moreover, he has held leadership roles in the West Lakes Division of the Association of American Geographers, served on international editorial advisory boards, led numerous university committees, and chaired the UWM Department of Geography three times.

Of course, most of you know Mick as one of the finest teachers and advisers in our department’s history. Mick is a recipient of the prestigious UWM Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award, and his graduate advisees – 28 of them at last count – have gone on to distinguished careers themselves. His introductory course on caves and caving has long been a student favorite, and he has taught a wide variety of popular graduate and undergraduate courses on geomorphology, other areas of physical geography, and research methods. But few experiences can match Mick’s tropical fieldwork course, which for many of our majors has been, hands down, the most rewarding and memorable class in their undergraduate careers. It has also been the experience that has allowed Mick to bring together his passions for research, teaching, and service in ways that few professors achieve.

We have invited some of Mick’s former students, advisees, and colleagues to share their memories and reflections with us. The tremendous response we received speaks volumes about one of Mick’s greatest legacies: the unparalleled difference he has made in the lives of so many of our students. Mick, although it’s hard to imagine the department without you, we wish you the very best!

**Ashley Hoerz**  
**Tropical Field Work 2014 and Current Masters Student in UWM Geography**

Traveling with Mick to Belize and Guatemala is an experience in itself, intertwined with genuine pieces of wisdom, bits of sarcasm, and a fair amount of rum. Life-enhancing lessons I have learned from that man include but are not limited to: buying a flask of rum and a couple bottles of coke is a much better deal at the bar; feeding wild tarantulas bugs is great fun at night; and his philosophy of showering with your clothes on is a great way to avoid doing laundry.
Tao Tang  
Professor of Geography, SUNY Buffalo

Professor Mick Day was my major advisor of my PhD program. He not only inspired me, but also provided me the platform to pursue my career with flexibility. He indicated to me one of the reasons that he likes Milwaukee very much is because Milwaukee is the beer capital of the U.S. He loves drinking beer, and indicated to me: “As my graduate students, you all need drink beer.” So, I practiced a lot when I studied with Mick. My beer drinking ability increased drastically during my PhD program. Mick is the first person to take me to a bar in the United States. Mick is one of the finest scholars of Karst Geomorphology and Hydrology in the world. He is very dedicated to his study. The picture documents one of many successful cave expeditions in the southwest Wisconsin lead by Mick.

Andrew Goudie  
Professor Emeritus of Geography, University of Oxford

Mick Day came to Oxford University in the late 1970s to do a DPhil on tropical karst under the late Dr. Marjorie Sweeting. I was then a young lecturer in the School of Geography. I was immediately struck by Mick’s puckish humour and willingness to be involved in the social and intellectual life of the School. He saw that there was more to life than karst. In those days, I used to take weekend field trips for the undergraduates, and Mick often volunteered to come along to help with the surveying and to amuse the students. I have an image of him surveying a muddy salt marsh creek. He seemed to revel in such places, and was extremely practical and willing. On one occasion, we visited some avalanche chutes that had been incised into the Oxfordshire chalk escarpments and surveyed their long profiles. These are very steep, so we had a hilarious time with tape and abney slithering up and down. He earned a few beers. We also collaborated on innovative work assessing the use of the Schmidt Hammer in geomorphological research. Today, no geomorphologist worth his or her salt travels without one. Once he had moved to Milwaukee, we kept in touch and in the early 1980s did some work surveying alluvial fans in another challenging environment – Death Valley in the summer – to look at the effects of salt weathering. The temperature was 120F in the shade, and there was no shade. He earned some more beers. In 1988, we worked together on an RGS expedition in the Kimberley region of northwestern Australia. It also was hot, but sticky and insect-infested as well. Mick, as always, stuck to his tasks with good cheer. I wish him well for his retirement and thank him for all we did together.

Mark Francek  
Professor of Geography, Central Michigan University

When doing fieldwork with Mick in Belize, you kind of felt like a cast member of “Pirates of the Caribbean.” Instead of gold, our booty was karst and soils geomorphology. Whether exploring the Carib Coast, the Mountain Pine Ridge, or San Ignacio, Mick ignited a passion for field work and research. Under Mick’s guidance I wrote my first publication in Earth Processes and Landforms on the laterization process. This publication bolstered my marketability and helped secure my current position at Central Michigan University. Thanks Mick! Our accommodations, like that of a leaky pirate’s ship, were often less than sumptuous. We sometimes stayed in abandoned shacks, elevated above the mice and snakes on hammocks. But given my graduate student income at the time, I appreciated Mick saving us a dime. Thanks Mick! Our glacial field trips to Devil’s Lake were erudite yet raucous affairs, memorable because Mick balanced celebration with structured academic objectives. I’m afraid, that upon entering the program in 1982, my academic direction was limited by handheld guidance. Mick helped instill in me independent thought and resourcefulness, so valued by the English academic model. Thanks Mick! So my man, lean back with a rum and coke on Caye Caulker, fire up some Bob Marley mon, and congratulate yourself on a job well done. I will always value you as a mentor and friend.

See more testimonials to Mick at: http://uwm.edu/geography/news/newsletters/
Teas of the World

Members of the Geography Department ended the 2014 fall semester with a small celebration that took their palettes around the globe. Members attended afternoon tea - aptly named “Teas of the World” - and sipped on varieties of green, black, and white tea grown in locations like China, India, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Korea. It was a wonderful reminder that the umbrella of Geography covers the tasty parts of culture too!

MS candidate Stephen Appel Wins Award

Recipients of the 2014 UWM Libraries Outstanding Achievement awards were recognized at a reception on February 11, 2015 in the Conference Center of the Golda Meir Library.

Honorees were Joe Tomich, Academic Staff; Lee Wagner, Classified Staff; and La Tese Robinson and Stephen Appel (far right), Student Employees.

UWM Provost Johannes Britz introduced the winners and presented their awards, which were underwritten by the Carl and Janet Moebius Endowment and the Friends of the Golda Meir Library.

Teaching Climate Change

Alison Donnelly carries out a demonstration, in the laboratory, which can be performed in schools to teach kids how high concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere can make oceans more acidic. She participated in a Climate Science Workshop at Illinois Central College, Peoria Ill., which aimed to provide examples to educators of how to communicate climate science to school children.

New Arrival

We are pleased to welcome a new baby to the UWM Geography family! Nicole Li was born to PhD student Wenliang Li and his partner Chang on December 16th, at a healthy 7 pounds, 5 ounces.
Undergraduate Profile:
Nate Gilliam

Greetings, for the past 11 months I have had the wonderful opportunity to work at Walnut Way as a Community Engagement and Research Specialist. My primary focus is working on the Growing Healthy Soil project. This project examines lead contamination in urban soil, specifically residential gardens and how to develop soil interventions that limit exposure to lead through soil. The project also looks to develop environmental health literacy workshops that will inform community members about safe and productive gardening practices. We are working in two Milwaukee neighborhoods (Lindsay Heights on the North Side and KK River neighborhood on the South Side). This community based research project is a partnership with residents of the aforementioned Milwaukee neighborhoods, Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, UW-Madison, the Milwaukee Health Department, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. 2014 was a year for planning; this growing season, we will be fully engaged in the community!

This position is a dream for an Environmental Geographer! Thinking back to theoretical concepts I learned in classes and seeing how they work practically is always an illuminating experience. I remember being in a meeting thinking to myself, this is what environmental governance looks like!

Nick Schuelke was the 2014 recipient of the UWM Department of History's annual A.T. Brown Award for the Best Graduate Paper for his research paper in the course History/Urban Studies 971 – Seminar on the History of American Urban Problems – with Prof. Amanda Seligman (pictured). The paper, entitled “The Politics of Sewage and Flooding in Milwaukee County,” examined the debate surrounding sewage and flooding in Milwaukee County waterways in the 1950s. The paper highlighted the role that political pressure played in the decision to channelize many of the waterways in Milwaukee County in the early 1960s.

At the 2015 World Bicycle Forum

Peter J. Armstrong

In February I had the opportunity to travel to Medellin, Colombia and present my research at the 4th Annual World Bicycle Forum. The World Bicycle Forum theme for this year was “Cities for All” making it the perfect location to share my passion with others. The World Bicycle Forum consists of a diverse group of citizen activists, artists, academics, policy makers, planners and politicians who attended the forum to construct a dialogue across the various sectors, disciplines and social hierarchies in order to build a global movement for how the bicycle can facilitate healthy and sustainable “cities for all.”

In addition, the World Bicycle Forum had an all-star lineup of keynote speakers such as Janette Sadik-Khan known for pedestrianizing New York City, Fredrik Gertten director of the documentary “Bike vs Cars,” and Jaime Ortiz one of founding fathers of Ciclovia (aka Open Streets). Each one had their own inspirational story, spin and strategy for how the bicycle is an amazing tool for urban change. I further joined in many workshops and discussions ranging from how to make biking more equitable to designing better bicycle infrastructure.

I presented a slightly altered version of my Master’s internship paper titled: An Urban University in Transition: Politics, the Bicycle, and the Role of Sustainability in “Breaking the Driving Culture.” In my talk I informed, by examination of a case study at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the audience of the political and cultural shifts which motivated UWM to plan and implement bicycle-friendly policies at a historically car-oriented university. The panel I was a part of, The Bicycle University, was dedicated to bringing various stakeholders together to develop, discuss and share innovative ideas to make universities catalysts for bike friendly places. It was a great experience listening to other present with such passion which reconfirmed that I made the right decision to study urban bicycle transportation planning.

Last but not least, I had some free time, to spend an evening with Jaime Ortiz and others as we drank Aguardiente and chatted about bikes (go figure) before we viewed the world premiere of “Bikes vs Cars.” In all, the World Bicycle Forum was a perfect balance of learning, sharing and relaxing in a foreign place with like-minded people that reignited my love for the bicycle and all its glory.
**Jean Olson, BA, 1999**

Jean Olson graduated from UW-Milwaukee in 1999 with her degree in Geography, and a minor in Cultural Anthropology. After graduation Jean worked in a variety of jobs in Milwaukee such as Wisconsin Electric, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and a small publishing company, NovoPrint, USA. These jobs all had a cartographic or GIS responsibility. After living in Wisconsin for 14 years, she departed to head back to the east coast to pursue new career possibilities, and has now spent the last 11 years working for the National Park Service. She started with the National Park Service in 2003 working as a term employee as Cartographic Technician for the Parks, Planning, Facilities and Lands Division in Washington, D.C. After a short time there, she applied for a permanent position with the George Washington Memorial Parkway in McLean, Virginia, as the park's GIS Specialist. In the park she was responsible for all data collection, organization, and map making. Being part of the Interpretive Resources Research Management Division, she supported both natural and cultural resources in their data collection and spatial data management needs. In 2005, Jean was part of the interagency Lone Star Incident Team, responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. She was deployed to New Orleans for two weeks, and was assigned to the planning division. Her responsibility during this time was to create maps that showed routes to the points of distribution (PoDs) where goods could be dropped off for areas in need. In responding to incidents such as this, you don't know what you'll be doing, or what type of software packages will be available. Jean had to use her mapping and technology skills to learn new software on the fly, and be able to create these routes with very little information. At the end of the two weeks, the operation was handed off to the Army Reserves to continue the support. Jean now resides in beautiful Fort Collins, Colorado, with her dog Daisy, working for the Land Resources Division of the National Park Service as a cartographer. Her division is responsible for assisting the eight regional offices around the country in mapping the legislated boundaries of all the national parks, and the tracts of lands that create the parks.

Jean recently completed a dual master's program with the University of Maryland-University College, with a Masters of Science in Environmental Management and a Masters of Business Administration. Jean fills her spare time with running, biking, skiing, yoga, and travel to wherever she can.

**Jonathan Kult, MS, 2013**

After graduating from the Geography Department at UW-Milwaukee, I spent a year as adjunct lecturer at UW-Whitewater. Here, I taught physical geography labs and led an “Introduction to Mapping” course that covered principles of cartography and GIS. I particularly enjoyed developing lab exercises for the mapping course, from the creativity involved in turning my favorite maps into learning devices to the challenge of writing original tutorials for students new to ArcGIS. Other highlights from the year included using USGS topographic quadrangles to plan driving routes home around drumlines and kames and benefiting greatly from the GIS and physical geography expertise of UW-Whitewater faculty.

Since July 2014, I have been working in Madison with the Water Quality Bureau in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on two US EPA-funded projects. We are working on developing reference condition criteria for a suite of biological, chemical, and habitat parameters to characterize healthy streams and provide benchmarks for stream assessments. This project has involved compiling and analyzing GIS data in conjunction with fish, macroinvertebrate, water quality, and riparian habitat information collected from wadeable stream surveys over the past decade. The idea is to identify locations of sites least impacted by anthropogenic stressors and then describe the differences in aquatic biology and chemistry due to natural geographic gradients.

For the other project, we are creating a web-based Watershed Monitoring Design Tool to inform stream monitoring site selection. The goal is to help DNR staff and regional biologists select an optimal set of stream sampling locations in watersheds targeted for intensive monitoring. When completed, these maps will be added to the DNR's Surface Water Data Viewer, an interactive web map housing vast amounts of spatial data related to Wisconsin's waters, available internally and to the public.

Finally, I located a free piano and have been developing a repertoire of Latin American pieces. I am unable to report my cat’s opinions on this recent addition to the family.
David Lewis, MA, 1989

When I earned my MA in 1989 the Geography Department was still in Sabin Hall. Although we had just learned that we were moving to Bolton, to me, the department will always be in Sabin. My committee included Mick Day, Norm Stewart, and the late Clinton Edwards. I had chosen well. Although I am no longer professionally linked with geography per se, their role as mentors absolutely prepared me for what I “do” today. Immediately after graduating, I entered the field of behavioral healthcare. For the last 25 years, my career has taken me throughout the US to include Minneapolis, Seattle, New York, and now Philadelphia. I have provided direct service to patients, directed various departments within hospitals, and designed private treatment centers. My skill set as an executive in healthcare remains deeply rooted in my experience at UWM’s geography department. I regularly utilize the research skills I learned. I also search for and ask the tough questions. Although no longer a “geographer,” the department will always remain a central part of who I am.

Gendered Rights to the City

The Gendered Rights to the City conference took place this April. Organized and hosted by the International Geographical Union Commission on Gender and Geography, Geographic Perspectives on Women AAG Specialty Group, and the Department of Geography at UWM, this conference promoted exploration of gender, difference, and power relations in contemporary and historical urban landscapes. Topics for papers and panel sessions focused on the intersections of gender, identity, and power across diverse and contested spaces. Look for a full report on the conference in the fall newsletter!

FACULTY NEWS IN BRIEF

Woonsup Choi was appointed as International Scholar at Kyung Hee University in Korea from March 2015 to February 2016, and he was in residence during March 2015 for research and teaching with financial support from KHU. He also gave special lectures to geography graduate students at Chonnam National University and Korea University during this time.

Anne Bonds presented a keynote lecture at the 2015 Race, Ethnicity, and Identity Conference, hosted by the Social Sciences Department at Grand Rapids Community College in Grand Rapids, Mich., on March 26. She was also an invited presenter at two recent campus events focused on #BlackLivesMatter: “#BlackLivesMatterUWM: What can we do?” on January 30 and, on February 26, “Race, Place, and Public Policy in America.”

Linda McCarthy visited the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy at University College Dublin (UCD) in February to work on a collaborative international research project as part of her two-year visiting professor position at UCD.

Zengwang Xu served as a mentor for the project “Integrating Emergency Department Data with Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Service and Community Data to Reduce Violence,” a collaboration with the Medical College of Wisconsin, supported by an award from the National Institute of Justice.

Geography faculty members Kristin Sziajto and Anna Mansson McGinty, along with UWM colleague Caroline Seymour-Jorn, have received the Fromkin Award for their Muslim Milwaukee Project, which is a collaboration project with Muslim community leaders in Milwaukee. The grant encourages and assists UWM scholars in all fields of study to conduct research on individuals, groups, movements, and ideas, in the Americas and elsewhere, which have influenced the quest for social justice and human rights in the United States. Their proposal “Da’wa in Milwaukee: Social Justice and Civic Activism among Muslims in Milwaukee, WI” entails the third stage of the project, which consists of conducting interviews and focus groups to better understand Muslims’ sense of belonging, and their social, civic and political engagement in Milwaukee. As part of the award, they will deliver the Morris Fromkin Memorial Lecture in the fall of 2015.
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